

St. Gaspar's Letters

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2651

January 4, 1834
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Lenola

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

I am writing this letter so that you will please send me the notification of the Masses recently given to you, and also to ask you to go quickly to Sonnino.

Also, I am adding another 20 Masses, but they are to be celebrated immediately, even seeking the help of others of our men, or anyone else that you may select. I am writing in a hurry. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 4th of 1834

2652

January 7, 1834
Fr. Carlo Gazola
Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, 7th of 1834

Most esteemed Father Carlo

Pardon my delay in sending you a reply. The reasons for the delay were a number of Missions to which God had called me.

In short, I shall point out the following items:

1. I received the devotional booklets. Give my deeply-felt, effusive thanks to the excellent Father Antonio Mosti.

2. Father Biagio will have your booklets.

3. I shall carry out what you mentioned to me with regard to the Confraternity of the Divine Blood. A bit of reasonable time will be needed in order to get the copies; everything will be taken care of.

4. Give my warm regards to all our community there. During the recent recurring mysteries, I did not fail to ask for every blessing of sweetness on all of you.

May Jesus be the love of our hearts and in his Divine Heart, I remain constantly as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2653

January 7, 1834
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Bishop of Camerino
Camerino

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

Venerable Monsignor

Having returned from the holy Mission in Ronciglione, blessed in a particular way by God, I am resuming my letter-correspondence with your most reverend excellency upon whom, in spirit, I have wished an abundant flow of celestial blessings of the most merciful God during the recent recurring mysteries; likewise, I feel assured of your charity towards me as I continue always to beseech your prayers in my behalf. Now, moving on to matters that are still pending, let us look upon them individually as follows:

1. The petition in behalf of the nieces of the excellent Father Biagio Valentini is underway. I hope soon to have it completed as a consolation to those innocent souls. First, however, it is to be submitted to your excellency for your favorable approval.

2. With regard to the Lenten preacher in Pievetorina, after I learned in my recent quick and unexpected visit that Father Beniamino Romani had never preached Lent in that area, and furthermore that he was pleased to do so, I told him that he should abstain for the time being from preaching and in that way could fruitfully prepare for the Lenten series. So, now I am sending this information on to your most reverend excellency.

3. Please read the rescript of authorization with respect to the matters of the cases, and you will note, if I am not mistaken, that you are given the faculties to sanate whatever is necessary. The Institute presented the petitions given by those deputized in the Mission House. Everything, at the time, was in good order. Later, however, some doubts arose; and thus your most reverend excellency has been given the faculty to sanate. So, it appears now that no further questions can be raised; and also, in this matter, one can remain tranquilly at peace.

4. Likewise, I am concerned with regard to the new road that is being introduced with damage being done to the land belonging to the House in Pievetorina. I am not at all doubtful about the support your most reverend excellency will give us. Also, his Eminence Fransoni is involved in this. Hence, offer prayers for a just defense of our sacred rights. I repeat, I am trusting in your efficacious help.

5. In battling against these tribulations, as you have directed me to do, we are encouraged to recognize that our Society is from God, that it is a source of displeasure to the devil and that amid thorns and crosses, it will prosper.

6. Finally, in whatever you may consider me capable of, all you need do is give me the command; this is applicable likewise to my companions.

7. As a practical matter, would it be a feasible plan to have S. Venanzio in Rome as our hospice? You know what idea the Commune would have. If I have forgotten anything, let me know. Asking you for your prayers, I kiss your hands, and with complete esteem, respect and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 7th of 1834

P. S. The most reverend delegate writes to the Pro-Delegate that the Cause is being reviewed

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

in devolutivo.² It seems to me rather that (if the order is not suspended) the cause for immunity should be pursued. Except for a papal dispensation, this would likewise necessarily be the opinion of his Eminence Frasoni. However, we would like to have your opinion and advice as to what should be the position to hold.

2654

January 9, 1834
 Msg. Nicola Mattei
 Bishop of Camarino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³

Venerable Monsignor

Unexpected and quite painful was the reception of your letter of the seventh of this month. In it, you tell me that I am content that the Passionist Fathers might return to Pievetorina. Unable to excuse the words that someone uttered in that falsehood that has been reported to you, I do excuse, however, their intentions. I will say that it is an aberration of the mind, an involuntary mistake, and I could use other terms that charity might suggest. But, my Monsignor, how in the world could you ever write in such a way to me to bring bitterness to my soul? I know what your heart is like and I repeat that this must all be the result of a confused situation that the devil has cooked up.

The Passionist Fathers have renounced the locale of S. Agostino ... you asked for us ... we were confirmed by pontifical rescripts for this installation ... we have put out money for the work and for the ministry ... it was not too long ago that I had to send 45 *scudi* as a partial payment for oxen obtained for the lands of the Chaplaincies ... furthermore, other quite notable expenses had to be met as is the situation in every such event. Presently, I am offered the Monastero delle Macchie, which the Cistercian Fathers have renounced; it is not adapted for the programs of our Institute and its present condition, I am quite aware of, because of a detailed report given by my uncle, a Cistercian Father in S. Croce. This report has also been confirmed by Father Benigni.

Or, I am being offered another locale involving the care of orphans which is the holy work proper to the Somaschi Fathers, thus quite extraneous and not at all in keeping with our work. In Pievetorina, we are fairly close to a subsidy sufficient for our sustenance and for improvement of our Institute, but, elsewhere there is scarcely enough for a livelihood. My Monsignor, please allow me to cease writing at this point and rather proceed to the foot of the crucifix to pray. I am not in opposition to the Father Provost of the Passionists who, wishing to spread his holy Institute, are not to be lacking in places and necessary funds.

But Pievetorina has been given to us by God and through your help, and with papal confirmation; *et de proprio*⁴ we have put out money as we continue to do. So, out of charity, let us allow things to remain as they are. While God diffuses our Institute throughout Romagna, let us not lose it in your archdiocese, so very dear to me. Monsignor, be assured that my personal affection toward you is what has urged me to write this to you, and I have not had the heart to discuss this with anyone else. I kiss your sacred hands, most venerable Monsignor, and with total obeisance,

² Send to a lower authority.

³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴ And about one's own.

esteem and veneration, I am and will constantly be
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, 9th of 1834

2655

January 9, 1834
 Fr. Francesco Paradisi
 Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I give you my very vivid and distinct thanks for the good wishes that you have directed to the throne of Divine Mercy for me with the recurrence of the holy mysteries, imploring an abundant flow of graces and celestial divine favors upon me. So, I too have prayed and continue to pray that *Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.⁵ I hope that your health has improved and I wish that it will prosper so that you can continue to be helpful for the welfare of souls there as well as for the progress of the pious institutions. On this occasion, extend my good wishes to the excellent Father Giovanelli and tell him not to cease praying for me. I kiss your hands and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, 9th of 1834

2656

January 9, 1834
 Msgr. Antonio Piatti
 Rome
 Venerable Monsignor

Occupied in the holy Retreat in the Monastero dei Santi Quattro Coronati, I am now inconveniencing you with this most humble letter of mine so as to ascertain the times that you may be pleased to indicate to me for the two shifts of Retreats in the Pious House of the Mantellate, where so much good work is done for the glory of the Lord and the benefit of souls. All that I would need to have is a line or so from your secretary indicating those times to me; or, a word in person from your chamberlain. The reason for this is that his Eminence Falzacappa wishes to have me take care of the Retreats, at night, for his family during Lent as well as for others who will attend. But, I would first like to be punctual for the duty that I undertake for the Mantellate as well as for the many reasons that I have which pertain to your sacred personage. If one of those shifts were to fail during Carnival time and the others at the beginning of Lent, that would be just fine, and there would even be time for some catechetical instructions.

⁵ The Lord will repay on my behalf with sweet blessings.

Monsignor Director General, you make your decision as the Lord directs you. I kiss your hands and with obeisance, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, 9th of 1834

2657

January 10, 1834

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶

Most kind Father Pasquale

I have reflected well on the religious and most pleasing task of the Marian month, which you have offered to me.

However, in reference to the ministry, what is certain is that I shall be in Rome during Lent; however, it is uncertain that I will be there in the springtime. It is not now a matter of rule for me to make a commitment at the present time. Indeed, the one who has had the kindness to think about me for this task, will have an inspiration from the Lord to have recourse to some other worker who will be able, with precision, to give a definite answer of acceptance from this very moment. With this understanding in mind and asking you for your prayers, I kiss your hands and I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

2658

January 11, 1834

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

My dearest in Jesus Christ *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁷

*Habe me excusatum.*⁸ I have not been lacking in the will to write to you, but really only the time. Presently I am in the process of completing a course of Retreats and later I shall write a list of directions for you. In the meantime, (safeguarding respect for everyone) I have thought of assigning you to Pievetorina so that you will be under the directorship of Father Beniamino Romani to whom I have recommended you. I believe that you will be happy with this. For my own peace of mind, I would like to know whether this will be so. Giovanni Battista would come to get you with the mount that we have in Pievetorina and, if necessary, you will inform the superior there to supply a burro likewise. In that event, it will be necessary for Giovannino to go along in order to return it to Giano.

⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷ Whom I love with unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁸ Hold me excused.

See that you have the certification for hearing confessions in good order so that the Archbishop of Camerino can subsequently give his approval. I hope that I have made myself clear. It would not be sufficient for this archbishop to have it expressed only verbally. In Pievetorina, you carry out those things which I have already indicated to Father Beniamino. May Jesus fill you with his holy spirit and, by communicating with each other in prayer, let us add capital gains for heaven.

Also, I would be pleased if you would not go out on the ministry for the time-being. Your work inside will be enough. Recommend yourself to Xavier. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 11th of 1834

2659

January 11, 1834

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

I understand what you tell me and in all things let us be in agreement. In the meantime, as I ponder on your situation with respect to preparing yourself for the ministry, tell me candidly if you would voluntarily go to Macerata Feltria or whether you would rather remain nearer to me. I could assign you to one of our Houses in the Province so that in solitude you could make your preparations, *et ad tempus*.⁹ In going to Macerata, I would supply you with some writings. Please, write to me immediately. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

Rome, 11th of 1834

2660

January 18, 1834

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I am in need of your charity and, along with the greatest possible haste, I need to have six bolts of cloth or good material for bed sheets. At the same time, please send me six reams of stationery, one of the longer type for memoranda, one or rather two of the smaller type for letters, two of the usual letter-paper, and a ream of the lesser quality for making rough copies of things. If the printer should have on hand a discrete number of Chaplets, add that in. It is understood that there is not to be a new reprinting. Send me the bill, while also letting me know how we stand since the last accounting.

⁹ And for a time.

Please excuse all of these inconveniences. For them, I implore ample and special blessings on you. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 18th of 1834

2661

January 18, 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

Two lines, in a hurry.

Get some rooms ready.

Cardillo must have some books there that belong to him. You are to get them, and send them to me with a forwarding address to Merlini.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, 18 of 1834

A Franciscan will be the new Bishop of Terracina.

2662

January 20, 1834

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

Upon receiving this letter of mine, and after getting the advice of Father Brandimarte, procure a place on a coach for men alone and come to my house in Rome. From there, you will move on to the Province of Campagna. More when we meet in person. I shall be awaiting you with the greatest possible haste. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 20th of 1834

P. S. I am supposing that Father Raffaele¹⁰ has returned. Tell him that he should have a room ready and that he will soon have a companion. See that your passport is signed.

2663

January 23, 1834

Pietro Barcaroli

¹⁰ Brandimarte.

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Pietro

Excuse my delay in sending you a reply, brought about by the work of the ministry which has kept me particularly busy at this time. However, in thinking continuously of you, oh how often I would have liked to write to you. Never have I ceased being united with you in spirit, in the holy bond of charity, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, the only center where our souls find the mystical ark of salvation and of peace. I have implored and continue to implore thousands and thousands of blessings for you and for everything that pertains to you, certain of the continual charity you have in remembering me to the Lord. Yes, my dearest friend, let us pray that through these temporal years that fly by so rapidly, we will be able to attain the eternal years, the blessed goal of our aspirations.

To tell the truth, it would be very good to stimulate there another new Mission, and with the Institute habitually changing the variation in its methods when returning for the ministry, along with a change of preachers, it thus makes its efforts even more useful for the interests of the glory of God. In your prayers and your industrious works of charity, make every effort to succeed in this intention. In the meantime, do not cease taking care of and animating the pious institutions, the holy Oratory, and the devotion to the Divine Blood, especially in times of greatest urgency. With complete respect, consider as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 23rd of 1834

2664

January 25, 1834

Fr. Michele Palombi

Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Michele

Let me know whether in my last letter I charged you with celebrating 20 or 30 Masses. Remind me of the number, and if you wish to, you can share them with Silvestri. But, do not go beyond February; I ask you, please do this. I shall extend my intention covering the number 30. Answer me quickly. I have given you an answer on everything else.

Have them prepare the room for the man who is to give the Lenten sermons.

I am in J.C. Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 25 of 1834

(On the fourth facing of this letter, near the address:)

The Masses that I am writing about are different from the ones that I wrote about to Silvestri, etc., etc.. These are from the preceding ordinary mail.

2665

January 26, 1834
 Ignazio Lesinelli
 Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ignazio

I am consoled by the good news concerning your sister.

I am enclosing a letter for Marchetti which I would be pleased if you, with your efficacious zeal, were to see that he gets it. At this same time, I am including another notification which has reached me concerning Masses celebrated according to your intention. I repeat that when it is a question of Masses of pure devotion, the anticipation is in keeping with a greater good; and it will be a speeding up of the entry into Paradise for so many souls.

Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, 26th of 1834

2666

January 28, 1834
 Fr. Francesco Paradisi
 Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. I give thanks to God for the good health that you are enjoying and which will help toward increasing your merits for heaven.

You do not name for me the people who have expressed their concerns about you, and so I can do nothing more than pray. As often as I can, I visit our Houses and, it seems to me, with the grace of God, I can be happy with them. You know very well that even among good people reasons for suffering are encountered. The heart is good, the fear of God is not lacking, but to live in community is to live continuously exercising virtue. In diversity in natures, a diversity in temperaments; and, consequently, in that lies the great balance of the practice of virtue.

God knows that I would like very much to have you join our Institute, and I myself have stimulated you to do this. I agree that you can work only *juxta vires*,¹¹ still, observance of the rule must also be promoted *juxta vires*.

We will try to work something out with regard to the rooms; one or the other will have to sleep nearby in other rooms. Indeed, keeping in touch with God and with the excellent Father Giovannelli, you can resolve the question in such a way as to come to a decision which will be for the greater glory of God. I note that after the experience, you love the House more than the Community; I bear patiently with you on that. I do not know what else to say *in causa propria*¹² for the Institute. Let us continue to pray. With esteem, I remain

¹¹ According to one's strength.

¹² In its own cause.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 28th of 1834

P.S. Then, too, what climate could you best adjust to? It is difficult to find one like that of Montalto. You are acquainted with the Houses.

2667

January 29, 1834

Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli¹³

(Convittore)¹⁴

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Fr. Rocco

If I am late in giving you an answer to your most esteemed letter written to me in the name of all the Boarding Students, you can attribute the delay to the large number of projects of the ministry which have encompassed me. As regards the rest, in spirit how many times I have wanted to write a reply, wishing to recall every blessing of sweetness of the most Merciful God, as I continue doing and will always do; certain of your charity in always praying for me and for the Institute which is so interested in the urgent needs of souls.

Meanwhile, you men are to continue ever more preparing yourselves through prayer, with humility and with study, so as to be able to direct and expand the good that we must promote incessantly. This is the great aim and purpose for which we are united in our Houses, along with the most ardent wish of being one day united in heaven. With this sentiment, I conclude; while renewing myself in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with all affection, I am your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 29 of 1834

2668

January 30, 1834

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

In the mail you will be receiving 20 *scudi*, addressed to you in a package. Then, figure out, as usual, the entire account for a settlement. Oh! how many obligations with you!

As of now, I have not received the reams of stationery which you say you have sent to me.

¹³ Cfr. biographical section.

¹⁴ Where this letter might have been mailed to remains until now uncertain, since there is no external indication. From the context, one notices only that it deals with one of the Boarding Schools. Perhaps it was the one at Giano, since in Lett. n. 2743 (June 28, 1834), which Sebastianelli received in all probability at Sermoneta in 1835, it is presumed that he had already taken up residence in Giano. We find him still there in January of 1836 (cfr. Lett. n. 3040, January 5, 1836).

Pray a lot for me; in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, 30th of 1834

2669

January 30, 1834
 Fr. Raffaele Ruffoli
 Palestrina

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

Most esteemed Canon

I received your very kind letter and I have copied on a separate sheet those enrolled in our great devotion.

I will be sending you the book of blessings. In it, you will find the formula that you are seeking; however, let me know how you wish me to send it to you. I shall try to find some way or other. In that book, the formula *in articulo mortis*¹⁶ is not for your usage, that is to say, you do not have the faculty to use it if you wish to have it, it will be necessary for you to request it directly from Monsignor Gregorio Muccioli, bishop of Agatopoli, and President of the Confraternity.

With regard to the Chaplets, they are the ones with the *Ave Marias* in wood or coconut and they accompany the booklet of the Chaplet of the most Precious Blood. I hope that I have made myself clear. The votive offerings are the ones that are usually given when a grace has been received etc. The sashes are red like the ones that are distributed (though white) by the Franciscans. The form is the same, but they are red. Whoever wishes, may make devotional use of them.

With regard to the novenas, I do not remember whether I left you any of ours. In some way or other, I will include them. You make your choice. However, the one that you mentioned to me, I cannot locate at the present time.

At the end of the compendium of the Life of the Saint which I am sending to you, it seems to me, there is also a novena. Father Croiset, in the volume for the month of March, reproduces the novena for that month. Try to read that volume. If some prodigious events occur, see that they are properly documented, so that they could be submitted for printing. I thank God for the fervor shown in the holy Oratory. Let us support each other in the doing of good work. Pray for me and have others do so too. With complete esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, 30th of 1834

2670

January 30, 1834
 Fr. Pietro Butti

¹⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁶ At the moment of death.

Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

During the Mission in Veroli, I provided you with the regulations for the daughters of the most holy Mary, along with the printed booklet showing all the pious works, I did not give you your own copy because this was a matter of an extension which, though holy, I did not have the time to examine for conformity to other Missions. This copy I sent on to Merlini; but, since it is so copious, how can it be propagated? You know that simplicity makes doing good easier.

I keep recommending your brother as often as I can. You can be sure of that. Let us continue to pray.

I shall see whether I can succeed in getting the relic of Saint Philomena. Let us join with each other evermore in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, 30th of 1834

2671

January 31, 1834

Mons. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

I shall be sending you a copy of the proxy concerning which we are in agreement.

I see that I shall not be able to go to Monsignor Clarelli's area except at the beginning of Lent. In the meantime, I thank you wholeheartedly for the information.

Father Fortuna will be coming to see you since he is destined to give the Three Hours of Agony for the men's prison. I am looking into the other things.

I am enclosing some notifications of enrollees. In this regard I point out that I continue selecting aggregators and, perhaps, my Missionary companions are doing the same. If ever some error should slip in, please let me know. In short, in doing this I am doing what you do, as a help to you. Give me your instructions with a line or so to me. That is how it was in the times of Albertini, safeguarding, I repeat, any error.

In another letter of mine, I will take up something else. I remain, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ *qui dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁷

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant and loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, 31st of 1834

P. S. If there is available some translations of the Chaplet in foreign languages, I would like to see them for a short while.

¹⁷ Who loved us and washed us in his blood.

2672

January 31, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I have received the notification of the 10 Masses. The offerings of 1.50 *Sc.*, at 15 *baj.* each, we shall pay out as follows: get one *scudo* from Fr. Stefano Pizzi, to whom I have written that I paid for his certification here in Rome. You shall receive the 5 *paoli* within a short time.

I recommend the greatest diligence in hunting everywhere for Cardillo's books. They certainly are not in my room. Give me a report on this.

Pray for me who, in J.C. Crucified, am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Rome, January 31, 1834)¹⁸

P. S. I am sending 20 Masses to be celebrated in the coming February, and not beyond that.

2673

February 5, 1834
Fr. Tommaso Meloni
Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

I am sending 40 Masses and asking you to see to it that, after distributing them to the companions Fr. Beniamino and Fr. Orazio according to the need that they have, they be celebrated during this current February. They are to be completed by the 2nd or 3rd of March, and no later.

I thank you for the information about Fr. Paoletti, and, prudently, I shall investigate the matter of the amount of food.

Your observations concerning the pork are most justifiable, *et ut ex me*,¹⁹ I would suggest, etc.

For the time being, continue to remain in Pievetorina. *Expedi*²⁰ for a bit longer. *Adhuc modicum*.²¹

In reference to the glass, we are awaiting new measurements since they were mislaid by the glass-worker. You will be taken care of with respect to the little picture of Our Lady.

Am I forgetting anything? Pray for me who in Jesus Christ Crucified am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

¹⁸ The place of origin is derived from the text of the letter. The day and the month are taken from the postal markings. The year, however, is deduced from a comparison with the following letter, n. 2661, dated January 18, 1834, in which the Saint asks Fr. Spina to hunt for and mail out Fr. Cardillo's book.

¹⁹ And as from itself.

²⁰ It is expedient.

²¹ For now a little bit.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, as your address, February 5, 1834

2674

Beginning of February, 1834

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio²²

Here is my answer to your very dear letter.

1. With reference to hearing confessions, read *The Penitent and the Confessor*, instructions by Father Segneri; then there is the *Directorio* of Blessed Leonard; also, finally, there is the *Directorio* of Ven. De Rossi. Father Tomasso must have a copy of that. Lastly, there is the third volume of the *Orazione* of Blessed Liguori. In addition to your assiduous study, add prayer, stimulated by humility.

Very helpful, too, would be to read the small work "*Direttore diretto*" well-known to Father Beniamino.

According to our rules, books are not to be taken out of the library; remind Father Beniamino of this so that he will be watchful, having no doubts at all about the obedience of our men.

2. With regard to preaching, let me know whether your voice is up to preaching; or whether, because of reasons of health, you should abstain. In the meantime, however, it would be good for you to apply yourself to catechetical instructions which will provide you with reasons for re-cultivating, so to speak, matters dealing with morals. In addition, prepare things in alphabetical order so as to keep a note of everything that is worthy of preaching. Very profitable, too, would be a careful reading of the writings of Father Segneri, skipping over the mythological facts which are no longer in use in our times. In Segneri you will discover very beautiful material, and as you continue your letter-correspondence and having your compositions reviewed, you will form for yourself some programs conducive to the glory of God. Here is one, for example: you wish to give a catechetical instruction on charity. First read Segneri; next, check the index found in the "Manna" by the same author.

There you will find other points beyond what you have discovered in his "*Cristiano istruito*". Then arrange your thoughts and proofs in successive order, supported then with opportune examples, avoiding in your preaching questionable matters and thus producing only certain doctrine. You will be richly blessed by God.

See that your preaching is simple, dignified, clear and tending toward getting results. Avoid being monotonous and learn how to distinguish the fervor of your instruction with the various inflections of your voice. These are basic things. The rest will follow.

3. It seems to me that your jobs will be those of Director of Retreats and Prefect in the

²² This letter has no date. From the postal markings we know that it was sent from Albano and arrived at its destination on February 10. The year is certainly 1834. In fact, this letter contains the "list of directions" which St. Gaspar speaks about in his letter (n. 2658) to this same person of January 11, 1834. Cfr. also the letter (n. 2673) to Fr. Tomasso Meloni dated February 5, 1834 with regard to Masses.

church. I am not going to repeat what your care of the church and your concern about sacred things should be. With regard to those making Retreats, Father Beniamino will be able to direct you in reading one or the other paper contained in the archives.

4. Along with your position as Vice-President of the Boarding School, I urge you to keep in mind everything that you have already learned from me. If a doubt should arise, write to me, if necessary. To lighten Fr. Beniamino's work, you will go out with the young man and be of assistance to them etc., enlivening and encouraging them etc.

5. At the first opportunity, you will be receiving the relics of Mary most holy and St. Xavier. By coach, a package will be arriving for you. For the expenses incurred and for the reliquary, as well as for the coach-expense, you will immediately apply two Masses. It will be sufficient that you write and let me know that you have celebrated them.

6. In addition to the study-conferences which you will undertake with Father Tomasso (with the help of Father Beniamino when he can) and, when he is absent, that you do alone, maintaining the observance of the rule, while going to the place, etc. with reference to the things being treated, it will be sufficient that in your private study you cover those things which are of greatest urgency. In hearing the confessions of men, know when to raise doubts when necessary, in particular when there is question of contracts, in matrimonial matters, and in other situations of the like. Read the cases in *Bulla Cenaë*, etc., etc., the synodal regulations where they exist etc. God will bless, I repeat, your apostolic work. In a case of denunciation, Liguori handles that well; and it is good not to be in a hurry etc. With any other doubts, consult someone.

7. You will take care of the privileged altar. In regard to the Masses which I have already sent to you, they are to be shared with Father Tomasso. With reference to those that were given to him by Cardillo, the same thing is to be understood. In this regard, later, when you have been supplied with what is urgent, when you can, be mindful of our Institute and work along with me, for I know best where and how to grant subsidies, *servato ordine*.²³ If you are unable, nevertheless keep moving forward etc.

8. In the matter of preaching, the ministry is facilitated by presenting examples from the life of the most holy Mary. Pep talks etc. after acquiring a certain facility, it will be easier to make use of the platform, and a beginning can be made by giving fervorinos for general communions. Above all, have trust in God and you will be victorious. Become accustomed to being brief, and you will be doing a greater good. I repeat, I shall be sending all of the offerings to Cardillo. You, likewise, should inform him of this. Send the notification back to me while quickly advising Cardillo of it. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2675

February 6, 1834
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Bishop of Camerino
 Camerino

²³ Keeping the order.

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

Venerable Monsignor

Excuse my delay in sending you a reply. This was caused by me not feeling so well during these past days.

With regard to the bridge, you should be informed by Ceccarelli; to be brief, you will note what will be necessary.

His Eminence Frasoni has spoken to the most reverend Delegate; I, too, have spoken to him, and I want to be hopeful that the status of the situation will be reviewed, *juris ordine servato*.²⁵ You know what happens to a piece of property with the servitude that they wish to impose. It is a question of the sacred endowment of the church of S. Agostino which is being cut back. So, it is necessary not to overlook just means for the defense of this sanctuary. May you be pleased to tell Ceccarelli what will be done in your curia, as well as with the Congregation of Immunity which is in charge of this matter. Likewise, to see whether there is some method or other, or some privilege that will not be costly to me. Not even his Eminence Frasoni knows whether the Delegate is empowered with the faculty.

So, his most reverend Eminence says that, first, it is necessary for your most reverend excellency to talk, then act, and be informed about the situation. Then, after you have expressed your preferences, one can move on to whatever is subsequently required. However, I feel that the question should be brought to an end since I hear that the Communes do not care for new avenues which will bring on new expenses and new quotas; so, the whole thing should be dropped. I am distant and I can add nothing further. I shall write to my companions that in all things they should carry out whatever your most worthy personage will suggest and if it is inevitable, even legally. The Delegate is disposed for a consideration of the matter, since no method was observed in having the beam put in place. Our Missionaries and Ceccarelli can better elucidate the question for your consideration.

In reference to the moral cases, I repeat, your most reverend excellency had the faculty to sanate what, with no fault on our part, was done with little observable regularity, as well as what remains to be examined. Read the rescript and you will note what is to be done.

The favor to be granted to the nieces of Father Biagio, I am awaiting momentarily. Thousands and thousands of thanks for your kindness.

In regard to the hospice in Rome, here is the story. Pope Pius VII gave us S. Clemente. The now-deceased Cardinal Cristaldi was ordered to restore it, and that was done. At the time when we were supposed to take up our abode there, Pius VII died and with Leo XII succeeding him, he informed us (in wishing to make an arrangement of things with reference to pious places) that he would grant us another place since he wished to give S. Clemente to the Dominicans who were in charge of the Chiesa della Pace, so as to render it free for the clergy of the Collegio Romano, which he then granted to the Padri della Compagnia. Here, please observe that we were very close to inhabiting S. Clemente, but this was delayed in order to have the walls dried out fully. Later, Leo XII died and up to now nothing conclusive has been able to be done. There are, however, various possibilities: among others, there is S. Venanzio dei Cammerinesi, once a parish, which I have taken into consideration. But, I cannot manage to find out the status of things, for only the Commune of Cammerino in its Archives will have, in all clarity, the final answer. But, in all things, whatever God

²⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁵ Preserving the order of law.

wishes.

In the meanwhile, the Lord is blessing our Society and much good work is being done by it. Presently, a Congregation of the Filippini Fathers in Pennabilli, with a pontifical rescript issued by the present Pope, has been aggregated to our Institute. May your most reverend excellency not cease to pray for this and for me. While kissing your hands, most reverend excellency, I am and will constantly be, with complete obeisance, esteem and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo, Albano, February 6, 1934

Your letters to "Rome".

2676

February 9, 1834

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Urbino per Macerata Feltria²⁶

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

Esteemed Father Domenico

It has come to my attention that priests outside the Society have been hearing confessions, either in the morning or in the afternoon, in our church. Since we must maintain in the Society a uniform practice, I urge that you prudently seek to establish the procedure that is desired: the Missionaries are to confess in their own church; the other priests in the parochial church. No one can reasonably object to this, since the authorization and the episcopal jurisdiction does not exclude the condition "for good order" as well as the expression "*de licentia Rectoris*".²⁸ No one, therefore I repeat, can reasonably be opposed. It does not follow from these remarks that I have noted any obduracy on your part, since obedience to legitimate superiors is a virtue; to act contrarily would be obduracy. Add to that the fact that we by our rule do not hear the confessions of women after dinner in order to be free to take care of the prisons and other branches of the ministry. Discord can easily arise; in order not to be too long about this matter, nothing more need be said except this respectful warning.

If other Missionaries have tolerated this practice, it was on their own judgment, justifiably excusable on the basis of their assertion that they did not want to displease anyone. This, however, is not a matter of displeasure. Rather, it is the maintenance of a well-regulated order. In this way, too, we do not allow room for error for penitents who might think that it is a Missionary who is hearing confessions, when it may not be so. These wonderful priests, who up to now have followed the practice that was in use during the period of the Chaplaincies, are men of good judgment as well as learning, and this assures me of their respectful obedience.

Pray for me; and I am with esteem

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

²⁶ In an annotation, put there perhaps by Silvestri himself, one reads: "a letter from the Rev. Director General Canon del Bufalo, by which he prohibits outside confessors to hear confessions in our church"; Merlini then adds: "because of the delicate nature of the situation, he has been silent about it, and has explained elsewhere".

²⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁸ Concerning the permission of the Rector.

G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House at Albano, February 9 , 1834
 Your letters: = Rome =

2677

February 9, 1834
 Fr. Carlo Giorgi
 Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

With regret did I learn from your recent letter of the status of your health. Through that, your virtue is tried and it can be refined even more. Do not cease using the opportune means available, since that is of obligation in the order established by the Lord. Nor should you cease being zealous *et per se iuxta vires et per alios*²⁹ in behalf of the pious organizations, in order to achieve a felicitous progress.

Pray for me. With esteem, I remain
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

2678

February 9, 1834
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

Please order the reprinting of one thousand Chaplets. I am unable to request more.

With regard to the cloth or the material, you should find it either in Cereto or in Matelica. We need six bundles, along with two of the finer material. Send me the bill; also, let me know whether you have received in the mail the 20 *scudi* on account. I have received the stationery. Give me an accounting of everything. Oh how many obligations I have toward you! At least provide me with the opportunity of showing you my sincere gratitude. Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

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

Rome, February 9, 1834

2679

February 10, 1834
 Fr. Tomasso Meloni
 Cammerino per Pievetorina

²⁹ And through himself according to his abilities and through others.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

In writing to me about the Luoghi de' Monti,³⁰ not requested by us, with reference to the letter from Lawyer Scaramucci, explain better which ones you mean, and inform Fr. Beniamino about this. Let us go on to something else.

*Signa apostolatus in multa patientia.*³¹ I must have you in Nepi, not indeed *ad standum*,³² but to assist in doing good during the present season of Lent. I remind you, however, that you must be in Pievetorina for the Saturday before Palm Sunday: be sure of that. Do this favor for me. Get yourself a seat in the carriage (with men only), if you agree: Lo and behold, you will quickly be in Nepi. You will get further information from Fr. Raffaele Brandimarte. You shall take part discreetly: have no doubts. We have no mounts here; so, you have to go and return by means of the carriage. But, see to it that you hurry.

Thanking you beforehand, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 10, 1834

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

Let me know what your expenses are and be wary. Offer this hardship to God.

2680

February 18, 1834

Fr. Sebastiano Agostini

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father Sebastiano

The three *scudi* for the notification of 20 Masses have already been placed on deposit at your disposal.

It is true that notice was supposed to have been given concerning the lodging provided in Vallecorsa. The situation has gone forward. Do not concern yourself about it any more.

Concerning NN. here is some advice:

1. He has need of more trust in God.

2. Sweep away pusillanimity and say: "*spiritu principali confirma me*".³³

3. Ordinarily, penitents come because they have the intention of setting their own souls in order; therefore, in general, charity and ease of manner; remind NN. of all that was discussed in person. In case of doubt, tell NN. to resolve the matter *in favorem poenitentis*.³⁴ Thus, *in casu*,³⁵ for NN.

³⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Collection of Monies

³¹ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

³² To remain.

³³ With a principal spirit strengthen me.

³⁴ In favor of the penitent.

³⁵ In case.

4. Pray that God will free him *a pusillanimitate spiritus*.³⁶

5. He is not to give time to so many intellectual reflections *circa hoc*.³⁷

6. A great work of grace was the recent Retreat ... *bonum depositum custodi*³⁸ ...

7. Finally, he should prepare himself to conduct the Three Hours of Agony which will be held in the Cathedral of Palestrina. Let me know whether Masses are available there; and quickly. With regard to the Three Hours, for which he should prepare himself by prayer, he should join the merit of obedience. Later, I will tell him about the travel etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 18³⁹

2681

February 19, 1834

Student Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli,
Cesena⁴⁰

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Rocco

God disposes a diversity of natures so that we can exercise the virtues. Much is accomplished through prayer and through good example.

Meanwhile, what you observe that ought to be reported, you should do for a short while, informing the President. I shall also write directly to the President. Later, we shall see how things turn out.

Let us root ourselves ever more and more in prayer.

Then, too, I would like to know just where we stand with regard to the room and board up to your subdiaconate. You donated the *Summa* of St. Thomas. Tell me everything in detail.

Pray for me. Lead everyone in your observance of the rule; I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 19^{41 42}

2682

March 6, 1834

³⁶ From cowardice of spirit.

³⁷ Concerning this.

³⁸ Guard the good that has been put in your care.

³⁹ The year is certainly 1834. In fact, in that year Fr. Agostini was located in Frosinone, where a Mission preached by Agostini in Lugnano, diocese of Palestrina.

⁴⁰ The place of destination for this letter is probably Sermoneta (cf. note on Lett. n. 2827 - January 13, 1835).

⁴¹ This letter belongs perhaps to 1835, when Sebastianelli was not as yet a Subdeacon. The reference to the *Summa* of St. Thomas connects it with Lett. n. 2891 (May 15, 1835) as well as Lett. n. 2743 (June 28, 1834).

⁴² Cf Additional Biographical Data: Sebastianelli, Fr. Rocco (re: first letter)

Fr. Vincenzo Ceccacci
Guarcino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Enclosed is a privilege which I think may be useful for the Oratory in Guarcino. The expense for the decree of rites is 16½ *paoli* for which it will be sufficient for me that the Oratory offer a sung funeral Mass with the attendance of those devout members of the Xavier group who are able to be present on some day that is free. That Mass should be offered in accordance with my intention. It is understood that it should be a Requiem Mass and the members will give the offering to whoever celebrates the Mass, unless someone is found who will offer it *gratis*. Let us be in agreement. I am including also a Brief of Indulgences; see to its *publicetur*.⁴³ I do not know whether this stands in the way of other privileges of indulgences that might be in existence. You check on this. Tell Flori that I will be writing to him in a future ordinary mail-delivery and that the Missions have delayed my sending him a reply. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 6, 1834

2683

March 6, 1834
Missionary Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Orazio

I am sending you 20 Masses to be celebrated in the month of March and not beyond that. If needed, get some help so that the time limit is not exceeded. You will then send me the notification.

I am not opposed to your brief return to Frosinone; for that short period of time you will reside in the Mission House. The expense for this will be a personal one, as you know very well; then, too, as a point of good order, it would not be out of the way to inform Father Beniamino, saying: "I have sought permission to make a quick trip to my hometown". See that your passport is in order, and, in passing through Rome, you can stay overnight in my house. Then, on your return, in order to spare you further expenses and in keeping with your wish to be nearer to me, I shall keep you in the Province, but surely not in Frosinone, nor even in Albano; nothing better can be done. All of this, provided, as I hope, that your close association with your relatives does not alter your vocation. This is something that the bishop of Veroli is concerned about for his own men since he has fears that they might lose their vocation because of it. You make your decision, for I have no doubt about your virtue. Send me a detailed reply; at that time, I will make further dispositions for your travel, as I assign another of our men there upon his return from the ministry. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁴³ It may be published.

M. Ap.
Rome, March 7⁴⁴

2684

March 7, 1834
Fr. Tomasso Meloni
Formello⁴⁵

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I am writing to Brandimarte that he should go along with your desires of not remaining in Nepi. I shall inform him that, as soon as Bishop Basilici has been satisfied and the tour of the ministry has been completed, you will return for a rest to Pievetorina. Take with you Br. Antonio, the Brother who is a native of Frosinone, and while you are making the trip, you shall let him go to S. Felice in Giano, as Brandimarte has been informed.

The accounts will be figured out before your departure.

Be courageous. God is a generous rewarder.

With greetings and regards to all those named in your letter, I am in J.C. Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 7, 1834

P. S. *A cautela*:⁴⁶ I have sent you 20 Masses to be celebrated this present month of March. Celebrate them quickly. Get help for yourself for those that you cannot say.

2685

March 8, 1834
Fr. Raffaele Ruffoli
Palestrina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁷

Most esteemed Canon

You do not need to give anything for the booklet that was sent. Later, I shall do as you wish. One of my capable companions will be coming for the Three Hours devotion, since I myself, regretfully, will not be able to come.

Oh how much good would be done with the novena in honor of the holy apostle of the Indies, at least for the Oratory; a means quite apt for building up assurance and for improving the attendance.

Whenever anything out of the ordinary occurs through Xavier, it would be a good idea to

⁴⁴ The year is 1834 (cfr. the letter (n. 2700) to this same person dated April 5, 1834).

⁴⁵ The Saint had written "Nepi" as the place of destination; however, a strange hand crossed it out and substituted "Formello". As a matter of fact, Fr. Meloni, having arrived at Nepi during the opening days of Lent, went first to Trivignano and then to Formello (a town in the diocese of Nepi) in order to give the Retreat to the people. When this was completed, he returned to Pievetorina taking with him Brother Antonio Gallina who was supposed to go on to Giano.

⁴⁶ As a precaution.

⁴⁷ Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

have it documented so that it could be printed, in keeping with the usual regulations.

Finally, pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, March 8, 1834

2686

March 13, 1834

Msgr. Antonio Santelli

Rome

Rome, March 13, 1834

Venerable Monsignor

For the brief discourse on the holy Cross to be given on Palm Sunday, it will be necessary for you to seek out another person since I, no matter how hard I try, will not be able at all to offer my services. I am not lacking in the will to do this favor, but it is a matter of a real impossibility, please believe me, my most venerable Monsignor. From the many workers available, you make your choice. I might suggest Canon Prinzivalli from S. Maria in Cosmedin who would be ready to accept, or, Fathers Bianchini, Sacchi, Mazzani, Corea or finally Canon Gammarelli or Father Paolo, the Discalced Carmelite.

Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2687

March 14, 1834

Gaetano Todesco

Loreto Aprutino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Sir

What you say is very good. Ultimately, whether it is made in Naples or in Rome is purely accidental. Only reflect on the most concise method of getting it done, which, at your age, I consider as something that must not be overlooked. It is understood that whatever is required for the good work is not to be omitted. Likewise, you could see whether it is possible for you to get the uniform in Penne, keeping in mind what is mentioned above.

Do not resign from your position. All that is required is a permission granted until the time for making the promises. Order calls for this.

Give my best regards to anyone who has a remembrance of me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 14⁴⁸

2688

March 15, 1834
Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Without doing harm to anyone, would you perhaps have some Masses available? You would be doing me a very great favor.

I hope that you continue to enjoy good health and in keeping up with your practices of piety, especially the Oratory.

Recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 15, 1834

2689

March 15, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina
Nepi⁴⁹

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Pietro

Here are the most urgent matters, reserving the rest for another of my letters.

1) Gio. Battista is coming to get Fr. Lampreda, and since we have our own pack-animals, little needs to be spent. Let me know what you have given to him.

2) In case Giuseppe cannot go, it would be necessary to send immediately for Antonio in Formello. After explaining the situation to Fr. Tommaso, he would then have to supply, *in hoc casu tantum*,⁵⁰ with somebody from that area. So, we could send Antonio to Giano as the cook, while the cook from Giano (Franco) would proceed to Nepi; or, we could leave Antonio with Fr. Tomasso, and then inform Fr. Tomasso that, if Franco has not gone there, he should not take Antonio along with him; on his return to send him to Giano. Antonio has been on his way to Giano and was travelling with Fr. Tomasso. I arranged things that way because I thought Giuseppe might be able to travel with Fr. Lampreda. But, if Giuseppe goes, everything will be set. I hope that I have explained myself clearly. Clarify things in your letter to Fr. Tomasso.

⁴⁸ The copy does not have a date, but according to the testimony of agreement with the original presented by the Dominican Father Vincenzo Acquaroni, issued on May 17, 1869, we know that the letter belongs to 1834 and that Gaetano Todesco became his confrere and was called Father Antonio Todesco, residing in 1869 in the Convent of S. Sabina in Rome.

⁴⁹ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which has the address that has been reproduced here comes from the Cart. d'Arch.. For the reasons explained in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters), it has been restored to Vol. II of the Writings of the Founder.

⁵⁰ In this case only.

3) After Formello, Fr. Tomasso must go directly to Pievetorina. (Wherever I have failed to make myself clear, don't do anything and write to me.)

4) Brandimarte and you are to remain for the present in Nepi for the Holy Week services as well as for all of Easter morning. After dinner, you will remain in Nepi and Brandimarte is to go on to Castel S. Elia. He should remain there as long as he finds it necessary. We cannot work things out in any better way. Sante is to stay on there in Nepi.

5) Furthermore, Fr. Tomasso is to take Giuseppe, if necessary, in the carriage and, instead of sending him on to Giano, he should take him to Pievetorina. However, if he is not in a condition to travel, Fr. Tomasso is to go on alone. The doctor should decide that. If you send Antonio, write to Fr. Mattia that he is to use him in the kitchen and locate him in one of the rooms for the Brothers. If the doctor should advise the climate of the Province for Giuseppe and he is in a condition to travel, send him on to me with his traveling papers. However, I do not have room for him in Albano. Think it over well and take good care of poor Giuseppe. If he is healthy in his bowels, the climate of Giano should help him get well. I do not know what else to say. If at all possible, let us avoid Albano.

As for other matters, *ad alias*.⁵¹ If Brandimarte should like to introduce variations in Castel S. Elia, I shall allow him to do so *in circumstantiis et pro interim*.⁵² I beg you to get yourself ready and do me the favor of going with a Brother. Do what you have to do and what you are capable of doing. Later, I shall give thought to someone more permanent for Nepi, but not until after the Sunday *in Albis*.

Awaiting your reply, I am in J. C. Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 15, (1834)⁵³

In order not to keep the pack-animals idle, if you should want to send only Gio. Battista with Fr. Lampreda, you may do so. Antonio could go later with Fr. Tomasso (it is understood that Franco will have arrived).

2690

March 18, 1834
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

With regard to the material from Masaccio, if the matter is set, let us go ahead with it; but if you wish to suspend it, do so, as long as you can conveniently do that. In that event, I shall await the usual from there. I leave it all up to you. If the material from Masaccio should come, no further

⁵¹ For another time.

⁵² In circumstances and for the time being.

⁵³ The year is deduced from the circumstances, referred to repeatedly in this letter, of Fr. Tomasso Meloni preaching in Formello (a town of the Diocese of Nepi) and from the perfect agreement of this letter with letters n. 2684 (March 7, 1834) and 2691 (March 20, 1834) addressed to Fr. Tomasso in Formello ... Brother Giuseppe, who was ill and to whom the Saint refers in the text, is that same Giuseppe Di Nicolo who died on March 21 while on his way from Nepi to Giano and concerning whom we have speak in footnote in Lett. n. 2722 of May 14, 1834.

ordering will be necessary. Keep the accounts in mind.

One thousand Chaplets, and no more, because I cannot increase the orders; please, etc.

The Retreats in Pievetorina continue and all that is needed is to contact Father Beniamino Romani, the President of the House. If the Retreat is for one retreatant, that will be done; but if three or four can be gotten, all the better.

In general, this year, if it pleases God, I shall be getting to Pievetorina, and I will keep you informed. I hope that I will remember to do that.

This is all that I wanted to say to you. With sentiments of incessant gratitude, esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 18, 1834

2691

March 20, 1834

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Formello

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

The 15 *paoli* that you have received from Fr. Brandimarte are to be used for the return trip, concerning which you will send me a detailed report, while Br. Antonio travels at the expense of Giano, and I shall figure out installment payments.

At the post office in Nepi you will find an envelope containing money for you, as I indicated in another letter of mine. I would like to have some indication that you received it. It is for the Masses, etc.

With regard to Giuseppe, you, and whoever informed you, are mistaken. It is one matter to dispose things when one is healthy and quite another to dispose them when one has received notification of illness. You will learn from Fr. Spina the arrangements that have been made, and you will find them to be in accordance with the just laws of charity.

Br. Antonio, from Frosinone, will have the shoes as soon as he has arrived in Giano. It would be good to encourage him. I would, however, like to see him show a better spirit of observance and be more prudent. You help with his formation.

In reference to the person who was re-admitted, I have this to say: this man left because of a lack of patrimony. Now that he has taken care of everything and has been ordained a priest, it seems to me praiseworthy that, while he is still young, he should leave the world and join us.

While you are in Nepi, if ever there is something that you have to write to me, do so. I thank you for all your suggestions. With greetings to all, pray for me who with esteem, am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 20, 1834

P. S. In reference to Masses, the rule states that whoever wishes to give them, should send them to the Mission House.

Hasten your return to Pievetorina, and immediately. Should they speak to you about Castel S. Elia, tell them that, as of today, I have written to you to go back immediately to Pievetorina, and Br. Antonio also to Giano.

2692

March 20, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina,
Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Pietro

Fr. Tomasso will be coming on Monday. I had to write to him that he should return immediately to Pievetorina and that you are to make arrangements for his departure immediately, with no intervening stopover. Antonio is to go to Giano.

Let this be between us. The Brothers occupy themselves by bringing back rumors, due to their inexperience. You are to advise those who are being changed etc. You understand me.

Either you or Brandimarte will go to Castel S. Elia. Get together to figure out the way and also to maintain help for Nepi, etc.

With all affection, I am

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 20 (1834)⁵⁴

Take good care of Giuseppe and, if the carriage is needed, let him travel by carriage wherever he has to go. If he comes to me here in Rome, see that he has his travelling papers with him, etc.

2693

March 21, 1834
Giovanni Battista Flori
Guarcino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, March 21, 1834

Most esteemed Sir

It will be necessary for the Vicar to approve the selection of the great Xavier as the joint-protector of Guarcino. For this, let us also offer thanks to the Lord.

With reference to the statue of Xavier, I assure you that I had no responsibility for this either in Frosinone or in Veroli. You make note of one or the other; speak to some of the brethren and make your decision and then inform the customs people of this matter, if it is to be done in Naples. I am not acquainted with the artist; I know nothing about his prices, and I have never had any letter-correspondence on this matter, nor would I be able. A capable individual is required and one not obliged by the ministry. In this affair, I would not be able to take part.

⁵⁴ The date is derived from the agreement of the letter n. 2691 addressed to Fr. Tomasso Meloni on March 20, 1834, in which the Saint tells him to return immediately to Pievetorina after his preaching in Formello, taking along with him the Lay Brother Antonio Gallina, on his way to Giano. See also the footnotes of Letters n. 2689 of March 15, 1834 and n. 2722 of May 14, 1834.

The delay in my sending you a reply is attributable to the many occupations of the ministry. For everything else, I am exceedingly grateful to you for your letters. I cannot adequately express to you the singular affection that I have for you because you are so zealous in your work for the glory of God, always, of course, with due respect to all others.

It would be a good idea to formally document all the miracles that the Lord works through the mediation of Xavier. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2694

March 22, 1834

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

I thank you wholeheartedly for the Masses that you were kind enough to send me. After their celebration, we shall come to an agreement as to the offerings.

I learned about the Oratory which I recommend more and more to your zeal. Likewise, I am consoled by the news about the pious establishment there. What a pleasant thing it is to be occupied in bringing glory to the Lord!

When I get to Sermoneta, I will make every effort to visit you again; however, if I am in Rome, when you come, I would not be able to say yes or no, because of the ministry. You can easily realize that.

As for the days around Easter, because of appointments for the ministry which have already been accepted and because of the conditions in our residences, the good work in Norma will not be feasible.

Try to arrange another encounter in order to strengthen, in a particular way, the Oratory.

Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 22, 1834

2695

March 1834

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Formello

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

After Formello, you will go immediately to Pievetorina, dropping Brother Antonio off at Giano, as I mentioned in another letter of mine. The only thing left is Castel S. Elia, which Fr. Brandimarte can handle, with Fr. Spina remaining in Nepi. You, therefore, after Formello, to

Pievettorina, immediately.

I am sending the coffee and sugar.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, March 1834⁵⁵

2696

March 27, 1834

Mr. Poggioli

Rome

Most esteemed Mr. Poggioli

Please deliver to the bearer of this most humble letter of mine, 24 candles of the three pound size, needed for a ceremony. In returning them, the melting loss will be satisfied. Dated this 27th of March, 1834.

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2697

March 31, 1834

Fr. Antonio Gammarelli

Rome

Venerable Canon

After having learned from Monsignor Teoli that it was thought that I had given my word for the Retreat to be conducted at the S. Giovanni Hospital, I now inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine in order to inform you that this is entirely a mistake. When one has given one's word, except for a physical inability to keep it, which is surely true in my case, I am accustomed, as is only right, to be most careful in its fulfillment. This is for the record.

I recommend to your charity and zeal, the petition in favor of our Institute to have the Office and Mass of the most holy Mary under the title of *Madre del Divin Pastor*, following the norm of the grant made to the Liguorini Fathers. Just as we had obtained the other Office in honor of the *Madre del Buon Consiglio* for our Institute, so now I am hopeful that we will receive this one that we are asking for now, because of the reasons which are stated in the petition. Pray for me. Do not cease being zealously occupied with the work of S. Galla. Always with esteem, I remain

Your humble, obliged and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 31, 1834

2698

⁵⁵ By a few days this note follows the letter (n. 2691) of March 20, 1834, addressed by the Saint to Formello, where Fr. Tomasso was preaching the Retreat. If one keeps in mind that Fr. Meloni arrived in Pievetorina on March 28, Good Friday, one can assign the date of this note only to the 21-24 of that same month. It was certainly sent out from Rome, as all the other letters of this period.

April 1, 1834
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I am committing to you the prompt celebration of 40 Masses, an offering of 15 *bajocchi* each. They are to be celebrated on one morning, or at most two, by the priests of that region, including the Regulars, if necessary. I urge you to send the notification as usual which I will have to have and, after you send a reply to this letter of mine, I shall send you immediately the offerings. Those that can conveniently be celebrated at a privilege altar is an acceptable thing. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 1, 1834

I recommend haste.

2699

April 3, 1834
Fr. Francesco Zamitti
Albano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Francesco⁵⁶

The 170 Masses have already been committed and distributed and they will be celebrated quickly. As a reward, NN. will have blessings from God, holding firmly to the principle that he who is exact in the fulfillment of his obligations wins over the Heart of God. I did not impose any obligation of having them said at a privileged altar. As usual, I shall send on to you the customary notifications as soon as I receive them. I will take care of the offerings, and enclosed herein is the account, safeguarding any mistake. In the meantime, you are to complete the Masses which I have sent to you and you, too, should please send me a similar notification.

Just how my reimbursement will be made, after subtracting the offerings for the Masses which have been sent to me up to now, I shall rely on getting that from NN. I point out that the offerings have been set at 15 *bajocchi*, even though the quota may be stated at 12 or 13 *bajocchi*, as you have indicated to me. Is the theological teaching definite about Mass offerings? ... Here is what we will do:

Of the 15,75 *scudi*, I shall retain 7.50 and the others I will condone, having NN. remember to pray, in general, for my intentions.

For those 7.50 *scudi*, 50 Masses will be celebrated at a privileged altar. I repeat: at a privileged altar. The offerings for those Masses will be at 15 *bajocchi*. If I am not mistaken, that will amount, I repeat, to 7.50 *scudi*.

I do not make a restriction of time, but I give you the entire year of 1834. By December 31, at the latest, I should have the notifications. In this way, you can handle it at ease. You will also have time to accept other Mass offerings, so as to use them in purchasing your clothes, etc.

⁵⁶ This letter does not have a date. The year, as the letter itself mentions, is 1834. The month and day (April 3) is derived from the postal markings.

As for taking care of other things, as well as for support for your mother, I would suggest that you ask the Jesuit Father for the celebration of some Masses which might be had. We are hopeful that they will be available. These could help to balance things.

Your brother might be able to give you some help. Recommend the members of your family to God as well as anyone else who could be of assistance to you. What is of principal interest is the salvation of your soul. As for anything else, we try to do the best we can.

Let me know whether you are content with what I have stated in this letter. You might share those 50 Masses to be celebrated at a privileged altar with the Companions, as you then manage to distribute the indicated offerings in keeping with the rule.

With regard to the Darsena, as well as Porto Anzo, I recommend three things: Prayer - Humility - Maturity in the exercise of your ministry.

I have said everything. Pray for me. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Send your reply quickly, as you continue to reflect more on this matter of Masses etc. etc.

2700

April 5, 1834
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Pievotorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

You will communicate this letter to Father Beniamino,⁵⁷ while conducting things with the usual prudence.

You might say simply that you have obtained permission to visit your parents once again, and that is sufficient. So, in order that your trip will be convenient, in these difficult times, tell Father Beniamino that, after selecting appropriate as well as the shortest route, with the House's mount and days with Giovanni Battista as company, you see that he gets to the Mission House in Nepi. There, in Nepi, you will get another letter from me. The expenses incurred for this trip are yours personally. If you do not have the money, get a loan. Travel with your passport in order as well as that of Giovanni Battista; and, in order not to have it renewed, let it be directly for Rome. For Giovanni Battista, only for Nepi, that is, the one separated from the other. For now, that is it. More, later.

While you are traveling, study for the Marian month, putting together the materials that you have on hand. If, with the Companions there, in regard to the trip which you will be making, you wish to make some accidental changes, I am completely indifferent. However, the plan which I have outlined for you is the safest one. I would hold to that. Upon your departure, send me word. In my opinion, by using the House's mount, you will be saving expenses economically. So, you will be having the consolation of seeing your parents once again. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁵⁷ Romani.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 5, 1834

Write a couple of lines to Giano and tell them that letters for Father Isidoro Paoletti are to be addressed to: "Urbino per Macerata Feltria".