

Decree

from the Roman or Albanian (Diocese)

of the Canonization of

Blessed GASPAR DEL BUFALO

Confessor

and Canon of the Basilica of St. Mark at Rome,

Founder of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood,

Concerning the Question

Whether it is certain and about which miracles it is certain after veneration was granted by the Apostolic See in this case and as to the effect about which there is question here.

When the Christian sense of feeling was weakening almost everywhere in the eighteenth century among many people, the merciful God, in order to remedy this evil in the noble City and its vicinity, among other remedies raised up two priests, BLESSED GASPAR DEL BUFALO and Vincent Pallotti; both, as it seems, are progressing to the honors of canonization. They were fervent in their apostolic zeal and led holy lives; by means of sacred expeditions and other ministries and also through religious families founded by them, these two priests tried hard and with success to get the people to put into practice the divine counsels in those things which pertain to dogmatic doctrine as well as to correct their morals and to conform them to the norm of the divine law. But this decree must be restricted to BLESSED GASPAR.

When the French persecution was raging against the Roman Pontiff, and when Rome

itself and all the Papal States were subjugated to the hands of Napoleon, then just as the Roman Pontiff himself so also GASPAR and other Roman priests suffered exile. After his return from exile, he founded the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, and with all his strength earnestly cared for the salvation of souls up till his death, leaving everywhere a wonderful example of virtue and portents of heavenly signs. He also founded a Congregation of Sisters under the same title through the instrumental help of Blessed Maria de Mattias; this Congregation is devoted to the institution and education of girls. Full of merits he escaped to heaven in 1837. Because his fame for holiness broke forth, observing however the regulations of law, he was beatified on December 18, 1904. After new miracles had been performed, his cause was resumed on July 22, 1949; also, the Apostolic inquisitions were completed concerning the two asserted miracles, of which the juridical power was recognized on the sixteenth day of October of the preceding year.

The two wonderful cures about which the Apostolic Inquisitions were held are here set forth:

(I) Ursula Bono, a widow of Pontecorvo, Setina, was suffering from a serious malady, which had been determined by four doctors and two experts officially together with the whole medical board of our Congregation as: an abdominal tumor of a serious nature. This disease which, of course, is extremely serious and incurable, had become worse in May of 1934 so that the patient was so close to death that funeral arrangements were justifiably made. All hope therefore of a natural recovery was gone when the sick woman and her two daughters of the Sister Adorers of the Most Precious Blood, implored the intercession of BLESSED GASPAR, and poured out fervent prayers to God for her recovery.

The ailing woman testified under oath that on the night of the 23 or 24 of May the BEATUS had appeared to her and said: "Take courage, within a short time you shall be well." The next day had hardly dawned when Ursula discovered that she was completely cured. Physicians recognized the cure to have been complete. Expert doctors, in the year 1953, have acknowledge this cure to be lasting. Besides, skilled men in the trade (of medicine) and other witnesses had attested this miraculous deed to have been above the laws of nature.

(II) In the month of May in the year 1929, a young man, Francesco Campagna, a miller from the little town of "Campoli Appennino," was seized with a serious case of "bronchial pneumonia under the right shoulder together with a severe cough and meningitis." This diagnosis made by the doctors in charge, was in substance acknowledged by the medical College itself of our Congregation, and the prognosis by them was unfavorable and quite soon to be pronounced. However, on the nineteenth day of the same month of May, while a recently blessed statue of BLESSED GASPAR was being carried in solemn procession through the street of the town, and when it was on the point of entering the church to which it belonged, his mother admonished him to commend himself to the BLESSED ONE in order to be healed, while she and her friend ardently prayed. Suddenly Francesco rose from his bed, ran to the window, gazed upon the image of the BLESSED ONE, and went back to bed without assistance. The signs of the illness left him, and he knew that he was well; he was overtaken by a peaceful slumber and rested until the

following morning. A Physician declared his cure complete. After twenty-five years skilled physicians have testified to the permanence of the cure.

Both the doctors and the medical College agreed unanimously and without hesitation that the cure had taken place beyond the laws of nature. After the decision of the medical College was given, the Preparatory Board of the whole Congregation met on the thirtieth day of March, and here discussed both miracles. Likewise, on the fourth day of this month, at the General Meeting in the presence of the Supreme Pontiff, the Most Reverend Cardinal Alexander Verde, the Relator of the Cause, proposed this question: *whether it is certain and about which miracles it is certain after veneration was granted to the same BLESSED by the Apostolic See in this case and as to the effect of which there is question here.* The Most Reverend Cardinals, Officials, Prelates, Fathers, and Consultors gave their vote.

The Most Holy Father, however, made this supreme judgment: it is certain that the instantaneous and perfect cure, caused by the intervention of BLESSED GASPAR, cured both Ursula Bono, the widow of Pontecorvo, from an abdominal tumor of a bad nature, and also cured Francesco Campagna from bronchial pneumonia on the right side together with a severe cough and meningitis.

Moreover, the Pope ordered this decree to be published and likewise recorded in the Acts of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Given at Rome, May 4, 1954, the Marian Year

+ Cajetan Cardinal Cicognani, *Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites.*

+ Alfonsus Carinci, *Archbishop of Seleucia, Secretary.*

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Note:.. Through the courtesy of Harold Brown, C.P.P.S., Arthur LeClair, C.P.P.S., Ronald J. Barrans, C.P.P.S., Albert J. Roth, C.P.P.S., and Mark L. Beischel, C.P.P.S., the translation of this decree is published. (This was published in the July 1954 issue of Nuntius Aulæ)