

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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## 101

October 22, 1814  
 Countess Virginia Malaspina Caracciolo  
 Piacenza

The grace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us. Amen.

Madame Countess

I owe you a reply and I have delayed it, not because of any lack of willingness but of time. Your letters are always most sincerely pleasing to me and I am delighted to learn that your health is sufficiently good, just as I cannot complain about my own. Recommend me warmly to the most merciful God. For this reason, I am writing this letter in a hurry.

Fr. Angelini is at the Gesu in Rome and is feeling well. The same is true of Fr. de Turris who sends you his regards. On my behalf, extend my usual best wishes particularly to Countess Landi, to my former landlady whom I remember so well. Offer my greetings to all in your household and with respect and gratitude, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, October 22, 1814

## 102

End of November, 1814  
 Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi  
 Imola

The grace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us. Amen.

Madame Countess

My absence from Rome has delayed the pleasure of sending you a response to your last letter. I thank you sincerely for the obliging remembrance that you have of me and I am deeply indebted to you for the kindness shown toward me. I am happy to hear of your favorably good health and I return the same good news to you concerning my own. I see very clearly that the goodness of God abounds evermore in your heart and I give thanks to the Giver of every heavenly gift. The Lord is expecting great things of you. Confidence, prayer and time. Cultivate your holy intentions and always have courage.

In January, Monsignor Annibale will preach at S. Galla, haven for the poor, just as he has done on other occasions. You are to encourage him as he sends you his best wishes. I delivered your messages to him and now one is no longer to remember what has happened in the past. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, in one of our churches, I shall begin a mission. You are to help me with your prayers, for: *neque qui plantat, neque qui rigat, sed sui incrementvm dat,*

*Deus etc.*<sup>1</sup> We are currently having the Novena in honor of the great Xavier. ... Oh how many things concerning that would I like to say to you! But, the very restriction of time does not permit me to do so. You can, however, imagine what that is in your own mind. In regard to the question of my joining the Jesuits, I have sought the advice of the most expert spiritual directors and the advice commonly given was that I should continue to do good work as a secular priest. But even so, let us continue to pray so that I will know how to recognize what the will of God is. Take care of yourself; give my regards to everyone in your household, especially to Bianca who rightly is the source of consolation to you. On my behalf, say a thousand good things to Mrs. Pignocchi, Fr. Polini and to all the people there that I met, but I simply cannot write directly to each one since I am so busily occupied in matters of great importance, as you well know. In the meantime, revered Countess, with full esteem and respect, I am

Your devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

### 103

February 18, 1815

Fr. Gaetano Bonanni

Cattedrale di Sutri

Sutri<sup>2</sup>

The grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us. Amen.

Esteemed Fr. Gaetano

With this present letter I am offering to you the most consoling news that we could ever want. The other day Msgr. Cristaldi informed me of the final decision in favor of our Community at Giano. Everything turned out marvelously. The Congregation of the Reform has already issued the Rescript, and we have been assigned 300 *Scudi*<sup>3</sup> a year for the maintenance of three individuals, two of which, even on the occasion of Missions, will be kept there for the education of the people and for anyone else who wants to withdraw to our House to make a retreat, etc. Since you yourself, then, will have to return to your place once Lent is over, I saw to it in the meantime that you be given another position and be relieved of the Benefice which you are presently enjoying. Msgr. Cristaldi has charged me with extending you this petition to which later thought will be given for supplying you with an open pension to permit you to complete your career in the apostolic ministry. Moreover, I did not want to extend it to you myself for fear of making an error in the terms and, desirous of having it in your handwriting, I ask you to return it to me by return mail; in that way too you will be able to stipulate precisely your stipend and whatever else you deem expedient. In the petition, you will be able, if you wish, to mention also

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<sup>1</sup> Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters, but the one who gives the increase, God etc.

<sup>2</sup> Sutri: cf. Geographical Data.

<sup>3</sup> *Scudo*: cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Money

the person in favor of whom you would renounce it; but since this is a question of a transfer which will pass, so it seems, through the Chancery Office, it will not be so easy for them to provide you with a pension and deprive themselves of the liberty of conferring the Benefice on someone else. Nevertheless, I shall not fail to relate faithfully to Cristaldi exactly what you think; in an affair such as this, so delicate in nature, I would like you to write to me in the clearest language possible, taking all things into consideration, in order to avoid delays, etc.

May the Lord be blessed in all things. To determine your own conduct then, I inform you that having conferred with Ab. Sinceri, before he was transferred to Ronciglione, I have understood that he would be willing to join you at the house in Giano, at least, for a short period of time, and Giampedi will be able to do the same.

The negotiations for Toscanella continue and God will not fail to give us subjects. Within a short time you will have all the papers, rescripts and other matters for Giano, and I believe that Msgr. Sala, Secretary of the Reform, will himself transmit them to you. So, we are about to open a rather vast field for doing good, and for keeping alive in the Clergy the apostolic Spirit.

Anxiously I await your reply. I send you the greeting of all of ours, to whom your failure to write has brought some wonderment. Recommend me without interruption to the Lord, since I am in great need. Give my respects to the excellent Archpriest Ferrajoli; and with sentiments of sincerest esteem and attachment, I have the pleasure of renewing myself as

Your devoted servant and loving friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, February 18, 1815

## 104

February 28, 1815

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is my petition and the memorandum<sup>4</sup> dealing with the property of St. Norbert sought for by our organization. I have received no word as yet from Bonanni. At any rate, presently, it may not be possible to borrow for the establishment of the house in Giano; the returns would not be adequate.

I recommend this matter warmly to your charity, and, whatever you are able to do will be

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<sup>4</sup> Probably the memorandum to which he refers in this letter is the following which is found in Vol. XI, 375375 bis:

1) Three years have gone by already since the Premonstratensian Father who was in charge of this pious place passed on to eternity.

2) Presently in charge of its revenue is a representative who lives on Rosella street, but we have not been able to discover his name as yet.

3) These monks say that they are members of and depend on the Monks of Flanders, and they say that presently the new Father in charge of the revenue in Rome is on his way. This is everything etc..

quite fine. However, I remind you to send the official documents and see that the compensation is sufficient so that we would have to be concerned only with serving God and sanctifying souls. I recognize in you another father, and you can well imagine my acknowledgment and gratefulness for your outstanding and particular favors. I do not fail to repeat: *Retribuere, etc.*,<sup>5</sup> and with the most profound respect and esteem, I offer myself again as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House,<sup>6</sup> February 28, 1815

P. S. I am not sending you Bonanni's petition because I am awaiting an answer from him in his own handwriting. Up to now, I have received nothing.

### 105

March 1, 1815

Fr. Gaetano Bonanni

Sutri

The grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us.

Rome, March 1, 1815

With indescribable consolation I have received your most esteemed letter of the 26th of last month, to which I promptly give my reply.

I am still surprised by what you tell me about the action by our own people objecting to the Missions at Acquapendente. As far as I am concerned I have no remorse about it; and I am quite persuaded that some involuntary misunderstanding must have arisen in the discourses on that project, since the zeal of all those enrolled with us is very well known. Whatever it may be, do not think about it any more and, maintaining always firm the bond of charity and the correct intention, let us only try to build up treasures for Heaven. Variation in feelings is inevitable in our present condition: it is most proper therefore to heal all with the balm of charity, of which you daily show yourself to be example and master. Let all be to the greater glory of God, from whom *omne donum procedit*,<sup>7</sup> whereas from ourselves we have nothing but misery and sin. *Si quid gloriabor, etc. Soli Deo Honor, etc.*<sup>8</sup> But, oh what comfort comes to me in reflecting on the divine conduct, that he never fails to raise up truly tireless Workers in the Evangelical field, and

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<sup>5</sup> [To deign, O Lord,] to repay, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Rome

<sup>7</sup> Every good gift proceeds.

<sup>8</sup> If I will boast of anything, etc. To God alone be the honor, etc.

thus procures the salvation of lost children. *Confitemini Domino quoniam bonus, etc.*<sup>9</sup> Courage, then, in the apostolic labors, because the suffering is short, but the joy eternal.

Let us now turn to your letter, intentionally. I have already recopied for you the petition, whose outcome will without doubt be favorable. Later on I will inform you about it. I am sending it this very day to Cristaldi, who is most concerned about it; may you help in this matter with your prayers, which I also ask for this poor soul of mine.

Later in your letter I detect some difficulties which you indicate to me concerning the house at Giano; but realize that the haste with which I wrote the last time prevented me from warning you that I had already foreseen most of what you mentioned.

The Bishop was not in opposition to the community, but only was trying to get the people of Giano to hand over to Spoleto the 300 *Scudi*. The people refused; and the bishop himself has remained indeed quite convinced. Notwithstanding this, the writing of a letter was already in order and will not be omitted by Msgr. Cristaldi himself, who works with admirable zeal. So, in this regard you can be perfectly calm.

As for our fellow workers, I must tell you things that truly have surprised me too. Accidentally a few days ago, I ran into Msgr. Marchetti of Rieti, pupil of Marconi, and getting into a conversation with him concerning our project, he could do nothing but thank me as much as he was able and to bless God. He assured me that he had renounced for this purpose his own Canonical position in Rieti and that another companion of his had done the same, adding furthermore that we were not the only ones who were setting up so beautiful a community. I, in turn, added: then, let us unite *in vinculo caritatis*,<sup>10</sup> just as Vaselli did with C. Testa for the project at S. Galla, with all of us tending toward the same end and cooperating with each other in effecting it. I immediately invited him to our conferences, and tomorrow night he will come with great eagerness; he promised again to write of it to other zealous ecclesiastics known to him. Truly I see in this community the hand of God; do not think that what is said is something merely expressed and not well thought out, because you can be sure that the circumstances in which I have had to find myself for some time, have made me alert. At any rate, I wish to be relieved of my Canonry and I have already presented my petition for that purpose. Please pray to the Lord that his will be done and that he bless my intentions. This transaction of mine is also being handled by Cristaldi, and it will go well. In time my affairs will change their aspect.

In these days I have been busily engaged in organizing the Hospice; the furnishings of the house will remain, but I keep thinking about setting them in order and then, together with you, executing our ideas of long ago, the fruit of long conferences held from the time I had the pleasure of first meeting you. So, pray; within a few days I hope to have all organized: every work of God in its beginning encounters some difficulty, because he wishes the virtuous industry

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<sup>9</sup> We acknowledge the Lord because he is good.

<sup>10</sup> In the bond of charity.

of his servants to be rewarded.

Pray also for Gonnelli that it will not be too difficult for him to obtain his release. I confide to you in all secrecy that with prudence I have already been setting in order the ideas of his mother, and I see that God is blessing my words. Cittadini from Termini is most fervent and ready for anything; the same thing is happening to other ecclesiastics. There is consideration also of the establishment of a house in Rome. *Laus Deo*,<sup>11</sup> and prayers. Cristaldi is already working hard to obtain from the Chancery Office an extraordinary subsidy for the initial expenses of the community; concerning this I had already given it thought from the beginning of Lent, since by now I know requests are made for similar undertakings.

I have related to Gonnelli everything that you enjoined upon me. Everybody greets you. From now on it will be necessary for us to contact each other by means of letters and we shall work it all out. There is never a lack of work here. A thousand greetings to the Archpriest Ferrajoli. Preserve and hold me constantly (always anxiously awaiting news from you) for what I have been, what I am and will be, *in Crucis Xti amplexu*.<sup>12</sup>

Your servant and friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

P. S. We are continuing the conferences with great fervor. Msgr. Marchetti, already freed of all entanglements, will also go to Giano, as needed.

P. S. Msgr. Cristaldi has been begging me to put our community under the title of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. He makes this observation with every good reason. The Evangelical Workers labor so that the Blood of Jesus will be applied to the salvation of souls, and this they must offer continually, asking for pardon for sinners; if other Institutes assume the charge of propagating the one or the other devotion, this one of the Missions must be intent on the propagation of that devotion which incorporates all the others, that of the Price of our Redemption. *Per sanguinem salvi facti sumus*.<sup>13</sup> I could do nothing but praise the intentions of this Prelate, and making his principles my own, from now on our community is committed to the merits of the Blood of Jesus.

## 106

March, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

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<sup>11</sup> Praise to God.

<sup>12</sup> In the embrace of the cross of Christ.

<sup>13</sup> Through blood we were saved.

Memorandum<sup>14</sup> in favor of the Congregation of the Missions etc.

1) We ask Monsignor Cristaldi to please write a letter to the Bishop of Spoleto to persuade him of the usefulness of our congregation so as thus to have the pleasure of receiving from him a favorable reply which will serve as an encouragement for the person who will be going there to finalize the settlement of our affairs, so important for the glory of God, and also to be assured of a warm welcome from the ecclesiastical superior.

2) Also, that in the meantime, for the initial expenses that occur for the house in Giano, including the travel expenses, we will need to have an extraordinary subsidy from the Datary. In this regard, we ask Monsignor Cristaldi to take care of this request with concern *ad maiorem Dei gloriam etc.*<sup>15</sup>

3) Until our regular subjects, destined to go to the house in Giano, are available, it would be good to have Prior Luparini deputized to collect the assigned allotment of 300 *scudi*, set aside for this work. And, if necessary, this same Prior Luparini, acting in our name, could execute the ceremony of taking formal possession, etc.

4) We urgently request Monsignor Cristaldi to work effectively for the establishment of our congregation here in Rome, which is something that is very necessary, etc.

## 107

March, 1815

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Paragraphs<sup>16</sup> copied from Fr. Bonanni's letter<sup>17</sup>

Fr. Bonanni, in addition to the memorandum already transcribed in good form by Canon del Bufalo, writes the following to him:

"Insist firmly with Monsignor Cristaldi that I be provided for, because if that is not taken care of, it will be impossible for me to go to Giano."

"If it were possible for me to decide to whom I should consign my benefice, after I have been provided for, I would turn it over to the son of Mr. Giuseppe Bedoni Calzolaro in Campo di Fiori, that is, to Luigi Bedoni who could then quickly be admitted *in sacris*.<sup>18</sup> If he would not

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<sup>14</sup> As is evident from the preceding letter to Bonanni, this memorandum must have been sent to Cristaldi, along with Bonanni's petition, on March 1, 1815. In fact, the points made in the memorandum are the same as those that the Saint deals with in the aforementioned letter to Bonanni.

<sup>15</sup> To the greater glory of God.

<sup>16</sup> These "paragraphs" were probably sent to Cristaldi on March 1, 1815 along with Bonanni's petition and the preceding memorandum.

<sup>17</sup> Bonanni's letter, from which these paragraphs are copied, is certainly the one written on February 26 to which St. Gaspar sends a reply on March 1, 1815.

<sup>18</sup> To sacred orders.

wish to accept, I would renounce it in favor of Fr. Vitelli, who asked for it, but with the allotment of a few *scudi*, at least 20 annually, others receive. After having served the Church some twenty years, it seems that there is sufficient reason for me to make this appeal. But, this is a matter that can be handled after I have been assured of provision for the future, since I cannot simply surrender it."

"To get the house in order, it is necessary to insist on collecting some of the 300 *scudi*, and then too, it is necessary for you to come at some time to Rome, first of all, to go to the Holy Father and get the faculties, and second, to put some things in order that greatly worry me: after that, everything should work out. Until the end of May, I enjoy the permission to seek out companions. See that my financial provisions are taken care of and everything else will fall into place. Keep the conferences going, etc., etc., etc.."

### 108

April 1, 1815

Fr. Gaetano Bonanni

Cellere<sup>19</sup>

My dearest Fr. Gaetano

Hurriedly I am writing a couple of lines, not knowing whether you are still there. Msgr. Cristaldi unexpectedly had to leave<sup>20</sup> in order to meet the Holy Father, and I believe that he may have entrusted to Lawyer Paolucci the matters concerning Giano, so as to have him conclude them whenever God wills it. Msgr. Marchetti and another very worthy ecclesiastic, who for this purpose has renounced his Canonry, are quite ready to retire to that beloved solitude, perhaps most opportune at the moment, considering the present circumstances. I am convinced that you will be very happy to have as your companions persons who are so zealous; and here again, as in times also of tribulation, the Lord always takes delight in establishing the good. I do not know whether you will want to return first to Rome. You handle it as you think best.

Your devoted servant and friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, April 1, 1815

### 109

April 12, 1815

Fr. Gaetano Bonanni<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Cellere:cf. Geographical Data.

<sup>20</sup> King Gioacchino Murat: cf. Additional Biographical Data: Murat.

<sup>21</sup> This letter too must have been sent either to Cellere, as the preceding one (April 1, 1815), or to some other town of the same province of Viterbo, where Bonanni was preaching Missions.

Rome

April 12, 1815

Esteemed Fr. Gaetano

We are separated in our bodily presence, but are always united, however, in that of the spirit by means of which our mutual pacts remain inviolable, pacts which we must often renew in the adorable Heart of J.C. Let us do so even more particularly in the present situations since we Ministers of the Sanctuary have need of special fortitude and inspiration to carry out well the ministries heaped upon us by the Priesthood. Courage, therefore, and prayer. Obtain for me also the other spiritual helps: recommend me to the souls who are being cared for by you; for that charity I will always be most grateful. *Confortamini in Domino, etc. Orationi instate, etc.*<sup>22</sup>

Once again our Work, because of the present circumstances, has been in some degree suspended. Lawyer Paolucci will zealously work in behalf of Giano. Cristaldi indeed has written to me from Genoa, where he is with the Holy Father, giving me the best news concerning the health of each of them; *quae autem ventura sint, etc.*<sup>23</sup>

The Bishop of Todi, according to what Msgr Marchetti<sup>24</sup> writes, had already obtained a locale for us. The Bishop of Terni wants to do the same. There will be no lack of workers. Let us recommend all this to the Lord, and if it be, as we hope, his will, ultimately we will see firmly established a Community that will be greatly unpopular with the terrible powers of hell.

My missions at the present time, so God wills, are in the Hospice of S. Galla. Tomorrow we will have First Communion, for which *ad introito*<sup>25</sup> I am waiting your *scudo* just as you gave me last year, as long as it does not inconvenience you. Since it will please me to see your handwriting again, send me your reply on this; I will then be able to tell Gonnelli. Pray for these poor children who really suffer, having for many years been orphans and abandoned. Dear Father Gaetano, when shall we see each other again? The conferences continue and Msgr. Marchetti always writes the most fervent letters. *In Domino*,<sup>26</sup> believe me to be, with all affection

Your servant and friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

## 110

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<sup>22</sup> We acknowledge the Lord, etc. ... Pursue prayer eagerly, etc..

<sup>23</sup> Which, however, should come about, etc.

<sup>24</sup> Msgr. Marchetti from Rieti, mentioned also in the preceding letters (March 1 and April 1, 1815 was one of the last to be enrolled in the pious sodality of the Evangelical Workers: he is not to be confused with Msgr. Giovanni Marchetti, confessor and teacher of St. Gaspar (cfr. biographical note).

<sup>25</sup> At the beginning.

<sup>26</sup> In the Lord.

April 19, 1815  
 Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Genoa  
 Venerable Monsignor

With indescribable joy did I receive one of your most appreciated letters dated the 5th of the current month. I am consoled to learn of your successful trip, your excellent state of health, thanks to divine mercy, and everything that you related to me concerning the health of the Holy Father. I look forward to the pleasure of being able to see you again, *et os ad os loqui*.<sup>27</sup> In the meantime, we shall always be close to each other in the most loving Heart of Jesus and there we shall mutually pray for his divine blessings. Your absence has been quite deeply felt by me, but doing the will of the Lord is the healing balm of every tribulation. In this very same mail delivery, I shall not fail to write to Monsignor Marchetti concerning our organization for which you, even during your absence, can work zealously and effectively. The establishment will take place after a bit, as long as it pleases the Lord to grant us the peace that is so deeply yearned for.

In regard to our plans for the First Communion of our poor children in S. Galla, last year you favored us with a donation. If it is possible for you to repeat that, for the greater glory of God, please send word to Canon Muccioli. Give my regards, please, to the Fransoni family and to Monsignor Marchetti. If you find me worthy, please make a remembrance of me in your prayers. With the fullness of esteem, respect and very special affection, my venerable Monsignor, I am always

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Rome, April 19, 1815

### 111

June 20, 1815  
 Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi  
 Imola

Rome, June 20, 1815

Most illustrious Countess

With the favorable situation in mind that you wrote about, namely, the return there of Fr. Sangiorgi, I do not want to miss the opportunity of sending you this letter with the purpose of renewing once again the very vivid remembrance I have of you as well as to profess my obligations to you for so many different reasons.

I never forget you in my prayers and in the Holy Sacrifice, in accordance with our agreements; I feel certain of a generous return from you, as well as from the spiritual assistance of others.

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<sup>27</sup> To speak mouth to mouth [ face to face].

I trust in the Lord that you will continue, for the greater glory of God, to maintain yourself in good health as I assure you that the same is true for me. I hope that this is the case also with Bianca. Extend to her my very best wishes, as well as to your entire family. Please greet Fr. Polini, Count Sassatelli and anyone else who retains a memory of me.

You surely must now be very elated with the appointment of your son and I, rejoicing in the Lord, wish him the most copious blessings of divine mercy.

I beg you to extend my particular regards, at your first opportunity, to Mrs. Pignocchi, recommending me to her prayers and assuring her of my gratitude for so many favors that I received there in your city.

Stay well, and with the fullness of esteem and respect, Countess, I am

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

## 112

July 5, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Ad majorem Dei gloriam*<sup>28</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Let us never tire of working for the glory of the Lord and the welfare of souls.

Last night, shortly after leaving you, I had a long discussion with Fr. Gaetano Bonanni. I discovered that even with his insistence the request for a prompt granting of financial assistance is not moving forward and, also, that because of certain thoughts that were expressed concerning the frequency of choir duty, various complaints have been registered, even by people in authority. Nevertheless, he is very ready to carry out whatever the Vicar of Christ will order him to do. Therefore, please place this matter before the Roman Pontiff for his judgment and, as long as it may please God, act in such a way that the Pope's mind will be made clear to everyone as Fr. Gaetano will be leaving Rome. Thus, his conduct will be justified even in the eyes of men. That is how everything should be worked out for the present time.

Next, I did not forget to meet with Fr. Giampedi, whom I would like to see assigned to Giano with Bonanni; this involved another long discussion. The only difficulty that remains for him to overcome is the permission given by the Bishop of Nocera, releasing him so that he can set up in the diocese a Retreat House, etc. Discreetly, he does not want at this time to engage in a dispute with so worthy a prelate, and he has put the entire matter into my hands. So, it is necessary that you, with zealous effort, should find the effective means for getting the release of this most needed Evangelical Worker to carry out our plans in Giano. Either speak directly (without giving the notion of speaking in Giampedi's name) to Bishop Piervisani or, with the

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<sup>28</sup> To the greater glory of God.

knowledge of His Holiness, make known that it is of supreme importance that Giampedi depart now with Bonanni to set up well this first house a most urgent matter.

Later, he can move on to Nocera to establish another house there that will have the same regulations as the first one in Giano, thus, one good leading to another. All of this is submitted to your solid sagacity and prudent judgment, and Giampedi will then become one of our men. Furthermore, Bonanni assured me that Tani is about to join up with him. Tonight, I expect to meet with Sinceri and I shall try to interest him in going to Giano, at least for the beginning months during which all the necessary, basic work has to be done etc.

In this same maildelivery, I am writing to Bologna to obtain the Rule established for this type of undertaking by Doctor del Monte, founder of the Mission House in Bologna. This will give us some insights etc. Please work to obtain quickly a subsidy from the Datary to cover travel expenses and the other initial costs so that we can support the departure of these workers. I see this as something absolutely necessary. I know that some bishops show concern about this organization, but, it is necessary that they follow the system set up in Giano, unless you judge that things must be handled otherwise. With my remaining in Rome, we shall work together for everything that will contribute to the solid founding and spread of so great an institute.

Finally, with regard to the title of the most Precious Blood etc., I believe that this too must also be a declaration *ab alto*.<sup>29</sup> The other day, Bonanni assured me that he had propagated this devotion. Everything, in short, has been completed in the month of the most Precious Blood *per quem salvati et liberati sumus, etc.*<sup>30</sup>

I conclude this letter by praying to the most merciful God that he strengthen you in your zeal, *a quo omne datum optimum et omne donum perfectum procedit etc.*<sup>31</sup>

Keep my cousin in mind, if ever there should be an opening in the offices, etc. Always aware of the innumerable obligations that I have because of so many favors shown toward me, with profoundest respect, I have the pleasure, most venerable Monsignor, to renew myself as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House, July 5, 1815

### 113

July 22, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

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<sup>29</sup> From on high.

<sup>30</sup> Through whom we were saved and freed.

<sup>31</sup> From whom every best offer and every perfect gift comes, etc.

I am inconveniencing you again with this letter as I seek your help with the most reverend Treasurer to whom Lawyer Paolucci has already presented a petition in my behalf. In view of the special circumstances, may he be kind enough to accord me the payment of what has been deposited in the accounting offices, namely, the unpaid earnings from my benefice. This help that you give me simply adds to the long list of obligations that I have to you under so many different aspects. I simply cannot express to you how grateful and appreciative I am.

I do not know how the situation about the transferral of Fr. Gaetano's benefice has been handled. Perhaps you can also consult with the most reverend Treasurer on this matter, as soon as circumstances allow.

The renunciation of my canonry is already completed and I repeat that I am concerned about the handling of expenses for the new enterprise.

I think it is a good idea (but always submissive to your wise advice) that next Monday we come to the decision to allow me to depart immediately with the Wednesday mailcoach, to get the needed things for the house in Giano and to set a definite control for expenses of prime necessity. Thus, as many think, the whole matter will be conducted with greater order. When in Giano, I shall await the official documents and in that way make profitable use of every moment to the advantage of our pious congregation. You handle things as you see best. Take care of yourself, pray to the Lord for me, and with profound esteem and respect, Monsignor, I remain

Your devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House, July 22, 1815

114

July 29, 1815  
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
in S. Marco  
Rome

Giano, July 29, 1815

Dear Canon

I am still at Giano. Shortly after arriving, I have finally found time to drop you only a couple of lines. On Monday, I will write to Msgr. Cristaldi and to anyone else that I have to.

Meanwhile the Episcopal Curia would like to have in its possession the original Rescripts which authenticate our formal possession. Realizing that this is all most proper, and at the same time wanting for ourselves a formal document, I intend to have a copy of everything made, as well as have it all legalized as necessary. Check with Monsignor to see if it is all right.

I am very well. Goodbye. Greet all and pray for me who am

Your friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*<sup>32</sup>

115

July 30, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Giano, July 30, 1815

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending you a report as I should. I arrived in Spoleto on Thursday evening after the fifth hour. This delay was the consequence of having left Rome at seven o'clock and also because of the rain that surprised us on the trip, preventing us from traveling at the usual speed. On Friday morning, accompanied always by Monsignor Luparini, who has been very attentive to me, I paid a call on the most reverend bishop who welcomed me very warmly. I managed to get him to understand better the spirit of our organization and, at present, I find that he has completely changed from his former impressions. Once again he defended his opposition to the Jesuits and then, calculating what would be a reasonable amount for expenses for the maintenance of the church and house of S. Felice, I got him to agree on an acceptable sum of money available for the Missionaries who will be there to serve mainly the people of Giano, but also for the rest of the diocese etc.

After that meeting, I called on the most reverend Delegate. I found him to be poorly informed about our organization, so, in general, I told him all that I could and we agreed that Monsignor Luparini would help him become even better informed. He displayed to me his satisfaction as well as the concern that he would have, willingly carrying out his part, with respect to our work.

After that, I spoke with Mr. Sigismondi and his deputies; along with Luparini, I initiated a discussion dealing with the arrear payments, as well as the current ones to be made. He offered various explanations about the arrear payments and I, being somewhat acquainted with the awkward situation, declared that it was not up to me to make the decision, and, that they should put down in writing their position etc., and then the final decision should come from Rome. I brought to his attention the very clear statements on the matter found in the pertinent rescripts, issued by decree of Monsignor Ridolfi, the manager of accounts, at the time that Monsignor Luparini was assigned to take possession of the church and house in Giano. In short, I argued that there would be no consideration given to surrendering anything and that, in the meantime, a reasonable sum of money would be needed for the initial expenses etc. I said to him that he should set up an account based on the current amount of money, keeping a record of receipts: but, safeguarding those backpayments which etc. etc. etc. No difficulty was encountered with

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<sup>32</sup> At this point in the manuscript there are two lines crossed out. One is able to decipher only one or the other isolated word; the sense of the whole, however, is not discernable.

this plan of mine. The only thing they said was that, at the present time, they were unable to give me anything, but that surely within a short time, they would work out a budget. Monsignor Luparini agreed to bring this entire affair to a conclusion and, trusting in his word given on that Friday after dinner, I then departed for Giano.

I dismounted at Lawyer Paolucci's house and on Saturday morning I made my way to S. Felice where I celebrated holy Mass. Shortly after, the leaseholder or the Minister of the Schools arrived and, confirming all that I have just described, he showed that he would be fully concerned to take care of the promised payments. He added, however, that the commune of Spoleto had received a letter from Rome in which it said that the current payment is to be made *a die possessionis*,<sup>33</sup> but nothing was said about arrear payments. They sought advice about this, so I am told, and I am not able to judge whether this is a benign interpretation of the letter or whether it is an exact statement. Perhaps Luparini will write something to me about that. But, I realize very well that it will be necessary that another clearer letter come from Rome to the Commune of Spoleto or to the Deputy of Schools, otherwise the resolution of this dispute will not be made for a long, long time.

At any rate, up to now everything has gone along with due concord and reciprocal agreements and I hope that all will be concluded peacefully through your zeal and assistance. Together with Mr. Sigismondi, I went through the entire house and church and got a general idea of the things we have. I was informed that from the 300 *scudi*, a certain sum is deducted, based on the equivalent value of the property, as you well know, but first the receipt of the 300 *scudi* must be verified. I later asked for the inventory made when the Passionist Fathers were here and tomorrow, when I get the consignment of everything, I will have that information also on hand. I feel that it is necessary for me to remain here in S. Felice to put everything in as good an order as possible. From Paolucci's house, I got only one mattress; as for the others, we will use whatever we find in S. Felice. I already mentioned this to the lady, Girolama, who has also contacted the manufacturer. In another letter, after I have received an answer to this one, I will keep you informed about the other things that will be needed. But, in the meantime, help me with your prayers so that the Lord will bless our efforts.

I did not think it a good idea to write this report to the others, since I felt it would not be needed. For the time being we will make use of the fifty *scudi* received from Lawyer Paolucci. For now, I am getting a few things on loan, and in this way, at any rate, everything will be in order for the arrival of my companions. God will continue to provide for the future. Already, there are requests for Missions, and the Missionary Fathers are eagerly awaited. I would like to know from you, secretly and as exactly as possible, the day and even almost the hour when they will be arriving to S. Felice, because the people here wish to accompany their entrance with a bit of solemnity. But, if precise information is not possible, then, we will simply have to be patient.

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<sup>33</sup> From the day of possession.

I thank you for your concern about my having a safe trip and for so many other reasons too. I want you to know that the food was an expense charged to the travelers, since after the meal they said that each one had to pay four *paoli*. Perhaps the coachman forgot his agreement and, because of this oversight, perhaps you can arrange for the payment to him of what was agreed upon. I mention this only because you asked me about it; otherwise, it was not something to bother with.

With regard to the backpayments from my benefice, Minicocci, of the accounting office or the Secretariat of allotments, has been given exact information. I spoke to him at the very time of my departure and told him that it should be handled through you. I hope that he has done so.

In order not to multiply letters, let this one serve also for Lawyer Paolucci to whom you will extend my thanks and my regards. Minister Domenico sends his particular greetings to both of you, etc.; so, too, does the new medical officer and so many others from Giano whom I will not list individually for the sake of brevity.

It seems that I have not forgotten anything. Tell me whatever you wish that will help direct me in taking care of the house and church of S. Felice so that I do not involuntarily make mistakes. I do not fail to strive to do the best I can, but the Lord knows my insufficiencies and he will increase his help.

I have already written to Perugia as was agreed upon and it will be mailed at the same time as this letter. However, I note very well that around here the letters will be slower because they are collected in Spoleto only on Mondays and in Fuligno on Fridays. Take care of yourself and with the fullness of esteem and gratitude, after this rather long treatment, I remain constantly

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

P. S. If the entrance of my companions can be arranged with a solemn triduum to the Blessed Virgin, it would be a thing of great glory to God.

## 116

July 30, 1815  
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
S. Marco

Giano, July 30, 1815

Rome

Dear Fr. Procurator, friend and brother

My tasks do not give me time to write again at length of our affairs, which I have already detailed in my letter to Msgr. Cristaldi. I hope that you will find out everything from him, since you will have to see him one of these days. Here, we are awaiting the Missionaries with indescribable anxiety. Last night, even though I was not yet in S. Felice, they rang the bells festively as a sign of their joy. Tomorrow, however, I will move into our House of S. Felice where all the general arrangements have been made. I will not be lacking work.

Tell our Companions who are about to come here that they should bring along as much as they can; in particular, birettas for Church and all the linens in general that they can possibly supply, otherwise the expenses are interminable. I am getting along, however, quite frugally and provide for what is needed the best I can, even with things that are borrowed, so that upon their arrival all will be in order, in as far as it is possible for me to accomplish. There are already requests for Missions. God is blessing this effort generously. Whoever is able to provide his own bed (I am speaking of permanent ones), it would be good if he would save it, if possible, for the House at Giano. Many things of this nature I will take care of upon my return.

Your energy, at the moment, is most desired here at Giano; but you will help me with your prayers. A thousand greetings to everyone, in general and in particular; to my father, sisterinlaw, Luca, to all of yours, etc., etc., etc., etc.

I entrust to you the matter of the document and the seal necessary for possession. Go immediately to Fr. Vincenzo of the Secretariat of Bishops and Regulars who lives with Canon Scofferi, and ask him for the Rescript of the Sacred Congregation in behalf of some Nuns of Perugia, of which he has already been informed by me. I would prefer that he himself direct it to the Vicar Apostolic of Perugia. Otherwise, take it yourself, and in an envelope send it to Canon Fr. Giuseppe Tori in Perugia. As for the expenses, Fr. Vincenzo already knows, it will depend on a letter that I am awaiting from Perugia. Please forward it to me here in Giano. It will then be up to me to make the reimbursement, and do not worry, etc. Perhaps he will also give you the Congregation's permission to rent out the piece of land which forms my benefice beyond the threeyear limit, if I should need the permission, and you will then send it on to me here at Giano. Keep an account of the expenses. Go to the Registrar and get the Mandate. Tell him that I could send in all the certificates when I return, if that can be done; if not, then I will send them right away. Take care of everything in general and in particular.

Send me news of Gigia and give her my greetings. It seems that I have nothing more to tell you, especially since Santelli prefers a laconic style. I have carried out his commission with regard to the treatise, etc. Have him prepare another one for me, however. I will not reply without first having received an answer to this one. Be forewarned that here the letters are usually late in arriving.

Goodbye, my Canon. I desire to see you soon; and with esteem and affection, I am

Your loving friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Giano, July 30, 1815

A thousand greetings to Albertini, etc. etc.

Let me know if I should include your letters with those to Cristaldi.

It is necessary that the Missionary Fathers bring with them a goodly number of certificates of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sacred Heart of Mary, with the faculty of enrolling and aggregating to those of Rome the new applicants who are interested in it.

Go to the Passionist Father Luca, who I am told is at present the Procurator, and get from him the history of S. Felice and other papers that he may have. Get all the information possible so that misunderstandings do not involuntarily arise.

We have an organ in the Church, but there is no one who knows how to play it.

### 117

August 6, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

However convinced I am that within a short time I shall be receiving your most appreciated letters, nevertheless I think it is a good idea for me to inform you in this letter that I have not failed to use every effort to set aside a bit of money. Up to now, only a lot of good words and many hopes. Later, we shall see the results. It is necessary to be firm with regard to collecting those backpayments because the housing and the church have need, so to speak, of an infinite number of things and those backpayments, for that reason, were earmarked for that particular purpose, it seems to me, in the wording of the rescripts. I remain certain of your continued efforts for this project and I cannot help but give you my most sincere thanks.

So far, I have had no further word from Perugia. Take care of yourself, and, with the fullness of esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

S. Felice in Giano, August 6, 1815

### 118

August 13, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending you information concerning the arrival of our Missionary Fathers to this house of S. Felice. The welcome was truly solemn. The organization of priests, including the conventuals, along with the people gave testimony of their singular joy. Immediately the *Te Deum* was intoned and, thereafter, thanks were extended to all the people who were pleased to accompany Father Superior and the other members, and the proceedings were handled as best as possible up to the time for the meal, during which they related the story of their trip and the welcome given to them by the bishop. On the following morning, the exact observance of the Rule was begun which consists in those items with which you are already acquainted without my repeating them now. The beautiful life of the Venerable Berchmans is being read presently in our refectory. The crowds of people coming and the large number approaching the confessional is

veritably surprising and edifying. This morning, Sunday, the association for men was initiated under the direction of Fr. Giampedi and there was a considerable number present. We have already announced the times for the exercises of piety that will be held after the completion of the Solemn Triduum and it will be to the greater glory of God. They are the following: The Way of the Cross on Fridays, the Marian devotion on Saturdays, and Prayers for a Happy Death on Sundays. May God be blessed at all times. I have written you all this for the sole reason to indicate to you that it is the fruit of your efforts and your charity, for which there is reserved in heaven a well-deserved reward.

With regard to temporalities, if you consider what is needed in the room of a religious, presently we have provided for that by using what has been loaned to us through the goodness of the faithful as well as by some small alms that were donated when nothing more could be loaned. As for food, we have managed that by making use of the fifty *scudi* donated by the very generous Lawyer Paolucci. Please give him my greetings and special thanks.

As for the future, God will provide. In the meantime, however, I must tell you that in order to manage this house in a stable way and see that each individual member, before my departure, has what is needed and what is pertinent to true community life, such as mattresses, sheets, etc., perhaps I should try to get hold of around one hundred *scudi* on loan for around a month. But, before going ahead with this, I thought it wise first to consult your most noteworthy judgment, and then with your consent, proceed to carry it out. Fr. Gaetano, our Superior, tells me that according to what you said to him there, one could go ahead with this, but I felt that I should write to you concerning this entire matter. So, I would appreciate a prompt reply. According to the calculations that I have made, right now, with a hundred *scudi* we could provide for those things that are most necessary. Later on, little by little, we can continue the work we have begun. Surely God is using you as the instrumental support of this holy institute, otherwise, speaking in purely human terms, we could never overcome the multiplicity of obstacles that stand in our way.

In this same mail-delivery, I am writing to Spoleto to claim at least some grain, due to our possessions, and I shall again insist on the arrearments with which we are to refurbish the place that needs so many repairs. In the meanwhile, I shall try to provide for the more urgent things. You must, however, help me with your prayers.

I am enclosing also a sheet which I would like you to read. Be kind enough to obtain for us the same indult, since our needs will call for it. Then, along with the rescript, please return also the current copy made by the Passionist Fathers so that we can preserve it in our archives which are presently being set in order. I, myself, have not drawn up the petition in order not to make this letter too bulky. I have not had further word from Perugia, but I hope to receive it within a short time. When I do, I will send on to you a copy of the rental lease, so that later it can be ordered for execution, etc. I thank you in a special way for everything that you have done for me. With the fullness of respect, esteem and gratitude, venerable Monsignor, I am happy to renew myself as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

P. S. In another ordinary maildelivery, I shall write more etc. because right now it is time for the Triduum and Fr. Gaetano has already begun to preach. Stay well, etc. I add that the Passionists may have set down the obligations in a general way, without specifying them individually because they may not have been able to locate the official listing. It might be necessary to go to the Chancery. The search could be a long one.

**119**

August 17, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Gratia Dei nobiscum. Amen*<sup>34</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

It would be more appropriate for me to be writing this letter with tender tears than with ink. The blessings of God are ineffable. Even though I am writing this letter in the greatest hurry, reserving to myself the chance to be lengthier in a later communication, still I cannot help but let you know what happened on the occasion of the Solemn Triduum.

The crowd of people for the general Communion day cannot be compared even with the crowd that usually turns out in Giano for November 1st. We heard confessions until an hour or so past noon and we still were not able to satisfy all the people who came. On the one hand, it was a spiritual delight to watch penitents approaching the confessional two by two and to want to handle them as best as possible. We had the assistance of two local pastors but even this was not sufficient. The fervorinos turned out to arouse inexpressible compunction and the tears of the true people of God who had zealously traveled from long distances moved us as we worked. Some of the people brought food along so that they could eat outdoors and they told me that they would like to make it a sort of picnic, which was not what we would have desired. Still, there was not the least bit of disturbance. Following the meal, the solemn *Te Deum* service took place which came after a sermon on the Blessed Virgin Mary, and it all concluded with the kissing of the holy relic a ceremony that seemed to be endless, as my own lungs can testify. Also, during the days of the Triduum, a notable number of people were in attendance, even taking into consideration that there were many chores to be done in the fields.

We have introduced a holy schedule both in the Church and in the House for our members. I will give all the details in another letter. The requests for preaching in other places are increasing. May God continue to bless so holy an institute, sought for so long and now established. Surely, you have cooperated in such a way that this wonderful work has been set up

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<sup>34</sup> The grace of God be with us. Amen.

*ad majorem Dei gloriam.*<sup>35</sup> Your consolation will increase even more when you read my next letter. Stay well and take care of yourself. In the next ordinary mail delivery, I shall send a reply to the zealous Lawyer Paolucci and may the Lord fill both of you with the most generous outpouring of his gifts. God will eventually inspire still others with this same spirit. *Rogate Dominum messis etc.*<sup>36</sup> Prayer and trust in God.

Luparini informs me that he knows nothing about the letter written to the Commune; he says that he should have been told about it. Nevertheless, taking everything into account, I say that there has been a real mistake in the conclusions that they have drawn and a misunderstanding in Rome etc. But then, everyone, without malice or guilt, is subject to making mistakes etc.

I understand very well what you tell me about the promised sum of money etc. God will reward you for so many favors. The need is great, but great too is the treasury of Divine Providence and God is using you to make that fact manifest.

Finally, most venerable Monsignor, I send my best regards and expression of gratitude, renewing myself as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

P. S. I urge you to get the rescript for those arrear payments.

## 120

August 17, 1815

Canon Gonnelli (Luigi)

Roma

My dear Canon

Two lines in the greatest hurry.

It will be necessary to locate members here and have them fill the jobs, etc., since the work is immense; and it is most appropriate to weep with consolation on seeing the divine blessings upon us. The concourse of people on the day of the Assumption drew tears from our eyes. One does not even have time to sleep: I will relate all to you in detail for the Archives in another letter of mine which will be a very long one.

As for myself, I feel divided between Rome and S. Felice. I see the extreme need of remaining here; at the same time, as you know, I cannot be elsewhere. I am not thinking at all of leaving Perugia for this whole month. Oh, if only you were able to come here for at least a month; then, having returned to Rome, I could quickly send another member who would be free to go.

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<sup>35</sup> To the greater glory of God.

<sup>36</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, etc.

I am not discouraged; listen, if you will, to the letter written to Cristaldi, and you will weep with consolation. Pray for me. Tell them that I will write to all of them in the next ordinary mail. Make every effort that in this month someone will come, please. If Monaca could, etc. or you, etc.

A thousand greetings to all. I will speak to you of everything in another letter. Prayers, etc. I would remain here until death: but how am I to manage? S. Galla needs help, and besides, for the good of our projects, they also need my presence in Rome. What do you think about all this? What is Santelli doing? Pray *ut mittat, etc.*<sup>37</sup> Here we live like Angels, etc. Goodbye. Goodbye.

Your friend and brother

*G. C. del Bufalo*

S. Felice of Giano, August 17, (1815)

## 121

August 24, 1815  
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli  
in S. Marco

Giano, August 24, 1815

My dearest Canon, friend and brother

I am writing to you on only a half sheet in order to include a couple of lines to your very dear brothers.

You probably have already received through Fr. Adriano (whom I would like to see come back here, since the work of God requires his person and others) a couple of lines from me with the information concerning the costs for the shipment. Thus you might also get back from Giannoli what he owes me; and you probably have learned from him in person all that pertains to our Institute. We have to offer a lot of prayers here *ut mittat operarios in messem suam*.<sup>38</sup> Up to now, just between us, there are not present here even the three permanent ones required by the Rescripts, etc. We keep writing various letters; but I do not see any other solution than Fr. Adriano's immediate return. Later on, we will get along better, once everything is put in order.

The requests for Missions are continuous; but how? and who is supposed to go? Make every effort therefore to find members who, even though they were not to remain here permanently, nevertheless, in my opinion, could fill in for the present needs and our Institute would gain notable credit. If ever you should get someone, refer him to Bonanni, so that he may give his approval, and we will do what we can in the meantime. I assure you that my heart (I tell you in confidence) is split into a thousand pieces. Enough: the Lord will tend to it. I have understood well everything you told me in your letter. I mentioned in a previous letter of mine of

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<sup>37</sup> In order that he may send [workers into his vineyard] etc.

<sup>38</sup> In order that he may send workers into his vineyard.

having received your packet, if I remember correctly. Tell everybody that little by little I will get around to answering their letters; for, even while writing to you, I intend to include all of them, whether they be relatives or friends, whom you will salute individually for me with due measure, etc.

Take care of yourself, pray for me and consider me always as

Your friend and brother

*G. C. del Bufalo*

P. S. Tell Santelli that he should write to the Canon in Sabina, and specifically in Torre, inviting him to join; I cannot remember his name; in this matter, ask Cristaldi's nephew about him. You must, however, be prompt since I have to leave soon, etc.

If members were to be found, they would not be crowded at all in the House, since they will almost always be out on the missions.

Do not forget about the memorandum dealing with the Nuns of Perugia.

## 122

August 27, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter I am sending a reply to two of your most appreciated letters in which one provided me with the sorrowful news of the death of Canon Salvatore. That moved me deeply. Certainly, he must already be enjoying the fruits of his labor since *dies pleni inventi sunt in eo*.<sup>39</sup> Nevertheless, I have not failed to have prayers offered for him and you can imagine the effort I have made to offer suffrages for the repose of his soul.

In this same maildelivery, I have written to Lawyer Paolucci and, *ad abundantiam*<sup>40</sup> I have given him a bit of information about our spiritual exercises. You, yourself, have great reason to be consoled in the Lord in view of the continuous apostolate that is being carried out, bringing forth greater glory to God. These holy works should rightly form your delight because of the zeal that you have shown. I wholeheartedly pray that the Lord will always increasingly enkindle that zeal in your soul for the benefit of others. I have entrusted our congregation and its members to Mary most holy. From heaven, she will see to its protection and will bless it lovingly. I hope you continue to pray for workers according to the Heart of God, as we place our hopes in divine mercy to obtain what we yearn for. Oh, how many things I would like to say to you, but you can be sure that nowadays the very many preoccupations do not permit this. So, let us be content with what is indispensable and necessary.

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<sup>39</sup> Full days are found in him.

<sup>40</sup> For an abundance.

You can rest at ease about the travel expense for my return, since I have never thought of burdening our organization; regretfully would I do that. My heart is split into a thousand pieces and, at present, I am recommending this entire undertaking to the Lord. Prayer and confidence. You have done so very much for all of us and who is there that can ever forget the obligations that are incumbent upon us? I shall add nothing more, since you read well what is in my heart.

You probably have learned better about everything by speaking personally to Fr. Adriano. His departure from here has filled me with desolation. But, God must have willed it to be so.

Do not fail to insist on those backpayments. Pray for me and with the fullness of esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I am

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Giano, August 27, 1815

P. S. I forgot to tell you that you were correct in reimbursing Vizzeri for my share in the matter that you mentioned to me and, in doing that, all is executed in an orderly fashion. A thousand greeting to Canon Muccioli and to all in your household.

### 123

September 7, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Despite the fact that I shall have the pleasure of seeing you within a short time, I thought it a good idea to inform you that I have been told, as a sure thing, that during these days a representative of the schools will be leaving from Spoleto along with a lawyer, and I imagine that this has something to do with the question of the arrearpayments, concerning which it is altogether necessary for us to remain insistent. The bishop writes that the schools, that is, the representatives believe that they have legitimate arguments, but nevertheless we have hopes of receiving shortly a bit of grain. I want everything to be peacefully settled to the greater glory of God, and your cooperation will be helpful in reaching this objective.

Momentarily, I am expecting the arrival of a fine priest who, for a short time, will take up residence in this house as a help to the other two, and I attribute this to the most holy Madonna. Otherwise, I would have found myself in a sea of anguish. It is also quite possible that we will gain another, but we must pray that he can get released of all the things that are impeding him. We will add still another at the beginning of October. But, we can discuss this better and in detail when we see each other.

In Perugia, I shall do nothing more than take possession and learn more about the state of things, as well as to note the proposals made concerning the rental. Having obtained that information, I will immediately travel to Rome by mailcoach and, at that time, with your kind assistance, bring this entire matter to a conclusion, committing its finalization to the Canon Theologian of the Cathedral, a close friend of mine.

For myself and for all of our projects, it is hardly necessary to restate my deepfelt gratitude since you can well imagine how profound it is because of your countless favors. Pray for me, *sine intermissione*,<sup>41</sup> and with special greeting to all in your household and to Lawyer Paolucci, etc. I have the pleasure to renew myself as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Giano, September 7, 1815

124<sup>42</sup>

No date

For the chapter [of canons] of St. Eustacio

What distinction the various sacred adornments contribute to the priesthood, to the house of God and to ecclesiastical functions. No doubt they distinguish churches and chapters their varied importance. And so, in order to accomplish this, it is befitting so that every church set aside resources Proportionate for sustaining such admirable decor . Thus it has always been the custom to allow this to each chapter which can count on sufficient funds for the purpose under discussion. I do not deny that there are some churches which, although they may be deemed on a level of lesser importance, nevertheless, can equal those of so many others because of the monuments of which they are proud. And so they are embellished with befitting sacred emblems and sacred adornments. But finding themselves with scarce revenues, they are content to oblige themselves to carry out ecclesiastical functions and maintain divine worship in a better way And who knows whether from this there arises such an outward variety whose exact extent cannot be measured?

But getting to our case, no one would be able to refuse the most distinguished chapter of St Eustacio, the amplest wishes for its glorious continuance ... but do these, perhaps, conform to the economic demands of that chapter? In common opinion, certainly “no”. On the other hand, the ecclesiastical superior, because he should be at the heart of the conduct of sacred associations also ought to take as a principle to provide that they, then, not lack necessary ecclesiastical subsistence. In granting such benefits, it is proper to consider those who will succeed in the canonry and in the benefices. Besides, it is proper to evaluate the greater expense to which they are liable and, perhaps, also the bond which his capitular goods at the moment may be affixed.

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<sup>41</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>42</sup> On the fourth page there is a notation: “Around 1815”. We are placing this here because in the collection of writings of St. Gaspar to Cristaldi, the letter of September 7, 1815 follows.

So, here, seemingly, are the reasons and the motives for not observing about how much<sup>43</sup> [translator's note: the sentence seem to break off here].<sup>44</sup>

## 125

*Cople dell'Apoca d'affitto*<sup>45</sup>

*In nome di sua Maestà Napoleone Primo Imperatore de' Francesi, Re d'Italia, a Protettore della Confederazione del Reno.*

*Colla presente da valere quanto publico, a giurato istromento il qui sottoscritto Signor Andrea Bourbon del Monte Procuratore del Signor Luigi Ziucci domiciliato in Ascoli Regno Italico come da procura speciale, che si annette, spontaneamente ed in ogni miglior modo loca ed affitta al Signor Vinceozo figlio del fu Antonio Sereni nativo di Mercatello Circondario di Todi tutu i beni posti nelle pertinenze di Mercatello a Cibottola presso li suoi noti confini spettanti al beneficio semplice di S. Bartolomeo di Sanguinetto posseduto dal suddetto Signor Ziucci in vigore di Chirografo Pontificio coi seguenti patti E condizioni.*

*1. Che l'affitto debba principiare il dì trenta Settembre scorso milleottocentodieci a terminare il di 30 Settembre 1813 a così durare anni tre per l'annua corrisposta di scudi 135 di moneta romana d'argento effettivo pari a franchi 722 Ecentesimi 25 da pagarsi di sei in sei mesi anticipatamente al quale effetto il suddetto Signor Severi sborsa il semestre anticipate di scudi 67 a bajocchi 50 pari a franchi 36l e centesimi 12 che il Signer Procuratore tire a se, e ne fa quietanza in forma, a per le future anticipate risposte si obliga il conduttore pagarle liberamente in Perugia nelle mani del Signer Ermenegildo Bartoletti.*

*2. Che la suddetta risposta annua sia libera ed immune da ogni e qualunque imposizione si reale, che personale imposta, e da imporsi anche per suprema autorità quale sia a carico del Conduttore da cominciare dal 30 Settembre scorso, non altrimenti.*

*3. Che il presence affito s'intende facto a fiamma a fuoco, talmente il Signor locatore non sia obligate alla rifazione del menomo danno in qualunque modo nel terreno potesse cagionarsi mediante la grandine, ed altri casi benché impreveduti.*

*4. Che il medesimo Signor Conduttore possa tagliare a sue vantaggio gli Alberi cedui, purché sia in regola il taglio dei medesimi a come verrà giudicato da un perito the ne dovrà fare la relazione, prima siegua il suddetto taglio, al divisato Signor Procuratore.*

*5. Che tutte le spese di riparazioni a bonifici necessari da Tarsi alli terreni, accio non siano danneggiati dal flume Nestore debbano andare a carico e peso di detto Signor Sereni*

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<sup>43</sup> The word is illegible because the page is torn.

<sup>44</sup> This letter was translated by Fr. John Klopke.

<sup>45</sup> Riportiamo qui il contratto di affitto del beneficio di S. Bartolomeo. S. Gaspare ottenne questo beneficio nel luglio del 1815 a seguito della rinuncia del canonicato di S. Marco. Vel volume XI segue la lettera del 7 settembre 1815. La copia è scritta da S. Gaspare stesso.

*purché non siano lavori straordinari, la di cui spesa non ecceda la summa di scudi dieci fine alla qual summa anche per li lavori straordinarj debba esser tenuto il detto Signor Affittuario, a pel di piu sia tenuto il Signor Locatore perché così per patto: che anzi siccome viene supposto che vi siano dei danni cagionati dal passato Conduttore tanto nelle macchie cedue, negli altri Alberi, e piante che nelle case, a terreni adjacenti al flume Nestore così si conviene a si elegge di comun consenso in perito il Signer Ridolfo Beffani affinché acceda in faccia del luogo, a perizi tutu i danni the ivi troverà, e la suddetta perizia resti alla presence apoca unita per l'oggetto che il Signor Ziucci possa ripetere i danni cagionati dal passato Conduttore, a viceversa il Signor Sereni non possa esser tenuto che secondo lo state attuale in cui troverà i beni del beneficio a rilasciarlo da buono a diligente Conduttore alla fine del triennio.*

*6. Che sia a carico del Conduttore di risarcire i tetti delle Case con questo che possa prevalersi del legname, ed altro materiale esistente nei beni suddetti a pcl di più sia a oarico del Locatore senza però che il Conduttore nulls possa fare senza l'ordine preventive del medesimo.*

*7. Ed in ultimo si dichiara che nel caso alcuno delle parti contraenti mancasse all'adempimento in parte o in tutto di questo contratto per cui dovesse esibirsi in giudizio la presente Apoca, allora, ed in cal caso, la parte soccombente debba risarcire per l'intero tutto ciò che occorresse nelle spese di Bollo, registro, penali, Ammende incorse se vi fossero, ed inoltre ogni altra spesa giudiziale estragiudiziale niuna affatto eccettuata perché così per patto. E per osservanza di tutte le cose premesse il suddetto Signor Procuratore nel nome come sopra a non altrimenti ed il più volte nominato Signor Sereni obbligano tutti i beni, ragioni nella più ampla forma delle Leggi veglianti con tutte le clausole, dichiarando della presente averne fatto due Copie simili da ritenersene una per parte. In fede ece.*

*Perugia questo dì 6 Ottobre 1810*

*Vincenzo Sereni mi oblige come sopra a prendo in alfitto ece.*

*Andrea del Monte Procuratore loco come sopra*

*Giuseppe Torrelli fui testimonio*

*Felice Medico Caravaggi testimonio*

*Gioacchino Reale fui testimonio*

## 126

September 11, 1815

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

In S. Marco

Rome

My dearest Canon

By a miracle of Most Holy Mary, I am expecting momentarily a very fine priest who will be of assistance to the other two (and so you see ever more and more how much God is blessing our efforts). Then I shall leave immediately for Perugia, where I will only take possession of my benefice, while reserving for myself the finalization of the other formalities when I am in Rome,

where I have a close friend who will handle everything for me. I would hope, therefore, that by the 15th of the current month to be back at the home base. At that time we will talk about everything. In the meantime, give this information to all in the house, to my father, to Fr. Eugenio, etc., etc. I cannot say now exactly whether I will arrive at night or in the daytime, by mail coach or without (that is, by hired coach). It depends on how things turn out, as you understand quite well. What is certain is that I will imitate the birds in getting there with the greatest possible speed. If I do arrive at night, I do not know how I can avoid awakening someone. Enough said: God will take care of it.

Goodbye. Take care of yourself. Here, at best, I leave all in good order, so that I can depart with calmness of mind. In these days I have been extremely busy. Pray for me and consider me as

Your loving friend

*G. C. d. B.*

S. Felice in Giano, September 11, 1815

My itinerary, if I can succeed in working it out, would be the following: leave on Saturday to be at Perugia by night; on Monday, take possession, and then when the mailcarriage passes by, if there is room, board it for my return, if perchance I should not find good company on the hired coach. *Memento mei.*<sup>46</sup>

Here they are opening up a field for doing great good. I will give you all details in person. *Rogate,*<sup>47</sup> in the meantime, etc.

Let no one worry that I do not write any more during these days.

## 127

October 11, 1815

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

The grace and the love of our Lord Jesus Christ be always with us. Amen.

Most illustrious Countess

My delay in answering your most appreciated letter is due to the fact that I have been away from Rome. Oh, how consoled I was to learn that you are still just as fervent as ever in seeking to give glory to God. I could hardly be doubtful about that, knowing how great the love of Jesus is for us. You ask me about the holy Missions, and God has granted me this favor, for the people who are most dear to me. Hence, there is no further need for concern about that. At the present time, we have set up a House, similar to the one in Bologna, to handle Missions in Umbria. I ask you to recommend it greatly to the Lord, since a good work always runs into

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<sup>46</sup> Remember me.

<sup>47</sup> Ask.

difficulties. We are currently observing the Fridays in honor of Xavier and so I urge you strongly to offer special prayers for me. Let us continue in our spiritual union and especially in the holy Mass you, by assisting in it and I by celebrating it and let us earnestly recommend our souls to the Lord.

Spend your zeal working for the good of souls, using the organization that you have set up for making visits to the sick, while following your director who will guide you by his suggestions. Very similar to the aspirations that you have with your group is the Congregation of Sisters of Charity founded by St. Vincent de Paul. You are probably acquainted with them or can easily get information about them. Trust greatly in the Lord and do not be fearful. Courage for Paradise is very near; every day we draw closer to that blessed homeland.

A thousand greetings to all the people that I met there and principally to those of your household and to Fr. Polini. Write a couple of lines, in my behalf, to Mrs. Pignocchi and I will be most obliged to you. Take care of yourself, and with the fullness of esteem, consider me constantly as

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, October 11, 1815

## 128

October 14, 1815

Countess Virginia Malaspina Caracciolo

Piacenza

Madame Countess

Your recent most appreciated letter has really filled me with consolation. It arrived at a time when I myself had decided to inconvenience you with one of mine. Mindful always of my obligations to you and deeply attached to that city, how could I not remember all the kind actions and all the benefactors? Oh, how willingly would I not spend time with you, speaking to you in person and seeing you again. However, the notable distance and my responsibilities here will not permit that. Let us, instead, supply for it through letters, exchanging news mutually and in that way keeping up a close correspondence. But, let us do this in an even more special way through prayer, always being aware of our spiritual pacts. As for myself, I am in special need of being recommended to our most merciful God since ministers of the sanctuary must have a solid foundation in virtue and such a strong love for God that he can sustain his own fervor and even increase it by sharing it with others.

Remember that we are presently observing the Fridays in honor of St. Francis Xavier. I would like to say a lot more about this, but you, by yourself, can understand what it would be, since you know of my devotion to this saint.

Stay in good health and give my greetings to anyone there who remembers me, especially to Countess Landi and Maria. My own health is good and may God grant that I use it well. In the meantime, with all esteem and respect, I am

Your devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

October 14, 1815

129

October 21, 1815

Fr. Luigi Gonnelli

Spoletto per Giano

Rome, October 21, (1815)

Dearest Canon

I am answering your letter of the 15th of this month which is coming to an end. I am greatly consoled to hear the excellent news of your health, and also that you and Fr. Gaetano are praying for me in that place of spiritual retreat. I would like you to make a firm proposal of changing the order of the day, regulating your actions so as not to overburden your strength to the prejudice of your health.

Girometti would like to know if Bonanni is still willing to give his books in exchange for the satisfaction of Mass intentions, for in that case he would want some. I have attempted to make an appointment with Mazzetti and I will talk to him seriously. May God grant that he join us. Rest assured, therefore, that I never stop looking for new members. Prayer, therefore, and trust in God. I am eager to hear of the happy arrival of our very dear Fr. Luigi Achilli, to whom you will say an infinite number of nice things for me. Tani is leaving, one of these days, and will shortly be within those holy walls. Cristaldi is going to start on a trip next Thursday, so you will be able to come back with him. During these days I will go to see Cavalier Franceschi.

Be sure that you diligently inspect the volume of Franson which interests me<sup>48</sup> and remember

the name of Carbonieri.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> At this point in the manuscript there are two lines crossed out, which however, can be read, even though with some difficulty: "Please write a couple of lines to Merangoni, but in such a way that the paper does not turn red"; it then continues with the word transcribed above in the text.

<sup>49</sup> More cancellations. At this point there must be at least five lines. Of these it was possible to decipher only the first two which say: "The Del Rinti (?) woman is upset with you because she has not received your letters". Of the other lines one can make out some word here and there, but the meaning of the whole thing escapes.

Everybody in general and particular salute you; do the same for me with Fr. Gaetano and Br. Felice. If you need money, call in my name on Paolucci's Minister who will provide you with it. Offer suffrages for the soul of Isabella's mother who recently passed on to eternity.

Through Tani you will receive a leaflet of the devotion to the Madonna della Cintura; but this presupposes both an altar for this purpose and the ageold method of enrollment, as you will read. The enrollment, however, for the Rosary will not be able to be gotten until the return of the Holy Father, since his Rescript is required for this, as the General Gaddi has pointed out.

Santelli is still in Albano, and is enjoying it.

Take care of yourself. Recommend me to God and with total affection, I am

Your loving friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

(Alongside the address one reads)

I still have not had any news from Combi. Let me know if you need anything, even Masses; but in this case, only for you.

### 130

October 28, 1815

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Giano

Venerable Monsignor

I received your most appreciated note to which I am sending a prompt response. I beg you not to ascribe to a lack of respect my not having visited you before your departure from Rome. That was due to a variety of reports concerning your trip as well as to pressing responsibilities which, in the course of this month in a particular way, have kept me occupied in no small amount of work. I know how you think and hence I will add nothing further. I shall say only that the remembrance of your kindnesses is always alive in my heart and I never relinquish the feelings of justifiable recognition which I unfailingly hold toward you.

The Lord knows how dear to my heart is our organization in Giano. ... I have never failed to apply myself in seeking for new members and I hope that the Lord will bless my efforts. Man, on his part, must do as much as he can; the rest he must calmly leave to Divine Providence.

On Monday night, our Fr. Vincenzo Tani should be arriving in S. Felice. In writing a letter today to Lawyer Paolucci, asking him to provide a horse at Spoleto, I realized, after some computation, that there would not be sufficient time for that. So, with this present maildelivery, I turned to Prior Luparini who will surely help me out. Uncertainty about the day on which Fr. Tani would be leaving did not allow us the time for arranging things differently. I know very well that the giving of holy Missions will be the means adopted for awakening in other priests a holy desire to join our society. I hope that gradually it will be firmly established. If the obligation of maintaining three men in that house could be reduced to two, I think that, in certain cases, that

faculty would be very helpful for our purposes. This matter, however, I leave to your wise judgment.

In your very esteemed letter, you were kind enough to remind me of the reason for which I was released from the benefice requiring residence and you also kindly informed me of our Holy Father's good intentions of having Missions conducted in Benevento and Frosinone. In this regard, venerable Monsignor, it is necessary that I, with due respect and in all candor, open up my heart to you. You know very well the just esteem that I have for the gifts that God has given to you and of how zealously you use them to procure greater glory to God. In fact, I pray to the Lord continuously that he will increase the fervor of your spirit as well as of your concern for the salvation of souls. and, I would like to aline myself with your most laudable intentions, not only in favor of the plans that have been preestablished (concerning which there can never be a diversity of thought), but also in favor of the total spread of our prospects wherever they may be directed. I have nurtured this desire, not merely as a simple aspiration but one with a definite resolve. If it is God's will that this latter cannot presently be accomplished, what fault do I have? I will simply be content to work things out in keeping with my basic feelings and, with sacrifice, I will have to realize that at times I will find myself in a situation where I will not see things fully accomplished. I repeat: with sacrifice, because for me it is a greater difficulty to remain in Rome than outside it. I stress again: if it is God's will, because in matters involving me, I judge myself in such a way that I do not want to fall into that category of people *absque prudentia et consilio*.<sup>50</sup>

Now I will tell you the reason why I have had to sacrifice my desire to be a son of St. Ignatius. Precisely, it was because I was dutifully bound by several commitments. If my position as Canon had been the only impediment, I would have given it up without further ado, and I would not have sought a substitute income. I wanted to make this decision because I wished to become a missionary in Rome and to offer myself, in as far as possible, as a preacher of holy Missions. I would have preferred at present not to leave Rome until the time of Lent so that I could prepare myself, as one should, to carry out that assignment, and to continue to help out in pious works that call for my cooperation and whose administration I was advised to forgo, which I would do willingly, and to look after some quite valuable economic matters of my own. Although it would have been with considerable inconvenience, it might have been better if I had offered myself **to other spiritual undertakings**, and the good would have been accomplished with order and exactitude. I am stating all of this so that I will not have reason to reprove myself in case something contrary should occur with regard to the items mentioned here. In conclusion, however, I surrender my case entirely to my God to whom I wholeheartedly offer my natural sensitivities that are so inescapable in humans whenever they see things being interpreted in a wrong way.

If, after all this, it is decided that I should depart for Benevento, I shall go. In a matter as delicate as this, I must inform you that, as far as I am concerned, your very direction is all that I

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<sup>50</sup> Without prudence or counsel.

need for me to offer you my services wherever possible. But, I would like to receive a reply from you, also with respect to preaching in Frosinone, so that I can adjust my schedule to that decision. Furthermore, you might think about changing my trip to one to Giano so that our men can satisfy the requests of the bishop of Spoleto and that the House would not be devoid of members.

I am completely resigned to the divine dispositions. I hope that you will take into consideration this letter of mine and meditate on it at the foot of the Crucifix. Be assured that your reply and your decision will be the same for me as a command. In the meantime, I shall warmly recommend the entire matter to the most merciful God.

Please pardon this lengthy annoyance that I cause you. Pray for me and please extend my good wishes to all the respective members of your company and especially to Lawyer Paolucci, Mrs. Girolama and your very zealous nephew. Meanwhile, with full esteem and gratitude, I have the pleasure of reaffirming that I am

Your devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, October 28, 1815

### 131

December 6, 1815

Can. Gonnelli<sup>51</sup>

Rome

Dearest friend and brother

I am answering your most esteemed letter so anxiously awaited by me. However, I am writing hastily. I confirm the excellent news that I am in good health, as I notice is the same with you. Tell Fr. Luigi that he is to accept the 4.50 *Sc.* from Simonette and also make a separate memorandum of it for return, so that I will be able to take care of all the individuals then.<sup>52</sup>

On Monday, the 11th of the current month, we shall leave for Naples. I assure you that I would like to rush to Rome, but one must adjust himself to the Company. The Missions of Frosinone have been suspended because the archbishop did not want to allow us to leave. Before Christmas we will be in Rome without any doubt. I hope that it will be for the feast of St. Thomas, as I will write

more definitely to you from Naples. When addressing your letter to me, you will direct it to the Lawyer Paolucci through Cardinal Caracciolo, or Cristaldi. Give this information to my

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<sup>51</sup> Since "Fr. Luigi" is named in the text, it is probable the letter (written on a half sheet and without address) might have been delivered to one of his brothers, Fr. Filippo or Fr. Giuseppe, with the intention of communicating it to Fr. Luigi.

<sup>52</sup> At this point in the original there are two lines canceled. Although one can still make out an isolated word here and there, it was not possible to read it in its entirety.

sisterinlaw, to my father, etc. Greet everyone, in general and in particular. Inform Bonanni that I hope to have an excellent priest join our group, and during these days I expect also to finalize this matter, if it pleases God.

Stay well. Goodbye.

I am your loving brother

*G. C. d. B.*

Find out if Paolina needs anything.

Benevento, December 6, 1815

### 132

January 8, 1816

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Before leaving, I am sending these few lines to inform you that among the good works that have been practiced from ancient times in S. Galla, there is the one of keeping the refectory open each morning for the convalescents of S. Gallicano. I do not know whether the sovereign's beneficence will extend itself to having this practice continued. I submit this to your prudence and wisdom, and with the usual sentiments of esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House, 8th of 1816

P. S. You should also keep an eye open to note whether the prisons of S. Giovanni and S. Croce are ever going to release beds to supply for our hospice, etc. because even now, sad to say, we do not have a sufficient number for all.

There is also the hospice for poor women under the direction of Fr. Gonnelli. Remember, too, to write and to work hard for our establishment in Giano. I beg you to excuse all of these inconveniences.

### 133

January, 1816

Lawyer Giuseppe Paolucci

Roma

Very kind sir and most distinguished attorney

The restrictions of time do not afford me the opportunity, as I would like, to see you in person. Therefore, I will supply with these few lines by which I recommend myself to your prayers, and at the same time bring you up to date on the last letter written to me by Fr. Luigi Achille concerning the hardships of the House at S. Felice.

Together with Msgr. Cristaldi, to whom I have already sent some details, you should make an effort, insofar as you are able, to organize well the temporalities of the pious Institute. I have already informed you of the begging for alms which will be undertaken as a provisional procedure; but you probably can imagine how that will turn out. It is necessary to insist on things with the Schools, and to seek elsewhere another annual pension. On this matter, *satis*.<sup>51</sup>

Keep the project at S. Galla close to your heart, and please handle the petition that will be sent to you with regard to the bonds, etc. The poor will indeed show their gratefulness for it by their prayers for you.

Finally, I am asking you to be willing to be of assistance to my Uncle, who will be coming to see you in person so that he can better explain his problem to you. His plea has been referred to the Most Reverend Treasurer by the Holy Father. To me, his petition appears to be most proper. He has two bonds, 1st or 2nd issue, at the Credit Bank of St. Peter's, which belonged to his deceased uncle, Fr. Domenico Pechi. He also had willed to him some certificates of credit accruing interest from that inheritance, as well as income resulting from the deposit of money, as Fr. Eugenio will explain more clearly to you in person. So, he would like to have, in one lump sum, the total amount so that he can settle his debts, especially those that were contracted during the two periods of deportation that he had to undergo. In that way, by surrendering all to the government, his only thought would be that of filling out his days in tranquility and blessed solitude, where God has called him, and where he will always be mindful of those who have been helpful to him, etc.

I ask you to extend my best wishes to Girolama and to all in your house, recommending myself to your prayers in common, and with the fullness of esteem and respect, consider me as your

Most humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*<sup>52</sup>

### 134

March 2, 1816

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

Illustrious Countess

I owe you a reply to one of your very kind letters which brings me the excellent news of your good health and that of your family. We thank our good God for this and, since on next

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<sup>51</sup> Enough!

<sup>52</sup> Merlini, in an annotation added to the original, says that this letter was written "around 1816". On January 8 of 1816, the Saint wrote from Rome to Cristaldi concerning the House at S. Felice ("I ask you to write, and to work hard for our project at Giano"), as well as the Hospice at S. Galla. One, therefore, can suppose that this letter, too, certainly written from Rome, should be dated around January of 1816. Furthermore, one notices that the paper, the characteristics of the writing and the ink are identical.

Monday we begin the great Novena in honor of St. Xavier, we will surely ask, through the intercession of this apostle, for an abundance of heavenly gifts and divine favors. At this special time of Lent, let us unite ourselves to Jesus Crucified and to the Sorrowful Mother Mary with even more affection. Let us pray for the conversion of sinners and the ever greater sanctification of the just. In the meantime, continue your apostolate; propagate the devotion of the Chaplet of the most Precious Blood and remember, too, the devotion to the Sorrowful Mother observed after the agony of Jesus Christ. May the Lord increase your zeal for his glory and give you perseverance in the good work you have undertaken.

Now, you are very probably content with the selection of your new bishop who will be able to promote there the good of souls. This is the only happiness that we can have here on this earth, namely, doing good and becoming saints. But, serve God joyfully and without discouragement.

Finally, from what you tell me about your coming to Rome for the beatification of the Venerable Liguori, and I cannot at present say precisely when that will take place, you are quite prudent in finding out just what plans to make according to your present circumstances. However, I am convinced that your domestic cares and anything else that requires your attention will allow you to make this trip during which you can also visit the holy places in this city.

Pray for me; give my regards to anyone who still remembers me and also say a prayer for some very important matters. With esteem and respect, madame Countess, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, March 2, 1816

135

April 3, 1816

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Do not be surprised that I have gone overboard in sending you the enclosed reports. I have done this upon the urging of Monsignor Odescalchi who, in every possible way, wishes to cooperate in helping the public good and, at the same time, wishes to obviate any disquietude that might ensue with the passing of time with particular concern about Prince Don Innocenzo, the acting Patron etc.

In the meantime, always full of esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I express with pleasure my renewal as

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

April 3, 1816

The hospice of Santa Galla  
Memos of what was formerly practiced:

1. Formerly, in the hospice there was a convalescent ward for the poor of the hospital of S. Galligano.
2. During the summer there was the practice of curing the itch (which still continues) but no longer by means of giving new clothes to those with the itch as used to be done. In addition, during recent days of the cure they were fed.
3. The downstairs of the hospice is principally employed in order to aid mendicants without them feeling ostracized, etc., etc.

The Odescalchi hospice, known as Santa Galla is nothing else but a pious foundation as are many others existent in Rome over which the government has the right to exercise its authority. But it is also a charitable foundation erected by the Odescalchis who stipulated that from the proceeds of their contributions [a torte de loro spese?], a portion should be set aside for the poor afflicted by the itch who are cured there as well as the homeless mendicants who are given shelter for the night. This hospice has always been, according to the written arrangement of Innocent XI, the free and absolute proprietorship of the abovenamed most excellent family; consequently, it has never depended on the government. On the contrary, to consolidate even more the total independence of the abovementioned establishment, Duke Don Livio I, its founder, in his will took care to mandate that as often as the Supreme Authority should try to insert itself in the affairs of this Institute in order to change the forms, alter its system, in a word, to make the least claim of superiority which would attack its independence, his heir is held to close it and incorporate the funds for its support to others of the family. Such provisions have always saved the hospice throughout various changes in government. May the Lord keep them far away.

The locale is able to accommodate 300 beds; presently, there just is about a hundred of them for the noninfected poor and about sixty for the poor who itch from nonfebrile ringworm, who publicly come to beg alms. Then, too, it is fitting to remember the many poor needy rustics who also show up at the hospice to sleep who are really not included in the present general plan, and also to remember the other obligation contracted with the Casa Panfili of the Odescalchi family which is to give shelter to a number of dependents of the Casa Panfili who needed a place while they paid off [?] burial sites, etc., etc.

The general rules of the hospice would be to give shelter to mendicants for three nights but this is not enforced as often as genuine neediness is verified, etc., etc.; this all depends on the Benefactor. In the new plan, then, it seems it would be possible to assist an institute such as this with giving shelter to those poor who, free in themselves and subsidized by the government, do

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<sup>53</sup> This letter was translated by Fr. John Klopke.

not have a determined place to sleep in other public locations. This, if the government implements by adding some beds. There is no other means than assigning an annual benefit to the hospital through a contract which can be rescinded *ad libitum* by each party the burdens of which would be befitting a pious foundation. In such a case, the norms of the Panfili legate would serve and it could be definitively completed as soon as the deputation of the Institute of Charity would have discovered the mendicants in the various locales mentioned, always having in mind which sort would be compatible with free independence of such a founded institute for the poor of the Odescalchi hospice, of which there are so many, etc., etc.

## 137

April, 1816  
C. Antonio Muccioli  
Rome  
Esteemed Canon

I am enclosing a certificate petitioning a dispensation under the title of poverty so that you can file it just as you were so kind to do with a previous petition, etc. I urge you to take care of it before you leave.

When I assumed the assignment to preach to the priests of Civitavecchia, I did so with the understanding that there was no one else to do it. However, if Father Ferraris would be able, I would be more than happy to have him do it.

I already have with me the bundles of books for the Missions, and I will give them to you tomorrow.

It would not be a bad idea to let Piatti know exactly our order of the day, especially the quarter of an hour meditation in the morning. If you could find out from him that there is no one who has put in a bid for his place at the Collegio and if he should think me worthy, then, when he sees the Cardinal Vicar, he would do me a favor by putting in a good word for me. I leave all to your wisdom.

Pray for me, and with esteem I am

Devotedly yours and (...) <sup>54</sup>  
*G. C. del Buf.*

## 138

July 31, 1816  
Fr. Antonio Santelli

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<sup>54</sup> From the context one notices that this letter was written from Rome, shortly before the Mission in Civitavecchia, in which Fr. Antonio Muccioli and Msgr. Piatti, mentioned here, participated with the Saint. Therefore, one can assign it to the end of April of 1816, in view of the fact that the aforementioned Mission began on the 3rd of May.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in sanguine suo*<sup>55</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Without wanting it, by an unforeseen obstacle I am prevented from coming to your gathering on Sunday. God will accept good intentions. You could invite Monsignor Giannoli, Canon Visconti, Canon Mancini from Santa Maria in Trastevere, Canon Terelli, or the priest from S. Stefano Silvestrino, or anyone else you decide. I will supply on another occasion. With esteem, but also, with regrets for not being able to help you out, asking for your prayers, venerable superior, I am

Your obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Miss.

July 31, 1816

### 139

FebruaryMarch, 1817

Memoranda for Monsignor Cristaldi<sup>56</sup>

1) It is necessary to inform Fr. Canali, assigned for the retreat at the Roman Arch-gymnasium, that Fr. Ostini, as the Secretary of the Union of St. Paul, will promote the establishment for the group of young people at the inner church of the Sapienza where it ought to be set up. But, it would be good to meet with him first. I would like to see the title: "Most sorrowful Mother Mary" be given to it.

2) When visiting with his Eminence, the Vicar, who has already assigned Fr. Giampedi in the diocese of Nocera, remember to urge him to carry out our ideas for the House in Giano a wellfounded institution that is of the greatest benefit to souls.

3) It is altogether urgent that the Noble Guards get together for the holy retreat next Saturday afternoon and then depart on the following Saturday morning after the sermon of general reminders. There can be no delay in arranging this. In order to set up this retreat schedule successfully, one must first send to each one an informational flyer, indicating what each must bring along in his own satchel, for example, personal table utensils, etc. The time for arrival should be set for the 22nd and 23 1/2 hours of the day and recommend punctuality. I do not, however, think that it will be expedient to await all at the altar of St. Aloysius. Each one, on his own, must come to the Retreat House.

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<sup>55</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

<sup>56</sup> These memoranda are gathered together from the letters of 1817. From a comparison of the contents (the title of the Sorrowful Mother, cfr. the letter of March 17, 1817; the Giampedi case, cfr. the letter of March 7, 1817 etc.) they seem to confirm the year 1817. As for the month, it appears that these memoranda should be assigned to the end of February and the beginning days of March, namely, the first days of Lent (cfr. the letter of March 8).

## 140

March 3, 1817  
Fr. Antonio Bevilacqua  
Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Canon del Bufalo, in sending his greetings to the most worthy Canon Bevilacqua, request him to go, next Sunday, to Tor de' Specchi to celebrate holy Mass at a time which he feels will be most convenient. However, since you are not that wellknown personally, except by reputation, you would be doing a favor by giving your name to the Sister Sacristan so that she can make use of that information immediately. After the meal, the person assigned will come to get you by coach. In the meantime, the one writing to you, in the name also of the pious community indicated above, has the pleasure of declaring his esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
House, March 3, 1817

## 141

March 7, 1817  
Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome

Memoranda for the most illustrious and most reverend Monsignor Cristaldi

1) The young man, Luigi Giansanti of Rieti, who has already seen to the consignment of the required documents to Fr. Panizzoni for admission into the Company of Jesus as a Coadjutor Brother, recommends himself to the zeal of Monsignor Cristaldi so that you will assist him with your efficient services. By profession, the applicant is a tailor.

2) It would be of great help if Fr. Adriano Giampedi would be able to go to Giano for at least a short time to invigorate that pious household. With the bishop of Nocera, he has established in Gualdo a house of priests similar to the one in S. Felice. The glory of God demands a certain union and bond between the two of them and Fr. Adriano could be greatly useful in effecting this effort. The most eminent Cardinal Vicar respects highly the spirit of Fr. Giampedi and that would be the precise answer to achieve our purposes, without calling upon the assistance of others etc. Talking to Canon Muccioli can better clarify this.

3) It is necessary to be insistent with the lawyers so that the arranging of retreats for them at the Cappellette will not be neglected. Little by little almost all of them are getting farther away. Perhaps the institute is not that wellknown to many of the present curia. I already have spoken in person about this to Lawyer Paolucci.

4) The greatest consideration must be given to initiating retreats for the Noble Guards. My opinion would be that everything should be finally approved by you. Members to give the various retreats etc. are:

For the Sapienza:

Monsignor Odescalchi

Fr. Canali

The time that should be set for the series of retreats would be next Wednesday to the end of Friday of the third week in Lent.

For the Belle Arti:

Fr. Orsini

Canon del Bufalo

For the Noble Guards:

The members are to preach; and this makes more indispensable the care for setting the dates etc. It would be best to have a decision by tomorrow.<sup>57</sup> Monsignor Marchetti will be contacted to see whether he can be of help in some way.

5) These works, then, will give a boost to a stable, spiritual education, both for the young people at the Sapienza as well as for those of the Belle Arti.

6) Keep in mind the great work of giving retreats for the entire city of Rome in so many different churches yet to be selected. These can be arranged for September etc.

## 142

March 8, 1817

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter I am sending you a report concerning the meeting with Monsignor, the Majordomo. The opening for the first shift of retreats will be next Monday after the noon meal, and the communion day will be observed on Saturday morning. We also came to the agreement that this initial system for retreats be followed again for the closing days of Lent etc., and on this matter nothing more need be said. I would have liked to have had only one shift of retreats, which I strongly suggested to Monsignor, the Majordomo. However, the reasons were such that a second shift was indispensable; so, the opening will be set for Monday of the 4th week in Lent, closing then on the Saturday before Passion Sunday. With regard to our members who will conduct this second shift, we will work that out tomorrow morning with Canon Muccioli, and you will be kept informed of everything. Monsignor Rivarola will send you a note, letting you know whether there are any linens available in the Pope's cabinet that could be used during these retreats, since he wants the retreatants to find everything there where the retreat is being held. He has charged me to ask that you, yourself, take care of what remains yet to be done and to see that nothing is lacking.

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<sup>57</sup> The dates for the retreat for the Noble Guards, as is evident from the following letter, were actually set in a meeting with the Majordomo, Monsignor Agostino Rivarola, on March 8, 1817. Hence, the present memoranda are dated March 7, 1817.

Furthermore, he wants you to know that with respect to the placesettings at table, if a large number will be required, he would like you to make those arrangements. Also, with regard to the treatment of the retreatants, I shall quote the expression used by the oftmentioned Monsignor Majordomo: "I want them to be treated in a gentlemanly way". In keeping with that, I think it would be a good idea that after the meal, during the recreation period, they should be served coffee a thing that should be very pleasing to them.

My most beloved Monsignor, I know very well that this is placing upon you another heavy burden upon one who should really be relieved of them. But, at the same time, it is so important that an organization which is just beginning its work, so acceptable to the Lord, should then do everything with good order so that each retreatant will (in a manner of speaking) leave his heart there at the Cappellette of St. Aloysius. So, be courageous and let us carry out the work *ad majorem Dei gloriam*.<sup>58</sup>

Do not attribute it to importunity if I recommend that you handle the rescript for the Union of St. Paul contemporaneously with the retreat at the Sapienza, for in doing that things will move ahead as I suggested in a previous letter. Now, in behalf of Fr. Ostini, I must ask you to intercede with the Monsignor Treasurer to get him to name Fr. Andrea Butirroni, a very capable member of ours, as the representative for the prisoners of the Colosseum. Previously, this position was held by Fr. Costanzi who has just left for Brazil. Without saying a word to the Union of St. Paul, which is in charge of this pious work, he had substituted a young man whom the directors of the Union consider immature. Furthermore, the Treasurer had been informed about a certain Uber, not a member of the Union, and it was thought that he was not fit for the position. Perhaps the Union of St. Paul should have had the opportunity of making a free choice of the representative, or, at least, with enthusiastic zeal should have asked for it etc. In a word, Ostini has already proposed Butirroni to the Treasurer and he would like you to add your own most earnest recommendations.

I have been lengthy in this letter in order to keep you posted precisely in what has been going on. God will offer us other opportunities for making suitable use of the other two applicants of ours. In the meantime, let the Treasurer look into this because the community is paying out seven *scudi* for the priest etc. who is assisting.

I have written a lot, but hurriedly. Pray for me, and with esteem, most venerable Monsignor, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

March 8, 1817

P. S. The Majordomo says that beds should be prepared for 24 and we are in agreement that he would be responsible for supplying the individuals with information. If you deem it

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<sup>58</sup> To the greater glory of God.

expedient, when you look into this, *quasi aliud agens*,<sup>59</sup> remember this very point so that it is not overlooked.

143

March 13, 1817  
 Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Rome  
 Venerable Monsignor

Canon Muccioli has assumed the job of contacting Fortuna, and his reply will render my decision stable. On Saturday morning after holy Communion, the retreatants will return to their homes. You are to see to it that the next shift begins on the following Monday. If, after hearing Fortuna's report, you should learn from someone that I am overworking, etc., please put no value at all on what you hear from them. When I follow the directives given to me by the Holy Spirit, I have no fear at all of making a mistake, and, with divine mercy, my health will support me.

Thank you for the memorandum from the Passionists. It has brought about good results. However, I would like to ask you to get Fr. Girolamo to make a list for me of the Indulgences which he has been so kind to obtain for my Crucifix; do this when you find it convenient. I simply do not know how to express to you the joy that I feel upon seeing an undertaking, or better said, various undertakings being initiated that all tend to the good of souls. God is keeping an account of the efforts that you have made in a cause that promotes so greatly his glory. And, oh how I would like to be profuse and say more, except that I fear that I might offend your humility. I shall say only that many other things have got to be done, little by little, and at the right time. More about this when we meet in person. We must become victims for the glory of God and not worry at all about anything else.

As for the organizations to be established at the Sapienza and the Belle Arti, my opinion would be to join these two branches into one in the church of the Sapienza; or, if you think otherwise, one could be set up in the Sapienza and the other in the Apollinare, since there is a chapel there in the Collegio. My idea is that they should not be joined to the Union of St. Paul, but the one in the Sapienza should be dependent on the Consistorial Lawyers and the one in the Belle Arti dependent on the Cardinal Treasurer. In that way, it seems to me, things could be conducted with more regularity. If Ostini, as the secretary of the Union of St. Paul, wants to join them to that group, I do not consider that prudent, and the entire question should be discussed with him at a convenient time. This will not demand too much, etc. As long as I am in Rome, I will keep looking into this. Then, too, on the occasion of giving Missions, new members will be sought.

So, you decide and arrange things as the Lord inspires you. In the meantime, pray for me incessantly, my most beloved Monsignor, and with esteem and respect, I am

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<sup>59</sup> As if doing something else.

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del B.*

P. S. I think it would be a good idea on Communion morning, to give some small spiritual gift to the nobility. It could be an article of religious dress, a rosary, a small booklet of Muzzarelli on the proper use of logic, etc. which can be purchased from the printer, Lino Contedini in S. Giovanni della Pigna. I can get them for 7 ½ *baiocchi* each. But, if you think it would be better to give them a booklet of the Maxims of Liguori, this too would be equally as good. I leave all to your good judgment. In case I would have to give the second shift of retreats, I will take care of everything and they will all be properly sustained. The Belle Arti should have theirs fixed for Thursday, and Storace will look for confessors.

144

March 17, 1817

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Shortly after leaving your house this morning, I went along thinking of how to set up a suitable arrangement for the Noble Guards which would then be a stimulus to the others of the Nobility themselves. The Lord suggested an idea to me which, I hope, will be approved, namely, to fix once a month, in the Cappellette of St. Aloysius, one day of retreat, so as to keep ever alive the spirit of the ways of the Lord. The usefulness of our beloved institute is already realized by you in the wisdom of your own thinking. This arrangement will make it easy for all, especially by selecting days, keeping in mind when each of the units of the Guards is on duty with the Holy Father; surely, they will have the opportunity every two months to visit, once again, those blessed walls and that sacred chapel where they have dedicated their hearts to the most holy Mary. Presently, the Lord is looking for you to work out this grand idea which, *per indirectum*,<sup>60</sup> gives a solid foundation for retreats to be given in future years. It will be my job to arrange for participation in the indulgences that are enjoyed in the church of the Gesu by anyone who is enrolled in the Buona Morte association. And, in the event that you prefer not to be recognized as the director, you could nevertheless be of service to the retreatants in the two shifts, by pointing out that the entire matter was a request made by one who has had the good fortune of enjoying the peace of a holy retreat. In my opinion, any other explanation that could be suggested would not have the same effect nor, at the same time, satisfaction.

The meeting that I will be pleased to have with you, as I have already suggested, I would like to have after Easter, but between you and me alone, excluding the others, since a steady progress in these things calls for that. In your dealings with Orsini, concerning the establishment of an organization in the Sapienza, I beg you to keep in mind the title of the Sorrowful Mother

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<sup>60</sup> Indirectly.

Mary a lovely title, reflecting our tender, filial love for her who will be our help in our final agony. In regard to this matter, I think it would be a good thing to suggest to him that this project can be handled in a regular fashion. The children of the Oratorio dei Polacchi should be entrusted to Monsignor Santelli who is zealously in charge of the Adunanza del Pianto and who is so successful with young people. Also, the priests of the Union of St. Paul in restricted numbers could be involved with the group set up in the Sapienza, but giving the principle intervention to the Marchese Filonardi, presently in charge of every celebration involving the aims of the Polacchi. All of this can be brought to a conclusion by holding a meeting with Monsignor Santelli and Ostini the former being a man with whom I have a close relationship. This wonderful Monsignor Santelli will be very helpful in maintaining good order in the retreats in the Belle Arti and Ostini would have the opportunity of observing him in that work.

Remind Storace to search for confessors for the Apollinare. I also ask you to bear in mind the request for faculties for the Missions, listed on the last page, for the retreat during Holy Week to be granted to all the confessors at the Cappellette etc., as well as for the Masses on Holy Thursday, etc.

Recall too what I wrote to you concerning my Crucifix. Plan to celebrate holy Mass in the Cappellette on the feast of St. Aloysius Gonzaga. May your most precious health be in his hands, and, though in a hurry, believe me to be

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del B.*

House, March 17, 1817

## 145

March 30, 1817

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I have punctually carried out your messages to Canon Storace. I am, however, not too tranquil about the situation of the Noble Guards, since the day of retreat has not been definitely set and also because it might be shortened to a single day after lunch on the last Thursday of each month, either at the Prima Primaria or at the Cappellette, which is much better since it offers the opportunity to participate to any nobleman who might want to set aside time to attend etc. In that way, from the very beginning this project could be managed well. Concerning this, I would not have written anything to you again if I had not been advised to do so. I note that Fr. Ostini gives in too easily to apparent arguments that are proposed without malice. To do what is proper, we must set up our firm and decisive system, otherwise nothing will be effected. The Noble Guards are almost all young men from other countries and these men will later be so many trumpets for the glory of God in their own homelands. But, I leave the whole matter to your wise judgment.

Tomorrow<sup>61</sup> we shall have the opening at the Cappellette. I protest, from this very moment, that I do not intend to have the same thing happen that took place last year to my surprise, namely, in regard to gifts. I absolutely refuse that sort of thing and I am most resolute about this. At evening time, I am accustomed to having a small chocolate drink with supper and Castelli is already informed of this practice. I tell you all this, realizing that you are the one who praiseworthy takes care of economic matters.

During these days in my delightful solitude here in the Cappellette, I am altogether enthused for the purpose of giving glory to God, day and night. After the ladies-in-waiting, however, I must return home where I have several business appointments to attend to etc. and it would be an inconvenience for me to remain for the meal in the refectory. So, in this matter, too, I am giving you this information so that you can advise the people in the kitchen and thus have everything handled perfectly for that is what the glory of God demands. Above all, offer prayers *sine intermissione*<sup>62</sup> so that in preaching to others, I myself do not become worse.

Take care of yourself and, venerable Monsignor, with esteem and special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Buf.*

P. S. On my own, I am sending the sheets for my bed, etc. You probably have obtained the faculties etc.

## 146

April 13, 1817

Monsignor Bellisario Cristadi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Fr. Ostini is a hard man to find. Finally, I left a note for him in which I reminded him of the objective with which I was charged, suggesting to him, for the sake of brevity, that he should direct to you those people whom he deemed suitable, along with the pertinent information.

With regard to Fr. Andrea Butirroni, I am including his own note with reference to the presidency. If this member is installed (as long as no one else is offended) a real treasure will be gained.

Most illustrious and very reverend Monsignor, with esteem I am your

Most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>61</sup> An annotation on the fourth page of the original indicates "1817". Santelli says that this letter was written "after the second shift of retreats" for the Noble Guards, which was concluded on March 22. Furthermore, Santelli says that during the first days of Holy Week in 1817, St. Gaspar gave the retreat "to special people in the Cappellette of St. Aloysius". The "tomorrow" refers, in all probability, to Monday of Holy Week which in 1817 fell on March 31. Hence we date this letter March 30<sup>th</sup>.

<sup>62</sup> Without intermission.

House, April 13, 1817

At present, Butirroni is at the retreat for confessors for the Mission. This is for your information.

**147**

June 21, 1817

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Dear Fr. Luigi

On the feast of St. Aloysius, I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter. With regard to weapons, one cannot lay down fixed rules for all.

1) It is certain that they must hand over to you weapons that are prohibited in order not to get involved in conspiracies.

2) It is certain that you must demand them from penitents who show signs of a wellfounded fear of making an improper use of them or because they are becoming a proximate occasion of sin for them.

But if the penitent's weapon is not an illegal one and there are no signs or other prudent fears, then one must handle the matter in the best way possible. One cannot use the same firmness with these as with the ones previously mentioned. You certainly understand me. In general, however, one should obtain all of them, using good treatment and prayer. According to what is revealed, the case might also arise that there could be a plausible reason for having them. More about this can be discussed when we see each other in person. Remember me in your prayers. I am in a hurry, but with esteem I am

Your humble servant

*Gaspare C. del B.*

Rome, June 21, 1817

**148**

July 27, 1817

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I have just received a letter from the most reverend bishop of Loreto and Recanati in which he invites me to give holy Missions in the two aforementioned cities. Since he would like me to hasten my arrival in his diocese in order to be there before the time for vacations and harvest time, he writes as follows: "I recommend that the Mission be held during the opening days of next month; then, after a short rest, continue on to Recanati after the Mission in Loreto. This haste will forestall a variety of excuses that might arise or come up unexpectedly. So, I have

decided on this procedure for the good of my flock as well as to make atonement to the Lord for these present chastisements, etc. I will take care of the expenses incurred, etc.."

I owe all of this to you as the promotor of this work of giving Missions and I also enjoy the good fortune of having your wonderful nephew as my companion.

Pray for me, most illustrious and reverend Monsignor, and with the fullness of esteem, respect and gratitude, I repeat that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House, July 27, 1817

P. S. The most reverend bishop will reimburse the expenses incurred for the trip, for anyone who will present a letter from me etc.

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December 20, 1817

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dearest Father Anacleto

A couple of lines in a hurry. I have given the leaflets of the Offerings to Canon Muccioli. In the copy of the second edition, you will notice the Indulgence that can be gained by anyone who recites them. In getting these leaflets reprinted, make use of that copy in which the Indulgence is indicated. Canon Marchetti has asked me about the results of your dealings with Lawyer Manari (if I am not mistaken) with regard to his nephew. Do this Canon a favor. Goodbye.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, December 20, 1817

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December 24, 1817

Fr. Felice Corbi

Cori

Most esteemed Canon

A couple of lines in a hurry, making use of this opportunity also to wish you every blessing of the Lord upon the recurrence of this great solemnity.

At the time when I was there giving a holy Mission, Mr. Ceracchi, brother of the missionary, spoke to me about a certain request of his to his Eminence that you are aware of. I turned this over to Canon Polidori. At Rocca Massima, I was reminded of that request but, not remembering specifically what it dealt with, I am now inconveniencing you to send a memorandum to Canon Polidori, who has already been alerted by me. But, please, hasten that memorandum, since he will soon be leaving for Paris. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*  
Rome, December 24, 1817