

St. Gaspar's Letters

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1351

March 7, 1826
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giacomo

A couple of lines in a hurry to find out whether, after the Easter season in the handling of matters there and the termination of your residence in Albano, you will be able to exercise the ministry in the diocese of Gaeta. I would appreciate a prompt reply so that I can balance out the appointments. I urge you to look after everything there. I am counting on your kindness. If there are people invited there, write and let me know, as well as if there is any need whatsoever. I would like to know whether the young fellow from Castelgandolfo has decided or not in favor of our Institute. Give my greetings to De Nardis; I hear that he has been ill. With complete esteem, believe me to be yours in Jesus Christ. Giobbi will not be long in returning, and the same is true for Moscatelli.

Your humble servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 7, 1826

1352

March 7, 1826
Msgr. Girolamo Manieri
Bishop of Aquila
Aquila

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

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I assure you that the bishop of Terracina along with three companions and a brotherinservice will be there between the 15th and 20th of April.

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

Once they have gotten into the vicinity, they will make preparations for the solemn entrance, a practice which is wellknown to the excellent Archpriest del Nunzio. The lodging, the meals, the retirement and separation of the Missionaries is something that is likewise wellknown to the aforementioned Archpriest; and the same can be said with regard to the erection of the platform etc. etc. I add nothing more. For the glory of God this appointment is all set. You should arrange for many capable confessors, so that each one of them can be placed in the home of pious residents there. In my own unworthy prayers to the Almighty, I shall be of assistance to bring about a copious number of celestial blessings. I am not sending a great number of Missionaries in order to be economical, something that is direly needed. In the monasteries, in the choir groupings etc., as the praiseworthy archpriest knows so well, public prayers are to be offered, the Collect asking for the gift of tears is to be added at Mass. You should find a pious person who will take charge of preparing whatever is needed for the erection of the Cross which will be left implanted in the place which is selected as a perpetual reminder of this holy ministry. The members are all of the very best workers. I say this to the glory of God, for the gifts are given to them by the Lord, and they direct the ministry very well. Contemporaneously, the Mission in Pescina will take place. Everything will be *in aemulatione sancta charitatis*.²

Would you be kind enough to give opportune instructions both to Pescina and to Rieti at the boundaries for the free passage through by our workers as well as for the cases of materials for the ministry. I mentioned Pescina, since perhaps both companies of men will be going by way of Pescina and then from there, Monsignor with his men will continue on to Aquila. When I refer to a bishop, I must advise you that in keeping with the directives of the Camere and our regulations, you need not worry at all about making the least alteration. Since he is a member of our Institute, even though he is a bishop, he will also adhere firmly to our rules during the ministry.

I kiss your hands. With, esteem, respect and veneration, most illustrious and reverend sir, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 7, 1826

1353

March 11, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am enclosing three pages. The first page regards Benevento and you will note diversity

² In sacred emulation of charity.

in the way of thinking concerning the placement of the *praetor* (leader). You decide for yourself on this question. Some are of the opinion that it would be good to activate for a new locale, but it appears that the government could save money etc. etc. The archbishop should be interrogated.

The second page regards the bishop of Assisi. You can decide in your own mind what is substantial. Remove whatever you think is superfluous. I know now that Monsignor Marchetti will be going to live across from the Stigmati, and I thought that I would give you the information which you note here. The Holy Father probably has a *da tavolino* man nearby, and in the final stages of life of the most reverend bishop of Assisi, he would be given the help that could be expected.

The third page regards the artists in Albano.³ I simply do not know what to do with so many things overwhelming me; not to upset you, but you really known only half of the situation. It is a question of an apostolic installation which presents a mound of difficulties. *Testis est mihi Deus, expedit*,⁴ thus says the apostle. *Capta opportunitate*,⁵ one could discuss the misunderstanding concerning the funds that have been designated.

Finally, if the right moment comes up, I urge you to be mindful of Rimini and the previously suggested policy of getting help through a pension offered by the bishoprics of Romagna, which are presently vacant etc. Anyone who joins the Society now leaves to others that follow the canonries, the salaries, and so etc.

Up to now Giano has received neither arrear payments nor current ones. I see that the situation is not settled yet, but still we must provide a living; there is no treasury to rely on. You are quite capable of realizing, then, the anguish that seizes me and causes me to insist more and more on humble prayer before God, so that he will multiply his merciful kindness toward us. With complete esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Tomorrow, the 12th, is the canonization of the great Xavier to whom I recommend all the things that are pending.

1354

March 11, 1826

Pope Leo XII

Pope Pius VII, of holy memory, in his sovereign decision, granted that the locale of S. Paolo in Albano be restored so as to have established there the great work of the Missions and

³ Cfr. the following letter.

⁴ God is my witness, it is expedient.

⁵ Seizing the opportunity.

Spiritual Retreats. Now, the artists, in their concern to be reimbursed for their expenses, thanks at the same time for their labors, presented their bills to his excellency, the most reverend Treasurer; however, the work that was precisely needed for the activation of that locale has really not yet been completed in all of its phases. So now that residual account remains yet to be satisfied. It has been years that these artists have been awaiting that payment. And consequently, they beg that his excellency, the most reverend Treasurer, be authorized to, etc. etc.

In behalf of the artists in the Mission House in Albano

1355

March 12, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I say to you that tomorrow Canon Carboneri will be leaving with one of our brothers in service for the foreign Missions. One of our foundations or Mission Houses will be established in Zante.

Now, we must think about Luigiana. You can imagine how, at the present time, through the pure mercy of God, I am completely involved. In your charity, please help with your prayers. May I be able to say: I will be coming for such and such a day; "*positum est id in haesitatione dubii*".⁶ Generally speaking, as soon as I am able. At any rate, since I am providing you with two very capable workers for Treja, along with the good Primavera and a brother in service, *satis erit provisum*.⁷ In the meantime, I shall continue meditating on the words *bonorum meorum non eges*.⁸ Please send me your reply on this and other matters immediately since you simply cannot imagine the number of requests that arrive.

When Fr. Camillo Rossi returns, the temporal affairs in Pievetorina will be finalized. Also, for this year, I hear that the Lenten preacher, by the grace of God, was successful. *Laus Deo*.⁹

For the time being, this seems to be all that I have to say to you except to ask you to pray for me, a miserable thing. Consider me to be at your beck and call, as I kiss your hands with complete esteem and affection.

⁶ It was placed in a perplexity of doubt.

⁷ Enough will be provided.

⁸ You are not lacking in my good things.

⁹ Praise to God.

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹⁰

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 12, 1826 (canonization of Xavier)

1356

March 12, 1826

Fr. Pasquale De Nardis

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Pasquale

Next Saturday, Father Giobbi will be returning.

How has your health been? I am thinking about assigning you to Pievetorina. Would you accept this? It would be necessary for you to depart as soon as you have recovered, and, at the latest, immediately after the feast of the Resurrection. In a hurry, but still consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 12, 1826

I would like to entrust to you the position of economist in Pievetorina, etc.

1357

March 14, 1826

Msgr. Annibale Ginnasi

Roma

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine suo*¹¹

My Monsignor

Various occupations of my ministry impeded me yesterday from going to see Msgr. Domenico. Express my respects to him, at least by letter.

I regret hearing the news of your saintly niece. I would like to have still more recent news. It seems, however, that God is already calling her to himself. With regard to the Mass and Office, ask Msgr. Fatuti to grant permission for at least one Mass to be solemn, if nothing else can be arranged, for the first Sunday of July, safeguarding the privilege which the Canons involved have concerning Office and Mass at another time. I hope that, at least in regard to the Solemn Mass, you will not encounter difficulties. If necessary, exert all your influence for this,

¹⁰ To his lowest servant in Christ.

¹¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

that is, of drawing up a new petition. The expenses incurred will be reimbursed in any case. Make every effort to achieve this good.

Wherever you have priests with whom you are acquainted, write to them of the general invitation which the Holy Father is extending to them through me, namely, that some of them dedicate themselves to the apostolic ministry. If each diocese would offer one individual, while the Seminaries continue to supply replacements, what a great good it would be for the interests of Religion! Or, if they should not be enthusiastic for the Foreign Missions, at least have them come to our Houses to take the place of those of ours who are preparing to depart. One has already left for Zante, taking a laybrother with him. Write; and pray efficaciously. Anyone who volunteers himself should correspond with me. Particularly, contact your episcopal friends as well as the people of Toscana where you have connections. Keep me informed as to the Dioceses where the information is distributed, for my own records, so that I can take it up and carry on from there. If there is question of young men in Orders, they will be able to come to our Boarding Schools: great needs, indeed, exist everywhere, but in the Propaganda, they are extreme. I add nothing else.

Consider me, with all affection and esteem, while ever renewing our pacts, In Jesus Christ Crucified, wherein I am and will constantly be

of you, Venerable Monsignor

Humble, obliged Servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Roma) March 14, 1826

Regards to your sisterinlaw, when you write, and to Count Giulio.

1358

March 14, 1826

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giacomo

Thank you for your concern and for your zeal for which you will receive generous reward from God. Next Saturday Father Gregorio will be there and from day to day during this week, I am likewise awaiting the return of Moscatelli. With regard to the young man from Castelgandolfo, I understand, and I will discuss it with Father Gregorio. I do not cease to recommend everything there to you for the time being. If I were to ask you to conduct a three day Retreat in the seminary, make yourself available, for that much more would the situation be alleviated. You can arrange your trip to Rome for after Easter. On that occasion, I would consider having you give the main sermon in the city of Ancona where our Monsignor Bonanni will be acting as the director and in addition to other companions, the clergy etc. will be giving the

catechetical instructions. It would be necessary, however, to leave Rome between the 10th and 12th of April, and not later. At that time you can also visit the shrine of Loreto. In the current maildelivery, let me know whether you will accept this appointment, and realize that it cannot be dependent on doubtful situations or conditions ... a precise and firm promise, for you simply cannot imagine how many requests are arriving. May Albano give thanks to God for what it has. If this trip arrangement is not convenient for you, then let me know for what day I can count on you for other Missions. You know what the ministry is like and you can see why exactness is inevitable. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, March 14¹²

P. S. Whatever the offering you receive for the Retreat should be put on account with Father Giobbi.

1359

March 15, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is what is necessary for our organization, giving glory to the Protector of our Archconfraternity. Speak first with Pelizza and raise the balance, and then decide *quid expediat in Domino, etc.*¹³

I am convinced that Canon Ferratti will take care of the Way of the Cross if you would only ask him.

I urge you to look into the Atri affair. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be with esteem

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 15, 1826

Do not forget the Cardinal of Bavaria.

1360

¹² The year is 1826. Cfr. the letter to this same person, dated March 7, 1825.

¹³ Whatever should be expedient in the Lord, etc.

March 15, 1826
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
 Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is my petition in behalf of our members of St. Xavier. It is not necessary for me to be lengthy in my recommending it to your diligence, realizing that whatever good is accomplished is the fruit of the piety of these good and zealous Brothers, although restricted to a small number. The fact is that they do not desire the use of the small garden, but only the church and the small adjacent rooms, where they will have a place to set up their archives, vestiary, etc., just as the Congregation of *Salus Infirmorum* had. The rent should be equitable as possible. By making this request for so great a cause, you will have immense merit in the sight of God.

This is all that I have to bring to your attention. In the meantime, with the fullness of esteem and respect I assure you that I am, Monsignor most venerable, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Roma, March 15, 1826

1361

March 19, 1826
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor

The two members that I will be sending to you are very capable men. One is adept in handling the clergy and is also a catechist, the other is fit for preaching. *Satis ergo provisum. Misit binos.*¹⁴ The confessors will be arranged for as usual. With regard to Tarulli, do not worry about him. Likewise, do not be concerned about Bonanni. I want both of them for you, of course. Everything is set up for Treja. Let me know on what day my companions are to be in Pievetorina where they will take on a Brother and begin their work from Treja. As for Camerino, when you find yourself getting nervous about it, just let me handle the situation. You will be satisfied. Note that I expect to relieve you of your worries, overcoming the lost cause, so to speak. However, I would like to ask you for one favor. Allow me to have Primavera as one of my men for the Mission in Ancona. The date for that is around April 25th. Please send me a quick reply on this. I

¹⁴ Therefore there has been sufficient provision. He sent them two by two.

kiss your hands. Though in quite a hurry; in Jesus Christ Crucified, with all my affection, I remain,

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹⁵

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 19, 1826

P. S. Father Stramazzi would be able to go with another priest or with Father Maccari to another part of the diocese. Excuse my enthusiasm.

1362

March 22, 1826

Msgr. Girolamo Manieri

Bishop of Aquila

Aquila

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

Venerable Monsignor

I received your letter and the bearer of this letter will give you in person a reply to everything. I kiss your hands, most venerable Monsignor, and while asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 22, 1826

1363

March 26, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the Divine Blood of Jesus Christ, our Love

My Monsignor

Thank you a thousand times for everything. I set the first Mission for the 1st of May; so, without the least doubt the workers will be arriving.

In your entire trip, you will please remember the collection for the House in Pievetorina, so that the total debt can be removed and even cover the traveling expenses. In general, let it be

¹⁵ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

¹⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

said: the final collection will be for the Mission House, in order to firmly establish it etc.

The workers that I will be sending will then remain in Pievetorina and thus you will have on hand someone capable of carrying out the various lines of the ministry. More, in another letter. I kiss your hands. Faced with the shortest amount of time since I must now hear confessions, etc. ... With complete esteem, in Jesus Christ Crucified, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*¹⁷

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 26, 1826

I shall write to Fr. Angelo Primavera in Bolognola. Have no doubts about the abilities of the men I am sending etc. etc.

1364

March 27, 1826

Fr. Nicola Palma

Naples per Teramo

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

How pleased I was to see your handwriting again and to renew even more so our intimate union in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, the only center of every delight.

I especially appreciated the two copies of the Responsory, for which the Saintly apostle of the Indies will reward you from heaven. Oh, how my spirit was exalted on reading it many, many times! I hope that one day the Saint will give new life to your Pious Works there. Let us pray without ceasing.

I am in Rome for the meeting dealing with the Foreign Missions. Two of our men have already departed for Zante,¹⁸ there they will revitalize one of our foundations. At present, thought is being given to North America.

The Holy Father has charged me to stimulate interest in anyone that I know to be fit for so great a good. If only one priest per diocese would give himself to the apostolate, while the Seminaries continue preparing new plants, etc., what a strong support would be given to the interests of Religion! If those who do not have the courage to go abroad would only come forward to substitute in our Houses for our own men who are willing to go wherever the glory of God directs them. These are the sentiments of our Holy Father that you can communicate to the Bishop there and to whomever else you wish. You will have great merit for it.

If I had any sway at all over your soul, oh, how I would counsel you to leave the Canonry and come with us. How much good would you not do at S. Felice in Giano, where we have one

¹⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

¹⁸ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Mission, Foreign; also: America, Mission in.

of our Boarding Schools? If you wanted a year *ad deliberandum*,¹⁹ send me your petition. I would look into it right away to see what I could manage to do.

Finally, I would be pleased to have other copies, if you can favor me with them, of the Responsory. The way to do it would be to make a separate folding for me with the outer envelope addressed to the Most Reverend Treasurer in Rome. I know that their courier goes to Ascoli.

I kiss your hand. Give my regards to Fr. Pancrazio and the others of your house, and anyone else who remembers me. I recommend myself to your prayers in common, and let us not cease *per dura et aspera*²⁰ to serve the interests of the greater divine glory, to which we are dedicated. With profound esteem and respect, consider me as

Venerable Canon, your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 27, 1826

Would (you) like, perhaps, to assist in the Missions of Benevento?

1365

March 27, 1826

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Giovanni Francesco

The month in honor of the Divine Blood is approaching. Do not spare any means in promoting the observance of the month there where the holy Relic is. I hope that Canon Tarulli will be coming and will do great work. In case there is no member available, the most reverend bishop should write to me and I will send someone. The income and outgo I would say should be calculated from the alms given in church. It seems to me that it would not be too expensive to have a worker come from Benevento since he would be able to get there sooner. I do not know whether it is a bit too risky suggesting all of this. I cannot count on our Missionaries from Pievetorina or Giano since they are so heavily burdened with Missions. But then, so are the ones in Benevento, but there is a larger family there. So, it will be necessary to write immediately. Let us be in agreement on this. The devotion to the Divine Blood encourages me more and more to give glory to the Crucified Lord.

The eight day Mission in Offida was too short. Patience. One never really instructs the people sufficiently.

¹⁹ To weigh carefully.

²⁰ Through hard and rough times.

I understand everything you tell me about the situation in your family. Canon Tarulli will not be returning soon to Matelica. I hear that he will be going to another Mission with our Monsignor Bonanni, that is, precisely to Terni where you will be able to write to him using the bishop's address there for forwarding. May Jesus be our love and in his most adorable Heart, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*²¹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 27, 1826

Propagate wherever you can the month of June. If you should need more booklets, write to me for them; also, one can see to the offering of the Chaplet etc.

1366

March 28 , 1826

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Countess

After quite a bit of time, I am now inconveniencing you to ask for your assistance, if you can, in something pertaining to the glory of God and that is not too difficult.

Perhaps you manage to get 40 Masses that could be applied by pious priests who would then surrender the respective alms for our pious causes giving much glory to the Lord. It would be necessary to prepare a document for 30 Masses on a separate sheet that would indicate: the name, the surname of the priest, the church and diocese and the month in which it is celebrated. It must be prepared in this way for each day. I should say pages since the other 10 should be placed on a separate sheet but having the same indications. For the 30 Masses, it seems to me that the alms given should be two *paoli* for each Mass, unless I am mistaken. I do not know about the other 10. Try to divide them in Romagna, but in such a way that the two pages can be conveniently circulated. The celebration will be carried out as soon as possible and the Lord's recompense will be bountiful.

You cannot imagine how extensive the projects of the ministry can be. So, I have felt inspired to turn to you in your charity for help in this undertaking. I am presently in Rome to take part in a few meetings dealing with the foreign Missions of the Propaganda. Two of our men have already departed. Pray to the Lord for them. The Holy Father would like to have at least one man from each diocese to undertake this holy career since the needs are so extreme, and so people do not have at all the services of a single priest. The seminaries are continuing to supply men; much can be done to improve the status of our religion. The Holy Father has charged me to

²¹ Being your lowest servant in Christ.

write everywhere that I am acquainted with. However, in Romagna, I do not have connections. I believe that God wishes to make use of you, at least to the extent that you will certainly help me with special prayers in this matter that pertains also to the glory of the Lord which is of such great interest to me.

If some priest does not have the inclination for foreign Missions, at least let him come to substitute in one of our Houses here in the Papal State so that some of our men can go into the foreign Missions. If more clarification is needed, all that needs to be done is to write to me. I would be pleased to be contacted even by the young men *in sacris*²² or near to that.

With regard to the matter of the Masses, do not be worried if you are unable to manage that. God will reward you even for your good intentions. I shall await your reply.

I hope that your apostolic work is continuing and that you are getting other women to join you. Let us propagate our devotion to the Divine Blood, and I would like to have introduced there the practice of observing the month of June consecrated to the mysteries of the Divine Blood as is done here in Rome and elsewhere. There is a booklet prepared for this purpose. If you do not have one, all you have to do is drop me a word. It seems to me that this practice is observed in Bologna.

May Jesus be our love, and, in his adorable Heart, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 28, 1826

P. S. If the priests can celebrate those Masses at a privileged altar, it will be an even greater good for the glory of God.

1367

March 28, 1826

Camillo Silvestri Celi

Montalto

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

The occupations of holy Lent have prevented me from answering your recent most appreciated letter. I am edified more and more by your zeal and the concern you show for divine glory, and you can be certain of the most generous blessings from the almighty.

²² In sacred [orders].

I have written to the new bishop,²³ recommending the oratory to him as strongly as I could, but not before this very same maildelivery. I am hoping for his total assistance in settling matters.

Generally speaking, I feel sorry for the Regulars if they reclaim their own belongings since they would not have the permission to donate them. But, shall we say, perhaps this mixup of things could make way for an apostolic approval as the most reverend bishop would better be able to judge. At any rate, do not be dejected in spirit. God acts wondrously in his works. He will protect our oratory; in the meanwhile, inform the most reverend bishop.

I do not know whether the month of the Divine Blood is practiced there as it is in Offida. Palmucci can give you more information on that.

May Jesus be our love, and in his Divine Heart, while asking you for your prayers, I am, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 28, 1826

1368

March 29, 1826

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Now I really have a reason for being disappointed in you! Why do you not write to me any more? You probably received my last letter to you which was quite interesting since it dealt with your vocation. In God, I hope so.

I am here in Rome attending a few meetings in the Propaganda which is in need of workers for the foreign Missions. There are some peoples who are completely devoid of priests. Two of our men have already departed for Zante. Now the Holy Father wants me to write to the people with whom I am acquainted in order to increase the number of workers. If only one man from each diocese would offer his services, what a boost that would be for the interests of our

²³ St. Gaspar was in Montalto to preach a Mission from the 15th to the 24th of June in 1823. To which new bishop is he referring to here? To Msgr. Filippo Ambrosi, who was bishop of Montalto from November 17th 1823 to May 29th, 1825, the date of his death, or perhaps to Msgr. Luigi Maria Canestrari, who was bishop from December 19th, 1825 to October 19, 1846? Above all, the error in the date indicated in this copy of the letter appears to be quite evident. In 1836, one would not refer to a bishop as a "new bishop" if he had been nominated in 1825! We are inclined to think that the copyist may have confused the number 2 for a number 3 and would have read 1836 where the year was 1826. In 1826, as a matter of fact, on March 28, St. Gaspar was in Rome occupied in Lenten preaching. He was not there in 1824, no matter how much one might prefer to think that this new bishop could have been Msgr. Ambrosi. Therefore, we maintain that this letter should be assigned to the year 1826.

Catholic religion. Lastly, the seminaries are continuing to supply replacements. ... If a priest does not feel called to the foreign Missions, let him at least come to one of our Houses to substitute for our men who will go. If it is a question of young men who are students in theology, let them apply for training in our Houses of study. I add nothing more. You should try to be of assistance in this line of endeavor for the glory of the Lord, as much as you can. Above all, let us offer prayers. Prayer is the key to the celestial treasures. Pray and have others pray for me incessantly.

When you have the opportunity, please send me one or two reams of paper, letting me know the cost. This is paper for letterwriting. Does the printer there have any more Chaplets? I do not have any and am presently in need of them. For the record, I would like to know about this. In Jesus Christ Crucified, with esteem, respect and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 29, 1826

P. S. A company of our men will be going to the diocese of Camerino; another to Ancona etc. Pray for Monsignor Bottaoni, the most reverend auditor, who is ill.

1369

March 1826

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Giovanni²⁴

Do not forget, in the maildeliveries, to take care of the letters to our men, since Canon Betti has also expressed his concern about this to me. If there is any mail for him, please forward it to Benevento.

I am enclosing a packet of papers for the mailman; send it by hand to Vallecorsa. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1370

MarchApril 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

²⁴ This letter is not dated. From the reference to the letters of Fr. Innocenzo Betti, who had been in Frosinone as is evident from the house meetings in 1824 and 1825, whereas in January of 1826 he was in Benevento, this letter is to be assigned to 1826, and more precisely to the early months of 1826 when Betti's mail could still be coming to Frosinone. We date it, therefore, in March 1826 since on March 6, 1826. Chiodi was charged by the housecongressus to supply completely for the local superior, Fr. Giovanni Merlini.

Rome

Promemorandum²⁵

for his excellency, the most reverend Monsignor Treasurer
concerning faculties for the Missions and prisons

In virtue of some Missions to be conducted in Romagna, would you please ask His Holiness to communicate my faculties to the companions who will be going to take care of the good work there that has been requested.²⁶

Item, the same petition is being made in behalf of the prisons as well as those detained in Civitavecchia, with only one addition ... and that is an exemption from the obligation of denouncing *hac tantum occasione, et praevia monitione de obligatione theologica quae adesset ex peculiaribus circumstantiis loci et personarum benignitate Apostolica amota*.²⁷

Item, with regard to the prisons, in order to make the work of God more glorious, that those condemned for life should have that sentence limited to fifty years of punishment (a proposal that will be verified with difficulty, but will be more of a consolation to the spirit in some way, and make the penance a bit more bearable); with the other prisoners, that they have their sentence reduced by three years from the time of their sentencing. This does not mean that I have already given notice to my Missionaries that they are not to accept any other petitions. *In hisce autem quae scripsi postremo loco sapientioribus me remitto. Ego autem ita opinor in Domino*.²⁸

With respect to the spiritual faculties applicable to the prisoners, these are requested for the Missionaries as well as other workers who will assist in the apostolic ministry to the benefit of the detained, the arrested etc. etc.²⁹

1371

MarchApril 1826

Msgr. Belisario Cristaldi

Rome

²⁵ This promemorandum must be assigned to MarchApril of 1826 since at that period of time the retreat for the detained in Civitavecchia was conducted, in which the young Father Beniamino Romani participated

²⁶ In the margin, Cristaldi noted: *Granted*

²⁷ Here, too, Cristaldi noted: *Granted*. "On this occasion only, and with previous admonition about the theological obligation which would be present, from the particular local circumstances, and the apostolic kindness of persons being removed."

²⁸ Cristaldi's reply in the margin: *It did not appear to me to be a good idea to speak of this*. "In these things, however, which I wrote in the last place I am yielding to those wiser than I. But I am thus thinking in the Lord."

²⁹ Notation: *Granted*. a few more words follow, but they are not decipherable.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁰

Venerable Monsignor

For the audience this morning, I recommend the enclosed petition.

Yesterday I wrote to my companion in Civitavecchia with regard to the condonation requested,³¹ and I included your page.

If, in going through your lettercollection, you should find some page or so for our General Archives, which I am organizing, please send that on to me at your convenience.

It seems to me that with regard to the artists in Albano, you might be able to grant a monthly allowance from the Lotti. Wholeheartedly, I pray to the Lord for you to whom, after God, we owe everything. Since I have learned about your upcoming promotion, I, on the one hand rejoice in spirit for the greater blessing that God is preparing for you, and on the other hand I do not cease hoping that our dealings will all be firmly consolidated. *Orabimus ergo coram Domino.*³²

If the discussion goes successfully, propose in a general way, Father Pasquale Modestini for any episcopal see that the Holy Father might be considering etc. And as for Ravenna, if ever consideration should be given, it would be good not to forget Romagna and the Marca.

A certain Canon from Pesaro says that he asked you for one of our foundations, based on certain residuals of administration.

They write to me from Giano that from a discussion held with the Father Rector, they note that our pension will not be as it was for the Jesuits. Venerable Monsignor, with the fullness of esteem and veneration, I do not cease renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

It seems that the Adorers of the most Blessed Sacrament, located at the four fountains, will be moving to another locale. If so, it might be possible that that holy place might be our hospice, perchance, etc. Yesterday, I had a meeting with the Vicar General of Marseilles who is wholeheartedly interested in having one of our establishments there in that area, etc. and he is overjoyed in seeing the promotion of an apostolic clergy, etc.

1372

April 1, 1826

Sister Maria Saveria di S. Agostino

Rome

³⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

³¹ From this remark, we conclude that this letter is contemporaneous with the preceding one.

³² We will pray, therefore, before the Lord.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Here is the booklet which, though it is for Directors, is still useful also for the souls that are being directed. You will find an error or so in the printing, which is something easily noted.

Good intentions to serve God are the fruit of divine grace. Cultivate them and always have great trust in the mercy of God. Practice humility always, and may it be your delight. Walk in the divine presence and speak with your Lord and our Father in common, who has loved us so much as to redeem us with the price of his most Precious Blood. The crosses of this miserable life detach us from this earth and direct our thoughts heavenward. I add nothing more. We belong irrevocably to Jesus Christ to whose glory we are consecrated.

While advising you not to change your confessor, I remain, with esteem and respect

*Suo infimo in J. C. servo*³³

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House, April 1, 1826

1373

April 1, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giovanni, my dearest in the Lord

In reply to your letter which I was so pleased to receive, I say to you that you should cease all letterwriting for a short period of time. Think only about God, your soul, the ministry, and eternity. I have already written to the most reverend bishop concerning you. Have no more worries. In the meantime, with many prayers, prepare yourself for doing good work, since I foresee that you will, in time, be destined for the foreign Missions. Let us set ourselves firmly in the practice of humility and confidence in God; do not stop studying moral theology and, in general, the other sacred studies.

Severini will be writing to you concerning everything that you desire. Let me know what you want done with your habit in Giano. Do you wish that I send it to be sold in Fuligno, or would you want me to have it sent to you there? How has your health been? Are you happy?

From this moment, I am urging you to prepare yourself for the public retreat for the Jubilee year in Terracina where I shall be sending you; I shall be writing to you also about three other matters within a few days. Prepare yourself well. You will learn from Merlini the method of conducting a Retreat. I repeat, you are to remain with the greatest tranquility in the hands of the Lord to whose glory we are dedicated.

³³ Being his lowest servant in Jesus Christ.

I am sending you 20 Masses to be celebrated *juxta intentionem etc.*³⁴ I shall be awaiting your letter of acknowledgment as you know it is required. Then, I shall send you the pertinent offerings. Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 1, 1826

P. S. Prepare one, indeed, two rooms for two of our men who will be showing up there soon.

1374

April 2, 1826

Msgr. Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You will be obeyed with regard to Pastena, Monticelli, Traetto and Coreno. Pray for me and with profound esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obedient servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Missionary Ap.

Rome, April 2, 1826

P. S. Please supply the usual dispositions.

1375

April 2, 1826

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

Oh goodness how distressed I am to learn about the sickness of the excellent Monsignor Manassi. Please be kind enough to give me information. Why did he ever travel without a serious reason on Good Friday and in the rain! For the Mission in Aquila, it certainly will not need as rapid a trip to Piperno. Patience. Now my heart is afflicted because this is the universal Jubilee year and a thousand things have to be done which keep assailing me so that I do not find it an easy thing to get replacements. That you, too, should not be there for the appointment is

³⁴ According to the intention, etc.

impossible, and a real temptation even to think about it. Without saying anything further, between the 13th and 14th of this month, it will be necessary for you to be in Frosinone for the appointment. I will assign only a part of the work which will not be too burdensome. The only alternative which might be available is that in your place you would send the most reverend bishop, Vicar Volpi. But it is inevitable that it must be one or the other. I shall be awaiting your reply. I assure you that on the Mission, you will not work *ultra vires*,³⁵ and if neither you nor the most reverend bishop Volpi can favor me, then consider sending me another worker, but one that is capable. I am hoping that you will come, and to you I would give the work pertaining to the monasteries; in particular, this occupation. With very special greetings also to the most reverend bishop, and with all my esteem, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 2, 1826

1376

April 4, 1826

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father³⁶

The Missionaries of the Archconfraternity *sub titulo Pretiosissimi Sanguinis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi*³⁷ request permission to be able to erect the *Via Crucis* in their church of Mary, the Sorrowful Mother, in Terracina. Likewise, to be able do the same in our private, interior chapel as a convenience to those who withdraw to our Mission House to make a Retreat, as well as for the entire community living there; that etc.

In behalf of the undersigned petitioners

1377

April 5, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

³⁵ Beyond one's strength.

³⁶ The petition is in St. Gaspar's handwriting. On the fourth side there is the papal concession dated April 4, 1826. That rescript refers the request to the judgment of the Minister General of the Order of Friars Minor, who, on April 17, 1826 granted the faculty that was requested "*accedente licentia Ordinarii Loci*". The *nulla osta* (=no entrance) of the bishop of Terracina, Carlo Manassi, dated May 23, 1826, is found at the bottom of the petition.

³⁷ Under the title of the most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁸

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

I am returning now from a meeting in the Propaganda, having received a call from Monsignor Caprano concerning whom more will be said when we meet in person. He will be occupied with me tomorrow morning so that, except for the mail, I shall not be able to be with you then. But, I will be seeing you Friday morning at the usual time. In the meanwhile, I thank you wholeheartedly for all of your efforts, for which you will receive from the most merciful God a plenteous reward.

Tomorrow, I shall offer my Mass for you so that the Lord will fill you with his blessings. Our Society, as it continues to grow, is greatly needful. I give thanks to God who is our loving Father *et in auxilio opportuno praesto est nobis*.³⁹ It will be the completion of his favors if, on Friday, he will be pleased to have me find the order. I kiss your hands. May Jesus be our love, and in his Divine Heart, with the fulness of esteem, respect and inexpressible gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 5, 1826

1378

April 7, 1826

Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter, I say to you that, up to now, God has disposed that I should not come to Castelforte. This was due to the very heavy obligations of the ministry. I am enclosing a letter of mine for a companion who must have already arrived in Traetto. You shall see that the preaching will now be carried out there with the permission of Monsignor, and you should first discuss this with the Missionary.

I will be sending you the booklet for the month. You should try to promote this practice. Ask a certain Leo if he has received what he requested of me.

I am sending you a relic of St. Xavier for your home.

It seems that I have nothing more to say now. Insist on everything that pertains to the glory of God, and for one of our foundations there.

While assuring you that Bartolomeo has told me that you are also thinking about the

³⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

³⁹ He is ready for us with opportune help.

Sorrowful Mother, with esteem and respect, I assure you that I am, in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 7, 1826

P.S. With regard to the collection, I have written to the bishop. Now, you should talk to him in person.

1379

April 9, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Once again I assure you that the workers will arrive in Pievetorina by the end of April, and in such a way that by May 1st, the great work of the Missions can begin. Others of our men will be leaving for the Missions in North America. These matters are demanding my stay in Rome for the time being. In all things, may the will of God be done. Other Houses of study will be opened for young priests just as the one in Giano. Pray for me a lot. In Jesus Christ Crucified, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, as well as a very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 9, 1826

1380

April 12, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

Frosinone

Faculties ⁴⁰ for the Missions *attuali tantum* of
Aquila, Pescina, Diocese of Sora, Baucce, Monte S. Giovanni,
to be communicated by Merlini

*cui conscientiae pro debito uso omnia committuntur*⁴¹

1. Dispensation from the Office, with our usual reminders concerning the use of time etc.

⁴⁰ This writing does not have a date. The year is certainly 1826 as can be deduced from the Missions that are referred to. The day and the month (April 12th) and the place of origin (Rome) is derived from the postal markings.

⁴¹ To which conscience all are committed for obligatory use.

2. Indulgence of seven years, and the same number of quarantines, applicable to the souls in Purgatory, to be gained each time anyone takes part in the functions of the holy Mission.

3. A plenary indulgence to be gained at every general Communion service, even for the nuns, prisoners, seminarians, conservatory students, and applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

4. A plenary indulgence to be gained by anyone who, after the holy Mission, will make the seven Sundays in honor of the most holy Mary, Sorrowful Mother, no matter when they are begun, and applicable to the souls in Purgatory.

5. To be able to erect altars because of the urgency involved with services, if that is necessary, etc.

6. To bless *in articulo mortis*⁴² chaplets, crucifixes, medals, rosaries, and uniforms. Fragile articles do not receive the indulgence.

7. To celebrate Mass one hour and a half before dawn for the convenience of the ministry.

8. The faculty to be able to absolve and to dispense from irregularities, suspensions and, in general, from any papal case which is not brought forth in the external forum, even with the *censura servatis servandis quoad caetera temporalia aliquoties componenda*; and, in short, *pro interim absolvatur a poenis spiritualibus ita ut possit esse absolutus a peccatis. In reliquis*⁴³ one will have recourse etc. The questions for the Penitentiary are to be submitted to me so that everything will be handled with decorum. You know how significant all of this is.

Reminders

1. Every Mission Director should be informed *in omnibus*⁴⁴ by the bishops concerning their special faculties, concerning reserved matters that should be told to the penitents, etc., as well as the bull for the Jubilee year etc.

2. Caution in certain cases and certain contracts etc. etc. Indeed, *quoad culpam*⁴⁵ is the matter to be handled; *in reliquis modo prudentiis*⁴⁶ the question to be examined and *ad quid teneantur*.⁴⁷ *Interim*⁴⁸ a confessor should be told that in case of death there are obligations to be

⁴² At the moment of death.

⁴³ With respect to the other temporalities, censure should be invoked several times with the proper restrictions ... for the interim, he should be absolved from the spiritual penalties, so that he can be absolved from his sins. In the rest of the cases ...

⁴⁴ In all things.

⁴⁵ As to fault.

⁴⁶ In the rest like a prudent person.

⁴⁷ To which let them be held.

⁴⁸ Meanwhile.

examined etc. *aut aliter provideatur*.⁴⁹ In short, the person's conscience should be assisted.

3. A just benignity toward penitents, and in cases under consideration, they should listen carefully to your direction.

4. With regard to denunciations to be made by the Carbonari, the direction of the bishops is to be observed, in general, but it is pointed out that for the one who is the denouncer of someone *ante Bullam lapsus est attamen immissa Bulla statim ad Deum rediit, denuntiatio omittatur, secus in caeteris casibus* of someone who has ridiculed the Bull, *aut reincidit aut fovet, scripta retinet etc. etc. etc.*⁵⁰ as for using the sacred laws *circa hoc et caetera*, one must use good judgment. *In aliquibus casibus*,⁵¹ one can attempt to obtain a dispensation *si necessitas urgeat*.⁵² You know all of this quite well.

5. Be careful about ecclesiastical funds, laical chaplaincies especially in the Kingdom, etc. etc. I accompany all of you wholeheartedly etc.

So that I can be at ease about all of these things, I recommend them to your care. Take along your Liguori. When necessary, consult him. Arrange for the league of confessors to select those that are fit, accredited etc. If I have forgotten anything, write and let me know. If you need another companion with Spaziani and Marchetti remaining in Frosinone, Gaspari would be able to come. Let us understand each other. *Ora pro me*.⁵³ Be attentive to the execution of etc. Be generous with your concern, your instructions, your reminders. Books belonging to the sects or important ones dealing with the times, should be collected. Scandalous images are to be corrected by a man who is married and mature in judgment, etc., etc. May the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanse, sanctify etc. Note to see where it is necessary to set up religious organizations for the farm people. Revive the former ones. Note which pious works have fallen into disuse. One more confessor to be received in the House *gratis* but providing the carriages etc.; and the Directors are to look after etc. If you have Masses, share them. Otherwise, write etc.

1381

April 15, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

⁴⁹ Or let them be provided for otherwise.

⁵⁰ Before the Bull has lapsed, but when the Bull was sent, he immediately returned to God; let the denunciation be omitted, otherwise in the other cases ... he either relapses or remains constant. He retains the writings, etc. ... concerning this the other matters also.

⁵¹ In other cases

⁵² If there should be urgent necessity.

⁵³ Pray for me.

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundabit conscientias nostras*⁵⁴

Venerable Monsignor

Here is the page sent to me from Giano. So, I ask that tomorrow you speak with the Holy Father. Be kind enough to have him realize that in Giano there is a House of studies in addition to all the rest. For you, only a reminder is needed. The most holy Mary will watch over the audience. The enclosed letters will serve as a consolation for him. If all goes well and the Holy Father is pleased with them, I would be able to send others, but they have business matters mixed into them. I would like to have them back to be preserved in our General Archives which I am in the process of setting up. Then, remind the Holy Father about a version for Rimini that you know about etc. That House has only a very few *scudi* as income annually; I do not know whether they would even add up to around 30. I just do not know precisely. However, I do know that it is one of the reasons that my thoughts turn often to Romagna where there is need for increasing the number of our family etc.

With regard to Benevento, in my opinion, all that is required is a decisive order that within the space of only a few days, they evacuate our locale. Whatever the reasons are for the delay, the glory of God is being defrauded. The very important House for Retreats cannot be activated. For their residence, the Missionaries have five rooms, with a small room available for the Brothers. Until the time when the locale is refurbished by the tribunals, they will have to seek shelter wherever they can. The city of Benevento is not small. If everything goes well, you might make a reference to a hospice for us in Rome, etc. etc. Note, too, that with regard to the arrear payments for Giano, you and the Holy Father should set up the basic principles for bringing to a conclusion once and for all, this whole situation. The accounts which have been received through your pious efforts during these recent periods should be allowed to be enjoyed by that House, where so many fine young men are being trained for the sanctuary. I kiss your hands, and, most reverend excellency, always with full esteem, respect and immeasurable gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 15, 1826

P. S. With the greatest possible hurry, I would like to bring these matters of the Institute to a conclusion. God will bless etc.

1382

April 15, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

⁵⁴ The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our consciences.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor and dearest brother

Here is the invitation. Read it, correct it, change it as you see fit, noting also the spelling and make whatever alterations in terminology that you think should be made. The 22nd hour is the same as the one that we decided on. I have copied the indulgences from the original in print. Send your reply etc. Pray for me *sine intermissione*,⁵⁵ most venerable Monsignor, while with affection and esteem, I have the pleasure of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 15, 1826

1383

April 16, 1826

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁶

Most venerable Monsignor

In reply to your letter, I say to you that on the 1st of May the Mission in Treja will begin. You, who are experienced in the work of the ministry, should prearrange everything for the greater glory of God. As for Camerino, you should inform me in plenty of time, so that the members that you indicate to me, namely, Monsignor Bonanni and Monsignor Cristianopolo, will surely be on hand to do the good work that you are intending to promote. I kiss your hands. Most venerable Monsignor, with esteem, respect and affectionate attachment, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 16, 1826

1384

April 17, 1826

Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi

Imola

⁵⁵ Without intermission.

⁵⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his own blood.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Madame Countess

Permit me this one time again to inconvenience you. The notification of Masses must be written in the handwriting of the priest who will celebrate. Please be kind enough to include the pages for me, separating the one with the ten Masses from the other with the thirty. When you have exhausted every means, let me know the result, and you will share also in this good work. It is necessary that the priests realize that the alms will be used for pious causes, and on this point I refer you to my previous letter which indicated the alms involved. For my peace of mind, in this matter of such delicateness, I thought that I had better write this.

Who knows, do you suppose that perhaps God will have chosen me for Imola? We shall do all with the spirit of prayer. Let us abide in the sweetest heart of Jesus Christ, where, Madame Countess, I am and will constantly be with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 17, 1826

1385

April 18, 1826

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

Despite the shortness of time by which I am constrained, the Vicariate has charged me with conducting a shift of Retreats, after which I will then be happily able to see you again. I am enclosing a petition concerning which the Holy Father will deign to assign the favor, reminding him on that occasion of the rescript of the other petition which must have been forwarded to him perhaps by his Eminence Guerrieri.

I am also submitting a letter from the good Modestini. Note how he has written to me freely, safeguarding the laws of charity. In Assisi, there is a bishop *in partibus*,⁵⁷ Monsignor Pichi. I believe that he is referring to that man.

Recommend me very, very often to God. In Jesus Christ crucified, most reverend excellency, consider me to be with all esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 18, 1826

⁵⁷ Auxiliary bishop

1386

April 19, 1826
Fr. Pasquale Aloysi
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Pasquale⁵⁸

An unexpected request, of very great importance, for a Mission in Umbria, obliges me to ask you if you would be able to do me the favor of going there as the Director. Please send your reply immediately, for it is to be begun by the 3rd of May, so, you can see how pressing the time is. I hope that this trip will also help you in your health. Try to be cooperative and, most venerable Father Pasquale, consider me to be with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 19, 1826

In being the director, it is not necessary to do the preaching, etc. You will do what you think is needed. For me, it is particularly enough that I be able to regulate etc.

1387

April 22, 1826
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor

Have no doubt about the arrival of the workers. More concerning other things in another letter of mine that will be delivered by hand. I urge that my companions be able to maintain the rule. They will inform you about the function of the consignment of souls as soon as they get into the vicinity. The entrance will be made after the noon meal on May 1st.

As for Camerino, let me know in plenty of time. I kiss your hands, and, most venerable Monsignor, with all my affection and esteem, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁵⁸ This letter does not have an address. The recipient, however, is Father Pasquale. In 1826, in the Society, there were two priests with this same first name: Father Pasquale Aloysi and, in Albano, Father Pasquale de Nardis. The first of these two entered in 1824, the second in 1826 and in April was stationed in Albano for his "probandate", that is, his preparation for the life of the ministry. It seems doubtless that the Father Pasquale of this letter is Father Aloysi who was, furthermore, older and located in Terracina.

M. Ap.
Rome, April 22, 1826

1388

April 22, 1826
Mother Maria Nazzarena de Castris
Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

You can be at ease. The transfer of Father Giovanni Merlini was not caused by you, but by me, since a Public Retreat was also to be given in Piperno to stimulate interest in the Jubilee year, and it was only right that I should send a new man. Therefore, prepare a place of lodging for the Missionary and for a brother in service who will be coming to begin the Retreat; within a few days, he will be coming.

I do not know whether the Monsignor is to make the preparations, or whether he is at liberty and must first satisfy the people rather than the Nuns. I would say: first the Nuns and then the people.

At any rate the Monsignor will make the decision. Always give my best regards to Monsignor and let us pray for his recovery.

With regard to your soul, you inform me of what God is doing for you, how he is inspiring you in prayer. I, who am indeed only a very weak instrument in the hands of God, with his grace, I will say what I can. In the meantime, pray, pray a great deal for my poor soul. It was not my intention that with the objects sent there, that the *Clausura* should be opened. It is necessary that it be sacredly and gently rigid, except for the parlor. So, I do not cease thanking you. Very soon, the shipment of everything will be made.

Let us remain in the Divine Heart, that beautiful asylum ... that warmth of heavenly love! Oh what burning flames of charity, etc., etc.. I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵⁹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Rome, April 22, 1826

1389

April 23, 1826
Fr. Ferdinando Gigliozzi
Fontana

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

⁵⁹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

I am sorry to hear of your indisposition of health. I am hopeful for your recovery.

I am working for a good result for the petition you know about and concerning which I shall speak to you within a short time.

I shall be sending you the booklet for the month in preparation for our great feast.

As for the Mission, I shall not be able to come in person because the Propaganda affairs will be occupying me in Rome. But, if you would like to have a group of our men, then please write to me. Indicate the time involved and despite the many, many requests because of the Jubilee year, I shall do everything I can to serve you.

Pray and have others pray a lot for me, who, with esteem, most venerable Canon, remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 22, 1826

1390

April 23, 1826

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

J. M. J.

Venerable Monsignor and loving brother

I urge you to be prompt with regard to the matter concerning S. Maria in Vincis. Vincenzo Severini will sign in the name of the Confraternity of St. Francis Xavier, and thus, we will put Canon Muti at ease.

As soon as we get the keys, we can then see what should be done with respect to the restoration.

I recommend all the other things to you that you already know about.

For the short talk or the ferverino on the occasion of the Seven Days after the feast of the Divine Blood, Canon Visconti will be in charge, always presupposing that you have not already selected someone else.

It seems that I have nothing more to say now, except that you pray for me and that wholeheartedly and with esteem, I am

venerable Monsignor, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Roma) April 23, 1826

Hurry with the circulars for the suffrages, etc.

1391

April 25, 1826
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundabit conscientias nostras*⁶⁰

My Monsignor

The Missionaries are on their way. Later, I will send reinforcements for the spiritual battle. You already know that the clergy are to give the catechetical instructions after the noon meal. Encourage the observance of the rule for it will bring down many blessing from the Lord. For now, that seems to be all that I have to say. I have told the companions that they should try to get into the vicinity for the entrance on May 1st after the noon meal. I kiss your hands, most reverend excellency, and wholeheartedly and with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 25, 1826

1392

April 25, 1826
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundabit conscientias nostras*⁶¹

Venerable Monsignor

Here are the two workers that I promised to send you. I accompany them with my most fervent prayers at the throne of God. With the fullness of esteem and respect, most venerable Monsignor, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 25 1826

1393

April 25, 1826

⁶⁰ The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our consciences.

⁶¹ The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our consciences.

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

Enclosed are a few thoughts for the introduction for which you have demonstrated a desire for the exercise of humility which brings down upon us the most bountiful blessings.

You yourself will give the grand sermon as well as the examples from the life of the most holy Madonna in the morning. Father Camillo Rossi will handle the catechetical instructions in the morning and will see to the oratory likewise. The archbishop will take care of the clergy and the catechetical instructions after the noon meal. If the examples in the morning are an inconvenience for you, then the catechist can present them at the end of his session and then give the blessing with the relic. But, I would prefer my first suggestion. I will indicate other things to Father Camillo and he will pass them on to you.

I am sending you 30 Masses for which you must make out the page in the usual manner, indicating the day, month, place of celebration on an open page and done neatly.

As for your return trip, that will be treated in another letter of mine. Always write to me and give me an account of how the holy Missions are going. Give glory to our Institute. Best regards to the most reverend archbishop; pray for me. While you are out in the field, you will have some reinforcement of other workers that I am awaiting from other Missions. Silvestri will remain stationed in Pievetorina. Later, in the second turn, he will be going to the Missions given by the archbishop.

Dear Father Giacomo, let us remain in the Heart of Jesus where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 25, 1826

Please be on time for the entrance etc. Be short in the sermons. Get from the archbishop and read the Bull sent out by the present Pontiff concerning sectarians etc.

1394

April 26, 1826

Fr. Luigi La Penna

Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Thank you for your concerns for the glory of God. You cannot imagine the number of

requests coming in for the Jubilee year. The Lord continues providing *in auxilio opportuno*.⁶²

The public Retreat in that city, so very dear to me, where the oratory has been firmly established and which I wholeheartedly recommend, will begin on Sunday, the feast of the most Holy Trinity after the noon meal, around the 22nd hour. In the morning, you will please send two gentle mounts, one for the Missionary and one for the brother-in-service, advising the footman to attend Mass first, and traveling on Sunday only out of necessity for the ministry.

As for the rest, you are acquainted with our regulations so I need not add anything more. Along with the public Retreat, there will be the one for the seminarians, with an appropriate schedule which I myself will point out to the Missionary. During the daytime, he will take care of hearing confessions for the public, and at night for the seminarians.

I add nothing further. Wholeheartedly and often, recommend me to God, and I ask you as the Vicar to inform, in a general way, the people in Bassiano that the Retreat will also be conducted there soon according to what the most reverend bishop has written to me. We continue to pray for the recovery of his health. With esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 26, 1826

P. S. Please see that the platform is prepared.

1395

April 28, 1826

Msgr. Pietro Caprano

Secretary of Propaganda Fide

Bishop of Iconium

Rome

*Iustificati in Sanguine, ipsius salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*⁶³

Venerable Monsignor

The excellent Missionary, Canon Carboneri, has written to me from Corfu. He asks me to give you his greetings, assuring you that when he has gotten to Zante he will write to you. He offers you his best wishes and implores the charity of your prayers, as I likewise do, and while kissing your hands, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem, respect and very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obedient servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁶² In opportune help.

⁶³ Justified in blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

M. Ap.
April 28, 1826

The letter coming from Corfu, from Canon Father Gaspare Carboneri, Missionary of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and now attached to the Missions of the Propaganda, written to Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, Missionary apostolic:

"Praise and thanks to the Lord. Today makes five days since I have arrived in this city of Corfu, awaiting embarkation to Zante, which I will probably manage tomorrow. Corfu is in great part Greek, and in the five days that I have spent here so far, I have succeeded in persuading and instructing in Catholic unity, a young man, a Greek schismatic, belonging to a civic family. I obtained for myself the opportune faculties and this very evening he will surrender into my hands the abjuration of his schism. This is the first fruit of my apostolate. In the meanwhile, I ask you to join with me in offering to heaven this new flower; have prayers offered for me and for him etc. etc."

1396

April 29, 1826
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

On Sunday, at the meeting, it will be necessary that the brethren be significantly exhorted to assist you, as I have no doubt they will. Good example also pleases God. You will certainly be there.

With regard to the matter dealing with his Eminence Bussi, very willingly would I write to Canon Betti, but he is presently on a Mission, and God knows when he will return. Have recourse to Storace. Do it my way.

With esteem and respect, believe me to be in Christ Jesus Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
April 29, 1826

1397

April 29, 1826
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundabit conscientias nostras*⁶⁴

Most beloved Monsignor

Here is the petition for the Holy Father. The triennium alone, granted by the deceased Pontiff (who would have granted more if I had requested it) is not sufficient for our purposes, especially for foreign Missions, where we are intending to set up real establishments since the good work is not completed with the lifetime of the worker. For two reasons, therefore, would I like to provide Canon Carboneri with a companion, a young man of ours who is 22 years old: first, so that he will not be alone; and second so that he will be able to train him in his studies in order that one day he might be a priest. I am considering the thought of later sending out other workers of ours. I see that, for the glory of God, it is a useful thing (also for the needs that exist in Corfu) that the enclosed letter, which you should read, should be on the Holy Father's desk. If his Holiness should decide not to grant the favor that I am requesting and that he sign immediately in his own handwriting, you should please make it clearly known to him that I do not intend to lose the four new workers that I have acquired, and that he should make arrangements for a pension of 100 scudi from the Datary. That would mean around 25 scudi to each one. The payment will be made better after His Holiness has come to a decision. I am going to offer a Mass for you, to whom, after God, we owe everything.

I received the enclosed prayer from a holy religious monk and I wanted you to have a copy of it.

If God, as I hope, will bless all the plans that pertain to his glory, to which all of us must apply ourselves, then later in Rome there will be a great effort to study languages so that the purging power of the Divine Blood will be felt throughout the entire world. This is what constitutes the spirit of our devotion, this is the goal of our Institute. I add nothing more. On Sunday, I have a meeting with a priest from Poland for a foundation of ours there in that area. Despite the many things that the Lord, in his mercy, entrusts to me, nevertheless at the beginning of May, I will have to begin another shift of retreats. So, pray to Jesus for me, and with very special esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 29, 1826

P. S. The renunciation of patrimonies gives titles to other clerics, and such a favor gives reason for providing definite support to the Institute which must send out its workers in every direction. Also, it is necessary that the Holy Father take Corfu into consideration etc. which I desire etc. etc.

⁶⁴ The blood Jesus Christ cleanses our consciences.

April 29, 1826
 Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi
 Imola

Thanks be forever to Jesus, who with his Divine Blood has saved us
 Venerable Countess

Thank you for the Masses; nothing more is necessary in this regard. I shall take care of the celebration.

With regard to the Missions in that area, prayers. It is never out of the way for you to ask for them. The evident and manifest requests are not at all few in number; as for further things, we leave the bishops to look after them. Cardinal Sevaroli, of happy memory, while continuing as Nuncio to Germany, and recently named bishop of Viterbo, sent for our men even before he was personally enthroned, just so the good work would not be delayed. In every case, there must always be someone who will be concerned. I do not doubt that there is somebody there in your area. Presently, I am hunting for workers to go into the foreign Missions. So, let us pray and never cease promoting and spreading the most important devotion of the Divine Blood. Please excuse the many, many chores that I have heaped upon you. May the Lord grant you a bountiful reward. With esteem and respect, and asking you for your continuing prayers, most esteemed Countess, I remain in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 29, 1826

1399

May 2, 1826
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Please order the printing of one thousand Chaplets, wellchecked and corrected. First, however, you will receive through the *lotti* a list of new indulgences that are to be added and will occupy a bit more space in the booklet, but I am not intending to spend any more money. Even the printer has to cooperate in doing some good. So, please await that listing, and then tell the printer that he should not send the cost skyhigh. You will likewise find a page to be printed for the one who is going to take on an hour for the Divine Blood. For this, too, have him make five thousand copies, but again please I urge you to use all of your effectiveness in getting it done with the greatest savings. Note that in that page that I am sending you as a sample, there is a correction made in the word *aggregator*. Let me know how much five thousand copies of that page will cost, as well as the cost for the thousand Chaplets.

You will also find a few prayers on a small folded folio. Hold on to that, and let me know what it would cost for having one hundred copies of that made. I would like it to be an opentype of page and something that could be carried inside another larger folio, but still able to be folded so as to be carried in a book as a single page.

Would the printer reprint the booklet for the month of June, but noting some changes made by me, which are only accidental? What would one hundred or so of these cost?

After your report, I, then, will judge and see just what decision should be made. In the meanwhile, see that the Chaplets are done immediately.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

May 2⁶⁵

The month of the Divine Blood will be observed in Fabriano. I urge this etc.

1400

May 2, 1826

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovanni

From a letter, I learned that de Victoriis will not be able to arrive on time. So, you should go, accompanied by the divine blessings, as Director of the Mission in Baucco, and keep in mind the things I mentioned in my other letter. Be alert for pious legacies etc. In hearing confessions show benignity, and be very careful to ponder well the teaching of the sacred doctrines. In your preaching, avoid long repetitions, and work out well what you plan to say, and preach with great courage. Adapt the ceremonies well. Exactness in the oratory and in adhering to our method.

There are nuns in Baucco. I am assigning Canon Donati to give them a spiritual conference since he is quite capable. If any of them should wish to have counsel, this work will also be for Donati.

I repeat, the Mission should last 15 days; the furnishings should be sought for in that area. I have sent the devotional materials. See that Don Angelo ⁶⁶ is wellinstructed *in omnibus*,⁶⁷ especially with regard to the letters for each Missionary that might end up there. I am awaiting from you a notation of the Masses and a copy of them written on a small page. In the meantime, you should see to the beginning of the Mission. I will write to you again, and you will send me your reply in turn. See that Don Angelo continues the Marian month, and, if necessary, only the

⁶⁵ The letter belongs to the year 1826, as Possenti himself notes.

⁶⁶ Don Angelo Zampini.

⁶⁷ In all things.

example from her life will be sufficient. It really is not that difficult. While advising you to get permission from the most reverend bishop to have the prayer *pro petitione lacrylaarum*⁶⁸ added to the Mass during the Mission in Baucco, I ask you to consider me to be with you in Jesus Christ crucified. Try to get one of the leading families there to prepare a Cross that will be erected at the closing of the Mission. I am desirous to see this Mission turn out well and I wholeheartedly pray to Jesus in whose Divine Heart I leave you, while declaring once again that I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 2, 1826

Recommend to Melchiorre the Brother who has recently arrived.

You know how to conduct yourself as Director: humility, prayer and decisiveness etc.

After I receive another letter from you, I will send you Masses.

P. S. Canon Donati is a person who is quite mature, without taking anything away from the other members.

P.S. In case Zampini should not care to remain, only bring him along with you and leave Canon Aloysi to give the example from the Madonna's life etc. for the Marian month, giving him all the instructions etc. Then Zampini can give the catechetical instructions in the morning on the Decalogue during the Mission. I give you full freedom on this matter. But give Canon Aloysi the very, very clearest instructions and recommend to him the young fellow who, upon Merlini's return, will be assigned etc. etc. In fact, if he is involved in the studies that are similar to the ones of the First Class in Giano, then have him load up his baggage and with a coach or with a mount send him to Albano, under the care of a footman clearly instructed by a letter written in my name to the Superior of that House. I, then, will take care of the rest. See that the footman is a reliable one etc. In fact, for my peace of mind, have Melchiorre accompany him as far as Albano. I am reliant on all of you, for that is my obligation; if it is a matter of the sacred studies, have him wait.

See that the ceremonies are concluded in such a way that the women can be in their homes for the *Ave Maria* hour. Be firm in the observance of the rule and make it clear that this is the obligation that I must adhere to. It is understood that everything should be done in proper form. Write and let me know who will be staying in Frosinone. Send me your reply etc.⁶⁹

⁶⁸ For the requests of tears.

⁶⁹ These last two paragraphs were written on the outside covering alongside the address.