

## St. Gaspar's Letters

## 151 - 200

Letter Number	Date	Page
151.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>2 January 1818</i>	180
152.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>21 January 1818</i>	180
153.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>22-27 January 1818</i>	181
154.	Fr. Anacicto Giliucci, <i>27 January 1818</i>	181
155.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>27 February 1818</i>	182
156.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>March 1818</i>	183
157.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>21 March 1818</i>	183
158.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>25 March 1818</i>	184
159.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>26 March 1818</i>	184
160.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>37 March 1818</i>	185
161.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>10 April 1818</i>	186
162.	Archpriest Mazzoni, <i>13 April 1818</i>	186
163.	Fr. Antonio Fidanza, <i>28 May 1818</i>	187
164.	Mrs. Caterina Ranghiasi Brancaleoni, <i>15 June 1818</i>	187
165.	Mrs. Paolina Del Bufalo, <i>25 June 1818</i>	187
166.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>14 July 1818</i>	188
167.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>6 August 1818</i>	188
168.	Fr. Antonio Fidanza, <i>14 August 1818</i>	189
169.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>16 August 1818</i>	190
170.	Fr. Antonio Fidanza, <i>17 August 1818</i>	190
171.	Fr. Antonio Pidanza, <i>18-20 August 1818</i>	191
172.	Fr. Antonio Fidanza, <i>21 August 1818</i>	191
173.	Count Giuseppe Tesei, <i>4 September 1818</i>	191
174.	Count Giuseppe Tesei, <i>5 September 1818</i>	192
175.	Fr. Anacleto Giuliucci, <i>6 September 1818</i>	192
176.	Fr. Antonio Fidanza, <i>9 September 1818</i>	193
177.	Msgr. Nicola Mattel, <i>22 September 1818</i>	193
178.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>8 October 1818</i>	194
179.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>31 October 1818</i>	194
180.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>4 November 1818</i>	195
181.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>7 November 1818</i>	195
182.	Msgr. Luigi Piervisani, <i>7 November 1818</i>	196
183.	Fr. Angelo Antonini, <i>7 November 1818</i>	196

184. Fr. Patemiano Bocci, <i>7 November 1818</i>	197
185. Fr. Francesco Saverio Mattioli, <i>18 November 1818</i>	197
186. Fr. Angelo Antonini, <i>21 November 1818</i>	198
187. Pope Pius VII, <i>November 1818</i>	199
188. Faculties and Privileges, <i>November 1818</i>	199
189. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>25 November 1818</i>	200
190. Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>2 December 1818</i>	200
191. Fr. Benedetto Corbucci, <i>5 December 1818</i>	201
192. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>18 December 1818</i>	201
193. Fr. Angelo Seratini, <i>2 January 1819</i>	202
194. Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>13 January 1819</i>	202
195. Mr. Cumillo Possenti, <i>16 January 1819</i>	203
196. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>26 January 1819</i>	203
197. Fr. Angelo Antonini, <i>27 January 1819</i>	204
198. Msgr. Annibale Ginnasi, <i>29 January 1819</i>	205
199. Fr. Angelo Serafini, <i>3 February 1819</i>	205
200. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>7 February 1819</i>	206

151

January 2, 1818  
 Fr. Anacleto Giliucci  
 Ancona  
 Dear Father Anacleto

I am about to leave for Civitavecchia and so I am dashing off a couple of lines to you. Of the various requests that you get, I would like you to send me those that actually ask for Missions, so that I will be able to send them replies in time and arrange everything in good order. So, send me precise information, for in such matters I wish to acknowledge well the will of God for a true mission. Even though there may be a shortage of time, there is no shortage of work in the cultivation of the vineyard. Send your reply to Rome, because I will be away for a few days, but by Carnival time I am planning to make a retreat myself. Pray for one who is so needful, and that is

Affectionately yours in Jesus Christ

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, 2 of 1818

152

January 21, 1818  
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Rome  
 Venerable Monsignor

Without causing you to take on additional inconveniences along with all the others that you endure for the glory of the Lord, be assured that before I withdraw from my retreat, I shall go, in your behalf, to the *Bambin Gesu* since the nuns have sent for me to fulfill the work you know about.

Here, now, is a report of my activities with regard to our projects and everything else that you are concerned about. Monsignor Marchetti will take care of the meditations to be given at the Sapienza. However, he points out that he does not have a carriage. Monsignor Odescalchi has given me his word that he will handle the meditations at the Cappellette of St. Aloysius. In behalf of Frs. Ponzilemi, Canali and Ostini, please remind your nephew to keep them informed of whatever has been arranged, since he has been placed in charge of the entire situation. Fr. Butirroni will shortly be coming to Rome, so be sure of his presence since his mother has assured

me of the arrival of her son. As soon as he does arrive, he will come directly to you in person. I also spoke to Fr. Mugnai, exploring the possibility of his willingness to join us. He asked me to allow him a day or so to think about taking care of his affairs etc.

I keep thinking about setting up religious education for the poor. I shall write to Fr. Ostini with respect to the Noble Guards so that we can come to an agreement. In the meantime, Monsignor Frasoni too, a close friend of Monsignor Riario, is using his influence on the Majordomo to bring about the completion of that good project. It appears that this is all that I have to report. Pray for me, most venerable Monsignor, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

21 of 1818

153

January 22-27, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I am sending you this letter before I go into retreat and I am enclosing also Fr. Ostini's note.<sup>1</sup> As Secretary of the Union of St. Paul, he has a certain authority to say to the Maggiordomo, from an historical viewpoint, that just as the Corps of Officers attends the customary retreat for the soldiers, so also is it proper that part of the nobility should not be overlooked, etc. I was not able to do anything more with the aforementioned individual. Perhaps Monsignor Soglia could exert some influence. Please, let us try to do all we can that, in some way, this fine project will be carried out, at least for eight evenings etc. When I come out of retreat, I will personally go to see anyone that should be contacted.

When you see Cardinal Pacca, get him to write, *fuso calamo*,<sup>2</sup> a note to anyone that you deem necessary, with respect to the retreat at the Belle Arti, for example, the presiding officer, etc. When we see each other in person, we can work out the details for the conference of the teachers of the area on an opportune day at the Sapienza, as you suggested to me. Get together as many lawyers as you can for the Cappellette.

Remind Canon Muccioli of the jobs that he has been given to handle. Pray for me who, though in a hurry, still remain with the fullness of esteem and respect, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>1</sup> Fr. Ostini's note bears the date January 22, 1818. So, this letter must have been written towards the end of January before St. Gaspar went into retreat of SS. Giovanni a Paolo in Rome, that is, precisely between the 22nd and 27th of January.

<sup>2</sup> With a free flowing pen.

P.S. One of the Canon's tasks is to arrange the retreat for the barbers. Please tell Secretary Fr. Girolamo that I passed his two pages on to Canon Muccioli and give him my particular best wishes, etc.

154

January 27, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dearest Father Anacleto

I received your most appreciated letter to which I am sending a reply, even though hurriedly. I learn from it of your edifying concern for the great work of giving Missions and it consoles me to continually receive requests for this purpose. However, if the bishops themselves do not contact me directly, I do not place value on the desires of others. This is a basic principle for me from which I will not depart. Let the people make their request to the pastors and these, in turn, illumined by God, will then select the men they deem best. Otherwise, I am fearful of any success for that Mission and

I would not see clearly the will of God, whereas, on the other hand, I have requests from places that are adhering to my method.

I shall spend all of Lent here in Rome and then I will move around as God wills. In the meantime, I pray and I try to recognize God's good pleasure from the means that are presented so as to easily achieve the desired end. Keep up your kind prayers for me so that while preaching to others I know how to preach to myself. I do not forget you whom I love so much in *charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*.<sup>3</sup> Be courageous in following in the ways of the Lord, for every year we draw closer to blessed eternity.

I have to write to Monsignor Bellini to whom I have many things to say, and I am so sorry that, for various reasons, when I returned from Civitavecchia I did not see him again. I will take care of your messages. Withdraw the two *scudi* for the young fellow that you know about and thank him warmly, recommending it to him again, if he should ever be able to produce it etc. I learned about your brother's misfortune, and please give him my best wishes. It is written: *in patientia vestra possidebitis animas vestras*.<sup>4</sup>

I am always most pleased to receive word from you. Give my regards to his Eminence, the bishop, and to all etc. Use prudently the principle that I expressed before. I wish you every blessing and I am

Your humble servant and friend

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<sup>3</sup> In charity unfeigned in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> In your patience you will possess your souls.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

From the retreat in SS. Giovanni a Paolo  
27 of 1818

Tell Fr. Biagio Valentini that I know nothing of his case. It will be brought up with Muccioli whom I see every day etc., but I am fearful that I might forget it, so, he should himself write to him.

155

February 27, 1818  
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome  
Venerable Monsignor

Hoping that it will not inconvenience you, I would like to have a line from you with regard to the Holy Father's response for our Monsignor Strambi. So to speak, I have laid out an outline for the priests of the Union of St. Vito to look after the poor. But, since Cardinal Scotti is that Union's protector, I would like you to intervene to get Caro to address a note to the director of that Union, asking him to declare his desire etc. This would facilitate our whole plan. During these days, I must send the rules of the Venerable De Rossi which are applicable to the Reclusori of S. Giovanni, since the spirit is approximately the same as that observed in S. Galla. Pray for me, who, with esteem, am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

House, February 27, 1818

Send a line to Ostini about the retreat every three months, set up somehow, somewhere for the Noble Guards, etc. He already agrees to this, but it is a good idea to confirm it again, etc.

156

March 1818  
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome  
Venerable Monsignor

I forgot to tell you that, in setting up the new arrangement for the poor, when the time comes for selecting an Economist, just like the position that the now-deceased Fr. Guidi used to hold at the Collegio Romano, Fr. Mugnai would consent to accept that office and he is indeed more adept at it than any of the others. I approached Butirroni about the same thing and he too was very cooperative. However, I recommend the young man that I spoke to you about, just to get him involved in some capacity; but, should there be need elsewhere, I have still another one available.

When you visit with Monsignor Marchetti, remind him that on Tuesday evening of

Passion week, he is to give the introductory sermon, etc., the Reforms will take place on the following evening. Get some lawyers together for the Cappellette so that gradually the Curia will resume its promotion of retreats. Also, tell Monsignor Bottaomi what I communicated to you in person this morning. It will be necessary, however, for me to initiate correspondence with the bishop to send him the usual instructions so that everything will go along in smooth order, and also to set the dates etc. In this matter, I shall await your advice and, when we see each other again, we can discuss the other remaining items.

I am working on setting up spiritual education for the poor in keeping with your ideas. Pray a lot for me and may the greater divine glory always be the objective of our lives. Amen. With esteem, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Buf.*

157

March 21, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Just a brief report on what could be arranged for the benefit of the poor, affording them necessary spiritual help. Concerning the idea of giving this responsibility to the Pious Union erected in S. Vito, I said that it would be necessary with the approach of Easter to have a bit of instruction etc. beforehand in the form of a retreat. Fr. Sante Diotallevi, who is the director of that Pious Union, is ready to assume this project in the place set aside for men, and, Fr. Donati, confessor for the Battistine, would take charge of the women. The work would begin on the Monday immediately before the Sunday *in Albis*.<sup>5</sup> In that way, the Union would gradually become more devoted to the proposed objectives etc. Monsignor Franzoni has contributed greatly to this and he probably wrote to you that it would be a good idea if you were to speak to Cardinal Scotti, the protector of S. Vito, bringing him to realize that this is not an infraction of the jurisdiction of Cardinal Albani, since these are distinctly different undertakings. Furthermore, the assigned workers would appreciate having a note of authorization from the Cardinal Vicar, and that should be sent to Fr. Sante along with an extension of the time for fulfilling the Easter duty.

It would be necessary, too, that because of the weather, a carriage should be placed at the disposal of the two preachers of the retreats that we discussed. Because of my commitments, I cannot do more. The baggage will best be handled along the way. Pray a lot for me and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>5</sup> In white. [Sunday *in Albis* was the Sunday after Easter.]

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

House, March 21, 1818

P. S. I beg you not to delay the finalization of this matter.

158

March 25, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dearest Father Anacleto

In a hurry, because I have to conduct a retreat. If I had received your letter earlier, I would have tried to get the faculties. But, I received it at a time when the Pope does not grant audiences, and also because my duties do not even allow me time to stop and think about things. You can be certain, however, that these faculties are not granted outside of giving a Mission, and I add that they are not given to all missionaries; everything is being limited. Therefore, conduct some other type of appropriate service and obtain from the bishop a partial indulgence as Ordinaries are limited to grant. This should settle the whole matter. *Laus Deo in omnibus!*<sup>6</sup>

On April 1, I shall depart for the Mission in Nocera with Muccioli. Our entrance will be held during the day on Saturday. As a third companion, despite the many requests made, I have chosen to prefer to have you - a sign of my real predilection. So, we will meet together in Fuligno on Friday evening, the 3rd of next month. Come with haste and if you are able to do so, ask Fr. Ottaviani or Fr. Biagio Valentini to come. But, my wish is for you to come, so, do not fail me. Make your arrangements at the inn. In the meantime, please send me a quick reply. I would like to get your answer before I mount the carriage. In any case, let us be in agreement with each other. With esteem and affection. I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

P. S. We will work out the payment for the expenses that you incur.

159

March 26, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I have already spoken to Monsignor Franzoni concerning the retreats, and everything is arranged. The only thing needed yet is a note from you to Fr. Sante Diotallevi in which you make known to him your feelings pertinent to the project, encouraging him to be zealous etc., etc., etc.

I told Curate Micchelini everything that you asked of me. He replied that as far as food is

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<sup>6</sup> Praise to God in all things.

concerned, there is no difficulty in admitting the two retreatants. But, he cannot have the beds ready, since at that time he has the retreat for women. And, with regard to this, he finds no other solution than to cut out the two soldiers from the number, or wait for another date when young men will be arriving, for at that time he will be able to include them. He awaits your answer for his own direction.

Next, a memorandum concerning a certain Mariani girl, a novice, will be sent to you. I recommend this matter to your consideration.

I have pulled some strings to see whether Giampedi could be assigned to Giano - something that I am very much interested in - and where I myself personally would like to be of assistance; but, God does not will that. You must pray for this intention, and pray also for me. Stay well, most illustrious and venerable Monsignor, and consider me constantly as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

House, March 26<sup>7</sup>

160

March 31, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

From the person presenting this letter to you, you will receive two hundred *scudi* already withdrawn according to the request etc, for the benefit of the Missions. I leave everything in your hand so that you, according to your own good judgment, can give Canon Muccioli opportune instructions. With regard to the subsidies from the Datary, I never did want to get involved. Remind the aforementioned Canon about the safe-passage to be issued to Seni. The rest has already been taken care of by me and everything is in proper order. As though from you yourself, recommend to

your most worthy nephew to observe the strictest exactness in the personal horarium for the missionaries as well as in everything else. The Missions are like a sacred machine - like a clock-hence, to achieve a desired result, one must set an interrelationship of many tears and many prayers. Be very careful about your own health. We shall pray a lot for you, you can be sure of it. We will see each other again by letter.

With regard to the Imperiali, as soon as the visitation is begun, we can also consider the possibility of granting some support at that time. I cannot help but feel cooperative in that way, and not otherwise, for such a pious institution. God wants me to pursue the calling that I have. Pray for

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<sup>7</sup> The year certainly is 1818, as is evident from the preceding letters to Cristaldi.

me, *sine intermissione*,<sup>8</sup> and always full of gratitude and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

March 31<sup>9</sup>

P. S. If you have some very energetic members available for giving exercises to the poor, discuss it with Monsignor Franzoni, *vir iuxta cor Domini sanctus, innocens et rectus*.<sup>10</sup>

## 161

April 10, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dear Father Anacleto

Two lines in a hurry. Do not be upset that you cannot be our companion, and, in everything may the will of the Lord be adored. In greatest secrecy, if it please God, we will see each other in person and we will come to an understanding when the time arrives. Pray for me, and with particular esteem and true affection, I remain

Your humble servant and true friend

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Nocera, April 10, 1818

## 162

April 13, 1818

Archpriest Mazzoni

Velletri

Dear Archpriest

I owe you a reply to one of your memoranda and, while giving this Mission, after the grand sermon, remembering my very dear archpriest, I can now satisfy that duty of mine.

1) The booklets mentioned in your certificate have not been sent because they would be useless for you. But the Chaplet will be conducted in the Cathedral.

2) The blessing, *in articulo mortis*,<sup>11</sup> for the individuals named in the faculty, is the usual one; there is no special formula.

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<sup>8</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>9</sup> On the fourth side, a notification in a different handwriting: "1818".

<sup>10</sup> A man according to the heart of the lord, holy, innocent and just.

<sup>11</sup> At the hour of death.

3) The blessing for the cinctures, etc. is *in nomine Pontificis*<sup>12</sup> and they can be blessed without using a special formula.

If, in behalf of my beloved city of Velletri, *in genere et in specie et in individuo*,<sup>13</sup> I might have overlooked something, please remind me. I greet my friends, *nominatim*;<sup>14</sup> but I add *et dominos*.<sup>15</sup> *Gratia Domini nostri Jesu Christi abundet semper in cordibus vestris. Amen.*"<sup>16</sup>

Next, for the orgaaization, the Sundays in honor of St. Aloysius are to begin. I would like to know the family name of that Fr. Fraacesco, the chaplain of the Soccorso. On Monday, I shall open the Mission in Fabriano. I am entitled to a Hail Mary from everyone of you. I shall await one of your letters there.

Your humble servant and friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Nocera, April 13, 1818

163

May 28, 1818

Fr. Antonio Fidanza

Matelica

Kindest Vicar

I hear that there may have been a slight oversight when a certain Belardini lady was not included in the listing of those enrolled in the women's organization. I am told that this occurred because she was not of the nobility in the fullest sense. I learned this from Cavalier Tesei. As an outsider, I cannot express a complete judgment; notwithstanding that, in any case, you should try settle the situation in the best way that the Lord directs you. Most illustrious and very reverend Father, I ask you for your prayers, and full of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Sanseverino, May 28, 1818

164

June 15, 1818

Mrs. Caterina Ranghiasi Brancaleoni

<sup>12</sup> In the name of the Pontiff.

<sup>13</sup> In the genus and in the species and in the individual.

<sup>14</sup> By name.

<sup>15</sup> And the bosses.

<sup>16</sup> May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ abound forever in your hearts. Amen.

Sanseverino

Most illustrious lady

My trip is not completely set as yet, but in any case it will be momentarily. I ask you to fulfill the divine will, and with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Santelpidio, June 15, 1818

June 25, 1818

165

Mrs. Paolina del Bufato

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My beloved sister-in-law

Here I am seeing you again, by way of a letter, so as to recommend to you tranquility of spirit and to beg you also to have a great care for your health, maintain yourself as you know you should. Continue to follow closely, even in temporal matters, the advice of our excellent Canon Albertini to whom we owe so much and be very certain that all will go well and that my will is in harmony with yours. This should serve as a confirmation of everything that we discussed in person. Your life and all of your activities will always go along like clockwork if you faithfully adhere to what he says to you. I know that you are already doing so, but I, nevertheless, wished to write this to you to let you know how truly delighted I am about that.

I understood everything about poor Luca and I sincerely regret his condition. You know, however, that we are not owners of anything. God wishes to do what is his good pleasure and we must say with St. Philip: "My Jesus, I thank you that things do not go along according to my desires". A million greetings to my Gigia, to my father and to all. I wish you all every blessing, through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

Your affectionate brother-in-law

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Ancona, June 25, 1818

166

July 14, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

My dear Giliucci

On Tuesday the 28th of this month, in the evening, I hope to arrive in Ancona because on the 29th there will be the opening of the Mission in Castelfidardo. Presuming that his Eminence will welcome me, I shall stay over night in the Retreat House and you will please make all the

arrangements with the excellent Canon Ottaviani, to whom you will also entrust the task of informing his Eminence. Shortness of time prevents me from multiplying letters and, therefore, you are to act in my behalf. Tell Balani that on that night I would like to see that young Jewish fellow with whom he is acquainted. Tell him that for that same precise time, he should have available for

me at the gate the entry permit, if that should be necessary. It is really impossible for me to go to Monte Sicuro. I am sorry about that, because I love Ancona very much. But, realize that it is necessary for me even to turn down a Mission because it is veritably an impossibility. Goodbye, my Giliucci. Everyone sends greetings; stay well and pray a lot for me, a lot, a lot. I am in a hurry.

Your true friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Meldola, July 14, 1818

Greetings to Fagioli to whom I am not sending a letter in reply to his, because of brevity.<sup>17</sup>

167

August 6, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

My dearest Father Anacleto

I received your letter and in reply to it I must inform you that the date for Monte Cassiano will be the day after St. Bernard's feast; you make your own calculations. In the meantime, read well the method of Blessed Leonard. Be sure to get for yourself the faculty *pro utroque sexu*.<sup>18</sup> Pray for me and keep me informed in due time. I am writing in a hurry; goodbye.

*del Bufalo*

Castelfidardo, August<sup>19</sup>

I recommend to you the young Jewish fellow and you recommend him to Mucci.

168

August 14, 1818

Fr. Antonio Fidanza

Matelica

Venerable Canon

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<sup>17</sup> Part of the letter is torn away at this spot.

<sup>18</sup> For each sex.

<sup>19</sup> The year is certainly 1818.

I am inconveniencing you with this letter so as to make use of the opportunity offered me to add another companion for the ministry of the holy Mission to be given in Monte Cassiano. For this reason, I am turning to you to do me the favor of sending me either Father Serafino, who is my first preference, or, if he is incapable, then the Canon Theologian of that Cathedral with whom I will likewise be in touch for cases in general that might occur. Others, too, have shown a certain desire to take part and I remember only the name of the Secretary of the organization of the Apostles, Canon Tarulli, who as a young man would capture the spirit of our ministry. He could be the third possible man if the other two individuals should not be able to accept. Except for Fr. Serafino, I am quite indifferent as to the choice of either the one or the other of the two indicated. All of this is said between us in complete confidence. I am supposing that Canon Tarulli is already a confessor, at least for men, otherwise we could not make any further arrangements with him.

Tell the aforementioned men that the work will be distributed among them and, if Canon Tarulli should come, he should bring along *The Glories of Mary* by the Blessed Liguori. This is a matter of only one Mission for which I need a fifth Missionary since there are only a few confessors available in that area and the days are too few. The Mission will begin on the day after St. Bernard's feast, and I think that is a Friday. The entrance will take place in the morning. It will be sufficient if the man I have been speaking of will be there on that morning, near the gate where the entrance will take place. He should have on hand the crucifix that he will wear when we get together, the one that we are accustomed to use, and in that way cooperate for the greater glory of God.

As for Fr. Serafino, it seems to me that he has some connections with the Tesei household. In any case, you talk to one of the other two if he should refuse. If you incur any shipping expenses, they are to be placed on my account. But please send me your response quickly for my own information. I am counting on you and your cooperation. If you think that the Theologian, because of his advanced age, would be a bit slow, then send me Canon Tarulli. With esteem, and asking you for your prayers, I am

Your humble servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Montelupone, Diocese of Loreto, August 14, 1818

The papal blessing in Monte Cassiano will be given on the last Sunday in August because beyond that date I cannot be there because of other commitments. If none of the aforementioned men can come, then send me anyone that you deem fit.

Dearest Father Anacleto

The entrance for the Mission in Monte Cassiano will be on next Friday, August 21st, in the morning, since the Mission is a shorter one. By having the entrance in the morning, I can then start the full Mission after the noon meal, etc. Prepare yourself to give the talks on the most holy Madonna and also the visiting talks. You should be prompt in being there just a bit outside the entrance gate. I am also writing today in order that they will prepare a room for you in the Convent of S. Agostino. With regard to hearing confessions and the other matters, we will discuss those things when we see each other in person. I am very happy to have your companionship; recommend yourself to the Lord so that you will be able to give Missions whenever you wish. If Ottaviani should have an iron discipline for you, as well as a good missionary's staff, bring them along. Otherwise, we will provide them. I say this because what we do have in our supply is a bit worn out.

With regard to Monsignor Odescalchi, and the same can be said for the parish priest, I ask you to see that they do not cause an inconvenience by coming to Monte Cassiano. If they were to come at night, there would be no beds available, and if they were to come by day, it would rob time from the work of the ministry and, on those occasions as you well know, I am fully concerned with the Mission. You will be able to see them on your return. I can see them whenever I wish in Rome. Take care of yourself; love me in Jesus Christ. Wholeheartedly and affectionately, I remain

Your true friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Montelupone, August 16, 1818

P. S. The preceding is completely confidential.

170

August 17, 1818

Fr. Antonio Fidanza

Matelica

Dear Vicar

Tell the individual whom you will send to me that if he wishes to arrive in Monte Cassiano on the evening before the morning of our entrance for the Mission, that is to say, on the evening of

the feast of St. Bernard, he should immediately contact the Vicar Forane who will direct him to the place reserved for the Missionaries. I have sent these couple of lines for the sake of good order. With esteem for you, I am

Your humble servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Montelupone, August 17, 1818

## 171

August 1820, 1818  
Fr. Antonio Fidanza  
Matelica  
Venerable Canon<sup>20</sup>

I am most obliged to you for all that you have done. Your reward will be one Hail Mary each day. For me, you will make a twofold memento: one, the usual; the other for the greater need I have for prayers. Right now, I am so swamped that with regret I am not able to send a reply to Fr. Serafino, and especially to the most reverend bishop. You handle these courtesies for me. The man who will deliver Canon Piersanti will be given all the instructions. I will do this immediately from Monte Cassiano. I am enclosing a *scudo* for him. I am very satisfied to have the Canon Theologian. I was doubtful at first only because you, on a previous occasion, made me think about his advanced age. I am no longer in need of other companions as far as I can see at present. In case I do, I will deal with that in another letter. Tell the Canon that he will be giving the catechetical instructions on confession, that I will provide him with the materials, and that we will work together as brothers and as such, I embrace him. He will see that I will take care of him *ut pupillam oculi*.<sup>21</sup> I kiss your hands; in a hurry, but with greetings *ad omnes nominatim*<sup>22</sup> I am

*G. del Bufalo*

The Canon should wear the missionary cross on his chest. Give my thanks to the most reverend bishop.

## 172

August 21, 1818  
Fr. Antonio Fidanza  
Matelica  
Venerable Canon

I have already sent a reply to the most reverend bishop. All is well with Canon Piersanti. As for the other individual, whose name I cannot recall now, you can tell him that he can continue preparing himself for the time when you will indicate to me that he is ready, because the need may arise at any moment. With esteem, I kiss your hands and remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Buf.*

Monte Cassiano, August 21<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> This letter was certainly written from Montelupone and precisely between the 18th and 20th of August.

<sup>21</sup> As the pupil of the eye.

<sup>22</sup> To all by name.

<sup>23</sup> This letter belongs to the year 1815.

173

September 4, 1818

Count Giuseppe Tesei

Matelica

Most esteemed Count

I know that you love the glory of God and have connections with Serra S. Guirico. I will be able to go there for only eight days, beginning this short Mission on Monday morning, September 14th and concluding on the following Sunday. The archbishop has been informed of everything and he is very happy. But, to whom can I turn for help since Fr. Serafino and the parish priest Giorgetti of Serra are on another Mission? If this good work is not arranged just as I have indicated, then I shall not be able conduct it. It will be necessary for you to get someone there, at my expense; and immediately, at the latest on Sunday send me a definite answer. Furthermore, see that someone gets in contact with me in order to arrange everything immediately and in detail. The archbishop is also writing to the parish priest Giorgetti, but I cannot write to him because I do not know where to address the letter to him. Please, you figure out how to arrange this good work, and if I do not receive some sort of decisive reply by Sunday, I shall soon after begin the Mission in the diocese of Nocera. It is getting late in this season and I have to think about returning to Rome.

Pray for me, and with distinct esteem, while recommending myself to your prayers, consider me as

Your most obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Cerreto, September 4, 1818

174

September 5, 1818

Count Giuseppe Tesei

Matelica

Sir Count

I thank you for your reply. The parish priest Giorgetti has already let me know that he is pleased about the Mission even though for only a few days, since it is not possible for me to be there for a longer time. I shall come, however, with more men and in that way there will be a certain balancing out of things. When it is opportune for you, you might inform Fr. Giorgetti of what is needed, since yesterday the good Fr. Serafino came to visit me. I return my particular greetings to all in your household. Be assured of my continual remembrance of you and all your interests in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. Continue your prayers for me, and with sentiments of esteem and profound respect, your illustrious lordship, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*  
 Cerreto, September 5, 1818

175

September 6, 1818  
 Fr. Anacleto Gilucci  
 Ancona

My dearest Father Anacleto *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, in visceribus Jesu Christi.*<sup>24</sup>

I am replying immediately to your last most dear letter which brought me the favorable news

of your trip and your health. Blessed be the Lord in all things. By now, you must have resumed your apostolate in Ancona and *O quam speciosi pedes evangelizantium pacem, evangelizantium bona!*<sup>25</sup> Always continue to wage war against the devil and "*vincenti dabo manna absconditum et nomen novum!*"<sup>26</sup>

Furthermore, I must thank you for the help you gave me in Monte Cassiano and be assured, for I confirm it now, of my fullest satisfaction in having had you as a companion. In time, you will witness other proofs of this. Meanwhile, prayers.

In the next ordinary mail-delivery, at the latest, I shall write to Canon Ottaviani. Give him my best regards and also present my humble respects to the most eminent bishop and to all the members of the organization of the Apostles. My Giliucci, goodbye. Pray for me. I am in tight circumstances now since I have to go to preach etc.

Your affectionate friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

P. S. I found the cities of Sanseverino, Matelica and Fabriano to have very fervent people. Pray for their perseverance. I recommend the young Jewish fellow to you; look after this matter night and day, please; this is of very great importance.

176

September 9, 1818  
 Fr. Antonio Fidanza  
 Matelica  
 Venerable Vicar

On the occasion when we come there for our invitational sermon, you will have to inform

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<sup>24</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart mercy of Jesus Christ.

<sup>25</sup> O how precious the feet of those preaching peace, of those preaching good things

<sup>26</sup> To the winner I will give hidden manna and a new name.

the country people to be there punctually, etc. so that we can revive their organization after the sermon. This holds true also for any other instructions that might need to be reinvigorated. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Cerreto, September 9, 1818

## 177

September 22, 1818

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Venerable Monsignor

Before leaving Serra, I am placing this page in the hands of Fr. Giorgetti, the parish priest, with whom I also join in assuring you of my feelings of esteem and respect for your most admirable person.

I am enclosing the two rescripts granted to me by your most illustrious and revered person and may this letter of mine be regarded as a document assuring you that the two priests can be dispensed from the Exercises.

I shall leave two of my companions there for a few days, to be of spiritual assistance to anyone who may not have been able to get there in time for confession during the holy days of the Mission. Pray for me *sine intermissione*<sup>27</sup> and especially at the altar. Humbly I kiss your hands, and with particular respect, I renew myself, most venerable Monsignor, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Serrasanquirico, September 22, 1818

## 178

October 8, 1818

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo

Recommend your affair, forwarded in some way, in keeping with the advice received from Rome, though not yet finalized. Let us pray; in the meantime, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Gualdo, October 8, 1818

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<sup>27</sup> Without intermission.

179

October 31, 1818  
 Mr. Camillo Possenti  
 Fabriano  
 Esteemed Camillo

Your recent letter addressed to me was most gratifying and oh how many blessings I implored for you as I read through it! It is necessary that you again indicate to me the name and surname of your fellow worker in whose behalf I do not cease insisting so that his case will be examined by the Secretariat. Monsignor Frasoni does not remember the family name of the one referred to. I have already begun work for the memorandum of the Sacconi and in another letter of mine I will give you an answer. In the meantime, prayers. Note, however, that if this should become known *pro informatione*<sup>28</sup> to the bishop and to the community, let everyone be in agreement. Inform Nicola Miliani of this and in my behalf give him greetings. Tell Fr. Giovanni Mari that very soon he will have an answer to the matter that he referred to me and in this regard I am hopeful that it will be in accordance with our wishes.

My many activities demand that I beg you to ask the aforementioned priest to offer my sincere best regards to the most reverend bishop, since I am unable to write to him directly. A thousand greetings to all, *nominatim*.<sup>29</sup> Camillo, *sine intermissione*,<sup>30</sup> pray for me who wholeheartedly remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 31, 1818

180

November 4, 1818  
 Mr. Camillo Possenti  
 Fabriano  
 Dear Camillo

I am awaiting an answer to my other letter. In the meantime, I want you to know that the petition has gotten a *pro informatione*<sup>31</sup>rescript, it seems to me, for the Delegate in Macerata. I am speaking about the memorandum for the Sacconi. You try to help, getting Monsignor Strambi to intervene. Note that if the public representatives of Fabriano were to be questioned, it is

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<sup>28</sup> For information.

<sup>29</sup> By name.

<sup>30</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>31</sup> For information.

necessary that they be instructed well to favor the request. It would also be greatly helpful to have a letter of recommendation from the most reverend bishop of Fabriano who, in addition, could send a letter to his brother in Rome, and, by that same means inform Monsignor Barberi.

Meanwhile, I shall not cease contacting the people here in Rome. Keep me informed as to when the information will be arriving in Rome and forewarn me in plenty of time. I assure you that I shall not stop persisting until what we are asking for will be obtained. So, pray a great deal for the desired success of this project and also pray for my soul. With particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, November 4, 1818

P. S. Tell Fr. Giovanni Mari that, with regard to his nephew, I am still awaiting a response; also, that the relic has been sent from Rome, but we do not know whether it has been received as yet. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop and to all, etc.

181

November 7, 1818

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Very kind Canon

Behold the new title for my very dear Fr. Anacleto. I am wholeheartedly delighted in the Lord who, *in benedictionibus dulcedinis*,<sup>32</sup> will make this new apostolate even more fruitful. So, now it will be necessary to provide for an organization of the young people, and may this project be one of your heart's principal concerns. However, I realize now that the life of giving Missions will be much more hampered, but in the will of the Superior, the will of God is made clear. Perhaps one or the other trip could be worked out at the proper time; but that need not be discussed right now.

When I will have to resume my apostolic work after Easter, at that time I will take the necessary steps to prepare finally your certificate of identification as a Missionary, and it will then be sent to you. So, for the time being, I delay mailing it to you so that certain pertinent details about giving Missions can be worked out and you can then render proper service in each of its phases. In the meantime, with the fullness of esteem and constant affection, *in osculo sancto*,<sup>33</sup> I am

Your humble servant and friend

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>32</sup> In the blessings of sweetness.

<sup>33</sup> In a sacred kiss.

Rome, November 7, 1818

P. S. Let us fervently make the Novena of St. Xavier. Say very special prayers for me.

182

November 7, 1818

Msgr. Luigi Piervisani

Bishop of Nocera,

Umbria

Most venerable Monsignor<sup>34</sup>

Please excuse the inconvenience of this letter of mine. Perhaps you will remember the pastor who asked me to have a Mass celebrated in S. Lorenzo. I cannot recall his name. But, I can tell you that on the last day when we had dinner together in the seminary, he joined us in the courtyard. In

my behalf, please give him my best wishes. Pray for me and, kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend bishop, with total esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. Can. del Bufalo*

Rome, November 7, 1818

183

November 7, 1818

Fr. Angelo Antonini

Collamato

Venerable Father

Your last letter to me s most pleasing and at the first opportunity I shall return your compositions which I shall be reading during these days. In this regard you must write directly to the Sacred Tribunal and they will send the response to you. What is most important now is the case for the Sacred Penitentiary. In this regard, you must write directly to the Sacred Tribunal and they will send the response directly to you. Do not forget to use the customary forms, and, in your zeal, seek to be of assistance for the good of the person whom you are helping so solicitously, so that that person will not become discouraged.

Then, too, I want to thank you for your observations. However, I am not acquainted with the rule that you refer to, but it is of little importance to treat that here. Let us insist on prayer, and please remember me incessantly. I never forget you most worthy person. The feast of St. Francis Xavier is drawing near. During those days, increase the fervor of your prayers for my soul. Persevere in your holy ministry, trying to do as much good as possible for your flock.

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<sup>34</sup> This letter came from the archives of the Episcopal Curie of Nocera, Umbria, without any specification of addressee. However, it is very probable that it would have been Monsignor Luigi Piervisani.

Blessed are you who will amass in that way great merits for heaven. Especially let us be strong in mental prayer, the food and life of the soul. I repeat, Father, pray for me. May our lives be holy and productive of holiness. In the meantime, Father, I kiss your hands and with total esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, November 7, 1818

P. S. The title, excellency, is not properly applied to me, so, when you write to me please refrain from using it. If Piersanti is not able to do so, then, you should work along with the bishop in selecting a preacher. But, for goodness sake, do not omit preaching during Lent.

## 184

November 7, 1818

Fr. Paterniano Bocci

Collamato

Esteemed Father Paterniano<sup>35</sup>

While in the course of this holy Mission, I received your most esteemed letter. I fear, because of the multitude of things to be done, that I did not send you a reply. I have understood everything that you told me and you can be assured that as the opportunities arise, I shall apply myself to that objective. In the meanwhile, may you distinguish yourself in the exercise of those virtues that are, in a special way, proper to perfection in us, as priests, and particularly through prayer may you find the spiritual peace. Our reward, then, will be that blessed fatherland towards which we move each day. Take care of yourself, pray for me *sine intermissione*<sup>36</sup> and, Father Paterniano, with particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

November 18, 1818

## 185

Fr. Francesco Saverio Mattioli

Cerreto

Venerable Canon

Your letter of the 1st of this month was most gratifying to me and I thank you sincerely for the kindness that you show to me. Even more consoling, however, is the news of the pious

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<sup>35</sup> This letter has no date. From the postal markings, it shows that it was sent from Rome and arrived at its destination on the 9th of November, just as the preceding letter to Antonini, with which it also has a resemblance as to paper etc. Hence, we have dated this letter with the same day and year.

<sup>36</sup> Without intermission.

works; *Domirms retribuet in benedictionibus*<sup>37</sup> the person who directs them to the benefit of souls.

The feast of St. Xavier is approaching. So, may the Novena be a most fervent one. I am longing to hear when he will be declared our co-protector.

With regard to women attending the pep talks, as long as there is no disturbance and they stay a bit removed, let things be so. With respect to the question of aggregation, that will take place within a short time and you will have all the necessary papers in order. If you have no other way to send the six *scudi* to Rome, send them through the mails. Give my best wishes to all, and pray for me *sine intermissione*.<sup>38</sup> Meanwhile, with esteem, I remain

Your humble and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

P. S. Tell Fr. Giovanni Mari that there is nothing positive to report as yet with regard to his problem. Within a short time, the relic of St. Xavier will be arriving.

186

November 21, 1818

Fr. Angelo Antonini

Collamato

Venerable Father

I owe you a reply; the many responsibilities that I have are not always too willing at times to allow me to respond to your most appreciated letters. I am at a loss to say what I feel about the sentiments that you express; I beg you to read in my heart the gratitude that I experience because of your very touching kindness.

Here, now, is what I must tell you concerning the words: *erivit sanguis*,<sup>39</sup> etc. Fr. Gian Francesco Durazzo, of the Society of Jesus, who has written masterfully on the Passion of the Lord, says that the blood that flowed from the wounded side of Jesus was natural, and natural too was the water that issued forth after the blood. This is also what Pope Innocent defined against anyone who asserted that the water was simply mucus or a phlegmatic humour. But both the one and the other, poured out without doubt in a miraculous manner, etc. etc. If you wish, you can also read Fr. Suarez, treating *tertia parte Divi Thomae*.

My very dear Father, always pray for me and also get the prayers of others. Let us seek to build up a huge capital of merits for our future life. This world is a place of exile.

Our homeland is heaven. Every day we draw closer to it. Oh how dear are the thoughts of Paradise.

In writing to me, please do not give me the title of excellency, for, I assure you, it simply

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<sup>37</sup> The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings

<sup>38</sup> Without intermission.

<sup>39</sup> Blood came out.

is not proper. In this matter, please be obedient.

Labor happily in that part of the evangelical vineyard assigned to you. If Canon Piersanti cannot come to help there, select someone else in union with your bishop. My opinion with regard

to wearing the Crucifix on the chest is the following: St. Francis de Sales says that we must avoid singularity. You already know how that is to be interpreted. If the practice is that only while giving a Mission is the Crucifix to be worn thus, as is true, then you should refrain otherwise. But, have no doubt, God will reward you for your sincere intentions. You can take it along with you, under cover, and in that way it will be a comfort to you in the difficult work of your holy ministry.

May the Lord maintain you in good health; may he increase ever more in you the desire for perfection. In the meantime, Father, kissing your hands, believe me to be with esteem and very special affection,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, November 21, 1819

## 187

November 1818

Pius VII

Most Holy Father

The Archconfraternity under the very noble title of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, established by your Holiness at the altar of the Crucifix in S. Nicola in Carcere, which has as its principle objective the propagation of the devotion and the frequenting of the sacraments by the people, not finding any better means for succeeding in this sublime purpose than the promotion of the practice of holy Missions, already carried out in various dioceses and particularly during the current year in the Marche and Romagna,<sup>40</sup> with the aim of facilitating for itself the recruitment of sacred ministers who, with the previous permission of the legitimate Ordinaries will exercise this pious and important practice so as to attain the aimed-for objective of the institution of the Archconfraternity, that is, that souls will be cleansed in the Blood of the Redeemer through the Sacrament of Penance, now petitions your Holiness to deign to agree to the granting of a perpetual Brief by which the Missionaries selected by the Archconfraternity will be fortified, on the occasion of giving Missions, with those faculties and privileges which are listed on the annexed page.<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Because of his reference to the Missions given in the Marche and Romagna, it seems that one must assign this letter to the end of 1818. In the collection of the letters to Cristaldi, this petition is found among the letters of 1818. This is also confirmed by the letter of November 25, 1818.

<sup>41</sup> See the following document.

Furthermore, in order that the selection made by the Archconfraternity would be in accordance with the regulations and canonical sanctions, it is further petitioned of your Holiness to grant to the Cardinal Deacon *pro tempore*<sup>42</sup> of the Chapter of S. Nicola and the immediate protector of the Archconfraternity, the faculty to interpose the approval for the men selected. Thereby, those men could legitimately enjoy the faculties and privileges that are requested in the Brief, that etc. ...

In behalf of the Archconfraternity of the Most Precious Blood in S. Nicola in Carcere

188

November 1818

### FACULTIES AND PRIVILEGES

List

of the faculties and privileges to be enjoyed  
during the time of giving a Mission  
by the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity  
of the Most Precious Blood

- 1) The thirteen cases of the Sacred Penitentiary
- 2) Dispensation from the Divine Office during the Mission.
- 3) The faculty of blessing, *in articulo mortis*,<sup>43</sup> crucifixes, coronas, medals, rosaries, scapulars
- 4) To celebrate holy Mass two hours before dawn and one hour after noon.
- 5) To enjoy the personal privileged altar each day.
- 6) A seven year indulgence, and as many quarantines, applicable to the holy souls in Purgatory, each time that one attends any function of the mission.
- 7) A plenary indulgence on the occasion of the general communion and also for anyone who is present for the Blessing that concludes the ministry of the Mission; all applicable to the holy souls in Purgatory.

189

November 25, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I received the note from Fr. Canali and from it I learn what the will of God is for me. I accept the task of giving the exercises to the poor at the Terme, so you can be at ease about that. I will get in touch with the priest-directors, select my companions and anything else that will be

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<sup>42</sup> Temporarily.

<sup>43</sup> At the hour of death.

needed.

Furthermore, we discussed the Missions for Civita Castellana and Ripatranzone. Willingly do I accept them for after Easter. However, it will be necessary for you to write to the aforementioned places so that they can then correspond with me who will take charge to see that everything is prepared in due time and in keeping with our customary regulations.

May I remind you, if you will, about the memorandum in behalf of the Archconfraternity of the Most Precious Blood which, as you know, is notably widespread to the glory of God. Likewise, remember that matter pertaining to the Filippino Natalini. I suppose that you have spoken already to the Holy Father concerning the priest that I took with me on the Mission, who then went on to Giano for the Triduum conducted for the diocese of Nocera.

Meanwhile, with very special esteem and respect, and ready to do whatever you direct, most reverend excellency, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can del Bufalo*

House, November 25, 1878

190

December 2, 1818

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Venerable Camillo

With this letter I have no other purpose than to let you know that the petition in behalf of your fellow-worker has been signed with the *lectum*.<sup>44</sup> I withdrew the document that was made at the time of the Mission. Now, it will be necessary to prepare another petition and ask the Holy Father to dispense from the investigation. So, please send me quickly that detailed petition so that by putting everything together, I can try this approach which I suspect will be just about as abstruse. The matter should have been handled from the beginning by the Council, where it was initiated, but now we shall see whether we can in some way succeed in our efforts.

The other night I mailed another relic to Fr. Giovanni Mari because I learned that, out of devotion, the person to whom I sent the first one has kept it for himself; but, I am quite happy about that. I am not forgetting the matter concerning his nephew. We still have nothing definite on that. Asking you for your prayers, and with particular esteem, my very dear sir, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, December 2, 1818

191

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<sup>44</sup> Selected.

December 5, 1818

Fr. Benedetto Corbucci

S. Giovanni is Marignano

Dear Father Benedetto

Would you please tell Fr. Archpriest Quagliati that within a short time he will be receiving the papers for aggregating. He already knows what I am talking about. I shall send the identification papers to all of your companions as well as to you. Let me know if a certain Fr. Girolamo Donati is in your group, because I would not want to be guilty of an oversight. Even though I have not had the pleasure of meeting you personally, nevertheless I take this opportunity to be able to say, most venerable Fr. Benedetto, that with esteem and veneration, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Rome, December 5, 1818<sup>45</sup>

192

December 18, 1818

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

With the danger that exists that others may request the chalice that is customarily offered by the Roman Senate, as I mentioned in another letter of mine, I ask you again to assure me from this moment of the rescript which, because of its objective, will call down upon you, most reverend excellency, special blessings from the ever merciful God.

Your humble, devoted and. obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

House, December 18, 1818

193

January 2, 1819

Fr. Angelo Serafini

Meldola

Dear Archpriest<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> In the copy found in Volume VII, the year indicated is 1829; in the copy of Volume XVIII, the year is 1828. However, it seems that we must assign it to 1818. In fact, with this letter, St. Gaspar was initiating plans with Fr. Corbucci for a Mission, plans that will be completed with the letters of the 8th and 28th of August 1819, addressed to the same man.

<sup>46</sup> This letter does not have an addressee, but in all probability it must have been addressed to Fr. Angelo Serafini. Cf. the letter of February 3, 1819 to the same person.

I am very much edified by your zeal and I wholeheartedly bless the Lord for it. It is now necessary for you to set in order with the original rescript the petition which we must have here for the aggregation. The cost is six *scudi* to defray necessary expenses for the services of the aggregation. If you have no other means for sending them, you can do so through the mail-delivery. Who knows, with the approach of the new season, one could effect a bit of good work in Romagna. Let us make use of prayer. And, in this regard, I beg you not to forget me in the Holy Sacrifice and to get your people also to remember me. Take care of yourself and with the fullness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humbled, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C del Bufalo*

Rome, January 2, 1819

194

January 13, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Venerable Camillo

Be assured that I have not lost sight of the two matters entrusted to me: the one pertaining to the Sacconi; the other dealing with your fellow-worker. If you had sent me the petitions following my model more promptly, I would have succeeded. But, in those matters that pertain either to the tribunals of Justice or even more so to the commune government, I must confess the truth, it is not for me an easy thing to expect to have immediate results. At any rate, right now I am going to try another approach for the Sacconi petition, and, be assured that *non quiescam*,<sup>47</sup> until I see our common desires taken care of.

Then, with regard to your fellow-worker, I must tell you that the very reverend Monsignor Auditor had taken full charge of the question, but then his extended illness, from which he has not as yet recovered, blocked the progress of the case, and for this I am truly sorry. So, do as follows: exercise a new act of charity by sending me a new, succinct petition bearing the signature of the priest in Matelica which will authenticate the consent obtained etc., and I will try to use another means of approach. In am *in faciem loci*<sup>48</sup> and I know that in those things that relate to tribunals, one does not easily get the *pro gratia*.<sup>49</sup> So, send the petition please.

What more can I do? I am truly regretful that I am unable to give you the response that I would have surely liked to give. Meanwhile, prayers, and with full esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble and devoted servant

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<sup>47</sup> I shall not rest.

<sup>48</sup> After the fashion of the place

<sup>49</sup> As a favor.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, 13 of 1819

P. S. To Fr. Giovanni Mari: we still have nothing new to report. A thousand greetings to all, to the most reverend bishop, etc.

195

January 16, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Venerable Camillo

I do not know how to tell you how dear you are to me. You speak to me only from an impulse of zeal and therefore you have done well in writing to me from your heart. You are not to be sorry for that last paragraph that you had in your recent letter. I appreciate it and I love it more than I can say. I wish that I could express my sentiments better. But, I refer you to one of my previous letters to which you will give me your reactions. And, *non quiescam*<sup>50</sup> until our desires are fulfilled. At least I can report to you that I have not omitted a single means for carrying out my intentions. Pray for me, Camillo, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, in visceribus Jesu Christi*.<sup>51</sup> With full respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble and devoted servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Rome, 16 of 1819

196

January 26, 1819

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I have read the letters that I am returning to you and here, in brief, is my opinion. Fr. Biagio

Valentini has those qualities that give me hope that he will serve the Lord in a particular way in spreading the work in Giano. Though he may have worked very well in his own hometown, he could do a great deal more good in animating an institution which, by its very location, could be of even greater help, in time, to the whole province of the Marca which neighbors on Umbria. For this type of work surely require persons with merit and men who are suitable for this ministry. It is a matter of an institution which has so important a work as giving Missions and of

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<sup>50</sup> I shall not rest.

<sup>51</sup> Whom I love in unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ

providing to the clergy, good examples of apostolic life. In seeking to give greater glory to God, therefore, we must come to the conclusion that the Holy Father would be greatly content to have such a man involved in this excellent endeavor. Presently, another priest has gone there who, since he is young, of good will and at the same time capable, with the help of Fr. Biagio, could perfect himself and learn everything that

relates to the exact execution of the ministry. But, if the oft-mentioned Fr. Biagio does not go there. I do not see how we could provide for the needs of this holy undertaking. Add to that the fact that

this man is in love with Mission work and Retreats.

One could not say a word to the contrary if he were to select some order of Regulars where he could fulfill his vocation. Thus it would turn out that neither Monsignor Bellini nor we would have him for Giano. So, if this matter is attended to now, then perhaps we will see verified what I am urging with this letter that I am sending to you.

Finally, it would be a lot easier to find for Porto di Recanati another priest, fit for teaching sailors and able to handle confessions than to find a missionary who has the spirit to live in S. Felice and give life to the project. Porto di Recanati is a neighbor to Santelpidio where there are priests in good number. The bishop could find one for those people who do not lack opportune means for supplying a fair subsistence, as Fr. Biagio himself has told me so often. By taking in hand now this matter that I bring before you, you will be doing nothing less than promoting a greater good for souls. It would be very helpful if you were to write a letter to the bishop of Loreto so as to appraise him of the entire situation. Then, if that worthy prelate were to show his concern for a priest of merit, of spirit, this would be reason for mutual praise: he, because of his recognition of the good qualities of the one, and the other for the wisdom of his choice.

The plan that good Fr. Luigi is setting up concerning the support of the society is in complete conformity with his gentle outlook and he has already indicated that he would maintain the society by furnishing it with what is necessary.

This is all that I have to report to you now. Meanwhile, with fullness of esteem, gratitude and very special affection, and ready to do whatever you say, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

House, 26 of 1819

197

January 27, 1819

Fr. Angclo Antonini

Collamato

Venerable Father

I praise greatly your zeal for the glory of the Lord and I pray that he will make you entirely his own by granting you an even greater increase of charity and of the holy flame of

divine love. It

is, indeed, impossible for me to be of help to you with regard to your benefice because I realize that I do not have the means for succeeding in the attempt. You should try to work out your plans in other ways so that you can fulfill your intentions, which I consider to be correct with respect to renouncing your parish assignment. If you wish to join with the secular priests in S. Felice in Giano, where Fr. Biagio Valentini whom you know very well is located, then, write to him and address your letter: Spoleto, for Giano, the House of the Missionaries.

I fully understand that the ties to parish work are not for you, and so at the foot of the Cross contemplate whether God wants you in Giano. Check with Fr. Biagio to see what his opinion is. I, nevertheless, will not fail to recommend you to the Lord. In the meantime, full of esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 27 of 1819

198

January 29, 1819

Msgr. Annibale Ginnasi<sup>52</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I am enclosing a letter that came to me from Romagna, written by Canon Buda whom I esteem very highly; his suggestions, without prejudice to anyone, have much authority in my opinion. On my behalf, you yourself should contact Msgr. Licigni and ask him to write to Meldola that they should not, in any way, disturb the functions of the Oratory which, following the pattern of the Caravita here in Rome, operates every night of the year and, indeed, with great effectiveness produces much good in souls; also, that it is not proper, at the time of Oratory, to have other services going on. L praise the zeal of everyone. Nevertheless, since the Brothers of the Oratory have already engaged in the task of drumming up the interest of the people, why should they not be joined during Lent to those of the Heart of Jesus? One would think that in this whole situation one should seek only the good, and the good demands harmony and unity of feeling. Finally, if this procedure which is being suggested, namely, that the one should be combined with the other, is not acceptable, then, let them hold their own functions at another time. However, they are not to interfere with the attendance at the Oratory which is the principal effort for the cultivation of the spirit. As far as I am concerned, I would say that our group should unite themselves with the "*svergliarini*" of the Oratory and end up together with them at the Oratory, just as St. Philip Neri, as we know, always inculcated.

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<sup>52</sup> In all probability this letter was sent to Ginnasi in Rome itself. The place of origin of the letter which is simply indicated by "Casa" would seem to argue this, as well as the fact that Ginnasi also held an important position in the Roman Curia.

So, act with zeal and I will be most obligated to you. I am with esteem

Humble, obliged Servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

House (Rome) 29 of 1819

P. S. Recommend to Msgr. Benigni to write immediately.

199

February 3, 1819

Fr. Angelo Serafini

Meldola

Jesus Mary Joseph

Very illustrious Father

How greatly consoled I am by your most appreciated letters that bring me ever satisfying news, to the glory of the Lord! I hope that in your heart there will be enkindled an even greater flame of holy, divine love which will encourage you to promote good wont, and especially devotion to the Most Precious Blood. On Sunday, here in Rome, there will be the aggregation into the Pious Union bearing the title of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, which you tell me has been canonically erected there by your own bishop in accordance with the instructions received. Later, let me know the one to whom I am to send the document identifying him as an aggregator, so that he will have it when the occasion arises. Otherwise, with previous notification, I shall send everything through the mails. Then, too, it is necessary that you submit to me the original rescript issued by your bishop which will subsequently be placed in our Archives. In this way, all the formalities required for aggregation will be properly observed. I simply cannot express the delight I experience for what you have done. The six *scudi* have already been received through the mails. This is for your own information.

We come now to the question of the Missions. God knows how close to my heart Romagna is. Indeed, out of pure affection, I was at the point of setting aside other assumed commitments in order to visit there once again during the nice season. But, it seems that this is not what God wills, for I find myself swamped with requests from other Provinces, and not from there. Furthermore, the voice of God is recognized in the call from good pastors. Therefore, I shall never fail to recommend your people to God, and, with holy freedom, I assure you that if it were the will of God for me to return to that area, I would be glad with the joy of God himself. But, since my itinerary is all set and if requests are not submitted in due time, I no longer have the pleasure of re-visiting Romagna during this year. Within a short time, I shall withdraw to make a retreat; after that, I shall send out letters of instruction to the bishops with whom correspond and, when all is settled, I shall then go out into the field immediately after Easter.

Pray for me *sine intermissione*<sup>53</sup> and also please procure the prayers of others for me.

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<sup>53</sup> Without intermission.

With special esteem and respect, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 3, 1819

## 200

February 7, 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

From the secretary of the Conservatori, I learned this morning that your efforts to obtain the chalice in favor of the church of S. Gallia were successful. Therefore, I feel that it is my unmistakable duty to renew my sentiments of deep appreciation for your many, many favors.

I am looking forward to next Saturday when I shall go into retreat. Recommend me often to the Lord and I, you can be certain, will do the same for you according to your intentions. We are living in a time when, in a special way, it is necessary to devote oneself to prayer. In particular, I am in dire need of prayer, for I must acquire spiritual strength to carry out all the responsibilities heaped upon me for this coming Lent, after which I must then resume giving holy Missions. This carnival time that we are in at present is the only opportunity that I have in which to attend to making a review of my own soul, since I do not have to be so completely occupied in things pertaining to extraordinary help for people and to seeing that the divine word is not exposed to scorn.

During these few days that are at my disposal, I have had to take care of some very important business matters, and so I did not get news from Mariangela personally. However, each day, from one or the other individual that I talked to, I was informed about the condition of the sick woman. If her death should occur, with this note I am immediately fulfilling my obligations. So, most venerable Monsignor, in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, with total respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

House, February 7, 1819