

St. Gaspar's Letters

2251-2300

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2251

Middle of November 1831
Fr. Pietro Spina
Vallecorsa

Hail etc.

Dear Father Pietro¹

A couple of lines. Please go to Sermoneta for our Retreat, and leave immediately etc. In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant
G. C. d. B.

2252

November 22, 1831
Fr. Pietro Spina
Piperno per Sermoneta
S. Francesco²
con premura

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Pietro

I have written to Vallecorsa, and I am sending this one to you there. Even though you have begun your Retreat, continue traveling to Sermoneta, *nulla interposita mora*,³ where you will find another of my letters. You will complete your Retreat there.

If something should arrive from Sermoneta to the Houses mentioned above, forward it at that time: I am speaking of the belongings perhaps of Francesco from Vallecorsa, etc.

With that understanding, I am

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, November 22, 1831

Have them prepare a room for the man who is coming there to preach the Advent series. It might be done as I suggest in the following:

Since Lipparelli will be arriving as a sick man, have him remain in Frosinone during the Retreat. He can be set up in the room in which you are now staying, for you will be going on to

¹ This letter is not dated. Comparing it to the one written to the same person on November 22, 1831, in which he says that he has already written to Vallecorsa (which seems to be a reference to this letter), we must, therefore, assign this one to the middle of November 1831. We know from the postal markings that it was sent from Rome.

² The posterior half-sheet for this letter upon which is written the address here reproduced, and which is now located in Vol. II of the originals of the Founder, numbered with f. 311 bis, was extracted from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n..3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Refer back to the footnote of Lett. 368, Oct. 13, 1831.

It must be pointed out that in the address the Saint had written "Frosinone" as the place of destination; but then Fr. Giovanni Pedini, Vice-Superior of that House, canceled the "Frosinone" and substituted "Piperno per Sermoneta - S. Francesco". Hence, Fr. Pietro Spina was already situated in Sermoneta when this present letter arrived in Frosinone, a letter whose content has reference to the House in existence in the latter city.

³ No delay was interposed.

Sermoneta.

If there are no other rooms available, the Advent preacher might occupy the one that Fr. Pedini has at present; and Fr. Pedini, if there is no other accomodation, only temporarily and as long as the Retreat is in progress, should go to Bartolomeo's room,⁴ for after the Feast of S. Xavier he should be coming there, etc. In my name, inform Fr. Raffaele and the other companions of all this, etc.

Later I shall write more specifically about other matters. You are to write and inform me of everything and concerning everything; write to me from Sermoneta, etc.

2253

November 24, 1831

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Ignazio

Severini has delivered to me your most venerable letter containing your renunciation of the office of presidency for the association. You cannot possibly imagine how much regret that renunciation has caused, especially for me. If changes in the offices had to occur, there would be reason to be concerned. However, at this time, any new move will lead to a feeling of dismay on the part of the small group of members who frequent it. So, please do whatever you can, and furthermore be helpful through your prayers for that pious organization. Moses, from a distance, and through his prayer, was a help to his people as they were engaged in warfare. So, make this application, in a proportionate way, to our situation. While I express trust in the generosity of your heart, I state once again that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, November 24, 1831

2254

November 25, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta⁵

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Please celebrate very, very quickly five Masses with privileged altar. I shall await the notification, etc.

I am now running through your last most welcome letter. I am returning Sig. Rossi's letter in which I observe that he would like to have an estimate for the objects left by the deceased. It seems

⁴ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: The Saint's room and Bartolomeo's.

⁵ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which bears the address here recopied was found in the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. 368 of October 13, 1831, it has now been restored to its proper place, that is, in VoI..II of the originals of the Founder (f. 320 bis), alongside the letter from which it was severed.

to me that he is saying: "you, along with the other Missionaries and Canon Del Bufalo should make an evaluation". So, I entrust this matter to you, to take on the task of making that estimate; and afterward, I shall distribute the Masses to our Missionaries, if it is permissible to say them outside Sermoneta. You can act accordingly, keeping these things in mind. If you would not include me, I would be most appreciative because of the death of my beloved father.⁶ Whoever is not able to celebrate gratis will, upon letting me know, receive the stipend. Once everything is handled and a record of it left in the archives, you will remove anything that might be the cause of misunderstanding, also making note of this in the *Libro dei Congressi*;⁷ as for the economical transportation of those objects, you handle that, following what I have arranged. as an assistance to your memory, I am including herein your own letter. For these reasons, I am returning what I received from the Butti woman.

In regard to the lime kiln, examine the situation better *in faciem loci*,⁸ and write to me. I would appreciate your adhering to all that was decided by us in Sermoneta by common agreement. Do you recall our plan?

With reference to matters in Sonnino, check to see if and how things have been carried out. Leave with the Cicconi woman a listing of whatever was not able to be transferred, urging her to be watchful of things.

I give you my sincerest gratitude for the suffrages offered for my beloved deceased father, *et Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.⁹

As for the trip to Terracina, we shall look into it after the Retreat. Write to me, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Rome, November 25, 1831)

2255

November 26, 1831

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Corresponding to the wishes of the good members of the Oratory of Guarcino, it has been decided to have eight days of Retreat before the final ten days of Carnival time which have been set aside for Alatri. Now, however, you write and say the most reverend bishop is ordering a holy Mission for Guarcino. Thus, I see that it will be necessary in our ministry to postpone the Retreat for the brethren of the Oratory to a time that it pleases God to provide.

We come now to consider Alatri. Is there any change at all, or is the appointment of the last ten days of the Carnival time dedicated to the most holy sorrowful Mother Mary still set up? Check

⁶ Cf. *Additional Biographical Data: Antonio Del Bufalo*

⁷ In spite of the Saint's explicit desire, this strange "donation" by the deceased Rossi which was supposed to be balanced out by the celebration of Masses, does not appear to be registered in the *Libro dei Congressi*, nor, as far as we could ascertain, is there any record of it in the archives in Sermoneta.

⁸ After the fashion of the place.

⁹ The Lord will repay in my behalf in sweet blessings.

with the most reverend bishop. But first, realize that, at that same time, the Retreat given by the Passionists to the Sachetti will be conducted. I would not want to be lacking in propriety. As far as I am concerned, I am set on the word that I have given. But you can think over what I have just indicated. In Rome, the brethren of the Oratory have their Retreat on Christmas night and the feast days etc. I could send a new and very capable man of ours to Alatri to take care of this good work, for I myself, at that time, have another pressing commitment which cannot be deferred. Think this over. Awaiting your response, along with a notification of the Masses, I am and will constantly be, with complete affection and esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, November 26, 1831

2256

November 30, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta¹⁰

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Venerable Fr. Pietro

You will please remain there until Liparelli returns in residence. The visitation of God this year is calling us to use unforeseen measures. Have no doubts that you shall return within a short time to Vallecorsa in order to have them set up the cross beams. In the meantime, using a special messenger,¹¹ send me the document of agreement¹² for the limestone, which, after I have read it carefully, I shall send back to you by mail. At that time, you can seal the contract with your signature and that of the limeworkers. Up to now, everything is going along as planned. Be quite cautious in seeking out the most economical measures as well as the satisfaction of the community in these dealings.

As for the acorns, I can give an answer to the deliberations that you people have made, namely, that our own interior peace and quiet is worth more than any temporal income, noting especially the consideration of the many ill-effects that could result, plus the difficulty of collecting the money, as experience has demonstrated in the first years of the Institute's existence there.¹³

Preciously, we had one or the other pig, but we did not have a swineherd or a young

¹⁰ In this letter, only the address, the postscript and the signature are in the Saint's handwriting. The text, on the other hand, dictated by Gaspar, was written by the Missionary Fr. Camillo Rossi, who was located at the time in the House in Albano and was assisting the Founder in the capacity of General Pro-Secretary, substituting for Merlini.

¹¹ *Spedito*. The person expressly sent by the Saint to Sermoneta to deliver this letter. This same person, upon his return, was to deliver the "document of agreement" (cfr. below).

¹² *Apoca*. Antiquated term: it means a receipt, a document, a contract. Specifically, it is speaking of the contract to be drawn up in Sermoneta for the limestone which was referred to in the footnote, "*Sermoneta*", in Lett. 367, September 30, 1831. The Saint wanted to examine the paper carefully before giving his approval. That approval was given around the following January 20. On that date as a matter of fact there is a notation in the *Libro dei Congressi*: "We have received the approval of the Director General ... to work out the limestone deal and a document has been drawn up with the limeworkers".

¹³ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Acorns

caretaker. We simply made an effort to take only a slipshod care of them, setting up a shelter and having one or the other Brother look after them. Therefore, I would say that you should negotiate for four piglets while the acorns are abundant, and have them brought out there to the grove, keeping in mind that any other course relating to the premises of a religious house is alien to the practices of well-regulated Communities. It could subject us to the difficulty of having to face burdens from which the premises are presently exempt. The four pigs, mentioned above, will provide food for our Province. You will do me the favor of communicating all of this to Fr. Pietro De Victoriis, noting that the four pigs would be the kind that are called *magroni*, fit for fattening.¹⁴

The financial matters of that House are all known to Lipparelli. I have also given him the notifications of the Masses, including yours, so as to collect the offerings which come to a considerably tidy sum. The fifteen *Scudi* were supposed to be requested from the Commune, unless I am mistaken, etc.

This is all that is very urgent for now. I am sending some money, for which you are to return a receipt to me. I ask you to remind me about anything that I might have forgotten.

In the meantime, with esteem I am your
(handwriting of St. Gaspar:)

Not having felt too well, I have dictated this letter to Fr. Camillo. Now, I am feeling a little better. The money comes to 20 *Sc.* arrange for the *magroni* immediately. See that you collect the offerings for the Masses.

Humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

Albano - Pious House of Missions, November 30, 1831

2257

December 5, 1831

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

If you still have my recent letter, you will notice that I have not retracted the word that I gave, for that is not the way I do things. The only thing that I wanted to do was to ask you whether the Retreat conducted for the Sacchetti might interfere with our work, and I did not wish to cause any disturbance for the Passionist Fathers. Perhaps, however, I did not express myself clearly enough. So, let us come to this conclusion: having offset those difficulties, which you in your recent letter already foresaw and will untangle, let it be firmly decided that the final ten days of Carnival time, dedicated to the veneration of the sorrows of Mary most holy, will be the time set for this appointment, conducted in the form of a Retreat. *Standum ergo in decisis*.¹⁵ It does not disturb me at all to travel in the wintertime; not long ago I went to Nepi etc. I am writing from Albano where I have begun a Retreat for the nuns. However, your correspondence to me should always be directed unchangingly to Rome. Let us always remain ever united in the sacred divine Heart, the center of

¹⁴ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Pigs

¹⁵ Therefore, stand by what has been decided.

peace. Give my warm regards to the most reverend bishop, to Canon Domeniconi and anyone else that you think of. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, December 5, 1831

2258

December 12, 1831

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

Here is what I have been able to obtain for you. As soon as I can get to Rome, I shall check the accounts with the tailor and I shall note what our balance is. Father Camillo told me that you were to get, if I am not mistaken, 45 *baiocchi*. You will be receiving the cincture; we shall also add this to the computation. There are two of us, now, remembering this. If you wish to have another cincture, let me know.

With regret did I learn of the relapse of our excellent Liparelli. I ask you to give me a full account. I hope that the Lord will quickly restore his strength. You are to continue your Advent apostolate, be zealous in the observance of our rules, just as I have no doubt you are doing. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, consider me to be unchangeably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, (for forwarding) December 12, 1831

P. S. Until further notice, remain there provisionally.

2259

December 14, 1831

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

Coming to you for a meeting for finalizing our project will be Missionary Father Isidoro Paoletti, fully authorized with a proper letter of proxy, for the installation of our new Mission House in Macerata Feltria. Since your intentions are similar, it should not surprise you if I make every effort to systematize things well from the very beginning, for I am anxious to see this new establishment activated quickly, for the urgency is more and more evident and manifest in these miserable times in which we find ourselves.

With this understanding, I would be happy to have a new confirmation of the preaching of

¹⁶ Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

the Lenten series in Macerata Feltria so that I can appoint a member of ours whom I already have in mind, having assigned him residence also in Rimini in the church of the Servites. Our preaching is delivered from a platform only in those places where we have a Mission House set up, and everything is carried out as any other Lenten preacher would do.

I kiss your hands, wishing for you an abundant showering of celestial favors during the upcoming solemnity. I have the honor and pleasure of stating once again, with esteem and respect, that I am

Rome (for safe forwarding), December 14, 1831¹⁷

2260

December, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Since the water pot in Frosinone was donated to that House, I would not want to move it elsewhere. It is different from what the Institute usually does in following the policy of uniformity. So, see if you can find another in Vallecorsa, when you go there, even if it has to be purchased.

I have no doubt that the Retreat you made according to the rule was fruitful for your spiritual welfare, and that you surely remembered to pray for me. By doing the will of God, we do everything.

I have no idea where the books of management are for that House. See that you set everything in order, asking questions, etc., *donec*¹⁸ Liparelli gets there.

I have not changed anything of what was decided in the Congressus, at the time that I was in Sermoneta. Only the individuals have changed, but not through fault. May the will of God be done.

As for the lard that was sent here, no payment between the Houses will be necessary this time.

I had Fr. Camillo Rossi write a long letter to De Victoriis. You read it for him, in case Fr. Pietro is not up to it. I mentioned many things in it, etc., etc..

The work in Frosinone, in spring. I am sending the skull-caps for the Brothers. Our resident student, Eduardo Cicconi, and his mother, have died in Sonnino.¹⁹ It is necessary that you tell me what the deceased Lady was taking care of and also whether you will be able to make a trip to Sonnino and Terracina after Christmas. Write to me and then we will make a decision. With reference to the permissions that are needed in regard to the thicket, consider etc. See that you look into the matter of the faculties of the Synod, in order to have all of them.

I am hurrying especially because of De Victoriis. Call in the noted doctor of Sezze, whose name is Marco Tullio, *salvo equivoco*,²⁰ and with all due respect, etc., etc.. Have you understood?

I am sending what you asked for and I want you to send me a receipt for the deposit, if De Victoriis cannot sign it.

¹⁷ A piece of this letter with his signature was cut off.

¹⁸ Until.

¹⁹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Edoardo Cicconi,

²⁰ Safeguarding being mistaken.

Let us not discuss a change of climate. There are sick people everywhere. One would have to have a special carriage to make the trips, etc. Luigi, Giovannino, Torrielli²¹ are getting better, etc. It is becoming more and more necessary to hold off the changes because of the extreme conditions. Here, in Albano, four or five people die each day, etc.

I urge you to look into the matter of the pigs, otherwise time will pass by; at any rate, write to me about this.

I am sending a Brother as a help, and, for the time being, keep the little burro there. Speaking of the Brothers, and especially since there are many who are ill, see to it that the observance of the rule is maintained even in the smallest matter and thus remove the danger of spiritual illness.

I will take care of the regular Retreat called for by the rule for the Fratelli of the Oratory. In the meantime, tomorrow (that is, as soon as the Brother has arrived, to whom you will give one of the rooms, etc.) try to arrange a load with Alderisio's trunk and whatever else should be coming here. Using the most economical means, send me that stuff together with news about De Victoriis. But, no Brother is to travel; rather, give the task to some layman, etc.

Please excuse my lack of cohesion. I am writing in a hurry; and I am etc.

Get things ready for the Retreat for the Oratory.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, December, 1831²²

Let me know if I have given you an answer to everything. Courage in God, etc. Make a triduum to Xavier, etc.

2261

December 20, 1831

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta²³

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

²¹ *Luigi Carocci, Giovannino Balducci, Torrieli*. For these and *Crescenzo Ferrini and Gaetano Coppola* cfr. Biographical Section. These men were among the Brothers who were in residence or passing through Sermoneta during those years, and whose names occur in the Saint's letters.

In addition to the above-mentioned: Antonio Gallina from Frosinone, Antonio di Girolamo from Vallecorsa, Pietro, Andrea, Marcello, Facondo and others - all of them eventually left the Institute. (Translator's note: Marcello, mentioned in the second line, remained and died in the community. Information supplied by Fr. Andrew Pollack.)

²² The place of origin is deduced clearly from the text of the letter itself. The year can be none other than 1831 because the various topics touched upon here by the Saint lead us unerringly to the letters of the last months of that year (cfr., for example, Lett. n. 371 Of November 30, 1831; n. 372 of December 20, 1831; n. 373 of November 22, 1831). The month is identified because of a number of circumstances: among others, from the fact that the Retreat called for by the rule had only shortly concluded (it is known that the Retreat was supposed to be concluded two days before the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, that is, on December 1) and also from the fact that Christmas had not as yet arrived. In all probability, we are dealing with the first ten days of December.

²³ The posterior half-sheet for this letter, which bears the address here reproduced, was found in *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. 368, Oct. 13, 1831, it has been transferred to Vol. II of the *Writings of the Founder*, with the number f. 310 bis.

In reply to your letter, here is what I have to say.

1) I have written through Antonio that I would have sent a Missionary for the Retreat in Natale; but, sudden seizures of sickness prevented it, etc.²⁴

2) *Hoc anno*,²⁵ Christmas eve there *vacat*.

3) Combine the Retreat for the Brothers in Sermoneta with the novena for the Purification, *hoc anno, inspectis circumstantiis*.²⁶

Once the visitation of the Lord²⁷ is over, we shall look into setting everything in order. For the time being, let us steer the ship as best we can. I am, etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Albano) December 20, 1831

2262

December 29, 1831

Student Orazio Bracaglia

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Orazio

If you would like to wait until my trip to Frosinone, which will take place in February, I will take you with me at no expense to you. If you wish to anticipate it by a few days, then returning to Albano at the earliest possible time, go right ahead. But, in that case, write to Frosinone so that they will send someone to get you. If you want to travel with Pezzi and the little burro that he has, and you have the means to pay him, I am not opposed to this. In this matter, offer a bit of prayer and consult with Father Biagio to whom I will send the decision and the way this is to be handled. I am writing with a shortage of time and with not a lot of attention. Sufficient for you is to know that I am not opposed to whatever Father Biagio will decide, for he will then have to provide you with a letter for the Mission House where your possessions are to be handled, and not otherwise. May God fill you with his blessings. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 29, 1831

2263

December 29, 1831

²⁴ *Per le poste venute*: that is, arriving with unexpected rapidity. "*Venire per le poste*", "*viaggiare per le poste*" etc. were modes of speaking with the interpretation of going as quickly as possible, since the mail deliveries were the speediest ways available to all for getting from one place to another. One could also interpret this expression, that the Saint uses in reference to the mails, as meaning the means by which presumably sicknesses were spread more rapidly, since frequent trips facilitated contagion. The first interpretation, however, seems to be more natural and spontaneous.

²⁵ In this year.

²⁶ In this year, the circumstances being inspected.

²⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Visit of the Lord

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, December 29, 1831

Most esteemed Canon

Happy New Year, and many more of them, all filled with merits for blessed eternity. I pray to God for this, in my wretchedness: please do as much for me.

Definitely set is the appointment for the final days of Carnival time, dedicated to the Sorrowful Mary, to be conducted in the form of a Retreat. I have refused other invitations since I would like to be with you. I will be able to bring along a companion to help with the pep talks etc. Speak to me freely. I am writing in a hurry. Give my greetings to Monsignor and nephew. Let me know how many days you would like the Retreat to last. I would suggest eight. Indicate to me what you wish to have, and you will be obeyed. Awaiting a couple of lines from you, I remain constantly, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. As a stimulation to the clergy, *saltem*²⁸ one conference is inevitable. Say a prayer; as far as I am concerned, I shall be an obedient son.

2264

December 29, 1831
Fr. Angelo Antonio
Castel S. Elia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Angelo Antonio

Here is what Father Camillo Rossi, our Missionary, has left me, by way of a note, for you. You are to consider whatever may be necessary for giving glory to God whom we serve.

I had a bit of difficulty in locating the printed blessing of water with the relic of Xavier; but, finally, I managed to get it.

Do not cease propagating the public recitation of the Chaplet. In enrolling people, exercise the canonical act personally and in the church.

Make a notation of the first name, family name, the day, the month, the year, at the time of the enrolment. In dealing with outsiders who may appear, note their home town. Penitents are to be directed to other aggregators, if prudence dictates that one is not to ask for what is required in an external act of enrolment. In this way, the external ministry is kept separated from the internal which calls for such delicacy of treatment. I am sending the book of blessings. The aggregator does not have the faculty *in articulo mortis*,²⁹ this is reserved to our Missionaries. The other blessings are to be used in correspondence with the faculties granted in the certifications; they are to be used in order to better carry out the task assumed. You will be able to share them in common with the other aggregators in that area who can even make copies for themselves. If you have questions, please

²⁸ At least.

²⁹ At the moment of death.

write to me. Let us all remind ourselves to cooperate together so that the fruits of the holy Mission will remain stable and permanent. In the meantime, with the fullness of esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, December 29, 1831

P. S. This will be helpful for promoting the Marian month there.

2265

December 30, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, December 30, 1831

Most esteemed Camillo

Happy New Year and many more of them, all filled with merits for heaven, the only center of our true happiness.

Now I turn to your very kind letter. I understood what you said about the money for Monsignor Bonanni. You had no reason at all for distress about that.

Use the 2,95 *scudi* left over, if I am not mistaken, for stationery which you will send me; part of it like the usual type and part like the one that I use here. Perhaps you will have an opportunity to forward it to me.

I believe that now is the time when the usual holy Retreat is conducted there. May God shower an abundance of blessings on this good work.

All the other things that I asked you to do have all been carried out well through your charity. Nothing more need be added. You will be receiving, at the first opportunity that I have, a little work of two volumes which you can add to your collection of books.

I thank you with all my heart for the suffrages which you have obtained in behalf of my dear father, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.³⁰

The red cloth is no longer needed. I thank you for your efforts.

Now a vague rumor is abroad that I have a disposable inheritance. Having it, you can be sure that Fabriano would be *in capite libri*.³¹ His Eminence Cristaldi made arrangements for some Missions and Retreats to be conducted in his abbacy of Farfa and San Salvatore, covered by his inheritance. However, up to now *nihil per memoriali in pendenza*.³² We shall see how the Holy Father is going to handle this. I am hopeful that he will not deprive us of these legacies. Canon Muccioli now is looking after the pious organizations in Rome, and it is not to be hoped that he will change outlooks there.

If there were a church or locale free, one might be able to attempt some other plan of communicating between the two of us. You think this over. Pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

³⁰ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

³¹ In a chapter of the book.

³² Nothing as a memorial is pending.

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

2266

December 30 1832
 Msgr. Ottavio Zolio
 Bishop of Rimini
 Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³³

Venerable Monsignor

Canon Father Pasquale Aloysi, one of our Missionaries with whom you are acquainted, will be returning there. Because of the two new foundations that we have, the Institute has needed to make a new distribution of its Missionaries. I now take this opportunity of renewing with you my obeisance and to assure you once again that, with esteem and respect, I am

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

Rome, December 30, 1831

2267

December, 1831
 Fr. Pietro Spina
 Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I would like to receive more favorable news, news of good health both for you and for all. Giovannino will return since the delay has caused an impediment.

Share this letter of mine with De Victoriis, to whom I send my greetings. Remember the receipts.

Torrielli is to be assisted from the House's funds for whatever is necessary. As soon as he has recovered, he is to go to Frosinone. Send him there with our small burro. Since he has his own mattress, linens and covers, he should take these along since they need them there. I am speaking of what is actually Torrielli's property. Since it seems to me that he might donate them, well, in that case, that should be subtracted and a notation of it placed in the Inventory. Then, write to Brandimarte and have him enter this in the Inventory of Frosinone, informing Torrielli likewise.

I do not want the morning coffee diluted for the sick. Let this be for the records.

When Giovannino has recovered, he is to return to his responsibilities.

I am sending two booklets of proper Offices which are needed at the present time. Bound in this way, they cost 12 *paoli* each and Ab. Butirroni has accepted this expense. So, both you and De Victoriis are to celebrate six Masses for each volume, which you will indicate on a plain sheet of paper and we will be squared away. Those Masses are all to be said at a privileged altar.

³³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Whatever is to go to Frosinone and Vallecorsa can be sent along with Torrielli, but in such a way that everything should get there before the end of the Octave of the Epiphany. Because of his weakened condition, Torrielli could break his trip into several stages, as arranged by you etc.

You mention nothing to me about the pigs. Was I not very eager about that? Write to me on this matter.

In reference to the contract, examine it again, along with De Victoriis, and then conclude the contract as you both believe God is directing you; and I, as of now, approve it. This matter then is completed. In general, make every effort to be thrifty, safeguarding, it is understood, what pertains to conscience.

In regard to the termination of the problem in Sonnino and Terracina, as soon as you are well and De Victoriis is in good health too, you are to go there, using our own little burros, and wind up the matters. We have to proceed in this fashion since the Cicconi woman has died. On this trip, which is to be made after Torrielli's trip, promote our Pious Works *ubique, etc., etc.*³⁴ In using our own burros, it seems to me that everything will be more economical and well-ordered.

Let us stand by this agreement. It would be helpful for you to discover on this trip just what there is in Frosinone as well as to determine just what is necessary for putting things back in good order. Make the same investigation in Vallecorsa, and even more so in Sermoneta. As for Albano, what I mentioned. So, make no substantial change from what has been decided. I would like Frosinone to be furnished with everything. Later, whatever is required in Vallecorsa. Gradually, Sermoneta, except for what is needed in Albano, in accordance with preceding letters of mine. Complete these matters in such a way that we will not have to worry about them again.

In regard to those things that cannot be transferred, I point out that, where there is a question of benches, the nails are to be removed so that they can be saved, and the boards are to be sent to Vallecorsa. Furthermore, the one confessional could give you some trouble. So, this article, for the time being, could be left in the Chiesa delle Canne, and could be watched by someone who goes there regularly to that Shrine to say the Rosary. Put a sign on the confessional: "Property of the Institute etc." You could take up your lodging with the Conventuals, paying for your room and board those few days; and, in Terracina, at the Collegio. On that trip, should Santarelli consider it urgent, check the projects in Vallecorsa, and instruct them well in Frosinone on whatever has to be done, except for the proceeds of the Lenten series.

I repeat, that trip is to be undertaken as soon as you can. Rest assured, other arrangements are not possible because of local circumstances, etc. In this way, everything should go smoothly.

Finally, let us pray for whatever pertains to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Institute; and, with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

[Rome, December (the end) 1831]³⁵

³⁴ Wherever, etc..

³⁵ The year is deduced from the topics treated, for they are in accordance with those of Lett. n. 402 of December (the beginning) 1831. The month, because of a comparison between this letter and Letter n. 381, dated January 7, 1832. The latter, as it states at the very beginning, is a reply to a letter from Fr. Spina which, in turn, was a response to this letter from the Saint (cfr., for example, "*Giovannino*", "*Torrielli*", "*magroni*", "*apoca per la calcara*", etc.). For Fr. Spina's letter and the Saint's reply, seven or eight days would be required, at the very least: and that would bring us to the

2268

January 1, 1832
Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, 1st of 1832

Most esteemed Luigi

Happy New Year and many more of them, all filled with merits for blessed eternity, the only goal of our desires. Oh what a beautiful thing it is to always be happy in God: *et sic semper cum Domino erimus*.³⁶

The tower will be very good for setting up a bulwark against hell. You are preparing, I believe, a House for our Institute. Is this not true? Oh what a beautiful crown God has prepared for you! Let the above be understood for the record; the tower will serve for whatever God wills.

With regard to your father-in-law's problem, I would make the following distinction: either the dispute with Mr. Lanni is, because of circumstances, something that is reciprocal, just and called for, and some compensation can be made so as to balance out things *prout sunt*,³⁷ and in this case, to be proved in a prudent way; or, it can be settled by making every effort with zeal to remove the cause of the bitterness that exists, and, this act of charity will not be forgotten.

If the disagreement continues in a similar fashion, even though you may not want to get involved, I do not see why, in this case, you could not get involved, and even be obliged to do so, thus seeing that mutual charity between them is not lost. As regards the temporal matters, it will be necessary always to keep in view both justice and charity. You know more about the situation than I do and it is only out of virtue that you place the question before me. Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2269

January 4, 1832
Fr. Raffaella Rosati
Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, 4th of 1832

Most esteemed Father Raffaella

I have received the notification of the Masses and I thank you with all my heart. I said that both the 16 as well as the 20 Masses should be computed at two *paoli* for each Mass, since they are

last week of December. The place of origin, however, is certain, since the Saint at that time was situated in Rome. (cfr., for example, Letters: Vol. VI, f. 272; Vol. V, f. 150).

³⁶ And thus we will always be with the Lord.

³⁷ As they are.

obligations assumed for printing etc. You told me, if I am not mistaken, that you *ex circumstantiis*³⁸ are content etc.; indeed, for my peace of mind, this is all to the benefit of our Institute and our Missions. So, to that account which I sent you (if I did not already tell you this) you are to add the collection of new Offices granted by our present Pontiff, which you will be receiving, and this, of itself will conclude our give and take. This book sells for 12 *paoli* and was obtained from Father Butirroni who handled this deal. There are others printed at a lower cost but not of the same quality of printing. I repeat, you look over the account and we will then come to an agreement.

I understand all that you reported concerning Liparelli, whom I will pray for a great deal to God. You are not to cease urging him to take good care of himself.

I also understood all that you said concerning the ministry. May God render it more and more fruitful for his glory.

With regard to the Masses, fill out the enclosed notification and then send it back to me. Two are at two *paoli* each, and when you send back the notification, in a letter, remind me of this, since the others are at 15 *baiocchi* each. You will immediately be sent the corresponding offerings. I need not remind you to be exact.

With reference to the trunks, see that they are taken care of. Since Mr. Bracaglia, the father of Orazio, has debts with the Institute, if he wishes to pay for this service, thus saving you some aggravation, I am not opposed to it. Then, if you wish to make a donation to the Institute, "*Dominus retribuet pro me*".³⁹ But, on that occasion, Orazio's father, or whoever arranges for his son to stay there for a few days to make preparations of whatever is needed for ordination before Lent, papers and other things are to be taken care of in order to avoid being caught in a bind. You handle this situation of the trunks, and it makes no difference to me whether you have them delivered to yourself.

Our Houses in the Province are considered *per modum unius*,⁴⁰ and it is necessary that you, who enjoy better health, be of assistance to me in this needy situation. In wintertime, surely, there is more in Frosinone to worry about; in the other seasons, Albano raises concerns and, likewise, in a proportionate way we can say the same for Sermoneta in certain urgent matters. Therefore, I end now by saying that you always possess the faculties in Albano and I want you to have them etc. So, I shall inform Father Camillo⁴¹ that, under your direction, he should take care of the trunks. You write to Father Camillo about what will be needed etc. I do not have the time to re-read this letter. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

2270

January 1832

Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Albano

Hail to the Divine Blood

³⁸ In the circumstances.

³⁹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁴⁰ As a unit.

⁴¹ Fr. Camillo Rossi

Most esteemed Father Orazio⁴²

I hope that everything is arranged in keeping with your wishes. Pray a lot for me, and in Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2271

January 5, 1832

Fr. Giovanni Battista Pedini

Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giovanni Battista⁴³

I have re-read the suggestions of NN. and I now send you a reply.

The first relates to obedience.

The second pertains to the observance of the rules.

The third deals with the right intention in acting. All three of them are *juxta cor Dei*.⁴⁴

For the time-being, God does not will the two hours of mental prayer at night. Rest is required in order to have the strength to operate *juxta regulam*.⁴⁵ Exactness is to be observed in the mental prayer that is called for by the rule; also, in the examinations of conscience, in the monthly day of retreat, in study, in the apostolate; thus, one will always be walking in the presence of God. The ejaculatory prayers of Xavier are to be used: "Oh my Jesus ... Oh sweetest Jesus ..." When some free time is available, use "mental prayer in small bites", so to speak, without any feeling of urgent duty or prescription of time, of method, etc. On those occasions, one could prostrate himself in humility *coram Domino*⁴⁶ and say: "*Pauper sum eso ... respice in me ... miserere mei etc.*"⁴⁷ Thus, one will become firmly founded in humility. "*Effundo in conspectu ejus orationem meam*" etc.⁴⁸

With regard to the selection of reading material, everything that you wrote to me is acceptable. One could add also the *Introduzione alla vita umile* as well as *Il combattimento spirituale* written by Father Scupoli. However, a distributed use of those books should be made, for example, for each month.

The details of all of your feelings are the work of grace. Praise be to God.

With regard to recounting defects, NN. should avoid that, at least to the Superior, in keeping with the usual cases, and only after having spent some time in prayer. When speaking, we should imitate the action of the bee. One is to extract sweetness from any action, especially if it is a truly

⁴² This letter has no date. Fr. Bracaglia was a "student" in Albano from December 1830 to December 1831. On January 21, 1832 he went to Frosinone. Probably, this letter should be assigned to January of 1832, previous to the one written to this same person on January 21, 1832. (Cfr. also the letter of January 4, 1832 to Father Rosati).

⁴³ The postal markings show that this letter was sent from Rome on January 5th. The year is 1832.

⁴⁴ According to the heart of God.

⁴⁵ According to the rule.

⁴⁶ Before the Lord.

⁴⁷ I am poor ... have regard for me ... have mercy on me.

⁴⁸ I pour out my prayer in his sight, etc.

good one, etc. You understand me, etc. In order to remove anxieties, one should try to read at one's leisure the Life of de Sales, and in making the examination of conscience, to note the causes from which those anxieties arise ... for example, speaking or responding too quickly, etc. excitement, etc. Courage! We will do all for God who is the only beloved one of our hearts.

With regard to the sermons, Merlini will look them over and I pray that you will produce a very fruitful Lenten series. Be very discreet about the length. Before Ash Wednesday, do not preach at all there. Become well-acquainted with the doings and the government of that House. Be of help to all in the community in their pursuit of virtue. Show them the way through your good example and prayer as well as by your suggestions.

See that the Brothers-in-service do not fail to have spiritual direction, partly through a sermon, partly through lessons of Christian Doctrine. Let us stimulate the doing of good work. With respect to hearing confessions, learn some of the basics from Father Biagio who has probably written them, or will write them, to Merlini. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P.S. Take your turn in hearing confessions. I urge you to look after the various associations; also, in particular, the visitation sermons in Torricchio.

2272

January 5, 1832
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, 5th of 1832

Venerable Canon

Pardon me for not having sent you an immediate reply to your very kind letter. I simply have not had the time; the will was there. May the Lord reward you amply for sending me your good wishes for the recurring mysteries just experienced, and you can be sure that I, too, in my wretchedness, have not failed to pray for you and for whatever needs you have.

As for our Society, this is from God whether it is considered *per se*, or in its relationship to our times, or finally in its relationship to our own sanctification. Through it, we offer ourselves with virtuous detachment to the projects leading to divine glory and to the welfare of souls. Suffering will never be lacking, wherever we may be, and this too is an unshakeable principle. Let us give thanks to God that in this way we are participants in the examples that he has given us, which we must imitate by mutually sharing compassion. In our house-meetings, therefore, it is helpful to have an exchange of ideas in establishing the observance of our rule. This is something that must be incessantly promoted. This is how progress will be made, along with prayer and good example, as you yourself instruct me. With shared charity, let us keep each other in line, and wherever I can be of assistance, feel completely free to write to me. As for the duties to be done, in our practice changes have to be made in keeping with the urgencies that arise. As long as we spend the 24 hours a day for God, we will be pleased and content. Keep in mind that when you will have renounced your canonry, at that time the Institute will be able to assign you to tasks of major occupation, in accordance always with what the will of the Lord will manifest.

With regard to Alderisio, I point out that he is among those about whom it is written: "*Nemo juventutem suam spernat*".⁴⁹ Then, too, I do not believe that he is that young; he does not show his age and he celebrated Mass at the canonical age just past, without need for the slightest dispensation. Note, likewise, how many young men are now pastors, which is something even more striking than what one of our young men does, who is not exposed to difficult cases as a pastor is. If he does run into one, he has time for consultation and he has those among his companions who can direct him. So, no one is claiming that he will have to be a director of souls; this is something that God does not reserve for all. Indeed, Alderisio has been told that on days when fewer people show up, the time can be thriftily used in the confessional. I assure you, once again, that he is aged in uprightness, with all due respect to everyone. "*Cani sunt sensus hominis in quibus subest scientia Dei*".⁵⁰

With regard to the duties left to him by Merlini, that was a temporary situation and he probably fulfilled them using prudent approaches, since Fr. Tommaso was still on hand. You may not have been pleased with that provisional government. You probably would have changed the method of pre-emption, entrusting it to an older member. So, I conclude: these are things of little moment. How many times in monasteries do they not have the older men governed by younger ones. Take a look at what is done, and all should recognize that Alderisio was only an executor and not a President or a Superior. Let this be considered as secret communication, and let us abandon ourselves, in all things, to the will of God.

With respect to the story of your things being in Sinigaglia, you know that I did not regulate the matter, hence I do not know now what more I can say. Wishing to make this change, and wanting you to pass through Sinigaglia, I could assign you to Macerata Feltria or, if you wish, to Rimini. But, in that case, we should at least share half of the expenses, for otherwise I would not move you. I hope that you agree with this thought of mine. I would appreciate your reply to this. However, it would not be possible to delay this for long because our foundations need to have equilibrium. At the beginning of February, if you are truly willing, set out. In Macerata Feltria, I would assign you as President in charge of the observance, working along with Merlini who is quite experienced and, when necessary, keeping in consultation with me. In Rimini, they already have a President and a Superior, just as there is already an appointed Superior in Macerata Feltria.

With the help of the Lord, make your decision. Perhaps with the stop of your things in Sinigaglia, in the order of providence, you are being called to do this. Rimini and Macerata Feltria are Houses that help each other. I urge you to Macerata because in Rimini there are soldiers lodged whereas in Macerata you would be more at ease. Another plan would be to assign you as President in our new House in Nepi, where, again, a Superior has already been named. Nepi is close to Rome, it is located on an accessible roadway and has a gentle climate. The people are quite friendly. This is all that I can offer you. If you prefer to remain in Pievetorina, then stay there *in nomine Domini*,⁵¹ and keep up your work there. I am very content about that. If you would like to go to Sermoneta, here too you are the one to decide, or even Frosinone. I do not mention Albano since the accommodations are limited and also there is a boarding school there. Resident there are all those who must copy or write things for the Institute. I simply do not have any rooms there. The Institute will, for the reasons indicated, agree to half of the expenses. Finally, you mentioned your family, whom I

⁴⁹ Let no one despise his youth.

⁵⁰ Mature is man's thinking in which exists a knowledge of God.

⁵¹ In the name of God.

have come to know, as well as your own proper commodities. Look at Jesus in the cave of Bethlehem, where I now leave you, and his example will encourage you. Every sacrifice will be rewarded in heaven. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2273

January 6, 1832

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

With pleasure did I receive your handwriting and I thank you for the singular kindness that you show toward me.

Firmly set now are the last eight days of the Carnival time, dedicated to the Sorrows of most holy Mary. On Monday after Sexagesima Sunday, I shall leave from Rome. On that night I shall be in Ticchiena. On Tuesday morning, in Alatri; after the noon meal, on the platform; at night, the Oratory etc. On the following Tuesday we will have the conclusion at that same hour and in the manner that you judge best. That takes care of the eight days. Since, before that, I will be going out on a Mission, say a prayer, etc., etc.. Always address your letters to "Rome".

Give my warm regards to the most reverend bishop and nephew; also, to anyone else that you wish. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 6th of 1832

P. S. With regard to the mounts, I will be able to inform you in time. Let us stick to our agreement.

2274

January 7, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

Have no worries about the Lenten preacher in Macerata Feltria; I inform you that the preaching is done from a platform, omitting nothing that is prescribed along this line with respect to preaching. I am hopeful that it will be most fruitful for the purposes of divine glory. In a similar fashion will it be done in Rimini. I take this opportunity, venerable Monsignor, to renew my expressions of particular esteem and respect for you, as I kiss your hands.

⁵² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.
 Rome , 7th of 1832

2275

January 7, 1832
 Fr. Luigi Felici
 Rome

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

Venerable Father Felici

I know that there is a faculty with respect to Masses in thanksgiving to the most Holy Trinity among the privileges granted in the name of the most holy Virgin. I would appreciate a letter of instruction in this regard. A pastor (outside of Rome) would like to promote this devotion in his church, at least on each Saturday. He possesses a small leaflet with the decree. Perhaps you have one, or can indicate to me where one can be obtained. Acknowledging your favorable assistance, I am and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and gratitude,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.
 House, 7th of 1832

2276

January 7, 1832
 Fr. Pietro Spina
 Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, 7 of 1832

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Here I am sending a reply to your letter covering the principal items.

In regard to Giovannino, I am quite sorry that you were not able to get him where I had destined him. The carriage, however, was not able to wait any longer. I am expecting more recent information on this matter, for, in that case, I would send him to Vallecorsa for a change in climate. I hope, however, that he is improving. Write to me quickly concerning this.

With reference to Torrielli, *standum in decisis*.^{54 55}

In view of Liparelli's delay, I have been considering De Victoriis. However, I notice that his state of weakness, that you described, will not allow him to be available, at least not for the time being, to operate with vigor. I am writing to you, therefore, only what is necessary. You are to assume again the duties of Economist for that House as well as Director of Retreats, a work that I would like to see greatly promoted. These are appointments which had already been assigned to you

⁵³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁴ *Torrielli* , a resident student in Sermoneta. Cfr. footnote #2 of Lett. 402, December 1831.

⁵⁵ Stand by what has been decided.

at the last Visitation, *salvo equivoco*.⁵⁶ So, accordingly, set up well and with many degrees of virtue, your own management, for all this is related to the glory of God whom we serve. I am awaiting further receipts. Tell De Victoriis to handle everything well. As for Rodriguez,⁵⁷ write to Frosinone, for if the volume does not belong to them, they should send it back to me.

I understand what you say about the pigs to be fattened, and that is all right. I recommend again to your zeal the observance of the rule, union with God, pursuit of sanctity, etc. etc.

With regard to the lime kiln, we have already agreed, *iuxta aliam meam*.⁵⁸ Whenever you have Masses that can be said at one's own convenience and celebrated *ubique locorum*,⁵⁹ send them to me.

The Images should be in Albano, and I shall have them sent on to me.

Write concerning the Masses directly to Aloysi in Rimini, delighted with the sea air. This is a matter of the greatest concern. With regard to the other notification for 30 Masses, I do not know what to say, since I am here in Rome. See what you can do about it.

I hope that the Lord will bring an end to that cough of yours with the application of the water of St. Xavier used during the novena. Fr. Pietro is to remain for the time being as Pro-President and Superior. Am I forgetting anything? Pray for me who am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted, obliged

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Check to see whether in the archives there is a copy of the grant from the Good Government with respect to the 15 *Sc*. This is necessary. I urge cleanliness, orderliness, in imitation of the deceased Achille,⁶⁰ the prototype of Economists, in addition to his other merits, etc. I urge the care of the sick, etc.

P. S. The Retreat there in the Oratory will be given by the Missionary Fr. Pietro Spina instead of Natale. Dig out your repertory. After the Purification, you will go immediately to Sonnino and Terracina. I am counting on those dates. Perhaps, De Victoriis will be on hand at that time. You will have the merit of holy obedience; do not worry, for things will go well, very well, even more than very well. That is how I see it, etc. Keep in mind the Synod there, etc. As for other matters, *ad alias*.⁶¹

2277

January 10, 1832

To a Priest

⁵⁶ Unless being mistaken.

⁵⁷ *Rodriguez*. This is a reference to the famous work on asceticism entitled: "*Esercizio di Perfezione e di Virtu cristiana*" by Fr. Alfonso Rodriguez, a Spanish Jesuit (born in Valladolid around April 15, 1538 -- died in Seville on February 21, 1616). This work, which has made him famous even to our own days, was published in Seville in 1609, and then re-published innumerable times since, as well as being translated into many languages: the first Italian version dates from 1617. The Holy Founder had assigned it as spiritual reading during the meals in the Mission Houses and Houses of Studies. (Cfr. "*Transunto*" art. 10, and "*Regula Cong. Miss. a Pret. Sang. cum Praxi*", art. XI, *pro praxi*.)

⁵⁸ According to my other [letter].

⁵⁹ At every location.

⁶⁰ Fr. Luigi Achille, Missionary. Cfr. biographical section.

⁶¹ For another time.

Rome

Venerable Canon

Your renunciation of the office of Secretary of the Pious Union of S. Galla has brought about my substitution and that of Father Filippo Gonnelli, without whose support I would not have been able, in any way at all, to accept this office. Therefore, please give to the aforementioned Father Filippo all the papers and notifications necessary for the proper management of things. Above all, I ask that you maintain from this moment on, as I have not doubt you will, a continued attachment to and affection for this pious work, for which, I am sure, you will offer your help whenever you can.

With this understanding then, I have the honor of declaring once again, venerable Canon, with esteem, respect and affection, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, 10th of 1832

2278

January 12, 1832

To a Priest

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶²

Venerable Canon

Being obliged to balance out the accounts for an anonymous legacy, we are required to hear confessions twice during the evening at the Hospice of S. Galla. So, I ask that you be kind enough to make yourself available for this great work, sixteen times during the Easter season of this year, making a notation of the days covered, in the book that we have there in our sacristy, in the usual drawer. May the Lord reward you amply for this particular work of charity. With esteem and respect, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap. and Secy. of the Pious Union

2279

January 12, 1832

To a Priest

Rome

Venerable Canon

In the meeting held on the 9th of this month, in the hospice for the poor in S. Galla, the decision was made, in keeping with the desires of Canon Father Telesforo Galli, to select one of our members for the office of Vice-Postulator for the cause of the Venerable Canon de Rossi. The group, therefore, corresponding to the desires of our beloved Postulator as well as for showing acknowledgment of the gifts that you have for making progress in the matter of the cause of the beatification of the Servant of God, request that you accept this task. At the same time, we wish to

⁶² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

inform you that we have already mentioned this to the aforementioned Canon Galli with whom you can get in contact. I take this opportunity to declare once again that I remain, with particular esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap. and Secy. of the Pious Union
 House, 12th of 1832

2280

January 13, 1832
 Fr. Pietro Spina
 Velletri per Sermoneta⁶³

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Since De Victoriis is not there permanently (even though I intend that the Province be considered *per modum unius*⁶⁴ because of the faculties of hearing confessions, etc., with one supplying for the other as the needs arise), I am writing to you about various matters which you can share with De Victoriis.

As soon as he has recovered, Lipparelli will return there. You are to prepare for him the room that is in the Missionaries' wing, one having a roomy closet: you understand. He had taken the one that is first at the head of the stairs; but it would be better if he were to take the one that I mention, because it is more commodious and not so narrow.

Take care of my room and reserve the next one to it for Bartolomeo. You occupy the one near the library.

I hope that Giovanni has recuperated. At the first opportunity I am sending three pairs of socks for our Brothers. You distribute them to the ones who are most in need.

Merlini writes as follows: "If the well is not cleaned out, if the eaves are not cleared of clutter and if the free flow of water from the courtyard into the cistern is not provided, then the water that is to be drunk will always be dangerous to health. Rubbish has often been tossed out into the courtyard, even at times of illness. Now is the time that the work can be done. I would not have anyone living in that part, because they make a mess of things." There you have Merlini's letter. Now, you give me instructions, for I know little about such things. Keeping in mind the question of health, I have decided the following.

We shall move the Brothers from the section facing the countryside into the Missionaries' wing:

1) I assign the first room to Giovanni, the one just beyond the window of the loggia. Whoever happens to be there temporarily, occupying the room that I am assigning, should move into one of those that are located beyond the recreation room;

2) I assign to Luigi the first room at the head of the stairs, where Lipparelli had been situated,

⁶³ The posterior half-sheet for this letter on which the date is written and has been reproduced here comes from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. We have replaced it here in Vol. II of the manuscripts of the Founder (f. 411 bis) for the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. n. 368, Dated October 13, 1831.

⁶⁴ As a unit.

as I mentioned above;

3) To Marcello, I assign the room alongside the one occupied by Giovannino;

4) To Antonio, the gardener, I assign the room adjacent to yours, facing the garden, for I am told that it is habitable.

All the other rooms are to remain available for the Missionaries, etc. etc.

5) The Brothers are to bring with them to the rooms that I have assigned them, everything that they have where they are now living, namely, bed, furniture, chairs, etc. The possessions of the Missionaries that are being moved should be put into the rooms on the other side, facing the hallway, well-furnished for Retreatants. These possessions will remain there for just a short while. The Missionaries are to be informed etc. I hope I make myself clear.

I recommend cleanliness, orderliness in all things, exactness.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rome, January 13, 1832⁶⁵

2281

January 14, 1832

Fr. Vincenzo Pallotti

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine suo*⁶⁶

House, 14th of 1832

Venerable Father Vincenzo

I have two things to mention to you. The first is that you send the number of Masses for the chalice. This is the only matter which still remains for us to settle, even though the chalice has not as yet been received.

The second is that Mazzetti, evermore fervent with regard to the devotion to the Divine Blood, is planning, by way of suffrage, to have the month of March observed at his expense. He has assured me that in everything he will work it out with you, as I have suggested to him. Finally, a religious of the Paolotta nuns, who has a brother, married into the Antonj family, your penitent, now wishes to recommend him *in omnibus*⁶⁷ to your charity. Pray for me and, while kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Send the alms to Canon Fontana and that will be settled. Father Filippo Gonnelli has the notification, and it will be sent on to Father Vincenzo.

⁶⁵ The place of origin, the day, and the month are legible in the postal markings. The year, however, is deduced from the agreement of what is found in this present letter and other letters dated January of 1832: that is, Lett. n. 381 of January 7th, Lett. n. 431 of the 14th, Lett. n. 382 of the 17th, Lett. n. 383 of the 21st: in them you can find the same topics referred to here, such as the sickness of Giovannino, the absence of Lipparelli due to sickness, the uncertain presence of De Victoriis, the assignment of rooms.

⁶⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶⁷ In all things.

2282

January 14, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta⁶⁸

Hail, etc.

Esteemed D. Pietro

I shall excuse you from the Novena given in the form of a Retreat, provided that you cooperate there in the Mission, as Mons. Grati desires. Have them provide lodgings for us according to our practice, and have them determine the time, etc. We then shall take care of ourselves, without any trouble to anyone, collecting only whatever God sends to us by our efforts at the door of the Church when the Mission comes to an end. Write to me about this, etc.

From among the rooms that I have not assigned to anyone, prepare one for Fr. Raffaele Brandimarte: give the best one among those not assigned. Make sure that it has all that is required. Give him one in the wing inhabited by the Missionaries, facing the countryside. He will not be there immediately, however, etc. It won't be very long, though. When his possessions arrive, take care of them, etc.

The oil for that House will be coming from Vallecorsa.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

[Rome, January 14, 1832]⁶⁹

2283

January 17, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta⁷⁰

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Canon Luigi La Renna owes 1.03 *Sc.* from Sezze.

See that you get the Retreatants together for carnival time, if possible.

The trip to Sonnino cannot be postponed for too long, since the death of the Cicconi woman has occurred. It is necessary to finalize matters there, as well as in Terracina. Let me know when you will be able to go, etc.

How is Giovannino? If necessary, I shall send him to Frosinone, or to Vallecorsa for a

⁶⁸ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which contains the pertinent address that we have re-copied here comes from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. The reasons explained in the footnote in Letter n. 368 of October 13, 1831 have compelled us to move it to this Volume II of the Writings of the Founder, f. 398 bis.

⁶⁹ The place of origin the day and the month are taken from the postal markings. The year is certainly 1832 since the letter speaks of the negotiations for the Mission in Sermoneta which took place in August of 1832, and was requested by Msgr. Luigi Grati, Bishop of Terracina from 1828 to 1833. Furthermore, in January of 1831, just as in preceding years, Fr. Pietro Spina was not located in Sermoneta.

⁷⁰ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which bears the address which is re-copied here was found in the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons mentioned previously (in the note of Lett. 368, October 13, 1831), it has been restored to Vol. II of the Writings of the Founder (f. 323 bis), alongside the letter from which it was severed.

change in climate. Write to me. I shall send a knitted undershirt for Marcello.

Concerning the 12 *Sc.* for the pharmacist,⁷¹ try to get them reduced to ten *Sc.* Tell me: have you collected the offering of 66 left there by you and the 200 by me, etc.? Do you have other Masses to be said, giving the offerings to the pharmacist and getting a receipt for the records? It is understood that they will be *ubique*⁷² and *a comodo*.⁷³

You write to Aloysi in Rimini: in that way you will come to a better understanding; do so immediately. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 17 of 1832

2284

January 17, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

Let me know whether you have received the calendar for your use. You can add this one *paolo* of cost to the other four *paoli* in my favor, and when you return to me the notification of the Masses which you will continue celebrating, we will settle everything.

I shall contact Torrielli about making a final attempt. In this case, I probably have inconvenienced him just a little. Pray a lot for me, With the mail about to go, I remain, with all my affection and esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, the 17th of 1832

2285

January 18, 1832

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo⁷⁴

As you advised me, I shall be on the look-out for the stationery, and we will be all even up to now. Right?

⁷¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Filippi, Sig. Scipione

⁷² Wherever.

⁷³ At your convenience.

⁷⁴ This letter has no date. The day and the month are derived from the postal marking, and the year 1832 is drawn from the reference to the bishops and the opening of the Houses in Nepi and Macerata Feltria, as well as from what is said in the letter to Possenti, dated December 30, 1831.

With regard to our House, act efficiently. Make sure of the locale. Presently, two bishops have worked it out for two more foundations of ours, one in Nepi and the other in Macerata Feltria. Once both church and locale are assured of, and carefully looked after by you, the funding can be given a start as follows ...

1. The legacy of Cereto, funds for the House which will assume the responsibility of the Mission.
2. The legacy for the Retreat there, for the feastdays of the Christmas season, being satisfied by etc.
3. The Lenten preaching, as well as that of Advent, but delivered from a platform, and their income, an endowment for the House.
4. We shall see whether there is anything else to be considered. Courage.

Maybe the bishop will see something available in Matelica; some leading family which might provide legacies etc. You discuss this with the bishop, and God will be with you etc. After the rescripts come from Rome, once the plan is set, then I will act. I have not as yet managed to comprehend where the Capuchin nuns have gone. Aren't the Camaldolese in S. Romualdo?

Then, a Mission will put everything in motion. This will be a special grace; pray and work hard. *Oratio et operatio*.⁷⁵ let us put our trust in God who blesses anyone who works for his glory etc. The *Reverenda Camera Apostolica* is presently in continual debt, so, how can we have any hope in it? The only thing would be to have the possibility of seeking the funds from some other body, which might reject one or the other convent, something that might not occur, nor surely do I so wish. It might happen only because of the lack of members.

For these times, devotion and the cult of the Divine Blood, with the public recitation of the Chaplet etc. *ubique*.⁷⁶

If someone there is about to set up legacies, see that this is taken into consideration, if you so judge. Furthermore, for one year, the Lenten preaching could be suspended, and with the income to build up a fund. With my sending workers there to catechize for eight days in one place and eight days in another etc. we could supply *meliori modo*.⁷⁷

The pious school, somewhere else. Perhaps where the begging nuns used to be; but, neither would I in any way at all, like this with our Society coming there, that is to educate the youth etc. That locale, also, ought not to be dismembered. Oh, blessed may you be if, with concern, you offer your services in this matter. You will see wonderful things happen. Do not be afraid, do not be afraid, do not be afraid.

With regard to Merlini, there is no one like him, safeguarding respect for everyone. If he has written, then proceed forward and come to an agreement with him, since this is something that is regards his zeal etc.

Have I forgotten anything? With esteem, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. When you see Tarulli, give him my greetings. Tell him to preach on the Divine Blood

⁷⁵ Prayer and work.

⁷⁶ Wherever.

⁷⁷ In a better way.

and that he activate the mens' Oratory using the workers of the association of the apostles, with which he is very well acquainted.

2286

January 18, 1832
Luigi Fuschi
Norma

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁸

Venerable Luigi

I understand everything that you mentioned in your recent very kind letter. So, it appears to me that, from all the ups and downs that you spoke of, God wills your uniting with your father-in-law, so that in his advanced age, as I believe him to be, you can provide him with charitable comfort and help. Thus, through this union, you will be the mediator of a reciprocating charity shown by and with all of the other relatives. Here, then, is another extension of the apostolate.

In the meantime, arrange for a seven day devotion to the Divine Blood, and then see whether the circumstances change or not; every solution is tied up with this. Firmly inform Lanni beforehand that you are reuniting as a condescension to your father-in-law, and that you will inspire in his soul similar sentiments of virtue. St. Augustine praised St. Monica because she was always seeking to bring about peace. True children of God must likewise promote it. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, the 18th of 1832

2287

January 18, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta⁷⁹

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

If the Mission is not scheduled, you will conduct the Retreat called for by the rule from March 4 to 12 in S. Francesco, making previous announcements of this wonderful Novena; and for this year, that will be sufficient.

As soon as Giovannino⁸⁰ is capable, I shall send him for a change of climate. So, write and let me know. However, if he should recover sufficiently, we shall leave him there, if you think it is all right. In the meantime, show him every consideration. I think that the climate in Frosinone or Vallecorsa would help him get well. In Albano, no, for we are always faced with sick people, and I

⁷⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷⁹ The posterior half-sheet for this letter on which we find the address, here reproduced, was preserved, along with many others similar to it. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. 368 (Oct. 13, 1831), it has now been restored to the upper half-sheet on which the text of the letter is written, and placed in Vol. II of the originals, given the number f. 312 bis. Cf. Also Additional Biographical Data: Spina, Fr. Pietro (Letters).

⁸⁰ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Balducci, Giovannino

cannot increase that number. I await your response.

Send a copy of the conciliar approbation of Sermoneta to Fr. Camillo for the General Archives. I hope that your collection has gone along regularly and that the arrears are looked into.

In another letter, you will learn about a cloak, etc. However, if Lipparelli should want it, it is all right with me, but he should have it altered to fit. The one that Lipparelli now has should be allowed to be worn by the Brothers, as I wrote in a preceding letter of mine.

I am sending a calendar to De Victoriis. He will pass on to you the cost for one *paolo* which you shall enter into the ledger of receipts.

In a hurry, I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 18 of 1832

2288

January 20, 1832

To a Priest

Rome

Very reverend Father⁸¹

With this most humble letter of mine, I wish to ask you, in the name of the priests of the Pious Union of S. Galla, to which you belong, to obtain the candles which, on the occasion of the Feast of the Purification, those belonging to that Pious Union are accustomed to offer for our sacred functions. Since some of them may want to keep the blessed candle, in your zeal try to arrange for them to offer a just alms for it, namely, the usual one for this particular purpose. In the meantime, I declare that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap. and Secretary of the Pious Union

2289

January 21, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

On the evening of the 30th of this month, please see that you are in Albano in order to go out on the Mission in Ariccia. Bring along all of your writings, not knowing at what point they might be useful for you. This Mission came up unexpectedly. We must adapt ourselves to the will of God. Send me a reply, as I remind you that *signa apostolatus in multa patientia*.⁸² Prepare yourself through many prayers so that you will bring forth abundant fruit. I am

Your humble servant

⁸¹ This letter is written in a different handwriting. Only the signature is that of St. Gaspar.

⁸² Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 21st of 1832

It will not be necessary to bring along your writings for the clergy. You take care of the mounts.⁸³

2290

January 21, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta⁸⁴

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, 21 of 1832

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

If Torrielli has not left as yet, he is to remain there to keep you company for a few days. Then I shall figure out what to do next. The reason for this is that Liparelli has been hit again with the fever and will be delayed. We are hopeful that he will recover.

Unexpectedly the Mission in Ariccia came in and I am writing to De Victoriis about it. I have just received word that he is not feeling too well. So, we shall consider De Victoriis.⁸⁵

While Torrielli stays on, the Conferences are to be given according to the rule. Adapt the conferences to Torrielli so that, in the meantime, he can learn whatever he can. Have him practice, help him, while the Mission in Ariccia is in progress. We are agreed. Later I shall consider sending either Rosati or Brandimarte as substitutes for you so that you can hurry up matters in Sonnino and Terracina, etc., etc., quickly expediting things as rapidly as possible. In regard to the oil in Sonnino, it will be necessary to remember to carefully put on it the following marking: to be used in honor of the agony, just as Sig. Cicconi states in his letter. Check with Merlini on this matter.⁸⁶

With total affection and esteem, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

⁸³ This addition is found on the fourth page.

⁸⁴ The posterior half-sheet for this letter (Vol. II, f. 324 bis) came from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, v. IV, 20 (cfr. footnote, Lett. 368 of Oct. 13, 1831). On it we find one-half of the address reproduced here. The other half is written on the corresponding reverse side, which bears the text of the letter on the first facing.

⁸⁵ The last two sentences (I have just ... So, we shall consider ...) were added by the Saint after he had written the letter. As a matter of fact, they are found inserted in the left-hand margin with the reference mark placed near the name of De Victoriis. The latter, furthermore, despite his delicate health, did nevertheless go to the Mission in Ariccia, and indeed was its Director (In the *Libro dei Congressi* for Sermoneta, under the date January 20, 1832, one observes: "Missionary De Victoriis has been summoned by the Director General for the Mission to be held in Ariccia. He will depart on the morning of the 24th of the current month, with the House's little donkey".

⁸⁶ *In honor of the agony*. Very probably this is a reference to the oil donated to the church to have it used in the lamps that were lit on Fridays in pious memory of the Agony of the Lord. Fr. Giovanni Merlini, whom Gaspar often consulted concerning obligations deriving from legacies, offerings and similar matters, informs us that when there was a bequest made by a benefactor, Gaspar was delicate to the point of scrupulosity in seeing that their intentions were respected. As an example, Merlini states: "here in Albano since the oil was offered to be used in the lamps, he wanted that oil to be kept aside and to be used exclusively for that lamp; it was not to be mixed in any way whatsoever with any other. In the same way, we recall other similar cases, so that he would not defraud the intentions of benefactors, not even in those things that were of a purely material nature".

G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

2291

January 21, 1832
Student Orazio Bracaglia
Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, 21st of 1832

Most esteemed Orazio

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter.

The matter of a patrimony is the purpose for your trip. It will be up to your relatives to establish it, and I would like to see this done with dispatch. In the meantime, I will write to the most reverend bishop. You can learn the method to be observed in this process from the archdeacon, while keeping in touch with Liparelli to whom I am entrusting you as long as you will be staying there. With regard to the exam and anything else, this will depend on the most reverend bishop whom you will contact in this circumstance. Thus, later, for the other orders, a dimissorial letter will be adequate, without your return to Frosinone. at the proper time, you will make a Retreat there. As for that exam, I do not know whether the bishop will send it on to Liparelli or whether you will be examined in Veroli. That is not the decision of the Institute.

During your stay there, maintain the life-style of a student insofar as it is possible. In particular, cultivate the matters of the spirit, silence etc.; and, do not cease praying for me.

Always in his company, as Liparelli would put it, since he will be for you the same as the President in the Boarding School, go ahead and pay a visit to your father. However, be careful not to become overly attached to the house. In that regard, I feel at ease because of your virtue. With esteem and respect, I am constantly

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

2292

January 1832
Cardinal Bartolomeo Pacca
Rome
Your Eminence⁸⁷

The most worthy Monsignor Bofondi was pleased to forward to me the enclosed reply from the Canon Secretary of the Lateran Chapter which obliges me to inconvenience your most reverend Eminence once again.

The Canon Secretary, however, has forgotten that Pope Pius VII, upon a humble petition submitted by Duke Cesarini, the patron of the Abbacy of S. Paolo in Albano, in which he pointed out that certain funds were given to the Lateran Chapter by a bull of Pope Honorius IV, but were always supposed to be used for the sanctuary of S. Paolo as well as for the exercise of services offered there

⁸⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Lateran Chapter, Benefits due from the

by any Institute whatsoever, issued the rescript in which he did not intend at all to derogate from the Bull of Honorius but that Duke Cesarini and the Institute of the Missionaries should recover those funds.

Here, therefore, it is not a question whether the Lateran Chapter has reasons to claim that compensation; without doubt, they do; but, it is to be pointed out to those Canons that the Holy Father, believing those funds of S. Paolo to be, in general, free, discovered that indeed they were tied up, as explained above. The conclusion is that the Chapter should peacefully make that consignment to us so that we will not be compelled to have recourse to actions in the external forum. Such is the respect that we have toward the most reverend Chapter; that it must turn over its titles to the Reverenda Camera Apostolica and seek another compensation, other than this one. Duke Cesarini and the Missionaries have already had recourse and have obtained the above-indicated response.

May your most reverend Eminence please contact his Eminence Galeffi who surrendered the part that he also had from those funds for his seminary, as soon as he was confronted with the rescript of Pope Pius VII. The present bishop, his Eminence Falzacappa, is also aware of this and in his goodness has served as our mediator in order to bring to a conclusion an affair where justice shouts out, and a poor Institute has suffered for many years from this detriment.

I would have come to see you in person to better acquaint you with the situation; however, I did not want to inconvenience you. At a previous time, I submitted all the documents found in the Chancery of Albano; now, in order to cut down on further expenses, I am sending you copies, since the Chapter would have liked to have retained the original documents. While kissing the sacred purple, etc.

2293

February 18, 1832

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

On the Saturday evening, before Sexagesima Sunday, I shall be in Frosinone so that after the noon meal on Sexagesima Sunday our pious Retreat can be started, completing it on Quinquagesima Sunday. I shall bring along with me Father Biagio. It will be necessary for you to send three mounts, with steady saddle, to Frosinone by midday of the aforesaid Sunday, so that shortly after arrival, around the 22nd hour, the beginning can be made; at night, we will have the first meeting of the Oratory. We cannot stray too far from the time and the method established, as I have just described. I have no doubt that you worked everything out along with the most reverend bishop and nephew. In a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Orte (while conducting a Mission), February 18⁸⁸

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

⁸⁸ The year is 1832, as can be determined from the Mission conducted in Orte. Cfr. also the letter to this same person on January 6, 1832.

2294

February 18, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Orte, February 18 (1832)

Esteemed Fr. Pietro⁸⁹

Within days I shall be in Sermoneta. We shall speak in person with regard to everything. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Prepare some beds.

Your letters, always: "Rome".

2295

February 24, 1832
Fr. Pietro Spina
Sermoneta⁹⁰

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I am sending a man from Frosinone, to whom you shall give lodging and food, but I will be paying him from here. You shall give to this man all the pigs that are considered ready for butchering. It will be done in Frosinone where the air is colder. Those that have not as yet reached that point you are to keep there. Then, while I am in transit through Sermoneta, we will figure everything out. The pigs to be butchered are to be penned the night before since the man could be leaving very early in the morning so as to be in Frosinone on Monday evening. One of our Brothers could accompany him as far as the plains of Sermoneta, using the little burro with which the Brother will return. You shall supply the man with some acorns to feed the pigs on the way back, as well as whatever he himself may need in the line of food.

Through this same man I am sending five *scudi* for your expenses. The remainder will be taken care of when I pass through.

Antonio from Vallecorsa will be needed in Albano for a few days. He should bring along with him the two small donkeys with their pack-saddles. Brother Carluccio will return there with these two small donkeys in order to substitute for Antonio (and, in my name, you are to write to Fr. Camillo everything that relates to Albano, in regard to Carluccio and Chiodi). Fr. Giovanni Chiodi will be traveling along with Carluccio since he has been assigned to Vallecorsa for Lent. As soon as he has arrived at your place, you will start him out immediately for Vallecorsa, giving him Luigetto

⁸⁹ In February of 1832 the Saint gave the Mission in the little town of Orte (Viterbo) and has as his companion Fr. Giovanni Merlini, whom he had called from Giano (cfr. *Vol. d'Arch. "Notizie del Fond. II"*, 367).

⁹⁰ The posterior half-sheet for this letter which bears the address which we have re-copied here comes from Vol. VII of the Writings of the Founder where it has been inserted under the number 88. We have placed it in the present volume (f. 377 bis) for the reasons expressed in the footnote of Lett. n. 368 of October 13, 1831.

as a guide and using the two little burros, one for each one.

When they arrive in Vallecorsa, Luigetto, using our two little burros, will pick up De Victoriis and take him to Frosinone. After getting there, Luigetto will get further instructions for his return.

I am, etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 24 or 25 of February, 1832⁹¹

In my name you are to write to each one who is to be contacted, in keeping with this letter of mine; and hurry.

2296

March 1, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹²

Alatri, March 1, 1832

Venerable Monsignor

Your most appreciated letters to "Rome". Father Nicola Santarelli, our Missionary for the Lenten series in Macerata Feltria, has probably arrived there. This member of ours, with the grace of God, will do excellent work. I ask you to deliver the enclosed to him with the greatest possible haste. I beg you for your prayers, and, venerable Monsignor, while kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁹¹ In this date the place of origin is derived from the text of the letter itself which clearly states that the writer was in Frosinone. The year is ascertained from many converging circumstances, and especially from the fact that in 1832 Fr. Giovanni Chiodi preached the Lenten series in Vallecorsa, as is stated in a letter of the Saint to Fr. Mattia Cardillo, dated March 15, 1832, and Fr. Pietro De Victoriis in Frosinone (cfr. Lib. Congressi of Frosinone, February 1832, p. 107). While Fr. Camillo Rossi was Superior of the House in Albano, Fr. Pietro Spina was located in Sermoneta "Missionary", not Superior, and the Brothers Antonio Di Girolamo from Vallecorsa and Luigi Carocci, "Luigetto", were giving their services in the same House. At this point, parenthetically, we note the inaccuracy into which Fr. Giovanni Merlini fell in his "Istoria della Casa di Vallecorsa" written certainly several years after the events narrated. There, he asserts that in 1832 the Lenten series in that locale was preached by Fr. Biagio Valentini; whereas the Saint's letter to Fr. Mattia Cardillo, cited above, gives us different information.

Finally, we come to a knowledge of the month from an entry into the cash receipts column in the ledger of administration for Sermoneta, redacted by Fr. Spina: under the date of February 26, 1832, we read: "Rec'd of C. del Bufalo, by means of a man sent from Frosinone, 5 Sc." This is precisely the amount which the Saint mentions in this letter. We note also that the 26th was a Sunday: in so far as it is impossible to imagine that the Saint sent this man out traveling on a festive day, we are compelled to think that he must have arrived on a Saturday night. Hence, the letter was written either on that very morning, Saturday or, more probably, the day before, that is, the 25th or 24th of February.

⁹² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

P. S. I am awaiting the results of what pertains to our new foundation.

2297

March 4, 1832

Msgr. Fortunato Maria Ercolani

Bishop of Civita Castellana

Civita Castellana

Dear Monsignor

A couple of lines. Send your reply to Rome. The first Sunday of Lent will be the beginning of the holy Mission in Carbognano; after that, Bassanello.

In a hurry, I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Alatri, March 4⁹³

Chia will be taken care of after Bassano.

2298

March 7, 1832

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General of Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A bit of indisposition of health prevented me from being with you last night, as I would have liked.

The Lenten series in Ariccia will be taken care of by Father Camillo Rossi who preached it, with so much success, last year in Frosinone. He will likewise give ten or more days of catechetical instructions in the form of a Retreat. During that time, in accordance with our rule, he will be able to reside in Ariccia to handle confessions etc. This will occur around Easter time. So another great work will be concluded. I kiss your hands, and, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem, respect and very particular affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

March 7, 1832

2299

March 15, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁹⁴

⁹³ The year is 1832, when St. Gaspar was in Alatri to preach a Retreat to the people during carnival time.

Venerable Monsignor

Here, on Ash Wednesday, I am sending a reply to your very kind letter, now that I have returned from conducting Holy Missions.

Father Isidoro Paoletti informs me that he, *ex se*,⁹⁵ has explained to your most worthy person what he felt was pertinent to Macerata Feltria. The only thing that has caused some question for me is the danger to the Convent because of the water from the ditch which is eroding its side. However, I am hopeful that this is only a remote danger. We have come to the following conclusions:

1. You see that I have taken care of Macerata Feltria, having sent a Lenten preacher there; up to now, I have handled the travel expenses; and quite willingly.

2. It is necessary now to set in motion the systematizing and the providing for this foundation, since there is quite a difference between a program of two chaplains and that of a Mission and Retreat House. I have no doubt that, especially in its beginnings, everyone will work along with me for the attainment of our common objectives.

I shall write to Father Isidoro, who has the faculty of subdelegating, to name Missionary Father Nicola Santarelli as the Lenten preacher for Macerata. He can also work out with you *in Curia* the plans, get the consignments, as well as to occupy himself during the good weather in making restorations and anything else that may be needed. After God, I place much confidence in your kindnesses and zeal. The aforementioned Santarelli has already gotten from me an outline of the agreements already made concisely between you and me by letter. So, God, who has inspired the initial thoughts, who has blessed up to now the execution of this deal, will grant us the consolation of completing the whole matter this Lent. Finally, I assure you that I have the same, unshakeable concern for our Society in Macerata as you do. I kiss your hands and I state once again that with profound esteem and reverence, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 15, 1832

2300

March 15, 1832
Fr Mattia Cardillo
Castellonorato

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Mattia

A couple of lines to let you know that a room has already been prepared for you in Sermoneta. Therefore, come *in nomine Domini*⁹⁶ and you will have health etc. Send the portion, concerning which you wrote to me, to Father Giovanni Chiodi, the Lenten preacher, in Vallecorsa. As for anything further, as well as for an easier exchange of letters, since you will be in Sermoneta, you will contact Liparelli who will be expecting you. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble servant

⁹⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁹⁵ Of itself.

⁹⁶ In the name of the Lord.

G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.
Rome, March 15, 1832