

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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1551

December 31, 1826  
Fr. Francisco Pacini  
Aquila

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>1</sup>

Esteemed Father Francesco

I am writing from Solmona to let you know that I would like to acquire additional copies of your booklet; but the cost is to be settled by the celebration of Masses, as you will specify, with you retaining the stipends. It would be convenient, however, that the celebration be *ad commodum*<sup>2</sup> and be able to be said *ubique*.<sup>3</sup> Think about it.

Since we were not able to talk in person and at ease, assuming that your long stay there might be due to the pressure of Canon Bellisari, I told him what I thought I should about the matter.

Finally, if you decide to join the Society, I am most convinced that, with divine favor, you will do very much good. Up to now you have been indecisive. The only thing that I can do is pray that the Lord will let you know his will. However, you can be sure that I find it difficult to harmonize the idea of your being isolated as you are and yet having the desire to become a Missionary; still, we must not overlook the saying of the apostle: "*omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant*".<sup>4</sup>

The little booklets that you have set aside for me, and that I referred to above, should be packaged and sent to my house in Rome; also, send your letters there in Rome, if necessary, and from there they will forward them to me, depending on where I happen to be.

Recommend me and have others do so to God. Consider me, with esteem and respect and very special attachment, as

Venerable Fr. Francesco, your  
Solmona <sup>5</sup>, December 31, 1826

1552

December 31, 1826

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<sup>1</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>2</sup> At the right time.

<sup>3</sup> Wherever.

<sup>4</sup> Let everything be done honorably and in order.

<sup>5</sup> *Solmona* (Sulmona), city in the province of Aquila. Cf. Geographical Data.

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj  
L'Aquila

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo<sup>6</sup>*

Most esteemed Canon

Please give my thanks to Baron Sardi for the courtesy shown to us by his very excellent children here in Solmona. The religious houses were located outside the inhabited area and consequently not handy for our purposes. On my trips, I look for those places, trying to avoid, as much as possible, staying in inns. Seeing myself thus restricted, I repeat, I had to take advantage of the hospitality of these good people. So, make known to them my sentiments of esteem and gratitude for so many outstanding acts of kindness.

Furthermore, do not cease your zealous efforts in behalf of the oratory and the other pious organizations. Indeed, it would be a good idea that once a month the most reverend bishop should have an assembly of the clergy and through that meeting strive to bring about the spread of every good work in favor of souls. In whatever way that I can be of assistance, please let me know by writing to me in Rome. In this way, our lives will be totally occupied in giving glory to God and the fulfillment of our holy ministry.

Carefully see to the printing of the Chaplet and the Seven Offerings and try to spread their recitation in the public churches, at least at the time when holy Mass is being offered. You will receive great blessings from God, dedicating yourself, in accordance with your intentions, to this very great devotion which I recommend very highly to you. You can facilitate the printing of the Chaplet and the Seven Offerings by contacting the enrolled members who are certainly located in that area. For easy acquisition, take care of getting there the printing of the Chaplet and the Seven Offerings. More about this in due time. Finally, do not cease praying and have others pray for me. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop and anyone else who remembers me. Do not forget about Canon Cordischi and the matter that you know about. Most esteemed Canon, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, respect and veneration

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Solmona, December 1826

P. S. Whoever intends to write to me, even to Benevento, should address the letters in that manner and they can be sure that they will be forwarded. Better, however, is to address them to Rome.

P. S. Give my thanks to the one who donated wine through Bartolomeo. Give my best regards to Father Francesco Pacini and all of the members of the new organization there. Try to observe with the greatest solemnity possible the first day of the month of June. I recommend the novena in honor of St. Xavier held in March, included also in the work written by Father Croiset: *Mese di Marzo*.

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<sup>6</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

1553

December 1826

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Holy Father

Monsignor Marchetti, Archbishop of Ancira, at the time when he was the administrator in Rimini, took upon himself to establish and to found, having first obtained proper authorization, a Mission and Spiritual Retreat House under the direction of Missionaries enrolled in the Archconfraternity bearing the most august title of the Divine Blood. However, scarcely had the Society begun its work when he was called to Rome and hence was unable to complete the effective execution of his plans. Now, those Missionaries are the most humble petitioners presenting themselves to your Holiness, asking you to grant some subsidy for the support of that House which is presently in dire need of help and the thoughtful consideration of your Holiness. That etc.

In behalf of the Missionaries in Rimini<sup>7</sup>

1554

January 8, 1827

Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Domenico Antonio

The most reverend bishop of Gaeta has written to me about the holy Mission there for the upcoming season of Lent. I have already sent him a reply on the matter and I have assured him that on the first Sunday in Lent the opening will take place. However, if the traveling should cause a delay of a day or so, that will not change things. In general, this good work will begin around the beginning of Lent. Please give this information to the town officials. It will be necessary to arrange lodging for the three Missionaries and one Brother whom I will be sending. Great work will be accomplished and God will be given glory. The lodging for the Missionaries must be close together. You see to it that all is prepared in an orderly fashion. This is what I have intended to convey to you with this letter of mine. In the meantime, most revered Domenico Antonio, I renew my esteem and respect, and I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, 8th of 1827

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<sup>7</sup> This petition was written by St. Gaspar. In a note written by Merlini, we read: "With the document of Monsignor Zoilo, December 31, 1826. Check this in the archives."

1555

Middle of January 1827  
Fr. Antonio Pascucci  
Sassoferrato

Thoughts for the Nuns<sup>8</sup>  
Observations with regard to the Meditation

These meditations are the same as those of St. Ignatius Loyola, adapted, however, for this type of retreatants. For example, hell is treated by explaining from the very beginning that a meditation of this kind is useful since the soul can be confirmed in its vocation etc. etc. and likewise, that one can acknowledge how much we owe to Jesus Christ, our Savior, and, finally, that one will pray for the conversion of those who have strayed as well as to contemplate what a terrible thing it would be if a soul, called to the state of perfection, through its own fault, were to be lost etc.

The idea of renewal presented in the Introductory remarks

Moses found himself out in the desert and, despite that fact, was called by God to a more particular type of solitude on the mountain. So, too, you are called to solitude insofar as you have withdrawn etc. God is also calling you to a very special solitude. Consequently, let us follow the call of God, etc.

Renewal

1. The purgative way. Whoever seeks to plant seed into the ground must first clear it well; thus, etc. We are speaking not only of things of great importance, but the cleansing that I speak of here refers to the removal of those thorns of habitual venial faults. Hence, an examination of our passions which, no matter how much they annoy us without our willing it, do provide us with a reason for gaining merit. Insofar as they tend to present themselves in clever ways, we are given motivation to exercise caution. Insofar as they attempt to consume every good intention of ours, they call for an energetic opposition to them. The first point is clear; the second, in which we treat of the cleverness etc., it should be pointed out that sometimes they present themselves in an indifferent way etc., and at other times, under a fictitious mantle of virtue. Antipathy, for example, etc. As to the third point, stress should be put on the ill behavior that could follow if they are not repressed. *Vince te ipsum*.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> These notes for the conducting of a retreat for religious women are contained in a letter addressed to Pascucci through the mails. The postal markings indicate: "Benevento, Frosinone, Fuligno; January 21, January 29". Gaspar's address indicates: "Rome to Foligno to Nocera to Sassoferrato". Therefore, it is a matter of a letter sent from Benevento and, by way of Frosinone and Foligno where it arrived on January 21st, reached its destination on January 29th. Only in 1827 was St. Gaspar in Benevento for the month of January. Hence, we assign the date of this letter to the middle of January 1827.

<sup>9</sup> Conquer yourself.

2. An examination with regard to detachment etc. (vow of poverty). Picture Abraham called through that Exodus etc. Detachment must be sincere; extended to all things, raised to the heights of perfection, in such a way, that one remains only with God.

3. Vow of chastity. Examination etc. (A delicate matter). The value of a pure soul. The consolations which one experiences; the blessings that are poured forth by God.

4. Obedience. Examination etc. prompt, generous, persevering.

5. The illuminative way. Humility: necessary and decorous for humankind.

6. The practice of humility through patiently accepting humiliations, enduring them with joy, and offering them to God with resignation.

7. Charity toward one's neighbor ... shown to every individual, extended to the Community in charge of material things etc., applied to all the objectives of the observance of the rules.

8. Religious duties. Examination etc. 1. Duties are accepted because they are given under obedience, they are carried out for one is to adhere to obedience, they are done with the spirit of perfection for obedience is to be followed perfectly.

9. Choir. Examination etc. The dignity of a person who prays, the suavity that one enjoys, the advantages that are forthcoming.

10. The parlor. One is to go there only when necessary and with reserve. There should be a careful use of time, and, through it, one must provide edification.

11. Professed religious ... to be leaders in the pursuit of perfection, leaders in supplying the means for achieving perfection, leaders in making perfection a glorious thing through observance of the rules.

12. Religious Novices. Imitators of the professed in the observance of the rule. Correctness, but by way of example, for any lack of observance of the rule.

13. Boarding girls, if there are any... they should be sincerely grateful for the grace of retirement; they are to be docile in responding to the grace of receiving a good education; they should be prompt to lead a methodical life so as to bring forth abiding fruit as a result of this.

14. Unitive way. The primary means is mental prayer through which, by degrees, we are lifted up to God, we are united with God, we are made participants of more communication with God.

15. The values of mental prayer, the practice and use of mental prayer.

16. Love of God. It should be eager, courageous and persevering.

17. Love of God. It should be profound, extensive, and elevated.

18. The most holy Eucharist.

#### Farewell remarks. (Close of the Retreat)

1. A reminder about meditation. Be perfect. *Estote perfecti*.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Be perfect.

2. A book to be read. It is the Crucifix: *Sicut et Pater vester perfectus est.*<sup>11</sup>

3. A means to be practiced. It is the devotion to the Divine Blood. Mary most holy will be your guardian and protectress, etc.

Notification of books in which to find materials for Nuns

Rodriguez, *Esercizi di perfesione*, especially the third section in which he deals with the vows.

*La monica santa* written by B. Liguori.

Pinamonti, *La Religiosa in solitudine*

1556

January 20, 1827

Msgr. Giuseppe Segni

Bishop of the Marsi

Pescina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>12</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Upon completing the holy Mission in Ariano, I am now sending a reply to your most esteemed letter sent to me from Rome. You can continue to address your letters there where the forwarding of my mail is more exact. However, one thing must be pointed out and that is that you are not to be surprised if there is a bit of delay in my responding due to circumstances brought on by my ministry.

You must try to arrange the round of Missions for your diocese but scheduling them only for after the conclusion of Lent. It seems to me that in that area the fulfillment of the Easter duty extends to the feast of Pentecost. Also, at that time of the year, the roads and the season are more compatible for travel. Please prepare a listing of the Mission as well as the number of souls involved and you will be obeyed with the greatest possible exactitude.

In reference to Santarelli, you have every reason to exercise your authority in his regard, since he has not embraced any Institute and is occupied in other dioceses. The status of higher perfection is not to be impeded and vocations are from God not from men. Otherwise, we would have here an implausible reversal of good order. Please note that the Holy Father now wishes to have help from our Institute for foreign Missions and has given me this charge since there are so many people who do not have the services of a priest. It is not possible to describe the type of life Missionaries in those areas are called upon to lead. In the dioceses, seminaries are providing compensation and besides the Retreat they are maintaining a conscientious balance, sending at least someone each year. Venerable Monsignor, recommend me to God, and, with particular

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<sup>11</sup> As also your Father is perfect.

<sup>12</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

esteem and respect, I remain  
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*  
 Miss. Ap.  
 Ariano (torn here) 27<sup>13</sup>

1557

January 27, 1827  
 Pietro Gajani  
 Bologna

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter of the 19th of 1827, I must point out to you the following, which, for the sake of convenience, I have itemized.

1. I have always sent a reply to each one of your letters and I cannot remember having delayed this for more than a day or so because of the demands of my ministry of giving holy Missions.

2. The composition or compendium covering the life of the excellent Countess Bentivoglio must be written in Bologna since Chiara is still living there and can review everything. I am very much interested in this good work because of the edification it can provide for others and I would be pleased to have a copy of it when the time comes. You should try to get someone who is adept at doing this work.

3. With regard to the favor of the *Via Crucis* for Luigi Benassi, I shall look into this as best I can.

4. My plan for the confraternity, referred to in my recent letter, I now repeat, is this. As long as the present priorsuperior is alive, nothing is to be changed. Later on, it will be the Prior *pro tempore*<sup>14</sup> of the Dominican Fathers. It seems to me that the correct propriety would be maintained.

5. I shall obtain the favor for your son, the priest. Please be patient. Because of the multitude of things that arise, one is not always capable of quickly achieving what is desired.

6. When you write to me, please do not use any other title than the one that you note in my signature below.

7. I would like you to extend my best wishes to the Tanari family. I do not think that I have overlooked anything else, except to ask you for many prayers. With esteem, respect and veneration, most illustrious sir, I now declare again that I am

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<sup>13</sup> The original letter of St. Gaspar was "torn" here; but the date can be obtained clearly from the postal marking, January 20, 1827, reported on the outer covering.

<sup>14</sup> For the time being.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo*

Missionary Apostolic

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, 27th of 1827

P. S. When necessary, always send your letters to "Rome". Make a visit for me to the Chapel of St. Xavier within the S. Lucia locale.

1558

January 27, 1827

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your most appreciated letter, nothing more occurs to me than to express my congratulations for the settlement that God has given to your family problems and for the tranquility that I observe in your mind. I am so pleased that you have received the booklets and I am always ready to be of service to you in whatever way you deem me fit. I am even more consoled about the reprinting of the month of June being done in Fermo. I would like to have a copy of it along with the price indicated for my own information and in order to promote this most important devotion.

I am writing from our House in Benevento where God has been greatly extending his glory. Within a short time, another boarding school for our young men will be set up.

I know nothing about what you mentioned concerning the Lenten preaching, relative to Canon Tarulli, whom I love and esteem in the Lord, but would not care to imitate in his career, even though a holy one. O my beloved friend, such great and extensive merits are being gained through the holy Missions. *Intelligenti pauca*.<sup>15</sup>

Pray a lot for me, most revered Giovanni Francesco, and with esteem, respect and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Benevento, 27th of 1827

P.S. I urge you to spread the devotion of the month, wherever possible.<sup>16</sup> Occupy yourself in this work. Also, the novena in March in honor of Xavier.

P.S. When necessary, address your letters to Rome.

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<sup>15</sup> A few times for the one who understands.

<sup>16</sup> Underlined three times.

1559

January 31, 1827  
 Mr. Camillo Possenti  
 Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Camillo

I understand everything that you mentioned about the reams of stationery and I thank you wholeheartedly.

I do not cease urging you to the charitable efforts for which I asked, namely, to solicit suffrages. A public Way of the Cross with the people, a rosary, a Mass; indeed, at least in these things does charity exist. I am completely trustful in your zealous cooperation.

As for the certificates that you referred to, I will be expecting around one thousand. I have asked Severini to take care of reimbursing you both for the stationery as well as for the certificates, once they have been printed. Let us be in agreement on this. I have already informed Severini. I give thanks to God, furthermore, that you are busily engaged in spreading the good work of our devotion. It is required that each year a listing of the enrollees be sent in by the group that is not canonically erected, but only aggregated to the one in Rome. Both in Fermo and in Rome the month of the Divine Blood is being reprinted; I would like to see this practice propagated more and more. You occupy yourself in this too, as you are already doing.

With respect to the Retreat that you desire, oh what a good thing it is to maintain the mind in equilibrium! These good desires are precious in the eyes of God and thus has it has been written: "*Praeparationem cordis audivit auris tua*".<sup>17</sup> But, you can be certain that God wants you to remain at home where you are to bear the burdens that are willed by God for you. Be courageous and let us become saints. When will it be that we will see each other again? Surely, we shall always see each other in the Divine Sacred Heart, the burning furnace of charity, and then one day in an eternal reunion in heaven. Whoever is the first to arrive in that beloved fatherland should remember the other person. Herein lies true charity. So, *confortamini in Domino et in potentia virtutis eius*.<sup>18</sup> I think that my life is probably not going to be of long duration. You know how many burdens I have and how many of them I am called to bear each day because of the ministry. Pray a lot for me "*ne cum aliis praedicaverim ipse reprobus efficiar*".<sup>19</sup> In the meantime, while awaiting your response, addressed to Rome for forwarding, dearest Camillo [Oh how devoted to the Divine Blood was S. Camillo], in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>17</sup> Your ear has heard the preparations of the heart.

<sup>18</sup> Be strengthened in the Lord and in the power of his goodness.

<sup>19</sup> Lest after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 M. Ap.  
 House in Benevento, 31st of 1827

1560

February 1, 1827  
 Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Luigi

I understand what you tell me concerning the gardener whom I hope you were able to locate for Pievetorina.

In regard to the request of the bishop of Todi dealing with the approval of the congregation, here is what occurs to me to point out.

1. Other Institutes have been promoted by Servants of God, and the Holy See has approved them. Ours has been promoted and is directly promoted by the Holy Father. I do not know whether it is possible to desire having a more eminent canonicity.

2. For our men who dedicate themselves to our Institute, one year is given them *ad deliberandum*,<sup>20</sup> if they are canons, by the Council in charge of Regulars etc.

3. In the Brief declaring the installation of the Jesuits in Spoleto, our Institute is named again.

4. We use the common ordo, we have places assigned by Rome, in addition to other privileges.

5. Finally, our boarding schools are *de iure canonico*.<sup>21</sup> We note how the clergy used to live together in ancient times. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>22</sup> It is known that the Holy Father intends to make use of our Society for the Propaganda. etc.

With respect to your own vocation, we have discussed this quite a bit already. In my opinion, it is a bit disappointing that you are too pusillanimous in bringing this matter to a conclusion. Vocations come from God. Monsignor Strambi has already given you his approval. The bishop could be disappointed if you were to accept work in another diocese. Life in an Institute *est altioris perfectionis*;<sup>23</sup> hence, no one may stand in its way. I add nothing further. You are adept at preaching of S. Xavier. Why do you not imitate him now in his generosity? As for a

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<sup>20</sup> To weigh carefully.

<sup>21</sup> From canon law.

<sup>22</sup> Enough of this.

<sup>23</sup> It is of a higher perfection.

patrimonial title, you can either seek a substitute for it or you can remain in the Institute for three years in the Province of Campagna, but, without that title, etc. Dear Father Luigi, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Benevento, February 1, 1827

P. S. When necessary, send your letters to Rome so that they can be forwarded.

1561

February 1, 1827

Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Domenico Antonio

In reply to your most esteemed letter, I say that with regard to the Mission, no one should become distressed, for indeed people know from experience of my deep affection for Castelforte where the devotion to Xavier is so zealously promoted. On the other hand, they also know quite well that I am dependent on the Holy Father and am responsible to the Institute in all that I do. Therefore, to agree or decide whether I will be able to come there is dependant on circumstances. It is quite true that I have assigned a group of our men; nevertheless, if I should be able to come, am I not always on time? The assigning of men is not dependent only on me. So, we shall see just what the will of God is. I shall do all I can to be there in Castelforte, but I am not able to give you my absolute word. I assure you again, however, that I will be sending capable men and much good work will be achieved. If I should be absent, Missionary Merlini will be the director. He was the Missionary who gave the Mission in Gaeta, and his merits, without doing harm to anyone else's reputation and for the pure glory of God, are very well known to the most reverend bishop of Gaeta. So, allow yourself to be directed and everything will turn out fine. God sees our intentions. I have been deeply edified by, and, at the same time, quite indebted to you for your special acts of kindness shown toward me. I am not deserving of them.

With regard to the discourse on St. Francis Xavier, I promise that one will be given during the Mission. In the past, I have always stated: "When the bishop writes to me, and I am not able to go, I shall send another member". A letter such as that from the Curia has never been received by me as I have just received one now for this Mission. How can I come into the diocese? You, in your own good judgment, decide.

Bartolomeo returns to you his greetings. He is feeling better and I hope that as winter draws to a close he will be even more fully established. I ask that the lodging for the Missionaries be convenient for the pressing tasks of the ministry. Pray for me and have others do so too, and, I remain and will constantly be

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, February 1, 1827

P. S. See that everything is arranged at the beginning of Lent so that as soon as the Missionaries arrive, things can begin. Word will be sent concerning the entry. Letters to be forwarded to me should be sent to Frosinone.<sup>24</sup>

1562

February 2, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>25</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Since God has established you as the mystical cornerstone, so to speak, of our Institute, and since I have no other recourse for easing the many, many burdens that I offer, it now occurs that I again must inconvenience you with the enclosed memorandum which is quite worthy of your full consideration. Either directly or indirectly, please see that the Holy Father becomes interested in it and is made aware of it.

Your wellknown zeal is in no need of encouragement. You will acquire ever more and more merit for heaven, the center of every true consolation for us. In the meantime, asking you for your prayers, most reverend excellency, and renewing once again my sentiments of particular esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, February 2 [most holy Mary will protect the request]<sup>26</sup>

1563

February 4, 1827

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

L'Aquila

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

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<sup>24</sup> This paragraph is on the outer covering near the address.

<sup>25</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>26</sup> The letter belongs to 1827.

You will be receiving 50 Chaplets by way of Rieti. If a customs charge is required, you take care of that so as not to delay this good work that is to be done. In my travel through Abruzzi, I promised that I would send some more Chaplets to the Father Guardian in Castel di Sangro since I took lodging in that convent. I will send others to the Father Guardian in Venafro, and in that same convent, to a certain subdeacon from Paduli. So, here is how I would like to have the 50 Chaplets distributed: twelve to the Father Guardian of the Reformed or Observants who resides in Castel di Sangro; six to the Father Guardian of the Capuchins in Venafro; 24 to Father ... subdeacon from Paduli, a Capuchin, so that he can give one or the other to his studentcompanions, and the others you can distribute as you suggested to me when I was passing through. Put them in separate packages and use the respective addresses. Any that are left over, you can use as you see fit. Recommend to everyone the public recitation of this very important booklet. Wherever there is a Regular who would like the faculty of enrolling people, all he has to do is to indicate that to you who will then send the information to me. If, at present, you need to write to me, send your letters to Rome. From there they will be sent on to me in Frosinone.

I say nothing to you about the task of stimulating the Oratory which is something being done everywhere in the Kingdom where we have given Missions, following the example also of Naples. By being insistent, one conquers all. I have written to Monsignor Polidori. Propagate our devotion. See where you can introduce the observance of the month and arrange everything beforehand by giving the appropriate instructions. If I have forgotten anything, please remind me of that. Be zealous in establishing firmly the first congregation of the Divine Blood in the Kingdom. Keep in contact with the bishop or have a meeting of the clergy so as to distribute the tasks involved in the various apostolic endeavors. Within a very short time, the third boarding school for our young men will be opened in Benevento in addition to the one in Romagna. May Jesus be our love. Most venerable Canon, with all my love and esteem, I remain, in his Divine Heart,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Benevento, February 4, 1827

P. S. Give instructions everywhere concerning the importance and the method of practicing our devotion. Let me know what the cost would be for a hundred songbooks, etc..

1564

February 4, 1827

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Oh how delighted I was to receive your most esteemed letter. I, too, have written to Spina

in order to get notification of the recent 100 Masses which undoubtedly have already been said. Thank you now for the additional 50.

Whenever you have others, send them to me so that I can divide them also with my companions, and I shall be deeply obliged to you. Please address your letters to me to Frosinone where I expect to be within a very short time. When I get to Sermoneta, I will inform you. You can be absolutely sure of that.

With pleasure did I receive the news concerning the oratory. If there would be a way to do so, it would be a good idea to have the Directory reprinted for the encouragement of other individuals too. *Omnia cum tempore*.<sup>27</sup> Norma is a city very dear to me, and you can be consoled in God for that. Do not cease praying for me and have others do so too. With esteem, my dearest Luigi, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Benevento, February 4, 1827

1565

February 4, 1827

Pietro Gajani

Bologna

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Just now I have received one of your letters sent to me, along with a summary of the life of Mrs. Bentivoglio. Allow me to have a bit of time so that I can discuss it with his Eminence Falzacappa, and then I will be able to inform you about it. This is something that does not require strict, urgent action nor one that will not admit of available time.

With regard to the organization devoted to the Divine Blood, please do not become discouraged. If his Eminence wishes to transfer it to S. Proculo, adducing that the return of the Dominican Fathers will change the circumstances of the group, let him do so. If they think that it should be maintained in S. Domenico, then the pastor of S. Procolo should be its director and indeed the coadjutor should be the prior of S. Domenico who will then move into the office during vacationtime. A better reconciliation of this situation cannot be offered. Show this letter of mine to the Marquis Antonio Tanari who often visits his most reverend Eminence and he will speak to him about it in a concerned fashion, along with my own personal regards. Let me know whether the work of dall'Occa is being sold there and, in that case, how much it costs. With esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble servant

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<sup>27</sup> All things with time.

*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 M. Ap.  
 Benevento, February 4, 1827  
 Send your reply to Rome.

1566

February 5, 1827  
 Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani  
 Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter. I understand everything that you tell me about the devotion to the Divine Blood, and I give thanks to God. I remain most edified by your wellknown zeal. Since the pious union in S. Domenico has no aggregation at all, nor any other briefs granting indulgences, it would be very possible, in keeping with the usual regulations, to have it aggregated to the Archconfraternity in Rome. However, if you find that this good work cannot be achieved for that sanctuary, it would be necessary to take under consideration some project or other. The Dominican Fathers must, however, acknowledge that B. Giacomo of Bevagna experienced a miracle, reported in the booklet for the observance of the month of June, dedicated to the mysteries of the Divine Blood. Since this man was a Dominican, I hope that they will become concerned about this organization, even though it might not be reconcilable with their usual practices, which, I think, is not so. Even in Bologna, in the church of S. Domenico, there is a confraternity of the Divine Blood and the religious there continue to carry out its regulations.

I know nothing in regard to the men retired from the Propaganda. I would like to have a more concise and ostensible presentation of this which could be delivered to me in a package addressed to the most reverend Treasurer. I will try to have it presented when the occasion arises, since in my many other undertakings I am concerned only in the recruiting of workers for those Missions.

With pleasure did I learn of the good work that God is bringing about there through the services of Canon Carboneri. We already are aware of the fact that crosses are our inheritance, especially in these times. Thank you for having written to him in my name. Continue your apostolic work and, most revered Canon, with the fulness of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Benevento (where another boarding school for our young men will be opened)  
 February 5, 1827

P. S. If necessary, send your reply, for the sake of forwarding, to "Rome".

1567

February 6, 1827

Sister Maria Saveria di S. Agostino

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

You have had to wait quite a bit of time for a reply to your letter because of the occupations to which the ministry calls me. I wish to give you my deep felt thanks for the kindness that you show toward me, while assuring you at the same time that I never forget you in my poor prayers and in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass. So, be courageous in the Lord. This present life is a warfare. But Jesus has preceded us bearing the standard of the Cross; he instructs us, he encourages us to be triumphant and bring back palms of victory for a most blessed eternity. Sorrowful Mother Mary teaches us how to suffer. She was the Queen of martyrs. I leave you, then, at the foot of the Cross which is the same thing as saying at the foot of the ladder to Paradise which we must courageously climb in order to be happy forever. The novena in March in honor of St. Xavier is drawing closer. Make a special remembrance of me. Give my best regards to the Mother Superior and to your companion Mother Maddalena. Keep me in your prayers in common, very reverend Mother, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble; devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, February 6<sup>28</sup>

1568

February 6, 1827

Fr. Agostino Bazzoli

Forlimpopoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>29</sup>

Very reverend Canon

I was saddened to hear that the practice of the Oratory there is becoming languid. I know, furthermore, that you are making every effort to direct it zealously, and that you are not in need of any encouragement. Nevertheless, I allow myself the favor of sending you and all the brethren there this letter of encouragement that the work of the Lord be continually promoted there and

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<sup>28</sup> The year is 1827. Only in that year, as a matter of fact, was St. Gaspar in Benevento during these days.

<sup>29</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

not allowed to cease. Take notice of how the oratories are frequented in Rimini where our Missionaries are hard at work. Do not be thwarted by opposition ... but always say: *patior sed non confundar*.<sup>30</sup> During the upcoming Lenten season, reinstate the procession of the Crucifix, thus shaming the devil. This is what is needed for those who do not love God ... a rampart against those means that are being practiced every day even in Rome etc. etc. center of the Papal States and of our very religion. Next year, the legacy for the giving of a holy Mission will expire. Give my warm regards to Count Golfarelli and to anyone else who remembers me. Most revered Canon, with esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, February 6<sup>31</sup>

1569

February 6, 1827

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

L'Aquila

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I am making up for an oversight of mine. I would like that public notice be given there of the erection of our most beloved organization of the Divine Blood. That would be beneficial both for the Kingdom and for the edification of the Papal States. I do not know whether, because of my own devotion, I too might be included in the listing of the members. You might send me a word or so. Have the uniforms been worked on? Make preparations for a magnificent month. Stimulate other individuals, reminding all of them of what has been written: *ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*.<sup>32</sup> While sending my best wishes to the most reverend bishop and to Father Pacini, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Benevento, February 6, 1827

1570

February 16, 1827

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<sup>30</sup> I am suffering but I am not overcome.

<sup>31</sup> The year is 1827. Cf. The footnote to the preceding letter; also the letter to the same person on March 27, 1827.

<sup>32</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>33</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I am reserving writing about other matters for another ordinary maildelivery. Right now, the urgency about the situation in Frosinone is compelling me to seek out your advice<sup>34</sup> in regard to what follows. The act of removing us from S. Agostino was not the doing of the peoples' council, but that of a few individuals. However, the tears shed because of the fear of losing our Institute is universal. You have noted this in the petitions that have been sent to Rome, backed also by a certain Mr. Ludovico Butti, a member of the Curia, who was trying to bring about a successful solution. He will be coming to see you also and discuss the matter with you. There is no other plan in view except the exchange of the Maestre Pie for us.

Do the Maestre Pie require a public church? On the other hand, that is something required for the Missionaries. I add that in Frosinone presently there are only two churches that are being serviced. The church of the Liguori Fathers and that of S. Maria della Neve are in a status of not being able to be used except for the rural area, which is also something good, but not adequate for providing moral instruction for the general run of the inhabitants. One parish, namely, that of the Santissima Annunziata is closed since it is in a state of disrepair and is undergoing construction work. Now you can see what the situation is that these people are facing! Perhaps Monsignor Benvenuti might be able, in some way, to work out the installation of the Maestre in our area, where no less than 600 *scudi* have been spent, and at the same time provide a church which is centrally located in Frosinone for the work of public ministry. The local Gonfalonier, the most reverend Delegate and the bishop, when asked for their opinion, would express their feelings of approval and everything would turn out to be peaceful and tranquil.

However, they do not feel like showing direct opposition to the action in order to avoid a certain *miremur*,<sup>35</sup> without first having someone who would privately inform the Holy Father himself. Then, after he has considered the reasonableness of the explanation, I feel convinced that he would be grateful for the suggestions offered to him relating all to the glory of God. I would have no difficulty at all in preparing a paper addressed to the Holy Father, but first, I would like to have your advice and direction which, as you know so well, I always have valued and continue to value.

The other plans that are under consideration (outside of the change that has been referred to here) are not admissible. The pastor of S. Benedetto told me, today, that he is sending a petition to the Holy Father, dealing with another plan that regards a small unfinished church off

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<sup>33</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>34</sup> Cfr. the following letter.

<sup>35</sup> Let us wonder.

in the corner of the city which is not adequate for our purposes. All this for the record. Now, if that change referred to before is inadmissible, then it will be necessary to drop all consideration of Frosinone. Then, too, the bishop told me that Marquis Bisleti is upset with the delay and, after so many efforts, he wonders if the gendarmes should not be dislodged from the small convent in Veroli; he would like Veroli to be contacted, while the negotiations in Frosinone continue. The church in Veroli is beautiful, though the convent is rather small. I am told that the Marquis used to receive, at first, a small rental from the Commune, but that now he is asking for 80 *scudi*, since he is losing a project offered to him by a neighboring tenant and one that is of utility to that Marquis. This, too, is for the record. So, by way of conclusion, we have come to the point of placing my very, very fragile opinion before your judgment on the matter.

1. *Tene certum. relinque incertum.*<sup>36</sup> So, Veroli, in the meantime, is being installed, and things in Frosinone are in abeyance as they keep insisting on the change. Then, in regard to Albano, with a subsidy being granted from the Datery, making compensation to the Lateran Chapter, as is justly so since Pius VII did not give recognition to the Bull of Honorius, a double good will be achieved and the circumstances will offer an opportunity of putting in a very clear word to the Holy Father.

2. That the Institute should remain in this diocese without a basis for stability and without a church is really an agonizing situation. Good work can be done only in halfway measures. Presently, we have a refuge provided for us by the pastor of S. Benedetto. But something has to be done. How wretched are we who are reduced to the status of being able only to pray, suffer and be silent. Still, all of this is meritorious for heaven.

I shall await your gratifying, favorable and prompt reply. Pray a lot, a lot to Jesus for me so that I can prepare myself for the eternal years. Tomorrow, I shall apply the Mass for this whole situation. In all things may the will of God be done. I kiss your hands, venerable Monsignor, and with profound esteem and regard, I repeat that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, February 16, 1827

1571

February 16, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi Rome

Your advice<sup>37</sup> etc. concerning Frosinone

I understand that because of the circumstances, it would only be confusing to even

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<sup>36</sup> Hold on to what is certain, let go what is uncertain.

<sup>37</sup> This letter is to be considered along with the one of February 16, 1827 in which, at the very beginning, he asks Cristaldi for a bit of "advice".

mention everything that has been spent to spur on the settling of a House as well as firmly establishing the foundation of the church. We have by emphyteusis the upper floor granted to us by Mr. Gulielmi and this will be surrendered in due order etc. When we depart from the second floor, it will go to the hospital as is stipulated in the last will of the deceased Gulielmi, etc.

Now, since the separation from the people of Frosinone has progressed, I have left one Missionary there to keep an eye on things, and the others I have sent on Mission to Sonnino and Bassiano. Then, they will be moving on to Veroli; hence, I have written urging them to speed up the terms of the document since I cannot see the time when that foundation will be finalized and have a locale assigned to us. Up to now, the hospice in Frosinone has been serving as a place of refuge from the dangers of brigandry. Now, however, that that situation has been cleared up, it is necessary to extend the Society's work, just as has been done elsewhere, for the convenience of retreatants etc.

The Holy Father presently is aware of the blessings of God upon that Province, blessings that will be increased through the work of these holy establishments. So, *parcat Deus*<sup>38</sup> anyone who has not been cooperative in giving a helping hand for the obtaining of the locale of S. Agostino in Frosinone, saying, as it surely is true, that it had been given to the schools. Everything might have been worked out. But, God wishes to have us in Veroli. I shall see that the pious organizations in Frosinone are entrusted to the Organization for the clergy which will be revived. From Veroli, I shall send from time to time someone who will give sermons of encouragement *ut fructus maneat*.<sup>39</sup> More than this I cannot do, nor is it possible any longer for us to consider continuation of any work of construction. Furthermore, in regard to the condition of the church of S. Agostino, I am speaking of the furnishings etc. which having been donated to the church belong etc. etc., I will see just what the bishop thinks.

1572

February 17, 1827

Pietro Gajani

Bologna

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Thank you wholeheartedly for the listing that you sent to me of the officials selected for the Confraternity of the Divine Blood. Oh how my spirit rejoices in seeing things done with order and method. May the Lord who indeed hears the desires and promises of his children be ever blessed!

The outline drawn up by you for the compendium of the life of the deceased Countess

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<sup>38</sup> May God have mercy.

<sup>39</sup> In order that the fruit remain.

Bentivoglio is in the hands of his Eminence Falzacappa. I think that it would be a good idea for you to send a letter to his Eminence showing your concern that he become acquainted with the desires of that most fervent confraternity there. I shall never cease showing warm interest in this work which will produce great encouragement for virtuous action in our miserable times.

I had prepared your petitions for mailing. Now, I have withdrawn them. In another letter of mine, you were made cognizant of the reasons for my delay in answering letters and of my hope that you will be pleased with my good intentions. The ministry that I exercise simply does not allow me the opportunity to be prompt in responding to each and every task, as I would like to do. A thought comes to me and it is this. At present, we count already twelve Mission and Retreat Houses under the direction of the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood; two boarding schools for young priests who are preparing themselves for the ministry. Would it not be reconcilable to invite the organization founded by Doctor Del Monte, a group that I got to know at the time when I was in exile, to join up with us? What a boost it would be for that city there to have this holy organization revived and aggregated to our Houses! You think about this. Pray for me, most illustrious sir, and with particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

House in Frosinone, February 17, 1827

P. S. Send your reply to "Rome" for safer forwarding.

1573

February 19, 1827

Cardinal Giovan Battista Bussi

Archbishop of Benevento

Benevento

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>40</sup>

Your Eminence

The bearer of this most humble letter of mine is Canon Father Pasquale Aloysi, former companion of mine in exile, and a priest who is experienced in the holy ministry. In sending him to the House in Benevento, I am also seizing the opportunity to renew completely my feelings of esteem and respect for you, most reverend Eminence, and, while kissing the sacred purple, I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

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<sup>40</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, February 19, 1827

1574

February 22, 1827

Fr. Giuseppe Maria Silvestri

Sora

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I am inconveniencing you with the enclosed printed matter<sup>41</sup> so that you can make every effort to respond to the desires of the devotees of St. Francis Xavier by recruiting other members. The Lord will bless this holy endeavor. While sending you the most favorable greetings of Don Domenico, who is now resident in the House in Benevento, I renew my sentiments of esteem and respect for you, most revered Canon, and ask you for prayers etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, February 22, 1827

1575

February 22, 1827

Fortunato M. Renzi

Sora

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>42</sup>

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your most appreciated letter, the following is what occurs to me to point out to you. Ever since the end of last year, I have wanted to express to you the esteem which I hold for you, a most worthy person, as well as for the congregation over which you preside. However, the many unforeseen burdens that were heaped upon me by the Holy Father compelled me to have to remain in Rome and be obedient to his sovereign wishes. This year, however, I am placing my confidence in the Lord that I will be able to fulfill my intentions and willingly take on the Three Hour agony service, as a part of the retreat, and then on Good Friday to allow for an interval of time to give my voice a bit of a rest. On Holy Saturday, I shall be returning to our Mission House. So, except for some unforeseen order from the Holy Father, you have my word on this. And, in case I am unable to be there, I shall send another very capable member of the Institute who will carry out the things that I have referred to above.

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<sup>41</sup> On the outer covering, near the address, we find in another handwriting: "Manifest of the letters of St. Francis Xavier".

<sup>42</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Because of my ineptness at horseback riding, please send some good, but gentle and safe mounts to Frosinone. Three of them will be necessary: one for me, another for the man who comes along with me and is wellknown to Mrs. Francesca, and if it is not too much trouble, one for transporting the little baggage that we have. Also, please see that the ViceIntendant at the border is informed of my passing through so as to avoid encountering further obstacles. This is all that I felt that I had to say to you in this letter. In the meantime, most illustrious sir, with esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, February 22, 1827

1576

February 23, 1827

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Benevento<sup>43</sup>

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Fr. Domenico

I was glad to see your handwriting again, and I thank you for the kindness that you show me. Let us give thanks to God for the good achieved and the fruits of the Missions. *Ipsi enim honor et gloria.*<sup>44</sup> It is God who makes us fit for the ministry.<sup>45</sup>

Once you have finished the Mission in Castelpoto, in general as soon as possible, do not neglect your day of recollection called for by the rule, to gently recall to your spirit that "*exercebar et scopebam spiritum meum*".<sup>46</sup> Oh, my beloved, how sweet God's voice sounds to our hearts in silence and withdrawal! That is when we are enkindled with warm charity, and, having a great love for God, our words then become like arrows shot into the hearts of our listeners.

So with regard to the direction that God inspires me to give to your spirit, I must remind

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<sup>43</sup> On the fourth page (that is, the outer one) above the address, Fr. Silvestri placed this notation: "Spiritual reminders". Of these reminders, the one contained in the second paragraph must have made the deepest impression on him, because in the testimony given at the Ordinary Process of Albano (Vol. V, f. 2503), speaking *of love for God*, he reports in its entirety the passage just referred to in order to confirm that the Servant of God "sought to diffuse this holy love in others too, so that all would love God... In all the letters that he addressed to me, he always emphasized that love for God that was so ardent in himself". In the same place and for the same purpose he also cites the II and III paragraphs of Lett. n. 456 of November 21, 1828.

<sup>44</sup> To him be honor and glory.

<sup>45</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Missions

<sup>46</sup> I was exercising and testing my spirit.

you of three things.. The first deals with your communication to me of those thoughts that make the deepest impression on your soul. The second, to follow with great delight that most precious book: "*Introduzione alla vita umile*" by our own Saint, Albertini.<sup>47</sup> The third, perfection in the ordinary tasks, supported by frequent acts of love toward Jesus. In times of temptation, invoke the Divine Blood. This is all that I have thought of pointing out to you. I do not cease to urge you to offer many prayers for me and for all the things that are under my care.

In regard to the judge that you mention to me, he must confer with C. Betti to whom I have entrusted the testing of vocations, so that he can later confer with me.

May Jesus be our love, and our hearts entirely his. Consider me, with esteem and respect, as

Fr. Domenico, most beloved in the Lord, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, February 23, 1827

P.S. Let me know the method that they use in Sora for the *Tre Ore*.

1577

February 23, 1827

Pietro Gajani

Bologna

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>48</sup>

Most illustrious sir

His Eminence, Cardinal Falzacappa, sent me the following remarks in regard to the deceased Bentivoglio: "I also agree that it would be an excellent idea to have an account drawn up of the life of the outstanding Countess. But, in this effort, I am unable to offer any help since I did not know her except for a few recent years. I would not be able to state anything in regard to the period which for her was one of suffering, and, only in a general way could I make any statement concerning her enormous virtue in every situation". Up to here is what his most reverend Eminence had to say. Now, it is necessary that you, who are located there in Bologna where contact with the housemaid of the deceased is possible, should compile or have someone else compile a becoming summary of the life of this holy woman. It would be the source of encouragement to doing good works in these miserable times of ours. The succinct outline that you sent to me is being kept by his Eminence. I think that I should not ask him to return it since you were kind enough to assure me that it could be freely retained.

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<sup>47</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Albertini.

<sup>48</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Most illustrious sir, while awaiting any further directions that you might have for me, I again have the honor of renewing my esteem and respect for you, asking for your prayers, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, February 23, 1827

1578

February 25, 1827

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest in the Lord Giovanni Francesco,

Conforming myself to your suggestions, I am writing this letter to that address. I have already written to the worthy priest, Father Giorgio Talamonti, in regard to our most important devotion to the Divine Blood. I express to God my gratitude, and to you, for the opportunity that I have of quoting what is written in the Apocalypse, that Lucifer is defeated, thanks to the Blood of the Lamb: "*ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>49</sup> Now, it is necessary to effectively promote the month of the Divine Blood so as to compensate for the abuses that are given to it nowadays by sinners. Therefore, try to increase your merits before God. Canon Ottaviani does not have the faculty of selecting aggregators unless he first obtains it beforehand. Perhaps he may have forgotten to do so.

Do not cease praying and have others pray for me. Offer for me the upcoming Novena of St. Xavier since I am in extreme need of prayers. May Jesus be our love and may we all be entirely for Jesus. Dear Giovanni Francesco, with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Benevento,<sup>50</sup> February 25, 1827

1579

February 28, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

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<sup>49</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>50</sup> In the original, the place and date are the same. In the address, however, the postal marking bears FROSINONE. Hence the letter was written on February 25th and was sent from Frosinone. Why, then, Benevento? There is no other answer except ... a normal lapse.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>51</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Since, during these days, I have been somewhat inconvenienced, my correspondence has been a bit delayed, but now I am resuming it with precision.

I received the 50 *scudi* sent to me and I owe you the most sincere thanks. Also, I am most obliged to you for the rescript obtained in favor of the nuns of Ariano. In all things, may God be given thanks, and, since my obligations to your most reverend excellency keep increasing, I shall say everything that I have to say by briefly repeating the words of the Prophet: "*Dominus retribuet pro me*".<sup>52</sup> As your zealous work assures me, do not cease trying to obtain any means whatever for the completion of the work that we have begun, which is surely something coming from God, whether you consider it *per se*, or in its method or the times in which it has been propagated and is being propagated, or, finally if it is considered in its relationship with the sufferings in which the works of the Lord are matured. What I might also be able to do is to personally bring to your attention the many heavy burdens that I find myself involved in as our apostolic projects continue to be spread about more and more. When you have the opportunity, see that you get the Holy Father to acknowledge the urgency for us to have a discreet allotment in order to better govern the Institute and its pious organizations, as well as for the correspondence carried on with bishops, etc., etc., etc. I would like to spare your most reverend excellency from any inconveniences, which is something I ardently desire, and I pray wholeheartedly to the most merciful God for this.

I shall be awaiting the document for Veroli which I would like you to help with for a more exact use of words, and, in the meantime, I wish to let you know just which and how many requests there have been from the people of Frosinone seeking the completion of the work begun on the church of St. Francis Xavier. It will be necessary to condescend since the works of God are wonderful *et facit mirabilia magna Solus*.<sup>53</sup> One might invoke prudence, etc., etc., but it would have to be raised in some degree to an act of special confidence insofar as we are dealing here with foundations.

My Monsignor, what am I to say ... the removal of the Missionaries would cause a veritable tumult among the people ... the most reverend Delegate has expressed himself to me. I am simply doing the best I can and I am praying. It is very true that no conciliar act exists that favored the petition of the Maestre Pie. The petition was drawn up by only a few people. *Transeat hoc*,<sup>54</sup> and I say nothing more. The foundation in Veroli and Frosinone is in progress

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<sup>51</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>52</sup> The Lord will repay in my behalf.

<sup>53</sup> And he alone performs great wonders.

<sup>54</sup> Let this pass.

etc. *Interim, Deus et dies*.<sup>55</sup>

His Eminence Pacca has asked for a Mission in Porto, to be begun on Passion Sunday, and, I have already assigned some members for it.

With regard to the 28 *scudi* which I paid to the carpenter in Albano, I say that it is not possible to get them back from him, and he adduces justifiable reasons, namely, that he had to get wood from Rome. Furthermore, his own responsibilities will not allow this. I do not have the heart to subject this person to making petitions. So, meanwhile, we just say: patience. God knows how hard I had to work to get those *scudi*. He is pleased with my good intentions. I have not taken a vow of poverty, but I feel its total force. And, as soon as I can, I hope to be relieved when, within a short time, God will be calling me to himself.

Two things to be brought before the Holy Father: First, the chapels for the prisons in the Kingdom of Naples and a new request for portable altars in the prisons of the Papal States. It is necessary to repeat these requests as often as possible since nowadays the punishment of God is reaching an astonishing stage.

The second thing pertains to the merchants in the Kingdom of Naples and feast days: *actum est de instructione catholica, etc., etc., etc.*<sup>56</sup> Oh how needful we are for a higher caliber of nuncios! Oh how blessed we would be if those pages, that you are acquainted with, would have been effectively carried out! *Orabimus ergo provoluti coram Domino*.<sup>57</sup> So, not as the Treasurer, but as Monsignor Cristaldi, when you have the opportunity, engage in a discussion, etc., etc.

In keeping with the desires that the Holy Father himself has with regard to a hospice for us in Rome, thus freeing us from the burdens that the present one is offering us, the place that would be fitting is that of S. Agata. A church is not necessary for the Maestre Pie and the Reverenda Camera Apostolica can find another suitable place for them. Then, catechetical instructions on feastdays, etc., etc. The Lord will inflame us more and more with his holy love. Most venerable Monsignor, I kiss your hands and, with the fulness of esteem, respect and veneration, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, February 28, 1827

1580

March 3, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

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<sup>55</sup> Meanwhile, God and the day.

<sup>56</sup> Action has been taken about Catholic instruction, etc.

<sup>57</sup> We will pray, therefore, prostrate before the Lord, etc.

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A few booklets of the Chaplet of the Divine Blood have just been forwarded to me from Firenze and you can imagine how greatly consoling that was for me. I thought it would be a good idea to enclose a copy for you. Now, I must ask you, in the name of the most reverend bishop of Nocera,<sup>58</sup> to deign to ask our Holy Father to permit the aforementioned bishop to come to Rome in the month of June when he will preach the glories of the Divine Blood in S. Nicola in Carcere, in keeping with the book that was composed by the nowdeceased Monsignor Strambi, with which I believe you are acquainted. Tomorrow we begin the March Novena revealed by our St. Francis Xavier himself (as is reported by Father Croiset) to Father Marcello Mastrilli upon curing him instantly. I shall not fail to make a special mention of you and I will also offer a Mass according to your intentions. This Novena concludes on the 12th, the day on which the Saint was canonized.

Finally, I am enclosing a petition which was sent to his most reverend Eminence Galeffi in behalf of the House in Albano. On our part we are not omitting every diligent effort for the improvement of the Institute's objectives, nor do we cease praying.

I shall be awaiting the results dealing with Giano so that I can, in particular, clear away the debt owed to the nowdeceased Achille and then set up a methodical order for that first of our Houses of foundation.

I kiss your hands. Take good care of yourself, most venerable Monsignor, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with the fulness of esteem, respect and gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 3, 1827

I offered the Mass this morning, March 4th.

1581

March 5, 1827

Mr. Nicola Iannini

Arpino<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Monsignor Francesco Luigi Piervisani.

<sup>59</sup> This copy does not indicate the place of destination, but, from the reference that St. Gaspar makes to "the Barnabite Fathers and anyone else who remembers me there", it appears that it must be concerned with Arpino where the Saint went to preach the retreat for the clergy in May of 1825 and where the Barnabite Fathers were located.

## Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

With the universal desire of seeing our sacred Institute perpetuated in Frosinone, in the meeting of the members of the St. Xavier group which was held this morning, it was decided to terminate the construction begun at our place contiguous to your house and complete the work on the Church in honor of St. Francis Xavier. All of this, indeed, must be the fruit of the piety of the faithful. So, urgently, I am asking you to go along with this by making a pious offering to this very holy project, assuring you that you will draw down from the most merciful God ample blessings. Your example will also be most efficacious in stimulating more and more the good people of Frosinone. We shall not cease expressing to you our very deep felt and most sincere obligations. Awaiting your favorable reply and charity, hoping to see everything that we have planned carried out promptly, I have the honor of renewing myself, most illustrious Nicola, with the fullness of esteem, respect and gratitude, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 5, 1827

P. S. Give my best regards to the Barnabite Fathers and anyone else who remembers me there. Stress the devotion to Xavier.

1582

March 5, 1827

Msgr. Francesco Cipriani

Bishop of Veroli

Veroli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>60</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

With this most humble letter of mine, I wish to inform you that the most reverend Treasurer, in his recent letter to me, told me that he was awaiting Marquis Bisleti's stipulation, which, when received, will allow the foundation in Veroli to be quickly begun. I sincerely assure you that I do not know what the causes are for the delay up to now. Furthermore, without the necessary documents, this holy plan could not be verified. So, in order to avoid further confusion in Frosinone, it was decided, with the most reverend Delegate, to complete the building of the church begun in our area and, thanks to the piety of the faithful, to retain our Society there. The large room on the second floor will be dismantled and the interior chapel will be moved from where it is now to the third floor. That is why I am requesting that you authorize me to make this transferral. In this way, once the chapel is set up over the church, then a cross can be placed

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<sup>60</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

above the building making it a sacred, immune locale and also prevents the placement there of any bedroom. I could not make any other better arrangement. However, I would like to have your advice on the question. I would be delighted if you would write to Marquis Bisleti to petition him and seek to get him to make whatever donation he wishes for the fulfillment of this good work contributing to the glory of God. Likewise, inasmuch as he is capable, to bring contentment to both groups of people. Pray often to God for me; give my best regards to your brother; I kiss your hands and, while renewing our spiritual pacts, I remain constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

Frosinone, March 5, 1827

1583

March 6, 1827

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

For the pure glory of God and for your own consolation, I would like you to read the enclosed and, if possible and you think it is a good idea, I would like to have it read adroitly by his Holiness. However, I ask you to send it back to me for the archives, just as I would like you to return the other letter that came from Naples, the one that has filled my poor spirit with comfort. I thought it would be good to communicate it to you *ad aedificationem*.<sup>61</sup>

Oh, my Monsignor, if only everyone would meditate on that text of the apocalypse: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguine Agni*";<sup>62</sup> if only everyone would consider that reference to the reasons for which the doors of the Hebrew people were stained with blood; also, the image of the Red Sea as well as the ancient sacrifices, etc., etc. What zealous efforts there would be to give public cult of compensation for the insults to the Divine Blood that are perpetrated by sinners, and how people would come to realize that Jesus, before becoming the Judge, reproduces and revives the remembrance of that inestimable price of redemption wherein souls are justified in that bath of eternal life. Blessed are you who, with holy fearlessness, have drawn your lips to the chalice of suffering in order to establish, direct and defend an Institute which produces in the clergy a spirit of holiness, of detachment, of apostolic life, of application to the ministry, of study etc. *Gloria Deo et Agno*.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> For edification.

<sup>62</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>63</sup> Glory be to God and the Lamb.

During the retreat that you will be making at the end of this Lenten season (before I forget it), please remember to pray a lot, a lot for me. *Ego enim sum vir videns paupertatem meam.*<sup>64</sup> Pray that God will help me in all the many problems that are increasing day by day, in addition to those of immediately taking care of my own poor soul. My arm grows weak at times from so much writing. Presently, ideas are being developed for the boarding school in Benevento at a second place. I also am thinking about Rimini ... but prayers. The boarding school in Sonnino is showing a gathering of young man who are truly good material and of high expectation. Now, it will be necessary to activate another one in Sermoneta where we have quite a bit of room. I have already sent two students there, who are in theology, under the direction of one of our Missionaries who is quite capable of teaching. May Jesus be our love.

Crosses are not lacking nor will they ever be. At times, my heart falls into a state of dejection, *defecit virtus mea*,<sup>65</sup> but then I come to realize that God wishes me to be courageous and so I say: *Fiducialiter agam, et non timebo ... Deus meus et omnia*,<sup>66</sup> this I recall from a period of renewal at our very beloved Cappelette di S. Luigi.

I kiss your hands, most beloved Monsignor, and with the fullest expression of my heart, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 6, 1827

I have received your most appreciated letter of the 5th. Thank you for your concerns. Let us place our trust in God. Here in Frosinone, at a meeting of the bishop, the delegate and the people, I was so moved by their pleading and even more so by the tears of not a few, unaware as they were of the things that had happened, generally speaking, during the past events, that I had to lift my eyes heavenward and utter: *Id ex gratia Dei provenit.*<sup>67</sup> This was a matter pertaining to the glory of God and to an immense benefit for souls. So, now we are moving forward again. I still wish to open up in Veroli, and, already several groups of men have approached me. To all of them, I said what I was able to say. I feel quite encouraged about this undertaking. *Deus nobis erit propitius.*<sup>68</sup> For you, also, will he multiply most powerful helps in your work of directing, just as you are presently doing to the edification of all. Once again I remind you of Giano and the

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<sup>64</sup> For I am a man seeing my poverty.

<sup>65</sup> My virtue is deficient.

<sup>66</sup> I shall act with confidence and shall not be afraid. ... My God and all.

<sup>67</sup> It comes from the grace of God.

<sup>68</sup> God will be favorable to us.

handling of all the documents *ad cautelam*.<sup>69</sup> I trust everyone, but it is also possible for anyone to make a mistake. I kiss your hands. Right now, I am directing a public retreat.

1584

March 9, 1827  
 Msgr. Giuseppe Segni  
 Bishop of the Marsi  
 Pescina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I assure you that on the Saturday preceding the Sunday *in Albis* the opening of the holy Missions that you indicated to me in your very kind letter will take place. There will be two companies of workers who will labor contemporaneously in the field of the Gospel. Thus, by the first part of June, the work in those places entrusted to your zealous care will be completed. In the meantime, I shall write both to the archpriest in Oricola and to Canon Mari in Carsoli since these will be the first two places that will have the opening of their Missions on the same day. The ones who go to Oricola will then proceed on to Pereto and in that way progressively carrying out what you so exactly indicated in your aforementioned letter. So let us remain with this understanding and, except for some unforeseen situation, I do not lose hope of being one of those workers myself. What is certain, however, is that the Institute will fulfill its commitment.

In the meantime, would you please supply me with every faculty, even that of *Capo licet*,<sup>70</sup> and anything else that would ordinarily be needed, so that in your name I might be able to share with the companions the appropriate instructions. Furthermore, that I would be able to authorize the confessors in the areas or even someone from another diocese who is approved and is recognized as one fit to be of assistance with the confessions, should this be necessary, and provide them with the most ample faculties available. Likewise, the faculty of blessing crosses, the 40 day indulgence as well as that of blessing some sacred furnishing, should that be needed. In this way, we will be in full agreement.

As for the traveling plans, and other things, I shall get in touch with the aforementioned priests. Pray a great deal for me, who, while kissing your hands, I say that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 9<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> As a precaution.

<sup>70</sup> It is allowed for a capon.

<sup>71</sup> The year is 1827 as can be deduced from the reference to the Missions in the diocese of the Marsi.

P. S. For any future correspondence, the address to use is either Rome or Frosinone. During Passion week, I shall be conducting a retreat in Sora.

1585

March 9, 1827  
 Msgr. Annibale Ginnasi  
 Roma

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine suo.*<sup>72</sup>

My Venerable Monsignor

Some years back the Missions given in Meldola afforded me the opportunity of meeting a certain Mr. Baldi, whose petition is enclosed. I recommend to your diligence that you figure out a way of presenting it through Msgr. Soglia to our Holy Father; having succeeded in that, perhaps to obtain the Rescript. On a previous occasion I had already recommended it to the Most Reverend Treasurer. I am convinced that a Rescript of remission will take care of the matter. I understand that it is not an easy thing to obtain positions, but the petitioner is relying on the possibility of a transfer of some other employee. God will always reward our good intentions. Make every effort, as best you can, to achieve a particular consideration and a special favor, a good result.<sup>73</sup>

On this occasion I renew with you our spiritual agreements and beg you to give my sincerest greetings to your excellent sisterinlaw and the others of your respected family.

I would like to know who is in charge of the abbey of Forlimpopoli of the Vatican Chapter; I would like to prepare myself in time, since next year, God willing, a Pious Legacy for a mission falls due in the aforementioned city of Forlimpopoli. As soon as you hear of the arrival of His Eminence Giustiniani and the new Bishop of Cervia, I ask you to give them my best wishes.

Pray for me, who with esteem and respect am

Your humble devoted Servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 9, 1827

1586

March 10, 1827  
 Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

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<sup>72</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>73</sup> It seems, however, that it may not have been possible to do anything for Mr. Baldi, since Msgr. Ginnasi notes on the manuscript: "The memorandum of Luigi Baldi is not to be presented to anybody". In Vol. V of the Letters of the Saint, his correspondence with Luigi Baldi (ff. 365376; twelve letters) is gathered together.

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

I would like to know how much you received from Canon Aloysi in order to go to Rome, drawn from a certain amount of money belonging to Colini; I would like to have this information for my own use, reserving for Father Giovanni Merlini the task of figuring out with you what is due to you for the traveling expenses to that locale where you will assist in the Lenten preaching.

After Lent, your House will be the one in Frosinone in keeping with what has already been indicated to you, on other occasions, by Father Giovanni Merlini. However, let me know whether you would be able to take care of a shift of retreats in the diocese of Gaeta after you have given the final blessing there where you are. In that case, we could come to some agreement. Or, you might also let me know if you would be able to take care of the month of Mary there where you are for it is quite close to Easter. In that case, I would regulate things accordingly.

Stimulate, as much as you can, the foundation there. In Frosinone, we are looking forward to the completion of the church. Let us do a great deal for the glory of God and let us become saints. As for the month of June, consecrated to the Divine Blood, you will be preaching that in Frosinone.

These are just a few plans which will not require a great deal of discussion. Most revered Father Giacomo, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect, and in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 10, 1827

1587

March 12, 1827

Mrs. Francesca Carrara

Sora

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady<sup>74</sup>

Tell the prior of the Congregation of the Sorrowful Mother that he should, indeed, send carriages in such a way that the regular retreats can be begun as is usually done, and, without the least change, not even one day. For this very reason, I have set aside every other appointment for that period of time, even the Missions commissioned to me by Cardinal Pacca, which I have

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<sup>74</sup> On the copy of this letter, there is a note which says: "This appears to have been written to Mrs. Francesca Carrara".

entrusted to other companions of mine. Such is my religious attachment to that city of Sora.

As for the Three Hours devotion, that will be my responsibility. However, in the event that I would truly be prevented from coming, there will be another member available. I am, however, very hopeful that I will be able to do so and I beg the most holy Mary, the Sorrowful Mother, for this. Let us prepare ourselves through many prayers to fulfill this good work that must be done, though we ourselves are but miserable instruments of divine glory. I urge the preparation of a more or less ample platform. Always deeply obliged to you, most illustrious lady, I now renew myself, with esteem and respect, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 12, 1827

P. S. The man from the countryside is not one for our Institute. See that he is otherwise occupied. I ask you to take care of the enclosed matter to be mailed.

1588

March 12, 1827

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

I have understood what you said concerning the money from Canon Aloysi. It probably was my mistake; perhaps, on his departure, the Canon may have received something from Colini, suggesting that he might grant something to you, or should I say, anticipate something for you, on his own. Whatever may have been the situation, the economist in Sermoneta has probably gotten a reimbursement, and that is quite all right. Your careful treatment of things is very well known to me. Who would ever have been doubtful of that?

I thank you for the good work you are doing in that area. After Easter, therefore, you will be conducting one or the other retreat. We will discuss things further, though decided is the appointment that you have here in Frosinone to preach the month of June. As soon as Galli returns, tell him to come to me immediately in Frosinone since I will be needing him as long as you keep residing in that area. Most revered Father Giacomo, while asking you to offer many prayers for me, I am, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 12, 1827

1589

March 14, 1827  
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi  
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>75</sup>

Dear Monsignor

Please read the enclosed matter which is for the Holy Father. If the opportunity should be appropriate, oh how good it would be to call his attention to those original papers. I would have liked you to speak in person, *et ut ex se*,<sup>76</sup> to the Holy Father concerning those things that I referred to in the memorandum. But, you asked me for a promemoria. Of course, I intend to be obedient. See what you can do, and, be sure not to name me.

I thank you for the permission obtained for the bishop of Nocera to preach the month of June in S. Nicola. I have already sent him this pleasant news. With regret did I learn of the death of the archbishop of Spoleto.<sup>77</sup> I still cannot believe it. Certainly, I shall not fail to offer suffrages for him. Most venerable Monsignor, I kiss your hands and once again assure you of my esteem, respect and gratitude, though I am somewhat in a hurry, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 14, 1827

1590

March 15, 1827  
 Fr. Domenico Silvestri  
 in *Napoli per Avellino per Gambatesa*<sup>78</sup>

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest D. Domenico, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, in visceribus J.C.*<sup>79</sup>

I learn with pleasure of the fruits of the Holy Mission. Let us praise God who makes use

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<sup>75</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his Blood.

<sup>76</sup> And as from itself.

<sup>77</sup> Monsignor Mario Ancaiani, who died on February 24, 1827.

<sup>78</sup> The Saint had written as the place of destination: "Frosinone per Benevento". Then Fr. Betti, the Superior of that House, forwarded the letter to Gambatesa (Campobasso), where Fr. Domenico Silvestri was preaching the Mission. So he superimposed on the Saint's writing the new address with the words that we have reproduced above in italics.

<sup>79</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

of the weakest of instruments for the great work of His glory. I wish urgently to inculcate upon you a prudent regard for your health, since you have not fully recovered from a very strong fever. If one loses his health as a young man, *actum est*<sup>80</sup>... There will always be that remorse of not having set things in the right order. I have insisted on this very same thing with Canon Betti, asking him to take care of himself as he does the others. We will need still another month, so to speak, to achieve the fulfillment of all our commitments. But the apostle's saying will thus be verified: "*Omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant.*"<sup>81</sup>

For anyone who exercises the ministry, it is obligatory to pray at all times for the people entrusted to him by God; to help them, from a distance, as best he can, "*ut fructus maneat*".<sup>82</sup> The responsibility of a Missionary is great and hence it requires sanctity and knowledge. Our rule, when it is well observed, will provide us with the means to that end. If we always strive after holy humility, God will also add special, extraordinary helps in proportion to that humble life. *Humilia te in omnibus.*<sup>83</sup>

Leave reports on the Missions in the archives of that House for the history of the Institute, which will be of interest later on.

Do not force your voice, but regulate it *iuxta vires*;<sup>84</sup> otherwise, it will be harmed. I shall not fail to write to you. You are praying for me, aren't you? Be particularly mindful of this and have the people to whom God sends you do likewise so that the Lord will show mercy towards me and lead me (for that is his will: there only remains our correspondence with it) to the blessed goal of my desires.<sup>85</sup>

Accept the burden of Director of the Missions, keeping in mind the advice that I gave to Canon Betti,<sup>86</sup> Make every effort to carry out whatever the rule prescribes. Read carefully the method to be used in the Missions as well as in setting up the Pious associations, to be properly handled in keeping with the practice of the respective localities, the circumstances, etc., etc. It will be your responsibility to assume the direction of the organization which, I think, is that of S. Xavier. What a beautiful vine to cultivate, with a true and fervent zeal! Also, read the regulations

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<sup>80</sup> Action has been taken.

<sup>81</sup> Let everything be done honorably and in order.

<sup>82</sup> In order that the fruit remain.

<sup>83</sup> Humble yourself in all things.

<sup>84</sup> According to one's strength.

<sup>85</sup> In the Ordinary Process in Albano (Vol. V, f. 2502), D. Silvestri quotes this passage in reference to the *hope* which the Saint placed in the Lord. In the same place he cites Letter n. 455 (second paragraph) of August 18, 1828 and Letter n. 454 (the last paragraph) of April 23, 1828.

<sup>86</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trinia: Health of Fr. Silvestri.

for these Fratelli; and, in case of doubt, ask questions.

I must give the retreat to the Congregation of the Sorrowful Mother in Sora. Pray for me. Perhaps I shall have to give the *Tre Ore* which in general falls upon the shoulders of one of our men in the Institute. Veroli has also sent us an invitation. Here in Frosinone, on Monday, the building of the church of S. Xavier will be resumed, and the floor of the first room will be torn out, etc.<sup>87</sup>

Finally, if the devil should agitate the soul of you know who, *quid mirum?*<sup>88</sup> This is the counterweight of the balance. God sees that the soul is in anguish, is suffering and is in a crucible. The temptations toward pride either do not present themselves to the mind, or, if they do come, they are easily dispelled. *Humiliatio tuo in medio tui.*<sup>89</sup> Say to the soul: just as a boulder in the sea is struck again and again by the waves and nevertheless remains immobile, so too must the soul be in its battles. Waters that are motionless become putrid. Virtue is always in motion to purify, refine and ennoble itself for heaven. Remember that it is written: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguine Agni.*"<sup>90</sup> How beneficial to the spirit is an aspiration to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. This is all for now.

You shall receive the book on the introduction to the humble life.

I thank you for the many kind acts that you showed me at the time that we were together.<sup>91</sup>

I kiss your hands, and I remain in the adorable wound of J.C. Crucified,

yours, most esteemed Fr. Domenico

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 16, 1827

P.S. Remember the church of S. Saverio in Ariano, and pray that we get a House in Avellino.<sup>32</sup>

I have learned that the priest of S. Silvestro in Sora is in poor health.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Frosinone (construction of church of S. Francesco).

<sup>88</sup> What wonder?

<sup>89</sup> Your humiliation is in your midst.

<sup>90</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>91</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, No. 4.

<sup>32</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Silvestri, No. 5

<sup>33</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Health of the Missionaries.

## 1591

March 16, 1827

Mr. Luigi Baldi Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

A couple of lines in a big hurry. You did very well in sending your petition to Prince Doria. I have recommended the matter also to Princess Corsini, widow of Marioni. Fortunately your letter caught up with me in Frosinone, but now I am leaving again for the Missions. Pray for me who, in Jesus Christ crucified, remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 16, 1827

## 1592

March 18, 1827

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Thank you for your recent letter. I am enclosing the bill for Sarto from Father Vittorio. Father Biagio Valentini is sending it to you. I would like to see all those trifling details brought to a conclusion. You be the effective gobetween. Pray a lot for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 18, 1827

## 1593

March 19, 1827

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giacomo

Now that we have already set your holy occupation for June, namely, the preaching here in Frosinone of the glories of the Divine Blood, it is necessary that you decide whether you would like to go out on the Missions or remain there in Vallecorsa for the Marian month. In another letter of yours, you told me that you had decided in favor of the Missions, but now

Father Giovanni seems to have noted in you rather a desire of not going out on the Missions. I, however, would like to urge you to do so since so much good work can be done.

At any rate, you make up your own mind. If you go out on the Missions, after the final blessing is given, on the very next day which will be a Wednesday, you would have to be in Frosinone so as to join up with our companions; otherwise, you would remain there as stated above. I am unable to act with uncertainty since these matters, as you well know, are to be carried out carefully. Furthermore, I myself must be leaving for a shift of retreats and, before leaving, I must see that everything is correctly arranged. By way of precaution, I remind you that you should always send your letters here to Frosinone. Asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 19, 1827

P. S. It seems to me that the money from Sermoneta came to four *scudi*, not 4.50 *scudi*. At any rate, everything is very, very fine. I recommend the enclosed as soon as Canon Calamita arrives since it is something quite urgent. I would like to know whether he has arrived as yet, or, when he will be coming etc.

1594

March 21, 1827

Orazio Bracaglia

Sonnino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

In reply to your letter, I inform you that you will be receiving your books and a few paoli which your father is sending to you, while also informing you that if these are not sufficient, you should write to him again and he will quickly send what you need.

With regard to your choosing me as your spiritual director, as long as it is God who is inspiring you to select me, I shall not refuse. St. Ignatius directed Xavier even though he was far away. We who are the least in the house of God must not fail to imitate the saints and in that way we will be able to do anything. When you write to me, you should always use such expressions as: "the soul that you know about", or, in speaking of yourself, speak as though it were a third person. I advise you, furthermore, that letters should be read and then burned, when there is no special reason for keeping them. Another observation that I would like to make is that you, I suppose, are acquainted with the rules for mental prayer. In case you are not, then, with the permission of the President there, read the ones that are suggested by Rodriguez. Then, too, I would like to know how long it is since you made a general confession, what practice you observe in receiving communion; I imagine you follow the practice there at the boarding school. Finally, jot down for me the thoughts that God communicates to you in your prayers. That is all for now. Write when you have time, and, you will also be able to write during Holy Week.

May the Lord fill you with his heavenly blessings, and, asking you for many and frequent prayers, I am constantly

*Suo infimo Servo in J. C.*<sup>34</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 21, 1827

1595

March 21, 1827

Mr. Giovanni Di Mattia

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter I say that it would be good for you to prepare two petitions for the two purposes about which you spoke to me and I will see that they get to both Monsignor Alessi and to the most reverend Treasurer. I have no doubt at all that those petitions will be carried out *pro veritate et justitia*,<sup>35</sup> as long as they are composed with charity, and pardon, at least, the intention of our neighbor. Involuntary mistakes are made by everyone. If you will let me know where your brother is living, I will see that someone gets to talk to him. You, too, should write to him with humility, just as I am led to believe because of your virtue.

With regard to your daughters becoming nuns, it would not be a difficult matter to situate them in Umbria where you, in that case, would have to take them. Give me information concerning the age of each one (presupposing that there is indeed a real vocation), their abilities and their dowries. I presume that they are both in good health.

This is all that I am able to say to you now. I will wholeheartedly do whatever I can, always having the desire to offer whatever services are possible for me.

Most revered Giovanni, with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 21, 1827

1596

March 21, 1827

Gonfalonier of Spoleto

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<sup>34</sup> Being his lowest servant in C. J.

<sup>35</sup> For truth and justice.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>36</sup>

Most venerable Gonfalonier

With these most humble words of mine, I am here to remind you of the last payment that was due for this past year, 1826, to the House of S. Felice in Giano. On my passage through Spoleto, you were kind enough to assure me that the due reimburse would be made, and, perhaps that by this time it would all have been taken care of. Furthermore, I would ask you to please read the article in the Brief from our Holy Father where you will have before you the terms that are prescribed for the current payments. The sheer need experienced in the House of S. Felice has constrained me to write this letter to you. At the same time, most illustrious Gonfalonier, with the fulness of esteem and respect, I have the honor of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Apost.

Rome, March 21, 1827

1597

Msgr. Francesco Cipriani

Bishop of Veroli

Veroli

Most illustrious and reverend sir

The members of the St. Francis Xavier group who, along with the piety of the faithful, are promoting the completion of the church in honor of their saintly protector, humbly ask for the faculty<sup>37</sup> of being able, on feastsdays, and, for the sake of cutting down on expenses, to help and cooperate in the work of hauling materials and other needed supplies, safeguarding, of course, the obligation of attending holy Mass; that etc.

In behalf of the Oratory of St. Francis Xavier

1598

March 25 , 1827

Fr. Rafaelle Rosati

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Father Rafaelle

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<sup>36</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>37</sup> On the fourth siding, the concession made by the bishop is read as follows: "We grant the faculty that has been requested just as stated in the petition, namely, safeguarding attendance at the Divine Office and holy Mass etc."

Veroli, March 24, 1827

L + S

F.M. Bishop of Veroli

In reply to your letter, I say to you that the reason for the gossip arises especially from the length of time involved for some of your women penitents. If they need assistance, every eight days, they should do so separately; and then, at a proper time, make their general confession. However, if it is a matter of spiritual direction, that is an *ars artium*.<sup>38</sup> Let this advice, which is something quite general, be sufficient for one who is a beginner in the ministry. I have always held you in high esteem, just as I do now, and I have no doubt about the carefulness that you show in every step, gesture or glance.

The life of St. Aloysius, the example of a Father Biagio, not to mention that of others of our men, or of a Father Giovanni Merlini, though I wish to do no harm to anyone else, should be a guide for you. In particular, become more and more a man of prayer, of interior life, of a greater union with God. I wish for you that same real good that I wish for myself in relationship to blessed eternity.

That you have an opportunity for exercising virtue, give thanks to God. Thus, spiritually speaking, the old Adam dies and Jesus Christ lives in us, patient, benign ... you supply the rest. Do you not know that even good souls must bear crosses? That is how God disposes things. The heart is straightforward, but the mind is dimmed. Recall the resolutions made during our retreat and now put them into execution. Bear your cross with equilibrium and, through suffering, prepare yourself to suffer even more, until *probatus per omnia*<sup>39</sup> you will be a mystical stone fit for the celestial Jerusalem. I hope that you have selected a spiritual guide who is someone other than the one to whom we go to confession. *Multae tribulatione justorum*<sup>40</sup> ... yet, all is meritorious for Paradise. I offer all of this to Father Rafaele *ut privata persona*.<sup>41</sup>

Then, as a member of this community, you are doing the right thing in informing me of the little problems that arise concerning the coffee, and, have no doubt, I shall effectively provide some; I shall also be awaiting an accounting from you. So, at the meeting there of the Missionaries, conducted with respectful charity, I consider it a welldone deed that you deal with each other in a peaceful way and thus maintain good order in everything. Continue keeping me informed and, as is proper, I shall concern myself with all things. However, in all of this, you are not to delay in accomplishing the greatest spiritual as well as temporal good that is possible to achieve there. You should say: *et cum infirmor, tunc sotens sum*.<sup>42</sup> God is the generous rewarder of everything. May your virtue be victorious and your zeal outstanding, my beloved, just as I

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<sup>38</sup> The art of arts.

<sup>39</sup> Tested through all things.

<sup>40</sup> Many tribulations of the just.

<sup>41</sup> As a private person.

<sup>42</sup> And when I am weak, then I am strong.

have no doubt it will be so.

I urge you to use total prudence so that nothing is made known to the brothers in service since they must receive from us only edification. I am trusting in your prudential judgments. Finally, you can be certain of my complete benevolence toward you whom I love *in charitate non ficta, in visceribus Jesu Christi*.<sup>43</sup> I kiss your hands, and, in the wounds of Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>44</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 25, 1827

P. S. This morning, here, the moving ceremony of the blessing of the first stone for the new church in honor of St. Xavier took place. See that the tailor from Cannara comes there to make for you whatever you need, noting down the costs as you know you should do and have already done previously. I wrote this without really realizing that I had done it, because it surely was superfluous. May my advice be of use to you.

Galli has already obtained his knapsacks, and I have no doubt about that. Bartolomeo sends you his best wishes and thanks you for your kindness, just as I do for the concern that I know you have for the schools. Let us go forward with courage; and, whenever there is any advice given, be certain that this does not in any way alter our friendly relationship in the Lord.

I am assigning you to conduct the month of Mary in accordance with the book and the method which I referred to in a letter of mine to Brandimarte. Pray, and inform Santarelli that in regard to the assignment in June, it is now understood that it will not disturb at all our scholastic program.

1599

March 25, 1827

Msgr. Antonio Santelli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor and dearest friend

In reply to your most appreciated letter, which I read with pleasure, I must say to you that already for some time I have realized that in Giano there was an excessive economy, and, despite the good intention of the economist there, even now he has had to make agreements and the Missionaries themselves write to me that they can only object to that. From this, you can see how much you can do to encourage Casimiro, concerning whom I can say, since you yourself were a

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<sup>43</sup> In unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>44</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

personal eyewitness of it in S. Felice, that I would like to see him show more order and method. I seem to observe in him a lot more fervor for the principle of the thing than for showing any progress. Indeed, he is a young men and I am hopeful about him, especially with the assistance of your correspondence to him, which I hope you will not fail to do for me, since I too have noticed how much, and rightly so, he esteems your letters. If, after another letter from you, he displays a desire to be moved elsewhere, at your bidding, I shall try to please him. Tell him, however, that he should give it some thought since the solitude there in Giano is most lovable. You will be my counselor, and I assure you that besides the reasons of friendship, I consider it the highest honor to place myself, the best I can, in accordance with your efforts. *Patet ergo cor meum*.<sup>45</sup>

Father Biagio completed his threeyear stint at the boarding school and now is the superior in Albano, also for reasons of health. I noticed that in keeping with his temperament, things are on the move continuously in the purposes of the ministry and he is the Economist in Albano. Add to this that in Albano I would not want to have Romans because of the proximity. Casimiro is a charming young man; but I would not find him fit for a House that is a bit more public. I hope that you agree with these impressions of mine.

Oh how grieved I was to receive the death notice of that youngster, a truly wonderful fellow, Vincenzo Via, *consumatus in brevi*<sup>46</sup> since *explevit tempora multa*.<sup>47</sup> His soul is with the angels in heavsn. What an opportunity this gave me to humble myself before God, asking that this youngster will always pray that, with all of the burdensome chores and demanding sacred commitments that I have, I will be able to fuifill my sacred duties, and, as I keep adding years to my age, that my demerits and responsibilities will not increase. This is the charity that I seek both from you and from your young students in particular, whom you direct so brilliantly and with such success in your apostolate. It would be a very good idea to compile the lives of those young people who, even in our own times, have died in the aura of holiness. What an inspiration that would be for everyone!

I wrote this letter after having blessed the first stone of the new church in honor of St. Francis Xavier here in Frosinone. The event aroused very special deep feelings within my poor soul and the holy ritual of the Church added its special impulse. Even though, at times, I may not be here in Frosinone, you should always address your letters here to Frosinone, whenever necessary, at least for the time being. I conclude this letter with a renewing of our spiritual pacts in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, where I am and will constantly be, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem, respect and a very special affection

Your humble, devoted, obliged and loving

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<sup>45</sup> Therefore my heart is open.

<sup>46</sup> Consumed in a brief time.

<sup>47</sup> He completed a great deal of temporal things.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, March 25, 1827

1600

March 26, 1827

Fr. Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Antonio

Oh how delighted I was to see your handwriting again and to learn of your good health which I hope will prosper to the glory of God which you, in your status, promote so well. I simply do not know how to express my inmost acknowledgment and gratitude for the remembrance that you have of me and so I ask you to read in my heart what the true and sincere feeling is. Let us always maintain ourselves ever more united in the adorable heart of Jesus and let us become saints. My dearest one, let us prepare ourselves for blessed eternity toward which we are drawing day by day. Venerable Father Antonio, with the fulness of esteem and respect, I remain indeed

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 26, 1827

P. S. Yesterday, here in Frosinone, I gave the blessing of the first stone of the new church of St. Xavier.