

St. Gaspar's Letters

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1301

January 17, 1826
 Msgr. Pietro Caprano
 Secretary of Propaganda Fide
 Bishop of Iconium
 Rome

Most illustrious and reverend sir¹

This is the response, enclosed herein, for the Cardinal ProPrefect. I ask that you please read it also so that you can support it with your prayers in which I am so confident. Oh how many tears I have shed in reacting to the needs of so many Catholics, and oh how much more shall I dedicate myself to prayer, that the Lord *mittat operarios in vineam suam*.² Here, in Giano, we have a House of studies for some excellent young men who are subdeacons or deacons, etc. They are preparing themselves by way of studies and are establishing themselves firmly in Catholic piety so that they can become instruments for the greater glory of God. These men form my delight. The needs of the people, my Monsignor, are indescribable. Keep me in your prayers at Holy Mass, so that I can spend my life fulfilling my vocation and concurring in every way possible for the welfare of souls, which, by being sanctified by the Divine Blood, they will quench the thirst of our adorable Divine Master, the thirst that he has for souls. I kiss your hands. Most venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, 17th of 1826

1302

January 17, 1826

¹ This letter is a xeroxed copy of the original which is preserved in the archives of the Congregation of Propaganda Fide.

² [He] send workers into his vineyard

Cardinal Giulio Della Somaglia
 ProPrefect of Propaganda Fide
 Rome
 Your Eminence³

In reply to your most reverend Eminence's esteemed letter of the seventh of this current month, I assure you that you will have available one of my very beloved companions for the purpose of cooperating in this most important religious undertaking that you refer to in your most appreciated letter. At only a word from you, I shall do nothing other than work along with you in the execution of this very important project, considering as strict commands the evermore edifying desires of your Eminence. The choice will be made from three of our members. The first is Canon Carboneri who was deported during the recent troubles and later joined our Institute; the second is Father Giovanni Merlini, one of my first companions; the third is Father Biagio Valentini, admitted into our Society by the nowdeceased Monsignor Albertini, the Institutor of our Missions. One or the other will surely accept this beautiful career. To the glory of the Lord, I am not competent in giving particular praise in behalf of these men: the best praise is the purity of their intentions and the irreprehensible conduct of their lives in the vast field of God's glory. They are already accustomed to being detached from relatives, and more and more, are promoting successful projects to the benefit of our holy Religion, the sole delight of our hearts. With our Institute protected by your Eminence, more and more will it offer strong support to the foreign missions; the Divine Blood, with due application, will cleanse the consciences of people. Finally, I ask your most reverend Eminence not to forget me in your prayers so that I will be able to respond to the exalted aims of the priesthood. Kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor, most reverend Eminence, with profound esteem and homage, of assuring you again that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Missionario Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, 17th of 1826

1303

January 20, 1826

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Thank you with all my heart for your letter, and I am even more moved because of the zeal that you are pleased, for the glory of God, to show and to maintain in defense of our

³ Cfr. the footnote to the preceding letter.

Institute through which, everywhere in the world, the inestimable price of redemption, the Blood of Jesus Christ, will be applied. In fact, presently I am in lettercorrespondence with Cardinal della Somaglia, ProPrefect of the Propaganda, who is interested in and seeking workers for the foreign missions, and I, too, am going to send someone there. Praise be to God. Pray and have others pray for this intention. Oh how much I would love to have a Mission house established there. I have always cherished in my heart a special fondness for Alatri. Our membership is growing but so also are the requests for Missions in such a way that I do not know how to express myself on this situation. I am primarily interested in not overlooking the places where we have our foundations. But whatever may come up for the bishop there, to whom you will give my best regards, all he needs to do is drop me a word in sufficient time. In the meanwhile, do not cease cultivating your program there *in omnibus*⁴ that you manifested to me, et extensive with regard to the Oratory. Write a letter of appreciation to Guarcino because of the fervor that they are maintaining there. Oh how that sort of thing brings consolation to my poor spirit! Yes, indeed, let us continue to do great work and let us become saints, maintaining our spiritual pacts in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I return my sincerest greetings to all those you named in your letter.

In regard to our Tagliaferri, he is progressing in spirit but, with regard to being a priest, I have told him and others that if one does not know at least sufficiently the moral theology necessary, I will not be able to agree to the ordination, *edoctus experientia*.⁵ So, now, all of them are busy studying with great and special concern, and I am happy with all of them. I had him reflect that a priest could find himself with a dying person and without sufficient knowledge, what would he do?

I would like you to become one of the promoters of the month of June consecrated to the devotion of the Divine Blood. You are probably acquainted with the booklet used for the month. When you succeed in doing this good work in a place, should the booklet be lacking, write to me. Finally, get a copy of the little ascetical work, that you know about, from Merlini. There may be an error or so in the printing. It is a good thing to inform you of this. May Jesus be our delight. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 20th of 1826

P. S. When the opportunity arises, be insistent with the Treasurer and, when the means allow, also with the pope, in behalf of Alatri. In Frosinone, who knows whether the Commune will favor the project of S. Agostino or not. Up to now, more are against than for. Patience.

⁴ In all things.

⁵ Taught by experience.

With regard to the soul, etc. etc., miserable thing that I am, I shall continue to pray. Who knows whether God is not reserving her for the Institute of the Sisters Adorers of the Divine Blood? What about the painting of S. Xavier? Give my greetings to your uncle, etc.

I urge you to look after the Breviaries for Father Vittorio. Always send the rentpayments to Father Giovanni Merlini.⁶

1304

January 22, 1826
 Msgr. Pietro Caprano
 Secretary of Propaganda Fide
 Bishop of Iconium
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷

Venerable Monsignor⁸

By special delivery I have manifested to Canon Carboneri the most lovable will of God concerning the Mission that the Lord is offering to him in the island of S. Maura. From his own reply, you will note his most edifying and moving sentiments. This man, during the recent deportations, was indeed *in passione socius*.⁹ He is of mature age, able to speak French and has, in short, those qualities that are required in an apostolic man. So, please indicate to me whether you wish him to come to Rome and when, and you will be immediately obeyed. However, neither he nor the Society is in a position to cover the expenses involved. I have no doubt that they will be reimbursed by you. For my own peace of mind, I add that you should not be surprised if our replies are delayed by a day or so. That is due to the inevitable slowness of the mail deliveries caused by the so-called mailmen who distribute the letters. Recommend me often, very often to God. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend sir, and always with the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, 22nd of 1826

I add that if it is possible, I will join one of our Brothers with the Missionary. He would be useful in giving catechetical instructions etc. etc. In regard to this, I submit to your very wise

⁶ This last paragraph was written alongside the address.

⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

⁸ See the footnote to the letter of January 17th to the same man.

⁹ Companion in suffering.

judgment.

Afterwards, perhaps our Institute would be able to have one of those Mission foundations as other Institutes have. I am hopeful that our Missionary will be effective in every way to bring about a successful result. Oh how deeply saddened I was to learn of the decadence of Catholic piety in the other islands that you referred to in your most appreciated letter, etc. etc. Once again I assure you that I am your most humble, devoted and obliged servant.

1305

January 22, 1826
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰

Venerable Monsignor

I thought that it might be useful for you to read the enclosed matter. In going through your letters, whatever you think should be saved, please send back to me for the Institute's archives. Thank you wholeheartedly for your letter. When you see his Eminence della Somaglia, to whom I have already sent a reply on the matter, you might, as a particular favor for me, tell him that I have written recently to Monsignor Caprano, that the member is ready to go, namely, Canon Father Gaspare Carboneri, a man of mature age, formerly a companion in exile, and one endowed with the necessary talents for the holy career to which God is calling him. I kiss your hands, most venerable Monsignor, and with esteem, respect and constant gratitude, while asking you for your incessant prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 22nd of 1826

1306

January 22, 1826
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Oh how pleased I was to see your handwriting again, though I am always mindful of you as a most lovable person. Thank you with all my heart for the prayers that you offer for me and I ask you even to multiply them now that the Propaganda Fide is asking our Institute to send workers into the foreign Missions. These men are already set to go. However, pray and have

¹⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

others pray too, especially for me, the most miserable one of all. The House of studies here in S. Felice is my delight. ... Oh how promising they all look.

Excuse me if I have delayed sending a reply to your letter. It is the ministry which causes the delay. It is quite true that Ancona has been asking for us to give Missions there. In this ordinary mail delivery, I am going to send a letter to Canon Ottaviani. Here is another reason for prayers. I hope that, one day, our little Institute will have a foundation in Offida. Oh how often I think of that relic which is kept in S. Agostino! I wish that God would send workers into Offida to do such great work as would never have been accomplished by my going there. With pleasure, did I learn of the excellent development of your saintly sons; I hope that they all become like St. Aloysius. Also, your daughters, have no doubt... they too will fulfill your just and holy aspirations. My deepest regards to all in your household. Let us remain in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ where I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect along with a very special love, while urging you to promote our devotion, especially for the month of June. etc.,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, 22nd of 1826

P. S. If you do not have the booklet for the month, write to me.

1307

January 24, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Even though I had written to the bishop of Aquila that I would be arranging the Missions, in general, he has addressed the enclosed matter to me. So, you will have to try to open up again a discourse with his Holiness to ask for the confirmation of my faculties, a voice, which were granted to us for the past year. The year is to be calculated *a die concessionis*.¹¹ If you think that this should not be discussed, please send word to me so that I can decide what I am to do.

My Monsignor, I am not able to handle the postal expenses without the remainder. I know that you will look into this, and I can do nothing more than to pray. May God hear our prayer. This House of studies is a garden. I would not leave this House for a single minute. New members are being added. Pray to Jesus for me, miserable thing, so that I will be able to prepare myself well for the eternal years. Presently, at table, we are reading the life of the Venerable Berchmans. ... Oh how well I remember those holy days when I had the good fortune to live within those walls in the Collegio, and to enjoy his most lovable company. But the true and

¹¹ From the day of concession.

lasting union will take place in heaven. I kiss your hands, and full of esteem, respect and endless gratitude, most reverend excellency, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Aap.

S. Felice, 24th of 1826

P. S. A poor woman urged me so insistently to recommend the enclosed to you.

1308

January 24, 1826

Fr. Francesco Meletti

Fano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious and reverend sir

Oh how consoled I was by your edifying zeal in behalf of this most important devotion! May the Lord increase it ever more and more.

Ordinarily, the fasting is practiced out of devotion at an established time, but, for a reasonable cause, it can be changed if it is in no way opposed. Nevertheless, whenever expedient, the practices should be lined up with those practiced in Rome! In the meantime, you adjust things as you see best. Little by little everything will be handled better. The consideration also of the plenary indulgence should not be disregarded. The month, observed in preparation for the feast, is being printed up and I suppose that you will have it on hand for the sake of promoting the devotion. If not, write and let me know.

As for the term surroundings, this does not mean the entire diocese, but simply the area under the care of Fano and its inhabitants. I think that I have expressed this clearly enough. If not, please feel free to ask me questions. So, anyone who happens to be in Fano, can be enrolled by you, as long as the registering takes place there. In that listing, the hometown should be included, along with the name, familyname and the date of inscription, including the name of the respective diocese.

To obtain the privilege for having the Mass, you are to send me a petition which includes the plenary indulgence etc. Perhaps there will be a small charge in the secretariat for this work. I am not altogether sure about this. If you have someone to represent you in Roma, you might ask him to take care of this for you. Otherwise, I will supply as best I can, to fulfill your every wish. It is necessary, however, that in your petition you must point out that the Mass is to be had at a different time etc. The 33 *Pater nosters* would not suffice for the indulgence of the Chaplet. The work enjoined is not exactly fulfilled. In that case, anyone who is unable to read, will gain other indulgences attached, by reciting the 7 *Gloria Patris* every day, and attendance at the recitation of the Chaplet in church, whenever possible.

I shall be sending you the fifty booklets that you requested, and this time, it will be quite satisfactory if you offer one Mass for my soul, as soon as you have received them.

In this matter, as well as in other things, you should take charge. I ask you, please, for your prayers, and that you become a Missionary. Read the life of Xavier. A couple of our men are leaving for the foreign missions, requested by the Holy Father. Oh the extreme need that there is for workers! Here, in this House, we have a gathering of excellent young men who are all preparing for the ministry. Pray and have others pray for them. It is necessary to send out workers everywhere, so that the earth will be cleansed in the Divine Blood. In Jesus Christ crucified, while kissing your hands, I am, most venerable Canon, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, 24th of 1826

1309

January 26, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your always precious letters, I thought that I would include this sheet¹² showing the Missions that have been carried out in the Province of Marittima and Campagna, at least, those that I was able quickly to recall. I did not list the Retreats in Veroli, the frequent catechetical instructions in that city etc. etc. etc. By way of comment, in holy confidence, if someone were to initiate a process investigating our Society, I would hope that they would discover even more. I add that I have said nothing about the assignment of our men into the other provinces; in Benevento etc.; in the diocese of Gaeta, where Vallecorsa is under that jurisdiction. *Satis de hoc*.¹³ Jesus, our most loving Father, will manifest the glories of his Divine Blood. I give thanks to the almighty that other Institutes render their services and that a holy harmony in doing good work is promoted. But, *necessitate compulsus*,¹⁴ I must say that they are able to do very, very little because of a lack of workers, I think. Vocations that involve the taking of vows, nowadays, I find are exceedingly scarce. On the other hand, blessed would I be if I had the means available! The rooms that we have in our locales would not suffice to hold even the young men who, having come out of the seminaries, are longing to get into the work of the ministry. Is God with us in this effort or not? Do you suppose that the devil is pleased to see the clergy dedicated to the glories of the Crucified Lord? After all, that is why we are priests, to apply the

¹² See the next letter.

¹³ Enough of this.

¹⁴ Compelled by necessity.

merits of the Divine Blood. "*Redemisti nos Domine in Sanguine tuo*"¹⁵ and also "*fecisti nos Deo nostro Regnum et Sacerdotes*".¹⁶ Therefore, wishing to bring about the reform, it was necessary to begin this great work, starting with the sanctuary. This is what God wants; then, the rest will follow. Workers are needed everywhere. From now on, the clergy *in sacris* etc. That is all.

Now with regard to subsidies. The Passionists are beggars; everything they have comes from begging, and they lack nothing. The Liguori Fathers are different from us, and their language does not apply to our way of doing things; I know nothing about whatever they may have in temporal matters. I wish all of them the very best and I esteem them all. But, our Society is for the benefit of the clergy. There are those who have the vow of poverty, and we, without having the vow, practice it and feel its weight to the glory of God, and, without wishing to be injurious to anyone, I might respectfully say that we observe it better than those who take the vow.

We chuckle to the glory of God. Those subsidies have maintained so many of our places, as well as the churches which would have ended up in ruins if they had not been taken care of by us. Even though those places may not have been inhabited, the Society was given the burden of preparing hospices with the understanding that they would be supported by special assistance. Then, when the Institute became the target of both good and bad people, it no longer held its position. Those subsidies helped to promote the ministry, to furnish the churches with utensils, at least those things that were urgent, and have helped to provide sacred functions in the churches.

This all verifies the fact that our Houses are continuous Missions, open to all. Our Houses have provided food for our workers, as well as to provide them with beds etc. We say nothing about the expenses brought on by sicknesses, and by the care required for the Brothers who cannot be denied food and clothing; the progress of the building programs in Frosinone and Vallecorsa that were based on the hopes of receiving the promised funds, as well as the *lectum*.¹⁷

Finally, after prudent calculation, one can see what a community faces when considering the confusion of the sacred and the temporal, especially with new foundations; one can readily see the urgent need for extinguishing every debt from the Institute and giving it a helping hand to strengthen it, animate it, extend it and propagate it. We are living in times in which the Divine Blood must cleanse the entire world. In desiring to reach that end, we must seek to have the mixed means, so proper to mankind's way of working.

The Province of Marittima and Campagna can be compared to any of the others in the good that has been done; and that is definite. I stated that we should animate it and extend it, for it is inevitable that the young men, in particular, after leaving the seminaries, should be welcomed into the House of studies. Some of them, then, will leave to become Pastors, others

¹⁵ You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your blood.

¹⁶ You have made us for our God a kingdom and priests.

¹⁷ Selected.

holy Canons, and others workers in the labors of the ministry; still others will be members in our Mission and Retreat Houses, oratories and the organizations promoting retreats, prayers, and studies and they will restore decorum to the clergy and lead them to sanctity. Not a few of them will go into the foreign missions. This is the basis of the reform, and until this is put into motion, let me state it thus, there will be no balancing out of good work accomplished.

The Jesuits with their schools are doing very well. But if the young people see gut scandals, then *unus aedificat, et alter destruit*.¹⁸ Whoever foresaw this Society, oh how many beautiful things it has manifested! I have mentioned them to you, I have written them to you. Now, all that remains is to pray all the more. To be perfectly open with you, whenever I get started on certain things, I seem never to be able to come to an end. So, enough of that for now, asserting that I intend to discuss only the essence of things; never do I have any doubt at all about your very religious persuasiveness, zeal and concern for God's cause.

The life I lead in Giano

Here, we are a community of twentyfive. These young men, some who are newlyordained priests, others deacons or subdeacons, are my delight. I think that cultivating these plants is something contributing to the greater glory of God; it is something better than anything else I could do in any other of our Houses (except for one or the other Mission). In the mornings, after religious devotions etc., there is the study of Theology, and selected Sacred Scripture. After the noon meal, study of the rituals, ceremonies, apologetics, preaching etc. Whenever I have to leave (and now it is not as frequent as before, in order to substitute for companions) there is someone who will substitute for me in this arrangement. I assure you that I have never had to study so much, so to speak, as I do now. In spring, I shall have to go to Ancona, but first to Aquila. In Lent, it will be necessary to handle what was settled with Archbishop Ancajani, along with the assignment in Assisi, and Todi etc. So, the will of God is quite clear with regard to my stay here. Nevertheless, if you should command me otherwise, I will be blindly obedient.

Obedience is depicted in the form of a statue that has hands and feet, but no head, like certain statues that are seen in Osimo. In the Province of Campagna, everything is in order, and the strictest lettercorrespondence is had with the bishops as well as with our own men; so this matter of postage gets to be quite a serious consideration. God knows how close to my heart is the place where the remains of our Founder lie.

The members are already selected for the Missions in Vallecorsa and elsewhere, in addition to the shifts of Retreats etc. Now, you in prayer recognize the motives for my present situation concerning which it seems to me that I should remain at ease before God. If the Holy Father would begin by opening up these mystical fountains everywhere, he would see how rapidly the reform would come about in the State. I have no doubt that when the opportunity arises you will point out with respectful liberty, inspired by God in your desire for his glory, that

¹⁸ One builds, another drestroys.

without suffering, indeed a great deal of suffering, nothing can really be achieved.

Please excuse my long-windedness. It seems as though I have become a parrot in spouting everything that virtue should tend to hide within itself. But what is one supposed to do? Sometimes we must have before us what the apostle says: "*Veniam ad revelationes*", etc. etc.¹⁹

Do not forget about my faculties, or at least let me know what you think about them. As a favor, I will be awaiting your answer to this letter. Here, in this sanctuary, the attendance is indescribable and a great deal of good work is being done. Praise be to God. Are the Jesuits going to pay the pension or not? How about those arrearpayments?

I conclude by saying that I would not want the Holy Father, in entrusting work to the Society, to overlook what is basic to it. There is never a lack of commentators and program directors, but, speaking in general, it is written: "*Cavete ab hominibus*".²⁰ The Holy Spirit will illuminate the Supreme Pontiff in being able to make a decision, while all I know is that the final solution is in the supplying of the subsidies. If they are dropped, there is no room for competition or commentaries etc. May the will of God be done in everything. and, if our Houses in the Province, which are accomplishing so much good work, are closed, oh my, oh my what troubles! I kiss your hands. With complete affection, esteem and veneration, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 26th of 1826

P. S. In the event that the Holy Father deigns to cast a glance toward our insignificant Institute, I point out that it would be necessary to suggest to him that if he has misplaced the pages describing our whole reason for existing, I will be happy to replace them immediately. Likewise, I hope that he will be pleased to appoint a member who could do better in guiding our Society etc. etc., leaving me to be the sacristan here in S. Felice. I still cherish the joy associated with the things that are being done; in particular my apostolic activities which, with the help of divine grace, I will be separated from only by death itself etc. etc.

1310

January 26, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

List of the Missions

conducted in the Province of Marittima and Campagna

I. Terracina

15. Pofi

¹⁹ Let me come to revelations, etc., etc.

²⁰ Be on guard against men.

- | | |
|---|----------------|
| 2. Sezze | 16. Aarnara |
| 3. Piperno | 17. Prossedi |
| 4. Sermoneta | 18. Vallecorsa |
| 5. Bassiano | 19. Supino |
| 6. Roccaporga | 20. Morollo |
| 7. Maenza | 21. Acuto |
| 8. Roccasecca | 22. Piglio |
| 9. Sonnino | 23. Giuliano |
| 10. S. Felice Diocese of
Terracina, seacoast | 24. Segni |
| 11. Alatri | 25. Valmontone |
| 12. Guarcino | 26. Carpineto |
| 13. Ferentino | 27. Gavignano |
| 14. Frosinone | 28. Ripi |

No mention is made of the public Retreats that were promoted as well as the private ones in seminaries, monasteries, etc. etc. No mention is made of the Missions that were repeated in the places listed above; nothing about the pious organizations that were set up. It would be sufficient simply to interrogate the bishops. Constrained by necessity, I have put together this listing, and I conclude by saying that by a miracle of God the Missionaries are still able to stand.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

1311

January 26, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

For your consolation, I report to you that the shift of Retreats in Rimini, following the pattern of Rome, have been set in motion. They are also in full swing in Sermoneta, Terracina, Sonnino etc. At first, we had to do a bit of bending. Now, I am barely managing to maintain Albano. In your prayers, try to find some sort of solution. My heart is like a ship tossed about on an open sea. In short, a solution to what is justly ours, such as those arrearpayments, and the situation that exists in Albano. There is no reason at all for subjecting them to any investigation. Enough. You are prudent, etc.²¹

²¹ This brief paragraph is found on the outercovering which held other letters. There is no handwritten date on it, but from the postal marking, the place of departure (Foligno) and the day of arrival, January 26, 1826 are evident. This outercovering was filed right after the letter of January 26, 1826 which covers an entire sheet written on four sides, plus a halfsheet where the listing of the Missions is given. So, in all probability this outercovering included the letter of January 26, 1826 along with the listing of the Missions. Consequently, we assign to it the date of January 26, 1826.

1312

January 26, 1826
 Fortunato M. Ranzi
 Sora

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²²

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I inform you that you can, indeed, send two carriages to Frosinone for the evening of the 8th of March, so that I or one of my companions, in case I am not able, will get there, with God's grace, to conduct the Retreat.

Most illustrious sir, I thank you wholeheartedly for the kindness you show to me. Asking you for your prayers, and extending my most humble regards to all the members of your Congregation, with esteem and respect, I declare that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, 26th of 1826

1313

January 30, 1826
 Fr. Giovanni Mimmi
 Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

I have figured out from one of your letters what I owe yet. Check to see whether there is any mistake. I will be sending you the net amount.

Oh how many obligations I have to you!

May it please God, for Easter I will be needing some good and aged *preciutti* which I think are better. I will shortly be sending you word. But let us be in agreement with as much precision as possible in regard to being economical.

With regard to the Mission, we are first awaiting the decision of the most reverend bishop of Todi; otherwise, I would be afraid of causing confusion. In Castel di Lago, the Mission will certainly be conducted in Lent. There is also Cannara etc. Offer prayers for me who, though always so heavily obliged to you, am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

²² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

S. Felice, 30th of 1826²³

Let me know what I owe for the coaches. Pray for me etc. Now, in Rome they are asking for workers for the Propaganda, etc. Prayers.

1314

January 31, 1826
 Msgr. Ottavio Zolio
 Bishop of Rimini
 Rimini

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

Venerable Monsignor

This is the excellent and spirited Father Antonio Liparelli,²⁵ our Missionary, who will do the preaching for holy Lent.

I recommend myself to your prayers and, while kissing your hands, I declare with distinct esteem and respect that I am

Devotedly yours
G. Can. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.

From the Retreat House in S. Felice, 31st of 1826

1315

January 31, 1826
 Fr. Francesco Meletti
 Fano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I am sending you the booklet for the month which will build up your fervor greatly in this most important devotion. All in all, offer one Mass for my soul, and that will be sufficient. Do not put yourself out in any other way.

However, I would ask you to please welcome, for one night, my companion²⁶ who is passing through there and the bearer of this letter, I will be most obliged to you. He is on his way

²³ The copy has 1836 as the date, but that is certainly erroneous as is evident from the content of the letter. Cfr. the letter to the same person, dated January 6, 1826.

²⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

²⁵ The copy has the name as Ciparelli. The copy also has other different and evident mistakes.

²⁶ On the outer sheet is written, by another hand, the name of Fr. Antonio Liparelli.

to Rimini to preach holy Lent.

To only the enrolled members, male and female, is the faculty of the blessings extended. There is no obligatory formula prescribed; only holy water is called for. The Chaplets can be of any sort, and they will have those indulgences which they would have had if they had been blessed by the Holy Father. If I have forgotten anything, please remind me. While informing you that you can discuss further details in person with my companion, I remain, dear Canon, with esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant,

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, 31st of 1826

1316

February 1, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo²⁷

Venerable Monsignor

I have received your most appreciated letter in which you inform me of the Holy Father's desires that I come to Rome. So, I shall come, but it is necessary that you please send me the order for 50 *scudi*, for which I am most obligated to you, so that I can cover the traveling expenses. You mention this in your letter, but then there was nothing enclosed. To tell you the truth, in order to be immediately obedient, I would even have come on foot, day after day, but a bit of feverishness made me decide not to overlook the means that providence would offer. Actually, at present, thanks be to God, I am well, and so it was not necessary even to refer to that small indisposition which I mentioned only by way of a sideremark to demonstrate to you my promptness of spirit to be obedient.

Here, the maildelivery has been unreliable. So, in case you have to send a letter to someone, it should be sent in charge of me. In the meanwhile, I am making myself available, and I shall bring along with me the Missionary selected for the Propaganda who is in the house in Camerino, and tomorrow I shall move on to get him. You indicated in your statements that you would be able to suggest this man to His Holiness, from whom you will be seeking to get an apostolic blessing. Also, because of lack of time, please inform Monsignor Caprano that the Missionary will be there within days. He, then, can inform his Eminence, the most reverend Cardinal della Somaglia, to whom I shall write directly. While kissing your hands, with complete affection and

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

²⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

M. Ap.

February 1

P. S. I inform you that if I should receive another letter from you, it will not be necessary to give a reply to this one.

I am enclosing the letter from the Propaganda which you will be able to put together with etc. etc. Pray for me, a wretched one.

P. S. I suppose that you know, with God's help, what will be necessary that the outcome will be for his greater glory. I keep sending these letters of mine to Spoleto.

1317

February 2, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁸

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter and in order not to forget anything, please permit me to answer by using numbers, though I always maintain the greatest veneration, esteem and respectful affection towards you.

1. Cardinal Falzacappa is in favor of handling the matter of the remission of two rescripts to your most reverend excellency. The first one regards the moral case, the other refers to the Morelli emphyteusis. Everything else in Pievetorina is in order. I intend to accelerate the clearing up process and then, with God's grace, everything will be settled.

2. Our Institute does not accept Lentenpreaching assignments except in those places where we have a Mission House. This is agreeable to the pastors, otherwise the Houses would be without workers and the people would be upset. But the Institute will take on in Lent Missions and Retreats, public ones or private ones in seminaries and monasteries etc. etc. but making sure that for the fifteen day Easter period there would be at least two workers available in each House, and even three, where the need is greater. Thus, the saying *serva ordinem*²⁹ will be verified. You, too, in your wisdom, will approve what I am submitting to your judgment.

3. This year, Pievetorina has had another excellent worker. May God bless his efforts. But for Lent in your diocese, we no longer have the time to arrange anything to the glory of God; maybe later, depending on what follows. The Missions in Umbria will be absorbing our other companions.

4. The Sacred Congregation of the Propaganda, by order of the pope, has contacted me,

²⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

²⁹ Keep the arrangement.

asking for a worker. The letters, my Monsignor, bring one to tears. One of our men who will be going is Canon Carboneri, last year's Lenten preacher in Pievetorina, and presently a worker in that House. Yes, he will be going and his generosity is most edifying. So, having now to supply in the areas covered by this Missionary in Pievetorina with another of our men, I shall try to make the choice from those who are capable of adapting to work in monasteries.

I have been considering one of our men in our House in Albano, who will be able to continue his studies toward holy Orders, and the counsels for the perfect life in common, the bases for every monastery seeking perfection. This selection, however, still requires the period of Lent, after which he can then come to your diocese. In the meantime, since Monsignor Caprano pointed out that on the island of S. Maura there is absolutely no priest at all, I am momentarily considering the possibility of sending you one of our men from Giano for Lent. He is outstanding in this line of work, besides being a holy man. I will direct him to you along with a letter of mine. If you think it is a good idea, you could set up a tour of the monasteries during the grainharvest time, thus not first withdrawing the workers from doing good work among the people.

5. With regard to the Missions for your flock, in the overall balance of the situation before me, let me say that I can handle things as follows: for the middle of April, I shall see that there are in Pievetorina three of our good workers and that they will have, let me express myself thusly, a full House, for addressing the clergy etc. etc. In turn, one will be taking a bit of a rest in Pievetorina and two will be on call for the ministry, then alternating accordingly. They will take along with them a Brother, and thus the saying will be verified: *misit binos*.³⁰ Thanks be to God, confessors will not be lacking. So, everything should go along well with the grace of God. For those people who are more numerous, you will see that a third man is included, namely, Father Angelo Primavera. That, I repeat, will be done when you see the urgency for a third man.

You can be absolutely certain about my choice of companions. God knows how interested I am in these things. In this way, you can occupy the workers wherever and however you wish. In the period of the grainharvest, one will be in a monastery, another will be on the job sanctifying evermore the nuns, with one always remaining for sure in Pievetorina, alternating the period of rest according to the scheduling. These three men, therefore, will stay on as a family in Pievetorina and the House will take on new vigor. In particular, it will be so for the retreatants who will be going there, and as long as the economics can handle this number. This is all that I can say to you at this time in the Lord. You adjust things, change them, add to them, and be kind enough to write to me. Now, I am compelled out of necessity to go to Rome and perhaps not because of the matter of the Propaganda. I was supposed to be going to Ancona. We shall see what the will of God is. Oh how happy I would consider myself to be if I could just be one of the workers in your archdiocese.

6. With regard to the Jesuits, do whatever the Lord inspires you to do. But I think that

³⁰ He sent them two by two.

they will refuse. You know very well the esteem I hold for every Institute and, in particular, for the Fathers of the Company. But, they too are suffering for want of workers.

7. I kiss your hands. Write to me in Rome where I will be handling things. I renew my sentiments of esteem and respect, most reverend excellency, and while asking you for your incessant prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice, February 2, 1826

1318

February 6, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³¹

Venerable Monsignor

Out of pure obedience, here I am in Rome, and I am sending word to you immediately so that you can please indicate to me at what time tomorrow morning I can be with you to give you my greetings. In the meanwhile, I anticipate giving you my most deep felt gratitude and I recommend myself a great deal, a very great deal to your prayers, so that the Lord grant me the strength to fulfill the various appointments of the ministry concerning which we shall speak in person. I kiss your hands; I am and will constantly be, most reverend excellency, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

February 6, 1826

P. S. I said tomorrow morning, as I now retire immediately, since tomorrow will be the last day for popular acts of foolishness.

1319

February 9, 1826

Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I am sending you my excellent companion, Father Francesco Gemelli, whom I

³¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

recommend to your care as I would myself. He will handle the good work to be done in Mola and Castellone, and I have suggested an alternative in the preaching. In order that the good work should be carried out to the fullest extent of the glory of God, I am content to have him remain in that Commune for all of the Sunday *in Albis*. In the meantime, let us give thanks to God for his great mercies. Pray, most venerable Don Antonio, and have others pray for the one who now renews himself with esteem and affection as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 9, 1826

1320

February 11, 1826

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Enclosed is a letter of recommendation of mine which you will consign in person to the most reverend bishop. Inform him better in person and I hope that you will obtain everything.

To my greatest consolation, I learned of the great work that is being promoted there in the devotion to Xavier. You will see that his altar will become a fountain, so to speak, of miracles.

In Mola and Castellone, one of my companions is giving the retreat in place of the Lenten preaching. You should effectively appeal by letter to the most reverend bishop that after Easter, this man can come to Castelforte for a day in order to speak on the devotion to Xavier. I have, in general,

already alerted him. But, in the meantime, this word. I thank you for your kindness towards me who, in no way at all, is deserving of it. You know that I am the lowest in the house of the Lord to whom may all praise and honor be given forever and ever. Do not fail to keep insisting on having the Institute there. If the devotees would like to promote the devotion of the month of June to the Divine Blood, I shall send the booklet, in case I did not already leave one with you. In the meantime, while sending my greetings to Father Filippo Cinquanta and to all the others, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 11, 1826

Bartolomeo sends you his best regards.

1321

February 12, 1826
Fr. Giovanni Mimmi
Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

The Holy Father has sent for me to ask for help for the Missions of the Propaganda which is most needful of workers. The status of some of the peoples in particular excites one truly to the most special pity. So, in cooperation with the Pope, I must encourage workers to increase that number so as to make provisions for this very grave need for souls. All of this comes upon me quite suddenly. So, I will not be able to leave Rome until, after lettercommunications, I will be able to see some results. In everything, let us adore the divine dispositions, and you, please, help with many prayers. Your mission, however, has not been forgotten. All that is needed is to adapt the time. On the third feastday of Easter, you are to send three mounts, two with a good saddle, and the third as a packhorse. Two will be for the Missionaries, one for the baggage. Since the Missionaries will be with you, a Brother will not be necessary, and we can save some expenses.

After the noon meal of the third feastday of Easter, the entrance will take place. The members assigned are all very capable men, you can be sure of that. You look after the usual needs and the particular faculties from the most reverend bishop, that are necessary for this ministry. The members that I am sending are quite accustomed to hard work and they will take care of whatever is necessary. I already spoke to them about the platform and of the entrance ceremony. In case you have to, send word in your answer to this letter. Have no doubt about the word that I have given. Up to now, the mixup that has occurred was due to the desire I had of being there myself personally. But, now, you can see how involved I am. At any rate, when I get back to S. Felice, I will come to visit you etc. Father Biagio Valentini, in S. Felice, has been instructed by me concerning everything. With many prayers, let us make preparations, and with esteem, respect and very special affection, most venerable Prior, consider me to be,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 12, 1826

P.S. Try to find out if anyone in that area wishes to join us in our ministry; if not for foreign missions, at least for the Houses that we have in the State. *In domo Patris mei mansiones multae sunt, etc., etc.*³²

In general, inform the bishop of Todi: the Mission will be held at that particular time etc.

1322

February 7/14, 1826

³² In the house of my Father there are many mansions, etc., etc.

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Page of clarification³³

1. I am enclosing the petition of the priest Chiodi which I sincerely recommend to you. If this man were to want to dedicate himself as a priest in other dioceses, the bishop would have every reason to be sorry in losing him; but, he is a man who loves the retreat and the good work of our Institute. So, etc., otherwise every Institute in the Church would collapse if vocations were to be unduly interfered with.

2. There is also the petition of Meloni,³⁴ lacking in a patrimonial title, and it is being asked for *extra tempora*.³⁵ I will work out everything else with the bishop of Veroli. The other request of Luigi Turchi of the diocese of Norcia is imploring the *extra tempora*, along with the qualification that a small lifeannuity might be a patrimony, which would not stand in the way of his right of succession to the one for whom the lifeannuity is drawn up. You can give his Holiness assurance of the probity and fitness of these men.

3. With regard to the petition of Chiodi from Ascoli, in my opinion, all that would be needed is that his Holiness would authorize me to write in his name to the bishop of Ascoli.

Notes and reminders

4. Monsignor Scerra, whom I met accidentally, told me: "The Jesuits have received, or will receive the benefits of S. Felice freely, and the pension, perhaps, will be the responsibility of the Reverenda Camera Apostolica". I pointed out that in this present month, the first most urgent payment should be coming to us; he replied: "We shall see do not doubt, etc.." Imagine then if the Jesuits will want to pay the arrear amounts. Having investigated now this tieup, perhaps you can be authorized by the Holy Father to speak with Father Mannucei, so as to remove every suggestion of a cellar, etc., etc., etc..

5. Monsignor Marchetti told me yesterday that a certain *Laus Deo*,³⁶ pensioned by the government, has implored from the Holy Father that the pension could be a sacred patrimony for him. The favor was granted and he advised that same person to retire to S. Felice. at one time, anyone who gave himself to sacred things at a middle age by resuming studies, did not have asylum etc.

6. You yourself handled the other things mentioned in your memoranda.

³³ This page does not have a written date, but from the pontifical rescript in response to the petition of Tomasso Meloni, which is reproduced here, we deduce that this page must precede February 14, 1826, and come after February 6, 1826.

³⁴ Cfr. the petition that follows this writing.

³⁵ Outside the[approved] times.

³⁶ Praise to god.

7. I have already located three more workers during these days that I have spent in Rome. Praise be to the Lord.

8. In speaking of Ancona and of Aquila, ask the Holy Father for the communication of my faculties which I will grant in his name to our workers whom God will send extensively to the respective dioceses of Ancona and Aquila, as well as beyond to the archdiocese of Camarino, the dioceses of Todi, of Spoleto, of Sora, Gaeta, Piscina, and finally the Province of Campagna and Marittima. Then I will put the lettercorrespondence into motion and everything will be done in an orderly fashion.

9. May the Lord bless your words and may he make them effectively strong for his own greater glory.

10. At 21½ hours, I shall be at your place. I am hopeful of being newly consoled.

11. I learned that among the Jesuits there is an old Portuguese. They are approaching me also, here in Rome, for the ministry. Offer prayers for me that I may fulfill the will of God.

12. At the upcoming audience, you will present to the Holy Father the articles and the bases for our Institute.

1323

February 14, 1826

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father³⁷

Tomasso Meloni of Veroli, a most humble petitioner to your Holiness, declares that after having left the practice of law, to which he had been dedicated for quite some time, he has now withdrawn to the ecclesiastical House of studies in S. Felice in Giano, where he is applying himself to studies, and, with the knowledge of his Ordinary, is preparing himself for the ministries to the glory of the Lord. In order to advance to Holy Orders, however, the petitioner is lacking a sacred patrimony; furthermore, he is almost fortyfive years of age. Consequently, he requests that your Holiness grant him some modest sacred patrimonial title, or permit him to be ordained *titulo Missionum*;³⁸ in addition, that he be able to be ordained *tribus diebus festivis extra tempora*³⁹ to the subdiaconate, the diaconate and the priesthood; that, etc.

In behalf of the cleric, Tomasso Meloni

³⁷ The petition is in the handwriting of St. Gaspar. On the fourth side, there is the date of the grant: "*Die 14 Februarii 1826 Ex audientia Sanctissimi. Sanctissimus ex particularibus causis animum suum moventibus benigne mandavit solvi oratori singulis annis scuta viginti quinque titulo suo patrimonii sacri. donec aliter provideatur*". [On the 14 February 1826. From the audience with His Holiness. His Holiness, from particular causes

Alongside, there is the acknowledgment of the Episcopal Curia of Veroli, dated March 4, 1826.

³⁸ Under the title of Missions.

³⁹ On three festive days beyond the time.

1324

February 14, 1826
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am in Rome to attend a few meetings dealing with the foreign missions that are so needful of workers. I never forget you and let us never cease praying and have others do so too.

We spoke to the most reverend Treasurer about Alatri. Tell me: will the locale be readied? This, for the time being. Pray a lot for the one who now renews himself, most venerable Canon, with esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 14, 1826

Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop and to the reverend canon and anyone else who remembers me. Recommend me to their prayers in common.

1325

Middle of February, 1826
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁰

Venerable Monsignor⁴¹

I am enclosing the letter from Monsignor Benvenuti in which you will note: 1. that the plan to proceed with the building of the church that we have in Frosinone was considered to be nonfeasible because of the lack of means; 2. that, as far as we are concerned, the decision is made concerning the Convent of S. Agostino. With regard to the plan which Monsignor Benvenuti is offering concerning the educational process, I do not know just how successfully it will turn out in practice. The poor are content with the schooling, and this is already being done. The few belonging to the primary families are going to the monasteries which, in the Province, are not scarce. So the consequence is easily deduced. Once again, it would have been a notable thing to have a Retreat House in the central part of the Province even for the cultivation of people in the military etc., etc., etc.

⁴⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

⁴¹ This letter is not dated, but, from the reference to the letter of the Delegate in Frosinone, Monsignor Giovanni Benvenuti, which bears the date February 10, 1826, we deduce that this letter was written from Rome around the middle of February, 1826. CCfr. G. Merlini, o. c. , 246).

At any rate, I do not intend to waste the good work that I wish to have blessed by God, but only to conclude that our place would have been more than adequate for the Maestre Pie, and better for us would have been S. Agostino. It is quite true that Gulielmi is considering the possibility of our no longer inhabiting the place which we have at present, and he will cede it to the hospital, but in addition I would say: the Society is not going to leave Frosinone, and, shall we say, have a change in surroundings: so, the hospital will not be able to become its possessor. Perhaps I am mistaken. That the Missionaries then would be officiating in a church subject to the direction of women, this, never.

Our churches are very heavily frequented. I do not wish to have thoughts, calumnies, *quod absit*,⁴² with respect to our men. But why should we be upset? The Holy Father was not opposed to the plan set up in Veroli, so, let me know whether I can take up the matter with the most reverend bishop. Please, a line or so in reply to this. Then, there is Alatri, and in this way, one good does not stand in the way of the other.

I would reply to Monsignor Benvenuti in two ways. First, in general, an expression of gratitude, a line showing politeness and nothing more; secondly, reminding him of the information pertinent to the matter under discussion. This may cause a bit of odiousness in those who are promoting the Maestre, and we must avoid disputes and make whatever concessions are feasible. The enclosed will be helpful for the Holy Father to recognize that the Delegate does approve our Society and is concerned about it. If you think it is a good idea, you might read it at the opening audience along with the indicated addition, using every precaution to prevent any conflicts.

Furthermore, allow me, please, to remind you to have a copy made of the petition from Albano. I urge you, as much as I can, to make provisions for the artists in behalf of whom I would suggest to the Holy Father that he exempt Ratti from the reinvestment of the fruits of the abbey, substituting the artists' residual amount. What do you think about this? At any rate, with your usual charity, speak to the Holy Father about it. The other matters can be taken care, step by step, in other subsequent audiences in accordance with the enlightenment of the Lord for which I shall not cease praying. Do not forget about getting a place in Rome where I would immediately activate another ecclesiastical House of studies. So, in the Wednesday audience, I am hopeful that the primary objectives, with the help of the Lord, will be in behalf of Albano, Frosinone and Rome.

The Missionary going to the island of S. Maura has already spoken to the Holy Father and was warmly received. *Laus Deo*.⁴³ Every day I find more workers with a full examination etc. I see the urgency for me to cut down on the number of Missions that I take on and be more careful about the matters here in Rome, especially since problems are increasing both in the Penitentiary as well as elsewhere. All is to be done as it pleases God and to the extent that it

⁴² May it be absent.

⁴³ Praise to God.

pleases God, for he has no need of men.

The old Portuguese fellow has just about reached his dotage, and I do not see any others at present. Assure His Holiness in the most secret manner so that he will be completely tranquil. I am convinced that God does not wish to have me go into foreign Missions. At any rate, we shall always be ready to do his most lovable will. The tongue, with ease and facility, will learn *in faciem loci*,⁴⁴ yielding slowly *toto homine*.⁴⁵ You will be advising me next Thursday at the usual time of that morning when I will be visiting you. I will bring along the articles of our Institute which you will present to the Holy Father on Saturday. After the audience, I shall not return, for I suffer when I see you so exhausted and worn out ... and then you do not worry about taking care of yourself, even though we have a strict obligation in conscience to conserve ourselves for the glory of God. In the Lenten exercises, one considers the Diaconate. Being a subdeacon or deacon increases the duties a bit; then, the priesthood, to have, each morning, a visit from Jesus Christ.

I visited Cardinal Guerrieri, I spoke to him, he received me warmly, but at mealtime, whatever else could have been said was impeded. There was scarcely an opportunity for any further reference.

I kiss your hands. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1326

February 16, 1826
Fortunato M. Renzi
Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

The Holy Father's call for one of our men for the foreign Missions causes an accidental change in the Retreat for your congregation. The Missionary will wait for a short while until the platform is readied and the brethren informed. The good work will be done; this is the basic thing; please bear patiently with me for this year. It will be necessary to anticipate the Retreat, and then the feast of the Sorrowful Mother will follow. There are unforeseen ordinations in the Institute, not dependent on me; these, however, remind one of the acts of providence which do not change the good work itself.

Give my greetings to all the members. With esteem and respect, most illustrious sir, consider me as

⁴⁴ After the fashion of the place.

⁴⁵ By the whole man.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, February 16, 1826

1327

February 16, 1826
 Mrs. Francesca Carrara

Sora

It will be necessary to adjust to unforeseen circumstances. The year of the universal jubilee in addition to the departure of one of our men for the foreign Missions is the reason why the Retreat for the congregation of the Sorrowful Mother there has to be anticipated. The Missionary can allow for the period of one day so that the platform can be readied and the brethren can be informed. You will bear patiently with me. What I mean is that as long as the good work is done, neither too much or too little will be changed. You be the mediator⁴⁶ so that everything turns out without disturbance, as I surely hope will be the case. With esteem and respect
 Rome, February 16, 1826

P.S. When the Retreat is over, a prayer to the most holy Mary should continue to be said up to the feastday.

1328

February 16, 1826
 Fr. Pasquale De Nardis
 Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Pasquale

Here is the Brother who, for the timebeing, will be serving as the cook etc. The actual cook, having his papers with him, should be in Rome for next Monday evening.

With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 16⁴⁷

1329

⁴⁶ A notation in the margin of the copy says: "it seems to be written to Mrs. Francesca Carrara".

⁴⁷ The year is 1826. During the first months of that year, De Nardis was in Albano.

February 17, 1826
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Please read the enclosed memorandum⁴⁸ *quoad substantiam*⁴⁹ to the Holy Father and that will suffice for my conscience and nothing more; I mean to say with this that only a vocal response is required.

Also, please, as a favor, vocally ask for the granting of the plenary indulgence for Easter Day for the people of Mola and Castellone in the diocese of Gaeta where a companion of mine is giving a series of retreats, and on Easter both peoples will be joining together for the final reminders. Whoever, therefore, is present for the preaching of those final reminders will enjoy that plenary indulgence applicable in the usual way to the Souls in Purgatory. You will also be doing me an immense favor by sending me word of this papal concession.

Finally, for my own peace of mind and because you yourself on occasion have shared in these reflections, allow me to point out the following items. If the Holy Father speaks to you again in his accustomed secrecy about Brazil, it seems to me that you, most reverend excellency, to whom I owe so very much, could bring to the attention of our Holy Father that there are members in our Institute who are quite fit for such a career. I, however, have a father who is advanced in age, and I have the rest of the family to look after, and I am all alone. I am also fearful that we will not be able to find someone to cover the task of preparing preaching materials for our young men, along with all the other problems that you know about; likewise that there could be someone who, perhaps, would like to get me out of the way, bringing harm to our Institute. I know very well that God does not need me, but I am not doing something wrong in having discussed everything with you openly, at least for the sake of knowing better what the will of God is. I am hoping that he does not want me in Brazil.

Looking at this quite practically, it is not a matter of just a day or so to find someone to substitute for me in the dioceses and working with the bishops. I have no intention of opposing the Holy Father in this regard and surely not to prejudice him against the Institute. What I have said up to this point is for the record. But you, *quasi aliud agens*,⁵⁰ could convince him. I conclude: the good work in Brazil could be handled without doing harm to the programs that we are engaged in here; likewise, I would not want to be removed so far from you. Please excuse me, Monsignor, for having written in this fashion; ultimately, in all things may the will of God be done.

⁴⁸ See the next letter.

⁴⁹ As to substance.

⁵⁰ As if doing something else.

To save time, whenever you wish to see me, just drop me a word. You already have the most urgent problems of our Institute in your hands. Miserable thing that I am, I will help you with my prayers. I would like to have the same plenary indulgence, like the one mentioned before, in Lent for Acquasparta and Cannara. Up to now, I have already made provisions for the other places. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and wholeheartedly I assure you again with all my love and esteem in Jesus Christ crucified that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

February 17, 1826

1330

February 17, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

**Promemoria to his excellency the most reverend
Treasurer in behalf of the Hospice for the poor in S. Galla**

Canon del Bufalo, the petitioner, begs his most reverend excellency, the Treasurer, to please inform the Holy Father that a charitable allotment be granted for two confessors for the benefit of the poor in S. Galla. It cannot be denied that this is most necessary for the help of the poor, as well as to give greater glory to God, and the allotment for one of the two confessors could be set aside for the first communion of so many poor children who, at times, are afflicted with diseases, and as such would not be accepted elsewhere for a holy retreat. Likewise, other works of piety can be offered to the poor themselves; so, we ask His Holiness for this act of religious concern and the supplying of this good, which etc. The one writing this petition renews himself as your most humble, most devoted and most obliged servant.

1331

February 17, 1826

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious and reverend Canon

The program has been worked out for Atina in keeping with the request.

I ask you please to forward the enclosed. Pray to Jesus a lot for me. Workers are being sought for the most needy foreign Missions. Through me, the Holy Father is trying to interest the bishops. So, you pass the good word to the sacred pastor there so that he will encourage one or the other of the clergy who might feel inspired to undertake this work, and then you will keep me informed by letter. In case someone might not be particularly interested in the foreign Missions,

at least they could substitute in our Houses, while some in our Institute who might be inspired by God in this fashion will not hesitate to give a helping hand to people who are completely lacking in the services of priests.

In the meantime, the seminaries will continue to produce new fruit for the glory of God, and the universal needs will be taken care of as best as possible. I hope that I have made myself sufficiently clear. One of our men who will be going is Father Gaspare Carboneri who has passed through Sora. Give my best regards to Mrs. Carrara and absolutely everyone, in particular Canon Baldassari. Do not cease insisting on having one of our foundations there. May Jesus be our consolation. May his love inflame us and rouse us to increase our merits for holy paradise. Most venerable Canon, I kiss your hands, and I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 17, 1826

1332

February 18, 1826

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

I am here in Rome answering my correspondence and looking for workers for the foreign Missions that are so very needful. Pray and have others pray to the Giver of every good gift; likewise, in a special way, offer prayers for a very particular intention.

I am hopeful that the pictures of the Sacred Hearts were in keeping with your wishes; I did not fail to use the most effective efforts. And, in those Sacred Hearts, may you often see my poor soul, and pray that I will be saved.

I have already contacted the most reverend bishop with regard to the Retreat there. Would that God willed that I should be able to do this good work, but I see that that will be a most difficult thing. So, the Missionary who is to conduct the Retreat in Piperno has already been assigned, because of the Jubilee year, during the novena for Pentecost, and he will accomplish that good work that I myself would surely never be able to do.

But, you, what are you afraid of? Eternal salvation ... but this is surely a temptation. ... Do not be doubtful ... you will be saved. The fear is caused by your strong desire to be saved and your desire for the holy love of God. So, let us remove far from us those pains and anxieties. Let us repose tranquilly in the arms of a Father who has loved us from all eternity. May he be the source of our peace and our comfort. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵¹

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 18, 1826

P.S. I forgot to say to you that you should never have inconvenienced yourself so much and so often because of me. I give you my thanks, and at the same time, I beg you again for your prayers etc.

1333

February 19, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

Here is a bit of consolation. Next Wednesday, the 22nd I believe of this month, two of my companions will be departing from Rome for the Mission there. You will please see that for the following Thursday there will be in Narni two fine mounts with saddle and one for the baggage, also with saddle, on which the Brotherinservice will ride. Arrange it so the Missionaries will not have to wait and the mounts will not move until they arrive. I would hope that by nightfall the entrance could take place. You see to getting the faculties and everything else that is of special need. The two companions will remain there as long as necessary, but the usual period for a Mission is around fifteen days. It is necessary to accept this good work for this time period and not otherwise.

You simply cannot imagine the number of requests that arrive. What will you say about me? God humbles me in Acquasparta, but he is my witness; I can say this with St. Paul, that this work does not depend on me. May it please God, when I return to S. Felice, I shall come to visit you, but that cannot be at the present time. Do not cease praying and have others pray for me. Please see that the mounts are available at the place of the Franciscans; in that way, there will be no mixups. I am referring to the convent which is located near the confines of the city of Narni. I would be happy to get your reply in which you indicate your own peace of mind as well as the satisfaction of the people who I hope will be compassionate.

Everything is all lined up also for Castel di Lago. Praise be to the Lord. Finally, if you could use the subsidy for the Lenten preaching to help a bit with the traveling expenses, I would be greatly obliged to you. In that case, you could write to me and we could make an exchange around Easter for as much fresh pork as will be needed in S. Felice. You might, at least, arrange for the return expense for the two who have been sent; the men in S. Felice will have to work out the other appointments. You speak to me without worry about temporal matters, and in this

⁵¹ Being your lowest servant in Christ.

regard, I will stand behind your decisions. So, it is set that the Mission will be conducted at the established time, indicated here in this letter. I kiss your hands. Pray a lot to Jesus for me. With the fullness of esteem and respect, most venerable Prior, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 19, 1826

P.S. Have someone there to watch for the arrival of the Missionaries.

1334

February 20, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

I ask you to read again the printed matter, in particular, that which relates to the question of suffrages for the contributors. You will notice that there is something which, I believe, has not been carried out, as for example, the notice of death being sent to the aggregated congregations. More when we meet in person. In the meantime, make an examination of whatever is worthy of consideration.

Pray a lot for me, and consider me to be, with all my love,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, February 20, 1826

1335

February of 1826

Student Tommaso Meloni

S. Felice di Giano

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

My dearest in J.C.

Why are you all worked up? When will it ever happen that I will be able to see you submit yourself like a ship that has given itself over to the order of providence? Do you not realize that we are not worthy to serve the glory of God, and that we must serve him wherever and however it pleases him, and that the Divine Will is not to be recognized in itself but through

⁵² Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

Superiors? Do you understand me? Oh God, how much I long to see you become a man of the ministry! I am hoping for it as a grace of God as well as for your correspondence to it.

It was not your letters that produced the good result. Rather it was the real assistance of God to the Institute that has obtained, so to speak without the use of any means, the allotment granted by the Datary to you of 25 *scudi* as your patrimonial title. Now, it is all settled. Pray for the Holy Father and for me, and keep this matter *sub naturali sigillo*.⁵³ Severini has received your receipt for the current period.

Write to me freely for anything that you may need. In this matter, too, be blindly obedient.

Stimulate the observance of the rule there, according to the injunctions that Fr. Biagio gives you. You owe subordination to him: I have no doubt that you will do so.

May Jesus be our love. Greet all in the House of Studies and tell them that *die ac nocte*⁵⁴ I am concerned for their welfare and that I wish that they all become saints. Hence, be humble, obedient, studious: thus, your sanctity itself will bring fruit to the Church of Jesus Christ.

I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in X'to Servo*⁵⁵

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February, 1826

If I should overlook anything, write and let me know, etc.

1336

February 22, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor and loving brother

Here is my answer to the letter that I am returning to you. It is quite true that, since last year, I had promised Missions for Pescina. I was, indeed, able to give my word, which *humano modo*⁵⁶ was relative to the circumstances at that time. Now, however, they are quite different. How can I leave Rome now? In view of the fact that I have not concluded my assignment at the

⁵³ Under a natural seal.

⁵⁴ By day and night.

⁵⁵ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁵⁶ In human fashion.

Propaganda, and we surely do not want to make a blunder,⁵⁷ it is most proper that I obey the Holy Father. I add nothing more. As for the dates, you can write *in proposito*⁵⁸ a letter to his Excellency the Bishop of Marsi.

Quite some time ago I wrote that it would have been a good idea if the bishop himself would also have written to His Holiness concerning the Missions that he wanted, particularly during the Jubilee Year. The most reverend Treasurer mentioned in one of his letters to me the very same thing that I had suggested to him, namely, that it would be to the detriment of the Institute for me not to be engaged in giving Missions in the Papal States. I could not smooth things over except by saying to the Bishop, or his Vicar, that they should have written to Rome. Now, and I repeat it, there is a change in the aspect of things. What is certain is what I have always maintained: "The Society will send Missionaries, and they will be wellprepared"; that is what is substantial. That I, or others, should go is extraneous, so to speak, to the good that we always are hopeful of accomplishing.

With some leeway as to the scheduling, we could put it ahead possibly to the middle of April, so that by the first part of May, his Excellency the Bishop could very well go out on his Sacred Visitation. I hope that I have given you a sufficiently clear account of everything pertaining to this situation. Ask the Bishop to answer by return mail with regard to these arrangements, since the requests are innumerable and keep on increasing day by day. With reference to the foundation, speak of it to the Director of the Missions, who will be appointed. He will report everything and it will progress in a reasonable way. God does not have need of men.

I kiss your hand; and I am wholeheartedly, with all affection

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House (Rome), February 22, 1826

1337

February 22, 1826

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Pasquale

Here is Canon Paradisi whom I recommend to your zeal. He will now take part in the retreats. He will be awaiting the assistance of Father Giacomo Giorgi, the director. In Jesus

⁵⁷ *Svistare*: to make a mistake (cfr. *svista*), or even to lose something from sight, not to take into consideration. In these meanings the Saint uses the word, which is not found in the official dictionaries of the Italian language, however.

⁵⁸ In a purpose.

Crucified, consider me as

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵⁹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 22, 1826

1338

February 23, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Here I am giving you a reply to those matters which I took charge of as a result of our last meeting.

1. Father Ratti told me that the Abbey has been assigned *nunc pro tunc*⁶⁰ to the nephew of Cardinal Riario. He will take canonical possession from now until six years, and during that time that elapses, there will be no counting on us nor on the artists. He also told me that if you would like to have a meeting with him all you have to do is drop him a line and he will come immediately to give you further information. Father Ratti thinks that the Datary was supposed to provide compensation for the Chapter of S. Giovanni. Also, the seminary in Albano could be provided with the compensation from some pious place or canonry in the diocese. Since this is not a matter of great concern, the Holy Father, I hope, will look into it so as to avoid any dispute pertinent to it. As for the artists, they could be provided for by a share of the amount that is offered by the three sources, namely, the Cassa dei Lotti, Brevi and Dateria. You can work the idea out with more refinement. A quicker method would be to have a monthly allotment from the Treasury or whatever way God inspires you to use.

2. I have asked Monsignor Marchetti, *ut ex se*,⁶¹ to contact Father Sala for a pension from the Archdiocese of Ravenna, now vacant, in behalf of Rimini. We shall see.

3. My uncle, the monk, whom I contacted, will gather all the information about S. Norberto. None of those monks will, in the meantime, be acting in our behalf. This is certain. As soon as I receive the results of the investigations I will immediately fulfill my duty and communicate this to your most reverend excellency.

I close this most humble letter of mine by asking you for the charity of your prayers and, at the same time, for the continuation of your zealous concern for our Society which is the source of every blessing.

I kiss your hands, most venerable Monsignor, and, at the foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

⁵⁹ Being your lowest servant in Christ.

⁶⁰ Now for then.

⁶¹ As from itself.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

February 23, 1826

P. S. Whenever you wish to meet with me, just drop me a line.

1339

February 24, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor

If I am not mistaken, it seems to me that it is God's will that you give a glance at the enclosed matter, which is to be presented in the audience, as you see fit, and in keeping with the inspiration that God gives you.

It appears to me that some of this might be of consolation to the Holy Father and to you who work so hard for the divine glory.

Just a word about the chalice of Ferrara if *optio dabitur* ⁶²

With all my esteem, most venerable Monsignor, I assure you again in Jesus Christ crucified that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(after the mail was delivered) February 24, 1826

Please set aside those letters which you think should, in general, be preserved in our archives. Pray a lot, a lot for me. I never forget you in my prayers. You have probably written already to the Delegate in Benevento etc. etc.

1340

February 24, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

⁶² The option is given.

As you see fit in Domino,⁶³ listen to what the Holy Father says while for the timebeing we handle things here, even though etc. Leave out any word that has reference to me; what is substantial is quite sufficient.⁶⁴

1341

February 24, 1826

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Giovanni Francesco

You turn to me for advice but it does not seem right to me since I recognize and acknowledge my own inadequacy. At any rate, I shall express my thoughts rather than give any decisive advice, hoping in God that through prayer you will discern the ultimate solution to the problems that are pending.

1. You need to study well the natural situations so as to see whether there is any hope for perfect agreement. It is true that virtue will rectify all, but this also can vacillate. Furthermore, *incognita causa non profertur iudicium*;⁶⁵ what I mean by this is that since I am not fully cognizant of the situation, I am not able to give a definitive piece of counsel.

2. Will it not, perhaps, be difficult to alter the twelve years that you foresee in order to carry out your devout plans as well as those of your spouse, since it involves taking into consideration the lives of four people?

3. The demand for rental payments which your brother suggests can, in normal human eventualities, be subject to changes, or even, *quod absit*.⁶⁶ So, if you consider the burden that you have supporting your own family, your taking on another must be carefully weighed and with prudence: "*Cogita prius de fundamento*".⁶⁷

4. Your parents would not be doing right in selling their house while they are still alive, and thus subjecting themselves to the care of a son while they are still able to handle their own lives. I would have given this answer: "Does not every relocation bring with it some

⁶³ In the Lord.

⁶⁴ These words were written near the address of the letter which the bishop of Ancona wrote to St. Gaspar on February 21, 1826, inviting him for a ministry in Ancona, from the moment that he had "left a vivid desire for himself because of his doctrine no less than his zeal". The letter displays the postal marking showing its arrival on February 24; so, we assign this date to it, just as the preceding one. Very probably the letter of the bishop of Ancona was one of "the enclosed matter" which he mentions in that letter.

⁶⁵ A unknown cause is not brought forth as a judgment.

⁶⁶ May it be absent.

⁶⁷ Think first about the foundation.

disadvantage? Is Ancona being offered as the place of asylum? I repeat, I would not subject myself to any such steps, but rather I would go there and I would assure your father and mother of a greater certainty for their subsistence. Since they love their liberty, they should maintain their home and, with a founded endowment in real estate, they can live their days in peace. So, as you note, I would never agree to any plan for relocation. But, if necessary: it should be Ancona and not Offida, so as not to place you in danger of litigations concerning temporal demands; these things may never happen, but they could, especially with people who are very speculative in business affairs or in higher interests. Add to that ... a *cronicismo*⁶⁸ which may occur; then, would the rental established be sufficient?

5. Consider also the possibility of your death; what greater troubles would you not be leaving for your spouse! I would conclude by pointing out that a son would be lacking in Christian piety if he were to fail to show gratitude and respect toward his parents, especially if they were very needful. In that case there would be question of an "open house". But here you are in opposition to your brother's fantasy. That must be disapproved and your parents, at the same time, are to be persuaded not to leave S. Anatolia. What is clear and what differentiates the quality of piety of children *in parentes*,⁶⁹ is that one must sincerely open up one's heart to them *in Domino*⁷⁰ and in terms that are most respectful. This is my humble opinion which I subject to the illumination of prayer and to the person who knows more than I. I ask only that you do not mention my name, because the ministry that I exercise demands this. Let this be between me and you. Now let us go on to other things.

6. Who knows whether I shall be able to be in Ancona? Presently, I am tied up with the occupation of finding Missionaries for the foreign Missions which are so very needful, and all the pastors and clerics are being urged to give a helping hand. What a boost it would be for the Catholic religion if a worker would offer his services from the diocese, while being replaced with those in the seminaries. The Holy Father says that if, perhaps, a priest does not have the inclination to go into foreign missions, at least he might come to one of our Houses in the State and substitute for someone who is willing to go to those Missions. Pray and have others pray for this most important project. After this, I shall resume, if it pleases God, the giving of holy Missions which are presently being handled, also for Ancona, by my good companions whose number continues to grow.

7. I am happy that Offida will have the Mission conducted by the excellent priest Grimaldi, to whom I send my heartfelt greetings, as well as to recommend myself to his prayers.

8. Do not cease insisting on the observance there of the month of June and when Canon Tarulli is unable to offer any longer his services, I shall do everything I can, once the bishop

⁶⁸ A cronyism [helping your long-time friends: your cronies].

⁶⁹ In the parents.

⁷⁰ In the Lord.

writes to me, to send a capable worker to continue to promote this good work. I am so deeply interested in this devotion and because of the holy relic there, I continue always to have the desire for one of our foundations in Offida. Prayers, and in the event that it should be necessary to verify what I have mentioned above, I would need to be informed in sufficient time about the job.

It seems that I have not forgotten anything, except to inform you that I shall find a way of getting the book for the month to you. I repeat: let us propagate widely this very important devotion; let us often meditate on those words: "*pacificans per Sanguinem Crucis eius sive quae in caelis sive quae in terris sunt*".⁷¹

I remain in the Divine Heart, begging you to keep my poor soul in mind. Tell this also to your spouse and family to whom I send my best wishes. May Jesus be our love. With esteem and respect, Giovanni Francesco, my dearest *in Domino*,⁷² I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 24, 1826

I am still hoping to be there for the Mission in Ancona. Prayers.

1342

February 27, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Xtus dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷³

My Venerable Monsignor

We are lacking two Rescripts for the resolution of the problems at Pievetorina. One deals with the *emphyteusis*, which I hope to have within a short time. The other deals with the moral theology conferences, and this I have enclosed for your Excellency with the present mail delivery. Since the situation has been historically quite complicated, an effort is being made to present this petition in such a way that, while it sets the matter in order, it also preserves propriety of all concerned, and truth takes its proper place.

In the meantime, with your usual patience, during the remainder of Lent you should have one or more meetings with Fr. Celestino of Pievetorina and Mr. Ceccarelli; once you have understood well the details of the situation, absolve all and make allowances for the past. With

⁷¹ Making peace through the blood of his cross whether for what is in heaven or on earth.

⁷² In the Lord.

⁷³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

regard to the future, weigh and balance out the burdens that remain so that we all can be more cognizant of what has yet to be done. As you will hear from Fr. Celestino, the Pastors are happy that we are offering this help, even though it may be somewhat tenuous. They are aware of the urgency that exists for doing good in Pievetorina. The main thing *pro futuro*⁷⁴ is, it seems to me: Pastors⁷⁵ and other priests should fulfill the obligations of the Masses, according to the mind of the testators, and they should keep a record of them. They will receive the synodal offering from the Missionaries to whom the goods are willed. The responsibility for the customary dinner of the Priest Brethren gathered together for the discussion of moral cases will belong to the Missionaries. It has been mentioned that they relinquish the offering for the Masses to pay for the meal. This should be looked into, etc.⁷⁶ The solution of moral cases, on one or more occasions during the month, will take place in the Mission House. The Missionaries must be in charge of what is assigned. Should the Institute cease to exist in Pievetorina (*quod absit*⁷⁷), everything might return *ad primaeva*.⁷⁸

Please note that the things that I have mentioned should get your meetings started: However, the definite program will get into full swing when Fr. Camillo Rossi, Missionary Superior and Economist in Pievetorina, returns from his preaching of the Lenten series in S. Felice of Giano. The fact that I mentioned that the Missionaries must be in charge is based on the hope that the funds might perhaps be increased. To set up, however, some sort of income will not be an easy thing because of the loss of the records that has occurred. I spoke at length of this to Fr. Froscioni. At any rate, with your assistance and prayers, no means should be overlooked that might help to achieve this goal.

Once things have developed, after Easter we will begin to handle everything that pertains to the moral theology conferences, and all will be order and harmony again.

After Easter, likewise, I will send the other Missionary to substitute for the excellent Canon Carboneri who is leaving in a short while for the Missions of the Propaganda. He has already taken up residence in Pievetorina. He was selected because he is wellversed in the French language.

Here, Monsignor, is the explanation for my presence in Rome:

The Holy Father, now restored to health, has applied himself with great interest to looking closely into the conditions of the Foreign Missions. The status of the people makes one

⁷⁴ For the future.

⁷⁵ The original has: "*e ad altri*". It must be a mistake.

⁷⁶ The last two sentences in the original are located in the margin and there is no sign of reference. This seemed to be the best place for inserting them into the text.

⁷⁷ May it be present.

⁷⁸ For the new beginnings.

want to shed tears, since many of them are deprived altogether of any priest. Under these circumstances, he wants me to ask the Bishops and Clergy of my acquaintance to encourage Workers for this noble endeavor. If each Diocese would contribute just one man for the general needs, what a help it would be for the interests of the Catholic Faith; and the Seminaries would continue preparing new plants for the Evangelical field. Help me with your prayers and good work. And, if someone should not feel the call to go abroad, His Holiness says that he should come and substitute in our Houses, where there are others willing to go to the Foreign Missions. For example, what greater work would Primavera be able to do than to come and live in one of our Houses? Consider it at the feet of the Crucifix. The Holy Father is quite pleased with the idea of a Boarding School at S. Felice of Giano, for those who, having already completed their Seminary studies, will now prepare themselves for the preaching ministry. Out of the Boarding School, there would come fine pastors, etc. etc., and at the same time, others will be released for the apostolate of the Missions and Retreats, and still others for pious institutions. He therefore wants those Boarding Schools in our Houses expanded. In all this, we thank God, our Mother Mary most holy and Saint Francis Xavier. Help, in whatever way you can, with the efficacy of your zeal, in this great work. In particular, pray for me, most miserable of all.

Having expedited these official matters, God willing, I shall join with our men who are going to Ancona for the Mission. At that time, either while going or upon returning, I shall not overlook Treja. In the meantime, we can stimulate interest in other places after Easter, awaiting any detail that will encourage me to have hope again. I will work *toto corde*⁷⁹ in conjunction with your holy intentions; all of this is the grace of God. By assigning our Workers in the best way possible, always keeping in mind the universal Jubilee Year which opens up such a wide field, the good that can be achieved cannot be considered strictly speaking a Mission or a Retreat, but rather, in general, apostolic efforts to profit from the merits of the Divine Blood.

I am hopeful that you will please allow the good Primavera to join us in this holy enterprise. I shall not fail to provide you with a person capable of preaching to the Clergy, etc.

Finally, to balance the economy of Pievetorina, could you not order a collection to be taken up by each Lenten preacher for the needs at Pievetorina, a sort of mixture between the spiritual and temporal? If you do so, you will be showing me a supreme act of charity. The piety of the faithful has always been demonstrated by their generous support of pious institutions.

Likewise, you would be doing me a big favor if you were to let me know about any small piece of Diocesan property, released by the Cammera, which we might ask for in behalf of the House of Pievetorina. I ardently desire to see every one of its debts liquidated.

It seems to me that I have not overlooked anything. I kiss your hand. I recommend myself evermore to the charity of your prayers. I confirm myself to you in Jesus Christ Crucified, with the fullness of esteem, respect and particular attachment,

My venerable Monsignor, as your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant

⁷⁹ By all the heart.

Gaspare Can. de Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, February 27, 1826

1343

February 28, 1826
 Fr. Francesco Meletti
 Fano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I thank you for your most appreciated letter, and more and more am I getting to know the nature of your heart from which God is expecting even more. I am enclosing the certificate that was requested. I presume that Canon Mancini is a priest. You will instruct him *in omnibus*.⁸⁰ I would have sent Canon Mancini a few of the booklets which I distribute on these occasions, but please ask him for a definite address for the sending of them. I am extremely edified by his and your zeal and I recommend myself in a particular way to the prayers of both of you. For all the other instructions that might be needed just drop me a line and I will supply them for you. Ah yes, my beloved friend, let us do great work! Let us meditate on the Crucifix and in that great book we will acquire the knowledge which is the knowledge of the saints. And oh how blessed I would be if I were to gain that knowledge as I ought! I give you and all of your people my thanks for the suffering endured in behalf of my excellent confrere Father Antonio Liparelli, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁸¹ I add nothing further.

The reason why I am presently in Rome is to write to bishops and clerics in the name of His Holiness in an effort to find workers for the foreign Missions of the Propaganda that are so very, very needful of spiritual assistance. Some people do not have the services of any priest at all. What a boost it would be to the interests of the Catholic religion if a diocesan priest were to offer his services, as the seminaries continue to supply new plants for the evangelical field! If he does not have an inclination toward foreign Missions, at least let him come to one of our Houses in the Papal State to substitute for our men who would then go to dedicate themselves to this noble career. So, you be the propagator of this information both in Fano and in S. Angelo in Vado, and anywhere else that you can. I have no other acquaintances in those areas. The results of your work will bring consolation to the paternal heart of our Holy Father. And what about you? Prayer and courage. ... *Caro et sanguis non revelavit, etc. ... nesciebatis in iis quae patris*

⁸⁰ In all things.

⁸¹ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

*mei sunt oportet me esse etc.*⁸² In spirit, I continue to pray that you will glorify the Divine Blood with your apostolic career. In Fano. there is no lack of good work, *et satis provisum.*⁸³ I add nothing further. Prayers for this very wretched one that I am. I kiss your hands. With esteem and respect, most venerable Canon, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 28, 1826

1344

February 28, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Roma

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor and beloved brother

I am returning your letter. My heart is rent, *et scit Deus quod non mentior,*⁸⁴ on seeing that I am now incapable of keeping the promise that I had made, all due to unexpected circumstances. But, the Institute will keep it.

The Bishop of Terracina and Msgr. Bonanni have been assigned to Aquila; other capable people will be added. Besides, if I am able I will go. If I cannot, I will bow my head to the divine disposition: God does not need men.

As a consolation to Can. Bellisari, tell him that I will take care of making an appeal again to his Holiness. Now, it is up to the Bishop of Aquila to write definitively about the Mission, so that we do not find ourselves in anguish. Therefore, mention that we are waiting for an answer. Moreover, with regard to the Confraternity, prayer and industrious patience will bring about victory.

I recommend the Atri matter and everything else that was discussed. With regard to the suffrages, it will be necessary for us to discuss that further. Let me know when and at what time in general I can meet with you.

⁸² Flesh and blood have not revealed, etc. ... you were ignorant of what pertains to my father, it behooved me to be, etc.

⁸³ And provided enough.

⁸⁴ And God knows that I do not lie.

Pray for me *sine intermissione*.⁸⁵ I am constantly in *Corde J.X. Crucifixi*.⁸⁶

Venerable Monsignor, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roma, February 28, 1826

P. S. For the *Via Crucis*, ask Ferreti or La Monaca; if not, Canon Reggi. Last of all, Canon Fratellini.

1345

February 28, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Mimmi

Acquasparta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

I thank you for your most gracious letter and I ask you once again to express my excuses for not coming in person. I shall not fail to do so as I hope for another opportunity.

You acted correctly in advising the Archpriest Rossi to send the mounts there immediately after the 15 days. I rely on your kindness; give him my best regards.

Let me know what expenses you incurred with the shipment to S. Felice. With regard to the travelling, if there is something left over from the stipend for the Lenten preaching, very well, otherwise, do not fret about it. Between us, we will come to a settlement. With all my love and esteem, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 28, 1826

1346

March 2, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldo

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine suo*⁸⁷

Venerable Monsignor

⁸⁵ Without intermission.

⁸⁶ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

⁸⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

Sharer that you are in the crosses of our Institute, may you also be a sharer in its consolations by reading the enclosed matter, having the Holy Father read it next Saturday, or you read it to him, which is the same thing.

The bearer of this letter is the Missionary for S. Maura. Please give him a reply to his most reasonable petition. In a very great hurry, yet with inexpressible esteem and affection, I am and will constantly be

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 2, 1826

On the 4th of March the Novena of the canonization of St. Xavier will begin; it ends on the 12th.

1347

March 2, 2826

Msgr. Belisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

My Monsignor⁸⁸

While enclosing the memorandum for Canon Carboneri, I am sending you information also concerning the reply from Aquila. The bishop is most distressed if I do not go there myself etc. I am embarrassed to write things like this and I no longer have that letter. Ultimately, I think that all the praise should be given to God and all the infirmity and miserableness to me. I felt that I had to give you this information. Someone also wrote to Monsignor Muccioli from Aquila that the Mission, in that case, would be canceled. I do not cease calling everyone's attention to meditating on the words: "*Bonorum meorum non indiges*".⁸⁹

At any rate, most reverend excellency, I have always regarded you very highly and for so many reasons; even at this moment I do not wish to conceal anything from you, including this matter, so that you can weigh it in prayer on the scales of divine glory. In your meeting with the Holy Father, try to influence him in understanding what is the precise will of God, to know it better through meditation and reflection on certain points that are not to be overlooked in the examination; counsel him on the matter. The conclusion is: "everything is God's" but, at times, God himself will dispose something or other as he wishes *in facto esse*⁹⁰ I remind you: the artists in Albano; the arrear payments for Giano and the chalice of Ferrara etc. etc. Pardon my boldness

⁸⁸ This letter has no date. We assign March 2, 1826 to it in conformity with the preceding letter which refers to the "petition" of Father Gaspare Carboneri.

⁸⁹ You do not need my good things.

⁹⁰ To be in fact.

if I ask so much of you. You take care of everything and nothing will be omitted. What more can I say? My heart is totally identified with the Institute. I was even so bold as to ask Monsignor Marchetti to contact Father Sala for a pension in behalf of the House in Rimini from the bishoprics of Romagna. I kiss your hands. In Jesus Christ, I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1348

March 2, 1826

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

c/o Fr. Pasquale Modestini

Vicar Forane in Fuligno per Cannara⁹¹

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Dearest Fr. Domenico

In the Mission there I trust that you are feeling deeply the Spirit of God. Courage. When do you preach the following? "*linguas infantium fecit disertas*":⁹² the *infantium* means the humble. Do not be downcast, etc.

The offerings from Rome for the Masses are ready for you. Write in connection with this. as for the Masses that I left for you, work that out with Fr. Biagio. I am sending you another 20 so that, in case Brandimarte does not have any, they can be shared with him. I shall await the notification from you in keeping with the usual rules, and I shall send the offerings immediately. We are agreed.

Be fully assured that God definitely wishes to have you in the Institute. Get rid of any other thought as a temptation. I pray God that your Mission there turns out to be successful. Tell Fr. Raffaele that he is to use the discipline in the pulpit no more than once, and that with moderation.⁹³

When you return to Pievetorina, tell Fr. Gaetano that the collars for our cloaks are to match the standard of those worn by the Cardinals. These are short. Also, be very careful about hair styling and everything else that is considered proper grooming for a priest.⁹⁴ On these matters, too we are in agreement.

⁹¹ On the outside page, above the address, Fr. Silvestri made a notation of what he personally considered the most important part of this letter: "He assures me of my vocation" (cfr. third paragraph).

⁹² It is fitting, the innocent tongues of infants.

⁹³ *The discipline*. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Discipline.

⁹⁴ *Cloaks and hair styles*. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia.

Furthermore, I thank God for the good that is being done in Pievetorina. I have already sent the Masses to Zapponi. You shall remain in Pievetorina until D. Camillo returns. Then, using the same carriage, you are to return to S. Felice to your offices and duties. There, you will step up the practice of Retreats, check the inventories of the church, etc., etc., under the instructions of Fr. Biagio; the paintings, etc.⁹⁵ We are agreed.

I recommend the observance of the rule there in Pievetorina. Holy obedience.

Consider me in J.C. Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap

Rome, March 2 (1826)⁹⁶

P. S. Let us be mindful of the great Novena of St. Xavier on the 4th. Courage on the Missions, and stick to the method.

1349

March 3, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Canon Nicolai is in charge of the locale of S. Norberto. It has been noted however that there is satisfaction made by the payment of an annuity to the Minister of Bavaria. It is believed that the monks are not about to return. At any rate, I foresee some obstacles. Patience. Perhaps a meeting between you and the Minister might bring about some sort of clearer understanding. It would be necessary for the Cammera Apostolica to acquire it through some planning, or that God will provide another asylum and some inspiration. Pray for me who am surrounded by countless problems, a mixture, shall we say, of the bitter and the sweet. At the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 3, 1826

P. S. The bitter is made up of the urgency for seeing the temporal problems in a few of our Houses specifically put in order.

⁹⁵ *The paintings*. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia.

⁹⁶ Fr. Silvestri had been sent by the Saint to the Mission in Cannara (Diocese of assisi) in company with Fr. Raffaele Brandimarte, during Lent of 1826.

1350

March 1826

Memorandum concerning the locale of S. Norberto**for the most reverend Treasurer**

Perhaps it was an oversight of mine not to have pointed out to your most reverend excellency that the locale of S. Norberto⁹⁷ belongs to the monks under Prussian dominion. In the Caffarelli house, there is the Minister or the Councillor of State, a Protestant, who is in charge of the affairs of court. Canon Nicolai, as far as we know, administers whatever belonged to the monks etc.⁹⁸

⁹⁷ In the margin, Cristaldi notes: "His Holiness will treat this matter but he insists on secrecy". This memorandum belongs to 1826 and without doubt to the months of FebruaryApril, as is noted in some letters written to Cristaldi during that period of time. (Cfr. February 23, 1826; March 3, 1826). On May 19, 1826, as a matter of fact, St. Gaspar, writing to Cristaldi, expresses doubts about "the secret project of S. Norberto". We assign March 1826 as the date for this memorandum since it seems to come shortly after the letter to Cristaldi, March 3, 1826.

⁹⁸ On the fourth side, the Saint writes: "Concern of Pope Leo XII to provide a locale for us in Rome".