

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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## 1251

September 16, 1825  
Fr. Angelo Primavera  
Bologna

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Angelo

I am in Pievetorina on my way to conduct only two Missions in the diocese of Norcia; I would like to have you as my companion. If you can, then tonight or, at the latest, early tomorrow morning, I shall be awaiting you; tonight would be better. Asking you to do me this favor, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Pievetorina, September 16, 1825

## 1252

September 20, 1825  
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing from the diocese of Norcia, and oh how great the Missions have been! When you write, the address is: Camerino per Pievetorina.

I recommend to you the enclosed memorandum for the Holy Father. It was consigned to me in Assisi. I accepted this responsibility because I noted that the favor that is requested is of some importance, if I am not mistaken. The terms used in the memorandum could have been somewhat gentler, but the one who is writing it was overcome with sadness because of his temporal losses, and is awaiting only a judgment concerning the externals. I would like to know where I should track down the rescript that will be issued so that I can designate a person etc. I urge you to consider this matter.

Please, as a special favor, see that the letter, or packet, for Canon Betti is sent immediately.

Pray a lot for me so that I will be saved. *Hoc est enim omnis homo, absque hoc nihil est omnis homo.*<sup>1</sup>

I leave you at the foot of the Cross, where, my venerable Monsignor (letting you know that the requests for our ministry have been endless), I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

September 20, 1826

## 1253

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<sup>1</sup> For this is every man, without this in no way is there a man.

September 1825  
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Rome

Hail etc.

Dear Monsignor<sup>2</sup>

A couple of lines in a hurry. I have learned that in S. Paolo in Albano, one of the chaplaincies, appointed by the Lateran Chapter, has become vacant. Try to intervene in favor of one of our men.

I ask you to refer this letter of mine to Canon Betti in Frosinone. I kiss your hands. They are ringing the bell for my sermon, so, with all my respect, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

1254

September 1825  
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Oh the good work being done in Norcia! I am enclosing a letter that came from Meldola which I ask you to read; on other occasions, I would declaim etc. I urge you to look at it. Also, read the other letter<sup>3</sup> from Father Antonio Mosti, a priest well-known for his holiness etc. I had to cross out a couple of lines since they dealt with spiritual matters. Read it to his Holiness for his peace of mind, since we are obliged, until even death, to defend God's cause, otherwise we will be blameworthy for the matter. We are living in a time when we need the courage of St. Charles Borromeo. Prayers, along with the most profound humility before God. He wants our Society, He will defend it.

In complete confidence, I ask you never to make plans for etc., that is, *Vescovati in partibus*.<sup>4</sup> I say this only because you made a reference to it. Not in any way at all: *veritatem dico coram Deo*.<sup>5</sup> I wish to do good work, but, *in abscondito*,<sup>6</sup> and, in particular, to work in the formation of our excellent young men there in Giano. The Church is in great need for assistance to the clergy, etc. The Holy Father will be enlightened. Tear up our correspondence, etc.

Send your letters: Camerino per Pievetorina.

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<sup>2</sup> This letter does not have a date, but it must belong to September of 1825. In fact, during that month and year, the death of one of the chaplains, Canon Giannini, occurred. On September 22nd, another chaplain, Canon Scalabi, came to S. Paolo in Albano to take possession of the chaplaincy, bringing about a "solemn protest" from the superior, Father Luigi Gonnelli, to the episcopal chancery. Therefore, this letter must be almost contemporary with the preceding one. Note also the reference to Betti.

<sup>3</sup> In the left-hand margin, Merlini makes this annotation: "That is the letter of September 9, 1825, and is found under the heading 'Istituto'. Consequently, this present letter to Cristaldi must come around ten days later.

<sup>4</sup> Auxiliary bishops.

<sup>5</sup> I tell the truth before God.

<sup>6</sup> In hiding.

Merlini writes that brigandry has been brought to an end. So, quickly we will be going back to our convents. We have already taken residence in the one in Sermoneta. *Die ac nocte*,<sup>7</sup> keep our Society in mind, for it will be the thing that will lift you to the heights of Paradise. I kiss your hands, and, with total respect, esteem and veneration, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>8</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

1255

September 20, 1825  
Fr. Antonio Loffreda  
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Antonio

With regret did I learn of the state of your health and I pray that the Lord will restore you fully so that you can continue the career that you have undertaken.

You did a good thing in returning to the air of the place where you were born so as not to overlook the use of those means which providence points out. Furthermore, in all things, let us do the divine will and let us not cease studying the great book of the Crucifix.

Pray and have others pray for me. While awaiting further news from you, with total esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

While conducting a Mission, September 20, 1825

1256

September 26, 1825  
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am supplying now for something that I had forgotten. On the occasion of doing a bit of good work in S. Vitale, diocese of Assisi, as well as for the nuns in Cannara, where a Mission will be conducted within a short while, I had the opportunity of bringing tranquility to the excellent bishop of Assisi. It is not a good idea for him to renounce his work in that diocese since he is truly a holy and learned man. Because of a particular scrupulosity, he had made a request for resignation and since the present Supreme Pontiff may have shown a certain acquiescence to that resignation, things now are in a state of perplexity as to whether that is the will of God. Under the preceding pontificate, he was not able to obtain permission to resign, and it would be useful for our Holy Father to know that. Furthermore, he is still in good shape to govern the diocese very well. It would

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<sup>7</sup> Day and night.

<sup>8</sup> Being your lowest servant in Christ.

also be helpful that the Holy Father, through Monsignor Attone Benigni who has been corresponding with Monsignor Ciampe, should restore that prelate to complete quietude and tranquility. The case would be entirely different if it were a bishop who could not govern neither with brain nor brawn.

In writing to you about this, I hope to be influential in effecting a good result especially since, nowadays, we do not find in bishops the learning of a Monsignor Ciampe. You are aware of the origin of his state of perplexity concerning which I have attempted to pacify him. I am etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Visso, September 26, 1825

P. S. Your letters: Camerino per Pievetorina

1257

September 28, 1825

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

With this letter I am notifying you in quite a bit of hurry that I shall be in Pievetorina up to the 5th or 6th of October. You could send your most appreciated letter there. Pray for me, and, with total esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Visso, at the completion of the ministry, September 28, 1825

1258

End of September 1825

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Always most beloved Giovanni Francesco<sup>9</sup>

Your loving kindness makes me bring to your attention the enclosed matter.

Oh how delighted I was to see your handwriting again! I am writing on only a half-sheet in order not to burden you with postal costs.

With pleasure did I learn of the most reverend bishop's approval of the regulations. *Laus Deo cui honor, et gloria.*<sup>10</sup>

I also give thanks to the Lord for the present system which God has established for his children. I hope that there will be ever greater blessings forthcoming.

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<sup>9</sup> This letter, which does not have a date, was written "from Visso while in the act of the ministry", where St. Gaspar preached a Mission at the end of September of 1825. The postal marking indicates that it arrived "October 11". Therefore, this letter is assigned to the end of September, just as the preceding one.

<sup>10</sup> Praise to God to whom be honor and glory.

I am writing from Visso while in the act of the ministry. When you need to write, the address is: Camerino per Pievetorina.

Pray and have others pray for me. With esteem and affection, dear Giovanni Francesco, I am and will constantly be,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

1259

October 9, 1825

Fr. Ferdinando Gigliozzi

Fontana

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I hope that by this time you have received my reply to another of your letters, and, if not, please let me know. Now, I add that I did receive your booklets and I thank you with all my heart. I wrote to Rome asking them to send you other printed materials to be used in promoting this very important devotion of ours, and I urge you on this occasion to have the public recitation of our Chaplet.

It seems that I have nothing more to add except to ask you to pray and have others pray, most esteemed Canon, for the one who, with esteem and respect renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

October 9, 1825

1260

October 10, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A couple of lines in a hurry. I would only like to know whether you are in good health. For forwarding of your letters: Camerino per Pievetorina.

Oh what a harm would come to the people of Visso if the seminary were to be removed. Pray a great deal, most reverend excellency, for the one who, with total affection, esteem and gratitude, renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 10, 1825

P. S. Let us pray to God that things will be set right, but at the very base. One notes everywhere that the chastisement has not come to an end etc.

1261

October 14, 1825  
 Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni  
 Bishop of Norcia  
 Norcia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>11</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how sorry I am not to be able to come to Norcia for the time that you indicated to me. God knows that I would willingly have done so, but I simply cannot. If you think it is a good idea to transfer this good work until 1826, the jubilee year *extra Urbem*,<sup>12</sup> then we could come to a decision. But, if God inspires you not to transfer this work to the glory of the Lord, then I could send you one of our capable men; that would have to be for the beginning of December, selecting a very good day.

On this occasion, allow me to tell you that it would be desirable to have an outside Lenten preacher in Visso for hearing confessions. The Vicar could likewise occupy him either in Cascia, or in Norcia. This is for the record. You make your decision in the Lord.

Gherardo has urged me to place him in the Mission and Retreat House in Rimini. Do not cease praying for me and for the Society which is so greatly needful in these miserable times of ours. Let us maintain our spiritual pacts by means of which we hope, one day, to be united forever in Paradise. I kiss your hands. Give my greetings to Agostino and ask him to keep me in his prayers. Always with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, October 14, 1825

P. S. Let us incessantly propagate the devotion to the Divine Blood.

1262

October 15, 1825  
 Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi  
 Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

How pleased I was to see your handwriting again. Make arrangements for the feast of St. Xavier on December 4th. If I am not free at that time and unable to come there in person to solemnly observe the glories of Xavier, I shall send another of my companions who is quite capable. Write and give me details in a letter which you will send to Frosinone, and, before a member is appointed, please inform the excellent reverend bishop of Gaeta, along with my most humble respects. I repeat, send your reply quickly.

That you should accept the assignment as Procurator will be for you an adventure, but you should evaluate it more than you would a principedom. I hope that the chapel will be filled with gifts

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<sup>11</sup> Christ loved us and washes us in his own blood.

<sup>12</sup> Outside the city [Rome].

of gratitude. Oh how that would console me. Pray a lot to the Saint for me. Give my best regards to everyone there, and, in particular, to Father Filippo Cinquanta.

I have written several times to Father Camillo Gaviglia. Ask him whether he has received those letters.

Let us become saints. I repeat, give my greetings to everyone there who has a remembrance of this miserable being.

To you I confirm my most sincere feelings of gratitude, and along with that, my esteem. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, October 15, 1825

1263

October 16, 1825

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

Fortunately your letter caught up with me in Pievetorina where occupations of the ministry have called me. I entrusted the trip to Romagna to others of our men since appointments in Umbria kept me occupied.

With pleasure did I receive your letter and, in spirit, I see it always in the Divine Heart.

In Rome, I recommended to Gentilucci the city of Fabriano, but I do not know what effect he might have on the mind of the Holy Father. At any rate, prayers. Things in this world are going badly. Let us often offer up the Divine Blood and place our trust in God.

May you always be joyful in the loveliness of God. Have a confident humility and become more acquainted with the writings of de Sales.

May Jesus be our delight and our joy; one day, he will be our reward in Paradise.

Finally, with regard to Ledi, I am not counting on his joining the Institute. I note that he is not firm and decisive. *Oremus ad invicem. Gratia Dei nobiscum.*<sup>13</sup> With esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, October 16, 1825

P. S. By the grace of God, the Society is getting along fine. However, prayers, because the devil circuit etc., but he will not be victorious over it.

1264

October 16, 1825

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

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<sup>13</sup> Let us pray for each other. Thanks be to God for us.

Offida

[Hail to]<sup>14</sup> the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I am writing a couple of lines in a hurry, and with complete frankness. Eight *scudi* will be needed for the painting. So, you make your decision. That is the range. While presenting the idea, make a bit of an effort to see whether you can find someone in Ascoli who could better handle it for you. Pray a lot, a lot, a lot for me. With esteem and respect, most illustrious sir, I remain, in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, October 16, 1825

1265

October 17, 1825

Msgr. Girolamo Manieri

Bishop of Aquila

L'Aquila

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>15</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

It is only through the goodness and mercy of God that the Lord has been pleased to entrust to me the holy work of the apostolic ministry. May you help me to return to him the most deep felt expressions of gratitude and may you pray incessantly that his Divine Majesty will be pleased to multiply his blessings upon me so that, with my heart overflowing with his divine love, I may communicate it to the people whom providence offers to me for cultivation.

Your most appreciated letter got to me in our Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, diocese of Camerino, and I am pleased to send you my response from here.

Up to now, I have received no information concerning the Mission in Aquila. In the meantime, however, you might obtain the royal permission and, after that, may you be pleased to send me another most appreciated letter indicating the time that you would like to set aside for this, while the permission of the Holy Father, I hope, will be surely forthcoming.

Miserable thing that I am, I shall not cease praying *ut Domini voluntas semper suavissima in omnibus adimpleatur*.<sup>16</sup> You could also address your kind letters to Rome to the general mail-delivery, without having to use any other forwarding address, and send them in my name as signed below.

I kiss your hands. Pray for me *sine intermissione*,<sup>17</sup> and with profound esteem and homage *in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*,<sup>18</sup> most reverend excellency,

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<sup>14</sup> This letter is torn on the left-hand side, half-way between the top and bottom, but it does not impede reading the text of the letter.

<sup>15</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>16</sup> In order that the will of the Lord, always most sweet, be fulfilled in all things.

<sup>17</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>18</sup> In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified who loved us and washed us in his blood.

I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, October 17, 1825

1266

Around October 20, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>19</sup>

I have not taken on appointments in the Marca, except for what has to be taken care of during this coming Lent in Romaga. Concerned as I am about the house of study for our young men, which is growing, and wanting to be of help there for as much free time as I can possibly find, appointing others for the ministry which is relentless, I am going, within a few days, to S. Felice in Giano where I shall gladly and anxiously await your letters. I felt that I should inform you of this so that your letters would not have to have many addresses due to the frequent changes that the ministry demands. There, many requests have been coming in from the dioceses of Todi, Assisi etc. so, in this way, the voice of God will be heard for a bit of time again in Umbria.

I would like you to give to the Holy Father, for his consolation, the enclosed which comes from the bishop of Rimini. Also, ask him about the Mission in Aquila, which is something that I would not want to overlook. *Coactus necessitate*,<sup>20</sup> it is necessary now to submit documents extolling the glory of our ministry, whenever God offers us the opportunity, which is something that obliges me to do what I never suspected I would ever do, yet I see in this a reason for giving encouragement to all those who are zealously working in the Institute as well as to multiply the acts of gratitude that are returned to the Giver of every good gift. I add nothing more. I kiss your hands. With total esteem, etc. I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>21</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

1267

October 23, 1825

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> This letter does not bear a date; but we do note the date of the postal marking (Camarino, October 25) and, from the reference to the Mission in Aquila, we are convinced that it should be assigned to 1825. On October 23, as can be seen in the following letter to Mattei, St. Gaspar went to S. Felice in Giano. Therefore, this present letter was written around the 20th of October, 1825.

<sup>20</sup> Compelled by necessity.

<sup>21</sup> Being your lowest servant in Christ.

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

I can repeat with the Prophet: "*Holocausta medullata offeram tibi*".<sup>23</sup> On Friday evening, I learned of your unexpected arrival; Saturday, that is yesterday, I wanted to fly, so to speak, to see you again, but the heavy downpour prevented me. Because it had been scheduled for quite some time, today, Sunday, I am required by the ministry to depart for S. Felice in the evening so as to be there promptly for the *Ave Maria* hour in order to be on hand to celebrate the titular feast, for I had promised our beloved young men that I would be with them, as well as for another relevant reason. That is the way things go. Upon returning to Pievetorina, I shall have the consolation of going immediately to Cammerino to visit with you again and fulfill my duties. From S. Felice in Giano I shall write to you at my convenience about everything else. Pray a lot, a lot for me, most venerable Monsignor, and with esteem and very special affection, I remain in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, October 23, 1825

1268

November 1, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>24</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

As soon as I got to S. Felice, the House of my delight in the Lord, two people from Giano urged me to beg you to use every condescension in behalf of a certain petition which they have submitted to you through Mrs. Girolama. One's name is Mr. Sacchi, the other Mr. Laurenti. Pray a lot, a lot for me, my Monsignor, for I am so much in need of prayers, and, most reverend excellency, with complete homage and esteem, consider me to be invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 1, 1825

1269

November 3, 1825

Msgr. Francesco M. Gazzoli

Bishop of Todi

Todi

Most illustrious and reverend lord

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I can assure you that your desires are for me commands, and I am ready to obey them, but not before the feast of St. Francis Xavier. From

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<sup>22</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>23</sup> I will offer you a holocaust of marrow, etc.

<sup>24</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

December 4th on, you are the master to dispose and decide things as you see best in the Lord. I seize this opportunity, most illustrious and reverend sir, to recommend myself to your prayers. And, while kissing your hands, I renew myself, with profound esteem, respect and veneration, as

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House of S. Felice, November 3, 1825

1270

November 11, 1825

Mgrs. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Justificati in Sanguine ipsius salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*<sup>25</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how delighted I was to see your most beloved handwriting again, and even more so to learn about the status of your health which is of such great interest to me. I regret only to hear about the more or less habitual sickness of the Holy Father. I, miserable thing that I am, shall not cease to pray for him. However, everyone has to admit that the chastisements have not as yet come to an end and the Reform still does not show forth its true principles. *Orabimus igitur coram Domino a quo omne bonum.*<sup>26</sup> I cannot express to you how many beautiful ideas came to me in Giano at the time when two of my companions, during this past solemnity, conducted our usual triduum. With enthusiasm, I read again about the wonderful progress of things relative to our Institute and I came to the conclusion that God who *coepit opus, ipse perficiet consolidabitque.*<sup>27</sup> And since the Lord *miscet gaudia fletibus, fortiter et susuiter cuncta disponens,*<sup>28</sup> inexpressible is my joy in seeing here in S. Felice a community so full of young ecclesiastics who, after having completed their work in the seminaries, are now preparing themselves as the hope of the Church, and are maturing both in piety and knowledge, a work that offers the first stone, so to speak, of the Reform: *sic populus sic sacerdos.*<sup>29</sup> These are the new olive plants that surround the table, the altar; and God is glorified and blessed.

I realize that the greatest occupation that I can assume at this time, which is advancing, and in the short while that might still remain as yet for me as a pilgrim *in hac lacrymarum valle*<sup>30</sup> is the training of these young men, with the exception of one or the other Mission that I will be able to take on, but less often, now that there are in our Institute members who are *omni exceptione majores*<sup>31</sup> for this line of work. In that way, too, I shall be able to write down what I have been able to learn, and, in the most intimate union with my Lord, I can prepare myself for the eternal years. *Hoc est enim*

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<sup>25</sup> Justified by his blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

<sup>26</sup> We will pray, therefore, before the Lord from whom comes all good.

<sup>27</sup> [He who] began the work will complete and will confirm it.

<sup>28</sup> Let him mix joys with tears, bravely and sweetly disposing all things.

<sup>29</sup> So the people, so the priest.

<sup>30</sup> In the valley of tears.

<sup>31</sup> Greater by every exception.

*omnis homo, absque hoc nihil est omnis homo.*<sup>32</sup>

Next year, God-willing, another house of studies will be opened in Benevento if a locale can be finally freed for it. Furthermore, another House in Rimini, opened without the least cooperation on my part, now offers a new source of tribulation *in temporalibus*,<sup>33</sup> but I willingly accept that from God. It is a matter of new foundations, at a time when people, in general, show a fatal sort of indifferentism toward sacred and religious things. But, my Monsignor, what a reason you have for comfort since, without really being involved in the Mission work, you have the credit for being a father to the ministry in the ways that Providence has pointed out to you. Crosses do not frighten us. In fact, in our hearts, we love them with the assurance given in the statement: "*cum ipso sum in tribulatione eripiam eum et glorificabo eum*".<sup>34</sup>

A few of the students give a modest tuition, but what can one do with that? *Ex peculiaribus circumstantiis*,<sup>35</sup> it is futile to ask or even think about asking for more. The method that was given to us by Monsignor Albertini is wonderful; and, if I were to have the means available for putting into print the aims of the Society, oh how much good would come to the Catholic world. But, with respect to God's works, it is written that *humilitate crescunt etc*.<sup>36</sup>

The obligations that all of us have toward you, especially those that I have, are innumerable. *Dominus repleat cor tuum omni gaudio, et pace in Spiritu Sancto.*<sup>37</sup> I recognize that, just as you mention it to me, you too must know how to seize the moment etc. In the upcoming Retreat called for by the rule in preparation for the feast of Xavier, many prayers, indeed, will be offered before the throne of divine clemency, both for you and for this most important objective. On the Saint's day, I shall offer Mass for the Holy Father and for you. However, when you discuss zealously our situations which are, ultimately, of prime concern for the greater glory of God, I beg that you speak of the Society in general and never mention my name. Let this be *in communicatione spiritus coactus imprevisa necessitate*.<sup>38</sup> When one or the other page is read, cut out, so to speak, or industriously accommodate the meaning rather by explaining it aloud so that any acknowledgment of me will be lost, *et scit Deus quia non mentior*.<sup>39</sup> The greatest act of charity that you can exercise now in my regard will be that of influencing my private and hidden life which I so deeply desire and ask from God *et fuis praecibus. Satis haec sint*.<sup>40</sup>

Matters to be taken into consideration.

1. A bit of help from the Marca for the poor House in Pievetorina.
2. Something left over in Romagna for the House in Rimini.
3. The business in Albano to be put in order, for I have to re-open Terracina, extremely needful in the highest degree. I must give back to that city what, up to now has been granted to

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<sup>32</sup> For this is every man, without this in no way is there man.

<sup>33</sup> In temporalities.

<sup>34</sup> With his help I will rescue him in tribulation, and glorify him.

<sup>35</sup> From peculiar circumstances.

<sup>36</sup> They grow with humility, etc.

<sup>37</sup> May the Lord fill your heart with every happiness and peace in the Holy Spirit.

<sup>38</sup> Forced in the communication of the spirit by unforeseen necessity.

<sup>39</sup> And God knows that I do not lie.

<sup>40</sup> And in prayers poured out. Enough of that.

Albano, *Agitur de Civitate ubi sunt Cineres Fundatoris Sanctissimi Praesulis*.<sup>41</sup> There, in the Province, the very maintenance of ample convents, which are now all occupied, the sacred utensils etc. etc. etc. offer a picture that is quite broad. For any other foundation, means are being sought, and the ones that have been assigned to us are not sufficient to cover half of the needs. The piety of the faithful, nowadays and until the people are uplifted first by a conversion back to God, is not able to be estimated in the temporal line. After first speaking to God, I can communicate these things to you without losing, by the grace of God, any trust, any courage, and towards you the most extensive gratitude.

4. All of the papers that I wrote at various times, you have probably submitted to the Holy Father whom you will remind to restore the old method of granting asylum in the churches and that it should not consist merely in a verbal permission, but in a true sense of refuge etc. In the collection you make of your papers, do not fail to preserve those rescripts which so clearly manifest the attachment of the now-deceased Pius VII toward us.

5. You must have received by now some petitions that pertain to Giano, or our Society, with reference to legacies of Masses to be confirmed etc. etc.

6. I presume that the Jesuits will cede the pension, otherwise the Holy Father should assign it, since he is fully informed of the situation. I am convinced that even with his own means he could compensate us for arrear payments. Who else can we turn to? I heard that the Jesuits have been granted exemption from debts, taken on with the Camera. But should not ours be the first? In the meantime, the Achille heirs are asking us for 400 *scudi* and many other obligations imposed by the deceased for the upkeep of that House. Even though the Society may not be able to get other favors, at least let it get what is due to it in justice. You can imagine the multiple needs that this House faces. For the love of God, try to settle this whole situation so as to bring to conclusion the burden arising from so many urgent matters. After God, we have no one else to have recourse to than you.

7. With the young men having to exercise Orders, I have on hand only one red altar hanging; I would need to have one in each of the other colors. I hope that you will also present this memorandum, adding it to all your other fine accomplishments.

Finally, I recommend myself greatly to your prayers and I state again that you have my esteem and respect. I am enclosing a memorandum from Aquila which has been sent to me and I would like you to read it. However, I note, as the bishop himself says in his letter, that November is not a favorable time. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 11, 1825

I think that in Naples and in the Kingdom, with regard to the chapels in the prisons, nothing has been done as yet. In the Province, at least that of Campagna, we note that little is known about the privileged altar. A new circular would be needed.

1271

November 13, 1825

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

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<sup>41</sup> There is activity about the City, where exists the ashes of the most holy Founding Prelate.

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Giovanni Francesco *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*<sup>42</sup>

I do not know who the painter was, in Rome, who depicted my Madonna. The one that added the Chalice to it is Mr. Pozzi; but the image was carried on the Missions by other Missionaries who are already deceased. So, you make an effort on your own to look into this most tender matter.

I hope that the Jubilee year in the Provinces will be a fruitful one, and let us pray wholeheartedly to God. God will present those members who will be the Gospel proclaimers. In the meantime, our Society has been receiving, up to now, not a few requests. Who can decide whether it is the will of God or not that we should be established there? Prayers.

Does the teacher not manage to stay in the house? Well! Work things out as best you can with your father-in-law. But, do not send your children far away from your supervision. It would be better to find a good middle way, so that, in external matters, you might keep everything under your watchful eye. I know what the practice is, but, in general, I do not know what other advice I could give you in the Lord.

Finally, do not cease praying for me and having others do so too, as I state again, dear Giovanni Francesco, that with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, November 13, 1825

1272

November 18, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>43</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Being aware of the many concerns, I have written to the bishop of Aquila that if the Mission is not feasible for after Easter, he should pick a time between the month of January and February presuming that God will manifest his will in having me take care of this good work. I ask that when you speak to the Holy Father about this, speak of the Institute in general etc. which is, by divine mercy, blessed with so many capable men, and more and more, is that number increasing in a very wonderful way.

I recommend to you the petition that was submitted to you in regard to the pious legacies of S. Felice, since the rescript of the first concession has expired.

Please ask the Holy Father to confirm for the entire year of 1826 those faculties that he granted to me for this present year. It will be sufficient for you to inform me *a voce*<sup>44</sup> since they will be expiring before the end of 1825. Only if you think it is a good idea, ask him to grant me the faculty, during 1826, of giving the papal benediction in view of the fact that in 1826 the Jubilee year

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<sup>42</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>43</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>44</sup> By voice.

will be extended to the entire Catholic world. Likewise, for this same reason, to grant me the faculty of delegating to various companions of mine for this same year of 1826 the faculties that I enjoy, except for the papal blessing if he does not wish me to make that delegation, but pointing out to him that under the regime of the deceased Pius VII, I had always enjoyed that faculty of giving the papal blessing. I understand well that in 1825 it had to be withdrawn; but now, thanks to the Jubilee year, I feel that it would be to the greater glory of God to be able to extend it once again. I add, for the sake of clarification, that this blessing has always been given with the Crucifix, as a simple priest is permitted to give it. He simply announces that the Holy Father, wishing to share in the good work etc. etc. etc. now, through us gives you his blessing etc. etc. The requests for the ministry are indescribable etc.

Next Wednesday, the Retreat in preparation for the feast of Xavier, will begin. Besides being pleasing to God, it will be a time when I shall pray in a special way for the Holy Father and for you, to whom I owe so very, very much etc. etc. The house of studies for the priests is my delight and is progressing well. When you find it possible, do not forget to provide a bit of help whatsoever to cover postal expenses from which the Holy Father could exempt me since my letter-correspondence is concerned only with the work of the ministry.

Finally, on the occasion that you confer with the Holy Father, ask him, *a voce*,<sup>45</sup> that he grant me the faculty of offering three Masses on Christmas eve. I shall apply the first one for the Holy Father, the second one for the Institute, and the third one for you. I kiss your hands. While asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>46</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 18, 1825

1273

November 18, 1825

Fr. Ferdinando Gigliozzi

Fontana

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I have written to Rome asking them to send you 300 copies of our applications for enrollment in our most important devotion. You will be pleased with this little bit. Pray incessantly for me, most venerable Canon, and I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 18, 1825

1274

November 20, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristali

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<sup>45</sup> By voice.

<sup>46</sup> Being your lowest servant in Christ.

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>47</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

As a particular favor, would you see that the enclosed matter gets to Canon Pio. Pray a lot, my Monsignor, for me, and venerable Monsignor, consider me to be, with special esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 20, 1825

1275

November 27, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Pacificans per Sanguinem Crucis eius sive quae in Coelis sive quae in terris sunt*<sup>48</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing this letter, while withdrawn in Retreat, just to thank you for your very dear letter.

I have no particular worry about the Mission in Aquila, nor for any other project. All that I need is to identify the will of God, and consequently I do not overlook those means whereby I can recognize it etc. From Sinigaglia, Jesi and Ancona, requests for 1826 are already arriving. I shall continue to govern my moves as best I can, always with the desire of being of assistance and help in the best way possible to our young men here who are truly edifying.

Thank you for your solicitude, and I have no doubt at all that it is all accomplished by turning your every thought toward the welfare of our Institute. I regret not being able to be as helpful as I would like to have been in behalf of the Society, that has been so blessed etc. I pray that the Lord will give me strength of spirit and of body so that I can assist it to my very last breath. However, I am consoled by the reflection that *bonorum meorum non indiges etc.*<sup>49</sup>

On some occasion, if possible, and may God inspire you to do so, tell the Holy Father that I judge it to be necessary that in our days it would seem to be right that a gentler discipline should be shown in the prisons towards one who is consecrated to God. A few of my companions, coming back from a Mission, witnessed in Ancona a religious dressed in his habit and surrounded by gendarmes. In Fuligno, a short while ago, a priest, carried on a cart and guarded by gendarmes, was seen passing by. I say nothing more etc. God is visiting us because of our sins. If, one day, we should come to the point of acknowledging the various bases for the Reform as well as the need for our Society, blessed will we be ... but, we note that the day set down by God has not as yet arrived. So, prayers, and humility.

I have had our place in Terracina restored, but what good will that be if Albano is not supported and the subsidy is once again passed on to Terracina?

Miserable thing that I am, I pray for the Holy Father, for the Church and for you. Do the

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<sup>47</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>48</sup> Making peace through the blood of his cross whether for what is in heaven or on earth.

<sup>49</sup> You do not need my good things.

same thing for me so that my soul will be saved. May Jesus be our delight, our joy, our consolation. While kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 27, 1825

1276

December 1, 1825

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Bishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>50</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how sorry I was not to be able to visit with you again in Camerino. However, I do not give up hope of getting back to that city which is so very dear to me, because of the ministry which I have exercised there as well as because it is entrusted to your pastoral care. It is to the infinite glory of the Lord, let us say, that requests for the ministry are coming in for the general Jubilee year. I am not forgetful of the discussion we had in Rome concerning your archdiocese, and, while here withdrawn for my Retreat, I thought that it would be good to send you this letter both to renew our spiritual pacts in the divine Sacred Heart as well as to agree on the finalization of your most ardent desires for the good work that you wish to see promoted under your jurisdiction.

I would like to make available, everywhere, efficacious encouragement through the apostolic ministry so as to arouse compunction and sincere conversion in the souls of the people. Furthermore, I would say that the program should be so arranged that when you come for visitation, for example, in S. Genesio, you would find the harvest mature and only the general communions would follow, after which the workers would then precede your next visitation to another place, and in that way a

great work will be done to the glory of the Lord. You refine this idea and then please communicate it to me so that at an opportune time I can appoint the workers. I believe that two would be adequate, along with a Brother-in-service. Furthermore, I ask that, even starting now, you make arrangements for our men in such a way that they will be able to maintain the rule covering residence, food and other things, as you already know. With regard to the monasteries, inform me as to what will be expected so that I can get in contact with them, and thus the glory of the Lord will always be promoted.

Let us come now to the matter of Pievetorina. I excused myself from a few Missions, appointing others of our men, so that I could spend a bit of time in holy occupations in behalf of that House. I have not failed, even very recently, to say a fresh word of encouragement to the most reverend Treasurer. I have no doubt that you, too, will always have this matter in mind; in addition, we are very confident in the prayers placed before the throne of the Father of providence. Much has been adjusted this past year in the line of economy through the diminishment in the number of individuals so as to bring about a better balance. In the past, the family was just too big, exceeding

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<sup>50</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

respectively the economical strength available, and so success was not achieved in that pious House. Nevertheless, things were always run in keeping with an upright objective. So, God who *coepit opus, ipse perficiet consolidabitque*.<sup>51</sup> St. Francis Xavier, who had as his companion Father Paolo from Camerino, will take care of it. Recommend me, along with all of my beloved confreres, to him. I cannot tell you how consoled I was in seeing here in S. Felice some 20 young priests who are preparing themselves for the ministries of the Church.

Recommend them to God. It was quite necessary that after completing their courses in the seminaries that there should be a means open to them whereby they would be prepared to wage war against the devil in any field whatsoever assigned to them by the most loving God. It is certain that this work will gradually be effective in removing inertia from the clergy as well as everything else that flows from that inertia. This is how the people will be edified *et vita Jesu manifestabitur in nobis*.<sup>52</sup> Eventually, help will be given to the Missions of the Propaganda, and then verified will be those words: "*ite, accendite inflammate omnia*".<sup>53</sup> But let us now get back to our problems.

The pious legacy in Valsant'angelo and Pieve has been resolved and fruitfully. Antico will receive the grant of payments. We can be at ease about that.

With regard to the Morelli emphyteusis, within a few days, you will be informed in person. Concerning the moral cases, I asked Abate, in consultation with Ceccarelli who is aware of the situation, to handle the matter, always with the approval of your most reverend excellency in everything, and that a concise, clear petition be drawn up, removing all scruples concerning the past and this is to be sent to me who will look into it thereafter in Rome. For the new year, I suggested that solutions to cases in due form should be initiated and everything should proceed to the greater glory of God.

I have already written to the Province of Campagna that as soon as our Retreat, called for by the rule, is concluded, the Missionary Lenten preacher would be on his way. He is the man who last year in Pievetorina gained many blessings from God through his sermons. So, I believe that the providence of God is calling him to be the third man assigned to work in Pievetorina. From Angelici I received your best wishes and when I sent him my reply I begged him to extend to you my warmest and special greetings. He writes to me that he feels called to our Institute. Your most reverend excellency will know how to advise him in keeping with your pursuit of the greater divine glory... You can see the status of the people.

I kiss your hands; the Reform is calling and so I must conclude this letter. Always consider me to be, most reverend excellency, in Jesus Christ Crucified *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,<sup>54</sup> with total affection and very special esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, December 1, 1825

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<sup>51</sup> [He who] began the work, will complete and will confirm it.

<sup>52</sup> And the life of Jesus is manifested in us.

<sup>53</sup> Go, set on fire by inflaming everything.

<sup>54</sup> Who has redeemed us by his blood.

December 2, 1825  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I hope that you have achieved your holy desires through your Retreat; I am concluding my own this very day. I hope that you did not forget my poor soul as well as the aims of our Institute which are so very dear to God and of such urgency for these miserable times of ours. May St. Francis Xavier fill all of us with his holy spirit; this is what you should pray for on the recurrence of his solemnity. *Oremus ergo ad invicem.*<sup>55</sup> With regard to disturbances to our spirits, we all know very well that *fasciculus myrrhae dilectus meus.*<sup>56</sup> But ... *ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima.*<sup>57</sup> Winter will pass and the Lord will have us enjoy a smiling springtime. *Omnia enim fortiter et suaviter disponit.*<sup>58</sup>

Our Institute, by divine mercy, is progressing well. There must, of course, be crosses; but the love of God sweetens everything. Requests for the ministry are not lacking and already are beginning to pile up for 1826. I give thanks to God for the good work that the Passionist Fathers are accomplishing there; they should also try to encourage greatly the devotion to the Divine Blood.

I am writing directly to Canon Meletti with respect to this very important devotion. Monsignor Muccioli, amid his many holy chores and obligations, must have forgotten to send a reply to your laudable desires. Nevertheless, continue zealously to diffuse the Chaplet of the Divine Blood. Take good care of your health. Pray for me *sine intermissione,*<sup>59</sup> venerable Camillo, and with total esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, December 2, 1825

1278

December 2, 1825  
Fr. Francesco Meletti  
Fano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I am enclosing the certificate authorizing you to enrol people in the very important devotion to the Divine Blood. I thought it best to make use of the mail-delivery in order not to delay things. Read the contents and ask me any questions whenever you need to so that I can make everything perfectly clear and you can be fully instructed. I would have liked to send you a booklet or so, but how can that be managed since we are so distant? If you have someone in Rome to whom I can give

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<sup>55</sup> Let us pray for each other

<sup>56</sup> A bundle of myrrh is my beloved.

<sup>57</sup> Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

<sup>58</sup> For he disposes all things strongly and softly.

<sup>59</sup> Without intermission.

this material, let me know. Therein, you will also note the listing of indulgences that can be gained by the enrolled.

Pray a lot for me, and do so always, in order that through this devotion we can be united to the adorable wounds of Jesus Christ. With complete esteem and homage, most illustrious and reverend sir, consider me always to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice by way of Fuligno to Giano

December 2, 1825

1279

December 9, 1825

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A poor artist came to Giano several times asking me to send you the enclosed petition. If you can, console him, at least in part, through the help of Mrs. Girolama.

I am adding also a new petition<sup>60</sup> with regard to the Masses in this sanctuary, presuming that you, having a copy of the proceedings, may have mislaid the other one. As a distinct favor, I ask you to look into this rescript so that its fulfillment will not be delayed. It will be sufficient to have a letter from you containing the assurance that the Holy Father confirms etc. On that occasion, you might also give him a reminder of the renewal of my faculties that are about to expire. They are needed here since penitents are arriving from distant parts etc. The good work is immense; yet, the temporal problems wear down one's humanity; but, then, God will take care of that. I heard from the tenant that has made some deliveries to the Jesuit Fathers that with regard to the funds for S. Felice in Giano, the Jesuits claim that they have no obligations either for the back payments or for the current ones. Perhaps, this man may have been mistaken. What am I to say? Prayers.

As for the Retreat House in Terracina, I now have the artisans for its restoration. We are buried in a sea of objectives. I place my trust in God and in your protection.

I wish you every blessing of God on the occasion of the upcoming solemnity. May Jesus be our delight, our peace, our all. Most reverend excellency, I am and will constantly be, with complete affection, esteem and most sincere gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 9, 1825

1280

December 9, 1825

Pope Leo XII

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<sup>60</sup> See the following.

Most blessed Father

The Missionaries, residents in S. Felice in Giano, petition your Holiness to deign to renew for them for another ten year period the faculty of celebrating a Mass each week and on the anniversary *infra octavam*<sup>61</sup> of all Souls Day to fulfill the obligations fully that are imposed upon them in that sanctuary; this, because of the difficult circumstances of the petitioners; that etc.

In behalf of the Mission and Retreat House in San Felice in Giano.

1281

December 9, 1825

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Niece

I give thanks to God for having met Francesco to whom I send my greetings. I already knew about his good nature.

It is quite understood that in our house things must be done as I direct. Hence, I cannot understand how things could occur that you wrote about.

I shall say Fr. Eugenio's Masses and you can thank him for me.

With regard to the alms, I shall write on another occasion.

Cultivate the virtue of humility, a virtue which I greatly urge you to develop.

Send my greetings to Giovanni, whom I never fail to recommend to God. Though I am quite pressed for time, since I am very, very busy, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ Crucified, our only delight, I remain

Your loving uncle

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 9, 1825

1282

December 14, 1825

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I am doubtful whether I wrote to you or not that I sent the requested certificate to Fano. However, this second reference of mine will not be burdensome for you; but it will unite us even more in our prayers for the upcoming solemnity.

I hope that you are still healthy in body and even more so in spirit. Do not cease praying and have others pray a lot for me. With all my esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

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<sup>61</sup> Within the octave.

S. Felice, December 14, 1825

P. S. In Rome, I spoke with Monsignor Gentiloni and I recommended Fabriano to him. I, however, do not know just how much he can do. I would like to know whether I had a single printing made of a pamphlet against dancing or whether I had two printings.

1283

December 16, 1825  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

A couple of lines in a hurry. The rather serious matter that you mentioned to me is something between bishop and bishop. You do understand.

Missions will be conducted in Cammerinese, Umbria, Campagna, the Kingdom, in the dioceses of Jesi, Sinigaglia, and Ancona. Nothing, up to now, as to the times; but we are presently exchanging letters to prearrange everything etc. Please let me know what I have overlooked in sending my replies to you, whom I esteem and love, and along with you, that city there which is so very, very dear to me.

Always pray for the one who now renews himself with true esteem and respect, wishing you every blessing during the forthcoming solemnity, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 16, 1825

Try to confirm the good work of our Missions, the pious organizations, etc., particularly in Cereto etc.

1284

December 18, 1825  
Fr. Pietro Butti  
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Do you still remember me? I can assure you that I always have you quite present with me and our relationship must grow even closer in Jesus Christ crucified.

A thousand blessings during the upcoming solemnity. Pray a lot, a whole lot for me, most needful of prayers.

Our Tagliaferri is now a deacon; but, let us be in agreement, as for the priesthood, I, *edoctus experientia in exercitio ministerii*,<sup>62</sup> would say that if there is not adequate knowledge, sufficient to meet ones duties, I think that he should not burden himself with that responsibility. I am at ease, as far as the diaconate is concerned, and I am pleased with its conferral. So, now, just a bit of time. In regard to this same person, I tell you that he has a good background, but a very difficult trait (keep

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<sup>62</sup> Taught by experience in the exercise of the ministry.

this between ourselves) has arisen in him; however, that, with the grace of God, can be overcome. We are all miserable creatures and sickly *et beatus qui minimis urgetur*.<sup>63</sup> Always settle your rent payments with Father Giovanni Merlini in Frosinone.

Blessed are you as you become a saint through the work of the oratory. Promote its glories everywhere in that Province. Many, many good wishes to your excellent uncle, whom I do not forget; also, particular greeting to the most reverend bishop, to your nephew, to Canon dell'Uomo, and anyone else who remembers me. I am still awaiting the miniature of St. Xavier. Let us become saints. Oh what a beautiful house of studies we have here in Giano! The members are growing in numbers. The devil is growling; but the most Precious Blood will silence him. I kiss your hands. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>64</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 18, 1825

1285

December 18, 1825

Mr. Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Spina's letter has taken its course. In person, Monsignor has urged me to look into the matter of the request made by the mayor and the council of that area for a Retreat, and I am proceeding to reply directly. Later, we can, eventually, come to an agreement as to the designated time.

I return my most cordial greetings to all, in particular to Mr. Sigismondo, the mayor, as well as the others that you mentioned.

I can also assure you that I never forget you in my poor prayers, and God knows how many blessings I wish for you. You do the same for me and for our Society. May Jesus be our delight, our joy in this miserable world, and, one day, be our reward in heaven.

With all sincerity of affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission House in S. Felice, December 18, 1825

P. S. address your letters [in]deed<sup>65</sup> to Frosinone.

1286

December 18, 1825

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

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<sup>63</sup> And blessed is he who is compelled by the smallest things.

<sup>64</sup> Being your lowest servant in Christ.

<sup>65</sup> The page is a bit torn here.

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Oh how obliged I am to you for so many favors! St. Francis Xavier, whom I love so very much, knows very well whether I was able or not to get free for the time that was set aside. Still, in order not to leave it untended, I had assigned one of the very best men of our Institute, and I sent a letter of mine to you, if, indeed, you did receive it. At any rate, a certain amount of good work was achieved. As soon as I am able to get to your area, I shall inform you and then we can discuss everything. Pray to God for me, for since I am dependent on directions from Rome, many times I am not free to do what I would like to do, and consequently involuntary impediments and obligations do arise.

Please excuse me for what has occurred and be certain that I share the anguish that you must have suffered. Actually, it is also quite true that at that time I was not feeling very well, but now I am much better. However, I could not have taken part in the dinner since our rules do not admit of exceptions. I would like the sick people to promote the tridua to that Holy Image. For the sake of my own devotedness, I hope to send you a little silver Heart within a short time. Pray a lot for me, and, with total affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 18, 1825

P. S. Whenever necessary, address your letters to Frosinone.

1287

December 22, 1825

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>66</sup>

Venerable Monsignor, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*<sup>67</sup>

The heavy rains have delayed the trip of Canon Carboneri, assigned to Pievetorina. However, I am expecting his arrival from day to day. At any rate, concerned about the fulfillment of the good work to be done by the pious Mission House for the approaching holy feasts, feasts which I hope will be, for you, full of generous blessings, I am temporarily appointing there Father Giovanni Chiodi, one of our newest Missionaries. He is a priest having special ability for preaching and is already approved for the confessions of men. May he have your pastoral blessing and be granted the faculties which he will use to the greater glory of God. I personally have communicated to him all of our regulations for the ministry. He has been attached here to our House of S. Felice, which I consider *debito modo per modum unius*<sup>68</sup> with the one that we have in Pievetorina that is so very dear to me.

In order to make the trip speedily, during this season of the year, I have had to appoint this

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<sup>66</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>67</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>68</sup> In due fashion as unique.

excellent young man, full of the spirit of God, who, in Ascoli, was under the spiritual direction of the saintly man, a member of the Filippini Institute, whose name is Father Giovannelli. While he was preaching the Lenten series last year, he was granted the faculty, by Monsignor Cappelletti, of hearing also the confessions of women. You could likewise grant him this faculty while he is there in Pievetorina, and, you can be very certain that he is endowed with the necessary maturity.

My Monsignor, I am always united with you in spirit. Pray incessantly that I may gain our beloved homeland in heaven. I do not fail to do the same for you. As for other matters, another letter. It has now become late. I kiss your hands, and, most venerable Monsignor, with total obeisance, esteem and particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, December 22, 1825

1288

December 23, 1825

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

I assure you that, except for an unforeseen order coming from the Holy Father, which happens occasionally, I shall be in Acquasparta punctually. For that reason, I have tried to remain here in S. Felice along with the purpose of concluding the work of activating this house of studies for our young men who, in this Mission and Retreat House, are preparing themselves for the expectations of the ministry.

It is quite true that I received a letter from the Archpriest Rossi, but I was unaware that Castel di Lago belonged to that diocese. I noted that there would not be time to arrange everything etc. for the holy ministry of the Missions during the holy feasts. I am awaiting a reply from him concerning this matter. In general, I would think that it would be a good idea to first get information about the jubilee year, which is just a matter of days away, and then come to an ultimate decision. If, however, you think otherwise, all you have to do is drop me a word and we will quickly decide on a day for the entrance. Therefore, I shall be expecting a couple of lines from you and then this great work can get underway. I am of the opinion that Acquasparta should be handled first and then Castel di Lago. You can discuss this with Archpriest Rossi, or even make the decision on your own.

I return to you a thousand best wishes for the blessings of the recurring sacred mysteries. Pray and have others pray for me who, with wholehearted esteem and respect and very special affection, most venerable Prior, remains now and constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 23, 1825

1289

December 23, 1825

Fr. Francesco Meletti  
Fano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I cannot help but express to you my very deep delight in God to see that you are so enthusiastic for the devotion to the most Precious Blood. Great will be the divine blessings upon you.

As far as I know, the booklet is not different from the ones printed in Fabriano. Perhaps in the ones printed in Rome there may be a fuller listing of the indulgences.

I shall seek an opportunity for sending you copies of the printed matter which is usually given to those enrolled, at no obligation. And giving them a booklet is an equivalent. It is not necessary that I remind you only that no alms should be asked of the one enrolled; rather, a small donation might be advised for particular individuals who understand the situation well. Excuse me, I repeat, if I take the freedom to give this advice.

The printer in Rome sells the booklets, as far as I can recall, for either eight or twelve *paoli* for one hundred. In short, between eight and 12 *paoli*. I do not have an exact remembrance.

Try to see that the Chaplet is recited publicly everywhere, as is the practice of reciting the rosary. If, later, a canonical erection is to be worked out and you need clarification, all you have to do is send me word, addressing it, for now, to Fuligno per S. Felice di Giano. Pray a lot, a lot for me.

With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 23<sup>69</sup>

1290

January 2, 1826  
Fr. Giovanni Mimmi  
Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

I am sending a reply to a couple of your most appreciated letters by special delivery so that the good work of the holy Missions can be arranged there. I received one of your letters delivered by hand, and the other came with the mail-delivery. The bull announcing the universal Jubilee year has not come out as of now. I do not know whether you want to wait for the promulgation of greater faculties so that the Missionaries will be able to accomplish an even more extensive good work. On this point, I submit to whatever you wish to decide. The requests coming in from every area are incalculable, but, Acquasparta is very close to my heart.

However, the unexpected opening of a Mission House in Terracina as well as the assigning of various companies of our workers for the Missions that have been requested, have not allowed me, for the time being, to be away from S. Felice. If we were able to discuss things together, you would empathize with my situation of having to direct the Institute which is spreading farther and

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<sup>69</sup> The year is 1825.

farther to the greater divine glory, along with the fact that I find that, I can no longer prudently say I shall come in person. Rather, I must only set in general the date for a Mission and then either I am free and I can go, or the Society's work ties me down and I must send others. But, by the grace of God, we are not lacking in men who are very capable of carrying out the ministry and who can bring in a harvest that I, because of my tepidity, would not be able to gather. You can be sure that unforeseen and involuntary changes do come up for me, without my wanting them. God knows that I do not lie, please allow me to express myself thusly, pointing out to you the internal status of my heart which has the inclination of pleasing everyone; but, how can I do that when, at the present time, I am occupied with the aforementioned opening of the House in Terracina, and also with giving instructions to our companions who will be passing through here? The conclusion, therefore, is this: Presently, I will be able to send workers, and very fine ones, even for a Retreat for the clergy etc., but, I myself will not be able to come.

I received a letter from Monsignor Cristaldi this morning with regard to Terracina at the same time that I received yours. So, if you will not be having a Lenten series preached there, would it not be possible to begin during the final days of Carnival time, I mean to say, during the last week, and thus make compensation to the Lord for the many outrages that he receives, and then continue it until it is completed after 15 days? Thus, the present arrangement would cease. Believe me, I am truly humbled to be sending you this letter, especially since I esteem and love you so much. So, *de necessitatibus meis erue me Domine*.<sup>70</sup> But, even if you do have the Lenten series, could the Mission not be terminated on the first Sunday of Lent, and then have the Lenten sermons continue after that? You yourself might arrange for the Mission now and then, when I have some time free, I could come for two or three days to give a boost to the harvest and, at the same time, to demonstrate to you the holy eagerness I have for embracing you again in the Lord. So, at the foot of the Crucifix, you make your decision. And, whatever that decision may be:

1. It is understood that the Mission is to last 15 days.

2. There will be two Missionaries: *misit binos*;<sup>71</sup> by my calculations I cannot promise more. One will teach catechism and one will do the preaching; have no doubt, it will be handled well. The economical use of time is crucial. *Misit binos*; let us trust in these words, and especially in the universal Jubilee; at another time, I would make other calculations.

3. The Missionaries' are to have the greatest possible freedom in their place of residence. They will bring along a Brother-in-service who will assist them and, it is understood, they will lead a religious life *iuxta regulas*.<sup>72</sup>

4. See that the platform is quite spacious.

5. <sup>73</sup> Ask for the faculty of adding the Collect "*pro petitione lacrymarum*"<sup>74</sup> to the Mass.

6. <sup>75</sup> At the time of the sermons, all the taverns are to be closed etc. Oh! the good work that will be done. More when we see each other in person. I kiss your hands. With all esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ Crucified,

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<sup>70</sup> Rescue me from my necessities.

<sup>71</sup> He sent [them] two by two.

<sup>72</sup> According to the rules.

<sup>73</sup> The copy repeats the number 4.

<sup>74</sup> For a request of tears, etc.

<sup>75</sup> The copy repeats the number 5.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 2nd of 1826

P. S. At the entrance ceremony, there is the consignment of the Crucifix following that method which we, in time, point out to you, even a half-hour before, shall I say, the arrival of the Missionaries. But, now the mail-delivery man is rushing me. You need not give him any money; just a bit of refreshment. Pray a lot, a whole lot for me, and be understanding toward me. I would like to be sure of that, trusting in your kindness and discretion.

1291

January 3, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>76</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how delighted I was to see your handwriting after so long a time. I, too, note the misplacement of letters. I am recommending to you the two enclosed petitions;<sup>77</sup> please take care of them for me. The one deals with those faculties which I have been accustomed to use for so many years, and I would like to have them extended at least for 1826. How can one manage things which, just between us, have always been our practice, when far from Rome, since nothing has ever been done without papal authority or rescript? I note that your meeting may have given rise to some misunderstanding of terms. What can I say? You simply cannot imagine how many and what requests have been coming in. Presently, I am assigning the various companies of workers, since I am responsible for looking after whatever is pressing in this regard. But, I would like to be at ease with regard to everything that I have been requesting in behalf of the good work which, by the grace of God, I am obliged to promote. You also can realize the amount of gossip that will arise if those faculties are suspended ... can you imagine that the devil is going to sit back quietly. Nevertheless, I am prepared for anything. To God be the glory; to me humiliation, and let us go ahead. At times, it will be necessary to suspend one or the other confession, and then have to write. Patience. May the will of God be done.

The Missionaries are already back in Terracina and in order to send them there I had to take on a small debt so as not to allow the devil a victory; what else could I do? I am feeding on the bread of pain, but may the lovable, ever most lovable God be blessed. However, I must confess that the worries of this past year, despite my having sought to offer them to God, have diminished the vigor of health that I used to have before. They have been the cause of a certain clashing of nerves that bring on weakness. Still, I keep helping the Society, the ministry, the house of studies as best I can and I assure you that the problems keep increasing day by day. Recommend me to God. My obligations to you are inexpressible. Read everything that I have in my heart. Try to get me exempted from the postal expenses.

I urge you to keep Albano in mind, since I must now be concerned with Terracina, as well as

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<sup>76</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>77</sup> See the following two letters.

those arrear payments for this House. I am limiting myself to asking for what is ours by reason of justice, and not only as a favor. Presently, the Missionaries in Sonnino are going to the Monastery delle Canne. In Vallecorsa, the building project is continuing. I keep making a review of my omissions in order not to overlook anything pertaining to the Society etc.

I kiss your hands. The Archbishop of Spoleto is also requesting Missions. Pray a lot for me so that I will be saved. I fear that there will be a great chastisement since, up to now, the principles of the Reform are not in evidence. *Oremus ergo provoluti coram Domino.*<sup>78</sup> I know that in the Propaganda they are eagerly seeking workers. I hope that, one day, from this small plant of ours, which the devil has sought and continues to seek to destroy, abundant fruits will be spread abroad also through those Missions. I conclude with what the holy Monsignor Strambi used to say: Lord, give me your grace, and a few farthings". We chuckle to the glory of God. Take care of yourself and know that there are many, many prayers and Masses offered for you, since after God you are our father, our all. May the Lord preserve you, let me express myself thusly, to the age of Noah.

But, in the final point of life, the divine Blood will be your comfort, your confidence just as it was for St. Francis Caracciolo who said: "Lord, give me your Blood which is mine because you gave it for me". You will realize that the works that have been promoted by you will open for you the blessed gates of heaven. Do you know why I said that the Reform has not as yet begun? Because it must have its beginning in what is the sacred. ... It is underway ... but not with that insistence on the principles, with encyclicals etc. etc. etc. Anything more will be said in the wounds of the Lord. Our sins have held back the granting of grace, of illumination, of acts of mercy. Most reverend excellency, in the meantime, I remain constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 3rd of 1826

P. S. In our community here, we are 20 in number.

Forward your letters to S. Felice. See that you ask for the subsidy for Terracina which, with such kindness, you promised to do for me.

I remind you of the altar hanging. Tell the Holy Father that he can do this in honor of S. Felice who, in the fourth century, propagated the faith in Umbria.

1292

January 3, 1826

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

The now-deceased Pontiff, Pope Pius VII, in granting the benefits of S. Felice in Giano to the Schools of the city of Spoleto, set aside an endowment for that sanctuary, so memorable to Umbria, where S. Felice preached the Gospel and met martyrdom for the glories of the Crucified Lord. In the very recent well-known upheaval, with the Passionists who had been inhabiting S. Felice being expelled, the administration of the Schools did not grant entirely the endowment set aside for the sanctuary. However, the now-deceased Pontiff Pius VII, in installing there or in replacing the Passionist Fathers with the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity *sub titulo pretiosissimi Sanguinis*

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<sup>78</sup> Let us, therefore, pray prostrate before the Lord.

*Domini nostri Jesu Christi*,<sup>79</sup> ordered by his rescript that the arrear-payments be calculated and then to be used in the restoration of the building so very much in need of repair, as well as for sacred utensils and anything else needed, and that the supplying of that endowment should be continued. Now, most blessed Father, the Missionaries, expecting to receive those back payments, immediately applied themselves to the work of restoration and they established the pious Institute of Missions and Retreats. However, the administration of the Schools never satisfied the obligation of those arrear-payments, and, as a result, the House is faced with heavy debts. The Jesuit Fathers, to whom those benefits are presently extended, surely must not have that obligation in their possession. Therefore, the petitioners beg your Beatitude for an opportune and benign consideration; that etc.

In behalf of the Missionaries in S. Felice in Giano

1293

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, apostolic Missionary, a most humble petitioner to your Holiness, asks that the faculties granted to him for the exercise of the holy ministry during the past year be renewed; that etc.

In behalf of Can. Gaspare del Bufalo, Mis. Ap.

1294

January 3, 1826

Sister Maria Saveria di S. Agostino

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

What you say to me in your recent letter can be only the result of your own kind nature. I thank you as much as I can, assuring you that I never forget you in my humble prayers, wishing for you every good thing that you yourself desire. But, why have such a restrained spirit? *Spera in Domino*,<sup>80</sup> says the Prophet, ... *viriliter age*<sup>81</sup>... Are we not serving a loving God? Look at your own soul and you will see that fear is born from the desire to please God. Love your vocation and never cease yearning to perfect it. So, let us trust in God and strive to serve the Lord moment after moment and never be doubtful of eternal salvation. When contrary temptations arise, always say: "I love and I want to keep loving God". I add nothing further.

Give my best regards to Mother Superior and to the entire community, and recommend me to their prayers in common. Likewise, when the opportunity arises, give my greetings to your excellent uncle. I notice that the most holy Sorrowful Mother is made to be a part of your sufferings. But, if we wish to reach the fulness of consolation, it is necessary that we now partake of that same chalice from which our Divine Master swallowed the last drop, out of love for redeemed souls. May Jesus be our peace, our comfort. He will, one day, be our reward in heaven. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>79</sup> Under the title of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>80</sup> Hope in the Lord.

<sup>81</sup> Act manfully.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice, 3rd of 1826.

1295

January 6, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Canon Carboneri, last year's Lenten preacher, has arrived and the young man sent to supply has returned to S. Felice. The Lenten preacher has already been selected and will be arriving within days. He is a priest (and I say this to the glory of God) who is very capable in the ministry. His name is Father Gaetano Zapponi.

Today, I am sending the petition dealing with the moral cases. Little by little, I am hoping that we can arrange everything systematically.

Pray for me a lot, a whole lot, engulfed as I am, by the will of God, in multiple difficult situations. I kiss your hands. Keep me in your loving kindness. May Jesus make us entirely his. In the meantime, with esteem, respect and very special affection, most reverend excellency, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice (for forwarding) 6th of 1826.

1296

January 6, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Prior

The man in Giano asked me to say that last Thursday he was unable to be in Acquasparta. So, I thought I should write in order to demonstrate to you, as best I can, my sincere esteem and affection for you who, to my deepest edification, have been seeking to promote something that leads to the greater glory of God, especially in these miserable times of ours. I assure you that I kneel humbly before God because of the inevitable delaying of your Mission, to which, except for unforeseen orders coming from Rome, I personally would be coming. But, now I have reflected that, taking all the circumstances into consideration, the Mission cannot be arranged for 15 days; furthermore, it is not up to me to change the days and method arranged for the Lenten preaching. If the preaching for Lent had been omitted, then oh how nicely everything could have been set up. Still, I am highly pleased. at any rate, that good work is being done.

So, let us do as follows: immediately after Easter, let us have the Mission. In that way, you will have help for those who are going to fulfill their Easter duty. I am hopeful that there will be three of us coming since I will have my Lenten preachers free. We do not preach Lenten series

anywhere else than in the places where we have a Mission House. So, as a rule, the bishops give us that duty and in that way we are not disturbed from doing our good work. Some might say that I am fickle. But God is my witness. I assure you that later, except for Acquasparta, I shall give my attention only to the Institute in general, especially since we now have very, very solid members. Let that be said to the glory of the Lord. I see myself as a ship sailing out on the high seas. In the fog of spiritual and temporal matters in the Society, they are but relative and continuing eventualities. Thus, let us be in agreement. In the meantime, you are able to observe the sanctified carnival with the recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Blood. You told me that sermons had been provided in Advent; within a short time it will be Lent. God's mercies will be multiplied with an increase of graces because of the special encouragement of the holy Mission. For my own peace of mind, I would like you not to remain in an agitated state because of me, I would not want to be the source of disturbance to you. With the grace of God we shall succeed in our intent, and fruitfully too. By that time, they will surely have promulgated the universal Jubilee Year. So, during Holy Week, I shall write again concerning the arrangements for carriages and nothing else will be required. As you yourself have observed, you, likewise, can work hard to make that date widely known, thus offsetting rumors and remarks, that so easily arise. You handle things as you see best.

However, I still have another bit of inconvenience for you, and here it is. Would you be able to get a couple of *vescighe di distrutto*, some *prosciutto*, a few sausages and some pork chops? Send me the bill, and through the courtesy of the man from Giano, I shall send you the reimbursement immediately. My messenger will be able to carry everything. In the purchase of these things, we are limiting ourselves since Ash Wednesday will soon be here. Please excuse me, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.<sup>82</sup>

Father Biagio Valentini recommends to you the enclosed matter, but safely forwarded and free from every contingency. Why do you not come to visit me here in S. Felice? Come and spend a day or so with me. In person, you will be able to hear the long list of my present concerns. In my behalf, write to the Archpriest Rossi. Tell him that Archbishop Ancajani has written to me concerning a Mission which we are going to set up along with the Mission in Acquasparta. For my own peace of mind, check with him and then send me a reply. I kiss your hands and wholeheartedly I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

6th of 1826

1297

January 12, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>83</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I have received your most appreciated letter of the first of this current year concerning the

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<sup>82</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>83</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

matter of the subsidy for Terracina, and, in addition, that you indicate that you do not wish to get involved in either Giano or Albano and other things that, on occasions, I have mentioned to you. Patience. May the will of God be done. It simply is not right for me to increase your sufferings with my continuous insistences that arise out of sheer necessity and with repugnance to my spirit. I would, as a matter of fact, like to minimize them. Indelible in my mind is my remembrance of you and I can say to you unhesitatingly: "*Oblivioni detur dextera mea, si obliviscar tui*".<sup>84</sup> Let us remain together in the wounds of Jesus Christ, our only mansion, and let us not lose courage, a piece of religious advice for which I am grateful to you with all my heart. I am completely certain that when you become aware of the kind of ship that I am on, and how the tribulations and the crosses, which I adore in my spirit, are increasing day by day, you will not forget me in your prayers and, in an even more particular way, you will not cease doing whatever you can for the benefit of our Society. I say nothing more.

In this same mail-delivery, I am writing a letter of mine to the most reverend Delegate in order to get him interested in the Convent of S. Agostino. With respect to the bishop, we feel very sure of his full cooperation, once he has been approached. Again, in Frosinone, we have spent not a little money in readying our place. Now, were it to be possible to activate in a grand way the Retreat House, perhaps we would remain humbled.

Patience. If you should ever think about preparing the petition with regard to the pious legacies of Masses in this church here, please, for my own good order, send me word and with the greatest hurry, since this is a matter of suffrages. I urge the same thing with respect to my faculties. While kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, I wholeheartedly renew my esteem and most particular affection as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 12th of 1826

P. S. Concerning the chapels for the prisons in the Kingdom, I think that nothing has been done as yet. Perhaps I am mistaken. I believe the same situation exists in the Papal State, at least in certain locations. Maybe the recent changes have caused the matter to be overlooked.

1298

January 15, 1826  
 Msgr. Ottavio Zolio  
 Bishop of Rimini  
 Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>85</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

My companions write to me that it is hoped that the second pulpit in that city would be managed by one of our men. So, in order to support that good work and to demonstrate to you, as best I can, the sincere attachment I have for that new foundation of ours, I have decided to send a new voice there, since our usual members are not in opposition to this and since you point out to me

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<sup>84</sup> May my right had be given to oblivion is I forget you.

<sup>85</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

that people would like to hear some new voices. I hope that you will approve what will be done in this matter. I kiss your hands, most venerable Monsignor, and, while asking you wholeheartedly to recommend me to God, I have the honor of declaring again, with esteem and respectful affection, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice di Fuligno per Giano, 15th of 1826

1299

January 15, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The bishop of Rimini is asking me for a Missionary who is to preach three times a week in Rimini from the second pulpit of that city, that is, from the second special platform, in keeping with our method of preaching. We cannot refuse preaching assignments in the places where we have our Houses. So, for the sake of economy of expenses, one of our men from Pievetorina will be coming there; and then one of our men from Rimini, probably Canon Bertoni or Father Rafaelle Brandimarte, will be going to Pievetorina; and, it is understood, he will present himself to your most reverend excellency, to undertake work in that House. In accordance with our agreements, I must dutifully inform you of these things.

Fr Rafaelle Brandimarte is a man who is quite seasoned in preaching; I do not want to disparage, in any way, Canon Bertoni, but he is aging a bit. You cannot possibly imagine the number of requests coming to us. May St. Francis Xavier give me workers as numerous as snowflakes! The world is in horrible shape. Preachers of the Gospel are needed here and abroad. It is necessary that there be an exchange of personnel between bishops. I hope that you will release Angelici who is being called to our group. May St. Francis Xavier obtain ever more ample blessings on you, the most reverend bishop of Cammerino, whom I love and esteem so very much in the Lord. as I kiss your hands, I have the honor of devoutly declaring once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 15th of 1826

P. S. I hear that there is a dire need for a Mission in Pievebovigliano.

1300

January 17, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Enclosed is the original copy of the petition, which, as a favor, you will please return to me. Since August, several petitions have been sent, but with no results. So, I beg for the greatest possible solicitude. I know very well how heavily burdened you are with things, and I, except for the most urgent matters, am trying not to inconvenience you. May the Lord reward you amply for this good deed which is seeking help for our poor church here in S. Felice.

But here is a bit of consolation. His most reverend eminence, the Lord Cardinal della Somaglia, has written to me asking for a Missionary for the foreign missions. Because of the great needs of the people, described in that letter, I was moved to tears with tender pity for those souls. In that letter, he acknowledges our Missions under the most august title of the Divine Blood, and all the young men in our House of studies, on hearing about this, gave praise to God in the desires that they all nourish, namely, to be completely dedicated to the ministry. Indeed, one of our men will surely be going. My Monsignor, I do not know whether I will ever see the glories of our Institute, but I am hopeful that it will be the delight of everyone. Oh the needs of souls! Preachers of the Gospel are needed everywhere. First this, then every blessing. Oh how much I would like to say to you! May the Holy Spirit communicate it to you. May Jesus be our delight, and let us rest on the mystical bed of the Cross: "*Lectulus floridus*"<sup>86</sup> by means of the virtuous acts with which it is surrounded.

I must not overlook one observation, for the pure glory of God. ... during the past holy year in Rome, was there any province as edifying as the Province of Marittima and Campagna? Praise be to God, and to you, consolation, as our benefactor and father. I kiss your hands and ask you to keep me in your prayers. I renew my sentiments of esteem and respect with which I am and will constantly be, most venerable Monsignor,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice, 17th of 1826

P. S. Give my thanks to Father Girolamo for his letter. The reply is the petition which I am enclosing.

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<sup>86</sup> [The] bed of flowers.