

St. Gaspar's Letters

1651 - 1700

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1651

July 25, 1827
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹

Dear Monsignor

I thank you wholeheartedly for your letter. Do not attribute it to a lack of propriety if, with your permission, I make some suggestion to you that relates to doing a good deed. Your virtue and your zeal make me feel completely at ease.

With pleasure did I learn of the improvement in your health. Please, take care of yourself. During these days, I am working on all the correspondence dealing with the giving of Missions, as well as those things that I must do before making the trip to your Abbacy. I am also trying to renew myself spiritually since I was ordained a priest on the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola in the church of the Missionary Fathers of St. Vincent de Paul. Help me with many prayers.

Have no doubt about the most scrupulous use of the 200 *scudi* for the Marca and Romagna. Keep before you, when the opportunity arises, everything that you know about. I can already read the whole picture in your soul.

Some advice. A penitent, under the previous pontificate (generally speaking an old matter) succeeded in cheating the Reverenda Camera Apostolica of 300 *scudi*, if I am not mistaken. He has already made his confession. He was given the obligation of making restitution. But incapable as he is at present, he will, little by little, continue to make this restitution. The one who heard his confession finds him to be persevering, and has insisted and keeps insisting that the obligation be lifted, granting also that it be so in case of danger of death, as could be done prudently and more satisfyingly. Tell me: could you present this case to the Holy Father, asking him to permit this penitent to provide, little by little, some furnishings for our poor churches. They are in such great need for many things, even considering the things that have already been provided (you know very well the deplorable state in which we found them). Would this not be making restitution as he, *pro viribus*,² continues to do this gradually? The confessor, an ardent supporter of our Society, writes to me that he would be pleased to have this grant given. The Holy Father, who is in charge of the house of God, will not refuse. I kiss your hands and with complete esteem, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*³

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 25, 1827

1652

July 25, 1827
 Fr. Raffaello Rosati
 Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

² In accord with one's strength.

³ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

Most esteemed Father Rafaele

Since Father Giovanni Merlini is away, please do me the favor to contact him so that he will return to Frosinone, immediately, for reasons of preaching, that is, to take care of a pending request. With the greatest haste, therefore, is he to read this letter of mine. I am trusting, as I must, in your cooperation and diligence.

I spoke to Father Giovanni Merlini about offering his services in Selvette in your place. Little by little, see that you get what you need from him. As for anything more, write to me and, despite all of the problems that keep piling up, I shall not fail to do what I can. Pray a lot for me, and let us become saints. In Jesus Christ crucified, with total affection and esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Albano, July 25, 1827

1653

July 25, 1827

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Camillo⁴ *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁵

The mail is leaving and I have just received your letter. Read everything that I have in my heart. I am very happy with the printing, just as you describe to me insistently and energetically. At one time, the covering was of a better color, if I remember correctly. At any rate, as things are, everything is just fine.

Oh how happy you must be to have a nun in the Monastery of the B. Mattia. Will you have her pray for me? I hope you will do so in charity, and especially be mindful that on July 31st I was ordained a priest! *Immensa dignitas!*⁶ Many, many best regards to Canon Tarulli to whom I recommend that he, in his zeal, will promote everywhere both the pious works resulting from the recent Missions as well as our most important devotion, the month of June etc. I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1654

July 31, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

⁴ This letter does not have a handwritten date. From the postal marking it is clear that it was sent from ALBANO, July 25th. We deduce the year from a comparison to the letter to Possenti, dated July 11, 1827, in which he speaks about the printing. It was out of place, hence, the notation by Possenti himself: "Without a date 1821".

⁵ Whom I love with unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁶ Immense dignity!

⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸

Venerable Monsignor

I have quickly shown to the confessor (since the person in this case is not my penitent) the sovereign's decision relative to what was still owed to the Reverenda Camera Apostolica. I cannot help but be most grateful for your charity and zeal for the greater glory of God. I am still occupied in conducting retreats at the present time. Pray to Jesus for me, and, while kissing your hands, I remain, with the fullness of esteem, respect and most sincere gratitude, urging you to have every regard for the status of your health etc.,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo in Albano, July 31, 1827

P. S. His Eminence Giustiniani has propagated our most important devotion in Spain.

1655

August 6, 1827

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

It will not be difficult for me to be in Pievetorina in September. Tell me: if I do come, will I have to inform you? Great would be my consolation if I will be able to see you again.

As for the flyer containing the sayings relative to humility, I shall put out, in all, six *scudi*. See that more copies are printed and then take as many as you will need. That is always understood.

I recommend that you look after the Chaplets and see whether the covers can be improved, at least as they were at first, but do so without an increase in the cost. So, let us proceed forward as usual.

As soon as these tasks have been completed, I shall give you a reply concerning the printing of the month-booklets, coming to 40 *scudi* for 500 copies. Thought must be given to this; I shall get in touch with the others. I repeat, within a short time I will send you a reply.

I am working on the affair pertaining to Castello di Collemato. Oh how I grieved on the death of the good Antonini who came so frequently for our Missions. Work hard wherever you can throughout all of the Marca region to spread our devotion, oratories, etc. Pray to Jesus for me, but really a lot. Oh! with what delight I recall the Missions in Fabriano and Matelica. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁹

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, August 6, 1827

1656

⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

August 7, 1827
Fr. Ferdinando Angelici
Santanatolia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Ferdinando

In reply to your letter, I tell you that I am hoping to be in Pievstorina within a short while. At that time, I shall see the young man, I shall examine him, I shall check his documents, and I will learn about his character, reliability, and talents. One must proceed cautiously; and only then will I admit him to our House of S. Felice in Giano and not to Pievetorina, where I have just made provisions for a change in cooks, in view of the fact that he would not be able to make progress there. I am presuming that his application indicates his ability to manage a kitchen. If you would like to hurry the matter, it would be necessary for me to commission this examination to Brandimarte in Giano where this person whom you have recommend would go. Send quickly your reply on this matter.

With regard to the money for the aggregations, the first six *scudi* are already in Severini's hands. Nothing more, at least not up to this point. I do not doubt that the payments will be forthcoming; without them, the aggregations would not be carried out, except for those who paid the six *scudi*; this might be pointed out to the people who are in charge of the three towns. At the time that this is done, the aggregation will be made.

The members of the S. Xavier group have enclosed for me a petition to the most reverend Treasurer which is another copy of the petition that had been forwarded. Willingly shall I recommend it.

Pray for me a lot, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, August 7, 1827

1657

August 13, 1827
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo and ever beloved in the Lord

I cannot give you the precise day on which I shall be in Pievetorina on my way to Norcia. At any rate, God will accept the sacrifice of our desires. You are doing absolutely right in watching over your son; do not allow him to be on his own. This would be the true proof of paternal love.

As for the printing of the sayings relative to humility, I said: around five scudi. Pray a lot to God for me. I am now with retreatants. I shall not write more. In Jesus Christ crucified, most revered Camillo, with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, August 13, 1827

1658

August 26, 1827
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Camillo

Here I am in Pievetorina. On the day immediately before the feast of St. Augustine, I shall be leaving for Norcia. From there, then, I shall return to Pievetorina to conduct in our Mission House here the retreat for the ordinands. Camillo, recommend me often to God, and, in his Sacred Divine Heart, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, August 26, 1827

1659

August 28, 1827
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Archbishop of Camerino
Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰

Venerable Monsignor

I am leaving for Norcia where I will conduct the retreat for the clergy. You know how important it is to offer special prayers for me. This is an undertaking of the highest regard. Please, with a line or so addressed to him here in Pievetorina, inform Father Biagio Valentini how many ordinands will be making the retreat. Upon the receipt of your most appreciated letter, we will know whether some rooms can be made available to other interested priests.

Since we are presently engaged in preparing a boarding school for ecclesiastics here in this House, I feel that it is not possible for the Canon of S. Ginesio to remain here. There surely must be another place of residence for him, perhaps with the Capuchins or some other community. He could stay on to take advantage of the retreat being given to the ordinands, but after that he should be leaving.

As for other matters, we shall handle them after my return. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and with esteem, respect and a special affection in Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, August 28, 1827

1660

¹⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

August 28, 1827
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹¹

Venerable Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*¹²

Oh how pleased I was to receive your most appreciated letter which came to me just after I had written my other one to you. I read it over and over again with indescribable consolation to my spirit. Furthermore, I was delighted to receive your blessings and your most cordial words which signified to me more than ever the generous fullness of your heart. Not only now but always, look upon me as your child in Jesus Christ. Your authority, your personality, our Institute in your archdiocese - are these not motives for maintaining our holy relationship in God?

God-willing, I myself shall conduct the retreat for the ordinands, while trusting in your prayers and the goodness and mercy of God who *dat verbum evangelizantibus virtute multa*.¹³ Not counting the rooms reserved for the Missionaries, the brothers-in-service and one or the other priest who has sought shelter here, there are ten rooms available. But should the rooms assigned to the community be needed, they, too, for the glory of God, will be readied. All that must be done is to provide us with the precise number and we are prepared to make arrangements for everything quickly. I have already written to you about the Canon of S. Ginesio in my other letter. Those are my thoughts, always submitting myself to your judgment. I add, now, that if you wish to have him stay on here after the

retreat, you shall be instantly obeyed, and, not only in this instance but in anything else that may be necessary. I assure you, most reverend excellency, of the profound esteem, respect and veneration which I have the honor and pleasure to reassert in the sweetest hearts of Jesus and Mary. Kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pievotorina, August 28, 1827

1661

September 7, 1827
 Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni
 Bishop of Norcia
 Norcia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁴

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am in Pievetorina. I am writing a couple of lines to you to thank you for the many acts of kindness and favor shown to me during my stay in Norcia. I shall see that the Chaplet- booklets

¹¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹² Whom I love in unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ.

¹³ He gives the word to those who evangelize with great valor.

¹⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

will get to you from Rome so that you can promote even more our most important devotion to the Divine Blood. As for Visso, everything has been arranged. Please, do not forget to pray a lot and always for me, and, get as many people as you can to do the same. It seems that there is nothing more that I have to say to you. Venerable Monsignor, while kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, September 7, 1827

P. S. Canon Moscatelli, to whom the enclosed belongs, is in Albano.

1662

September 14, 1827

Fr. Luigi La Penna

Vicar General of Terracina

Terracina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁵

Most illustrious and reverend Father

The bearer of this most humble letter of mine is Canon Gonnelli, my former companion in Rome in the Chapter of St. Mark (before he joined our Institute). He is coming there as the Superior of our Mission and Retreat House. The affection that I have for the memory of our holy Monsignor Albertini has induced me to select, for this year, one of my outstanding confreres who had a very close relationship to the above-mentioned Monsignor Albertini. I am directing him to contact you so that you will be kind enough to supply him with the usual faculties. While asking for your prayers, I have the honor to renew myself with the fulness of esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, September 14, 1827

Can. Fr. Luigi La Penna

In his absence:

To whom it may concern

1663

September 19, 1827

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

It is quite true that I have failed to send you a reply, but please excuse me since I simply could not find the time and I have regretted this delay.

It is necessary that you send the printed matter to Rome by the usual carriage delivery. The

¹⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

reason for this is that since I will have to be passing through S. Felice in Giano, I shall be going from there by horseback as far as Narni, in order to save expenses, and consequently I shall not be able to transport the printing. Please drop me a line or so to let me know just what the total cost is and also the manner in which I am to see that you get the money. I would think that it should be through the postal service.

It is likewise true that you wrote to me about the Capuchin nuns, but how can I manage to make that trip? God, indeed, gives me the inspiration, but I simply lack the means. You know the sea of problems that the Institute presents and the many, many most urgent needs that exist. At any rate, I see no other means of doing anything except if the nuns should have some Masses which could be said *ubique*¹⁶ and without the limitation of time. Then, in that case, I would willingly offer my assistance, leaving the alms to them for the respective number of Masses which, according to circumstances, I would be able to accept. You will say that this will not take care of the situation. Still, God sees into my heart. Let us remain in the wounds of Jesus Christ. Dear Camillo, pray and have others pray for the one who now, with esteem, respect and gratitude, renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, September 19, 1827

1664

September 20, 1827

Mgrs. Gaetano Bonanni

Bishop of Norcia

Norcia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁷

Dear Monsignor

The two Missionaries being sent to Visso are Father Nicola Santarelli and Father Angelo Primavera. In your name, I have given them the following faculties along with the most particular instructions, not because they are in need of them in the fulfillment of the ministry, but as an act of virtue which is the basis for every good work: 1. for reserved cases *in tabella "nemine excepto"*; 2. for the thirteen cases of the Penitentiary; 3. for blessing the holy cross, and if there are two, then both of them. Now, I would appreciate it if you would write and grant to them any other faculty that you could communicate for the Mission; also, the 40 days of indulgence to anyone who, with a contrite heart, kisses the holy crosses, even before they have been erected, as well as to anyone who attends the ceremonies of the Mission, and this so as to encourage them. Finally, please inform them whether you will be going or not going there for the general communions, thus making the appointment fixed, and, advising them that the Mission will be concluded on the first Friday in October, thus making it exactly fifteen days. If one or the other nun should wish to go to confession, write and let them know how they should conduct themselves.

Finally, at the middle of the Mission, please send a Capuchin from Norcia and a Father of the Reformed to help with the confessions. The Missionaries will find lodging for themselves or you

¹⁶ Wherever.

¹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

could provide that. The Capuchin could stay at the convent and the Reformed with whatever benefactor you can contact, or even the Gonfalonier could take him in. Have no doubt that the Missionaries will carry out your every wish. Likewise, since the religious are all outsiders, a greater good, in my opinion, will be accomplished. If anything else is required, please write to me. But, it seems to me that, for the present, everything that is urgent has been taken care of. You, too, will be able to do a bit of good work by visiting the small towns. Please give my best regards to anyone there who remembers me, and do not fail to recommend me to God.

Here, we have had a very full schedule of retreats and, among others, there was one of your ordinands for the priesthood who will be returning to your diocese. They all edified us and we give thanks to God *a quo omne bonum*.¹⁸

I kiss your hands, and, with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹⁹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, September 20, 1827

P.S. Have no doubt that the visitation sermons will be given; there will be three conferences for all the priests; all this has already been agreed upon with our companions. I have also made provisions for the nuns ... one conference in each monastery. To the glory of God, I shall be sending two outstanding workers and, with the grace of God, they will do great work etc.

1665

September 21, 1827

Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni

Bishop of Norcia

Norcia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁰

Venerable Monsignor

I read your most appreciated letter along with the enclosure from the bishop of Terni. I shall not fail to get in contact with him on my return to Rome. In the meanwhile, prayers. Presently, I am awaiting the Missionaries who are coming here to Pievetorina from Rome with our young men. Always pray for me and for our Society. Let us maintain our spiritual pacts in Jesus Christ crucified in whose adorable heart, most venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pievetorina, September 21, 1827

P. S. Recommend to God Canon Argenti who has suffered an attack of apoplexy.

1666

¹⁸ From whom is every good.

¹⁹ Being his lowest servant in Christ

²⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

October 4, 1827
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²¹

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this humble letter of mine is the excellent Father Pietro Paolo Saverio Incelli, the Missionary economist in this House of Pievetorina. He is presenting himself to you to speak about Canon Barbi and, at the same time, of the problems of the House. I wholeheartedly recommend this to your charity, zeal, concern, industry etc. etc. Most reverend excellency, I kiss your hands, and, with the fulness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G.. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, October 4, 1827

1667

October 1827
 Pope Leo XII
 Most blessed Father

Giovanni Battista Piermarini, Francesco and Vincenzo Ceccarelli from Castello di Pievetorina, diocese of Camerino, the undersigned and most humble petitioners to your Holiness, are representatives for and in accordance with the last will dispositions dated April 14, 1770 of Ansovina Mangarelli from Castello di Seravalle, diocese of Camerino, who ordered the erection of three Chaplaincies, two of them in the public oratory of S. Felicita and the third in the parish church of S. Lucia in Seravalle, with the obligation for the three Chaplaincies of having the daily celebration and application of Masses with the offering set at about 14 *baiocchi* and 3 *quatrini*, that is to say, the payment of 50 *scudi* annually, supplied by the Luoghi di Monti Camerali. Because of the upheaval of the times, the aforementioned Luoghi di Monti have undergone a notable diminution, for which reason the income therefrom, apart from every expense of the Agency, has been actually reduced to only 72 *scudi*. Furthermore, the total shortage of priests in the aforementioned Seravalle at the present time has brought it about that there is only a single chaplain to handle those Chaplaincies, and it is impossible for him to fulfill completely the aforementioned obligations. From this fact, it turns out that the celebration of some 1200 Masses has remained unfulfilled, as long as there is only one Chaplain [in]²² Seravalle who will look after the aforementioned Chaplaincies.

The petitioners, the caretakers of the aforementioned Chaplaincies, are adhering to the pious intention that the foundress had in first setting up these Chaplaincies. She desired that in Seravalle there [should be] erected a House for the Pious Evangelical Workers for the spiritual [advantage] of souls. Now, in view of the erection of a Mission and [Retreat] House under the direction of the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in

²¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²² This page is defective in several areas indicated by the words that are in brackets.

Pievotorina, a place not far distant from Seravalle, and re[cognizing] the needs that the House there faces, the petitioners would like, as indicated in this document, t[hat] from the sum of 179.15 *scudi* already on deposit which are to be used in payment for the of[ferings] for the unsaid Masses, they ask that the deposit be given to the aforementioned Missionaries so that with that money they will be able to acquire a small sum in payment for a Mission or a Retreat that will be given every seven years in the aforementioned area of Seravalle, for their [own] expenses. The first will be conducted next year, 1828²³; that etc.

1668

October 11, 1827
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I am also writing in Severini's name. Through the postal service, you will be receiving 30 *scudi* as a reimbursement. You check the money and see whether it is exact and then please give me a note in reply.

My trip to Cereto was very short due to the grave sickness of a beloved confrere of mine. I did not have the time to inform you. I noticed in Cereto a desire for an oratory. See whether you can revive it.

Finally, I do not cease thanking you for so many of your favors. Pray a lot and always for me, most venerable Camillo, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 11, 1827

The transportation has been paid for etc.

1669

October 11, 1827
Fr. Giuseppe Fiorenza
S. Germano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Upon my return from conducting Missions, I received one of your most appreciated letters to which I am sending a reply. God knows how much I would like to personally conduct the Retreat which you mentioned to me. But, in the event that I should not be freed from other pre-arranged commitments, would you not be willing to welcome another of our men? I shall be awaiting your response. For that occasion, I ask that you avoid scheduling it during the time of the Novena and feast of St. Francis Xavier since, at that time, all of our Missionaries withdraw to make their Retreat.

²³ This petition does not bear a date. However, from the reference to the year 1828, it has to be assigned to 1827 and precisely to the end of August and the beginning of October, when St. Gsspar was in Pievetorina. Probably the petition is contemporary with the letter to Monsignor Nicola Mattei, dated October 4, 1827.

Send your letter to Rome, either when you have the opportunity, addressing it to the Palazzo Savelli near Piazza Montanara where I have my house or by the usual mail delivery. Pray a lot for me, most revered Canon, and, with esteem, respect and a very sincere affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 11, 1827

1670

October 18, 1827

Fr. Tommaso Meloni

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Blood of J. C.

My dear Fr. Tommaso in J. C.

I hope in God to be able to withdraw to S. Felice not too long from now. But we shall not be able to meet each other except in Rimini, with the coming of spring, the Lord willing, at the time when the ministry will take me to Romagna. In the meantime, let us see each other often and always in spirit in the Divine Heart, and let us mutually work together in the great concern of eternal salvation.

I am wholeheartedly grateful that you have decided to take up the hearing of confessions. You can be assured that God will give you his assistance, and you will have the consolation of bringing souls to Jesus Christ, thirsting for them. With reference to confessions, you know what De Rossi used to say. Courage.

Gonnelli, our Missionary, will be coming to Giano and he too will be stationed in Rimini. You shall make the trip together in the excellent company also of our Alessandro Pontoni, as well as that of a Brother who is being added to that House. You are aware of how much experience Gonnelli has had in the ministry. So, you will not be lacking assistance, therefore, in addition to that which you will receive from your other Companion, Lipparelli.

I repeat decisively that you are to accept the offerings for Masses, and with this amount, provide in the first place for all the things you need yourself: whatever is left over, give to the House where you are in residence. The pension is being sent to your mother who punctually receives two scudi per month. Fr. Giovanni Merlini assures me that he knows nothing about her illness. Conduct yourself, keeping these things in mind. Let me know what you need. I am always the same, and God knows how interested I am in your welfare and whatever will contribute to your peace of mind, so that you will lack nothing of those things that are urgent.

I myself visited the Polveriera in connection with the Fr. Gianfrancesco situation, but I found that he was far from Rome, that is, in Subiaco with Card. Galleffi. You are to write directly to the lawyer, to Sig. Zacchei and to Fr. Gianfrancesco. Likewise, make use of the services of Canon D. Giuseppe Gonnelli for the execution and verification of the matter. I am mentioning this since Severani at the present time is not at all well.

So, get yourself ready for the up-coming trip, and write to me from Rimini. In J. C. Crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore,²⁴ October, 18, 1827

1671

October 20, 1827
Mr. Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

Here is a notification concerning the 100 Masses that you gave me, if you recall, in Sermoneta. In all, 50 of them, as you can observe, are on the two sheets that I am enclosing. Within a short time, I am expecting to have another document regarding the other 50. Therefore, in November, I shall have the other document regarding the original 100 and then you will have knowledge of the exact fulfillment of those obligations. I would like to know what other bills you might have in connection with our House in Sermoneta. Having learned that, we shall settle things together. If you should have other Masses, please write to me at my address in Rome and let me know what the offering is for each one and the time prescribed. It is understood that they be Masses that can be said *ubique*.²⁵

Wretched thing that I am, I do not fail to pray for you. You, too, should do likewise for me. In the meantime, most revered Luigi, I have the pleasure to repeat that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rieti by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore, October 20, 1827

To Fr. Gio. Merlini for forwarding when safe forwarding is needed

1672

October 24, 1827
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

With regard to your problem, I am of the opinion that I should alert the Treasurer that you will be attending the audience and that before presenting the petition, the indicated matter, you should take note of the wording. I would consider this meeting as something very useful. However, if you think otherwise, I shall do whatever you direct.

Do not forget to gather together, little by little, the materials dealing with the life of our Albertini and be insistent with Lovatti. I am writing in a hurry. Give my warm regards to his Eminence Falzacappa. Most venerable Monsignor, I kiss your hands, and, with esteem and respect,

²⁴ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Abbey of S. Salvatore Maggiore.

²⁵ Wherever.

while asking also for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted, obliged and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore, October 24, 1827

P. S. As for the retreat in S. Nicola, perhaps you can invite Father Agabito, the confessor in Tor' de Specchi, along with the assistance of Canon Galli of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Canon Giuliani etc. In time, the other matters.

1673

October 28, 1827

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

You are not at all unaware of the concern that I have always had about you, nor can you be unmindful of the close relationship that we have had and will always have in Jesus Christ, despite any incidental things that occur.

I understand everything that you mention in your letter. As far as I am concerned, I say that since you have a true calling the bishop will not be able to alter your vocation. If you were to accept positions in other dioceses, the bishop would rightly be opposed to that. However, when there is question of an Institute, which offers a higher state of perfection, in accordance with Canon Law, no one can stand in the way of that. Among our people there have been those who, at times, concluded their argumentation as follows: "I am not placing myself in the situation of taking on the vows, in which case, anyone opposing it would incur censures". The Council itself recognizes this truth and, as a matter of fact, for this reason it grants a year *ad deliberandum*,²⁶ even for our people. This is something that would not be done if it were not a question of an Institute being involved. I could assert other things, but time will not permit.

You speak to me about Chiodi. What you say is indeed a fact, but what strength he demonstrated with his bishop! You, on the contrary, told your bishop that you were in our Society. But, when he asked you: "Is a bishop the owner of his priests?" you were silent. By that fact, you indicated an answer that would have him conclude that you were quite ready to follow his desires. These are the things that have taken place, and therefore, the proportionate consequence has resulted. Being, at the present time, quite distant from Rome, and after everything has come out into the open, if I should enter into the situation now, only confusion would arise. Then, they would say: this vocation has come from the Canon and not from God. Hence, your case is very different. So, the only thing that I can do now is to recommend it to God. In the meantime, with the fulness of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore, October 28, 1827

²⁶ To weigh carefully.

1674

October 29, 1827
 Mr. Luigi De Angelis
 Mayor of Concerviano
 Conerviano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

The Mission will begin on all Souls' Day, after the noon meal. I ask you not to forget the cross, as I now remind you of the *Via Crucis*, so that all will go well. It is also a good idea to inform you that we are to be provided with separate tables for meals, as we will discuss further in person. You will not be upset with this, since this is simply in accordance with our regulations, to be maintained in a general way. Full of feelings of obligation to you, illustrious sir, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pratojanni, October 29, 1827

1675

October 30. 1827
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁷

Venerable Monsignor

With the resumption of your audiences, I would like to have you keep three things in view (among the many things that could be called to your attention).

The first regards a recommendation of yours to Monsignor Maggiordomo who is, I have learned, the Vicar of the Chapter of St. John Lateran; that is, that he should make every effort to persuade the Chapter to request a compensation for the situation in Albano. It is rightfully due to be granted to the Institute in keeping with the mind of the now-deceased Pius VII who did not intend to derogate the Bull of Honorius. In this way, I would be relieved of the burden of turning over the present allotment for the Province of Marittima and Campagna alone, where, among other things, we have two constructions underway, one in Frosinone and the other in Vallecorsa. The Chapter has two Chaplaincies assigned for Albano, while we offer our services in the church. One of those Chaplaincies is vacant. This was discussed with Monsignor Groppelli and he seemed to have been convinced. I pray to God that, in the meantime, at least some subsidy can be made for the problems in Albano.

The second item deals with a prompt, extraordinary subsidy to cover the urgent matters of the Institute, whose needs are becoming more numerous, without my going into lengthy details. Now, additionally, there are the two Houses of study in Pievevitorina and Rimini for our young men.

The third item refers to the 80 *scudi* that the Holy Father granted for Veroli to the Marquis Bisleti. They are to be used to the advantage of the House in Frosinone, since there is a perpetual

²⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

emphyteusis there with the Gulielmi house and a passive annuity with the Chapter of that city. What is left over from those 80 *scudi* is to be used for the new church of St. Xavier in Frosinone. It is the first one in his honor that I know of that exists within the Papal State. After all, a saint that promoted the apostolate so greatly deserves this special religious cult.

Upon receiving an extraordinary subsidy, I would like to include in that a bit of help for our Missionary, Father Rafaelle Brandimarte, in accordance with the petition that you are acquainted with.

As for the House in Giano, where the expenses are not few, it seems to me that you are authorized to bring that question of arrear-payments to a settlement. From Spoleto, it is morally impossible to have an exact liquidation. In the five years now that Spoleto has had the administration, including the surroundings, we can come to the sum of 1500 *scudi*. So, I would say that after a prudent computation, 500 *scudi*, shall we say, would be used for administrative matters, and 1000 should go to the Institute. Hence, there is a balance of 100 *scudi* (subtracting the preceding payments made at various times) which would bring this whole question to a final conclusion. Because of the faculties that you have in this regard, I have no doubt that you will manage to work out what I am requesting. With the money that I have received for Giano, I have succeeded in cancelling the debt owed to the Achille heirs, as well as other debts owed to artisans who worked on the restoration of the place, etc., etc.. I am trusting in your benevolence and charity.

Finally, with the project of S. Salvatore in Rome becoming an actuality, after first being offered S. Clemente, and afterwards the Holy Father wanting to give us another location, I would like you to accept the project that is proportionate to our Institute. The Institute has three branches of activity: Mission House - Retreat House - House of study for young men. Pray to Jesus for me, as I reserve to myself the chance to speak about all the matters pertaining to the abbacy in a congressus either personally or by writing, but this, only after making the complete rounds. Meanwhile, speaking generally, I do not view the things with the same aspect as I formerly thought: there is hope and much fruit. But, *adhuc modicum*.²⁸ Most reverend excellency, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Pratojanni, October 30, 1827

1676

October 31, 1827

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

The town of Concerviano, subject to the abbacy of S. Salvatore Maggiore, humbly petitions that, by a special privilege, you deign to grant that, on the occasion of the upcoming Mission, one of the Missionaries be empowered to erect a Way of the Cross. The crosses to be placed have already been prepared. This erection is to be done either in the location where it existed formerly or in a place that is considered to be more convenient, since there is here a matter of a Way of the Cross that will be public, a bit like the one in the Colosseum in Rome. Most blessed Father, there is a desire to

²⁸ For now a little bit.

retain a reminder of the Mission, and, since the opening of that Mission is quite near, there would not be sufficient time to set it up, using the ordinary means for applying for this favor. Thus, in this case, the formula found in the Ritual for the blessing of crosses will be used, with the usual benefit of gaining the indulgences attached to the Way of the Cross; that etc.²⁹

In behalf of the people of Concerviano

1677

November 8, 1827
Fr. Tommaso Meloni
S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Precious Blood

Fr. Tommaso

I beg you to come here immediately where I am in S. Salvatore, whether Fr. Camillo has arrived there or not, for he is coming, indeed, within days. From Spoleto, you go to Terni and then to Rieti, from there to S. Salvatore. Rather, I believe that it will not be necessary to go as far as Rieti. Upon passing through Poggio S. Lorenzo, if necessary, consult with the archpriest there. Now I am told that one has to go to Rieti, and not go through Poggio S. Lorenzo.³⁰ At Terni you will find the coach that goes to Rieti, since Rieti is within the Delegation of Spoleto.

Travel with the Crucifix, be obedient, and you will be victorious. "*vir obediens loquetur victoriam*".³¹ You will be reimbursed by me for your expenses, and if you need a bit of money, you can either get it from the House there or ask Sig. Martino for it, and then reimburse him when you return.

Consider me in J.C. Crucified, asking you to make haste. St. Francis Xavier would have left a Mission that he had begun in the spirit of obedience. I am wretchedness itself, it is so true, but nevertheless, order in things calls for this procedure. *Ora pro me*.³² Greet *omnes nominatim*.³³ I am wholeheartedly and with esteem

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo

²⁹ The papal authorization and the attestation of the erection by St. Gaspar follow:

"From the audience with our Holy Father, October 32, 1827, his Holiness deigned to authorize the Reverend Canon Del Bufalo for the erection of the Way of the Cross which will take place on the occasion of the holy Mission. B. Cristaldi, Abbate Commendatore"

I, the undersigned, attest that, in virtue of the rescript of authorization seen above, I blessed and erected the public Way of the Cross in Concerviano on the road that leads to the most holy Madonna della Quercia, on November 9, 1827, while conducting the Mission.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
Missionario Apostolico"

Finally, the mayor, De Angelis, notes: "The original is preserved in the archives of the church. So be it. The mayor, De Angelis".

³⁰ This phrase was inserted into the text of the letter by the Saint as an afterthought, as can be seen from an investigation of the original. Once he learned the exact information with regard to the trip from Giano to S. Salvatore, he also corrected the following words: at first, indeed, he had written "To Spoleto", then superimposed "to Terni".

³¹ The obedient man will speak of victory.

³² Pray for me.

³³ Everyone by name.

Mis. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore November 8, 1827

P.S. Once you have arrived in Rieti, visit the Buonfratelli in my name, asking for P. Priore. There, a mount will be awaiting you for your trip to S. Salvatore.

Take along with you Brother Giuseppe Bussoletti (I believe that is his name); the one who came there with Alessandro, and hurry.

Bring along with you a missionary staff which will be returned, and, on loan, a discipline. I do not find it necessary to remind you to practice economy, prudently, of course, and *non ultra vires*,³⁴ for one can etc.

1678

November 9. 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁵

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. I understand all that you say about that priest. I fear that, perhaps, I may not have explained myself very well on the matter in my recent letter. At any rate, it is not for me to enter into the situation. I shall simply pray that you will receive the necessary inspiration to do the right thing.

What really grieved me was to see in the place of retreat the accumulation of disparate things, but necessity must have brought that on. But, now, let us turn to other matters.

The Way of the Cross has already been erected with a truly moving ceremony. Praise be to God. I have no doubt about the forwarding of your most venerable letters to the Vicars in behalf of the faculty granted *in articulo mortis*.³⁶

Many Canons in the Chapter of St. John Lateran have backed the principle that the Datary, or the Treasury, must supply them with a compensation for the income that is due to us in Albano, in keeping with the Bull of Honorius since the now-deceased Pius VII did not intend to derogate it in any way at all because of the rights of the Cesarini House. When you have the opportunity, stimulate some activity on it, as I no doubt you will do.

I also urge the settlement of the arrear-payments from Spoleto, since we are being faced with some expenses. I do not know whether you judge that you should be held to do what I felt should be suggested to you in my other letter. Likewise, I ask you to check into the 80 *scudi*, I believe (I sent the rescript to you) designated for Veroli. Now, they are to be applied to the foundation in Frosinone. I realize that I am adding more inconveniences for you in addition to the many that you already have and endure, but these, I want you to know, are really fountains for more particular blessings on you. See that the 80 *scudi* are computed from the day of the rescript for the construction.

Finally, Monsignor Muccioli asked me to include the enclosed petition which relates to the matter of our Albertini. I recall how the aforementioned Monsignor Muccioli was assigned to take

³⁴ Not beyond one's strength.

³⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

³⁶ At the moment of death.

care of the duties that he speaks about in the petition. I believe it was you who worked things out with the Holy Father, the now deceased Pius VII. But then the Conclave, and other circumstances, did not allow a settlement of the matter. It is certain, however, that Monsignor Muccioli acted with the faculty both for the commission and the promises. The merits of the deceased will be a motivation to the soul of our Holy Father, who is also well-acquainted with Monsignor Muccioli, to assign an annual amount until the final compensation is made as well as the method for executing that reimbursement. The aforementioned prelate will be coming to visit you and you can discuss things better in person. To me, it seemed a harsh thing, in a matter that deals especially with Monsignor Albertini, to write to him: so, here is the petition ... I do not want to be occupied in this.

Pray a lot to God for me, and, most reverend excellency, with the fullness of esteem and respect and a very special affection in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Concerviano, November 9, 1827

1679

November 16, 1827

Student Biagio Ciufi

Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

As often as you truly cannot pay the entire sum of 50 scudi, I am content that you pay 40, with the agreement, however, that you will balance it all out when you have been ordained a priest, including the 20 *scudi* left to Merlini and now awaited from the economist there, Father Pietro Incelli, to whom I shall send this information. You, too, might speak to him of it. In time, you will satisfy the other anticipated semester, making use of the services of Merlini to send the money there. It would be a good idea to have Father Beniamino read this letter; I greet him and all the community there. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem in Jesus Christ crucified, the only center of every good, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Missionary Apostolic

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, November 16, 1827

1680

November 20, 1827

Student Orazio Bracaglia

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in Jesus Christ

With regard to the questions put forth by the known person, here is what I have to say.

Holy communion is an antidote against the devil, ... and oh how blessed is the soul that receives Jesus! He has within himself the author of grace and of glory, the only center of our true

delights. During all the time that elapses between one communion and the other, part of it should be devoted to making a preparation and part of it to expressing gratitude, imitating St. Aloysius Gonzaga in the proportions. On the other days, make a spiritual communion of desire. By thirsting for Jesus, one draws close to him and speaks to Jesus in the tender language of love. As for expressing one's intentions, it would be good to say "I place my heart within the sacred ciborium"; "*inveni quem diligit anima mea, tenui eum, nec dimittam*".³⁷

With regard to the temptations that were referred to, they are nothing but tantrums of the devil who is Lucifer, angry to see a soul that wishes to love God. He would like to get that person to seek out something that would be ruinous to his soul. You, on the other hand, should increase your devotion to most holy Mary Immaculate and you will always come through it with palms of victory and triumph. Treat the devil like the mad one that he is and say "My heart, oh my Jesus, is yours...*ego dilecto meo*".³⁸

At times, it is not necessary to utter one's own opinion, particularly when the glory of God does not warrant it. But, once one is asked, then with humility and a simplicity of expression, do so, adducing modestly your reasons for it. And, then, let that be sufficient. Always use such expressions as: "it seems to me, or, if I am not mistaken" etc. etc.

Vainglory is removed by following these rules: let the soul say to itself, what do I have that is mine? When one gives praise to a painting, does that praise end up in the painting? Of course not. It redounds to the artist who painted it. We are all abysses of misery. So, you do very well in exposing everything.

Our nature was given to us for the exercise of virtue. St. Francis de Sales tended to be irascible, and yet was so gentle that he would give a reproof with a mild degree of violence, while at the same time enjoying the test of repressing himself. It is in that way that a person divests himself of what is imperfect and clothes himself again in sanctity. I think that those temptations are a counterbalance which God provides to keep our lives humble. It is, indeed, humility that is required in the observance of regulations, in making a self-examination, and the means for all of us to progress in the perfection of obedience.

The thoughts drawn from the life of Berchmans are very good, but God wants you to study the manner which he observed in the exercise of the virtues. So, God will provide you with the opportunity to take note of the things that I say. I am writing this with all my soul, as though I were speaking to you in person.

I conclude by offering you some reminders from St. Teresa: "Let nothing disturb you"; "Everything is fleeting"; "Whoever has God, has all that is good".

May the Lord fill you with his blessings. I sincerely ask you to say many prayers for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*³⁹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, November 20, 1827

³⁷ I found him whom my soul loves, I held onto him, nor will I let him go.

³⁸ I to my beloved.

³⁹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

1681

November 21, 1827
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁰

Venerable Monsignor

I am sending a reply to two of your always very dear letters. To the first one of the 17th of this month, I find it necessary to inform you that I have an urgent need for the document dealing with the papal disposition of the 80 *scudi*. Perhaps it is sufficient for it to remain in the bookkeeping of the *Reverenda Camera Apostolica*. I shall be awaiting a bit of clarification on this point, and along with it the order of payment of those 80 *scudi* which I am hopeful will be computed from the day of the rescript for Veroli. I beg you to use every bit of that concern which is so characteristic of the zeal and most singular affection that you show toward our Institute. Therefore, I shall be awaiting these favors of yours. Thus, with those 80 *scudi*, the payment of the Gulielmi emphyteusis will be taken care of, as worked out in perpetuity with us by the now-deceased Antonio. Also, the income from an annuity which we have also discovered in this locale, to the benefit of the Chapter of S. Maria in Frosinone, until God should provide us with another means of extinguishing it. In addition, there is another small debt to the Commune which has to be handled in the best way possible.

These are the reasons why I have wanted to have the granting of the 80 *scudi* for the House in Frosinone, which can likewise benefit from what is left over (after subtracting the aforementioned debts) for the maintenance of the construction work, the necessary restorations of these very old buildings, in addition to the construction of the church. Consequently, the re-ordering of the entire locale calls for broad plans with respect to our total situation, so terribly limited *in temporalibus*.⁴¹ There is also the construction work in Vallecorsa, not to overlook the House in Rimini, Pievetorina, the boarding schools etc. Thus, I do not cease reminding you, whenever the occasion offers itself, to obtain an extraordinary subsidy, with which I hope also to provide help for our Missionary Brandimarte, concerning whom I have written to you often. I stand in need myself for a bit of assistance since I have become more and more weighed down by the very extensive and necessary letter-correspondence for the ministry etc.

Thank you for your efforts in behalf of the Muccioli problem which certainly merits every consideration from his Holiness, since it has been such a long time that he has borne those duties and has no other means of supplying patiently on his own.

Now, I am moving on to your other letter, likewise of the 17th of this month.

What you say about the prorogation of the faculties and the non papal blessing is all right with me. To tell the truth, I was bold enough to request them so that I could excite greater devotion among the people, as well as knowing that, at times, they were granted before, as for example, in the case of the Mission in Aquila. The former pontiffs were condescending in this matter in order to demonstrate their fatherly love for all the peoples who were led to sanctification through the Missions, and therefore very willingly did they issue those faculties. However, I am very, very content with the granting of the plenary indulgence. I do not know whether you thought it was a

⁴⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴¹ In temporalities.

good idea to inform His Holiness about the reasons, or whether you were simply content to say nothing further on the matter.

With regard to the installation of our Institute in Rome, it is necessary not to lose sight of the exemption of our Houses from the pastors, since our Society is an "Institute". It is, for that reason, that we have the privilege of the Roman calendar for all of our Houses, etc. etc. That privilege is enjoyed by the Roman seminary, the hospice of S. Michele etc. etc. I, after God, am trusting in you, so that you will not miss any opportunity for seeing that everything is put into a systematic order before God calls me to himself.

My Monsignor, I cannot express in words the love that God increases in me for our Society which, in the passing of time, will have a seminary training following the rules of St. Charles. It will be an Institute of clergy for the formation of the clergy. This noble occupation will be assumed, in addition to our older Houses of study that are already set up in our Mission and Retreat Houses. Thus, we will not go about seeking other teachers, along with other needs which you, in your wisdom, can discern. Since we are quite distant from each other, we cannot express everything in writing. Oh what a grand equilibrium in the clergy, including those who will go into foreign missions! I repeat, oh what a formation and reform will be brought about in the clergy! Everything will have its own different locality. In the meanwhile, prayers. This little grain of mustard seed must be allowed to grow into a large plant.

After I have completed this series of Missions, I shall discuss with you what I, in the Lord, judge to be necessary in your Abbacy. You know very well that my suggestions are to be taken only for the record. So, prayers.

A couple more things. I know that Count Guiccioli, who owns the garden and part of the locale in Rimini, owes something to the Camera. Would it not be possible, as an advantage to us, to arrange to have a scale of payments of the debt to the Reverenda Camera Apostolica? My Monsignor, try to do something about this with enthusiasm. Oh what a big boost that would be!

As for Benevento, the Holy Father has made known his desire to have our locale there made available. Nothing has been done and nothing will be done without some very particular effort. So, I would like to have some advice from you. The locale was ceded entirely to his Eminence Spinucci and he, in virtue of the faculties which he had, has handed it entirely over to us with a document of possession drawn up in canonical form. Now, our agreement with the Delegation (which would be quite capable, as formerly, to withdraw the offices of a magistrate from the apostolic building) it seems to me, would be sufficient. So, I would judge that, with the consent of the Holy Father, we should be able to have his Eminence Bussi reclaim it by prescribing a periodic *apoca*,⁴² since it is a holy place, our property and not the Commune's. I am now going out to preach, and may God deign to bless the Missions with many blessings. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Vaccareccia, November 21, 1827

P. S. As for the Missions in the Kingdom, we are already engaged in letter-correspondence with Vicar Farfensi. Oh how much good work God is offering us! Take care of yourself; pray for me

⁴² Receipt.

etc.

1682

December 1, 1827
Mr. Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

Because of a shortage of time, I have had to delay my response to your most appreciated letter. Various letters from the Monsignor Abate concerning Missions in the Kingdom and other reasons which I reserve to mention to you one day in person have impeded me from coming there to preach the glories of St. Francis Xavier. However, I have already made arrangements in such a way that the Missionaries who are appointed to open the Mission in S. Martino will be coming there to honor the Saint. One of them will preach about the great Xavier. So, let us hold to this schedule.

Please, this coming Monday, feastday of the Saint, send to Longone a good saddle-mount to be used by the Missionary who will do the preaching there.⁴³ You could send it just after noontime so that he will be able to get there in time for the sermon. That night, he will stay over at your place, observing our usual regulations. In the morning, the other Missionary will arrive (I am speaking of the following Tuesday) and then both of them will depart for S. Martino. I will have the time to pass through Concerviano again after Capradosso. At that time, I will deliver another sermon of encouragement to the people there who are so very dear to me. I will also have the opportunity to renew to you my sentiments of esteem and respect, as I continue to ask you for your prayers.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Porcigliano, December 1, 1827

P. S. The Missionary that I have contacted to preach of St. Xavier there is a completely new voice to be heard.

1683

December 1, 1827
Fr. Giuseppe Fiorenza
S. Germano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁴

Most esteemed Canon

I am looking into one of the petitions that you sent to me, but with regard to the other pertaining to the Masses that have not been said, it is necessary that you know that, since there is an obligation to make a documentation of it in some book, you will have to have recourse to the Fabrica where there will be some supplementary alms available. If, however, it is a matter of conscience alone, then you must have recourse to the Penitentiary and you will have to show that you are unable

⁴³ In his reply, De Angelis lets us know that the Missionary involved was Fr. Giovanni Chiodi.

⁴⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

to fulfill the obligation. If you do not have the church or the fixed altar and you have the option of having them said *ubique*,⁴⁵ they could be distributed at once to a number of the community and have them celebrated immediately. I shall be awaiting your reply which you could send to my address in Rome.

As for the Retreat, allow me to complete this present course of the ministry in the abbacy of S. Salvatore Maggiore, and then we can discuss things further. Most reverend Canon, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore Maggiore, December 1, 1827

1684

December 3, 1827

Msgr. Ottavio Zolio

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁶

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this letter of mine is the excellent Father Tomasso Meloni who will be replacing Father Camillo Rossi there, since the climate was not agreeable to his health. The former, I assure you, is a very worthy priest. Please grant him the usual faculties and your pastoral blessing. In the meantime, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, I have the honor to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, December 3, 1827

1685

December 4, 1827

Mr. Luigi De Angelis

Concerviano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

Up to the 10th, inclusively, I shall be in Varco. On the 11th, I shall be in Capradosso. I have written to the seminary that, should letters and packages arrive for me from the 11th on, they should be sent to you wrapped with an outer covering, so that you then can do me the favor of seeing that they get to me in Capradosso. Upon my return from Capradosso, I shall have the good fortune to be able to see you again and to reassure you of my sentiments of esteem and respect, with which, most reverend Luigi, I now say that I am constantly

⁴⁵ Wherever.

⁴⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Varco, December 4, 1827

1686

December 9, 1827
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

I am late in sending you a reply since the ministry gives me no rest. I can assure you that I always remember you in my poor prayers. Oh, dear God, how much I need them for myself, and even more for the ministry that I exercise.

I give thanks to God that the clerics there show such a strong inclination to doing good work. But what can be said about others? The devil produces confusion in the minds even of the good ones. I hope that you were able to make the holy Retreat and that you will have remembered me.

As for the Colleggio in Spello, when I was there conducting a Mission, there were things to be desired; but what can I say about that? I am not good at giving advice.

Let us always be united in Jesus Christ crucified, in whose Sacred Heart, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁴⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, December 9, 1827

1687

December 9, 1827
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I am late in sending a reply to your very dear letter since I am engaged in the ministry. In Cereto, I was received with quite a grand welcome, much more than I ever deserved. *Ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam.*⁴⁸

I urge you to look after the pious organizations against which the devil seeks to bring confusion, even with the good people. I learned about your excellent brother, the Canon, to whom I send my greetings and concerning whom I would like to have further information. Not long ago, the printing of the devotion of the month was completed in Rome. Relying on your cooperation and zeal for the glory of God, I can rather soon send you 10 *scudi* for the usual Chaplets. Pray to Jesus for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

⁴⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁴⁸ I am a man seeking my poverty.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, December 9, 1827

1688

December, 1827

Fr. Domingo Silvestri

Poggio Vittiano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Domenico

Tomorrow, in the very early morning, and not otherwise, you are to leave for Carpadosso, since I would like to have you there before noontime.

In regard to the faculties, since it is a question of the internal forum, *servatis servandis*,⁴⁹ make use of them. If he is a priest, and I do not think he is, it would be necessary to determine whether there is anything else to advise.

Pray for me. I understand everything else; consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Capradosso, around the middle of December of 1827⁵⁰

Reminders given to Varco⁵¹

an enemy to be avoided - the world

a treasure to be guarded - the soul

a means to be practiced - devotion to the Divine Blood

1689

December 15, 1827

Mr. Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

Here is the fulfillment of the 100 Masses requested in Sermoneta. Within a few days, you will have the entire listing of the previous 100. The latest 100 Masses are being satisfied at the present time, as we express our full obligation to you. Also, I ask you to subtract your postal expenses from the sum of those offerings since I do not wish to abuse your kindness. With regard to the 100 Masses for which you have already received the documents, the ones at 15 *baiocchi*, there should be, it seems to me, 15 *scudi* from which you can also subtract the postal expenses for the

⁴⁹ Observing what needs to be observed.

⁵⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Abbey of S. Salvatore, Visit to the.

⁵¹ *Varco Sabina*: Cf. Geographical Data.

other accounts. Now, in view of the fact that I must provide grain for the House in Albano, I would like you to send that same amount of grain immediately to Albano, to Canon Gonnelli who is the Superior in that House, computing the cost of transportation to be subtracted from the aforementioned 15 *scudi*. This would be very helpful for me since I am responsible for providing grain for that House. But, if this should be an inconvenience for you, I would be pleased to receive your kind reply. A thousand blessings upon you, your wife and all the people of Norma for the upcoming celebration of the holy mysteries. Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore, December 15, 1827

1690

December 19, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵²

Venerable Monsignor

Thank you for your recent letter. When I did not receive your letters, I was in pain. I have given the respective response. Now, I am recommending the enclosed memorandum which refers to a promise or yours to provide a few lamps for a church of the most holy Mary. While on the Missions, I had them place a few images of the most holy Mary in various spots of the inhabited area to relieve the darkness as well as to promote devotion to the most holy Mary. For these reasons, I request one or the other additional lamp which will alter very slightly the offering already designated by you, it seems to me, for the church of Maria Santissima della Quercia. This for the time being. When you have a moment of time, I ask you to re-read my proposals in behalf of the Institute. If you have already destroyed them, I will repeat the more important things at any request from you, as, for example, the request for the 80 *scudi* designated for Veroli, but to be used for Frosinone etc. I do not wish to bore you. Pray for me during the upcoming celebration of the holy mysteries, as I, too, shall not fail to do for you. While kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, I have the honor, with all of my affection, to renew myself, though the penitents now are not giving me any rest, etc., as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Capradosso, December 19, 1827

1691

December 21, 1827

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

Aquila

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁵² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Most esteemed Canon

With this most humble letter of mine, I ask you to inform the Capuchin Fathers of the arrival of a few of my companions, actually three of them, just after the Epiphany, to conduct the Mission in Magliano. They themselves will take care of the offering to the Convent. On that occasion, I ask you to be insistent about the pious organizations and our devotion, and also the erection in Aquila of one of our Mission and Retreat Houses. Your zeal is in no need of words of encouragement. With distinction, give my best regards to your excellent bishop and kiss his hands for me. Many greetings likewise to Father Francesco Pacini. May all of you not forget to pray and have others pray for me. With esteem and respect, most illustrious Father, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Capradosso, December 19, 1827

P. S. When necessary, send your letters to me, forwarding them to Rieti, by way of S. Salvatore. Is it true that the Passionist Fathers are coming there? Oh how I would give thanks to God!

1692

December 25, 1827

Fr. Domenico Costantini

Poggio Mirteto

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵³

Venerable Archpriest

Here we are drawing close to the time of the holy Mission, and I feel inspired by beginning in Poggio Mirteto. Consequently, you would do me a favor by asking the leaders there to provide, as a favor, three good saddle-mounts and two beasts for carrying the baggage used in the ministry. These three saddle-mounts and the two beasts for carrying the baggage are to arrive at the convent of the Franciscans in Poggio Nativo, on the morning of the 2nd of January, before noontime. I shall be there along with Father Biagio Valentini and Bartolomeo. God-willing, we will make our entrance that evening. You should have a look-out stationed so that as we draw nearer to that location the procession of the people and the clergy, the ringing of the church-bells etc. will be done. Then, you should be there to hand over the portable Crucifix as the ceremonial indication of the consignment of souls. You should see that the area is prepared for the blessing to be given after the introduction and that for the entrance ceremony the relic of the most holy Mary be exposed.

See that the platform is set up on the Gospel side in the middle of the church and that it is roomy enough. There will be no need for a support for our Crucifix. As best you can, see that the lodging for our Missionaries is vacant and that there are at least four beds available. Please advise the superior of the Conventuals that they will gather together in the convent to place their request to me for some Missionaries whom I have contacted for the conducting of Missions there, and, that I will cover any expenses encountered by the Father Guardian. I am hopeful that I myself will be able to get there first. More about this in person. Most revered Archpriest, with esteem, though in quite a hurry, I remain

⁵³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Roccasinibaldi, December 25, 1827

1693

December 27, 182?
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very Reverend Mother

I have received your letter. What can I say? I do not wish to oppose the desires of my very dear, now-deceased, Monsignor Manassi nor the inspirations that you experience with reference to spiritual direction. Tomorrow is the feast of the Holy Innocents, the day on which St. Francis de Sales, the great master and guide of souls, died. I shall pray that you will be enlightened as well as I. A meeting, whenever you wish and God wills, will be urgent.

In the meantime, let us imitate the example of De Sales and supply through letter-correspondence. However, before any writing, let us devote ten days of holy preparation in the Holy Spirit, for everything comes about through prayer. During those days, reflect whether God confirms your thoughts concerning me, since you are to cherish the freedom of spirit to make that choice, and I to be assured that it is the clear, the very clear will of God. And, what about your previous spiritual director? Be very vigilant about this matter. In regard to spiritual direction, one among a thousand. Am I in that number for you? Let us repose in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and let us pray. I am

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵⁴

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Roccasinibaldi, while conducting a Mission, December 27, 1827
 P. S. Send your reply: "Rome".

1694

Januar 13, 1828
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁵

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how distressed I was to learn about your state of health. For my own peace of mind, I would like to have more information.

Please see that the bearer of this letter of mine, Father Giovanni Merlini, is given the payment of the requested 80 *scudi*, to be computed from the time of the rescript for Veroli, and indicative of the continued grant to be used in favor of the House in Frosinone.

⁵⁴ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁵⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Most reverend excellency, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly
be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Poggio Mirteto, 13th of 1828

1695

January 13, 1828

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

Aquila

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Monsignor Abate would like that I, myself, come to that area of the jurisdiction of Farfa. So, once I have completed other commitments of the ministry that have been entrusted to me by him, I shall be there, and then in person we can discuss everything. With your customary reserve, please alert the Father Guardian of the Capuchins about this so that he will not be alarmed by the delay.

I will have to conduct only the Mission in Magliano, along with the nuns of Fontecchio, having then the urgent need of returning quickly to Rome because of the many tasks awaiting me there. I find that I shall not be able to go along with your desires for the upcoming Lent, because of other appointments that have already been established, unless you allow me to appoint or substitute another of our companions. We shall see, and, in the meanwhile, prayers. A thousand respectful greetings to the most reverend bishop, to Father Pacini and to anyone else who remembers me.

While asking you for your prayers, I remain with esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Poggio Mirteto, 13th of 1828

1696

January 20, 1828

Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani

Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed and revered Canon

Oh how I am so grateful to you for the many kindnesses that you have shown and incessantly show toward me. I can assure you that I retain the most vivid appreciation and constant gratitude for that. At the holy altar, I have said for you something that is not easy for me to express in detail in this letter.

With pleasure did I learn of the status of your health which I wish will prosper ever more and more for the glory of God and for your accumulation of merits for a most blessed eternity.

My dearest, let us unite ourselves always more deeply to God so that, one day, he will grant us that everlasting union in heaven. Amen.

With the fullness of esteem and respect, consider me to be
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere Can. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

Poggio Mirteto, 20th of 1828

1697

January 1828

Mission given in the year 1828
 Poggio Mirteto⁵⁶

Besides the revival of pious institutions accomplished on the occasion of the holy Mission, the following things were also set up:

1. The Oratory is conducted every night; in turns, the confraternities observe the following system:

On Sundays -- the Sacconi: Penitential Oratory

On Mondays in S. Rocco: the Way of the Cross for the forgotten Poor Souls

On Wednesdays: Chaplet of the Divine Blood in the old church.

On Thursdays: Meditation on the most blessed Sacrament in the new church, and the blessing with the sacred pyx in memory of the institution of the Divine Sacrament.

On Fridays: Oratory, only for the members of the Coroncina in S. Giovanni.

On Saturdays: The psalms of the feast of the most holy name of Mary in S. Rocco.

It is recommended that the members hold the procession of the crucifix as often as possible, and upon returning to their homes, the recitation of the holy Rosary.

Likewise to be inculcated is the general communion day for each confraternity, once a month, namely, on the third Sunday, the confraternity of the holy Sacrament and the Sacconi, in the new church. On the first Sunday, in S. Giovanni; on the fourth, in S. Rocco. On the third Sunday, the women are to be included.

2. It is also recommended that the respective confraternities should not forget to offer suffrages for the Souls in Purgatory, in particular, emphasizing the pious exercises in behalf of the forgotten souls.

3. The woman's organization, the Sisters of Charity, has been encouraged, and they have been enrolled in the devotion to the Divine Blood. They have been provided with the separate pages listing the regulations. They are urged especially to recite the Chaplet on Fridays, during the day, around the 21st hour.

It is also recommended that the school-children should go after school to the recitation of the holy Rosary in the old church, as well as to holy Mass in the morning, or to make a visit to the Blessed Sacrament.

On May 3rd and on September 14th, a devout procession will be made to the Cross that has been erected during the Mission.

The members of the group for the Forgotten Souls will be in charge of the feast of St. Xavier on December 3rd and on March 12th, in the parochial church.

⁵⁶ This schedule, to be observed after the Mission in Poggio Mirteto, which has no date on it, is assigned to January of 1828 when the Mission in Poggio Mirteto was conducted.

G. C. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

1698

January 29, 1828
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very Reverend Mother

Here I am with a reply to your most appreciated letter. May the will of God be done in regard to what you desire. God is the master to be served by whoever wishes to do so; it is always he that does the work; I merely am an instrument of his glory. So, two things: 1. Special prayers for me, so that *in lumine Dei videam lumen sanctum*;⁵⁷ 2. confidence in God that *replet in bonis desiderium tuum*.⁵⁸ Give thanks to him, love him, bless him. I am writing this letter on the feastday of St. Francis de Sales. To this great Saint, I entrust your soul and my own.

Now, please explain to me how you perchance lost that spiritual direction which, in a special way, God was providing for your soul. With regard to your task as economist, retain it as long as it pleases God. In this matter, proceed with holy simplicity and never say that it is or is not a burden for me, or anything like that. Say only: "Let us do the holy will of God". When you are asked, simply say: "I want what God wants; I am pleased with what is pleasing to God". In this way, you will always be at peace. You might add: "The burdens are heavy, but if it is God who gives them, he also provides the strength, etc., etc.."

I, too, realize that a meeting would be useful for setting the foundations for this spiritual edifice. Up to now, we have prepared the stones, we have worked on them, and now it is necessary to place them in an orderly and symmetrical fashion. From this, peace will ensue. But if, and when God will bring it to completion, I am not able to say. However, prayer is something wondrous! So let us pray and let us do everything, in keeping with the will of God. As the opportunities allow, let us supply through our letter-correspondence. I assure you, however, that I am not fit to accept spiritual directions due to a lack of that full knowledge that is required, to be granted by God. That is what my holy Albertini used to say to me as he assured me that the Lord would call me to this, and he added that he would make an effort to instruct me. Now, he will do so from heaven, in addition to the little that I was able to learn from him here. Yes, it is true that in order to be a good guide, it is necessary that I have preached well to myself. For this, you will be helpful with your prayers. I am reluctant to take on spiritual directions. Still, I have accepted yours because God so wills it. While urging you to maintain tranquility of mind, please provide me with the following information, concerning which more will be said later:

1. What method do you follow in regard to the frequency of receiving the Sacraments?
2. How much time do you devote to prayer and how is it distributed in your schedule, namely, what is required by your rule and what you do on your own?
3. As you continue to follow the advice of the doctor in reference to the foods that you take, tell me whether what you practiced under the advice that the excellent Monsignor Manassi provided

⁵⁷ In the light of God may I see the holy light.

⁵⁸ Your desire is fulfilled in good things.

you with, has allowed you an equivalent physical strength or not. In what way is there a disparity between what your rule says and the method you follow for your health?

4. Whether you are exempted from the other observances of choir because of your health or your job?

5. What is the present status of your soul with reference to prayer. What inspirations do you have, so that I can distinguish what comes from God. How long has it been that you love the *Sepolte vive*, and why?

6. What virtue is God infusing into you as a result of prayer, that is, in what particular way is he encouraging you?

All this, for the time being. Always pray for me, and consider me to be, with esteem,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Salvatore, 29th of 1828

Send your reply to: "Rome".

1699

February 5, 1828

Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Canon

The Chaplets cost 12 *paoli* per hundred. It is Canon Tiburzi who wished to have some. I have others in addition to the ones that I retain for my own usage. You people should request what you feel you will need. Then, prepare the bill for me and we will take it from there. I know that the postman will be coming on Friday and I shall be receiving your letters. More will be discussed in person as soon as I will be passing through Montopoli this coming Monday. Pray for me; give my best regards to the archpriest and all of the clergy and people. Oh how many obligations I have to you! *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁵⁹ With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Fara, February 5, 1828

1700

February 6, 1828

Luigi De Angelis

Corcerviano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

You will be receiving a package containing 100 Chaplets⁶⁰ that cost 12 *paoli* which you, at

⁵⁹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁶⁰ Near the address S. Gaspar added: "with a package of booklets".

your convenience, can forward to my house in Rome enclosed in a letter of yours. It should be addressed to the Palazzo Savelli, near the church of S. Nicola in Carcere. Taking into account the copies that were distributed during the Mission, perhaps the 100 that I am sending you will be sufficient. If not, write to me in "Rome". Pray for me and with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Fara, February 6, 1828

P. S. Later, I will be able to tell you about the lamps.