

St. Gaspar's Letters

2301-2350

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2301

March 15, 1832
 Student Orazio Bracaglia
 Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Orazio

With the carriage, I have sent a package of coffee and sugar which, in my name, should be delivered to the Father Guardian in Veroli for the inconveniences caused in his Convent by you gentlemen. In a discussion, and as though from yourself, I would like you to make this known to the bishop, to whom you will also extend my best wishes. Then, also find out about the candle and the gratuity.

It is urgent that Rosati's baggage immediately get to Albano. The pack-animal could depart on Saturday itself, and in such a way that it will be in Albano in the evening, in order to avoid the feast. Then too, you will also let Father Camillo know what is owed for that pack-animal. If that load were to have to leave with you (this would be a bit of an inconvenience), then, on the feast of St. Joseph, after midnight and with the break of daylight, it would be necessary that you travel quickly in order to be in Albano by Tuesday night, and not otherwise. However, if the pack-animal leaves on Saturday, you gentlemen can also pass through Sermoneta or do whatever you wish, but, in such a way that you are back directly for studies. Palombi, to whom I send my greetings, should remain there. In Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 15, 1832

Share this letter with the Missionaries.

2302

March 15, 1832
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

From our Missionary, Father Beniamino Romani, who is traveling through Frosinone, you will be receiving a small package containing the reminders against blasphemy and the pamphlet "*Venite adoremus*". I recommend to your zeal the pious organizations to whom our Missionary, who is going to be with the Scolopi Fathers, can give a bit of encouragement.

Also, send the list of enrollees to Frosinone and whenever necessary, write to me etc. You will have to revive the association of the Apostles and, if you think it a good idea, our Missionary can give them a conference. Remind me of anything that may be needed. Filled with obligations to you, I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 15, 1832

Encourage the clergy to the apostolate and some of the young men to our Society etc.

2303

March 17, 1832
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, March 17, 1832

Dear Camillo

Nothing is being asked for the two copies of Quadrapani. Just a Hail Mary or so; that satisfies it all.

Your plan for that young man is not something that is easily resolved. But, allow me a bit of time and we shall see what can be done.

On Ash Wednesday, I returned from conducting Missions. By the grace of God, nothing bad happened to me wither outside or inside Rome. So, be at ease about that.

With regard to your daughter, I limit myself to saying that the first impressions of grace are very valuable when it is a question of vocation. To make a better decision, it would be necessary to be more fully informed of what God is working out in her soul. Have no doubt, I shall recommend her to the Lord.

With your usual kindness, please do me the favor of sending me 12 Roman *canne* of the hempen material (or cloth).

15 *canne* of linen (or cloth) similar to the type you sent the last time.

Also, two reams of stationery of the usual letter size, like the one that I have written on here; two of the other type that is finer, and finally, one ream of paper that is not trimmed, for making copies etc. Send me the bill. Let us be united evermore in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ. You probably know already that the Holy Father has approved the plans of two bishops for the establishment of two new foundations of ours in Nepi and in Macerata Feltria. Prayers. Give my greetings to Canon Tarulli, and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P .S. Let us propagate the devotion to the Divine Blood etc. The pious organizations etc.

2304

March 25, 1832
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Scrofano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

With regard to the method of conducting Missions, I have determined that since Scrofano¹ is a new place for the Institute, it is not necessary to prescribe any method; rather there is to be

¹ Nowadays, it is Sacrofano, in the diocese of Nepi and Sutri, as indicated in the address.

adherence to the selection of the method that has been printed, while keeping in touch with Father Pietro Spina. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Tomorrow I shall write for the mail.² You should get information concerning the Synod, request the *Capo liceat*, as well as a copy of the extraordinary faculties of the Curia of the Sacred Penitentiary.

2305

March 26, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Scrofano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, March 26³

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

A couple of lines. I shall leave the method for the Mission to your prudence and that of Father Pietro Spina with whom you should be in agreement. Since the ministry there is a new thing, there is no need for any other prescription of variation in the services. The Mission will be concluded after the noon meal on Passion Sunday inclusive; and nothing after that. You should make your own decisions with regard to the new communicants, the sick etc.; you will be doing a great good by reading up on the Synod and by writing for the copy of the special faculties of the bishop of Nepi, originating with the Penitentiary, the *Capo liceat*, etc. of Trent etc. You should consult Liguori etc. If extra confessors are needed (but I hope that it will not be so), work this out with the bishop. Write to me and see that this letter is shared with Spina. In the next ordinary mail delivery, I shall write more. From this moment, I point out that on the Monday immediately following Passion Sunday, you are to be present for dinner with me so that in the evening you can be where God will be summoning you etc. As for matters pertaining to economy, contact Father Biagio and keep me informed. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2306

March 26, 1832

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Pievotorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

² The letter, therefore, belongs to March 25, 1832 as is evident from the reference to the topic of the method to be followed in the Mission of Sacrofano, a topic that is mentioned also in the letter of March 26, 1832 to the same individual.

³ The year is 1832. Cfr. the letter to this same person dated March 29, 1832; also cfr. the letter to Fr. Pietro Spina, March 29, 1832.

You will excuse me if I have delayed in sending a reply to your most esteemed letter. The travels for the Missions have limited me to taking care of precise urgent matters. In the meantime, I offered prayers for the various items mentioned in your letter and I would like to be able to give you a precise response. However, during Lent, you are to remain there. Once Easter has passed, then we will proceed further. In this way, we will have time to bring things to a mature state. But, if you should find it necessary to leave, please inform me about that in time and by prompt mail. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 26⁴

P. S. Do not leave, therefore, without first agreeing to another letter from you, in which I shall be awaiting further clarification.

2307

March 29, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Scrofano

Diocesi di Sutri e Nepi

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

The man who brought me the letter yesterday told me that his family or his wife find it a great inconvenience to stay away from their house I would leave a *reminder* for the pastors and the authorities of the Commune⁵ that, if they have any doubts, before the Mission begins, they should consult with the one who is directing the Mission, and not make decisions on their own. You have acted correctly in registering a protest and in applying our rules. I have already informed the man that we must avoid the embarrassment of having women in the house.⁶

Take care of rescinding every agreement, having the consent of the parties involved, and resume your method of entering the income from the Lenten series as well as the expenses, including the traveling. The return trip is at our expense. As for the trip there, use your own judgment. I told the man that I will be satisfied to have only the stipend for the Lenten series and that we would take care of everything else. Keep me posted. I am surprised that neither the Bishop nor his Secretary has contacted me. Blessed be God. I told the man that sometimes we send only one Missionary and one Lay Brother, whenever quarters are not available etc. In the meanwhile, you gentlemen are to abide by the rules. Try to have everything go along well, in an orderly fashion, quietly and with edification.

Let me know immediately whether a third Missionary is needed. I would think not. The Mission is to end on Passion Sunday inclusive, after dinner. If the confessions are not completed, you can remain on for a day or so with Marcello so that there will not be any complaints. Write to

⁴ The year is 1832 as is evident from the letter of April 19, 1832.

⁵ *Corrununisti*. In its ancient signification, now completely lost, this term designated the City Councilmen, or in general, the authorities of the Commune.

⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: House, Private

me. I point out only that, with good use of the time available, it seems to me that you can arrive and return together. The confessions are very important.

Next week I shall let you know whether Marcello can or must return, or whether he will continue on to Giano. If you do not get word, you should take him back with you. My letters will continue to keep in touch. It is definite that on Monday after Passion Sunday, Rosati must be back in Rome with me by dinnertime, also, with the least possible expense. At the city gates, when you bring back the baggage, just tell them that they contain Mission objects, as is usually the fact.

Write to me; and consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 29, 1832

Satisfy the people. Prayers and activities, etc.

(on the fourth facing, alongside the address, one reads:)

P. S. After Scrofano, send Marcello to Nepi, directing him to. Fr. Rafaele Brandimarte.

2308

March 29, 1832

Fr. Rafaele Rosati

Scrofano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Rafaele

On the Monday after Passion Sunday, I shall be expecting you here for dinner at my place, where we will have further discussions. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 29, 1832

Give the sermon on Purgatory as the pastor directs you. I urge catechetical instructions etc. and you do the teaching as much as you can. Perhaps you were able to give the morning instructions and Spina⁷ the others after the noon meal, but since it is a question of handling the workers, it will be all right for you to take care of the afternoon session so as not to delay.⁸

2309

March 30, 1832

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General of Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹

Venerable Monsignor

This is Majorano to whom you can, with absolute safeness of conscience, grant the faculties

⁷ Fr. Pietro Spina

⁸ These two postscripts were placed on the fourth siding, near the address.

⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

necessary to be of help there in the ministry and especially inevitable for the work to be done during Lent. I kiss your hands, and while asking you for your prayers, I remain and will constantly be, with the fullness of esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, March 30, 1832

2310

March 31, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Scrofano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, March 31¹⁰
(Follow this letter)

Very reverend Father Raffaele

Several unforeseen circumstances, along with the sickness of Father Camillo and some others of our men, compel me to beg for your charity, namely, to depart with Marcello for Giano, following the route of Narni toward Acquasparta, where you will carry out a most important *series* of Retreats in accordance with what Merlini will instruct you to do. Make plans for this trip and work it out with Spina. Then we will come to a settlement between ourselves. From that Mission you will have at least what would have been paid out for you and Marcello up to your return to Rome. See that your departure is begun very early on the Monday after Passion Sunday, giving the final blessing on Passion Sunday and seeing that the people have made their confessions and fully satisfied there. I am counting on your loving kindness and zeal as well as that of Spina. As for Spina, I shall be awaiting his immediate arrival in Rome, on Monday after Passion Sunday, together with the Mission paraphernalia. At the entrance gate, he is to declare that it is material for conducting the ministry. Be quick in making your trip. I urge the hearing of confessions and the thrifty use of time. I am hoping for great results and great glory to the Institute. However, you will not be remaining in Giano, and now that you will be on the move, leave your baggage in Albano. In Giano, you will be receiving another letter from me. Have courage.

G. C. del Bufalo

2311

April 3, 1832

Msgr. Fortunato Mari Ercolani

Bishop of Civita Castellana

Civita Castellana

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

Venerable Monsignor

The most reverend Treasurer would like that I render my services for the prisoners in the

¹⁰ The year is 1832. Cfr. Other letters to the same person, especially that of April 5, 1832.

¹¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

fortress of Civita Castellana by conducting a Retreat for them. As a consequence to this request, I have decided to consult your most illustrious and reverend lordship, having as my basic policy to be exact in my appointments to the fullest degree possible for me. Indeed, there are to be two projects. First, to take care of those detained in the Rocca, that is, the Fortress, and later, Gallese. Second, to entrust the Mission of Gallese to the oldest members of our Society, thus not delaying one good work while another is underway. Another plan would be that I would not be present at the Fortress in Civita, that is, for the training of those souls, so that I could go directly to Gallese, in keeping with the word that I have given. I realize that my changing of plans will not be pleasing to the Treasurer. But, nevertheless, with your assistance, *hoc in casu*,¹² I shall come to know the will of God which is the only thing that I wish to fulfill. So, with all freedom, let me know what God inspires you to say. Generally speaking, I shall not depart from Rome until after the Sunday *in Albis*. If you think it is a good idea, obtain for the people of Gallese the extended privilege of fulfilling the Easter precept just as it is done at times in awaiting a holy Mission. However, making this decision is entirely up to your prudence. I repeat, in all sincerity, that I will do whatever you direct.

After Gallese, will there be anything else for me to handle in your diocese?

In the Propaganda, I spoke in behalf of the young fellow Germano who is in Orte, and his Eminence Pedicini will have him write to you.¹³ It seems to me that this young man, endowed with talent and with language ability, trained in the Propaganda, can be quite influential in the interests of divine glory. I kiss your hands; greetings to your brother; and with the desire of receiving a prompt reply from you, I am and will constantly be, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 3, 1832

Most urgent, and in case of absence, we will send mail directly to Maestro di Casa di Monsignore.¹⁴

2312

April 3, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Scrofano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Raffaele

I have been awaiting a couple of lines from you. Share this letter with Spina to whom I send my greetings.

The blessing there should be given on Passion Sunday; on Monday, you are to leave for Giano with the Brother. Father Spina should come to me here in Rome along with the baggage, while declaring at the gate that they are materials used in the ministry. He should be here by the time of the noon meal, and not otherwise. To Merlini, I am enclosing another letter for you. Pray for me, as I assure you of my gratitude for all the good that, through the grace of God, you are promoting

¹² This in case.

¹³ He had added: "as has been suggested" but then crossed it out.

¹⁴ This postscript was found near the address.

there, and asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 3¹⁵

May God bless abundantly the Mission there. As for temporal matters, work things out the best you can, but then give me a report of everything etc. You and the Brother will be able to get good mounts there, calculating etc. Because of the area, I believe that Spina, too, can work something out with regard to the mounts etc.

2313

April 5, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Scrofano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁶

Very reverend Father Raffaele

By leaving Monday morning for Giano, I would expect that you should get there by Tuesday, during this season of the year. Then, on Wednesday you could begin a single shift of Retreats which would be concluded on Holy Thursday morning. After the noon meal, you will give the sermon on the Passion, or around the *Ave Maria* hour, in keeping with whatever the pastor directs. On Good Friday morning, you will travel toward Sabina. There is a route from Terni which (if you are not acquainted with it) Merlini will be able to point it out to you. You will arrive in Fara with a brother-in-service whom Merlini will assign to you. Once you have reached there, get in touch with Gaspare Castellani, the head-man in charge of getting lodging and other matters. You will also have there another letter from me.

The Retreats for the people will in the meantime begin. With regard to temporalities and the travel costs, figure this out with Merlini who will also supply you with a Missionary companion for the Retreats in the diocese of Spoleto. However, for Fara, just you and the Brother. As for your voice, have no doubt that God will help you. Love of God overcomes all difficulties, capable of overcoming even an indisposition of the chest. Because of Father Camillo's illness, I have had to make changes in my plans.

So, I ask you, please, do not listen to anything that the devil might suggest to you that would complicate things more. As long as the good Lord gives us strength, let us work hard: "*Labora sicut bonus miles Jesu Christi*".¹⁷ Let us acknowledge the fact that God, in his goodness, makes use of our wretchedness. When you go through Poggio Mirteto, there you will find the pro-Vicar, Archpriest Costantini. From him, you will get the faculties which you should discuss with him. I shall send word of this beforehand to his Eminence Giustiniani. If you should not go through Poggio Mirteto, then send word to us immediately. In the meantime, reports from our new foundations will determine what will be needed to balance things out. All of this should mature during these upcoming days. This is my heart fully exposed. But, you will be given some time for rest, have no

¹⁵ The year is 1832. (Cfr. the letter to this same person, dated April 5, 1832).

¹⁶ Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

¹⁷ Work like a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

doubt about that. In the meanwhile, let us pray.

Your baggage is in Albano. If, in the interim, you should need something, then send the key, along with instructions, to Spina. Then, he, working along with me, will see that whatever you need will get there (Fara). At that time, too, if I have come to make that decision, you will also be getting your baggage. So, govern your movements in accord with these things. I ask you please to cooperate in all this, as I have no doubt you will, *corde magno et animo volenti*¹⁸ for the great objective of giving greater glory to God from whom we shall receive abundant and plentiful blessings. With greetings to Spina, who on Monday will speed up his arrival here, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 5, 1832

P. S. *Meliori modo*,¹⁹ I recommend the pious organizations. The Oratory, at least as in Giano.

P.S. Prudently see that the pastor writes to the bishop that the people there have agreed etc. and this for the bishop's peace of mind.

2314

April 9, 1832

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The young priest whom you sent to me has asked me, in your name, for a worker to conduct the reform at the prison in Termini. Because of the shortness of time and the number of the sacred functions, I have turned to Father Amici who on another occasion offered his services for the meditations. But, really his approach is for the reforms; and having been a pastor before becoming a monk, he is quite adept at this work. I hope that he will be acceptable for he has been doing good work along with us during this year. Now, it will be necessary for you, either through a detailed sheet of directions or by sending the young priest to instruct Father Amici of the Olivetan Fathers in regard to both the horarium as well as the arrangements for the carriage which is indispensable for his going and returning. Let us be agreed on this. Also point out to Father the day on which this is to begin as well as the day of termination, so that he can govern himself accordingly.

Now we discuss the Three Hours of Agony. In S. Nicola, it will be handled by Canon Visconti; he has managed to have Monsignor Vespignani available for that function. I, willingly, have approved this, for it will assure this good work being done in S. Nicola. Now, it is up to your charity to arrange for the carriage. It seems to me that the same one that is used by the preachers of the Three Hours in the prison of the Termini could also be used for S. Nicola. But you know more about this than I.

However, at the prison for women, Father Sturna will be available for three o'clock, since he

¹⁸ With a big heart and a willing spirit.

¹⁹ In a better way.

has already directed them for men. At the prison for men, Father Pallotta²⁰ will be in charge. Because of his extraordinary virtue, in God I feel confident that he will be able to accomplish great work. With respect to the carriage, I repeat, you look into that. Thus, Monsignor Vespignani will be free for S. Nicola, as I mentioned above. We will see each other at the earliest possible moment. In the meanwhile, pray for the one who now renews himself, venerable Monsignor, with esteem, respect and special love

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

April 9, 1832

P. S. One or the other conference might be needed for all the people involved in the prisons. This was the suggestion made to me by Father Pallotta so that all would benefit from the Retreat.

2315

April 13, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta²¹

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

God has disposed that we should not see each other.

I have read your accounts and for the 2.57 *Sc.* you shall send me as many Masses, if you think that is best, and retain the corresponding offerings. It is understood that the Masses can be said *ubique*,²² and that there should not be too much of a restriction in the time for saying them.

I was delighted to hear about the success of the Mission. Let us pray for perseverance *ut fructus maneat*. This too is one of our obligations.

Write to me about everything and concerning everything. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 13, 1832²³

2316

²⁰ St. Vincent Pallotti.

²¹ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which bears the address that we have reproduced here was found in the Cart. d'Arch. n. 3. fasc. 2, n. IV, 20, We have transferred it to Vol. II of the originals of the Founder (f. 408 bis) for the reasons explained in the footnote of Letter n. 368 of October 13, 1831.

²² Wherever.

²³ The year is derived from the fact that only in 1832 was Fr. Spina located in Sermoneta on the 13th of April, having returned just a few days before from the Missions. This is found in the Libro dei Congressi and the financial report for the House in Sermoneta. In the year 1832, after the 18th of March, Fr. Spina put in the following notification: "It is to be noted that the void which is found in my administration from March 18 to April 11, the time during which I was on the Missions in the Diocese of Civita Castellana and that of Nepi, was filled in by Lipparelli and Maiorano, as is evident from the pages which I am here including. Spina." The "*Catalogo di Missioni ed Esercizi*" informs us that in the year 1832 Fr. Pietro Spina together with others gave the Mission in S. Stefano, in the diocese of Nepi. Likewise, that other Missions were conducted in the diocese of Civitacastellana in which Fr. Spina must have taken part.

April 5-17, 1832
Fr. Raffaella Rosati
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Father Raffaele²⁴

After your work in Fara, you will return to Albano where your baggage is, and there you will conduct the Marian month. You will have sufficient time to take care of your things. You will complete your good work in Fara on the Sunday *in Albis*. On Monday, the 30th, you will head for Albano where, if you do not arrive in the evening, you will get there by the morning of the 1st of May to begin the Marian month after the noon meal. That is how it will be done this year. Furthermore, on the 30th another will conduct the introduction. In Fara, do whatever good work you can. In my name tell Merlini that he is to send Luigetto with you. You will then see that he gets back to Rome where Antonio from Albano should be coming to take care of his affairs. Ask Merlini to write to me beforehand and then await another letter from me. But, Luigetto is to go with you. Write immediately to Merlini so that he will be aware of what I say in this letter and we will be in agreement. You, too, should write a couple of lines to me in response to this letter.

In Fara, check to see whether they wish to restore the sermon on Purgatory. For the travel costs, get what you need for your return as well as for your trip there, making sure that you get what would have been paid out from Rome to Fara. Revive the pious organizations etc. Let Merlini know what expenses you have incurred there etc., and in accordance with the needs, keep me informed of everything etc.

In Fara, you are to go where the chapter is, and not out into the surroundings of Fara. Once you have gotten there, you are to contact Gaspare Castellani, the head-man of the place, who will have another letter from me to you. In the Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. For the time being, then, you will remain in Albano, except if something unforeseen should come up.

2317

April 17, 1832
Fr. Raffaella Rosati
Fara

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

His Eminence Giustiniani would like you to make Fara the central location, where the chapter is; then, after having satisfied the people on the upper area, you are to move on then to the training of the people in the surroundings of Fara. They form a unity with Fara but they require your particular residence there, after having resided in the upper area. So take care first of those on the upper area and then the suburbs. I do not limit the number of days for you; you handle that as you see necessary and reach an agreement there. Do not be concerned any more about preaching the

²⁴ The letter has no date. From the context, it should be placed somewhere between the letters to this same person, dated April 5th-17th, 1832.

Marian month; in place of that, you will do the June preaching in S. Paolo in Albano *hoc anno*.²⁵ However, keep writing to me and from this moment let us be agreed that after the work in Fara and that in the outlying area, you will return for a rest in S. Paolo in Albano, bringing Luigetto along with you, for I will be needing him in Sermoneta.

I am enclosing the Cardinal's letter. Read up on the synod and also Liguori with regard to the *Abati*, and write to the Cardinal if that is necessary. Pass this letter on to another of our men as soon as you meet up with him. So, let us be agreed on that. May the love of God bring to a successful conclusion for you this present branch of the ministry. Propagate our devotion to the Divine Blood; revive the pious works; and as soon as you get there, write a couple of lines of respect to the Vicar General and to the Cardinal in Rome, letting him know that you are working hard and that you seek to have his blessing etc. Stimulate the pious organizations. Whatever you may need in the line of printed materials, just write and let me know etc. If God rewards one for a bit of water given to a poor thirsty individual, what will be his reward to you? In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 17, 1832

2318

April 17, 1832

Fr. Domenico Costantini

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Archpriest

Cardinal Giustiniani has notified me about the following places where the holy Retreats will be conducted instead of the Lenten series. If I had been given this information sooner, I would have been better able to set up the time schedule. However, the Lord will supply with his special acts of mercy. The places to be contacted are the following: Poggio S. Lorenzo - Toffia - Salisano - Cerdomare - Fara. In Fara, the Missionary, along with a Brother, has already arrived or will at any moment and he will handle the ministry in Fara, including the surrounding area. As for the other places, other workers will be coming and, from Easter day on, each day could be the day of their arrival. With this understanding and following this method, the good work will be undertaken quickly and, with the grace of God, will turn out to be most fruitful.

On this occasion, if the rule of the Monastery of Sezze has been dispatched, send it on to me. I reassure you of my sentiments of esteem and respect and ask you for your prayers. Give my greetings to Canon Savj and anyone else who has a remembrance of me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 17, 1832

P. S. The Cardinal told me that he was hopeful of having Lenten preachers; but then he must have come to the conclusion of having the above arrangements.

²⁵ In this year.

2319

April 19, 1832
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, April 19, 1832

Venerable Canon

I am looking over your most esteemed letter and am sending you a reply.

I have received letters from the excellent Sacconi members, but two reasons have prevented me from giving them a reply. The first is that I have been away on the Missions; the second is that I have been wondering whether I could personally correspond to their wishes, since that city is so very dear to me. So, now, making use of this letter of mine as an answer to them, would you please tell them that if the members expressly wish (that is how they wrote it) to have my wretched person come these, it will be necessary for them to be pleased to defer the Retreat in such a way, that with my leaving from Rome on July 2nd to be in Frosinone that evening of this present season, on the 3rd or 4th, I could be in Sora. The delay this year would be, it seems to me, a matter of a few days and quite accidental. Still, I should not be asking for all of this; I am only suggesting it with all my heart, because I would like to see my acquaintances there once again, on the occasion of doing this good work, and also to see Mrs. Carrara again.

However, it is God who disposes things according to his most lovable will, which, for us, is everything. It would likewise be a great consolation to me to once again see you whom I esteem and love in the Lord. At any rate, a new and very adept Missionary for Sora is always ready, just as you have written to me, and available for the usual time. However, I must have a prompt reply. If the Sacconi members were to ask why I do not anticipate my coming at the usual time, I reply that it is because our Institute's two new foundations do not allow me any freedom other than that which I referred to above. Furthermore, obligations of my office, which I cannot omit, keep coming up. You are wise enough to recognize those demands. I imagine that everything has been carried out with the Curia. At that time, it might be possible to have one or the other ecclesiastical conference even if the clergy at the last Retreat may not have had them. This is said *in communicacione sancta*.²⁶

Willingly will I send the two Missionaries for the Commune of the two neighboring towns of Casola and Montattico. Let me know how to arrange the travel as you see best; I am unaware of the appointments that regard this area. Since I have Missionaries on the move in various directions, I will have to make some decisions. You try to work things out with the bishop, assuring him of the Institute's full cooperation in providing for the welfare of souls. I would like to know just about how many souls there are in that Commune and whether this is a matter of conducting just one Mission. The Missionaries will bring along a Brother-in-service who will assist them in everything. As soon as you send me your response, all will be concluded. Also, if necessary, either by special messenger or by the mail delivery, you will be informed as to the day of the entrance.

Before receiving your letter, I had written to your own most excellent nephew that he should join in the Mission in Vallecorsa, not knowing about your wishes, which I now see. I have not learned whether he actually went or whether he is still there with you. If he did go, he would be a

²⁶ In holy communication.

strong influence on the outcome of that good work. If he did not go, I would be happy to know when I can find him free and give him directions. It seems that this is all that I have to say now. Only, for the sake of the record, I point out that both Confraternities, the one of the Sorrowful Mother and that of S. Bartolomeo have written occasionally to me for Retreats. But, for some time now, they have had recourse to others. Still, as long as the good work is done, may God be blessed. It serves as a comfort to me to reflect that on no particular instance did I ever refuse. I kiss your hands and, while asking you for your prayers as well as those that you will obtain from as many other people as possible, I am and will constantly be, with respectful esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Give my apologies to the Sacconi members for not having answered them beforehand.

2320

April 19, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Enclosed is the order for payment of 35 *Sc.*, requested by you for that House, deposited by me here, in Rome, with Sig. Piero Santi.

With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 19, 1832

2321

April 19, 1832
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Pievotorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

God wishes to make use of our Institute, and I do not know how to tell you to what degree he makes our ministry desired. We are humbled by this because it is the grace of the Lord, namely, that he should make use of our lowliness. That the devil should be distressed is not at all surprising. Substantially, everything is going along well and through prayer and virtue, it will continue to mature. After Easter, all will be better readjusted; but there will never be a lack of suffering. The ladder of the Cross is the royal way to heaven.

With regard to all of your plans, you go ahead and do as you see best. The only thing I await is the return there of the President after Easter. It was only because of Lenten needs that the trip to S. Felice was made. He is quick in his traveling; hence, for you, more or less, the day will not change. Please inform Father Pedini that he should prepare for Merlini the usual room where Merlini has stayed before, and the position that he will have is that of President and Director of the holy

Missions. Pedini will remain as the superior and economist for the time being. Upon the arrival of Merlini, you will become aware of the will of God. Let me know, for the sake of balancing out our situation there, after your stay, whether you prefer to remain there or go to another of our Houses. as a help to my managing things, send me a couple of lines. *Pro nunc*,²⁷ another one of our members from Rimini will be substituting there.

Pray for me who remains constantly as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 19, 1832

2322

April 20, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta²⁸

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I am sending Giuseppe and, through him, the following:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) Cheese | pounds 24 | Sc. 1:50 |
| 2) Lard | pounds 6 | Sc. :55 |
| 3) Mortatella, etc. etc..... | pounds 8 | Sc. 1:20 |
| 4) Sugar | pounds 8 | Sc. :70 |
| 5) Coffee | pounds 5 | Sc. :80 |
| 6) 7 dishes | | <u>Sc. :15</u> |
| | | Sc. 4:90 |

Send me a receipt. Also, send the receipt for the order of payment of the 35 Sc. which you have probably received. I did not expect the lime kiln to cost so much.

Cardillo is coming there, for he already is in Vallecorsa. He will arrive on the day after Easter; then, the, other companion.

Sickness and other unforeseen incidents have delayed the achieving of good work there. I am not a prophet: we must adore the will of God. Tell them that momentarily help will be forthcoming. More, by another mail delivery.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

[Rome, April 20, 1832]²⁹

²⁷ For now.

²⁸ The posterior half-sheet for this letter on which we find the address that we have transcribed here comes from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. We have restored it to Vol. II of the originals of the Founder because of the reasons cited in the footnote of Lett. n. 368, dated October 13, 1831.

²⁹ The date is derived from the agreement of this letter with the annotation of the receipts and disbursements registered in the financial records of Sermoneta: "On the 21 (April), received in the form of provisions, send by the Canon from Rome: Sc. 4.90". Consult also Lett. n. 429, dated April 19, 1832, which speaks of the order of payment of the 35 Sc.

2323

Tommaso Del Bono
Penne

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I have delayed up to now sending you a reply while I occupied myself in finding the subject of your concern. I shall continue my search, but it is not right that you should be kept waiting still longer, since I have not succeeded in supplying a reply to your most earnest concerns. Perhaps you might confer with the excellent Father Giovannelli from Ascoli. I have indeed been very pleased to receive your letters. Please keep remembering me in your prayers. I shall do the same for you. I have the honor of stating again that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 24, 1832

2324

April 26, 1832
Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini
Vicar General of Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁰

Venerable Monsignor

You probably have received your letters which I enjoyed reading carefully. In this regard, I have two observations to make. First, that the matter of choir duty forms the most serious obstacle to the position. Second, that your most reverend Eminence, because of health reasons, will not be able to carry on. By accommodating oneself to the first, this second matter is of much easier resolution. However, have courage in God, for during these days, through prayer, God will give his illumination.

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

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 26, 1832

2325

April 29, 1832
Fr. Luigi Felici
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Luigi

Enclosed are the two reports. Distribute the printed matter and the books that I am sending to

³⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

the two priests. Encourage them to promote this very important devotion for three reasons. First, it is a cult of compensation for the abuse given to the Divine Blood by sinners. Second, in order to offer the price of our redemption to the Eternal Father for our present needs. Third, to stress the true bases for our reform. . . the verification of those words *justificati in Sanguine ipsius salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*.³¹

Also communicate to the two aforementioned priests the method of enrollment and, if they need further clarification, have to do is drop me a line. In this matter, you are all they well instructed.

As for the formulary, the formula *in articulo mortis*³² is only available for the President who has been granted that special faculty. When necessary, he may communicate it with particular individualization.

It seems that I have nothing more to add except to request that you offer many prayers for me, more needful of them than all the others. Also, it would be a good idea, at the time of offering Mass as well as on other occasions in the Propaganda, that our Chaplet or our Seven Offerings be recited. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

April 29, 1832

2326

End of April, 1832

Fr. Raffaella Rosati

Fara

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele³³

With complete candor, let me know, by current mail delivery, whether you will be able to do me the favor, after finishing your work in Fara, of continuing on to Toffia and Cerdomare which I had assigned to Father Isidoro Paoletti. However, at present, because of something that happened, which I will tell you about in person, he will be delayed. As soon as he is able, he will take care of Poggio S. Lorenzo and Salisano. You are to instruct him; direct him etc.

You will probably say that I am taking advantage of your charity; and I add "you are absolutely right", but in person, I will explain everything to you. Oh the number of requests this year! So, please do me this favor of which I am not deserving; however, Jesus crucified does merit it. At any rate, Chiodi will be coming for the work in Poggio S. Lorenzo and Salisano. I shall be awaiting another reply. So, you take care of Toffia and Cerdomare, a small place. For my own peace of mind, write to me. Surely, still set firmly is your return to Albano and the month of the Divine Blood there. As for traveling costs, in general, suggest: "give us a bit of help" and then let us accept

³¹ Justified in blood, we will be saved from wrath through it.

³² A the moment of death.

³³ This letter "sent in care of Mr. Gaspare Castellani" does not have a date. From the context, it should be assigned a time after the letter of April 17, 1832 addressed to the same person.

whatever is granted to us. You know full well what our expenses are. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Read Liguori in reference to the privileges of the *Abati* who have jurisdiction etc. etc.³⁴

2327

April 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Fara

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Raffaele³⁵

*Signa apostolatus in multa patientia.*³⁶ I have carefully re-read your very dear letter and now send you a reply. Stand by whatever is necessary and govern yourself as you mention to me with regard to Colle Todino. Father Gennaro Gamboa will be asking you for Luigetto, the Brother, and you will give him to him, making every effort to substitute there with some other person who is fit *hoc in casu*,³⁷ and also in accordance with our rules *in circumstantiis*.³⁸ Paoletti will take care of Cerdomare, because of a letter received after the departure of Father Gennaro who will be substituting. So, let them know in Toffia that when Paoletti arrives, he should go to Cerdomare, and you remain there for Toffia. Father Gennaro will handle Salisano or Poggio S. Lorenzo.

I do not know whether Cerdomare belongs to the abbacy of Farfa or that of San Salvatore as far as contacting another Vicar is concerned. The privilege of using all of May for the fulfillment of the precept is for the abbacy of Farfa. You are to communicate the faculties in accordance with the letter addressed to our own by the Cardinal Abate, as well as to the reminders given by Liguori and the synod. With respect to travel costs, say: "give whatever donation you feel you can". As for covering the devotions, between you and Father Gennaro, share a part of them with Paoletti. I conclude by saying that there should be an agreement between you, Father Gennaro and Paoletti and there should be a distribution of the work for those towns in such a way that, by helping each other, you will all be able to depart together. You and Father Gennaro, along with Luigetto, as I communicated to Father Gennaro in person, are to proceed to S. Felice in Giano as I have assigned. But, after that, on to Capradosso, keeping in mind what follows.

Write to me; and, if Paoletti (let this be with reservation) should be found to be timid, encourage him. As soon as you have arrived in Romagna, Father Gennaro will take care of the month in honor of the Divine Blood *hoc anno*³⁹ (I am referring to Rimini). You will soon be receiving your possessions. I have considered that now that you have been well-formed and also that I have noticed in you unmistakable signs of deep attachment. I am able to call upon your charitable

³⁴ This postscript is found on the fourth siding.

³⁵ This letter does not have a date. From the context, it should be assigned a place a bit later than the previous one.

³⁶ The sign of the apostolate in much patience.

³⁷ This in case.

³⁸ In the circumstances.

³⁹ In this year.

and zealous cooperation. I trust firmly in your enthusiastic personality. As for Paoletti and the Brother-in-service, tell him to do as you do; item, with regard to traveling, etc.. Adhere to our regulations and propagate our devotion, while reviving the pious organization, etc.. Write to me, and often. In Toffia, contact the archpriest.

I am sending you 20 Masses; offer as many of them as you can at a privileged altar, making a notification of that. I am waiting for the other notification etc.

Paoletti can also be on hand for Salisano and then should join up with De Victoriis for Capradosso. Inform him. You and Father Gennaro, along with Luigetto, will go where you have been assigned. But, Paoletti, I repeat, to Capradosso. So write and let me know what the outlook is like etc. so that I can arrange my scheduling. If necessary, pay a visit to our companions or write. Things will work out well in this way: You, to Toffia; Father Gennaro to Poggio S. Lorenzo (Paoletti to Cerdomare and Salisano). Whoever finishes his work first, should be of assistance to the other. So, write to me. I embrace you in the heart of Jesus. If a coachman should be coming to Rome, direct him to me.

G. C. d. B.

2328

May 1832
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Outskirts of Fara

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele⁴⁰

I have received your very dear letter from the quick service by means of which I am sending another package of devotional materials. I wrote another of my letters to you. So, now I am confirming all that you find mentioned in the other letters addressed to you. His Holiness has extended the time for fulfilling the Easter duty for the entire month of May; and this for the Abbacy of Farfa. After your work in the outskirts of Fara, you will handle only Toffia. I had written that you should help out in Cerdomare. But now that Father Gennaro Gamboa is available, he will handle that. So, you take care of Toffia only and then have a bit of rest, as I suggested in other letters of mine etc. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Do good work. Revive our devotion, the adoration of the Crosses and as much as you can, etc. Write to me.

2329

May 1, 1832
Fr. Gio. Merlini
raccomandata al Sig. D. Vincenzo Caracci
Fuligno per Cannara

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁴⁰ There is no date. From the context, it seems that it comes a bit after the preceding one: the beginning of May.

Dear Fr. Giovanni

The Marian Month at S. Carlo al Corso, which I was ordered to give, prevents me from going on the Mission to Gallese. Because of this change, send Fr. Tommaso Meloni, but be sure that by next Saturday morning, or rather, by night, he should be at Chille's in Civitacastellana, where he will meet with his Companion, Fr. Pietro De Victoriis, etc. etc., and by coach they will go to Gallese. If you prefer to go, you are the boss. I leave it to you to decide; but one or the other for sure. If Fr. Tommaso goes, have Cotino remain for the Mass. I have written to Pontini that he should return, and that you will be back at Giano as soon as possible, and I will write there. However, if you go, close the Exercises there on the feast of the Cross. Courage; answer me for my own peace of mind, and either you or Meloni get to Civita for next Saturday night.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 1, (1832)

Nothing can be arranged in spring for the Nuns there that could fit into the schedule of Mission. I knew nothing about that: at another time, yes.⁴¹

(On the fourth facing of the sheet, along side the address, we read:)

As soon as possible, send Brother Marcello to Rimini where he has been assigned. Encourage and advise him to remain in the Society. He is a very good man: he will turn out all right. I am sending him as caretaker, both for the house as well as being the porter. Instruct him well, etc. Write to me and send him. Give him directions for the trip.

You take care of the expenses, and write to me of it.

2330

May 2, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail, etc.

Fr. Pietro

Send Brother Antonio to Frosinone with the little burro so that he can transport the pork meat to Sermoneta and Albano.

Other Brothers will be coming there.

In a hurry, I am

Humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Rome, May 2, 1832)⁴²

The wicker baskets are in Frosinone.

⁴¹ Whatever was to follow is missing since part of the page was torn away.

⁴² The place of origin, the day and the month are read alongside the address on the postal markings. The year is derived from the fact that only in 1832 (with the exclusion of 1826, which is out of the question) did Fr. Spina spend the month of May in Sermoneta, or from the agreement of this note with letter n. 384 dated May 10, 1832 in which the Saint asks whether the "pork meat" has arrived and likewise announces the imminent arrival in Sermoneta of two Lay Brothers.

2331

May 8, 1832
 Mrs. Emidia Santucci
 Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

A couple of lines in order to hurriedly get a response. I have considered the month of June; however, if you wish to have a Missionary, all that needs to be done is to have the most reverend bishop or the vicar general write to me, simply in keeping with the usual formality; furthermore I know that what you say to me is very true. However, without that letter one need not consider that particular branch of preaching, for such a letter is required by our rules. Because of the variations that took place last year, and since the month of May has already arrived without the least inkling as to what the situation will be, this has caused me to consider things as quite unsettled, and I do want to adhere to things that are definite. So we point out that either someone from there is to preach the month or I will send a Missionary from Pievetorina or S. Felice in Giano. It is clearly understood, however, that the letter be received quickly. Otherwise if, at the middle of the month or a bit later, I do not have a response, it is understood that any further consideration is to be excluded. Pray for me, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 8, 1832

2332

May 8, 1832
 Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri
 Bauco

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I am looking over your very kind letter and am now sending you a reply. However, allow me to respectfully open up my heart to you. One need not repeat that your very excellent nephew was obliged to be in Sora for a short while to take care of his affairs. The mix-up in the letter-exchange has caused me to make a variation in the direction, supposing that he is free to be in the Institute. As you indicated to me, he corresponded fully with the Confraternity in Sora and handled himself very well. Likewise, that he did good work in Campoli, even though he was supposed to be with the family, and in this I can find nothing but praise. But, that he should take on Missions in the way that you described to me is not in keeping with our regulations. I respect the bishop, but when an individual has offered himself to an Institute, it is not proper nor in keeping with good order for him to operate in that fashion. Hence, I now feel distressed, since from the time of the Pontificate of Leo XII, the Institute, while maintaining respect for each and every worker, does not take unto itself in the ministry priests who do not live in our Houses.

To exclude at this time the good worker whom Father Domenico has taken with himself, is not fitting for a work that has been begun. Let us handle it as follows. Let us keep all of this to ourselves so as not cause conflict. Tell Father Domenico that because of the complexity of circumstances, he should continue with the second Mission. And then please proceed to take a room

in Vallecorsa where he will continue to do good work. I have already informed Father Pietro de Victoriis who is at the head of our foundation there.

With regard to the Sacconi, I shall write in a future ordinary mail delivery to Calvi, and I confirm the word I gave with reference to the two times available.

In our Institute, no thought has ever been given to taking vows. Our Institute is *ad instar*⁴³ the Filippini Fathers, but with a different type of objective. With esteem and respect, most revered Canon, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 8, 1832

2333

May 8, 1832

Msgr. Michele Brioli

Rimini

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

Venerable Monsignor

With regret did I learn of the death of Monsignor Zollo⁴⁵ for whom I have not failed to obtain suffrages too. In the meantime, you are in charge of that diocese in your position in the office as Vicar Capitular. Who knows, perhaps God will install you in that see for his greater glory.

The reason for my inconveniencing you with this most humble letter of mine is that you read the enclosed and then get in contact with Menghi to whom you will say that I have exhausted every means available with regard to his vocation. The young man has no demerits; but, for some time now, he has been saying that he is not called to the altar. Hence, he would be losing time that could be used in being otherwise occupied if he were to remain in the House of studies. My Monsignor, do not cease praying for me, and I assure you that never, never will I forget you in my prayers, while holding on to that true desire for eternal reunion in heaven; that, for mankind, is the highest good. I kiss your hands, and, venerable Monsignor, with total reverence for you and with my respects to Canon Giovannelli etc., I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 8, 1832

2334

May 10, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

⁴³ After the fashion of.

⁴⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴⁵ Msgr. Ottavio Zollo died in Rimini on April 2, 1832.

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Pietro

Prepare a room next to the reception room for the painter that I am sending there bearing a letter of mine, and you shall place him in the refectory as though he were a Retreatant, after the Brothers, or before, as a mark of courtesy. He will work on the Cappella di Maria SS., the last one in our church.⁴⁶

I will be sending the oil, and it will arrive within days. Prepare the containers.⁴⁷

The Missionary in Terracina will give something almost like a Retreat, in order to adhere to the rules.

The Mission there will be held after the Assumption, and willingly will I be there for it.

Renew the holy oils and get them from the Bishop, or have Canon Locatelli, who is in that vicinity, be entrusted to do so, or, handle it as you see best, contacting also the archpriest. It is a well-known thing now that we are not a private family, etc.

What is your conclusion about Torrielli? Write to me about this.

Have the pigs⁴⁸ arrived yet? I have sent instructions to Fr. Beniamino about it. I am sending Coppola there in residence, since he is a carpenter. Prepare a room for him according to the arrangements made previously.

Send me a receipt for the enclosed. You are taking care of the new Easter candle, aren't you?

I give thanks to God for the Retreatants.

A new Brother gardener will be coming from Ariccia, perhaps. Prepare a room for him. So, that will make four Brothers, even though later on one or the other of them will have to go out on the begging tour, etc. Let me know how the rooms have been distributed.

With reference to the faculties there, instruct Fr. Cardillo *iuxta synodum*.⁴⁹ In regard to the matters that you spoke to me of in connection with your family, see that you conclude them by means of letter-communication.

I knew nothing about the little burro left in the upper Province.

Conduct the Marian month fervently.

The Visit to the Crosses should be made. *Est onus diei*.^{50 51}

Towards the end of the month, when the Visitation will take place, I shall send another of our men. Let me know when the Most Reverend Bishop will be there.

Your 21 Masses will be celebrated. One of them has an offering of 17 *baj.*, *salvo equivoco*.⁵²

Am I forgetting anything else? I am constantly

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁴⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cappella di Maria SS. "Auxilium Christianorum"

⁴⁷ The *oil* spoken of here is quite probably the oil that was to be used in painting the chapel. *Vettine*: an antiquated word: it means containers for oil.

⁴⁸ *Porcina*: Swine. In this matter, consult the footnote #5 in Lett. 371, November 30, 1831.

⁴⁹ According to the synod.

⁵⁰ It is the burden of the day.

⁵¹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cross, Visitation of Wayside

⁵² Safeguarding being mistaken.

Rome, May 10, 1832

Fr. Cardillo will return soon.⁵³

2335

May 12, 1832

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

Praiseworthy are your thoughts about the small work "*S. Luigi al cuor del giovane*". Continue outlining it during your free time; then, I shall work on drawing up a plan; an association might also be set up.

According to our rule, Father Rector of the Scolopi Fathers has probably sent the gift to our nearby House, and that would be Frosinone. But, upon thinking it over, I would like to balance things out: the coffee and the sugar should be sent to the House in Vallecorsa; then, from the amount of chocolate, a pound of it should be sent in my name to Father Serafino of Monte S. Giovanni, the Capuchin vicar in Monte S. Giovanni in the diocese of Veroli; the other pound should be sent to me at the first opportunity so that I can distribute it to where we have sick people.

I shall send to Father Rector the certificate of aggregation. I will write to Merlini for one *scudo's* worth of Chaplets.

With regard to the doubtful celebration of Masses, I do not know anything about that. This is something for your own conscience. I am replying to what you stated to me. You probably have already received the reimbursement from Vallecorsa. You will collect it for the Lenten series.

I was not in time for sending a reply concerning the Masses of the Purgatory group. I shall be awaiting the correspondence of Santarelli with a soul etc.

Confession alone is not according to the rule. Along with it there is required a bit of preaching *ad instar*⁵⁴ at least of a Retreat. It is a good idea to make this known, for thus in other encounters, it will not be necessary to write. At your earliest possibility, you are to return to Vallecorsa, and as soon as you get there, send Coppola for residence in Sermoneta, where (you should tell him) he will find his cassock, along with other clothing that he will need there. Hurry him, since there is need for him there. Another man will be going to Vallecorsa. In the meantime, Pacifico will be there. Send Coppola with Cardillo to Sermoneta. You continue on and bring the Marian month to a close. I now inform you that you will be preaching the month of June in Albano. So, prepare yourself for that great work. I am not able to send you our burros.

We were not in time to send the devotional materials and the rosaries by way of the coach. Let me know how I should take care of it. Obtain there the faculty for Sermoneta. It is a good idea to have that etc.

⁵³ In the left-hand margin of this letter, Fr. Pietro Spina placed the following note, very probably with the purpose of not forgetting to write about certain important matters, or in reference to something already written, in his letter of response to the Saint: "Please write to De Victoriis to find out if he has received the papers, etc; and, that the Masses of the Benefice be reduced to one, on the feastday; and, that a reduction for the 1000 (Masses) was obtained at another time".

⁵⁴ After the fashion of.

If Cerilli has collected a box for Father Gennaro⁵⁵ from the customs house, give some thought to sending it on to Albano.

Let me know what expenses you incur for travel, keeping in mind also those for Cardillo and Coppola. Give my greetings to anyone who has a remembrance of me. Pay a visit to the grave of Albertini, our father in common. Write to me immediately out of holy obedience.

With regard to your account with Vallecorsa, write to me. In all things, keep in touch with me. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 12, 1832

2336

May 12, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni
Bishop of Montefeltro
Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁶

Venerable Monsignor

I am sorry about the delay of the proxy, but I have already written a most urgent letter to Paoletti, who is engaged in Mission work, for the finalization of our affairs there. as for the Retreat in the seminary, please send two mounts, one for the Missionary and the other for the Brother whom he is bringing, in time for the evening of June 5th, so that by leaving early the next morning they can be at that venerable seminary on the 6th. The member has already been selected. as for the monastery of the nuns, I would like to know whether after the feast of the Divine Blood, which falls on the first Sunday in July, they could be ready, so that I will assign two members who will successively split their work. Just a line or so from you, so that I can regulate my schedule. With respect to the Mission in the surrounding area of Macerata Feltria, please do me the favor of telling me whether I can schedule the beginning of it shortly after the middle of June; or possibly as a preparation for the feast of the Assumption of the most holy Mary. I kiss your hands, and, with esteem I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 12⁵⁷

2337

First half of May, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Toffia

Most esteemed Father Raffaele⁵⁸

⁵⁵ Fr. Gennaro Gamboa.

⁵⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁷ The year is 1832 as is evident from the notation made by Msgr. Begni himself ("17 Maggio 1832").

Please instruct Paoletti on the method we have established for travel inreference to the subsidy. If he is no longer in Salisano, do this by mail. I shall be sending to Merlini tomorrow the 3 scudi for you. He will take care of Bassoni.

Instruct the two aggregators and remind them that in enrolling people, they are to note down the name, family name, the day, month and year, as well as the hometown of the enrollee. This has not been noticed in the lists that were sent in. So, I presume that they were all enrolled on the same day and that they are all from the same locale. The act should be carried out *in loco*,⁵⁹ that is, in the church etc.

I am not sending you any Chaplets since you told me that you have some.

You, Father Gennaro and Luigetto will depart for Rimini. I am sending the two books of Monsignor Strambi for the two aggregators.

For the 5th of June, I say the fifth of June, you, along with a Brother will leave for Rimini in order to conduct the Retreat in the seminary of Pennabilli (with regard to the Brother, some *epikeia* there is not to be adduced as an example). After that Retreat which will last eight to ten days, if I am not mistaken, you will move on to Macerata Feltria where you will handle the termination of the month of the Divine Blood which Santarelli will begin. Check with him on what he has preached and in that way you can regulate your work. As time goes on, you will be getting further information. In general, however, you shall remain in Romagna, at least for now, and you should keep in contact with me, as I have no doubt you will, following the example of the great Xavier. Father Gennaro will handle the great month in Rimini.

I am sending a shirt, a colored handkerchief and some other linens for Luigetto, to whom I send my greetings. Another shirt or two will be made in Rimini. In the meantime, have him get along with the ones that he has. Embracing you in Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. For the pure glory of God, you are going farther for a bit of time so that you will sanctify Romagna. Of course, you were of great usefulness to me in this vicinity. But for the sake of balance, the decision was made in this fashion, but only after repeated prayers. So, Romagna is to be your field of action. Let me know whether you have a Lenten series, for my own information.

Paoletti will be going (near Civita Castellana) to Gallese, and from there on to Giano, as you will hear from de Victoriis. I have made other provisions for Capradosso.

2338

May 13, 1832
Fr. Felice Marchetti
Ariccia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

In reply to your very kind letter, I tell you that since the young man, Vincenzo, is of

⁵⁸ This letter has no date. From the contents, it seems to be contemporary with the preceding letter (May 12, 1832) to Msgr. Begni, but previous to the letter to this same Rosati of May 15, 1832.

⁵⁹ In the place.

canonical age and has a recommendation from the pastor, as well as the money for his first vesture, along with money for his first trip, he can be admitted. Our two Houses of primary probation are: one in S. Felice in Giano and one in Sermoneta. As a lesser expense, he should be able to work things out with Sermoneta, where, as soon as you write that everything is in order, I will send him with a letter to the Superior of the House. For the time being, he should get along with the clothing that he has, but, at the same time, he should bring along money for his first vesture which will be supplied as time goes on. Upon leaving, this first vesture can be sold by the young man. In the pastor's recommendation, it will be necessary to state that he has never been investigated or processed, that he is in a free status, and that he is a man of good conduct. After the pastor's signature, the paper should be endorsed by the Vicar General. While awaiting your reply, I say once again that with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 13, 1832

P. S. The expenditure for that vesture is not to exceed ten *scudi*, I repeat ten *scudi*; the Institute will look into that.

2339

May 15, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Toffia

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

Various unexpected things have caused some changes in our schedules and, as far as you are involved, the sickness of Father Camillo.

Send the enclosed matters to our men by express delivery. I am not sure of where Paoletti is now, since he might have departed already for Gallese, which is near Civita. Send word to him there immediately, addressing it with an extra outside cover. In that way, everything should be in good order.

Then, you, Father Gennaro and Luigi, etc. are to see to it that you get to Rimini during this month. Fr. Gennaro is scheduled to preach the month of the Divine Blood in Rimini; you, at the beginning of June, are to go with the Brother Marcello, who is there already, to Pennabilli for the Retreat in the seminary. The bishop will be sending the coach. More about this, later. Whenever you need Masses, write to me. In Rimini, I appoint you as the Director of Missions and Retreats for I wish to have you freed for the ministry at this time when you are in the beauty of your youth. Your residence will be in Rimini; but you will have to be of great assistance to me whenever needed for Macerata Feltria. At your convenience, draw up a report of all that you have taken in and paid out from the time that you left Rome. We will then settle things. Write to me. Give my thanks to the Vicar for his recent letter in which I learned that, up to that time, Fathers Gennaro and Paoletti had not as yet written to him. Perhaps they have done so since then. You will know how to handle that properly. Silvestri wrote to me about a cincture, but I do not have one for him, nor, it seems to me, that there is an account held with you. Write to him concerning this, enclosing your letter to the sister of Silvestri in Baucco. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, May 15⁶⁰

P. S. In hearing the confessions of women in Rimini and elsewhere, be cautious. Tell this to all the others.

2340

May 15/22, 1832
 Fr. Raffaele Rosati
 Toffia

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele⁶¹

At your convenience, send me what you have taken in and paid out and it will be my job to reimburse you so that you will be able to provide clothing for yourself, just as you mentioned to me.

Being somewhat doubtful that you will get this letter of mine, I am writing just a few things, as follows:

1. You, along with Father Gennaro, Montini and Luigi could get together in Gallese along with others of our men who are moving about, and in that way better regulate the expenses. All of next Monday could be used for this purpose; but, I would arrange for the meeting to be in Civita and not in Gallese. That would be at the place of Canon Achille in Civita, for Don Gennaro is acquainted with him.

2. If it is not possible to be in Civita by next Monday evening, it will not be necessary to go there; and you will be at freedom.

3. With regard to the methods of travel, the companions should work that out together. If nothing is available in Spoletto, get information from Merlini; but, it would be good for Father Giovanni to write to the Father, and I immediately will reimburse him at the first mention made to me. However, I do not know whether Father Giovanni is in Giano or in Pievetorina.

4. An account of everything should be sent to me, making allowances for Montini, at least in a discreet proportion, for that is the right thing to do. Fr Gennaro can look into that.

5. Tell Father Gennaro that he will find some letters of mine there, as you will likewise etc.

6. Let us be settled on the date for the seminary in Pennabilli; after that, you will have some rest, except for things called for by our rule. Please excuse me for importuning you; God, indeed, sees what I have in my heart.

7. Think no longer about work in Macerata Feltria. After Pennabilli, you are to return. There, you should revive everything, especially the association of the apostles.

8. After a bit more thought, you are not to go to Civita, but rather remain at liberty; ignore what I said on this above.

9. Your place of residence will be Rimini and you will have the position of Director of Missions and Retreats, which are the two titles of our Institute. For now, I want you thus free.

⁶⁰ The year is 1832.

⁶¹ It appears that this letter should be located between the letters of the 15th and 22nd of May, addressed to the same person.

10. Have I forgotten anything? I will take care of getting a gift of books for the Vicar, and you, if you have the time, should send a coachman, directing him to contact me. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Write to me etc.

May all of you travel with a great spirit of union with God, in order to drive out all the demons that vex our good confreres. That is the work of the enemy. However, God will guide us etc. Courage. Everywhere they are preaching by their good example, and in all things they show sagacity.

2341

May 18, 1832
Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, May 18⁶²

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

You will be receiving:

Nails	16 pounds	1,50 <i>scudi</i>
Rice	30 pounds	1,20 <i>scudi</i>
Coffee	6 pounds	1,44 <i>scudi</i>
Sugar	15 pounds	<u>1,35 <i>scudi</i></u>
		5,49 <i>scudi</i>

Send me the receipt.

With regard to the pious legacy, be patient while I contact Santarelli; after that we will come to an understanding.

I thought that you might have the month of the Divine Blood written out. More about this in another letter of mine. In the meantime, continue handling the Marian month.

How much chocolate is there? Write to me and we will decide what to do.

After Pacifico has returned, send Cardillo along with Coppola to Frosinone, where they will remain for a few days, and then from Frosinone, after getting directions from Father Beniamino, they will move on to Sermoneta.

On the vigil (let me use that word) of the day on which the bishop will be coming to visit, send for Majorano in Frosinone so that there will be two of you. Have Pacifico take care of the cooking; the other Brother will be coming there within a short while. After that, we will line up the present Missions in the Province systematically, and have no doubt that not a single man will be left behind. Even Merlini will be returning to the Province, and, in his time, will show up in Vallecorsa. Be advised of this. I repeat, with regard to Majorano, we are decided.

Give me information about the tin. Tell Coppola that I have sent the new material for his cassock on to Sermoneta. Once he gets there, he should look for it and see that his vesture is made.

⁶² The year is 1832 as is evident from the letters to the same person dated the 12th and 26th of May, and June 21, 1832.

Insist on the collection. Let me know how much oil is available; and in all things, you and I are to be in agreement. Please inform me as to the time of the bishop's visit. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Tell me whether I have overlooked anything. Majorano is informed.

I have sent 3 *scudi* for the travel expenses. Repeat for me once again the account and send me the small sheet.⁶³

2342

May 19, 1832
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

Excuse me if I am late in replying to your very kind letter. Through the mails, you have probably already received the money for the stationery which I received. Check to see whether the account is accurate.

Also, send the linen cloth, and let me know the cost so that I can reimburse you. Oh how many obligations I have to you!

Let us make your daughter a nun in Rome. All that is needed is for her to indicate her vocation, if it is for a particular Institute. *In lumine tuo videbimus lumen.*⁶⁴

Do not cease praying for me; also, remind me about anything that I may have overlooked. Presently, I am preaching the Marian month, and I am hopeful that it will be fruitful. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and affection

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 19, 1832

2343

May 19, 1832
Secretary of the association of St. Francis Xavier
Ripi

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁵

Most esteemed sir

I have already informed Father Beniamino Romani to go to Ripi for a triduum of encouragement for doing good work which is promoted there with such great zeal and edification. You should immediately get in touch with the aforementioned Father Beniamino in Frosinone, who, with the grace of God, will do outstanding work. One day, more or less, will not make that much

⁶³ These additions appear on the fourth siding, close to the address.

⁶⁴ In you light may we see light.

⁶⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

difference. However, you should keep things moving. I have already sent word on to Frosinone. In the meanwhile, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 19, 1832

2344

May 22, 1832

Student Michele Gentili

S. Paolo Albano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Michele

Sig. Originali has informed me (unless I am mistaken) that, out of the money order for 20 Sc., he had to take care of a small payment when he was on an errand for your father. However, when I get the money, I intend to consider it as though I had received the entire 20 Sc. In fact, since you are so close to the Subdiaconate, because of your love for the Society, I intend to relieve you of all worry about your room and board. But, just for my own records, tell me just how your account stands with reference to room and board, so that I may know whether I owe you something out of those 20 Sc. Likewise, let me know whether you are in need of anything: it will be quickly provided.

I, personally, recommended you to Sig. Originali. He should go to see Fr. Francesco Annivitti in order to arrange everything well, because I spoke to him only in a general way. He gave me to understand that the dimissorials could be taken care of. However, I did not go into too much detail. I also let him know that the Society is a true Institute. I found him to be most convinced.

Pray for me, who am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Tell Fr. Camillo that, as soon as he can, he should write to me. Give him my greetings.

(on the fourth page, alongside the address, we read:)

Am I forgetting anything?

2345

May 22, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail etc.

Dear Father Raffaele

If you need to substitute for the final days of the Marian month there, please do me the favor of substituting. After that, on to Pennabilli, as I directed. Then, return to Rimini. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 22⁶⁶

2346

May 24, 1832
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
Ascoli Piceno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father Giovannelli

Let me know whether you have received in the mail a package of reimbursement which was to be passed on to Canon Father Nicola Palma for a few small works that I purchased from Quartaroli in Teramo. For my peace of mind, I would appreciate a line or so.

With extreme sorrow did I learn of the loss of the good Father Vincenzo Bellenghi, for whom I shall not fail to pray.

I am never forgetful of your most worthy person, certain as I am of your charity. In these miserable times in which we find ourselves, let us not cease being zealous for divine glory, and work hard for the good cause. Let us fervently observe the great month, and, while kissing your hands, consider me to be always, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with esteem and respect

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁶⁷

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 24, 1832

2347

May 23, 1832
Pope Gregory XVI
Most blessed Father⁶⁸

Now that the Mission and Retreat House, under the direction of the Missionaries having the most august title of the Divine Blood, has been opened in the city of Nepi, in keeping with the rescripts obtained from your Holiness by the bishop of that city, and in all things adhering to the norms observed in the other foundations which our Institute has, we ask you for the faculty of having erected in our church the *Via Crucis* as well as in our inner chapel for the convenience of our community and for the benefit of retreatants and other men alone who would like to derive the benefits of this great practice; that etc.

In behalf of the petitioners whose signatures are here.⁶⁹

2348

May 26, 1832

⁶⁶ The year is 1832.

⁶⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁶⁸ On the fourth siding, we find the following: 1. the rescript, *ex audientia Sanctissimi*, of May 23, 1832. 2. the rescript of the Vicar General of the *Minori Osservanti* dated May 29, 1832. 3. the testimony of the actual erection, dated September 23, 1832.

⁶⁹ In another handwriting, the name "Gonnelli" is written.

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Fr. Giovanni

A couple of lines in a hurry. You will conduct the month of the Divine Blood in Vallecorsa. I would follow the pattern used last year.

How am I to take care of sending the wax? If some coach were to come, I would try etc. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Very soon you will be having a second Brother. Santarelli says that he left the keys there etc.

2349

May 26, 1832
Msgr. Antonio Begni
Bishop of Montefeltro
Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁰

Venerable Monsignor

The appointments for ministry in the month of June are such and so many that I am unsuccessful in cooperating with the wishes of the confessor of S. Agata as I surely would like to do. It will, however, be the first monastery in line after the feast of the Divine Blood. When your most appreciated letter got to me, the other appointments had already been previously made.

The Mission that you mentioned to me will be taken care of, have no doubt about that. Santarelli, one of our Missionaries, will get in touch with you.

See that the mounts are in Rimini for the work to be done in the seminary.

I had already sent letters to Paoletti, and Santarelli, who is aware of the unexpected motive for the delay, will inform you that it was not of my doing. I hope that finally they have arrived. I kiss your hands and, while asking you for a remembrance in your prayers, I am constantly, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 26⁷¹

2350

May 26, 1832
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁷⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷¹ The year is 1832 (cfr. the letter to this same person, dated June 12, 1832).

Reverend Mother

May God indeed be blessed because of the good work being done in that city. Let us pray for perseverance.

With regard to your soul, I say to you that all is going well, in fact very well. I direct you not to think about the past under any aspect, except to admire and to give thanks to God for his goodness. It is simply according to the rule that our acts of repentance should increase; but, it should all be done sweetly and gently. God is a peaceful God, even in the bitter situations here below: "*ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".⁷²

The easing of the spirit, therefore, is to be done as follows:

1. Illumination through prayer in order to discover what is required.
2. Note the tendencies of the soul
3. See whatever else may be needed to solve the problems. As for anything else, here, for you, is your motto: "*poenitentia mea, vita communis*".⁷³ I hope that I have made myself clear.

May God shower you with abundant blessings. Asking you for your prayers, I am, in the Heart of Jesus

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 26⁷⁴

⁷² Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

⁷³ My penance is community life.

⁷⁴ The year is 1832 as is evident from a notation made, perhaps, by the addressee herself.