

St. Gaspar's Letters

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August 20, 1831
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. Let me say first of all that I am writing to the Missionary who ought, by this time, to be in Macerata Feltria for the Retreat to the nuns, that, *quasi aliud agens*,² he should visit the locale and the church of S. Francesco to find out the number of rooms available. Furthermore, it would be good to look into the Lenten preaching, if the commune does not object, in order to give greater help to the endowment, urging your most worthy person to remember that the our Institute will not be making a financial appeal. When it arrived in Rimini, at the time of the celebrated Monsignor Marchetti, already prepared was the plan of the endowment. However, with the recent upheavals it has been delayed and is still delayed in its execution.

At any rate, with regard to a greater or smaller endowment for the foundation, God will provide. Rather, I would ask you to check with archdeacon Rubartini to whom I have communicated the only difficulty that will arise. I hope that, in his charity, he will find an expedient way of overcoming it, so that things will be firmly established from the very beginning. In you, we recognize that we have one of the most outstanding benefactors of our Society in whom, after God, it places its trust for a successful outcome. I kiss your hands, and with profound obeisance, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 20, 1831

2202

August 23, 1831
 Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani
 Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, August 23 , 1831

Most esteemed Canon

Please keep a record of the mail which was exchanged in behalf of the Silvani lady, I still retain the letters which I had forwarded to you. If you need them once again, I shall send them.

Butirroni is presently getting a copy of the testament. I shall find out what the expenses are and to whom one must have recourse. In fact, I do not know whether there is to be a sharing with others. The funeral expenses, it seems to me, will not be our responsibility and the Institute will not be involved in this.

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

² As if doing something else.

The priest on whom you can rely trustfully, and I show respect for all others too, etc., and the one whom you will find going along with your desires, is Father Filippo Gonnelli, whom I have already informed. Just let me know when you initiate your correspondence with him.

MY beloved, let us continue to steer the ship well, may I so express myself, each one according to his status, having a strong yearning for the multiplication of good works and a generosity for the Lord's works. During the novena for Christmas, we shall have in Rome the Holy Jubilee. Let us pray, let us pray that the Divine Blood will cleanse the consciences of people. In Jesus Christ crucified, asking you for your prayers and extending my sincerest regards to his most reverend Eminence, to the good Gigliucci and to anyone else who remembers me, I remain, with esteem, respect and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2203

August 25, 1831

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

While enclosing for you this petition, I have the pleasure of informing you that the brothers and sisters of the organization of St. Francis Xavier have obtained the decree of approval of their regulations from the Vicariate. While being of help to you in your office as director, I feel that this news will lead you to give even greater thanks to God for this great good. I kiss your hands; with all my heart, I ask you for your prayers, and with full esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, August 25, 1831

P. S. It would be good to share this news with his Eminence Falzacappa. The regulations bear on the front page the title of the Missionaries of the most Precious Blood who have compiled them.

2204

August 27, 1831

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Pieveterina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, August 27, 1831

Venerable Canon

Acknowledging your kindness towards me and realizing that we are presently enjoying the good season, I ask you to do me the favor of going to S. Felice in Giano as soon as you have

completed the reading of this letter of mine, *et nulla interposita mora*.³ There, you will take part in the good work with Father Merlini and another of our capable Missionaries, or remain for a few days to help in our House of S. Felice. Do whichever you prefer. Be assured that you have no reason to be in anguish. In this way, you will get acquainted with that House. Get a mount there along with a footman, and those who know the roads. Fr. Tommaso⁴ will be able to instruct you. You will be reimbursed for your expenses. So, if it will not trouble you to remain there for a few days, until Gentilucci and De Victoriis return, send Father Tommaso in my name, and you fill in there with examples from the life of the most holy Mary, or the Way of the Cross. Fill in the best you can for this short while. I am trusting in your kindness. Either you or Fr. Tommaso is to remain there in S. Felice for a few days but settle it quickly, quickly. I send you my thanks beforehand and God himself will be the full rewarder. For my peace of mind, drop me a word. Though in a hurry, I send my best regards to Fr. Tommaso and with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2205

August 28, 1831

Fr. Gennaro Gamboa

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Gennaro⁵

Noting that the Brief speaks of the seven altars in St. Peter's of the Vatican, you are to keep the following in mind, while maintaining a memorandum of it in the archives. Very, very ancient is the custom of visiting the seven privileged altars of St. Peter's in the Vatican as has been preserved in its own archives from the time of Innocent II which was in 1130. Those seven altars in St. Peter's are: that of the Madonna, the so-called Gregoriana - that of Saints Processo and Martiniano - that of St. Michael the archangel - that of St. Petronilla, virgin - that of the Madonna, so-called Colonna - that of the holy apostles Simon and Jude - and that of St. Gregory the Great. any faithful Christian, having the due dispositions, especially of confession and communion, can gain the plenary indulgences by devoutly visiting those seven altars, also gaining many indulgences granted by numerous Supreme Pontiffs and confirmed by St. Pius V, Sixtus V, Paul V, Clement VIII and Urban VIII, who sent out many Briefs, granting them to churches outside of Rome, attaching to seven altars the same indulgences as those granted to the seven altars in St. Peter's in the Vatican. Those indulgence can likewise be applied to the faithful departed through the concession made by Pius VII with a decree from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences.

As for the prayers to be said, they are the usual ones required for gaining plenary indulgences; it is required that prayer be said at each altar. I could not suggest a better method than the following:

³ And without intervening delay.

⁴ Father Tommaso Meloni.

⁵ This letter has no date but from the postal marking one is noted, namely, Rome, August 28. The year is 1831. In fact, Fr. Gennaro Gamboa was in Sermoneta where he had been transferred in November of 1830 until only August of 1831. In August of 1832 he was located in Cesena.

While processing out of the church, singing "*Viva, viva Gesu*", I would proceed to the altar in the cemetery. After arriving there (the altar already having been prepared) I would offer a silent prayer, then I would recite the first mystery of the Chaplet with the customary Our Fathers. Next, another verse of the "*Viva*", I would re-enter the church and stop at the last altar where, after a brief prayer, I would recite the second mystery etc. The concluding visit would be made at the altar of the most blessed Sacrament where the seventh shedding of the Divine Blood from the Lord's side would occur. At that same altar, benediction with the Blessed Sacrament would follow, setting aside any other function. The procession consists in carrying the crucifix or a cross, as we do with our *svegliarini*, and two members of the St. Xavier organization, if available, or two Brothers will carry two lighted torches. Only two candles should be burning on each altar and when it comes to the final visit, the candles of the main altar are lit. Before the blessing is given a short fervorino should be delivered from the altar. And, before going out on the procession, to be recited at the foot of the main altar is the "*venite adoremus etc.*" *ad instar*⁶ the oratories.

It would be desirable that the members of the St. Xavier group should come processionally from Sermoneta, even though they may be few in number, and later return while reciting the Rosary along with the Missionary assigned to the Oratory. If I do not express myself clearly, please ask questions. The Brief contemplates any promise for the indulgence. It will be necessary that on the last Sunday of each month the pastors of Bassiano, Sermoneta, and Norma are to be informed of this good work. Once the visitation of the seven altars is completed, it would be a good idea to inform the people of our current services, especially of the day of preparation for death and a day of Retreat on the fourth Sunday. Everything is done according to our regulations. I am writing of this method to Giano where this privilege is enjoyed.

With a holy impatience I am awaiting the Life of my beloved in Christ, Father Monsignor Albertini. The dedication should be made to Monsignor Don Giovanni Nicolo Tanari, bishop of Faenza.

You have probably received already the wax which you asked me to get. Have I forgotten anything?

Right now, I feel a bit indisposed. So I conclude by praying that God will provide recovery for all of our sick, since each of our Houses have some. Send me news of yourself and of the others. I am

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

2206

August 29, 1831
Msgr. Angelo Vannini

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷

Most esteemed Angelo⁸

⁶ After the fashion of.

⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁸ On the outer covering, in the handwriting of St. Gaspar, the following notation is found: "Note written to Monsignor Anselo Vannini, Commissioner of the *Reverenda Camera Apostolica*, who at that time favored the meetings at which I communicated the petition of the Capuchin Fathers".

Next Thursday I shall be sending the coach to you, depending on the weather, at the usual time, that is, the time agreed upon. In the meanwhile, read and study well the enclosed sheets which, in my opinion, do not give a decisive answer with regard to a positive obligation on our part, but only prove that the deceased Cardinal was pleased with the work that was done. Likewise, that he did not wish to decisively assume a personal obligation which, it appears, was urged by the Commune, recommending the petition to the *Buon Governo* etc. etc. I draw the conclusion that the one who feels that the Society should be accommodated, should make the provisions. In order to have this right, a drawing up of contracts is required, or other arrangements which an undertaking of this kind calls for. I may perhaps be mistaken. We shall discuss it further in person.

When you see lawyer Tosi, you might point out to him that the gentlemen of the *Anticammera* could also assume the legacy without further ado. Let us offer prayers for this transaction that is underway. With the customary sentiments of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

August 28, 1831

2207

August 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

Number of Masses 200⁹

40 Masses applied by Canon Fontana (the alms settled)

See the listing 40 Masses sent to Liparelli (the alms settled)

See the listing 20 Masses applied by De Victoriis (alms settled)

See the listing 60 Masses applied by Chiodi (alms settled)

See the listing 20 Masses to Liparelli (alms settled)

See the listing 20 Masses to Archpriest Amadei (alms settled)

Observe how to set up your beautiful frame. If, instead of the Immaculate Conception, I find something else that will fit the measurements, would that be all right, for the sake of economy? Write and let me know. Using safe methods etc., send me that small case that is in Sermoneta and no longer useful to Vallecorsa. As for the other matters, later, etc., etc.. See that in all things the rules are adhered to in Sermoneta, etc.

Do we have anything further about that other Mission, the one of the chaplain of Ticchiena? Write to me soon about this so that arrangements can quickly be looked into, in case etc. Contact Gamboa about what I said about the new chapel. Have Facondo return to Fr. Camillo the castings and the frames that have been made. If he has not made them, have him return the castings.

Torrielli is experienced in the area etc., but everything should be done always according to canonical regulations, providing compensation for the past and the mistakes that were made. In this

⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta (restoration)

regard, check with Gamboa¹⁰ and see what his thoughts are before I get to Sermoneta, and write to me, etc.

2208

September 1, 1831
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 1, 1831

Venerable Canon

I am writing on a half-sheet in order to save on postal costs. Here is the account covering the lace and fringe in imitation gold, the reimbursement for which you can add to the account covering your image of most holy Mary. Then, too, I wish to add my words of gratitude for the good work that you are doing for our Institute and through it for the church in that area, including the vestments for which there was such urgent need; in short, let me say, repeating the words of David: "*Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*".¹¹

With regard to the money, also include the postage costs to my account and send this back to me by mail, informing me that you have done so. This will be the safest way to handle this matter.

With respect to your trip to Matelica, you may be making a wrong move when you see that your brief absence does not create a void. Indeed, you may go there to take care of your business which, as you have in your candor confided to me, is not something unacceptable, I have no doubt about it, for a Missionary to be involved in. Bring along with you that Brother whom you think the superior there can assign.

Finally, pray for me who with particular esteem and respect is and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. I shall send the package by way of Foligno.

2209

September 6, 1831
Fr. Pietro Spina
Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

¹⁰ When did St. Gaspar write this letter? From the reference to the presence of Fr. Gennaro Gamboa in Sermoneta and to the visit of St. Gaspar to Sermoneta (August 7, 1831) it seems that this letter should be assigned to the month of August 1831. In fact, at the middle of October 1831, Fr. Gamboa was in Aalbano (cfr. the letter to Fr. Spina of October 13, 1831; and from there he moved on to Rimini (cfr. the letter to Fr. Rafaele Rosati of April 1832) and then in August 1832 to Cesena. After St. Gaspar's visit, Fr. Spina was with Fr. Gamboa in Sermoneta until the beginning of September 1831 (cfr. the letter of September 6, 1831 to the same person) and then returned at the end of November 1831 when Fr. Gamboa had already left. This letter therefore was sent later to Fr. Spina, as mentioned in the previous note, and very probably was written in August of 1831.

¹¹ The Lord will repay you on my behalf with sweet blessings.

Upon receiving this letter of mine (I am writing in a hurry), give the temporary assignment and instructions for everything to Fr. Gennaro with respect to managing the economical matters, and you leave immediately for Frosinone, where, reunited with the other companions, you are to go out on the Missions in the surroundings of Frosinone. Have no doubts, you shall fit right in. So, bring along your notebooks or whatever you have written down. You will use our little burro; have a man from Sermoneta handle him for you, one who can be trusted, and then he will take him back; or, you could rent a mount there.

As a matter of economy, after the Mission I shall send you to check the building project in Vallecorsa.

The Mission will begin next Sunday. It will be better to save the rest for another letter of mine. Write to me and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 6 (1831)¹²

2210

September 8, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 8, 1831

Most esteemed Camillo

With regard to the cloth referred to in my other letter, both as regards the width and the quality, a little more or little less in quantity will make no difference. But please send the quantity we suggested of that type which you consider to be best there. I hope that I have made myself clear, and I urge you to use every possible haste in this matter. I would like, also, in regard to the linen, that you add another 18 *canne*. Then, too, I would like you to send me another ream of letter-stationery of the usual type for letter-writing, and a ream for letters of invitation of the same type that you sent me before, namely, in sky-blue.

Finally, 1000 of the regular Chaplets are needed (I say one thousand, and see that they have been corrected in the spelling) at the earliest possible time. I would be pleased if the covers of those Chaplets were of a different color, without a change, however, in the cost. Otherwise, we will go along with the customary type. Send me the account and I will see that you are reimbursed immediately.

With regard to having a sale there for conservatories with respect to the cloth, would that God would grant me the opportunity of going along with your desires; but you are well-aware of how limited my possibilities are. Useful would be a memorandum to the Secretary of State or to the Holy Father. I was very, very happy to receive the news about your daughter becoming a nun. Tell her to

¹² The year is known by comparing this present letter either with Lett. n. 378, dated September 13, 1831, which is obviously related to it and follows it by a few days, or with the financial record of administration for the House in Sermoneta in which one sees that on September 8, 1831 (that is, as soon as this letter arrived), Fr. Pietro Spina turned over the management to Fr. Gennaro Gamboa, according to the instructions contained herein.

always keep me in her prayers and, if she would agree, to assume the name of *Francesca Saveria del Preziosissimo Sangue di Nostro Signor Gesu Cristo*. You are doing right in being interested in the welfare of your two children. Since they are good children, you should continue to train them so that they will persevere in their holy aspirations. Give them my warmest regards. Also, recommend me in your prayers in common, and, as always, while renewing my fullest feelings of esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2211

September 13, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, September 13, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

You have probably given them every necessary instruction in Sermoneta. Continue to do so by letter.

Complete the matters in Terracina; likewise, get together with Liparelli for the affairs in Sonnino, and in such a way that, before Liparelli comes to Albano to assume other responsibilities, that situation will be all cleared up. Whatever, therefore, is not transportable, make a note of it for me so that I can arrange for what still remains to be guarded by Sig' a Cicconi, etc. If you have to make a trip to Sonnino, do so. Of the things that are transported, keep in Frosinone whatever is necessary; if there is still more to be disposed of, have them write to me. I hope that I make myself clear.

I have written to Liparelli that, after the Mission, you should stay on in Frosinone to look after urgent matters, so as to bring to a conclusion the building project *prout est*,¹³ in urgent matters, most urgent. I confirm that directive with this letter. Have nothing done without writing to me in detail. Later, I shall send you to Vallecorsa.

Let us abide by these agreements, etc.

With your letter-writing, continue to assist Sermoneta, etc.

Pray for me; do great good; and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2212

September 22, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

¹³ As it is.

Rome, September 22, 1831

Most esteemed Camillo

It is necessary to accelerate the printing of the Chaplets since there is a very urgent need for them. Likewise urgent is that you send the letter-stationery. The cloth, too, at the earliest possible time. I am writing in a hurry. Please excuse the inconvenience; pray for me. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Place in my account the expenses for postal costs. Send one more ream of letter-stationery of this type, in addition to the other one ordered etc.¹⁴

2213

September 22, 1831

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 22, 1831

Venerable Canon

With pleasure did I hear about the Retreat which is to be a public one; however, in November, it will be necessary to begin on the 10th. Since it will continue, I believe, for eight days, I will be on time for our own Retreat called for by the rule which will begin on the evening of November 20th. Note that with it beginning on the 10th, there would also be nine days of ministry. Otherwise, it could be set up as a preparation for the feast of all Saints. After our Retreat, I shall be conducting the Mission in Terracina. So, you make your own calculations and soundings, but I ask you to please send me your conclusions at the earliest moment that you can. Also, in regard to Guarcino, with your customary zeal, try to set up a time for that too and I would be pleased likewise to know if, in Guarcino, it will be a public one or one only for the members. One more thing. With Bartolomeo, should I come alone or should I also bring along a companion? Feel free to write to me.

With regard to the Oratory, the small towns are an example and also for Guarcino in that area. Two things are required: to set up the organization of the apostles, and to re-activate the other group, the members of St. Xavier. Do not be discouraged. Even if only children show up, give them a bit of catechetical instruction and thus as tender youngsters they will develop the habit of going to the Oratory. *Sinite parvulos venire ad me.*¹⁵ A great exercise of patience is called for; but (even as you instruct me) *patientia opus perfectum habet.*¹⁶ Then we call to mind the following reminders: 1. *God premia secundum laborem;*¹⁷ "*honestavit in laboribus*";¹⁸ 2. *Signa apostolatus in multa patientia;*¹⁹

¹⁴ This postscript is written on the outer cover. On the first page, Possenti makes a listing and an accounting of all the merchandise ordered. He notes down the date of consignment to the courier, Domenico Senigaglia (September 26th) and its definitive departure (September 28th).

¹⁵ Allow the little children to come to me.

¹⁶ Patience, he had a perfect work.

¹⁷ He rewards according to the labor.

¹⁸ He honored him in his labors.

¹⁹ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

3. *Ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati etc*²⁰. How often does it happen that a few individuals give praise to God in public chorus? 4. Have, as often as you can, a procession with the crucifix. We are living in times that show a great need for prayer: ... Process around to the taverns and invite them to the Oratory. In short, in Alatri, continue being like our great Xavier; and *oh quam speciosi pedes evangelizantium pacem etc.*²¹ On the last Friday of this month, the Fridays in honor of St. Xavier begin. See that Guarcino is informed of this, and anywhere else that you can contact. We ourselves should observe them fervently. I am aware of the sicknesses endured by our companions *in actu ministerii.*²² This year it is a miracle that we have been free of illnesses. God grants a double supply of strength to the one who labors. The sick, with their prayers and exercise of patience, glorify God. They mutually exchange good works. I am hopeful that the harvest of the region of Alatri will be copious.

I am sending 24 Masses which you will celebrate, returning to me the usual notification. I am including the alms also with various books, always hopeful that this will be to your respective advantage, that is, in the activities that you undertake for the glory of God. At the first opportunity, I shall be sending you the package. If some person from Alatri should be coming to Rome during these days, ask him to come to see me, etc.. Whoever has the first chance should bring this matter to a conclusion.

Return my affectionate greetings to Father Polini, to whom you should give the blessed water of St. Xavier along with a pamphlet of the Novena to the Saint, which the sick person will soon be making. I hope in God that this recipe will be effective. I kiss your hands. Greet the Monsignor, along with Canon Domeniconi, and anyone else who remembers me. Do not cease propagating the devotion to the Divine Blood. Consider me to be unchangingly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2214

September 22, 1831
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 22, 1831

Venerable Canon

The jubilee has delayed my reply. I am fully persuaded of the justifiable reasons you have for postponing your trip to S. Felice. Also, be assured of my concern for your health and your age; have no doubt about this. I simply offered you that trip to S. Felice just to get you to move about a bit. Furthermore, I am satisfied with your inner service in our Institute, *pro viribus.*²³

Your location there, it seems to me, is quite good for you. Monsignor Strambi used to refer to

²⁰ Where two or three are gathered, etc.

²¹ O how precious the feet of those preaching peace, etc..

²² In the act of the ministry.

²³ In accord with one's strength.

that place, even after he was made bishop, as his delight. Giano, I am afraid, might be too much of a monstrous change; likewise, more inopportune in cases of need. I have received the money and I give you my thanks. We are all even now in our accounts, and, if I am mistaken, you are to tell me. I have sent the 271/2 *baiocchis* to my niece for the account of De Victoriis. Pievetorina, for me, enjoys the greater consideration for several reasons.

If the sacred image of most holy Mary does not correspond to your desires, you will lack no opportunity of disposing of it, and I will take care of having another made at any word you may send me.

You have probably received the trimming for the vestment. I do not have any lining material. You will have to find a remedy for that in the area there. I am writing to Rimini that you are leaving all of your property in the sacristy. I am aware of the good work that you are doing there also *in temporalibus, et Dominus retribuet pro me*.²⁴

I would say that the climate in Rimini is much too severe for your constitution; otherwise, any one of our Houses is at your disposal.

Have I forgotten anything? Pray for me without intermission, and in Jesus Christ, with all of my esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. I presumed that your baggage had already gotten to you.

2215

September 23, 1831
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, September 23, 1831²⁵

Esteemed Canon

I understand all that you tell me in regard to the money for the Carmelite Fathers, as well as about the 6 *Sc.* for Fr. Alderisio, that I have already paid, since up to now the information about the bill has not yet arrived to the correspondent. It will fall due on October 12 of the coming month; that is one reason why the letter should come on time.

I am consoled by the news concerning all the good work and I rejoice in the Lord. May he increase in us the zeal for his glory.

The Holy Father has deigned to accept the petition of the Bishop and the Commune of Nepi, for one of our foundations, in accordance with the stipulations set down by the Bishop, who submitted the petition, as well as by the Holy Father himself who wanted to have the entire plan of the Institute, including information about the vesture, etc. I am charged with seeing to its execution. Meanwhile, we are taking formal possession of the place and I hope that the opening will take place

²⁴ In temporalities, and the Lord will repay on my behalf.

²⁵ This letter, too, just as the preceding one, although written in Rome, was mailed from Albano, as can be seen in the postal markings.

by spring, so that we can take care of the things that will be needed.²⁶

As a consequence of the foregoing, I ask you again to abide by the Circular recently issued concerning the vesture of the Brothers. Without getting involved in anything else, be kind enough to obey, since this is the very will of God.

Within a short while, I shall send a Missionary who can conduct the principal sermons there. He will take care of the Visitation called for by the rule and will also conduct the Retreat for the Community there, also called for by the rule. I shall recall one of the men in residence there, but as to that I have not as yet made a prayerful decision.

I kiss your hands, and begging you for prayers, I am with full esteem, sending greetings to all,
Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

2216

September 24, 1831
Fr. Pietro Spina
Frosinone²⁷

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, September 24, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I am writing to Liparelli so that you can go to Vallecorsa where your presence is urgently needed. I shall write to you there again. In the meanwhile, take care of the matters in Sonnino and conclude the ones in Terracina, adhering to our most recent decisions. Whatever is not transportable should remain in Sonnino, informing Sig'ra Annunziata Cicconi, so that she can watch over it. Send me a notification for the General Archives of what remains there. On every object that does remain there, have them write: "property of the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood of O.L.J.C." With respect to the chasuble which is supposed to be sent to Rome, after informing the Maestre Pie of the difficulties, I know that Merlini is in letter-communication expecting to clear up every question. Now, if you find it urgent to go to Sonnino, do so. I want a termination to that situation.

Inform the entire Community that the Holy Father has answered the petition of the Bishop of Nepi and Sutri (Msgr. Basilici), desirous of having one of our foundations there, as follows: "*benigne annuit iuxta petita*".²⁸ It is going to take place in Nepi. Praised be God. Tell Fr. Raffaele to have a triduum in church with the relic of St. Francis in thanksgiving. It will not be opened, however, until all

²⁶ "Msgr. Anselmo Basilici, Bishop of Sutri and Nepi, eager to have a Mission House, discussed the matter with the Servant of God. Later, a Papal Rescript was obtained, issued by the Sacred Congregation of Good Government, dated August 31, 1831. The Servant of God took possession of the place when it was handed over to him by Msgr. Basilici, namely, the Church and Convent of S. Maria degli Angeli, on November 16, of the above mentioned year" (thus says Merlini in Pr.Ord.Alb., Vol. II, f, 1002).

²⁷ The posterior half-sheet for this letter, upon which is written the address that is re-copied here, was found in the Cart. d'Arch. n. 3, fasc 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. n. 368, October 13, 1831, it has now been restored to the place which is proper to it, that is, in Vol. II of the originals of the Founder, alongside the letter from which it had been severed.

²⁸ He kindly consented in accordance with the petition.

preparations have been completed.²⁹

I am writing this letter after having written to Liparelli. So that you will not have to return, supply them with all the most accurate instructions for completing things there in Frosinone, in particular those most needful and urgent; write to me, and finish up everything. But, do not have them do anything without first sending me a detailed description as well as the cost involved, so that I can make adjustments. Wind up matters, too, with Deodato who, I think, is not supposed to get etc.

I am, etc.³⁰

G. C. d. B.

2217

September 27, 1831

Luigi Fuschi Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

With regard to the privilege of the Divine Blood, let us, indeed, be content with what has been obtained. It is a difficult thing for Cardinal Pacca (very much in love with our Society) to change the calendar. What is a source of consolation for me is, to be sure, the Oratory. God sheds immense blessings on this very holy work! It will always be a mystical fount of heavenly blessings.

With respect to one of our foundations there, *utinam!*³¹ ... Prayers.

To your charity, I recommend the collecting in Sermoneta of the sum, if I am not mistaken, of 15 scudi. With esteem and gratitude, consider me to be invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome September 27, 1831

2218

September 27, 1831

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Raffaele

I am sending the cloth which costs 13,50 *scudi*. If it does not meet with your satisfaction, tell me, and I will check to see whether the merchant will take it back. However, I have been told by people who know that it is very, very good.

After subtracting eight *scudi*, five *scudi* will be left over for balancing out the Masses (not counting the 50 *baiocchi*). So, you are to celebrate 25 Masses and we shall then be even. On a separate sheet, you are to make a notification of 16 of them; if you can, celebrate these 16 at a

²⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Nepi (Opening of House)

³⁰ The outer half-sheet for this letter seems to be lacking a good third. In the torn part, above the address, one notices a postscript written by the Saint, but only the initial letters of four lines are visible. It is impossible to surmise their content.

³¹ Would that ...

privileged altar, attaching to the notification *cum altari privilegiato*.³² The remaining number of the 25, noted on another sheet, you may say wherever you wish. These latter should be taken care of first, and then the other 16. All of them should be said as soon as possible. Write and let me know whether this is all right; or, let me know if I am wrong: I am to look into the matter of a painting of St. Xavier for Grutti; is that not true? Writing in a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

September 27³³

2219

September 29, 1831

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 29, 1831

Dearest Canon

In reply to your most appreciated letter, the Retreat will begin on November tenth. Since it is a Retreat, eight days of encouragement to do good work will be sufficient. In that way, too, I shall have the opportunity of returning to Albano in time for the Retreat that we have, as called for by our Rule.

I now submit two things for your wise consideration. First, since this is a question of a public Retreat and a different number of young people involved, I find it indispensable that we have two Missionaries, that is, a companion and myself. Thus, with respect to confessions, the people will be given satisfactory service, if not for all, which is something that does not fail to occur, at least for a good number of them. Second, since you are interested in reviving the good work done by the pious organizations, it would be extremely useful to have a Retreat for the clergy at the same time, setting up the association of the Apostles. More about this at a later time. You understand me.

With regard to the matters referred to up to now, two difficulties arise. First, the question of lodging; we take care of this by my asking you to contact either the Scolopi or the Conventual Fathers. Perhaps, the Conventuals will have more rooms available and it would be a more accessible place. You know what is best, if they should not have beds available, then check with the leading families who would have the means of providing this. Second, the question of expenses. In this regard, I shall supply and, on my own, provide for the food. You are to take care of our trip there and our departure, that is, from Frosinone to Alatri and from Alatri to Frosinone. Here, too, who knows, there may be someone who will cover this so that it will not be our own expense. As for the blessing on Friday, the Chapter should take care of that. This is all.

Meditate for a while on all this at the foot of the Crucifix. One conference per day will be sufficient for the Clergy, and that will be precisely after the choir service in the morning. You are to select some little church that is free and convenient, for the atmosphere of a church is much more conducive to soulful recollection. Perhaps the bishop's chapel would be adequate, as long as it is free

³² With a privileged altar.

³³ The year is 1831 (cfr. the letter to this same person dated October 1, 1831 and the reference to the painting for Grutti.

of outsiders. I point out that I intend to deal confidentially with you so that, if God so inspires you, you will produce, as your own, the above-described procedures, and I am totally ready to do whatever you direct and, if you wish, to carry out the plans that you proposed in your recent letter. If necessary, but without the extraordinary visitation because of the lack of actual time, there could be a Retreat for the nuns, conducted by the companion whom I will bring along, selected as one very apt for this work. Then, too, every night the Oratory would be in operation. Note that since I will be staying at a convent, the penitents would be able to come more freely; but, even in this regard, one could make other arrangements using some other method, if necessary.

With regard to Guarcino, my ability to go there or not in person will be dependent on the time that they set. Otherwise, I will send another of our companions, and in that area, one Missionary along with a Brother-in-service will be quite adequate, since the situation is quite different. If they choose to have two come, that can be arranged for them also. The package of the books and devotions for your usage is all ready.

I spoke of the Retreat for the nuns, apart from the extraordinary visitation, since at times the one is kept apart from the other, at times they are done together. As for the clergy Retreat, I would invite also those in the subdiaconate progressively on their way to the diaconate and priesthood. If they would like to attend, and if it is customary, the Regulars could also be invited. For the younger clergy, separate conferences can be given by my companion. All will be able to take part in the meditation conducted at the public Retreat after the noon meal. The benefits of the Retreat can be extended likewise to the seminary, sharing in the procedures mentioned here. I find in all this a quite notable good work for the glory of God. In the Divine Heart, where we must see each other often, I remain

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

2220

September 29, 1831
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 29³⁴

Very reverend Mother

What will you say because of my delay? I have simply lacked the time, and not the will; I can assure you that I always keep in mind the interests of your soul in its relationship to the glory of God whom we serve.

I view your soul like a ship that is out on the high seas, loaded down with precious cargo. Contrary winds will not be lacking and pirates, who represent the enemies of everything good, would like to ravage the loot. But we would be wronging Jesus, present on the ship, if we were not to put our trust in him. *Quid timetis, modicae fidei?*³⁵ Jesus permits storms and tempests, but he does so to

³⁴ The year is 1831 as can be noted from a notation made, perhaps, by the addressee of this letter.

³⁵ Thy are you afraid, O you of little faith?

render us strong in the exercise of faith, of hope, of charity. Courage! Courage! Your soul is in good shape.

However, your confessions should be shorter, not agitated, filled, indeed, with sorrow, but also thoroughly sprinkled with sweetness and gentleness. After that, you will receive the Divine Blood, and oh what a comfort that will be for you! I recognize that, under the aspect of doing good, the devil at times assails you. But be strong of soul and generous, and say: "May Jesus live in my heart, for with his grace, I can do all things: "*Omnia possum in eo qui me confortat*".³⁶

Do not fail to communicate to me whatever God manifests to you so that I, with heartfelt humility and as one who ardently loves him, will be able to recognize what God wills and what is not of God. Or, also, that it is according to one's intentions and not according to one's achievements; or, whether he does not will something or wishes a delay in its being done. In the most lovable Heart of Jesus, I remain, in the meantime, as

*Suo infimo servo*³⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2221

September 29, 1831

Fr. Luigi Cocci Grutti

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father

I am most obliged to you for your recent very kind letter. Let us, indeed, give thanks to God for every blessing and let us mutually pray for perseverance.

In regard to your vocation, here is what I think. With reference to the question of health, one works *juxta vires*,³⁸ and it is not necessary that each and every Missionary go out on Mission work. Even by staying in our House, one takes part in the good work being done, adhering to our regulations, etc.. Also, the position as pastor can be proportionately applied. According to our memorandum, you will embrace those branches of the ministry that are proportionate to you; this will include using the power of your voice. In short, even though one may be an individual, in general, one is able to do what he can. Finally, with a bit of effort and through prayer, you will, in an orderly fashion, follow in the pathway laid out for you by providence, and, at the foot of the Crucifix, make your decision as you would if it were at the final, great moment of your life. In my wretchedness, I shall pray for whatever your needs may be; and, if God were to provide me with the opportunity of slipping off to S. Felice (something which is quite difficult, however, at least for now), I would do just that, in order to renew the sentiments of our long-standing love in Jesus Christ Crucified.

With regard to the image of our great Xavier, if you are not disturbed by the expense of two *doppie*, I will look into this for you, including, it is understood, the painting. I would also see that the frame is gilded in good gold, and thus the whole project would be completed. If you want to spend less, the gilding in good gold of the frame does not have to be done. As you wish, you make your

³⁶ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

³⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

³⁸ According to one's strength.

decisions on these matters.

Return my warm greetings to the excellent Canon Girolami. My dearest Father Luigi, pray for me and for our Society, as well as for the new foundation that is underway in the city of Nepi. With all my affection and esteem, I remain invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 29, 1831

2222

September 30, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Frosinone per Vallecora

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Rome, September 30, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

In the first place, how is your health? I hope that it is better, and I am praying wholeheartedly to the Lord.

I have sent you quickly to Vallecora so that Fr. Giovanni Merlini's plans can be executed well; likewise, that you could visit the place and do whatever good is possible along this line. When Merlini will be in Frosinone for the Lenten series, he will be able to check the building, etc., at that time. Meanwhile, since there is no one else but you with that type of experience, it is urgent that you help out, too, with the project in Vallecora, with Santarelli's approval.³⁹

After Santarelli completes his trip to Gaeta and has returned to his place of residence, you are to go to Frosinone and take care of finalizing those things that you specifically mentioned to me as necessary,⁴⁰ concluding also the agreements with Deodato. In reference to him, write to Fr. Biagio and ask him for his opinion. It seems to me that he said that Deodato should get nothing. Furthermore, we have no other obligation than to adhere to what is stipulated, obligatory, due in conscience. You cannot imagine how many things one has to keep track of in his mind.⁴¹

While the things that you direct are in progress in Vallecora, without any further word from me, you are to go to Frosinone. If you should find someone in Frosinone who is capable of overseeing the work and carrying it out properly, deputize him so that you can return to your place of residence in Sermoneta.⁴² The project in Frosinone is coming to a conclusion, and you are to seek out for me the best possible and the most just, economic measures, especially encouraging the Fratelli to help out in whatever way they can. If Morandi, who donated the lime, is the father of Orazio, you could possibly work out something with him as a discount from what he would owe for his son's room and board. Write to me about whatever arrangements you make for our own records.

I conclude: since I see no urgency for your presence now in Vallecora, speed things up in

³⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Vallecora (Mission House)

⁴⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Frosinone, work underway.

⁴¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Deodato, or Adeodato Avanzini

⁴² Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta, Return to House .

Frosinone, adhering more or less with the plan as you described it to me. In the meantime, let us continue to pray.

However, you are not to think that you are excused from helping out in Sermoneta. Rather, if Santarelli should be delayed in his return from his trip to Gaeta, and you realize that you would have the possibility of leaving Vallecorsa, hasten to Frosinone, but, always keeping me informed, so that you can be on hand in Sermoneta for the handling of the lime kiln and other necessary matters.

With reference to these things, as I continue writing now in a confused manner, if it should become necessary to send someone to assist Santarelli and stay on there as a substitute while he is absent on his trip to Gaeta, I shall send someone as soon as I receive any kind of notice. Hence, you shall have two permanent residences, respectively, depending on the needs as well as whatever directions I may give: Sermoneta and Vallecorsa. Because of the construction work being done, it is advisable that you make yourself available, *donec, etc.*⁴³ Your reply should clarify this whole situation.

I would like to know (since I have forgotten) how many beds are available there and how many altogether can be accommodated in the place, for, at the time when the Visitation takes place, since they are being held this year, we can make additions etc., in accordance with the needs. I urge cleanliness in the beds, something that must be emphasized again, especially before the arrival of summer. Give this information to Santarelli, and if it is necessary, they should eventually be painted white, etc. That is all for now. Write to Castelforte and let me know what the results are; and, if the matter dealing with the resident student from Fondi⁴⁴ with regard to what he has in Sermoneta is not settled, write and let me know.

Advise me as to when your presence in Vallecorsa will be or not be required; likewise, if the management of things in Sermoneta can be committed to another of our men, then, in that case, you could be a greater assistance in the construction projects underway and experience less inconvenience. Instruct me clearly and in detail.

G. C. d. B.

2223

September 30, 1831
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, September 30⁴⁵

Dear Camillo

Through the mail you will be receiving a package containing 100 *scudi* addressed to you. From this amount you are to take your payment to the sum of 48,31 *scudi* according to my account which you can re-check. Please do me the big favor of seeing that 48,90 *scudi* get to Monsignor Bonanni, bishop of Norcia, since they belong to him; he has already been informed of your kindness. The remaining amount could be used in purchasing a bit of red cloth, sufficient for covering a kneeler

⁴³ Until, etc.

⁴⁴ Massarella, Giovanni, Cf. Additional Biographical Data

⁴⁵ The year is 1831 as is seen in a notation made, perhaps, by the addressee himself.

in our church in Albano where we have a cardinal-bishop who frequently comes to our church whenever he is here in residence. I would like it to be rather wide; it can then be used for any service. I presume that this can be obtained in Matelica at a good bargain; however, if the cost is not a very, very reasonable one, then hold off on this and we will take care of it later on.

Is Father Bufera in good health? Give him my regards and recommend me to his prayers. Do the same for the good Canon Tarulli and remind him that he must never fail to preach on the Divine Blood during the Lenten series. I am consoled to learn that your daughter has entered the monastery. Tell her that she should always remember me in her prayers and that she should be very deeply devoted to the Divine Blood. Oh how many are the obligations that I have to you? *Dominus retribuet.*⁴⁶ With esteem, I remain constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Up to now, the coachman has not arrived.

2224

October 1, 1831
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 1, 1831

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

I shall take care of the painting for Grutti: have no doubt about this. May God evermore increase in all of us zeal for his glory, and may we always continue heaping up merits for heaven. I understand all that you mentioned to me and everything is all right.

With regard to the 50 *baiocchi* which you, with charity, intend to donate for the benefit of the Institute which is so needy, have no doubt about this, you are to give them, in my name, to Bartolomeo who will then use them for paying expenses, etc., etc.. Pray for me who, with particular esteem and affection, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2225

October 1, 1831
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 1, 1831

Very reverend Mother

From what I have noticed, the Mission is being arranged in Terracina. Up to now, nothing has

⁴⁶ The Lord will repay.

come from Piperno in this regard. I wanted to inform you so that you can support the situation by your prayers and also give encouragement for it.

In the meanwhile, do not cease insisting that on Fridays in the cathedral they recite our Chaplet, especially for our current needs.

I forgot to inform you that the book that you thought was a work of mine, is not so.

Where does Monsignor Grati reside now?

At times, my delay in sending you a reply is due to inability and, indeed, not to what the devil has put into your mind.

As for your soul, I say that it is proceeding correctly and I beg you to remain tranquil. When a soul begins to realize that there is still a long way to travel, that does not mean to say that it has not progressed up to now. So, be courageous.

With reference to the printed card of which you speak, if I do not have a copy of it, I do not know what to say. I am consoled that it may be useful because of the urgencies of the times. You might do me the favor of making a copy for me. I am glad to hear that God is sending another new nun-candidate there. May the Lord increase fervor for his glory and for the welfare of the community there.

Let us not fail to be zealous for our devotion and let us cooperate, to the extent possible for us, in doing this good work. What do you say about our times? Are you praying for our Institute? Soon, I believe, there will be a new foundation for us. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2226

October 3, 1831
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 3, 1831

Dear Camillo

Oh how I have delayed in sending you a reply. But, I simply was unable to do so. Tell me, now, am I to give Canon Visconti the money for the Chaplets that I have received? Specify once again the cost.

Let me know whether the congregation of the women wishes to be aggregated. There is nothing that obliges in conscience; its spirit is quite similar to those associations that we set up when we conduct Missions. If there will be an expense involved for the aggregation, I am unable to say. At any rate, in November.

Please inform the teacher, whom you mentioned and who would like to become a nun, that I do not know how I can be of help for her welfare. If we wish to ask for the dowry, the petition is to be repeated, and in order to facilitate things, it would be a good idea to have a statement from the monastery that will be accepting her. In the meantime, she is to continue working in her career and not be doubtful about the will of God.

Pray a lot for me, dear Camillo; with esteem and very special affection in Jesus Christ, I

remain

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

2227

October 4, 1831
 Fr. Innocenzo Betti
 Benevento

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

With this most humble letter of mine I wish to advise you that in the reassignment of our men during the Visitations that are presently underway, Fr. Carlo Gazzola⁴⁷ will have to transfer to the House at Rimini along with Brother Sante Angelini, whenever he is capable of traveling.

I will be writing about this matter in more detail to Fr. Carlo to determine his mode of travel which, with many blessings of God, he will soon undertake. I ask you to communicate this information to him. Fr. Pietro De Victoriis will come there to hold the Visitation called for by the Rule. He will remain there in residence with those duties which I will communicate later on. If God should grant us life, in another Visitation you shall be selected for other responsibilities that the Lord may desire to place on your shoulders.

Pray a lot for me and consider me constantly as
 Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

⁴⁸ *G. C. del Bufalo*
 M. Ap.

Rome, October 4, 1831

2228

October 11, 1831
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 11, 1831

Venerable Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your appreciated letter. First of all, whatever I expressed to you was entirely *in communicacione spiritus*,⁴⁹ considering carefully the greater glory of God to whom we must cling in our pursuit of the knowledge of the saints. Therefore, I grasp all that you were pleased to say to me and I have nothing more to add. With regard to the association of the apostles, referred to so effectively in the recent synod by his Eminence, the Cardinal-bishop of Ancona, I have not lost hope, trusting in God, that it will be effected successfully. Two things, however. A Retreat each year

⁴⁷ Cfr. biographical section: Gazzola.

⁴⁸ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Betti (transfer of Gazzola)

⁴⁹ In the communication of the spirit.

for the clergy, and the accustoming of the clerics already as young men to this association, even requiring them to make a pledge at ordination etc. etc. The rule is very, very beautiful. I feel confident that Canon Butti, safeguarding respect for all others, will see to its implantation. In the meantime, prayers.

Despite your many concerns I am leaving this matter of the public Retreat for the people up to you to decide whether it should begin at least on the festive day of November 13th so that it can be completed on Sunday the 20th of November. Then, on the 21st, I shall depart immediately for our own Retreat, called for by our rule. Be kind enough to send me a prompt reply through the mails. As for your residence and everything else, all is perfectly good. If you would like to set a precise time, you are free to do that. Keep in touch with Monsignor.

You will be receiving 10 copies of a little work on communion produced by a Cistercian monk. For this, I would ask you for a few Masses to be celebrated for me after the ones you presently have. If you do not care to have these copies, although they are quite beneficial, please send them back to me, addressing them to me in Frosinone. I kiss your hands. Pray a lot for me. With particular esteem and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2229

October 11, 1831
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

It is necessary that I explain to your most worthy person the reason for which, in dealing with the preliminaries to the settlement of the Lord's Society in Macerata Feltria, I have been dealing with the archdeacon. Indeed, by his keeping your most illustrious and reverend lordship completely informed, I would be sparing you some worry. Hence it was really a respectful concern for you whom I esteem greatly and love in the Lord. So, now that I have been able to keep myself from being too much of a bother to you through direct correspondence by mail, it is with pleasure that I, with this letter, inform you that I have again submitted the petition to his Eminence Frasoni and you will be receiving the new document directly. In it, you will notice that the Holy Father grants fully to you every faculty for the installation of our Society.

In order that you might become more acquainted with the ways that God has laid out for our Institute, please read the enclosed matter. It will stimulate, even more, your exceedingly ardent zeal towards projects leading to the glory of the Lord. Having read this memorandum concerning Nepi, you would be doing me a great favor if you would send it back to my confreres in Rimini. Finally, upon your giving the word, I shall send the deputized Missionary for the installation of the new House. He will bear a proper letter of proxy. I have the strong desire of coming in person to

⁵⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Romagna, whenever it may please God. I kiss your hands, and with the fullness of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 11, 1831

P. S. If it is agreeable to you, with the income for the Lenten preaching, it would be a good idea to substitute a Mission which will build up the fervor etc. of the people of Macerata Feltria.

2230

Middle of October 1831

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Albano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Raffaele⁵¹

Please do me the big favor (asking Father Camillo for the paper) of copying in legible handwriting the book that I am sending, while keeping this matter for the time-being to yourself. As soon as this work is completed, send it in its entirety to me. See that nothing is harmed and I trust in your diligence. Please excuse the inconvenience that I am causing you for the glory of God.

I recommend to you, in a special way, the work of the Oratory. With esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

I ask that the book that is to be copied be handled very carefully so that it can be preserved.

2231

October 13, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Vallecorsa⁵²

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Rome, October 13, 1831

Fr. Antonio has sent your letter on to me. As you point out, in addition to the ministry and other matters of spirit and study, you have three responsibilities. The first, the construction work in Vallecorsa: the main objective is to bring it to completion, at least in that part which is to provide us

⁵¹ This letter, very probably, should be dated somewhere around the middle of October, 1831 (cfr. the letter to this same person on October 25, 1831, in which mention is made that the copying of the book has already been completed).

⁵² *The posterior half-sheet* for this letter, which bears the address and three postscripts alongside it, plus another on the inside, was found out of place in Volume VII of the originals, in f. 80. After accurate investigation, it was ascertained that it belonged to this letter which, for reasons that escape us, was torn (but fortunately later on recovered and inserted in Vol. VII). So, we have removed it from that Volume and placed it here in its proper location, that is, here in Vol. II of the originals, f. 305 bis. In reference to other half-sheets that were out of place, cfr. footnote to Lett. n. 369, October 15, 1831.

shelter and allow us to leave the Hospice.⁵³ In that way, there will be no reason for asking for extensions of time in the payment of the rent, even though the Commune ultimately, by not having to bear the expense of maintaining the Church of S. Antonio, was not burdened, it seems to me, by that small rental fee. However, I do not know how the Commune will allocate the funds of the benefice with respect to our rental payments. The second responsibility is that of Sermoneta; the third, Frosinone. I believe that this last one will not demand too much of your time.

So, keep moving ahead with the plan that you presented to Liparelli and you will be at liberty to go wherever we have already agreed upon for those established periods. Always keep me informed, for example, that you are going to Frosinone, etc. and that will be necessary only for reasons of correspondence. Furthermore, I repeat, go to those areas where the interests of the Society are calling you. You already know that Merlini will be conducting the Lenten series in Frosinone. At that time, you will be able to consult with him as to the construction in Vallecorsa, as you feel it necessary.⁵⁴

I would like you to continue having faculties in all three Houses, etc. These are just that many more ways in which the crown of your merits will increase. So, your permanent place of residence will be Sermoneta; but, I have had Liparelli resume the position as Superior so that the House there would not be deprived of direction both with regard to the interior order as well as the economic. Therefore, instruct Liparelli, who (during vacation time) is residing in Albano, on all that is required. Make provision through your correspondence for all urgent matters. Once things at Frosinone are expedited, you will go from Sermoneta to Vallecorsa as often as feasible. I am to be appraised *ut plurimum*.⁵⁵ In Sermoneta I have made arrangements: Liparelli will take care of all the surplus chores, with your knowledge. Furthermore, I am considering placing a third man in Vallecorsa, as soon as I can. In addition to that, during Lent, the Lenten preacher will be there etc. I conclude: the building projects at Vallecorsa and Sermoneta require your special attention, keeping in contact with me, etc.

In the meantime, taking everything together, what expenses will we have in Frosinone, even after encouraging the Fratelli, etc.?⁵⁶ With regard to the lime from Morandi, if he is Orazio's father, possibly you could negotiate a deal with him, basing it on the room and board for his son as a scale. In Vallecorsa everything will be settled during the Visitation called for by the rule. Meanwhile make yourself available, according to the regulations, for whatever good you can do, keeping Santarelli informed in the usual Congressi, for during these building projects you shall have a double residency: the most important one, that of Vallecorsa, since it is more needful etc.; the other, Sermoneta.

Whatever and whenever you are able to provide from your own funds, apply it to wherever the Lord inspires you.⁵⁷ If I do not make myself clear on any point, please ask questions.

Have them maintain the observance of the rule: at present, the Conferences are not being held. Pray for me who constantly am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁵³ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Vallecorsa (Hospice)

⁵⁴ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Merlini

⁵⁵ That the most.

⁵⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Encouraging the Fratelli.

⁵⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and trivia: Assisting the Institute (Frosinone)

M. Ap.

Look after Sermoneta, in case there should be something that would not admit of delay with regard to the water.⁵⁸ Whatever takes place until your arrival there, let it be so, etc.

(in the middle of the third page of the original, one reads:)

You probably know that the doctor has advised a change of climate for Fr. Gennaro. This is the reason for the transfers, to my regret.

(on the fourth page of the original, to the right and left of the address, the following postscripts can be read:)

I urge you to complete the matters dealing with Sonnino and Terracina,⁵⁹ let me know what you think. Whatever is not transportable should be left there under guard with specific directives. V.g., the morta⁶⁰ from Terracina should always be kept guarded for the Institute, and a record kept in the General Archives in Albano. Make a note of where things that are not transportable can be found, etc.

Then, let me know what has transpired in Sermoneta, the same for Frosinone and Vallecorsa, indicating what is urgent. With regard to De Rossi, inform the House whether Masses are to be said, etc., etc..

Francesco will return as soon as possible from Lenola with the little burro. He should stop off in Sermoneta, or there, to see if there are further directions from me. Write to me about this immediately.

2232

October 15, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 15, 1831

Venerable Camillo

In the prayer to the Divine Blood found in the edition put out by that printing company, it is necessary to point out that a few words are missing: "*Oh Sangue Preziosissimo di Vita eterna mercede e riscatto di tutto l'universo, bevanda, e lavacro delle anime nostre*". Please note this and observe the change so that you can inform the printer.

Before the weather begins to worsen, and, when you have the opportunity, would you be so kind as to send me six reams of paper at the one *scudo* price; a ream of paper similar to the one on which I am writing this letter; another ream of the longer sheets for matters of import and, finally, a half-ream of paper that is not cut, that is, the ordinary type used for sending packages etc. Also, send me the bill.

⁵⁸ In all probability this is a reference to certain work that had to be done urgently *on a small cistern* or "*pozzo da lavatoio*" in the garden. It no longer held water. It was decided, as a matter of fact, to have it repaired as soon as possible and, by means of lengthening a tinsplate conduit, to try to increase the collecting of rain water in order to get it working again. The managing of this job was entrusted to D. Pietro Spina in the Congressus of August 7, 1831, in Sermoneta.

⁵⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sonnino (Closing of House) Sonnino and Terracina.

⁶⁰ *Mortale*, and in the letter of October 15 (n. 369), *mortaro*: these are forms of the Roman dialect for saying *mortaio*, that is, a stone or metal container for pounding and reducing drugs and other substances to a powder form.

I understand everything that you wrote in your recent letter. I received the collars etc. and I paid for the delivery. Always very obliged to you, with respectful esteem, gratitude and affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. The money for Monsignor Bonanni as well as for our own men in Pievetorina, could be forwarded, using a safe method, while urging the greatest possible haste in its *trasporto* or a better word, its *trasmissione*.

2233

October 15, 1831

Fr. Carlo Gazola

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 15, 1831

Most esteemed Father Carlo

Here I am sending a reply to your most esteemed letter. The meditation for December 3rd can be from the Manna written by Segneri, the letters of Xavier, the life of St. Vincent de Paul and of St. Philip Neri. This is an answer to what you were pleased to submit to my reflections.

The opinions of Canon Betti are only confused ideas suggested by the devil. If they are not recognized as such today, one day they will be. His direction is something entirely new and something never used before. In sending him to Benevento, I never specified any particular time period. New things, unforeseen by me, two new foundations which are underway, with the rescripts for them already issued; the urgency of joining the new ones to the old; the changing of the voices to be heard in the execution of our ministries; all of these are the reasons for seeking to have that balance which we must achieve. I would have liked always to be obedient, no matter whom God placed at the direction of the Institute, rather than the method that is presently becoming more general in Benevento. Enough said; for the time-being, remain there where you are.

Pray for me; with complete affection and esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. When you see Domenico Antonio Mosti, please give him my warm greetings.

2234

October 15, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Frosinone per Vallecora⁶¹

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

⁶¹Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Spina, Fr. Pietro (Letters)

I thank God for your health. In regard to the faculty that Santarelli would like to have for enrolling people in the society of the Immaculate, tell him to remind me about that in November. As for the mason workers, have them remember that our men gave advance payments on their own, and surely not with my knowledge.

In reference to Sermoneta, let us put it off, as I have written to Liparelli. Therefore, give him instructions only about those matters that are most urgent and will not admit delay, in addition to the necessary instructions dealing with all the other economical problems, collections, etc. Inclusive, also, remember the proper procedure concerning the receipt of the 15 Sc. from the Commune,⁶² etc.

In regard to Frosinone, I would say: go there whenever you can, as long as the weather does not impede you, etc. Whatever you can accomplish there, do it. Whatever is immediately urgent, do on your own, or have it done quickly. And, are you not going to mention a word to me about the expenses, at least approximately? I conclude: ut plurimum⁶³ your place of residence is Vallecorsa where the situation is one that is not easily figured out and it requires your skill and surveillance so as not to lose out on the work that has been done.

With reference to Sonnino, check with the companions in Frosinone. Work it out, and make the distribution according to what I set up with you, making a copy of whatever is not transportable and sending a copy to me for the General Archives. Remember to wind up matters dealing with the properties of Terracina. Now that Brother Andrea is ill, I just do not know whom I am to send there. Referring now to Sermoneta, I cannot at the present time have Liparelli return to Frosinone.

With Brandimarte directing, provide also the lime and *pozzuolana* for Frosinone, and let me know what is needed. That knowledge is most necessary for me, for I cannot tell you how many things are weighing down upon me. *Veritatem dico et non mentior.*⁶⁴ Indicate to the father of Orazio, from whom I have collected with difficulty only the smallest amount of money for the maintenance of his son, that I consider it a good idea that the lime should be paid for by discounting it against what he owes for room and board for his son.⁶⁵ It is better to handle it in this way rather than to operate in any other fashion, even if he should stipulate the highest price. Let me know what you work out with him. Also, give me the results of your negotiations with Deodata, after you have first gotten Fr. Biagio's reaction.

Write to Iannacone⁶⁶ to find out whether he will donate the mattress, as he works it out with his relatives. Santarelli could look into it as he makes his rounds through Gaeta.

In spite of the smoke, etc., it is necessary to have the beds aired out. You should make an effort, through collections and words of encouragement, to increase the number of beds, and in particular, mattresses, keeping in mind also the Mission, etc.

As for the Mission, I shall do everything possible to be there in person, beginning it on Ash Wednesday. In the meantime, I have definitely contacted De Victoriis, who was most cooperative. He will conduct the remainder of the Lenten series. You will note that this is a great good, even though it will require an output of money. Tell Santarelli that, now that De Victoriis has already received my

⁶² The 15 Sc. From the Commune. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Vallecorsa (Allotment from Commune)

⁶³ That the most.

⁶⁴ I speak the truth and I do not lie.

⁶⁵ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Discount for room and board.

⁶⁶ Cf. Additional biographical Data: Iannacone, or better, Annacone, Vincenzo

letter, he should assure the Bishop that this excellent worker will continue the Lenten series, after the Mission. For the sake of economy of expenses, see that Santarelli gets every faculty, blessings, etc. etc., otherwise the trip to Gaeta for the Missionaries will bring on new expenses, in addition to the cautions that are already in force for anyone making trips there.⁶⁷ You understand me. Have no doubt that the companions will be excellent and, I repeat, I shall do all I can to be there in person.⁶⁸

I am waiting for the report from Castelforte. Is the mortar from Terracina needed there or in Frosinone? If it is urgent for Vallecorsa, let them keep it there, making a notation in the inventory. I urge the greatest diligence, just as I do for whatever pertains to the archives and documents. Encourage Ricci not to give up on his vocation.

Your letters, as well as letters from others, do not weary me. Rather, they give me a way of observing the good that God continues to bring about. Pray a great deal for me. Tell Marcello that in our Retreat he shall be the caretaker and the others in Frosinone will look after the collections. During the Christmas celebrations, you will handle them, following the directions that I shall give to you.

Let us repose in the Divine Heart, where I am constantly

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(the following postscript is located in the left-hand margin of the first page of the original:)

P. S. If any Vallecorsan should be coming to Rome, send him to me.

2235

October 18, 1831

Fr. Betti

Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, October 18, 1836⁶⁹

Esteemed Canon

With regard to the Carmelites, if you tell me what payments have been collected up to now, I will put them to your account for our greater convenience. To date, we have not been able to collect on the promissory note since they say that no money has come in from Benevento, unless it is just coming in now.

I am awaiting the settlement of our accounts.

I shall send the letters to Fr. Alderisio.

As for Fr. Cotino,⁷⁰ everything is going along well. I ask only that the dimissorials arrive in

⁶⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cautions in traveling.

⁶⁸ The Mission that he mentions here was scheduled for Vallecorsa, and, as a matter of fact, was conducted on the scheduled date (the beginning of Lent of 1832). However, despite all his goodwill, the Saint was unable to participate personally in it. Neither was Pietro De Victoriis there, although he had already been assigned to the ministry. He had become more or less seriously ill in December of 1831 and even though he recovered somewhat, the Saint did not want to force him to undertake such a heavy ministry. Even more so, because he had just directed the Mission in Ariccia at the end of January, "one that came up unexpectedly". He sent him, however, to preach Lent in Frosinone and assigned Fr. Biagio Valentini to the direction of that Mission in Vallecorsa, as well as to continue on with the Lenten series there.

⁶⁹ This letter, too, written in Rome, was mailed from Albano, as the postal markings indicate.

good time and that they include the clause that, should the Archbishop of Spoleto be impeded, the aforementioned young man could be ordained by someone else, etc.

With reference to the Institute, your principles of action are altogether novel. The day will come when the Lord *revelabit abscondita tenebrarum*.⁷¹

The Visitations are being held in our Houses, observing the usual manner that has been maintained from the very beginning. Valid reasons require me to order the Visitation there. Meanwhile, prayers.

The vesture of the Brothers must be in keeping with what has been prescribed in the recent Circular. From the very beginnings, the *Transunto* was only a plan for the Society. It contained the rules for Missions, Retreats, Houses of Studies, Pious Works, in addition to regulations for ourselves. Let us keep the rule, and humility will enable us to accept more. From the moment when the *Transunto* was written, one could see the urgency for a habit for the Brothers. Reasons of prudence delayed its fulfillment, but the desire for it continued. Not Cephas nor Apollo, but God has willed it to be so, a habit produced and copied from our own. Religious houses are different from private homes, and one cannot conceive of an Institute with people wearing round hats. You are not unaware that in many accidental things I would like, if only out of condescension, to be docile. But, since the Society has a canonical basis now, it is not within my power to alter the general requirements laid down by the Church. I have brought this to the attention of the Holy Father recently, and when our men welcomed him in Albano, he demonstrated his good pleasure.⁷²

Prayer and solid virtue will put the final touches on the Society. But you, in your failure to be obedient, are off the track. I pray, and indeed very much, that you will return to your duties. Become childlike in spirit, and you will be a saint. Otherwise, I am fearful for your perseverance in the Society. God is indeed making known in Benevento, in a very evident manner, what it means to act according to one's own designs. I am afraid that, because of the debts, that House will have to be held to a strict economy, though I cherish it on an equal basis with all the others. God no longer wishes the make use of your services in Benevento, and new circumstances compel me to retract any previous assurances that were given. Surely you can clearly understand my reasons.⁷³

With regard to Fr. Moscatelli, I shall mention incidentally that this is an old case and decided by you in your Visitation to Albano.

I kiss your hands: and, wishing you every blessing, I am and shall constantly be in the Cross of J.C., the only center of peace, (saying nothing at all of your second letter, which merits only the sacrifice of virtue, content as I am to fear nothing else than to offend God).

*Suo infimo in X'to Servo,*⁷⁴

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁷⁰ Cf. Additional Biographical Data; Alderisio and/or Cotiuno

⁷¹ He will reveal the dense darkness.

⁷² Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Gregory XVI to Albano, Visit of

⁷³ In spite of the intentions expressed here, Fr. Innocenzo Betti was never moved from the House at Benevento. The Saint realized the great good that he was doing there as well as the universal veneration shown to him by all those around him.

⁷⁴ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

2236

October 22, 1831
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 22, 1831

Venerable Canon

You will receive, or probably have already received, the package, that is, another packet of devotional booklets. Please celebrate 10 Masses according to my intention and then send me the notification with the greatest possible haste.

With regard to the Retreat, I confess this to be true that it would not give me any trouble at all to handle it along with the other things entrusted to my wretched being. However, I see greater fruit flowing during the final 10 days of Carnival time. And, under that heading of a sanctified Carnival dedicated to the most holy Sorrowful Mother Mary, I see in my mind's eye, I repeat, a greater fruitfulness. Please let me know whether you agree.

It is quite true that Monsignor Grati⁷⁵ wishes to have a Mission, but in Piperno. Whether this will include Terracina, I do not know up to now. It will take place, however, during the upcoming days around Christmas which is not so convenient for your involvement. Who knows, perhaps one day he will be coming up with us? *Potens est Deus.*⁷⁶ Prayers.

I kiss your hands. With esteem and affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

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

2237

October 22, 1831
Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Rimini

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 22, 1831⁷⁷

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

I am writing with a shortness of time and with bitterness in my soul. Being edified by your conduct, I limit myself now to the following items, having abandoned myself to God.

1. Remaining set is the departure of Father Beniamino with Giovanni Battista, and the Brother who became ill outside the House. He was supposed to have a short cloak made for himself; but now that he has been accepted, have him wear what he has and then I will figure things out with the Superior in Pievetorina.

2. Please send me by the current mail-service, copies of the letters from the bishop's office; in

⁷⁵ Msgr. Luigi Grati, apostolic visitator of the Diocese of Sezze, Priverno and Terracina.

⁷⁶ God is powerful.

⁷⁷ The year certainly is 1831 due to the reference made to the visitation of the Holy Father Gregory XVI to S. Paolo in Albano which occurred on October 15, 1831.

that way I can proceed with some basis and to the extent that I am able, entrusting my activities to God, etc. Let me know whether, in the other convents, there are troops, and keep me well-informed of everything in detail, working along with Canon Fontana etc. and with Father Isidoro so that I am kept aware of everything.

3. As soon as Manzi gets there, you will have what you spoke of, and in this matter, I will more conveniently handle it in another letter of mine.

4. Give me, well in detail, a report on the locale as it is now, for I imagine that you have gathered everything together that still belongs to us etc.

5. I shall be sending Gentilucci at the earliest possible moment to supply for Father Beniamino.

6. The other Brother, concerning whom you wrote to me, since he is fit for collecting alms, can do work in Campagna etc. Accept him and see that he has the papers necessary and winter clothing, including a short cloak and hold on to him there.⁷⁸

7. Provide catechetical instructions for the soldiers once a week and send me the name and family name of the commander of the troops there. I am

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. The new Brother whom I shall leave there for one year is to make the Retreat, called for by our rule (*hoc in casu*⁷⁹); in the meantime, instruct him vocally about what is urgent. He is to collect alms in an area where he is not known. You understand me.

So, let us set down the following: Luigi, plus the one from Brisichella and the new one make three of our alms collectors. Viola will remain as the cook for another year; the gate watch and interior jobs along with the care of the church will be divided between Alessandrino and Gentili, the decision being better made by you men in congressus. Let me know if this will work out and whether anything else is needed with reference to the Brothers. As for other matters, *ad alias*.⁸⁰

I conclude: May God bless copiously the House in Rimini which has been tried *in camino ignis*.⁸¹

With the trips of the ministry, six Brothers are not too many, and with circumstances being what they are, it would be great if we had ten. Indeed, I have the intention also of setting up a House of Studies there as soon as the opportunity arises, etc. ... It is God who will work wonders.

The Holy Father has paid a visit to S. Paolo in Albano and he was very, very pleased.

Alessandro will also remain another year.

2238

October 22, 1831
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

⁷⁸ Two lines follow which have been crossed out. They are illegible.

⁷⁹ This in case.

⁸⁰ For another time.

⁸¹ In the fiery furnace.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸²

Venerable Monsignor

His Eminence Cardinal Fransoni will submit once again your request, for in the new petition it states that, in case of failure on the part of the Institute (*quod absit*⁸³) or if that establishment should cease to be, then some other pious organization is to be substituted, keeping in mind the pleasure of the bishop, *pro tempore*.⁸⁴ In the first petition, the only thing permitted was a reactivation or a revival of the chaplaincies and of the chaplains. This is the reason why you are urged to be patient for another day or so about the rescript, which, with the grace of God and with your prayers and holy aspirations, I hope will be satisfactory to your wishes.

I kiss your hands. With esteem and profound respect, and in Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 22, 1831

2239

October 25, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Frosinone per Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Only a couple of lines in order to inform you that with the mule-driver from Frosinone I am sending all of the reports to Santarelli and to you. In all matters we will be in agreement.

I am, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 25 (1831)⁸⁵

(on the outer facing, alongside the address, we read)

They have done well in not selecting either De Victoriis or others for the Mission, etc. Communicate this to Santarelli.

2240

⁸² Christ loved us and washed us in his Blood.

⁸³ May it be absent.

⁸⁴ For the time being.

⁸⁵ The place of origin is given by the postal markings. The year is derived from the fact that in October of 1831 Fr. Spina was temporarily situated in Vallecorsa, with Fr. Nicola Santarelli as the Superior of the House. Preparations for the Mission were underway, a Mission that was held in Vallecorsa by Fr. Biagio Valentini and companions in the first months of 1832, beginning very probably on Ash Wednesday (cfr. Lett. n. 369, dated October 15, 1831. We ask the reader to forgive us if we point out another inaccuracy into which Fr. Giov. Merlini has fallen. He reconstructed the history of the first years of the House in Vallecorsa much later on and says that the Mission took place in Lent of 1831. However from the Founder's letter, cited above, and from other sources, the year involved turns out to be the following year, namely 1832.

October 25, 1831
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, October 25, 1831

Very reverend Father Raffaele

I received the book with the copy and I give you my deepest thanks. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁸⁶

The two Masses, to be celebrated in S. Lorenzo, have already been offered and the documents indicating the 2 *scudi* have been sent by me to S. Felice to Merlini. With regard to the painting of S. Xavier, I have written to the Father in Grutti, but I have not had any response as yet.

From your report, I notice that you have given the five paoli to Bartolomeo.

I shall make use of your services on other occasions, realizing the needs that exist. May God reunite us, one day, in his most blessed kingdom. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

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

P. S. a thousand thanks for the writings and the copies etc.

2241

October 26, 1831
Fr. Pietro Spina
Vallecorsa⁸⁷

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Rome, October 26, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I thank you wholeheartedly for the attention that you are giving to the projects. I never had any doubt about it.

In regard to the Benefice of S. Antonio,⁸⁸ it would be good for you to become acquainted with and understand what I have written to Santarelli. It is not expedient to allow such an undertaking to fail. We must handle our affairs with all due respect for others, certainly, but at the same time, in justice to ourselves, we must use our heads. In the meantime, step by step, copies of every document that has pertinence to this question should be sought and in that way, by deduction, we can arrive at a solid judgment. We are not negotiating for anything more than what conscience binds us to.

It is only right that the mason workers do the work they were paid to do. As for the servile

⁸⁶ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁸⁷ The posterior half-sheet for this letter, which bears the address to D. Pietro Spina that we reproduce here, was located in the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. after making the necessary investigation, it has been restored to its place in Vol. II of the Manuscripts alongside the letter from which it had been torn; it is assigned the number 307 bis. In this matter, cfr. footnote of Lett. n. 369, October 15, 1831.

⁸⁸ Cf. Hasparian History and Trivia: Vaallecorsa (Benefice of S., Antonio)

work on Sunday *a causa pia*,⁸⁹ I suppose that they have the Ordinary's permission. Fr. Calamita would know about that. If, during the building process, they should discover bones, check with Santarelli on what is to be done. Whenever necessary, keep in touch with Merlini, and in all matters between you and Santarelli, you are to make decisions through your Congressi.

With reference to the management of Sermoneta, instruct Liparelli in everything and for everything. Even when your short leaves are required, continue acting through your letter-writing, advising, etc. Hence, in all matter, it is urgent that you work along with him, repeating whatever you have written or said to Fr. Gennaro. Fr. Gennaro's state of health is the reason why you have this new opportunity to exercise your patience. I hereby inform you that Liparelli will go to Fumone on all Saints' Day to give the Retreat. It will last eight days and then he will return.

Since Fr. Gennaro has not answered as yet, I do not know what to say. Do not forget to write about Iannacone's mattress which could be put to good use there by making it a bit wider, keeping in mind also the Mission that is to take place beginning on Ash Wednesday.

In regard to the work in Frosinone, I hope that you economize as much as possible, since I cannot tell you often enough how many and of what sort are all the burdens that we have.

So, Francesco from Vallecorsa is to remain there, at least for the time being, with Marcello. Using the little burro, Gaetano Coppola is to go to Sermoneta. Since Coppola is a carpenter, if you would like to keep him there with Francesco, having the approval of Santarelli, then, Marcello should move to Sermoneta. Keep me informed as to the decisions made. If Marcello remains in Vallecorsa, he will be the caretaker at the time of our Retreat; otherwise, Francesco will be used.

It seems that I have nothing more to say. I am constantly

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2242

October 29, 1831
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹⁰

Venerable Monsignor

Here is the rescript which you wished to have. His most reverend Eminence Cardinal Fransone has spoken of everything with the Holy Father who was completely content. It was necessary to mention your successors in order to carry out the terms of the request. So, you must surely understand that the Institute would not be able to remain in Macerata *quasi amovibile ad nutum*.⁹¹ And, since the petition considers only the possibility of the extinction of our Society (*quod absit*⁹²), and thus it is necessary that in the act of installation there be a clear statement made that the property

⁸⁹ [From a pious cause.] Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Servile work on Sunday.

⁹⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his Blood.

⁹¹ As if removable at will.

⁹² May it be absent.

and the church are given to the Institute for Missions etc. etc. with such and such benefits, along with other conditions such as, etc., etc.. If the Institute were always to deal only with your sacred person, we would indeed all be very happy, for we already have had many, many indications of your religious affection for us. However, we must also provide for future events which the Lord keeps hidden away.

As soon as you wish to effect the canonical possession, I shall issue the document of proxy to the Missionary who will be its first superior. This man, however, will reside in Rimini and, for the time-being, will go to Macerata when the needs arise. First of all, it will be required to determine the allotment necessary for the welfare of the Institute. Later, the income from the first year, I would say, could be used in order to make one or the other small acquisition, and then continue on building up greater resources for the purpose of subsistence which will then assure stability. The House in Rimini has had to go out on begging tours in accordance with the direction of the now-deceased Monsignor Marchetti who founded it. However, the Institute is not and should not be ranked as a group of beggars. I write all of this as a communication of my ideas; otherwise, God knows how much I am eager to get the good work underway. Furthermore, since our Institute is *ad instar*⁹³ the Filippini Fathers, it is in a position to accept only those things that are compatible with its regulations, which you will soon be acquainted with. It is necessary that the Pastor forget the practice observed up to now with regard to chaplains. That is to say that he, along with the other priests of the place, will take care of the matters that pertain to parochial duties and the Institute will fulfill what is in keeping with its aims. You will be informed completely and in detail concerning our regulations so that you can give us your pastoral blessing. This is the method that we hold to in all of our foundations. In the meanwhile, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I have the honor of stating once again that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 29, 1831

P. S. If there should ever be, in the diocese, some other temporal means available for the support of our foundation, with the responsibility, *verbi grazia*, of the Institute providing a course of Retreats, this would surely be a help to the firm establishment of our Society. I shall be awaiting your comments.

2243

November 4, 1831

Mr. Caracci, Lawyer

Rome

Venerable Sir, Lawyer

The enclosed paper⁹⁴ is only a brief indication of the dispute that is going on between the Lateran Chapter and the church of S. Paolo in Albano. The most worthy Monsignor Vespignani has a much fuller knowledge of this matter. You could also consult his Eminence Cardinal Falzacappa as well as his Eminence Pacca. I ask for your mediation in this question, for the sake of pure justice.

⁹³ After the fashion of.

⁹⁴ Cfr. the following letter.

With profound respect, very kind sir, Lawyer, I have the honor to declare myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, November 4, 1831

2244

November 4, 1831

Lawyer Caracci

Rome

Information regarding
the Sanctuary of S. Paolo in Albano
and the income due to it

1. Pope Honorius IV, of the Savelli family, founded this venerable church and monastery of S. Paolo in Albano. The monastery was first granted to the illustrious Order of S. Gulielmo, then to the Gerolimini Fathers, and recently to the Missionary Fathers of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. That beloved Pontiff granted the endowment to those who would take charge of the Sanctuary. Since this subsistence was intended to be perennial and the endowment never to be transferred to anyone for any title at all, even though they be ecclesiastical persons, he established that those in charge of the aforementioned church were obliged, in case of alienation or peculiar assignment, to immediately recover their rights and that they, the heirs, *auctoritate propria possent ipsas possessiones vindicare capere, easque reducere ad praedictum dominium etc.*⁹⁵

2. Leo X, who was not aware of those dispositions and because of some misunderstanding that occurred at that time, said, in reference to this church: "*Quod si de fundatione, ac dotatione, et voluntate praedictis habuissimus notitiam, litteras nostras nullatenus dedissemus*".⁹⁶ That Bull was issued on October 18, 1521 and was addressed to Don Cristoforo Savelli.

3. Honorius IV, when he was Cardinal, founded that Sanctuary which he claimed, as Pope, in the aforementioned Bull.

4. In our time, the benefits of this endowment have been assigned (while ignoring the Bull of Honorius) partly to the seminary of Albano and partly to the Lateran Chapter, believing that the granting of those benefits was free of any injurious effect on the rights of a third party. However, the seminary has already surrendered its share as is noted in a public document in the Chancery of the Curia in Albano. Now, it remains for the Lateran Chapter to fulfill its responsibility, concerning which, through protests registered by us in the Curia of Albano and with the most respectful and urgent procedures, we have sought to conclude this matter in a peaceful way.

5. When Pius VII was consulted in regard to this situation, as can be seen from the rescript recorded in the Chancery of Albano and from all that is known fully by his Eminence, the Archpriest of S. Giovanni in Laterano as well as by his Eminence Falzacappa, the present bishop of Albano, he

⁹⁵ By proper authority they will be able to claim and take possession of the properties themselves and bring them back to the aforesaid ownership.

⁹⁶ But if we had had knowledge about the aforementioned foundation, donation and will, in no way would we have given out letters.

replied: "Since we were not acquainted with the rights of the petitioner (for the petition was submitted by the present Duke Cesarini, heir of Honorius) with respect to the benefits granted to the abbacy as a result of a Bull of Honorius IV at the time when it was requested, and since an application of them has been accorded to the Chapter of S. Giovanni in Laterano as well as to the seminary in Albano, we declare that it was not and could not have been Our intention to derogate those rights, whatever they may be, neither to be prejudicial to him nor to the corporation in whose favor it was pleased to grant them; thus, he is free to urge strongly his reasons; anything to the contrary notwithstanding". The rescript is dated March 9, 1821.

2245

November 5, 1831
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, November 5, 1831

Venerable Camillo

I ask in this letter of mine that you offer and have others offer suffrages for the soul of my beloved father who died on the vigil of all Saints. I cannot tell you the grief that I have felt, which I offered to God to whose will we must always be conformed.

I limit myself in this letter to ask you to send an additional 40 *braccia* of the usual cloth, indicating the cost which I am to reimburse. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2246

November 7, 1831
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele⁹⁷

Of the 16 Masses that I have sent to you, it appears that we are all settled on the alms. To those 16 Masses you will add another 20 which must be satisfied during December. For all of them taken together. I shall be awaiting the usual called for sheet of notification. With regard to the alms for those 20 Masses, I am not altogether certain. So, I will handle it in accordance with the discussion we had in Rome; I shall settle them at 2 *paoli* each with both you and I in agreement that this can be applied in some way for the purpose of having some printing done etc. Let me know whether this meets with your approval. Send a detailed reply.

Pray for me. Your light cloak has been sent by coach, addressed to Pedini. You trace it down. In a hurry, I remain

⁹⁷ This letter has no written date, but from the postal markings the place of its departure (Rome) and its arrival time (November 7) are evident. The year is 1831, when Rosati was stationed in Frosinone.

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

2247

November 8, 1831
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, November 8⁹⁸

Most esteemed Canon

We shall, therefore, observe the last 10 days of the carnival time dedicated to the most sorrowful Mother Mary in the form of a Retreat: If the confraternity, already established there, has this practice, it would be good, if you agree, that they participate in this for the sake of unity. This is said for the record. Pray to the Lord for my very dear father whom God called back to himself on the vigil of all Saints with a truly enviable death. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, but in a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.

2248

November 8, 1831
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, November 8, 1831

Very reverend Mother

How indebted I am to you! Let me know whether you incurred any expenses in my behalf. During these recent days, God has called back to himself my beloved father. Pray for him and have others do so too, as well as for so many things that are incumbent upon me.

Through the mails, you will be receiving 3,20 *scudi* which are to be given to Cesaria Briti, the *Maestra pia* in Sonnino. Please excuse this inconvenience. Whatever expense you incur in returning the vestment will be covered by me. Finally, do not fail to pray a great deal for me and for everything that depends on me.

I have submitted a petition for the Mass and Office of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to be extended to the entire Catholic world. Pray for a successful result. Continue to keep me informed about the interior status of your soul, about the devotion to the Divine Blood, and about the inspirations that God gives you when you offer prayers for me and for holy Church. I, adhering to the directions given to me by Monsignor Albertini, shall distinguish what is from God, what is merely a holy desire, what the will of God is, and what might possibly be the maneuvering of

⁹⁸ The year is 1831. (Cfr. the reference to the death of his father which occurred on October 31, 1831).

the devil. In the meantime, live peacefully, very peacefully. Your confessions ought not to be so detailed, with too many re-hashings. We are in the process of observing the Fridays in honor of the great Xavier. I repeat, pray a whole lot for me. What news do you have for me concerning your nephew? In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2249

November 14, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I paid the 80 *baiocchi* for the delivery. I hope that the money has gotten to Monsignor Bonanni. Please note that I did order some more cloth. Of the wider type, I would like 25 *canne Romane*. Each *canna* bears three braccia there, if I am not mistaken. You can hold off on that red covering; perhaps I can locate something here in Rome. Through the mails I have sent you 16 *franchi scudi*. From this amount, you are to subtract the 9,65 in payment for your recent shipment. as for the other things, taking them all together, please let me know what I still owe you for everything that I have asked you to handle. Also, I would like that you, at least after so many inconveniences, should be credited for the postal expenses. I conclude by saying that my obligations to you are endless. May the Lord fill you with every blessing.

We now have two new foundations: one in Nepi; the other in Montefeltro in Romagna.⁹⁹ Pray for me. I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2250

November 15, 1831

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁰

Venerable Monsignor

During the novena in honor of S.Xavier we are all attending to our spiritual Retreat. After the saint's feastday, one of my confreres will be coming to see you in person in order to discuss with your most worthy person whatever may be needed to carry out our project. In the meantime, do not cease praying and contacting anyone in that area who can, at the soonest possible time, be of temporal

⁹⁹ They were granted, respectively, on August 31, 1831 and October 26, 1831 by papal rescript.

¹⁰⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his Blood.

assistance to us and to the glorious establishment of the Lord's work there. With this understanding, venerable Monsignor, I state once again, with profound obeisance and particular esteem, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, November 15, 1831

P. S. After December 3rd, the Missionary will be coming to Pennabilli. I have already sent the letter of proxy, etc.