

St. Gaspar's Letters

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January 4, 1830
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon¹

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. *Dominus retribuet pro me in beneciitionibus dulcedinis*² for the kindness that you show to me in wishing me the graces and the gifts of the Child Jesus with the recurring mysteries. I was not at all doubtful about your charity in Jesus our Savior, the only center of peace and of salvation. However, I ask you to read into the depths of my heart for what my reaction is to your many kindnesses, and I beg the most merciful God to grant you whatever you may desire. Dear Canon, let us continue in this holy union of charity in the Heart of Jesus; therein, we shall be with each other continuously and we shall delve evermore in the knowledge of the saints which is so necessary for us in the acquisition of heaven, the only goal of our aspirations.

With regard to your canonry, could you not work something out by getting a coadjutor? In that way, it would be much easier to get a dispensation from residence. Think about this, but do not become too concerned about a resolution.

The year *ad deliberandum*³ is also another means that you can try for the present, if it does not interfere with your choral participation for which you receive your salary. More than this I cannot say.

Your struggle with regard to your vocation should not alarm you. You are familiar with the lives of the saints, and this, in short, is enough said.

You could return to Rimini and you should have no fear about doing this. I would be delighted if this were already the place of your residence.

I shall write to Father Camillo concerning your plan for the garden, the refectory and the kitchen. Pray for a good result. Father Biagio is the President in Frosinone. However your most esteemed letters should always be sent to me in Rome, for when I am absent, they forward them to me with exactness and with diligence. Please return my good wishes to all those that you mentioned in your letter. While kissing your hands, I have the honor and the pleasure of stating again that, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, 4th of 1830

2002

January 9, 1830
To a DOCTOR
Rome

¹ Paradisi noted: "Reply sent on April 18th of 1830.

² The Lord will repay on my behalf with sweet blessings.

³ To weigh carefully

Since I am unable to come to see you in person at this time, I am writing you these few lines in order to ask for your charity, namely, that you please pay a visit, for one time, to a sick person of my acquaintance and friendship. He is Mr. Ignazio Lesinelli. You will learn the place of his residence from the person who shows you this note of mine. Meanwhile, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

9th of 1830

2003

January 9, 1830

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest in the Lord Father Giovanni

Here I am sending a reply to two of your most appreciated letters. I offer very sincere thanks for your good wishes upon the celebration of the recurring mysteries. *Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*⁴ I do not know how to express to you sufficiently how grateful I am to you for your kindness and what my response is in God.

With regard to the soul of the person you know about, I say: *Beatus vir qui suffert tentationem.*⁵ In violent storms one acquires the valor to defend one's ship: *faciat cum tentatione proventum.*⁶ In order to achieve patience, the first step is to maintain silence from the beginning and to conceal one's emotions, unless it is a matter that must be pointed out on the spot; the second step is to endure with tranquility the attack of impatience, comforting oneself with the thought of acquiring merit for the soul; the third is to take delight in the exercise of virtue; the fourth, to show joyfulness even when facing encounters; the fifth, to forestall the devil's anger by asking God for the gift or the grace of not only controlling oneself but doing so with enthusiasm; the sixth, to keep it hidden even grudgingly; the seventh, to habituate oneself to the practice of virtue by regularly reacting against the suggestion; *Verbigracia.*⁷ I feel flustered in locating a book, so I then picture myself as being an eight year old man who traces it down with ease and comfort. This should reduce the agitation without making the person torpid or sluggish. Perhaps I am not explaining myself very clearly: if so, ask questions. *Tristatur quis in vobis? ... Oret ... psallet.*⁸

With regard to vanity. Imagine yourself to be like a distaff made of reed, and empty. It is God who will fill it with his spirit. So, be consoled ... these are trials. *In fornace probavit electos Dominus.*⁹ Indeed, the more sensitive the human element, so much more mature will be the merit. You understand what I say.

⁴ The Lord will repay on my behalf in sweet blessings.

⁵ Blessed is the man who endures temptation.

⁶ With trial let him produce results.

⁷ For example.

⁸ Whoever is sad among you, let him pray, let him sing.

⁹ In the furnace the Lord proves his elect.

With respect to prayer, you can be certain that you have the desire and since you love it, you will feel pain in not practicing it as much as you would like, leaving God to himself, but safeguarding our rule in this regard etc. So, make use of frequent ejaculatory prayers or short reminders: "*Fiat cor meum immaculatum in tuis justificationibus, ut non confundar; Spiritum rectum innova in visceribus meis ...; Cor mundum crea in me Deus ...; oh my Jesus...Oh sweetest Jesus... Oh Jesu cordis mei ... Oh sanctissima Trinitas*".¹⁰ Have one or the other of these always on your lips and in your heart.

As for mortification, *adhuc modicum*.¹¹ I will pray over this. In the meantime, "*poenitentia mea vita communis*".¹²

With regard to a general confession, I am perfectly glad to have you speak with Merlini when the occasion offers itself. So do not become anxious about it. Let me know afterwards how your soul is faring, whether it is at peace and anything else that you might wish to communicate to me as the opportunity arises and whenever there is need.

I have learned about the arrival of Gentilucci, whom I greatly recommend to you.

Continue to offer Logic there *tantum*¹³ without getting into Ontology. Merlini will be bringing others. I have invited Mattias for reasons of health and Ciuffi so that he can deal first-hand with his patrimony. Patience. These are circumstances which I did not foresee.

As for the brother from Romagna, I rely entirely on you: 1) that he have all of the requisites; 2) that his clothing be ready; 3) that he be fit for any work. Consider him as the third brother-in-service in S. Felice, and do take care of it soon, otherwise if it is not soon, I will replace him with another. He will take up his residence there. Please inform Canon Fontana.

Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 9th of 1830

2004

January 9, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

I am late in sending a reply to your most esteemed letter since the work of the ministry has caused this delay. I begin by thanking you for so many, many kindnesses, and I would like you to be obedient in not inconveniencing yourself any more. Please do so in charity. Within a short while, I shall once again be in the Province, particularly for the Retreat to the clergy of Veroli, and at the same time, for the members of the Oratory. However, for the present, I shall not be leaving. In the meantime, offer prayers.

¹⁰ Let my heart be spotless in your judgment that I may not be confounded; renew a right spirit in my body ... create a clean heart in me, O God; O Jesus of my heart, O most holy Trinity.

¹¹ For now a little bit.

¹² My penance is community life.

¹³ Only.

Furthermore, I wish to thank you for your beautiful and holy greetings sent for the recurring mysteries. I assure you that I have not failed to offer the same for you for whom I wish every blessing of sweetness and long life filled with merits for a most blessed eternity.

As for the events that have taken place, I shall say with St. Francis of Paola: "*Charitas - humilitas*".¹⁴ Oh what need we have for these two virtues! Courage - for our suffering is the footstool of the throne of divine mercy. With regard to the fast that you asked me about, I shall pray over it. In the meantime, "*paenitentia mea vita communis*".¹⁵

With esteem, I am and will constantly be
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 9th of 1830

2005

January 9, 1830

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Giovanni Francesco

I should have sent a reply much sooner to your very kind letter, but the work of the ministry has delayed it up to now. However, my heart has given a reply and it is in agreement with your very religious aspirations. I simply am unable to tell you how many copious blessings I wished for you from the most merciful God during the recurrence of the sacrosanct mysteries, including many, many long years of life, all of them fruitfully occupied in gaining merit for the eternal years.

Do not cease continuing the charity of your prayers for this poor soul of mine, for you can surely imagine how extreme the need is.

It has not been very long since I returned to Rome; the ministry never allows much time for rest. Our Mission Houses are the mystical founts of mercy. The good work that is being promoted, to the glory of God, is immense, and among the crosses and thorns which accompany the works of the Lord, we see the words of the Prophet fulfilled: "*in tribulatione dilatasti mihi*".¹⁶ It is very true that they wish to have our Society in Naples and work continues energetically for the spread of the Institute. I even had to go to Naples to be present for a meeting dealing with the Society. The departure of the King, perhaps, is delaying a bit the finalization of setting up a House there. In the meantime, prayers.

I learned that Father Ferdinando Angelici was made the pastor in Matelica. So, I do not see how the Archbishop of Cammerino gets involved in this. Rather the bishop of Fabriano and Matelica was probably the one who counseled him not to leave his place. At any rate, it can be seen that God has chosen the Lenten preacher whom you mentioned to me, and we surely wish him every success. In the meantime, keep up your enthusiasm, as I have no doubt you will, for supporting good work

¹⁴ Charity ... humility.

¹⁵ My penance is community life.

¹⁶ In tribulation you have stretched me out.

there, and be especially courageous so that the organizations will take on greater vigor in their activities. Above all, let us not fail to spread that very important devotion to the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco, while asking you to extend my sincerest best wishes to your wife and to anyone else who remembers me, I have the honor of saying again with esteem and respect that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 9th of 1830

2006

January 10, 1830

Fr. Angelo Santangeli

Bassiano

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

Venerable archpriest

Pardon me for inconveniencing you with this letter of mine. Francesco Giorgi who is in Civitavecchia writes continuous letters to me from Civitavecchia, imagining that I can be of some influence for his being set free. But this is not within my capabilities since I have no connections with such matters. Furthermore, the assiduous life of the ministry does not afford me the time for doing everything that I would like to do. It is, indeed, a true pleasure to be able to place oneself in the service of a neighbor, but, in this case, what can a particular individual such as I do?

The prisoner's wife likewise writes to me about Francesco and also tells him to contact me. So, please ask her not to do this, for she is just paying postage costs in vain. Recently I wrote that if the sentence is *ad tempus*, they might try preparing a memorandum to the person in charge, and if that person is an acquaintance of mine, I will give him my recommendation. This is something that I have already mentioned to Father Giacomo. But, if the sentence is *ad vitam*,¹⁸ then what is necessary is that Father Giacomo contact the Holy Father and try to get the pardon, or, he might contact some organization in Rome that might have this privilege. In this situation, the service of a Missionary, who is constantly on the move, is not what is needed, but, rather the services of Canon Pellicane who is in Rome, or someone else that you might consider. Best, however, is Father Giacomo. Perhaps he will act or may have already done something, as I have no doubt. Canon Pellicane is related to the Giorgi household.

I conclude by asking, just what good is there for having me write? They keep giving me details about what is to be done, and if I could, I would do them. Hence, if I am turning to you now in this letter it is to have you persuade the prisoner's wife of what I mentioned earlier. For this, I will be most obliged to you. Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

¹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁸ Toward life.

Rome, 10th of 1830

2007

January 10, 1830
 Msgr. Antonio Santelli
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You will be pleased with the few devotional materials that I will be sending you, and it seems to me that there is nothing else that I must call to your attention at this time.

On that occasion, I ask you to get together, at the earliest possible time, with our Vincenzo Severini who has a very special urgency for meeting with you, for one time only, to deal with something that is of interest to the glories of God.

I have no doubt that you will continue to favor me with your boundless charity, and I beg you to recommend me to the Lord. With esteem and affection, I am and will constantly be

Devotedly and obligingly yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss.

House, 10th of 1830

2008

January 17, 1830
 Msgr. Antonio Santelli
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this most humble letter of mine is Father Giuseppe Rossi whom I got to know in our House in Rimini as a retreatant before his sacred ordination. I recommend him to you and ask you, in your way, to assist him, both for the glory of God as well as for his sustenance, with some appropriate job that might be available. He possesses all of his documents and you are welcome to examine them. I am and will constantly be

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis.

17th of 1830

2009

January 23, 1830
 Msgr. Luigi Piervisani
 Bishop of Nocera
 Nocera Umbra

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁹

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing this letter to satisfy a priest-friend of mine who would like to acquire his vineyard here in Rome, which he would fulfill in behalf of a pious legacy granted to him by one of his penitents. We realize the frequency with which this may be grantable *hinc inde*,²⁰ and that you are in a position to handle this matter, if God should so inspire you to do. Let this be for the record. At the same time, I take advantage of this encounter to ask you for the charity of your prayers. With esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 23rd of 1830

2010

January 24, 1830

Fr. Antonio Gammarelli Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Canon del Bufalo, in sending his best wishes to the worthy Canon Gammarelli, informs him that Pope Pius VII granted that December 3rd could be observed as a double of the second class in all the churches of our Institute; likewise, that Pope Leo XII also granted the commemoration of St. Xavier on semi-doubles. Now, we are desirous only of having a single sung Mass on March 12th, the day of his canonization. We ask this to obtain the protection of the saint over our holy Missions.

This writer, not having completely understood the reply sent to Father Filippo Gonnelli, found it necessary to inconvenience you with these few lines, and thus, if possible, to invoke your zealous help in bringing about a successful resolution to this request. He likewise repeats that he remains your most humble, most devoted and most obliged servant, recommending himself to your prayers.

24th of 1830

P. S. If this request is not achievable, you need not send any reply.

2011

January 29, 1830

Fr. Vitale Corbucci

Fossombrone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vitale

I thank you for your recent most appreciated letter and I write this one as I accept your charity of the eight Masses which you were kind enough to apply for the pious works of the St. Francis Xavier organization, that is, the fraternal group who have given me the task of thanking you in a particular way, with the total outpouring of my heart. Also, may God bless your upcoming Lenten series of preaching which I hope will bring forth immense fruit for the glory of the Lord.

¹⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁰ Here, there.

Indeed, let us pray for all of our evangelical workers, but especially pray for me who am the neediest one of all. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop, to Father Giobbi when you write to him and, while kissing your hand, with esteem and respect I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, 29th of 1830

2012

February 1830

Luigia Del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece²¹

The separate first volume of Teofilo is going to Benevento. Give it to Gemelli who can read it while he is traveling and then deliver it to Betti.

The two complete volumes of Teofilo are going to Pievetorina. So, write to them there, addressing it to "*Casa di Pievetorina*" and then on the outer cover write: To the Superior in Pievetorina, adding inside: "place this material in the library". Please note carefully to write: To the Superior in Pievetorina, since it is not known just who will be there during Lent. This package should be sent in the little trunk that Merlini will be taking along.

Send me quickly two boxes of candles, 60 in a box. You will get them from Poggioli. They will be distributed for use on the Purification. Also, 16 of two ounces and eight of one ounce. See that I get all of them on time.

I have just received your letter and in reply I tell you that I did receive the small container with those famous little cakes. I understood everything else that you mentioned to me.

With regard to the Chantal works, tell Biegi to set the price at two *scudi*. Then, purchase them and be sure that I find them there on my return. If he should ask 2,40 *scudi* for them. then I do not want them and he can keep them himself.

Very correctly do you say that God is bringing you the realization that it is a pitiable thing to cry about matters that deserve joy in the service of God and for his glory. You now see in how many ways one is called upon to bear the Cross peacefully. The first principle is to carry it patiently; the second, to carry it happily; the third, to carry it with exultation. Now can you realize how urgent it is to raise one's spirit to these grand, religious thoughts? We read of Jesus Christ that *proposito sibi gaudio, sustinuit crucem confusione contempta*,²² and, the apostle was accustomed to say: "*Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*".²³ I have no doubts at all that little by little you will become more mature in the method of life which is willed by God.

Send a cincture which you will see is purchased from the usual supply, but, if possible, a bit longer.

²¹ At the top of this sheet, in the handwriting (so it seems) of Fr. Merlini, we find the following: "February 1830".

²² Though happiness was set before him, he took up the cross, despising confusion.

²³ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

Buy two skull-caps made of satin, one with a purple lining, the other with black silk, similar to the ones I use, but it is not necessary that they be of new material, just as long as it is good material. Then, after wrapping them securely and sealed, write on the inside of the sheet: "*Il Canonico del Bufalo*". Then direct this package to Father Paolo Venerucci in Rimini, through the services of Merlini who will be coming to Rome on the morning of the 8th of February.

Have you given the order to Contedini? You must tell him to contact Father Amici, the Olivetan, and to do so quickly. Furthermore, he should write down the prices for the other materials to be printed, and then I will come to a decision. It is necessary to speak with Contedini, the treasurer of the St. Xavier group, for I believe that the members may have some plan in mind.

From time to time, order from Lesinelli. Give my greetings to the most worthy Father Abate. How is Cencio doing? Keep sending me information about him.

Have a frame made for this latest image of St. Xavier, similar to the one made for the Sorrowful Mother.

Send me the ostensorium quickly by way of the small hand-cart. Nothing more is needed.

It should come to Rome, or I will send a light to accompany it and list the expenses for Sermoneta, and then send it on to me.

Two clocks will be arriving which you are to see get repaired by Barcalari, if he has recovered from his sickness. If he has not recovered, then by someone else that we deal with. Let me know what the costs are, pointing out, for example, that for the clock that is in the case, such and such was needed etc.

I shall also be sending a crucifix that is all broken; however, the face is beautiful. Have it repaired by someone whom you know to be skillful, and have him make it into a light cross that can be disassembled into two sections or pieces so that you can place it conveniently in a closed container for the purpose of transportation. You handle the matter. Finally, send me 50 Chaplets. also, quickly pass the enclosed on to Butironi and see that it is carefully consigned. Remind Muti about the relic etc.

(there is no signature)

2013

February 5, 1830
 Msgr. Francesco Pichi
 Bishop of Tivoli
 Tivoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁴

Venerable Monsignor

Your letter of the 27th of 1830 was most pleasing to me. You can well imagine how greatly I value, with the grace of God, the good work done for his glory as well as your desires which I regard as commands. The arrangements might be brought to a conclusion as follows: two periods of time might be selected. The first: the first feast day after Easter, that is to say, the Sunday, *in Albis*; the second, in a general way, toward the beginning of Lent. The first date would allow me to be a bit more certain of being able to come in person; the second would cause me more difficulty in working

²⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

things out for this great undertaking. However, do not become worried about this situation, for I can assure you that in the event of my being unable to come, our workers, who will be there, will be such that, with the help of God, they will accomplish a greater good than I could ever do because of my wretchedness. Whatever your decision may be, all you have to do is drop me a line at the earliest possible moment since the urgent work of the ministry is increasing everywhere. I kiss your hands, and with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mission. Ap.

House in Albano, February 5, 1830

Please send your reply to: "Rome"

2014

February 20, 1830

Fr. Giovanni Battista Angelucci

Tivoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁵

Dearest and most venerable Monsignor

My mistake has been that while I supposed that the people of Castelmadama wished to have two or three of our Institute's Missionaries, I have now learned that they wish me to come in person. Indeed, I am quite eager, but it is necessary that they arrange to have the Missions as soon as the Paschal feast has been concluded, for despite my many industrious efforts to be there immediately, I simply cannot manage that. Among other things, the most eminent Vicar has assigned me to take care of the military troops. I repeat, I will come, but at the time mentioned above. Presently, I shall write concerning this to the archpriest, and, with the help of your charity, I shall be awaiting the results so that I can determine my schedule. However, if you prefer not to wait, I can send our Missionaries immediately after receiving another letter from you, which I ask you to provide. I kiss your hands, and with all my heart, I ask you for your prayers.

A thousand special greetings to the most worthy bishop, and, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I place myself at your beck and call.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 20, 1830

With haste

2015

February 20, 1830

Msgr. Fortunato Maria Ercolani

Bishop of Civita Castellana, Orte and Gallese

Civita Castellana

²⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁶

Most illustrious and very reverend Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter of the 10th of this month, I assure you that I shall not fail to correspond with your holy wishes to send someone for the holy Mission in Vallerano. In the meantime, please inform me whether the road to getting there is shorter by way of Civita or by way of Viterbo. Also, Archpriest Father Marcellino Brandimarte has written to me concerning this project and, with the grace of God and the help of your prayers, I am hopeful that very good work will be accomplished.

Meanwhile, please send all of the faculties, worthy of special mention. While begging you for the charity of your prayers, with the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, I have the pleasure to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 20, 1830

2016

February 22, 1830

Msgr. Ottavio Zoilo

Bishop of Rimini

Rimini

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

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this most humble letter of mine is Father Filippo Galli, one of our Missionaries, who is coming there. I ask you to grant him the usual faculties, as I assure you of his fitness for carrying out the holy ministry of God. I take this opportunity also to repeat to you my sentiments of esteem and respect with which I remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, February 22, 1830

2017

February 23, 1830

Msgr. Gaetano Bonanni

Bishop of Norcia

Norcia

Hail to the Blood of Christ

Venerable Monsignor²⁸

²⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁸ This letter does not have an addressee, but from the content and from the letter of March 23, 1830, there is no doubt that it deals with Mgrs. Bonanni.

This most humble letter of mine has two objectives. The first pertains to Turchi.²⁹ You will note that His Holiness Leo XII has determined that he should be ordained with a pension of 25 *scudi*; the same is true for Father Tomasso Meloni, our Missionary in Giano, who is already a priest and confessor through the same rescript. So, in this regard, there is no difficulty involved. Note the other rescript of qualification for ordination. Turchi was supposed to return to his home town to arrange for the final settlement of matters, but that is incidental, and everyone has given testimony of his conduct. In Visso, he lived in a Franciscan Monastery; in short, you will probably be getting some documentation or other that might be necessary.

In the meantime, I am enclosing two of Turchi's documents, and perhaps you will receive another from Visso. For all the time that he has been with our Institute, mine will be sufficient; this is the practice we use for anyone who lives in the Institute, since we do not dwell in convents, but in private houses. As for the time that Turchi has lived apart from us, it is proper to have other similar papers.

Meanwhile, please indicate to me anything else that may be required, as I will take care of the Curia expenses; also, please send me the dimissorial letter in case it should be necessary to contact some other bishop since it is not easy for Cardinal Galleffi to have the ordination. This is the same thing that the bishop of Rimini did. I shall be awaiting your response to this letter of mine with the desire to speed up the ordination, since Luigi has shown himself ready both in his vocation as well as his permanent dedication to it; he would not have come to Albano to settle his future career. In moral theology, he is quite adept, he is very much in love with the sacred services, he is a good singer of chant, a modest person, one dedicated to prayer. Because he is an older person, another good worker is given to the Institute, at least with regard to internal matters.

Finally, the intentions expressed by the now-deceased Pontiff are indeed quite assuring in the matter. You can allow the publications wherever you feel necessary; and because of the love that you have for this, the Lord's Society, you allow me to believe that you will lend a helping hand, inasmuch as you can, for the finalization of this matter.

Please see that the enclosed rescripts are not lost, for that would surely be an incalculable grief. I shall be awaiting your response.

The other objective that this letter of mine has is to ask you to accept the preaching in S. Nicola in Carcere of the month dedicated to the mysteries of the most Precious Blood, since you will have to be coming to Rome. This is what the bishop of Nocera,³⁰ Cristianopolo, and others have done. Please do this favor. You will be able to take care of your own affairs and at the same time this particular branch of the ministry which will not involve anything more than a half-hour. As for your economical concerns, this will also be helpful since there will be some compensation for this great work. If Monsignor Strambi were alive, he would surely give you every encouragement to do this. Since you are a Roman, the founder of the Institute of the Missions, and one warmly dedicated to our devotion, you must see to sending me a favorable reply, as I pray that you will. I kiss your hands and I am and will constantly be

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

²⁹ Luigi Turchi.

³⁰ Msgr. Luigi Piervisani.

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 23, 1830

With regard to your Mission there, have no doubt that it will be taken care of just as you wrote and that holds for anything else that will be needed.

Send Turchi's examination to us, if you will, and then I shall send you a document for one or the other matter for your Curia. Otherwise, I shall send the document of his stay with us, his acceptability etc.

2018

March 1, 1830

Luigi Graziani

Cotignola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

Monsignor Muccioli, the President of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and of the confraternities which are aggregated to it, will approve your aggregation for three *scudi* and that by way of a special favor as well as an acknowledgment of my concerns. I have no doubt that with this information you will bring to a conclusion the situation that is pending there, to the greater glory of God whom we serve. Continue to be zealous for good work, as I have no doubt you will. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

March 1, 1830³¹

When necessary, write to "Rome".

2019

March 1830

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Giovanni³²

Father Emidio³³ has not come there because of some difficulty of health, and from my letters you probably have noticed that I knew nothing about that, otherwise I would have made a substitution. Because of this, you are to inform the pastor immediately and the representatives of Montemartana, and also write to the archbishop so that the thing is not attributed to a lack of

³¹ This letter bears the postali marking of Frosinone.

³² This letter does not have a date but it must be assigned to March of 1830. In fact, Chiodi was the "president" in S. Felice, as the address indicates, from February 14, 1830 to January 18, 1831. (cfr. *Libro dei Congressi di S. Felice di Giano*). Therefore, this letter must be assigned to 1830 (cfr. also the letter to this same individual dated January 9, 1830 in which he speaks of the arrival of Gentilucci). St. Gaspar tells Chiodi to go to preach in Massa Martana from the third to the fourth Sunday in Lent, that is, from the 14th to the 21st of March. Hence the letter is to be assigned to the beginning of March.

³³ Gentilucci.

attention. Despite the huge number of requests made in Lent, I can definitely assure you that I did not forget about Montemartana, a people very, very dear to me, and most affectionate toward us. So, you are to see to protecting our decorum and offering our explanation.

As soon as Father Filippo Galli arrives, whom you will situate in the room that I indicated, send me word [...] ³⁴ to write to him; and as soon as he returns [...] send [...].

With regard to Montemartana, here is how things are to be done *in circumstantiis* ³⁵ unforeseen by me. You are to anticipate the lessons *pro hac vice tantum*, ³⁶ and postpone the others for the feast of Pentecost, in such a way that the young people miss nothing. You will be there for the total time from the third Sunday to the fourth Sunday in Lent inclusive in carrying out this work in Montemartana.

A third brother-in-service will be arriving there in addition to the second one whom I am sending (since the third one is being sent by Merlini) and at that time you will take him with you, in accordance with our rule, and you will give a shift of Retreats in the form of Missions. In the morning, catechetical instructions; after the noon meal, an efficacious meditation; and that will do. The pastor will handle the doctrine; and at night for the Oratory, the *Via Crucis*, etc., while you will be hearing confession the rest of the time, etc. The Chaplet will be recited at the first Mass and the catechetical instruction will be terminated by giving an example from the life of the most holy Mary, followed by the blessing with the relic [...] ³⁷ your forces being redoubled. Establish [...].

If you have any doubts, ask me questions and always keep in contact with me in all matters. God will also reinforce the strength of Galli who will be remaining only for some eight days. Then he will be replaced by Father Tomasso and others whom the Lord will send. You have understood me. In Montemartana try to set up oratories for the men in the best way possible, etc. and have them pray for me and for our Institute.

As for the Mission requested by the neighboring pastor to Montemartana, arrange it for the novena of Pentecost and I shall send two Missionaries since I will have the opportunity to dispose things thus. But, send me a reply immediately and with precision, and point out what care is needed and in which direction. I would also be sending two men to Montemartana but I do not know whether I can work that out. I shall try, and that means that you will have a companion-worker and the brother-in-service will not be necessary. If it does not turn out like this, then follow what was mentioned previously. Let us be in agreement on this.

The recent collection for the building in S. Felice [...] ³⁸

2020

March 13, 1830

Msgr. Fortunato Maria Ercolani

Bishop of Civita Castellana, Orte and Gallese

Civita Castellana

³⁴ At this point, the lower part of the page is torn. On the second page, he continues with number 3.

³⁵ In circumstances.

³⁶ For this time only.

³⁷ Torn page, as noted in the previous footnote. The letter continues on a third page.

³⁸ Also a torn page.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁹

Venerable Monsignor

God knows that I would like to fulfill immediately your desires with regard to the parish of that respectable cathedral church. a certain priest whom I would be able to summon is presently engaged in preaching a holy Lenten series. I will write to Romagna to a friend of mine upon whom I can count and within a fairly reasonable amount of time I should be able to give you the results. In the meantime, if God presents to you another individual from some other direction, this suggestion of mine should not delay the doing of that good work, with the matter standing on a conditional basis, for there is an urgency for providing this good work for the souls in that area.

It will be necessary to open the holy Mission in Vallerano on holy Wednesday and continue it for the full period of fifteen days into the Easter season, and, perhaps, even an additional day more, if necessary. That time will assure a bountiful harvest. The sermon on the Passion will be a moving one; the *Tre Ore* service will be held etc. In short, I am trusting in God that your heart will rejoice. For this intention, I implore the charity of your prayers. The schedule of the ministry will not interfere with the sacred services. The Missionaries (because of another Mission) will be passing through Civitacastellana, and will visit with your most illustrious and reverend lordship and pay you their respects. In reference to these dates, I shall be writing a letter of reply to the Archpriest of Vallerano who will be responsible for sending the mounts there for the evening of holy Tuesday. Pray for me, and have others do so too. While kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 13, 1830

2021

March 18, 1830

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Pardon me for sending you a late reply to your most esteemed letter of this past February pertaining to the holy Retreat of ten days before the first Sunday after the octave of *Corpus Domini*. Indeed, you can assure the zealous members of the Confraternity of the Sacconi that they will be obeyed. I reserve to myself the right of writing concerning the appointments for the transportation, as the time approaches. Please take care, as usual, of informing the most reverend bishop, getting his approval, and extending to him my sincere regards. With particular esteem and respect, consider me to be ever invariably

[the signature is lacking]

Rome, March 18, 1830

2022

March 23, 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

³⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Vicar General of Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With this most humble letter of mine, I ask you to examine Luigi Turchi, who is in S. Paolo, for the subdiaconate. In age, he is more than fifty years old. His timidity would require you to be gentle with him, as the bishop of Norcia, to whom he belongs, correctly suggests. And, if you will, please issue a document in which you attest that, during the time that he has been in Albano, this individual has remained in a free status. I shall take care of any expenses involved, etc., etc.. I am writing in a hurry. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 23, 1830

2023

March 29, 1830

To the Secretary of the Lateran Chapter

Rome

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

Most illustrious and reverend sir

With this most humble letter of mine, I am beseeching your charity and zeal, in your capacity as Secretary of the most reverend Lateran Chapter, to please regard the enclosed documents which I strongly recommend to your attention, since they pertain to the just right which the church of S. Paolo in Albano has.

On this occasion, I also ask the charity of your prayers and, most illustrious and reverend sir, I have the honor to renew myself with esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, March 29, 1830

2024

April 1, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I owe you a response to two of your most appreciated letters. The delay is due to the occupations of the ministry. I am particularly concerned about the little work that you know about, but I will not be able to go beyond that number of copies which can be covered by the sum of around ten scudi. So, immediately try to stimulate the printer to go along with this great project. I am speaking of that known little work which must definitely must be reprinted. For the time being, let us

⁴⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

hold off on the month of the Precious Blood. The agreement which the printer seems to suggest that only he should do the printing would cause me to have a bit of anguish and I could even forget it. So, let us go about it day by day, always seeking to maintain the greatest economy. You note surely that I ordinarily turn to you in matters of printing. If the aforementioned printer would like to print. for the present time, some 100 copies of the month, to be paid for in instalments, I could agree to that; but, for now, not more than that.

I give thanks to God that the Life of Blessed Liguori has gotten to you. If you have a couple of copies of the Life of Blessed Girolamo, and one of them is not being used, you might donate it to the House in Pievevitorina for the use of the retreatants, thus keeping for yourself in addition to the Life of Liguori, the other of Blessed Francesco di Girolamo. If, for the glory of God, the second copy can be put to use in other ways, please do so and make the decision as the Lord inspires you. The price and the exchange is for Jesus, that he give me salvation. As for the Missions, there is simply an incalculable series of them. I shall retain my place in Rome, where you should continue to address your most appreciated letters.

Return my greetings to Father Ferdinando Angelici for whom I always wish the most bountiful blessings to increase his good work. Once again I find that I am in need of the usual number of Chaplets. See that you have around 500 printed soon and done correctly as usual. Likewise, around 200 Seven Offerings, part of them in leaflet form. For everything, please send me the bill. Include three reams of stationery and a half ream of deep-blue paper which is to be used for one or the other letter of respect.

Just look at how many inconveniences. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 1, 1830

2025

April 3, 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General of Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I shall be in Albano tomorrow, but with respect to what I told you in person, I shall be able to begin the triduum at the Seminary only on Holy Monday in the evening, continuing then for all of Tuesday and all of Wednesday. On Holy Thursday, *summo mane*,⁴¹ a brief meditation on the Eucharist and the reminders. So, at 22 hours on Holy Monday, we can begin and tomorrow we will arrange for the Oratory. As far as I am concerned, this is all that I can offer.

With regard to the Seminary, I would not know what more to add. I kiss your hands with the wish that God will confirm your apostolate there. Give my warm regards to the archdeacon, and, with esteem, respect and particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁴¹ Very early morning.

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, April 3, 1830

2026

April 10, 1830
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno
 Very reverend Mother

What will you say about my delay in sending you a reply? I have simply lacked the time, but not the will. I am writing from Frosinone where God has led me to conduct the Three Hours of Agony. I can assure you that I have never been so far behind in my letter-writing as I am now. Such has been the flood of matters entrusted to my wretched being.

With regard to your soul, I say, in the first place, that God is leading you along the royal path of the Cross in your particular station of life with both internal and external sufferings. Still, *Calicem quem dedit mihi Pater non vis ut bibam illum?*⁴² Yes, let us ever exclaim: "*Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*".⁴³ Be courageous, and let us often use the ejaculatory prayer that St. Philip Neri used: "My Jesus, I give you thanks that things do not go along as I would want them to." It is now a wintry season. . . but eventually that lovable spring will arrive which will enable us to breathe again in the fatherland of the saints. Oh how we are comforted in our souls by the mysteries of the Resurrection! Yes, please pray that I too may be truly risen with Jesus, that is to say, to a new life and to an eager pursuit of holiness. With regard to the devotions of Roccasecca, you may do whatever you wish. I regret, however, that you always go out of the way to inconvenience yourself, and I really do not know why you do so. In all charity, do not concern yourself any more about sending gifts, sweets, etc. By observing this, you would be doing me a great favor. Ask Canon Giusti, to whom you will extend my best wishes, whether the fellow to whom he gave the recommendation of joining an Institute with vows, and not ours for which he was not fit, has in fact become a religious. I was ready to propose him as soon as I had received an assurance from his confessor.

As for your aspirations, I say: do not change them, at least not at the present time; do nothing more than what we have already established. First, let us become more clearly assured that the inspirations come from the Lord. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 10, 1830

P. S. Send your reply addressed to "Rome". Let me know whether I have overlooked anything.

2027

April 11, 1830

⁴² Do you not wish me to drink the chalice which the Father has given me?

⁴³ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

It seems to me that I have already written to you concerning the Retreat to the Sacconi, which will be fulfilled in its time. By way of caution, I am repeating this letter of mine which also provides me with the opportunity of recommending myself again to your prayers; and, most revered Canon, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Frosinone, April 11, 1830

2028

April 14, 1830
Nicola Ratti
Rome

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

Venerable Nicola

If tomorrow, Thursday, you would be able to have a bit of chocolate with me at the time of the morning that you think best, you would be doing me a very big favor. In the meantime, you might please give the usual emolument to the bearer of this letter who is setting the apparatus of the *Sepolcro* about which Mr. Carnavale says that you have not written to him since it was usually you who would take care of things for him in Rome. I also had this apparatus repaired during this past Lent at my own expense. Last night, a meeting was had with his Eminence Cristaldi. If we see each other tomorrow, you will learn from me what Cristaldi himself has to say. So, I shall try to get together with you. With particular esteem, respect and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

April 14, 1830

2029

April 17, 1830
Fr. Carlo Gazola
Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Carlo

I am returning the letter from your friend which I found quite consoling to my spirit. For the sake of regularity in things, it will be necessary for you to write to him that he should contact me directly and everything will be concluded to the greater glory of God whom we serve.

⁴⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

With regard to the report of the recent testing, and with all due respect to your most worthy person. I find it necessary to call your attention to the method. I shall write, however, more at length about this to Canon Betti⁴⁵ and then between you two you can work out what is best for the greater advancement of our young men who form the object of my special concern in those things that pertain to the glory of God whom we serve.

With the deepest sense of regret did I learn about the status of good Father Felice, a truly angelic young man, with all due respect to the others. Prayers.

I ask you, in charity, to accept right now the task of conducting the Novena of St. Anne, using the usual method which Canon Betti will point out to you, always rigidly adhering to the practice of our Institute. Concerning this, also, I shall speak of it to the Canon in his capacity as local Superior. I am consoled by the good work that is being done there. May Jesus fill us with his holy love. With the fullness of esteem, respect and gratitude in Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo in Albano, April 17, 1830

2030

April 17, 1830

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Benevento

Observations⁴⁶

on the report of the testing of our young men

1. It is not understandable how, in such a short time, the course in Logic was completed, as represented in the report.

2. Very evidently one notes that there may have been no adherence to the author.

3. Nothing is reported concerning the study of Dogma, *et signatim*⁴⁷ about Moral. With regard to Dogma, an epitome is given, but not for Moral.

4. As for the Sacred Eloquence on Saturday, no regard is given for Colonna and a great deal is mentioned about Serra whom I will always admire but would never adopt, nor will I permit such adoptions.

The mistake that is made is that some people come into the Society, not to follow its methods, but to take over directing it and changing it. I forgive all. But it is now time to speak. If necessary, let this matter be clearly shown. The President of the House of studies is to be in command and the others are to obey. Any dissimulation leads to the ruin of the Society, without being aware of it.

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Very deliberately have I assigned our first companions in this way and I have done so now by

⁴⁵ Cfr. the following letter.

⁴⁶ This sheet has no addressee, but from what St. Gaspar says in the preceding letter and from what can be deduced from the text of these "Observations", it must have been included with some other letter to Betti. Cfr. also the letter to Gazola on May 3, 1830.

⁴⁷ And clearly.

appointing Merlini to Rimini *ad tempus*.⁴⁸ *Utinam*⁴⁹ that our unity is not severed, nor our basic principles altered. as far as I am concerned, I shall do all that I can; anything beyond that I leave to God.

2031

April 26, 1830
 Msgr. Luigi Parisio
 Bishop of Gaeta
 Gaeta

I, the undersigned, do hereby attest in truth and to the greater glory of God that Michele Palombi, twenty-one years of age completed, demonstrates a decisive vocation to the sacred career as an ecclesiastical minister; he also has shown a particular goodness in his life along with a cultivation of talents which is beyond the ordinary in his dedicated application to studies which render him most worthy of a dimissorial letter from you, the most worthy bishop of Gaeta, so that he might be initiated into the clerical state, receive minor orders, and making use, with a justifiable canonical basis, of a dispensation from the interstices, since this will be of utility to the church of Jesus Christ.

Finally, I point out that this young man, because of his scientific studies and the maturity of his virtue, is fit also for the sacred order of the subdiaconate. I attest all of this in accordance with the dictates of my conscience and I hereby confirm this on this day of April 26, 1830 from our Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano.

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo
 Missionario Apostolico

2032

April 28, 1830
 Msgr. Francesco Pichi
 Bishop of Tivoli
 Tivoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁰

Venerable Monsignore

It is only the because of your kindness that you deign to communicate with me through your recent letter. It stimulates me to render most vivid thanks to the Giver of every good, *a quo bona cuncta procedit*.⁵¹ Whenever God inspires you to make use of me, wretched person that I am, as well as of my very beloved confreres, all that you have to do is give your command. I kiss your hands and, venerable Monsignor, with esteem, respect and particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted servant
Gaspere Can. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.

⁴⁸ At the time.

⁴⁹ Would that ...

⁵⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵¹ From whom all good things come.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano, April 28, 1830
 P. S. When you need to write, address your letters to Rome.

2033

May 3, 1830
 Fr. Carlo Gazola
 Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Carlo

With this most humble letter of mine, I am sending a reply to two of your letters. With pleasure did I learn of the response given to your friend, to whom I wish an increase of fervor in his vocation, which comes from God.

(I now follow your paragraphing). That the examples given on Saturdays is a branch of our apostolate, to which our young men are to apply themselves, I do not deny. However, if that practice is perhaps managed in well-established houses of study, it has no basis *hoc anno*⁵² in a restricted house of study. If I had been asked beforehand, the first thing that I would have pointed out is that, with our Missionaries paying tribute to the most holy Mary on the other Saturdays, only the first Saturday of the month is for our young men. In saying this, I have no intention of causing bitterness for anyone. I simply wish to make known that, due to our wretchedness, involuntary expectations or suggestions will creep in. A Society that is in the process of developing requires a very strict exchange of ideas, not indeed so much for setting up basic procedures, but to improve its practices in doubtful instances.

With regard to the public testing, what you people point out is perfectly all right, *hoc anno*, namely, that it cannot take place. But if there is no public testing, there should be a particular testing, for this is something pertinent to our men in community. So, in those things that relate to studies, it might be referred to as a general testing.

I was very pleased with the details given concerning the talents of our young men as well as their respective abilities. Sufficient for me is that each one should respond *secundum mensuram donationis Christi*.⁵³ With respect to Cardillo, you will be hearing from the bishop of Gaeta and it will be up to Cardillo, through prayer and respectful remonstrances to his bishop, to defend his vocation which God is putting to the test by veiling the mind of his own Ordinary and, whenever he goes to Gaeta, having exhausted every means, that does not mean, in those who are truly called, that the conclusion would be: therefore he must leave the Institute. The canons themselves speak very clearly in reference to vocations. So, what is needed is prayer, humility and a vigorous charity to bring everything to a satisfactory conclusion. I do not know who the others may be who may have departed from our houses of study during this year. In Benevento, you people know a lot more than I do myself. Only God knows whether others will be leaving. We shall do all we can through prayer.

In your first letter, you made an observation which is the following: "I do not know whether another House is flourishing as well as this one in Benevento". I recognize that expression as one which is born from the desire of seeing the yearnings of my heart satisfied, and may the Lord reward

⁵² In this year.

⁵³ According to the measure of the gift of Christ.

you for your charity. But, in general, such comparisons are not for us to place on the scales. They tend to estrange us from evangelical simplicity which directs us to say: "*Cum feceritis haec omnia dicite servi inutiles sumus*".⁵⁴ Let us go good work, let us ever increase it, let us make it more and more perfect, and let us advance in the realization of that *vita mea abscondita etc.*⁵⁵ I hope that your virtue will not allow displeasure because of the communication of these ideas which form us into men of ever greater spirit. These are the principles which, so to speak, I inherited from my saintly Monsignor Albertini. It seems to me that God would be pleased to have them present *in sancta communicatione*⁵⁶ in our letter exchanges.

As for the war which you tell me is being waged against the Institute in Rome, I say to you that this is presently not costing me anything new in anguish. It is the history of foundations as they progress, to come face to face with the usual providence of God. It always seems to call for the verification of "*in tribulatione dilatasti*".⁵⁷ We are not at all lacking in spirit; *et inquirentes Dominum non minuentur omni bono*.⁵⁸ I utter this statement first to myself and then share it in common with each other *in simplicitate cordis*.⁵⁹ God produces wonders in his works.

With regret did I learn of things affecting the angelic young man, (safeguarding respect for all), Father Fedele.⁶⁰ I shall pray for him and also say to myself: "O Lord, keep your hands over my head".

Now, I proceed to your other letter. I myself would have written to the bishop of Gaeta, but, for the sake of a quicker letter-exchange, I am very happy that you have taken on this task, indeed in my name, in favor of Cardillo. Prayers.

With regard to the page containing the observations pertaining to the studies, I do not see the reason why Canon Betti did not have the courage to communicate this to you. I directed the President to do so since this is according to the rule prescribed in our directory. Likewise, in this way, it should have been clear that I wished to have clarifications and a reply to my questions. I believe that I was not excessive in asking for instructions and details from you. Perhaps I may be altogether wrong, but why? It is because of my love for the Institute that I should have full knowledge of what pertains to us, and, it is because of my love for individuals, especially for our young men, that I insist on getting an answer in this matter. I prescind from the exercise of individual virtue which forms our crown for heaven. So, now, let us get down to precise information, *non animo contendendi (quod absit), sed animo exponendi*.⁶¹

1. You tell me that the President, whom I venerate, esteem and love in the Lord, acknowledges that all is in keeping with the rule with respect to the studies. But reflect that in such matters there must also be a allowance of time for practice. In Benevento, the House of studies is

⁵⁴ When you have done all these things say: we are useless servant.

⁵⁵ My hidden life, etc.

⁵⁶ In holy communication.

⁵⁷ In tribulation you have stretched me out.

⁵⁸ And those who seek the Lord will not lack in any good.

⁵⁹ In simplicity of heart.

⁶⁰ Father Fedele de Cillis.

⁶¹ Not in a spirit of rivalry (let it not be present), but in a spirit of explanation.

growing like a very tender plant, *hoc anno*.⁶² Practice is acquired by asking who has the basic principles of the founder and not ask about the practices of other Houses of studies, nor about writings highly regarded by other companions. A misunderstanding can easily arise in anyone, without fault. I departed from Benevento with this reminder: "Ask questions, write to me even about what the students have related about other Houses of study". Was this perhaps said to blame or to single out a malcontent ... no, my dearest friend ... but to maintain correctness and to keep uniform our basic practices. The Lord may dispose things in causung me to appear irksome and my letter-writing to be a burden. But from just a few indications, God, it seems to me, is helping to read the hearts of my beloved confreres. Adorable dispositions of his providence.

2. It is quite true that I do not save letters. Indeed, they are not needed by me in any case. Generally speaking, they would not be necessary for justifications, which I always wish for our Institute, nor for your report; never for my own personal reports, except in some cases when God would require me to do so. I am fully convinced that I always have the duty of repeating: "*ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*".⁶³ Now, you, along with the compliance of Canon Betti, have decided to use the second period of two months for Logic, not so? Still, I knew nothing about this and it was contrary to the method used in the schools as well as to the directions which I had given: "Logic is to be taught in the period of time assigned to philosophy, and without alterations ...". Am I wrong in making this statement, for I, with the help of divine mercy, do not wish to lie? In a paragraph of my letter of the 24th, did I not state that: "The first two months are for Logic... ". With all due respect, I am offended for not having been consulted and for having been kept in the dark about the establishment there.

Was I in error by asking how the instruction in Logic could have been done so quickly? This is a study that involves extended consideration; learning how to reason...; but if I had been informed about your method, I might have spared you these questions. *Mea culpa*.⁶⁴ Nevertheless, it is also proper for me to point out that noone else has any other responsibility in the Institute than to carry out whatever is laid down in our foundation, starting with me; and, if a Xavier sought to have someone to be watchful, our virtue calls us to accept these renderings of account and these admonitions!

3. You tell me about the other students who still are waiting ... But you know very well that we have only five rooms available. Montini was to be the fourth student, and the fifth was the one from the Fratte, the responsibility of Father Biagio, concerning whom he has not even had the last word to his letter. I have substituted the good Father Fedele in Montini's place; I have not sent the fifth one until the decision is made with regard to the one from the Fratte. So, *in circumstantiis*,⁶⁵ it seems to me that I have not been wrong, unless God has so disposed things that the sequence of letter-writing has been overlooked in Benevento. In that case, I shall simply say: "The adorable dispositions of God! *Bonum mihi quia humiliasti me*".⁶⁶

4. Once again, as I repeat that you never spoke to me about Logic in a two-month period, I

⁶² In this year.

⁶³ I am a man seeing my poverty.

⁶⁴ Through my fault.

⁶⁵ In circumstances.

⁶⁶ It is good for me, because you humiliated me.

call your attention to the fact that the paragraph of November 11th refers to everything else, but no granting of approval; that I never would have given it since I love things carried out in accordance with our directory. The thoughts expressed in that paragraph allude to the communication of ideas, of spirit, and nothing more. I was in the dark about what your page of reports relating to the testing contained, and I found no mention of the judging. The order of Storchenau is not observed except in very minor instances. That I do not like Storchenau or that I said this to you, is a misunderstanding. If I did say it, I surely retract it. I would like to say also that nowadays very little profundity is given to studies, and, speaking in a general way, there is more attention paid by so many to the outer layers of knowledge; there is no deepening of the mind in speculation, in distinguishing and sub-distinguishing, to bring things known in our minds to their fullest maturity.

In speaking about Father Amici, the Olivetan, I said that I would have liked to have from him a brief summary of physics, usable by a young priest at the completion of his course in philosophy. In time, together with our authors we would have drawn up some summaries, thus saving our teachers a lot of work. I talked about the Ethics of Cavalli which is now being copied since Storchenau has been lacking, and nothing more. Furthermore, no one has ever forbidden the teachers from using these summaries to explain, to corroborate, and to elucidate doctrine. The only thing that was stressed is that what is certain should be distinguished from what is uncertain with regard to what was spoken of in person. Hence, in our school we are to follow the regular author; he is the one to be read, the one to be explained. In Moral theology, in the examples taken from *sexto*, they are to be substituted with other, more prudent examples for the young men, since this is not the time for considering those exemplifications. That I did not discover the summaries of Dogma and Moral in your report is a consequence of the preceding articles.

5. I said that there is not to be a summary made of the Moral. Well, I never said that, unless I was completely beside myself in that discussion. Can I go against our rule? So, I beg you to give a summary of Moral. I am completely stunned and flabbergasted at such occurrences ... patience. I repeat, give a summary of Moral.

6. Very incorrect is what you imagine concerning my reference sources. Realize that I have noted everything from your report of the testing, and this has been my only reference source. Furthermore realize that ordinarily very few members, outside of the Superiors, have letter-correspondence with me.

7. That I should give praise to the Segneri(s) comes as a consequence of having, in school, read Serra who felt that he had to say many things contrary to the practices of Missions. I give to this author that same qualification that the Church grants to him. But, I say that an author, concerning whom so much has to be set aside, is not to be put in a creditable position with our young men. Is this advice to you likewise a failing, just because that is what, in God, I believe?

From all of this you can judge whether my observations concerning the report are exaggerated or not. In my own way of thinking, I would not hazard, not in the slightest degree, any change in what has been our practice. Why? Because that is what is called for to maintain order in things.

8. Anything more than this, I respond to by praying that God will dispel the mist that the devil has brought up; that once all have been relieved of this mist, then docility, kindness, the spirit of prayer, profound humility, blind obedience can reign, just as I have no doubt is the case with you and all the others in that community there. However, I am hopeful that in the future there will not be need for a long apologia which has been brought forth for a good reason, but rather that there be a

realization that words of advice are the result of that intimate bond of charity which unites our hearts to the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ. In him, I am and will be, to my grave, for you and for every one of our members

Infimo in Christo servo ⁶⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 3, 1830

If the Marian month is handled by you, I trust in your dexterity that, in the working out of the project, you will be able to bring things together in such a way that no detriment follows therefrom for the students whom I love above every other line of good. More in person if I had you nearby. God, indeed, is a good Father; and, in his divine love, I say: "*Veni Domine visita vineam istam*".⁶⁸ I conclude by saying: "Whoever is obedient is on the way to salvation, but, alas, for the one who sets himself above!" I tremble, just hearing the word, responsibility. Still, I am confident in the secure knowledge that I must not do anything else, with the grace of God, but to be watchful that [no one] should alter the basic principles of our Institute. I have pity for you, because you are a new member; I have pity for others for different reasons. This does not change the good and the unity of charity. We are humans and not angels; we are exiles, etc. Enough said. *Qui iudicat me Dominus est.*⁶⁹

2034

May 9, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

In reply to your letter, I say to you that it is always necessary to be courageous: "*Quare tristis es anima mea?*"⁷⁰ The acknowledgment of our wretchedness calls us to exclaim: "*Abyssus miseriae. invocat abyssum misericordiae*".⁷¹ These are the words that the celebrated Father Segnari, of holy memory, was accustomed to use. And, with St. Francis de Sales: "Oh Lord, my wretchedness is the footstool of the throne of your mercy". So, there can be no doubt that the more we know God, so much the more do we recognize our own nothingness. This acknowledgment, though it may go against our spirit, helps us in the practice of holy humility.

Therefore, always remain close to the Sacred Tabernacle, the mystical wine-storage room where God ordains charity. May our soul be like the dove near mystical waters and let us quench our thirst in Jesus and with Jesus ... When I use the word always, I mean to say that, in addition to the time that is provided for us to be engaged in this religious adoration, our hearts should ever remain united to the Sacred Tabernacle, the center of peace and of salvation. Also, in no way at all should the reception of communion be set aside. It brings healing to our small infirmities and gives us strength

⁶⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁶⁸ Come, Lord, visit your vineyard.

⁶⁹ If the one who judges me is the Lord.

⁷⁰ Why is my soul sad?

⁷¹ The abyss of misery invokes the abyss of mercy.

etc.. "*Sanat omnes infirmitates*".⁷²

Please return my sincere greetings to Canon Giusti. May the grace, the peace and the mercy of Jesus Christ crucified always abound in our hearts. Amen. I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁷³

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Veroli, May 9, 1830

P. S. When necessary, always address your letters to "Rome"

2035

May 12, 1830

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter of the 6th of this month. Very early in the morning of June 11th, it will be necessary that two coaches be available, but quietly, in Frosinone, and in such a way that at the hour 22 of that day the Missionary, along with the brother-in-service, can be there in Sora in order to begin the Retreat. The affection that I have for the Confraternity there and my desire to see you again stimulates in me the yearning to come there in person. We shall see what the will of God is, since this will depend on the time of the Mission in Celano. At any rate, the good work will be assured, you can be at ease about that. So, it seems to me that our computation turns out to be correct, from June 11th to the Sunday that you mentioned to me. In the meanwhile, let us predispose everything beforehand through many prayers.

With regard to the body of a saint which you wish to have for your church in Campoli, I point out two things. If you wish to have it clothed, it will be necessary to indicate precisely the length and the height of the urn and, furthermore, to what extent you wish to go with regard to the expenses covering the ornamentation and the clothing. If you prefer a very small case in which there are the bones of a holy martyr, the expense will not be as high; it could be done at very little cost. I shall await your clarifications. If a saint with his own family name or baptismal name can be had, I would not be able to say at present. Let me know the title of the church in Campoli and the title given to the altar and I shall do the best I can to successfully carry out your intention. In the meantime, a petition will be necessary and I, myself, shall take care of that, after having received the information that I am asking you to provide.

I thank you for the regulations concerning chant. At your convenience, try to complete the work. If handbooks of the chant should have to be purchased, I would be happy about that, but first inform me as to the expense so I can regulate my accounts. Do not forget to provide anything else that is useful for our students. Pray for me and have others do so too *sine intermissione*.⁷⁴ I kiss your hands, most revered Canon, and while sending you favorable news concerning your nephew, I am and

⁷² He heals all infirmities.

⁷³ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁷⁴ Without intermission.

will constantly be, with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Veroli, May 12, 1830

2036

May 15, 1830

Giovanni De Mattias

Vallecorsa

I, the undersigned, attest to having received seventy *scudi* to the boarding account of Antonio Maria De Mattias and also I call to the attention of Giovanni De Mattias, the father of this young man, that for the settlement of the boarding account for all of May, 1830, there is still a payment of five *scudi*. In faith, on this May 15, 1830.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

To be noted also is that Giovanni De Mattias has likewise settled a small account of six *scudi* and twenty-five *bajocchi* to cover the expense of clothing as well as for other needs for his son, as above, which is a separate computation from that of the boarding expense.

All as of May 15th, noted above.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

2037

May 27, 1830

To a Canon of the Lateran Chapter

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁵

Venerable Canon

With this most humble letter of mine, I ask you to make every effort to bring about, in all justice, the settlement of the matter pending between the Lateran Chapter and the Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo in Albano. Whatever may be the motives of the most reverend Chapter, it would never be able to draw the conclusion of retaining what, for so very many intrinsic reasons as well as the declaration of Pope Pius VII, belongs to the sanctuary in Albano. Therefore, I call upon your charity and your well-known zeal. Most revered Canon, while asking you for your prayers, I have the honor of stating again that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, May 27, 1830

⁷⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

2038

May 28, 1830
Fr. Giovanni Caroni
Belforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

I know nothing about that affair, nor can I be an active participant in the matter which regards the substitution of our Institute. Only by being questioned would I engage in any negotiation. So, having first offered prayer, may you come evermore to recognize the will of God which is always sweet, always adorable. I am going to burn those pages that you sent me since the writing was not in character nor productive. Thus, it would be necessary to work it over better, shortening it and drawing up an entirely new draft, using more precise terminology, or better said, a more exact exposition. This will remain between us *in communicacione sancta*.⁷⁶ Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, May 28, 1830

2039

May 30, 1830
Mr. Camillo Fossenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

Let me know why the printer is so obstinate in his position of wanting to print only 500 copies. I do not remember what the cost for both the little work and the month. Please be kind enough to remind me of both and then I will make my decision. Otherwise I shall withdraw the little work and make an attempt to arrange something else here in Rome, one way or the other.

I have mailed ten *scudi* to cover postage expenses, reserving to myself the use of the balance of ten *baiocchi*, after I receive a reply to this letter of mine.

Pray for me, dear Camillo, especially during the upcoming month of June. Always completely obligated to you for innumerable reasons, I am and will constantly be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 30, 1830

P. S. I noticed in my cupboard that I have enough copies of the month, at least for this year. So, they will not be necessary. Send me a ream of stationery and another of the usual kind, and let me know the cost, taking into account the ten *baiocchi* left over.

Up to now I have not received the other reams. I will look into it. Cencio Severini received

⁷⁶ In holy communication.

your letter. Not even in a dream has, what is rumored about, happened to me. Hail to the Cross etc. If necessary, return the little work to me.

Let me know how many Chaplet are still there at the printer's place; as the occasions arise, I shall accordingly make use of them.

2040

June 1, 1830
Giovanni De Mattias
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I have received the oil and I give you my thanks.

The coachman has asked me for seven *paoli* for the transportation. It seems to me that I worked it out with you for three *scudi* for the trip or the transportation. So, between the 28 *paoli* and the three *scudi* there should be a difference of two *paoli* which you will give to Father Giovanni Battista Pedini. I need a copy of the receipt which I left with him covering our accounts so that I can file what has been put in writing in our archives. Please send it to me by prompt return mail, addressing it here to Rome. Shortly, I shall be going to Albano and I shall check with your son concerning things needed for the summer and we will then come to an agreement.

Your son has already received those few *paoli* that were entrusted to Bartolomeo who accompanies me on my trips. Whether they were exactly five *paoli*, I do not, at this moment, remember. What is certain, however, is that they were given to him as we discussed in person. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 1, 1830

2041

June 1, 1830
Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini
Vicar General
Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁷

Venerable Monsignor

I have been assured by his most reverend Eminence Cardinal Galleffi that the ten *scudi* for the education of the military in Albano are in your hands. Therefore, I ask you, please, to indicate to me whether this is the case. Otherwise, if there is a mistake, I could submit a new request. I have no doubt at all that everything has been properly regulated in the matter; but some slip-up or oversight could have occurred.

I also sent word concerning the affair dealing with Canon Pigliucci. It is, perhaps, only another

⁷⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

example of your zeal in reminding his most reverend Eminence, so that our Institute would be granted what, injustice, is rightly due to it, since we are not in a position to surrender it. Therefore, while renewing my sentiments of esteem, respect and veneration, as well as expressing my desire to see you again soon, and asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 1, 1830

2042

June 2, 1830

To the archivist of the
Most excellent Gaetani House
Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Canon Gaspar del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, sends his warm regards to the most worthy Archivist and recommends to him the candlesticks already sent to him from the Chapel of the most holy Crucifix in the church of S. Francesco in Sermoneta. He calls attention again to the concern about the crystal glass windows of that same Chapel. Finally, he asks that you do not lose sight of the matter of the pious legacy concerning which you said there would be no burden of Masses. Nevertheless, this sanctuary must not lose that, especially keeping in mind the past. If you were to find other information in the Archives, you would give this correspondent great delight if you would communicate that to him, in particular, with reference to any sepulchers that the House in S. Francesco might have. He renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

[there is no signature]

House, June 2, 1830

2043

June 2, 1830

Msgr. Antonio Santelli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With this most humble letter of mine, I must, with regret, inform you that in the House in Albano I simply will not be able to accommodate you and the young man from Flanders at one and the same time. However, I could take one after the other. The young man from Flanders for eight to ten days for Retreat, and you, as a Missionary of the original group *in subsidium*⁷⁸ for the time that you mentioned to me. Having made these observations, I would say that the young man, in the meantime, could go there and then you, or *viceversa*. It will be necessary that you please bring along bed linens and summer coverlets, along with hand towels. I will take care of the other things. Let me know just what your decision is and also the time.

⁷⁸ In support.

You are well aware of the singular esteem that I hold for you and the affection that has united my heart to yours for so long a time, and this is what makes me feel related in realizing that you will know how to accept this decision as a daughter would, so to speak, a particular necessity, and not just a random way of thinking on my part. If it were altogether within my capability to dispose things otherwise, I would see that all would be arranged entirely in conformity with your wishes. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

June 2, 1830

2044

June 3, 1830

Fr. Carlo Gazola

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I have given your message to Bartolomeo who, up to now, had not received anything from Mr. Scalabrini from whom he will be returning.

I know about Cardillo. Other students will be sent for new studies.

I give thanks to God for Canon Betti's restoration to health. I am writing briefly because of the shortness of time. Pray for me and have others do so too, especially during this month. I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 3, 1830

2045

June 4, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

A couple of lines. Despite all my efforts in regard to the stationery, up to now I have received nothing. So, I rely on your industriousness to look into this with the greatest possible haste. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 4, 1830

Nothing more about the rumor spread about.

2046

June 5, 1830
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

It is not difficult for me to come in person to Sora for the Retreat. It will be sufficient that the two safe mounts arrive on Friday evening, the day before the feast of *Corpus Domini*.⁷⁹ Thus, very early on Saturday morning I will be able to travel to Sora, and around hour 22 of that same Saturday to begin the Retreat exercises. I hope that this variation will not alter things by one day, more or less. We shall conclude the Retreat on the Sunday after the octave of *Corpus Domini*, the 20th of this month, if I am not mistaken. It seems to me that this should be satisfactory. Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 5, 1830

P. S. If the change of a day or so would be disturbing, nevertheless send the mounts, and in my place another of our men will come, should I, in that case, not be able to be there on time.

2047

June 6, 1830
Fr. Antonio Gammarelli
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸⁰

Venerable Canon

I inconvenience you with the enclosed petition, asking you to use the greatest possible haste so that in Ascoli they can make arrangements for whatever will be necessary for celebrating the feast of the most Precious Blood on the first Sunday in July. You, too, will receive boundless merit by cooperating in this cult of compensation to the inestimable price of our eternal salvation.

I am enclosing also a copy of the small printed leaflet which had been circulated, wherever needed, at the time when the deceased Pontiff granted that privilege. As a very big favor, I ask you to send the decree to Father Filippo Gonnelli, whom you are able to meet with easily, and then inform me as to the expense involved and you will immediately be reimbursed. In the meantime, fully obligated to you, I am and will constantly be, with the fullness of esteem and respect, and begging you for the charity of your prayers

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, June 6, 1830

⁷⁹ The Body of the Lord.

⁸⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

2048

June 12, 1830
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

With pleasure did I receive your most esteemed letter and I note in it the ever admirable working of the grace of God in your heart which is a temple of the Lord. It cannot be denied that Almighty God loves to beautify more and more that mystical temple to the glory of his name. *Templum Dei vos estis.*⁸¹ The entranceway of that temple is made of a mystical precious metal, and the devil is prohibited from making any access therein.

That entranceway is so well-constructed that it will not be shaken by the attacks of the enemy. The sides are solid walls made of very durable bricks of different colors and perfectly shaped. It is a signification of an aggregate of virtues which maintain the soul dedicated in its service to God. The ceiling of this temple is entirely gilded with gold; and this symbolizes the very precious work of the holy love of God, as well as its varied operations. In this temple, there are windows which admit the holy light of celestial inspirations, and because of this, that peace is enjoyed which forms in the soul a foretaste of paradise. Therein does God find his delight. The work that has gone into the construction of this temple, its adornments, makes it similar to a mystical wine-cellar where, in silence and active contemplation, one builds heavenward.

Oh how we must express thanks to the Lord for all that he does for the benefit of your soul. Pray that what I share with others will be verified in me. Your penitential activity should be kept limited in accordance with what the Church directs. Also, make a careful distinction between what is prescribed as obligatory from what is suggested by way of counsel. What is of obligation should be given primary consideration; what is of counsel should be undertaken in accordance with your physical condition. To add anything more, at least for the present time, I feel is not inspired.

Let us seek to consolidate more and more our internal life and let us not be at all fearful. A virtuously normal way of acting in any eventuality, an indistinct type of charitable action, a long-suffering patience, a profound but at the same time a joyful meditation, a loving relationship with God, all of these are the foundation blocks on which to build for heaven.

May God fill you with his celestial blessings. With esteem and respect, I am, in his Divine Heart

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁸²

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 12, 1830

Remember that on July 31, I was ordained a priest, *extra tempore.*⁸³ I did, indeed, pass through Piperno; however, God did not will that we should meet. Nevertheless, he brings things to maturity.

⁸¹ You are the temple of God.

⁸² Being the lowest servant of Christ.

⁸³ Outside of the time.

2049

June 15, 1830
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

There is nothing to what you were pleased to indicate to me concerning the rumor that has been spread about me. God must thus have permitted this for the purposes of his own wisdom which are inscrutable for us. From all of this, I draw the conclusion that I must prepare myself even more for the great passage into the eternal years. That, for us, is everything...here below, *sumus hospites, et advenae*.⁸⁴

In the meanwhile, I give you my thanks for the very special kindness that you show me on this occasion; *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁸⁵ May the work of the Lord continue to prosper with ever greater triumphs for his divine glory, and that the benefits be recognized also in Rome.

Pray for me, who with esteem and respect remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 15, 1830 (with the desire of seeing you within a very short time, when I shall be in S. Felice)

2050

June 15, 1830
Fr. Carlo Gazola
Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

With regard to the money that you gave to Sante, I am writing to Canon Betti that he should reimburse you, as I will be sending it on to him. Or, perhaps you might indicate to me some other way.

I understand what you tell me about Modena and you can be certain that the Holy Father, who loves the Society very much, will be exultant.

With regard to the Brief, I have sent a reply. Pray for me and in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 15

⁸⁴ We are foreigners and aliens.

⁸⁵ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.