

St. Gaspar's Letters

1701 - 1750

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1701

February 10, 1828
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Napoli

Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo¹

My Monsignor

I learned that you were in Naples. How are you? Do not deprive me of news about you. The bearer of this letter of mine is the excellent Pancrazio Palma who is paying this visit to you in my name. Be assured that he is an outstanding person whom God visits with the practice of much patience. Pray for me and, most reverend excellency, with esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Fara (after the blessing), February 10, 1828

1702

February 12, 1828
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Father Marcellino Brandimarte came to our Institute to test his vocation, but then he found an ecclesiastical position in Albano and that is where he is now. I know, by way of a letter, that the crucifix arrived. Anything further you will get by contacting him.

With pleasure did I learn that Father Ferdinando Angelici is having the discourses on the Divine Blood printed. I shall do all I can to find associates.

Is the printer in Ascoli printing or not the letters of my very dear St. Xavier?

Offer suffrages for a companion of mine, the deceased Missionary of our House in Benevento. His name was Father Gaspare Carboneri, a truly worthy man. He was conducting a Mission in the diocese of Penne. Please inform the bishop there about having suffrages offered.

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Say an Our Father to the Blessed Capuchin of Offida for me and zealously look after the pious organizations there. Make a visit for me to the holy relic.

I know that the month in honor of St. Joseph has been printed. But another one is desired. That is the job for Father Amici.

I shall not fail to pray for you and everything that pertains to you. Never have I failed to do so, being certain of your return in kind. I have completed 42 years of my life. I am old. Pray that I can prepare myself for the eternal years. I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While conducting a Mission, February 12, 1828

1703

February 20, 1828

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Albano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

With this letter of mine, I am alerting you that God is summoning you to the House in Benevento where, I pray, you will as I have no doubt you will give good example, as I have no doubt you will. You shall receive from Rome six scudi to cover the cost of your travel, which is to be made according to our rule (no women in the carriage). Make every effort to use the greatest possible economy, corresponding by mail with Merlini, making use of our mount as far as you can. In Terracina, check with the consul of Naples to have your passport visaed and make sure that you do

not travel unless your papers are in order. Carry nothing with you that is subject to custom inspection. Under the direction of Canon Betti, whom you may assume as your spiritual guide, you will do great work there and he will be of assistance to you in preparing your sermon material.

Also, see to it that your certification as a confessor is signed in Albano. Always be cautious in the ministry; pray for me, and become a saint. I would like you to be on the move soon and, once you have received the six *scudi*, at the very earliest moment possible, generally speaking, be in Benevento, for you know very well how busy Lent can be. I am trusting in your enthusiasm and zeal. The six *scudi* will be coming from Rome. Note, also, that the final coach is to be contracted for payment upon arrival in Benevento since the money you have will not be sufficient. Let us be in agreement on this matter, as I nurture the firm hope that you will be a true apostle for the glory of God.

I promised you to a certain nuntobe. Now you can begin to prepare things for this concern. Later on, you can seek counsel so that you do not become upset. Write to me before you

leave as well as when you arrive in Benevento where I am sending you to fill in for the loss of our Canon Carboneri.

Pray for me who, wholeheartedly and with esteem in Jesus Christ crucified, remains as

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*²

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

From the Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, February 20, 1828

P. S. Canon Betti has already been informed. So, go there without further ado. Give your report of income and outgo to Canon Betti. As for lodging, you decide where etc. It is better to arrange that with some religious community.

1704

February 23, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Naples

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³

Venerable Monsignor

I have still not succeeded in withdrawing for a while to take a bit of a rest for which I feel the need. Upon the request from Cervia, which was deferred for quite some time, now there has arrived another pertaining to the Retreat for the clergy in Rimini. Therefore, I have had to go from Sabina to be in Romagna, taking along with me other Missionaries whom I left in the Marche to do good work there. One matter is pressing and you will have to take care of it from there. A penitent is obliged to retribute around 50 *scudi*. Two thirds of that sum, it appears from the circumstances, belongs to the King of Naples. From all indications, that is the judgment that must be concluded. As for the residual amount, approximately, it is not certain to whom they belong. I concluded: I would like to tell the penitent that this amount should be used in paying for sacred furnishings for the extremely poor church in Capradosso. The King's confessor would be able to provide me with that

authorization. I hope that I have made myself clear. I add nothing further with regard to the concern that should be shown toward Church matters, especially with respect to the strict prohibition of public markets on festive days.

For the upcoming Lent, everything has been arranged well for your abbacy. I would like to know just when you will return and what is the status of your health. I already have everything in the abbacy lined up for your return, and you will note with clarity what will be urgent for the glory of God.

² Being his lowest servant in Christ.

³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Finally, I beg you for three things: 1. inform Monsignor Perfetti about the usual subsidies to Rimini for the Retreats conducted for the soldiers, and about around 20 *paoli* which are to be paid by those in charge of the tollhouses in Bologna; 2. as a very great favor, I ask you to write to the Marquis del Bufalo that he should be kind enough to anticipate his annual endowment, in assistance to the ministry, for our Houses in this province, since I am direly in need. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, February 23, 1828

1705

February/March 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

I have received your most appreciated letter. The pious organization is giving catechetical instructions to the soldiers every 15 days, in general, and the Retreat is held once a year. One of the commanders of the Militia told me that, at the beginning, they were receiving 20 *scudi*; I wrote, since I did not have time to reread a letter that is now in our archives. However, my desire would be to have means provided so that I do not have to have recourse to making petitions to cover these programs. Whatever you do or decide is all right with me. Let this be for the records.

Cesena has gotten 50 *scudi* for the Retreat to be conducted for the employees. This fact is known. But equally desirable would be a similar provision for Rimini for which I would be pleased to see the same good done in that city. In your wisdom you can give that some consideration etc.⁴

1706

February 24, 1828

Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Domenico

From Rimini, I am sending a reply to your very dear letter. With pleasure did I read of the acclaim given to the honor of St. Xavier and I thank you for all your efforts. Furthermore, immense is my consolation in learning of the growth there of the devotion to St. Francis Xavier.

⁴ This letter was located among the writings of 1828. In all probability it comes shortly after the letter (n. 1704) of February 23rd to Cristaldi. In that letter, he speaks of the "usual subsidies to Rimini for the Retreats conducted for the soldiers". Since this letter lacks any address, it is not known where it was sent: Was it to Naples or to Rome? Cristaldi was in Naples for a period of health care from February 7th to March 17th, 1828. He returned to Rome on March 28, 1828.

What a reason that is for comfort to our spirit! I am yearning for the moment when I will visit that holy chapel, but, in the meantime, prayers. Let us never cease working zealously for the glory of that Saint, and let us resolutely pursue evangelical perfection. You people there will be receiving the booklets that were requested. Pray for me. Give my greetings to anyone who remembers me. I will do the same for those people that you mentioned in your letter. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, February 24, 1828

1707

March 5, 1828
Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

With regard to the lamps that you spoke about, around seven *scudi* would be needed. The letter from Rome does not inform me clearly; however, I believe that it is seven *scudi* for each one. You will be receiving two large images of the most holy Mary, addressed in your name. Let me know whether they are satisfactory. I have on hand the memoranda for the arrival in Rome of Monsignor Abate. On the other hand, this is meant for you only, I have some letters given to me, which I shall burn, unless you tell me otherwise; send me a definite petition. I shall await your reply. Also, inform the young cleric in Cenciara that as soon as Monsignor Abate returns, he should send me his request. He should have those things sent to my house in Rome. Let me know whether I have overlooked anything. Most illustrious sir, pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remains and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 5, 1828

1708

March 5, 1828
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

I owe you a reply for a number of letters. You yourself will have noticed the delay in the

mail, caused by my various changes of location.

I have learned the details about the sickness of the deceased Canon Carboneri. I hope that he is now enjoying the fruit of his labors. Particularly in regard to his attachment to the Institute, nothing more could have been desired.

I have already written to Rome and am awaiting the folio containing the last will and testament of our deceased confrere. At that time I will be able to tell you more, but in the meantime, I recommend to you the greatest care in watching everything. After reading the folio, I will give you a precise answer. From this it follows that I cannot decide anything right now concerning the painting of St. Xavier with respect to Sig. Pellegrini,⁵ since I want to govern myself not only according to the folio of the deceased but also according to what he vocally told me in consigning it to me before he left for the foreign missions. In other words, I do not want to overlook the desires of the deceased, since they were never retracted.

What I have decided up to now is that the House at Benevento must be liable for the expenses for the deceased, according to the rule, since most urgent reasons compel me to make this decision. With regard to the Masses (excluding those of the rule), see to it that you have as many as one hundred said; among them, one sung Mass. You will adhere to the synodal stipend, and with regard to the sung Mass, govern yourself as you see best. Have a record kept of their celebration, as is required, so that it can be kept in the folder which will be set up in the General Archives.

The book that you mentioned to me could be the same one in which the Masses for our own men are inscribed on the occasion of death. The general book of admissions should be located in the General Archives. Let me know if there is anything else to take care of this matter. Only in the Secretary's book can an appendix be added with respect to the admission and residence of our men there, adding later on a cross when death occurs.

The Pope's circular letter, which I am acquainted with, directs both the Bishops and especially the Cardinal to: provide means, activate Houses of Studies, etc. and stress everything else that pertains to the glory of the Lord in this connection.

What you say to me about the House of Studies, for the time being projected only on a small scale, reminds me of a detail which, for the present, we can overlook. Let us do everything possible, praying all the while. You see and consider two thirds of the possibilities, but I know just a little bit more. If the people do not see a change in the personnel, without saying anything, they will come to the conclusion that, because of the small number as well as the advanced age of the priests, the Society does not have much of a future. Benevento is rather far from the other houses. A House of Studies in another location is needed more than anything else. But, we have talked about this before. God sees my heart and this is sufficient for me. Were you not able to prepare Spina and Silvestri? Now there is no question here of boys but of young men who, in the most beautiful years of their youth, are being formed by us. You should have scruples about not

⁵ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Painting, property of Carboneri.

having accepted one or the other of this same sort. But, I did not want to tell you so as not to hound you. Content to follow your wishes, I will not send you any young men there. However, a beginning, perhaps, would have been a sort of springboard that would have led to a real foundation. *Satis de hoc*.⁶

I thank you for all your concern for me. With regard to the Bartolomeo situation, what am I to say?⁷ It has been 9 years since he has been sharing the labors with me, showing a combination of gifts which it is not at all easy to find. Does he have some failings? After a careful examination, I can say to you that they are more physical than moral. You can be sure of that. Neither do I fail to give him admonitions. In Capradosso, the soups for me were very flavorful; for Silvestri they were too heavy with seasoning. I, who know more things than Silvestri knows, had only to be silent in the matter. For only a few days, it would certainly not have ruined his health. The family was excellent; but the kitchen was full of women: I did not permit Bartolomeo to go near them, except only for meals. A lot of advice was given with regard to the Neapolitan style of cooking, but still one has to use prudence and virtue to be able to get along well. *Intelligenti pauca*.⁸ Do you suppose that I am writing quarrelsomely?

No. If Fr. Biagio, a witness to everything, were to speak, he would tell you the same thing. The Missionaries never lacked anything. That is enough about that.

Furthermore, in the lives of the Saints, I have never seen anyone of them reject those who serve them so virtuously as long as there was no moral question involved. I am writing these things very hastily: but, I can add that I never thought that Silvestri would act like that, as I found him to do on this recent Mission. I have written this to you before: you cannot say that I am only now informing you about it. Bartolomeo, in his own way, does indeed annoy: he would do things wrongly, I realize, and I have warned him about it time and time again. Silvestri, however, did worse in not being able to control himself. These were trifling matters, obviously, and nothing of real consequence was involved. His misconduct was probably caused by the fact that he has been offered the parish church at Campoli, his hometown; and when one goes back to his home town, the spirit does not concern itself deeply with matters of perfection. Also (and do not be displeased if I say so), he had been too highly overrated and praised, etc. by you. He is humble, yes; but, as the great Albertini used to say, such conduct in a young man will push the soul toward a certain stubbornness in adhering to the principle which, without imputing any malice, compels him to stick to his guns despite any harm that might befall the Institute. I summoned him from one Mission to another with the sole purpose of giving glory to God. Did he obey me? Absolutely not. I kept quiet, I did not complain. God gave me prudence, and progress was made.

Another thing. You were with me in Ariano. Was not Bartolomeo there? Pancrazio

⁶ Enough of this.

⁷ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Panzini (criticism).

⁸ A few times for the one who understands.

warned us about the food: and what happened?

Well, to put it briefly, do we not realize that God wants us to be martyrs? Therefore, let us embrace our crosses, big or small as they may be, and let us become saints with them and through them. I regret that I have not died as yet to all things, and that I still love my little conveniences. I have decided that, if God should inspire Bartolomeo to take up some other career, I shall not take on anyone else with me. I do not want to multiply crosses. Already next November, if God preserves me, I shall take up residence in the House of Studies with our young men. The other members will go out on the Missions. They will learn better how to bear their crosses, which will never be lacking; in fact, they will be multiplied each day.

The Houses at Terracina and Sonnino have been closed. *Dominus dedit, Dominus abstulit. Sit nomen Domini benedictum.*⁹ It is God who will bring about our growth, who will better things and perfect the Institute. Perhaps I am the impediment: so, I pray that he will do with me whatever he wills. I am, however, calm about each occurrence. The only desire that I have is the desire for the true possession of virtue. You tell me that I am too solitary. That is how it is. Solitude, prayer, suffering, holy indifference in the Lord, abandonment to his will, that is everything. I am not regretful of having spoken to the Holy Father with both clarity and selfassurance given to me by God. I do not look for compliments, I do not understand politics, nor promises. *Dominus regit me.*¹⁰ ... But what about the human means? Which ones to use? *Non est qui adiuvet.*¹¹ Such is our condition. But, *Dominus sollicitus est mei.*¹²

I heard from Fr. Gaetano,¹³ about whom I am writing to Fr. Giovanni Merlini concerning his dismissal, *in modo prudente.*¹⁴

I also heard from the Delegate. *Quid dicam?*¹⁵ It is the business of Bishops to advise and to apply the Evangelical rules: and this is why we must multiply our prayers.

May Jesus be our love, and I am in his Divine Heart, your
Humble devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House at Rimini, March 5, 1828

⁹ The Lord gave, the Lord took away. May the name of the Lord be blessed.

¹⁰ The Lord rules me.

¹¹ There is no one to help me.

¹² The Lord is solicitous of me.

¹³ Fr. Gaetano Zapponi (cfr. biographical section).

¹⁴ In a prudent manner.

¹⁵ What shall I say?

1709

March 5, 1828
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj
Aquila

Hail forever to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Oh how I regret, please believe me, not to be able to be there in Aquila to do some good work. It simply turns out to be impossible for me to accept your request to be there in Lent. I have had to be in Rimini at any cost. I was hopeful to have fulfilled my commitments and be there around Easter and in time to conduct the Retreat for a congregation which is the object of my affection. God does not will that; let us adore his divine dispositions. I, likewise, have had to keep my word to others in giving the Mission in Magliano and to the nuns in Fontecchio. From that, you can see further reasons. But, should we give up on my chances of being in Aquila? Not at all. God will offer another opportunity. Let us strive to get one of our Houses established there etc. Give it some definite consideration and pray for it. Oh how I would love to have that good work accomplished!

As for the Passionist Fathers, their arrival, which I would love to see occur, it seems will not be verified. So, another vary acceptable and proportionate plan will have to be substituted in order to promote the programs to the glory of God. With regard to the Three Hours service, try to get another member to handle that and for the Retreat, you yourself take care of it. This is said heart to heart. Excuse this liberty. During these days, I shall be departing for a series of Retreats to the clergy, now that I have completed the renewal of the clergy here in Rimini, *mihi indignissimo commissa*.¹⁶ All of these appointments, indeed, have been agreed to for a long time. God sees what is in my heart. I kiss your hands. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop there and to Father Pacini. I recommend myself to your prayers in common. With all my esteem and affection, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 5, 1828

P. S. Always send your letters to: "Rome"

1710

March 5, 1828
Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj
Mayor of Vaccareccia

¹⁶ Committed to me though most unworthy.

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Baldassarre

It will be necessary for me to write again concerning the matter that is known to you and then we will come to an agreement. I was not able to go to Rome because God called me to Rimini. I would like to know whether the matter of the petition to treat the case *extra carceres*¹⁷ had any effect. I recommended it in Spoleto.

Finally, I inform you that the painting of St. Xavier, which I promised, I have had sent to Poggio Mirteto to Canon Savj. You see that someone goes to get it, using a safe opportunity, so that it will arrive there in good condition.

Give my best regards to everyone. Support the pious organizations, and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 5, 1828

The most reverend Vicar will see that it is blessed and will arrange a ceremony for its exposition. Put it on view immediately. It will become prodigious and the devotees will set up the chapel.

1711

March 10, 1828

Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj

Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Sir

You have probably already received my other letter through the mail delivery of Rieti with a forwarding to the most reverend Vicar General of S. Salvatore. In reply to your letter, I say that in behalf of the matter known to you, I shall have to write again and then I will be able to give you the results.

You already know how you are to get the painting of St. Xavier, sending a cart to Canon Savj of Poggio Mirteto. You look at it and then tell me what your feeling is about another altar. This is my thought. The painting of St. Xavier can be placed on the altar to the left in the middle with all the surrounding rays. On the right side, I would have a beautiful crucifix depicted by a capable person in keeping with the illumination of the painting. Then, I would also have a depiction of the Sorrowful Mother and St. John, just as on Calvary. See to it, however, that everything is done with the greatest modesty. If you would like to have this work done in Rome, in another letter of yours, let me know, in written form, what the measurements are and I will

¹⁷ Outside of prison.

look into it. Later, I will give further instructions and you can make your decision. With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G.C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 10, 1828

1712

March 16, 1828

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁸

Venerable Monsignor

This present letter of mine is a plea for your charity to assign to the cleric Alessandro Pontoni of Pievofavera a chaplaincy or a benefice which does not involve the duty of residence or a particular personality. Make an effort to do me this favor so that he can be ordained to the subdiaconate at the ordination to be held on the feast of the most holy Trinity. His parish priest wrote to me about him and said that he will be receiving a hundred *scudi* as a fund provided by him. You might complete this work which is of immense interest for the glory of God. Your charity is industrious. As strongly as I can, I urge you to do this favor.

Hoc anno,¹⁹ try to spare the House in Pievetorina, whose needs I continue to recommend to your consideration, from the quota for the seminary. As for me, I shall not cease praying for every good result. When you wish to see the economist, all that you need do is say the word. On one free morning, everything can be settled. Including the Delegate Ceccarelli. The economist Incelli has been informed and instructed by me in everything. Pray to Jesus a lot and continually for me. May Jesus grant us the everlasting union in holy Paradise. I kiss your hands. With esteem, respect and a very special affection, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 16, 1828

1713

March 18, 1828

¹⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁹ In this year

Mr, Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

I have received the 12 *paoli* and you have probably received my other letter through the mail delivery of Rieti with a forwarding to the most reverend Vicar of S. Salvatore. In that letter that I refer to, you probably noticed one or the other task imposed upon you. Well, I have written about the brass and you yourself will be receiving the response. With the arrival of the most reverend Treasurer, your petition is likewise to be included, and I intend to burn all those other papers, except for the petitions of [...] ²⁰ that you know about. Let me know whether I have forgotten any other matter or request. Pray and have others pray for me who remains, with esteem and respect, while urging you to do good wherever you can

Your humble devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 18, 1828

1714

March 18, 1828

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

I am late in replying to your letter, but you can be certain that it was because time was not available. This is the pure truth. I have had a lot more correspondence to take care of because of the closing, which God has disposed, of the two Houses of Terracina and Sonnino. Patience. May the will of God be done to which I am completely compliant, for I have no other desire than to do what God himself wishes. I had to come here to our Mission House in Rimini where, for quite a long time, I was supposed to have come and my duties have been increased. *Laus Deo.* ²¹

Let us now turn to what is urgent. I have understood everything pertaining to the plan that God has set for you which, one cannot deny, is an extraordinary one. Let us give thanks to him *quoniam bonus, quoniam in saeculum misericordis eius.* ²² Every morning give spirited thanks to the Lord and do so especially when you receive Holy Communion, at which time you shall also beseech for me those burning flames of ardent celestial fires that will purify me and join me

²⁰ The page is torn here. Perhaps the word "others" was written.

²¹ Praise to God.

²² Because you are good, because your mercy is forever.

incessantly to God. Oh if you only knew my wretchedness! You would certainly realize the need I have for the schooling of the Crucifix!

With regard to receiving Holy Communion, your practice of receiving daily is most praiseworthy. The life of a religious woman is a continual preparation and thanksgiving for Holy Communion. As for the time dedicated to prayer, I leave that freely up to you since, in your position, it is necessary to make adaptations. I would like to know what themes you have introduced and, moreover, the status of your soul.

With respect to food: this is a point which, at the present time, I am unable to decide. It is necessary first to see whether your physical forces hold up or not. Speak very clearly to me about this point. After the advice that Monsignor Manasse gave you, how did things go? I would like you to be very candid and simple in your reply.

As for your duties and burdens, I would like you to place before God your desires, and in that procedure, that you likewise use holy simplicity.

Have a holy indifference to external matters. The customary saying is: "We must serve the community 24 hours a day. Whether in one thing or the other, it is all the same, as long as God will provide the strength. Crosses everywhere will not be lacking. The more we move forward with simplicity, the more we will be saintly." I do not know whether I have expressed myself clearly.

This for the timebeing. Tell me: did you have other spiritual directors besides Manasse? You asked God to have your Purgatory here. In what way do you think that will come about? What holy inclinations do you have? What repugnances? What virtues are most frequently exercised and which the least? In general and in particular, what inspirations have you had from God so that I can determine what is from God and what might be the product of the devil? Really, though, in order to be directed well, you should have selected a saintly soul. So, there is always time for you to change. Pray over it. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me as

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*²³

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 18, 1828

Pray so that God will inspire me in regard to a matter that pertains to the glory of the Lord; also, that God will fill me with holy charity and love for him; that he will keep me in a hidden life, as long as it is pleasing to him, and that he give me the grace of moving hearts when I preach.

1715

March 18, 1828

Mrs. Emidia Santucci

²³ Being his lowest servant of Christ.

Matelica

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady

With pleasure did I learn about the good work that you are promoting for the glory of the Lord. I do not remember you personally; the multitude of things occurring as the result of a Mission causes forgetfulness of each effort for good work. However, I do give thanks to God for the zeal that I note in your efforts, especially in promoting the glories of the Divine Blood. You can be certain that this will be for you the source of every blessing! Furthermore, I am exceedingly consoled by your making preparations for our great feast, and I hope that this year you will attempt to propagate it everywhere, along with the yearly recitation of the Chaplet. Expressing our love for Jesus is never sufficiently said. So, if you should have need of some booklets in order that our month will be observed in other parishes, I shall be as helpful as I possibly can. Despite the many, many devotions used to show glory to the Lord, I can say that this one is, for me, primary. From this you can see that I would not only wish to be there, but I would even rush to preach our month there. In order to accomplish this, in addition to the letter from the most reverend bishop which is required, I also point out that, only with great difficulty, would my occupations allow me the time to do what I so ardently desire.

So, let us do as follows. Last year, Angelici saw to the observance of the month in Offida. This year the same could be arranged in Matelica. You think about it and consult with the excellent Canon Fidanza, to whom I ask you to extend my best wishes, recommending me also to his prayers. Now, if you would like me to come, then pray and have others pray that God will clear the way for me. Otherwise, I will be able to supply another of our Missionaries from our House in Pievevitorina who is quite capable of this work. Under that condition, the commitment will be confirmed. The travel mounts can be provided there *gratis*, or I can look into it. Our Missionary could reside with the Filippini Fathers, and the meals could be handled by the pious organization. As far as I am concerned, this year, Angelici would do well. Pray for me and, while awaiting your resolution if necessary, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 18, 1828

1716

March 18, 1828

Giovanni Calvi

Sora

I am late in sending a reply to your letter because of the scheduled postal delivery. I am sorry to learn about the sickness from which the Lord has rescued you so that you could dedicate yourself evermore to the glory of God and apostolic labors. Not so with your uncle who is now,

we hope, enjoying the mature fruit in the place of total joy. His life, his virtues give us the firm conviction for expressing this hope. Now, it is up to us to make our preparation. That great day will infallibly be awaiting us.

I shall not fail to pray for you as you have asked, but you, too, must not cease doing the same for me so that I will be able to prepare myself well for the eternal years. I beg you to do me the favor of paying a visit to Mrs. Carrara, whom I never forget because of the many, many obligations that we have to so worthy a lady. May Jesus be our love and, in his Divine Heart, with all my affection and esteem, I remain

(there is no signature)

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, March 18, 1828

1717

March 18, 1828
 Francesco Ferruti
 Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

With pleasure did I learn of the name given to your little daughter, that is, the choice of the name Saveria. We give thanks to God for his blessings granted to you, also on this occasion.

How greatly do I recommend to you the pious organizations and I especially entrust them to your zeal. With the arrival of our Missionary, you can now activate well the group of St. Francis Xavier, and you ask me, and anyone else freely, although far away, to work along with you in doing the good work that is so close to my heart. Poggio Mirteto is, for me, of sweet remembrance. Have no doubt that whenever the occasion arises for me to be there, I shall not fail to make use of your very, very kind hospitality. I hope that I have not overlooked any task that was asked of me from you people there, except for the delivery of some petitions to Monsignor Abate as soon as he returns to Rome.

Give my greetings to anyone who remembers me, and especially to Father Luigi Mosconi, our Missionary who has been assigned there for the holy Retreat. Recommend me often to God. I never fail to do the same for you, for whom I wish the most copious blessings of sweetness. In the meantime, extending my warm regards to all in your family, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, March 18, 1828

1718

March 20, 1828

Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I am writing from Rimini where God has summoned me after conducting the Mission in Sabina. I am enclosing another notification concerning the 100 Masses. There is the other notification for the 100 Masses of which there are only five remaining, which I will remit to you as soon as they have been said. Let me know whether I have made any mistake or whether our account is in order. Please deduct the postage with which I have encumbered you. For my own records, let me know completely the total amount of alms involved and approximately when you think they can be obtained. Pray and have others pray a lot for me who, with esteem and respect, most revered Luigi, remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 20, 1828

1719

March 29, 1828
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj
Aquila

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

You cannot imagine how regretful I am in not being able to correspond to your holy intentions concerning the good work to be done during Lent in your area. Do you suppose that we could supply with our month of the Divine Blood in June? You think about it. But, in order that there will not be disappointments, let us do as follows: either I will be able to come, and I will, or, I will send a capable member. In that way, we can from this very moment set the date. Pray to Jesus for me, most revered Canon, and, though in a hurry, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 29, 1828

1720

March 30, 1828
Fr. Rafaele Rosati
Benevento

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Rafaele

With pleasure did I read your most appreciated letter and I realize the good work that God is promoting in that city through your efforts. *Ipsi honor et gloria.*²⁴ Very consoling is the information that you communicate to me and I always desire to see even more acclaim given to the glory of the Lord whom we are serving. I am very, very pleased with your present placement, realizing that you are capable of doing great work. Do not fail to ground yourself evermore firmly through prayer and humility, the sources of every good work. Also, please remember to pray always for me, most needful of that charity. *Ego enim sum vir videns paupertatem meam.*²⁵

As for the accounts, I shall get in contact with Canon Betti. Give my best regards to everyone there. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem, respect and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, March 30, 1828

1721

April 1, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Most esteemed Luigi

Our Father Merlini will consign to you the documents of the other 100 residual Masses. So, it seems to me that nothing else remains to be done. With him, you will make a computation of everything and, when possible, remit to him the respective alms offered for the entire listing of Masses, in keeping with the instructions which I have given to the aforementioned Merlini. Unless I am mistaken, this completes our affairs; if not, then please give me further instructions. If you should have other Masses that can be celebrated *ubique*,²⁶ please send them to me at your convenience. May Jesus be our love. With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 1, 1828

1722

April 2, 1828

Fr. Pietro Butti

²⁴ To him be honor and glory.

²⁵ I am a man seeing my poverty.

²⁶ Wherever.

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I have made every effort to be able to assign Liparelli for the nuns, also, I wish to indicate to you and to the most reverend bishop how greatly I appreciate your concerns in promoting the glory of God. Canon Gonnelli can be saved *ad alias*.²⁷ This letter of mine is also applicable to Canon Domeniconi to whom you will extend my warm greeting.

I understand everything with regard to your uncle. Prayers.

I am writing in a hurry. Pray for me. When the opportunity arises, give my regards to Gulielmi and to anyone else who remembers me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, April 2, 1828

When Liparelli returns from Falvaterra, he will proceed on to the nuns. When you have the chance, a letter or so to Tagliaferri would be very helpful.

1723

April 6, 1828

Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Canon

In reply to your letter, I assure you that the Vicar General has received all the instructions concerning the temporal matters for the Retreat there. This means that he will supply later on.

I give thanks to God for the happy success of the Retreat. May God bless evermore the people there and all the evangelical workers who assisted. I hope that, by this time, Fr. Andrea²⁸ has sent someone to get his painting. In the meanwhile, I thank you for your efforts and I would like to know more about the final results.

The archpriest is quite right with regard to the 500 booklets which, on the first possible occasion, he should do me the greatest favor of seeing that they are sent to Rome to Severini, but addressed to me. I am direly in need of them for I was being pressed to have a new printing made. Now, I can have that done with a bit more leeway.

I shall celebrate the Mass according to your intention, and I do not fail to express to you my sincere gratitude for your favors.

²⁷ For another time.

²⁸ Father Andrea Testa.

See that Mosconi, indeed, speaks to Vincenzo Rinaldi. If you wish, I, too, could write to him. However, it is better to handle this in person. I learned about the situation too late during my stay there.

I, likewise, have received favorable news about the health of Monsignor Abate. *Laus Deo.*²⁹

You will be receiving the leaflets that I promised to you. Your letters are always so very dear to me. Give my greetings to the archpriest and to all the other priests. Pray and have others pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remains and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 6, 1828

1724

April 6, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

After having sent you another of my letters, I received yours of the 31st of this past March. In regard to the Masses, and in keeping with what I stated in my previous letter, it seems to me that nothing else is required and, if I am not mistaken, everything has been fulfilled. As for the alms, you work that out with Merlini. So, *satis de hoc.*³⁰ What is of interest to me, indeed, is that we do not forget our spiritual pacts with the Lord. Let us always see each other in the Wounds of Jesus Christ and there, in that sacred retreat, let us encourage each other toward most blessed eternity. Here below, everything offers bitterness. However, the Cross is a great seat of learning. Always zealously look after the oratory, the source of every blessing. Oh how I love the city of Norma because of this great undertaking and its good example, and how many motives for consolation this provides for your spirit! If you should have other Masses that can also be said *ubique*³¹ and without inconvenience, please send them to me.

It is quite true that God willed the closing of the two Houses of Terracina and Sonnino. May his divine will always be done and in every way. There is nothing new about Sermoneta, as far as I know. Let us do all things with prayer, with suffering and by always working together. May Jesus be our love, and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

²⁹ Praise God.

³⁰ Enough of this.

³¹ Wherever.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 6, 1828

1725

April 9, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I am taking advantage of the return of Canon Tarulli there so as to ask you to please send to me here in Rimini, at the soonest possible moment that you can, 100 sheets of stationery which are described in the enclosed flier as *reale e misura di filo*.³² I would hope that the cost does not exceed around two *baiocchi* per sheet. For my own information, let me know whether the printer has already printed some Chaplets. Likewise, find out whether he would be in a position to print a small work on St. Joseph, to be financed by some associates, reserving for myself, however, the judgment concerning the price which, at your convenience, will be supplied to me. I would also like you to inform me of the cost for printing the enclosed leaflet which I would like to have prepared in part as an open leaflet, as you see it now, and in part as a folded one that could be conveniently kept in a book. Please excuse all of these inconveniences that I cause you. Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 9, 1828

P. S. Let me know how much 100 copies of the leaflet entitled *pagella*, which I also enclose, will cost. Later we will settle everything. I urge the observance of the month of June... the oratory in Cereto. Let us instill fervor in everyone to do good work etc.

1726

April 11, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

I have received your letter of April 1. I thank you for writing to me when you have the

³² A royal measure of thread.

opportunity. It does not upset me; rather, I thank God for it. However, I do not think that I should refrain from expressing the ideas that I have, even though they may not agree entirely with yours, except in what is substantial. Our holy union and concord in the Lord is not altered in the least by this.

With regard to Sante,³³ I am not taking sides. I have consigned the entire matter to Fr. Merlini. Up to now he has been a Brother. I would appreciate your sending your opinions to Fr. Merlini, while offering our prayers in behalf of whoever is in charge of directing the respective members of the Society.

I do not expect you to return anything at all for the expenses which were incurred for Frs. Aloysi and Silvestri. In your accounts, however, nothing is mentioned about Fr. Rosati who received six *Sc.* from me. At any rate, you will receive three *Sc.* in reimbursement for your House Treasury.

With pleasure I have learned of the good results obtained by the Most Rev. Treasurer in behalf of the place. Let me know when the matter is completed, for I am desirous of sending two young Theologians there, under your guidance. This is what I have in mind: I have the desire of setting up a fullfledged House of Studies for the glory of God. At least I am hopeful that my plans will be realized by November. It is not certain, however, that you will go along with this. As far as I am concerned, I am happy for having said this much. *Desiderium pauperum exaudivit Dominus.*³⁴ Here, in Rimini, the decorum of the Institute is enhanced by having five young men who are five angels;³⁵ I can say that God is compensating me, for the bitterness endured, with an increase of good work here in Rimini. Prayers.

With regard to the properties left by the deceased Carboneri,³⁶ I advise you please to take care of prudently selling everything, except the articles that are clearly marked reserved: these are to be held in safekeeping, and are then to be transferred gradually to my house where I have left instructions. I hope that you will find a way of working out the Customs requirements by writing to the Most Rev. Treasurer for the safeconduct pass for us, as well as one for Naples. Handle it as you see fit. Try to be as economical as possible in the transportation of those things. Perhaps the Pacca family can give you suggestions.

In the sale of the articles, try to get the best price for us. This is all in a nutshell. I am sending to you the listing of the objects, which you will then send back to me indicating in each case the individual price received for the object sold. Later I will send another paper containing the complete explanation of the will of the deceased and the method that I will use in the

³³ Sante Angelini: cfr. biographical section.

³⁴ The Lord has heard the desire of the poor.

³⁵ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Rimini (House of Studies).

³⁶ Cfr. biographical section.

execution of it. In this way everything that refers to this matter of the deceased will be there in the archives, together with his papers, of which you yourself will take charge. With regard to his sermons, I have said: they are to be sent to Rome. I do not think that there is any other matter pending concerning the deceased. Let me know if you find out whether he was inscribed in any Pious associations, so as to gain their suffrages for him. I am not sure whether notice has been sent to Ariccia, where he had been Canon. In case not, write and tell Canon Gonnelli.

Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, April 11, 1828

With the money that was discovered, you will satisfy the Masses, in addition to the sung Mass sent to you with one of my own. Keep in the archives a record of the document showing the celebration of the Masses under the heading "*Affari del Defonto, etc.*" Also, take the three *Sc.* that I mentioned above; you will return them to me, specified as such, in the complete letterbundle, and eventually you will return the money to Rome, etc., once the sale is completed.

I think that perhaps Fr. Silvestri may have sent the folio of Masses on to me. I am speaking of the ones that he was saying while on the Mission with me.

1727

April 14, 1828

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁷

Most reverend bishop

In consequence of the authorization expressed by you in your letter to the Archpriest of Torricella, he will be going, with the grace of the Lord, to carry out the holy Mission in that place which, if you agree, will begin on the vigil of the Ascension and terminate on Pentecost day, so that also on the first feast, the beginning of the retreat to your seminary and to the clergy might be begun, though this is yet to be determined as time allows. Since every good work is the gift of God, your most reverend excellency knows very well how necessary are your prayers in behalf of everything just referred to. So, I implore this of you, in your charity. I also ask you to keep me in mind when you offer the holy sacrifice of the Mass. While kissing your hand, most reverend excellency, I have the honor, in all homage to you, to assert that you can consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

³⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Mis. Ap.
Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, April 14³⁸

1728

April 15, 1828
Baldassarre Rogaj
Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Baldassarre

With pleasure did I learn of the good work being promoted with the painting of St. Xavier. I shall not fail to offer suffrages for the soul of the deceased Francesco for whom our saint must have implored for him a happy passing into blessed eternity.

So, keep the painting exposed in order that the devotion will become more and more encouraged; I expect to see great prodigies resulting from this very holy image.

I shall try to find out how much the other painting that you spoke about will cost and then I will be able to inform you. With regard to the matter that you know about, I have received a reply. So be at ease. Do not forget to pray for the deceased etc. etc.

With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 15, 1828

P.S. Next, it will be necessary to set up the organization of St. Xavier. Little by little.

1729

April 17, 1828
Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I thank you wholeheartedly for your recent letter. Here, too, God has visited us with an earthquake, just as there. I think it was a general visitation. *Plorabimus ergo coram Domino*.³⁹

Father Luigi Mosconi has probably already received one of my letters of instruction.

I understand about Father Andrea Testa, and I thank you always for your interest. You

³⁸ The year is 1828 as can be deduced from the date written down by Begni himself, either when he received the letter or when he answered it: "April 18, 1828". We cannot explain how this letter got into the collection of letters to Cristaldi.

³⁹ Therefore, we will weep before the Lord.

have already received or will receive soon the fliers, for which there is no charge. Just say an *Ave Maria* to your Madonna there.

I would like to see introduced there the uniform worn the members of the St. Xavier group. Speak to Ferruti about this since I know that he already has one on hand. It will arouse interest in the devotion to this great saint.

Give my greetings and gratitude to the most worthy archpriest, to all the other priests and anyone else who remembers me, miserable thing that I am. In Jesus Christ crucified, most esteemed Canon, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 17, 1828

P. S. You will be receiving a copy of the month dedicated to the Divine Blood which you could read aloud before the Crucifix located in the large church there, when the time comes.

1730

April 18, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Luigi

I am sending a reply to a couple of your letters. We will take care of the 100 Masses given by the widow Bianconi. For these only will you have to have a document. Let me know if I am mistaken. I do not recollect any other one that is needed. Have no doubt, I shall see that they are taken care of quickly. Later, we can come to a decision with regard to the alms.

As soon as I can get to Sermoneta, you can imagine how quickly I will get in touch with you. Zealously promote the observance of the month of the Divine Blood. Be insistent about the oratory. I do not know whether you have ever read the Life of the Venerable Vitelli, founder of the oratory in Fuligno. This would be very useful for you and you would derive a great deal of comfort in this holy institution. May Jesus be our love, and, most revered Luigi, with esteem and respect in his Divine Heart, I remain

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 18, 1828

1731

April 20, 1828

Filippo De Angelis

Concerviano

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

Most illustrious sir

It is quite true that I would indeed have great urgency to be in Rome. However, here the programs of our ministry are not only numerous but really overwhelming. I shall try to fulfill them as quickly as possible. In the meantime, you should assure the cleric there that I shall not fail to recommend his petition as strongly as I can and that he should place this matter frequently before the Lord.

With pleasure did I learn of the finalization of your situation with the Agamennone family. You, in your prudence, knew how to work it out and bring about the yearnedfor reconciliation.

Please inform your excellent brother Luigi that I have received another letter from him and that he will be obeyed to the fullest measure. Pray to God that I will reach the point of possessing him for eternity. With the fullest esteem, respect and affection, most venerable Filippo, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 20, 1828

1732

April 20, 1828

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴¹

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. Do not, in any way at all, be concerned about the agitation and uncertainties that you experience in writing to me. Really, they do not merit any attention.

With regard to your taking of food, it seems to me that your bishop's response is very plausible. Let me know if you are at ease, as I hope you are, in obedience to your superior.

There is no doubt that your office as treasurer is a source for virtue. We read of Father Segneri junior that after being a missionary, he was assigned to be the economist. He took joy in this assignment because of the grand opportunities God provided for him to amass merits for heaven. Later, when he returned to the missions, he often had reason to recall the good that the Lord had offered him while he was the economist.

From what you indicate to me, I note that the topic on which you should be most insistent

⁴⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

in order to support the impulses of grace, is to have a low evaluation of yourself. Humility is the virtue that is dearest to God. Even if you only made this meditation: Who is God? Who am I? What beautiful lessons such reflections could produce! You already have experienced them in your soul.

Likewise, be blindly obedient to the directive of never speaking again of your past life. Now, think only about enkindling the fire of divine love.

With respect to spiritual directors, adhere to the principles of St. Frances de Sales and you will have peace and comfort. You told me that your soul refused to accept as your spiritual director Canon la Penna, whom I esteem and respect. This situation compels me to ask you once again whether that is what God truly wanted. I do not know how commendable a thing it is to leave one who has been your guide for five years. That remains as your responsibility. I make this observation for the sake of good order.

It appears to me that your spirit is in a mist of suffering and of desires. May God purge and refine your suffering. It is really the wintertime that is preparing you for a mystical spring and your desires are announcing that to you. Still, it appears to me that the suffering is being faced tranquilly. Any excitement, any apprehension that may occur is in the intellect, not, however, in the heart. So, it is necessary to quiet the mind and to recall to it the saying: *ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*.⁴² Indeed, the sufferings that you endure are a Purgatory here below. Allow yourself to be governed by God who is the doctor that heals and restores health.

Do not exaggerate the flights of imagination that you have with regard to your neighbor. These, too, are stimulations to the practice of charity which God, in this manner, urges you to exercise. The external difficulties that you suffer in your office, as likewise those in regard to your family, simply complete the picture and lead you to be an imitator of Jesus of Nazareth.

Abide in the peace of the Lord, and while constantly begging you for a remembrance in your prayers, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁴³

(there is no signature)

House in Rimini, April 20, 1828

1733

April 21, 1828
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

One of your most esteemed letters has been forwarded to me from Rome. However, from

⁴² Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

⁴³ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

another letter of mine, you should have learned the status of things which await me for this approaching springtime. The ministry here in Romagna is not only plentiful, but overwhelming. Just how long I shall be able to continue on here, I do not know. That will depend on lettercorrespondence.

With pleasure did I learn of the good work being done by Angelici, for whom all the Masses still remain free, and not having to worry *per se* of anything but our own meager clothing, when he is in the Institute, it seems to me that for now he ought to be rather content. God will manifest anything further. Whatever is the salary, having made a withdrawal for the expense for room and board, for utensils in his room, for some sickness or other etc. etc., in addition to the payment of other debts, let me know what else has yet to be done. If God is calling him to our Society, God will give him every encouragement. You are correct in pointing out all the dangers that assail our poor young people. Indeed, you have been chosen by God to act as guide and custodian. Have no doubt about the Lord giving you his assistance. Let us remain in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 21, 1828

P. S. I would like you to send me here, very quickly, a ream of stationery and let ms know the cost. Send it to me using the usual etc.

1734

April 22, 1828

Fr. Luigi Moscatelli

Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

God wishes you to do a good deed and that is to conduct, as best as you can, the month of the Divine Blood in the church of the Maddalena or in the other one belonging to the Crociferi Fathers,⁴⁴ at least by reading from the booklet which I will send you at your request. You will increase your merits by promoting this good work. You know how St. Camillus was so deeply devoted to it. I take advantage of this opportunity to ask you for many prayers and, with esteem and affection, hoping to see you again very soon, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 22, 1828

⁴⁴ Churches in Rome.

You are acquainted with a certain priest, Cherubini, in Rome. When you see him, urge him to look into the matter dealing with his brothers. While I was giving the Mission in Castelnuovo, they were brought to my attention. I do not know who is right or where the misunderstanding lies. Also, I urge you to handle everything in Albano. You know how hard we have to work to keep things in order, etc. etc. We shall see each other soon.

1735

April 23, 1828
Fr. Domenico Silvestri
Roma per Benevento⁴⁵

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My beloved in the Lord

I thank you for the letter sent to Sig. Calvi, who has already contacted me about the Retreat to the Sacconi next year, may it please God.

I thank God for the good work that you are doing there with the aid of divine grace, and may the honor and glory always redound to God.

Do not be surprised if all hell should unleash itself at the time when the ministry calls you,⁴⁶ a battle such as that is beneficial for one in getting himself to concentrate his soul on the idea of abandonment to God and in frequently repeating: "*Ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*";⁴⁷ also, Fr. Segneri, Senior, who said: "*abyssus miseriae invocat abyssum misericordiae*".⁴⁸

To obtain an increase of gifts, therefore, it is urgent that we deepen ourselves more and more in the pursuit of holy humility and often meditate on the short verse dealing with that virtue which we hear day after day. Let the morning examination be concerned with this virtue of humility; that of the evening, *iuxta methodum*.⁴⁹ Do not forget the little summary that I gave you. Heed the inspirations that God supplies you with in prayer, so that you can call those things back to mind at the time of your examination of conscience. Adopt them as a guide and learn to distinguish what is from God and what is not.

May these reminders be deeply impressed upon your mind:

"Spernere mundum"

⁴⁵ On the fourth facing, above the address, D. Silvestri wrote: "Reminders for the spirit".

⁴⁶ A slip of the pen due to the haste of writing: read, instead: "*meravigli*".

⁴⁷ I am a man seeing my poverty.

⁴⁸ The abyss of misery invokes the abyss of mercy.

⁴⁹ According to the method.

"Spernerere nullum"

"Spernerere semetipsum"

*"Spernerere virtuose se sperni"*⁵⁰

Rejoice in every occasion you have to earn merit, and always delight in that *infima petere* of the famous book, *"Imitazione di Gesu"*.

Establish yourself firmly in obedience, the daughter of humility. Blindly, promptly and joyfully be obedient and you will have a short cut to the acquisition of great perfection.

Pray incessantly to Jesus for me. Have as many others as you can do the same. Present me to the Eternal Divine Father and especially in the offering of the Divine Blood in the Holy Sacrifice. Consider me, as I remain in J. C. Crucified as

*Suo infimo in X'to Ser.*⁵¹

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 23, 1828

P. S. I hereby inform you that you will preach next Lent in Vallecorsa. Prepare yourself for it. You will do a great deal of good. Have Canon Betti assist you. Obedience produces miracles.

(On the fourth page, alongside the address, one reads:)

Tell Canon Aloysi that I will not need the Brother, at least not for now.

1736

April 24, 1828

Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj

Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Baldassarre

The painting that you wanted is going to cost around 11.80 *scudi*. After more thought, since the most holy Madonna is placed on the main altar, it seems to me that on the right side you could place the painting of the Crucified Lord, pouring out his Blood, depicting angels collecting it, and on the other side St. Xavier. You decide. While awaiting your reply, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 24, 1828

⁵⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: St. Malachy. [to sper the world; to spern no one; to spern self; to spern vituously that ihe is sperned.

⁵¹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

1737

April 28, 1828
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am leaving for Mondajo in this diocese where there will be a gathering of the priests of that area for a Retreat, and, at the same time, a Retreat for the nuns. Then, I will be on time to pass through Penna Billi. However, always send your most appreciated letters to Rimini for a more exact addressing of your correspondence.

I give thanks to God for the wellfounded hope in S. Salvatore there. As best you can, take this project to heart both for its existence as well as for its good, not overlooking the idea of having an ecclesiastical house of studies as well as the other programs offered by our Institute. I trust that God will give you holy inspirations so that in your religious fervor you will support them with that zeal with which you are so greatly endowed. Likewise, remember to establish our exemption from the reports of pastors. As far as our interior structure is concerned, we are similar to the Filippini Fathers, and as for our external structure, we carry out the ministry of giving Retreats and other ministries contemplated by St. Ignatius, while also following St. Charles in whatever pertains to the House of studies, something quite distinct from seminaries. So, this calls for maintaining the idea that we are a true institute. If the Hospice of S. Michele and the Roman Seminary enjoy such an exemption, much more should we enjoy it since we are in conformity with what the canonical dispositions themselves assert with respect to Institutes. I thought it right to bring this to your attention in time so as not to be forgetful of it at the opportune moment. May God bless your beloved efforts so that our Society, so deeply interested in the greater glory of God and the welfare of souls, be able to stand firm and spread out ever more widely.

I am enclosing the requested petitions and I urge that they be handled with promptness and with a favorable outcome.

Finally, the affairs pertaining to Albano are also still waiting to be set in order. The terrain released by you is our property, and since we are similar to Regulars, observing the most rigid exclusion of women, as is also the case for Institutes, and in accordance with the Ratti document, it is required to adhere precisely to the terms. Our surroundings are exempt from assessments.

Furthermore, it is urgent that the Lateran Chapter should have a compensation for the residual ecclesiastical goods and that S. Paolo in Albano be granted what was contemplated by Honorius in his Bull, which Pius VII did not wish to derogate as was clearly stated by him. In addition, the Lateran Chapter should have stated that upon receiving these benefices. Indeed, everything was done in good faith. But now it is necessary to systemize things, thanks to your efficacious efforts.

My Monsignor, keep in mind the heavy responsibilities that our Institute faces. Besides the ministry, there is the daily provision of food, the clothing of our serviceBrothers, the supply of furnishings in our Houses, the sacred functions in our churches etc. etc. along with this, we have two constructions underway, one in Frosinone and the other in Vallecorsa. These projects assail my mind with worries. You can imagine this. In getting assistance, the House in Albano will be happy to cooperate in a better ordering of things. What was expended for our locale in Terracina and Sonnino has been lost in those things pertaining to the Institute. We are hopeful for some indemnity. I have learned that neither the Passionists nor the Capuchins are going there. In everything, let us adore the ever lovable divine dispositions. I am yearning to have someone in Rome who can be of assistance to me in handling the Society's affairs. I can foresee a multitude of things which, like the sea, always signifies to me the immense good to which God, in his pure mercy is beckoning me.

At the present time, we have four Houses of study for young men, and soon, when the locality is cleared in Benevento, plans will get underway in that area. I have other matters about which I should write to you. But sufficient for the time being is what I have just explained. I kiss your hands. Pray and have other do the same for me, extremely needful of prayers, so that I have so great a love for God that I can direct my life in the pursuit of ecclesiastical perfection and be able to diffuse it to others. You, take good care of yourself.⁵² Most of all, may God increase in you the zeal for his glory and, with esteem and a most special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, April 28, 1828

P. S. The bishop of Veroli would likewise wish to have one of our foundations in Veroli. The same is true for Alatri.

But, for now, we need to complete the constructions, etc. I am enclosing the death certificate of our deceased Carboneri. Please note whether the petition for Rimini⁵³ meets with your approval in regard to the *Sali e Tabacchi*. I do not know whether an annual subsidy with respect to that administration would be better. You will be able to figure that out.

1738

April 28, 1828

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

The Archbishop of Ancira, Monsignor Giovanni Marchetti, began, in the city of Rimini, the foundation of a Mission and Retreat House, under the direction of the Missionaries of the

⁵² This is underlined three times.

⁵³ Cfr. the following letter.

Archconfraternity with the august title of the Divine Blood. Just what advantages and good work has resulted is seen from a letter of commendation and a petition humbly submitted again by the present bishop, Monsignor Ottavio Zolio, seeking to obtain an endowment which is necessary for that holy establishment. It is being implored, once again, based on the firm hope of seeing in your Beatitude a fatherly concern, and being interested in the welfare of the people, will turn with a compassionate glance toward this foundation. In the meantime, its subsistence has been reliant on the piety of the faithful; up to now, begging was inevitable so as to maintain this pious establishment. The customary assessment to be paid upon its introduction, has usually been remitted to the Institute, through sovereign clemency, by the office of administration of *Sali e Tabacchi*. Canon Gaspar del Bufalo now, therefore, beseeches your Beatitude to grant this favor permanently, until the endowment is set up, by authorizing the person in charge of the aforementioned administration, to make the periodic reimbursements; and, for this favor, etc. etc.

In behalf of the Mission and Retreat House in Rimini.

1739

May 5, 1828
Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Luigi

Here I am again, with this letter of mine, giving you another inconvenience. With regard to the cleric Vicarj from Cenciara, Monsignor Abate writes to me that he cannot take on bigger burdens beyond his abilities, since the completion of the building of the seminary and other general considerations drain him of everything etc. He tells me that he would have sent the petition to the most reverend Vicar of S. Salvatore, and then he concludes by saying: "if there is any way at all of helping him out, do not refuse me". However, in regard to this matter, I can do nothing more than to recommend him to God. With the case being lost, once he has reached canonical age, if God is calling him to the altar, and he does not have the wherewithal to become a secular, it will be necessary for him to have recourse to the Institutes. In the meantime, therefore, someone will have to train him in the required studies. That is something which will involve your industrious charity.

When the occasion arises that you have to write to the Archpriest of Castelnuovo in Farfa, tell him that with regard to reducing the number of Masses, he will have to have recourse to the Council. For my own peace of mind, do me the favor of writing a couple of lines to him in my name since I still remain from what I have learned from Monsignor Abate's reply doubtful, to me, whether in my last letter to him I made myself clear about this. In your letter to the archpriest, say to him that if I have overlooked anything, he should write to me.

With respect to a position for you, he says to me confidentially: "Government restrictions stand in the way of admitting new employees etc." So, as soon as Monsignor Abate comes into

that area, you can speak to him about this, and in that way, in person you can find out more. Tell the nephew of the priest Paoletti that he should have his petition ready for the arrival of Monsignor Cristaldi. I do not wish to burden him further, even for a particular inconvenience. It is not that I lack the desire to do so; it is just that I see that the arrival of Monsignor Abate in S. Salvatore will better facilitate matters. Meanwhile, let us entrust everything to God who is a loving father.

Finally, pray for me; encourage everywhere the doing of good work. While advising you that you will be receiving from Rome the booklet for the month of the Divine Blood with which you will be able to promote it as a public exercise, I remain, most esteemed Luigi, with the fullness of esteem and respect and complete affection in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, May 5, 1828

1740

May 7, 1828

Student Orazio Bracaglia

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in Jesus Christ

With pleasure did I see your handwriting, while desiring to visit with you, once again, in person.

Tell the soul, concerning whom you wrote in detail, to answer the following, after consulting with Merlini, if necessary, for a clearer explanation.

1. Whether it appears that he is doing everything purely for God. This produces a salutary fear which urges him actually to renew often a right intention in the Lord. The workings of the Lord tend in this direction. Indeed, the one who has the fear of the Lord, desires to gain merit for heaven. He should be accustomed to saying often: "I am doing this or that action, but *quid prodest*⁵⁴ if it is not for God?" Likewise, he should often repeat: "*Cibus meus est ut faciam voluntatem Patris mei*".⁵⁵

2. With respect to thoughts of pride, we can compare them to flies in the summertime. These thoughts are annoying to us, but with the grace of God, they do not overcome us. Such thoughts remind us that they are acts in opposition to humility and the more we multiply acts of humility, we develop a habit of doing good. According to our rule of life, in the morning, you should always make an examination on this matter in accordance with the saying on humility

⁵⁴ What is successful?

⁵⁵ My food is to do the will of my Father.

that occurs for that day. You should prostrate yourself before God and say: "Oh Lord, who am I, and who are you! Likewise: "*Beatus vir qui suffert tentationem*".⁵⁶ Whatever brings suffering to the soul helps us to participate in the interior sufferings of Jesus Christ.

3. That soul, blindly, without reflection, and in all simplicity, should go to the President and say: "If I am not mistaken, it seems to me that such and such a situation exists. Perhaps it is due to inadvertence". This is the rule carried out with charity. Then, he should say to himself: "If I am in control of myself, it is due to your grace. Oh Lord, be my help, do not abandon me, etc."

4. Any opposition to the performance of good work serves to make that work more meritorious. A pilot who controls his ship against opposing winds is more praiseworthy. You understand what I mean. Laziness is conquered by working, just as a sick person who takes food that he does not like etc.

5. As for hearing words that are hurtful, one must say to oneself: "Everything is good for gaining Paradise". With holy indifference, shrug them off and delight in being able to suffer for the love of God and do some good turn to the one who hurled those biting words at you.

I understood everything else that you mentioned. May Jesus bless you, and I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵⁷

[there is no signature]

House in Rimini, May 7, 1828

1741

May 12, 1828

Msgr. Antonio Begni
Bishop of Montefeltro
Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁸

Venerable Monsignor

There were various reasons that impeded me from being in Torricella for the holy Mission. However, three of my companions, with the help of divine grace, will bring about great results for the people there. Indeed, I shall be coming there for the holy Retreat for the clergy of that area. In order that the ordinands there will have eight complete days of preaching, I shall be leaving Rimini on Thursday, the octave of the Ascension so that on the following Friday morning, the Retreat can begin. It will be terminated on the following Friday which precedes the day of the holy ordinations. Now, if you would like to have the ordinands withdrawn for ten

⁵⁶ Blessed is the man who endures temptation.

⁵⁷ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁵⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

days, they can do so two days previous and you can supply, in whatever ways you consider profitable for them and then after that we can proceed as I have just indicated. In this way, both the Mission in Torricella will have its own schedule and the Retreat will not be deferred for too long. So, on Thursday morning, the octave of the Ascension, I shall depart from Rimini in a carriage destined for Verrucchio. There, at the Convent of the religious, you will have provided two good and manageable mounts so that I can get to Penna. I say two mounts because I will have with me someone who usually accompanies me, in accordance with our regulations.

Please help me a lot through your prayers, and, most reverend Monsignor, while kissing your hands, consider me always to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. Del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mondajno May 12, 1828

P. S. I ask you to see that the mounts are there on time for the appointment.

1742

May 14, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

I understand all that you tell me about the objects belonging to our deceased. I am very sorry to hear of the serious sickness of Mr. Pellegrini, for whom, miserable one that I am, I do not fail to pray.⁵⁹

I would like to have a very precise report of the discharge of the accounts, but one adapted to my comprehension. I am returning to you the lists of the Masses so as to maintain the best order possible in having everything there dealing with the deceased. I will take care of the other remaining 40 Masses, and later, I will send you the document on it, together with another paper as a declaration that the matter is concluded.

I understand everything else you mention. I am anxious to hear that the place is available for us.⁶⁰

It was certainly not my intention to sell the painting of St. Xavier, but I intended to have it included in the heading "possessions of the ministry". I am, however, most happy that the House of Benevento has it, and in no way do I want the five ducats; rather, I would be happy if there were an inscription put there, indicating: "that the painting was the property of the

⁵⁹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Pellegrini, Francesco.

⁶⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Benevento (wing of convent).

deceased, etc., donated to the Institute by him who was first deported, later applied also for service in the foreign missions, from whence he was called back because of his health, who died etc." You put it in polished language. Let this be kept on file in Benevento, together with a similar record for the archives.

With regard to the very beautiful picture made from a copper plate, I had only one copy, and this was quickly snatched away from me. I hope that you will not forget to send me a few more copies of it.

Jesus be our love, and I am in the Divine Heart

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini (*per il recapito*) May 14, 1828

Let us give thanks to God for the Community here at Rimini: six young theologians and four Missionaries, in addition to the Brothers etc.

1743

May 18, 1828

Msgr. Antonio Begni
Bishop of Montefeltro
Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶¹

Venerable Monsignor⁶²

Thank you for your recent most appreciated letter. However, you do not have to send the third animal for transporting luggage, since it will not be needed. Our stay will be of short duration so I am bringing with me nothing more than what will be urgently required. I kiss your hands; pray for me a lot, and, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, May 18, 1828

1744

May 20, 1828

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

⁶¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶² This letter is filed in Vol. XI where the letters to Cristaldi are gathered together. However, it is certain that it was addressed to Msgr. Begni (cfr. the letter to the same person, dated May 12, 1828).

Archbishop of Camerino
Camerino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You know what the Datary is offering! Is it really a hopeful provision? It is, at least, a very, very difficult thing, and it would be necessary to be in Rome in person. I wanted to obtain a nonpersonal chaplaincy in one or the other church, and by means of a memorandum to the Holy Father, I would like to get the favor of a patrimony, even if it were only Masses. The cleric Pontoni would add to this his own small income of 100 *scudi* and he could be at ease. I have written to various places. God, who brings things to maturity in time, as De Sales used to say, will provide. You can help by your prayers.

The matters in Pievetorina, at the present time, are reduced to minor concern. I have obtained for you all of the faculties needed for you to sanate and adjust whatever pertains to both the Morelli rental and the moral cases. More than this, we do not have. Nothing else is necessary except the execution of the rescripts, which, as you note well, adds very little worry for you. As far as we are concerned, we are required to do nothing more. Incelli has either already arrived or will do so soon. The Ceccarelli chaplaincies are to be worked out differently. Hence, in this matter, our Institute is not to consider anything more. The issue of the Canons still remains, for in view of the new circumstances, it would seem that we could be spared that. Indeed, with respect to this problem, I have always had recourse to your advice. Later, God himself will send clearer inspirations.

Our Missionaries are ready for the cases. Good work continues to be done and there is a strong desire to do even more. If you should need to provide for the nuns, I have, in Giano, Father Camillo Rossi who is very, very capable in that field. There is also Monsignor Cristaldi who has served in Sabina and has received the most consoling notices. So, in this regard, if you should have need, all you have to do is drop me a line or so. Within a short while, I will be appointing one who, in this line, will permanently be stationed in Pievetorina. As for those to be ordained, they will not be deprived of training in our Mission Houses, and, you can be assured of our assistance in every regard. This can be said, also, with respect to all the rest of our concerns.

Whatever else you may need, just let me know. If, in my passage through, I would be able, at the least, to build a monastery for you as a sign of my affection and eagerness to correspond to your desires, we could work that out together. May Jesus be our love. I hope that you are promoting the month of the Divine Blood in Camerino: "*Pacificans per Sanguinem*".⁶³

I kiss your hands. With esteem, respect and a very special affection, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁶³ Making peace through the blood.

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, May 20, 1828

P. S. I must give you a prospectus of our Institute and I will do that as soon as I get to Pievetorina. Time moves along so fast that we seem always to be lagging behind. On the feast of S. Venanzio, I remembered you and your flock very sincerely.

1745

May 20, 1828

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovanni

Enclosed is the notification that Fr. Camillo sent to me, which I do not quite understand. Sufficient for me will be a line or so in which you say: I am supposed to have this or that much, having, as you see fit, something left over. However, indicate this to me and very quickly I shall send your money to Severini as soon as you write to me.

With regard to the accounts for the Masses, do not say a word to me. You figure that out with Father Camillo with whom I have already settled accounts.

You would do well in preparing for the clergy conferences, which I would like to check again, and also, to complete the preaching materials for Lent. With respect to the talks to the priests, the most useful books to consult are: the book of meditations of St. Bernard *ad Eugenium*; the letters of St. Jerome to Nepoziano; the writings of St. Charles Borromeo; the interpretation of the letters to Titus and Timothy, read especially in Cornelius a Lapide; the books on the priesthood by St. John Chrysostom. Anyone who is unable to get these conveniently should get them through the pastor in Lione. For the noblemen, the conferences should be drawn from the *Incredulo senza scusa* written by Father Segneri, as well as from the *Cristiano instruito*, by Father Segneri, along with one or the other meditation on the manna. For the clergy, you can also make use of the sermons of Segneri *al palazzo apostolico*, using your own good judgment. Likewise, for the noblemen, the homilies of Turchi will provide you with some good ideas.

With regard to the two women seeking spiritual direction, inform them that they should address themselves for this to Merlini or to anyone else of their choosinsg. You are not to get involved at this time. I urge you to look after the affairs of that House and keep me informed. For urgent matters, do so with Merlini. Pray for me and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, May 20, 1828

P. S. Upon reflection, I think that it would be better that you send me the individual notifications concerning the accounts. Merlini's boxes will remain with Santarelli. You write to

him, including the letter to the bishop of Rieti who is making the rounds of his diocese.

1746

May 21, 1828
Fr. Benedetto Rossi
Ripatransone

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁴

Venerable Curate

I was most pleased to receive your letter of the 8th of this month and, in reply, I say to you that within a short while you will be obeyed in everything. I am awaiting from Rome the pertinent printings and at that time I shall give you further instructions on the matter. In the meanwhile, make every effort to promote the devotion of the month of June [...],⁶⁵ as carried out in Offida from where you can obtain [...]⁶⁶ Palmucci, and with Father Giovannelli of Ascoli.

Meanwhile, most venerable Curate, with esteem and respect,⁶⁷
[...]⁶⁸ of Missions and Retreats in Rimini, May 21, 1828⁶⁹

1747

May 21, 1828
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Blood of desus Christ

Very reverend Mother

In reply to your letter, here is what occurs to me to point out to you before I leave for the Retreat to the clergy in Penna Billi. However, you are to continue to send your response here to Rimini. Your attitude of holy indifference in God is good and you should give thanks to the Lord. I am very delighted to learn that you are reading the letters of St. Francis de Sales, but in order to get them you will have to obtain the permission of your superior. The reading of these letters will

⁶⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶⁵ The original so states the certification from the Episcopal Curia of Ripatransone is "quite defective, and hence difficult to read".

⁶⁶ *Idem.*

⁶⁷ *Idem.*

⁶⁸ *Idem.*

⁶⁹ There is a *nota bene* on the copy which says: "The area where the signature is found was removed with a scissors".

be most beneficial to your spirit. I would also like you to read the treatise on the Love of God, little by little, and then note down for me the sentiments that make the greatest impression on your spirit. That is what I have to say about reading these letters. I am referring to those sentiments which effect a very special impression on your soul.

With regard to past confessions, have no further worry, and in this regard, I impose upon you perpetual silence. When called upon to look into oneself, the person who is hurrying along the way is not to give heed to them. So, let that be your conduct with God. You should, rather, make haste in pursuing the path of virtue which must be cleared, and you are not to give in to thoughts that recall your past life. Let obedience to this directive be the mystical staff upon which you lean for support as you strive to govern yourself.

For the time being, I do not want you to say particular prayers with reference to suffering. In general, the will of God, to suffer in peace, to suffer as God wishes, and to say to God: "Oh Lord, do what you will; it is sufficient for me that I be entirely yours". Have no doubt, the Lord will lead you to scale the ladder of the Cross. Later on, after receiving clearer inspirations, more will be said. Rather, you should beseech sound judgment, if it please God, to be prompt in observing every regulation and thus advance and move forward. When making your confession, tell, in general, what is urgent for that confession. Likewise, in a general way, in order to provide matter for absolution, mention some past failings against this or that virtue and let it go at that. I hope that I have made myself clear. Make your examination shortly beforehand and let that be sufficient. After receiving absolution, set aside, as scruples, any thoughts that arise then. Be brief and quick when making your confession; think of the Blood of Jesus Christ, and that will be sufficient. Give no heed to subtleties and fears; even to commit a venial sin, it is required that one recognize it as such, will it, etc., etc.

Let me know what your fasting consists in and what is the status of your health. Go slowly in this sort of thing. I am quite reluctant about matters such as this, and despite my esteem for the advice of others, still I would not depart from the rule set down by de Sales. ... Let only one be your guide. But, then, it might not be done in time: patience; it was enough to have observed the religious rule with perfection; more, later.

I shall offer Mass for you. I am pleased to hear about your receiving communion which, I hope, you will never abandon. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁷⁰

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, May 21, 1828

I do not have time to reread this letter.

⁷⁰ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

May 21, 1828
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I received the 100 sheets of paper for which I give you my thanks. Do not be concerned about my silence.

I also received the Chaplets. Oh how I was pleased with them. One simply cannot describe how much good these booklets produce. In your area there, do not fail to promote this very important devotion, for from it will come peace for the Church. We are drawing closer to that great month.⁷¹

Use *six scudi* for the printing of one or the other certificate, and, if economy permits, it could reach even to seven *scudi*, and with the thirty *paoli*, it would be good to use them to pay for the reminders, a copy of which I am enclosing. It all adds up to 10 *scudi*. You take care of getting this printing done. I urge using three *scudi* for the reminders against blasphemies. As for the additional certificates, you determine half for half. I rely on your assistance and zeal. I am writing to Rome so that you will be reimbursed both with the 7.88 *scudi* to pay for the stationery, along with the ten *scudi* which I have just spoken about. I would appreciate receiving word when you have received that money.

Let me know how much the Chaplets will cost per thousand. By the grace of God, our Institute is progressing very well. We have four young ecclesiastics studying; upon them we are placing great expectation. The foundation in Rimini is also showing quite a bit of good work. Pray for this, and especially for me. Oh how I would love to be in Fabriano! Who knows ...

Stimulate the oratory in Cereto and devotion to Xavier. Do you see how extensive your apostolate has been? How is your health holding up? I would like to have news about that. I hope that God will preserve you for a long, long time.

See that you send a copy of the month of the Divine Blood to a certain Mrs. Emidia Santucci in Matelica. She is the promoter of the public observance of the month, but she does not have a booklet. You may find it in one or the other family and I will be most obliged to you. I do not have the time to reread this letter.

I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, May 21, 1828

1749

May 21, 1828

⁷¹ In another's handwriting and ink, this is added: "of the P. Blood".

Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj
Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Baldassarre

In reply to your letter, I tell you that I have already ordered the painting of Jesus Crucified, with Mary the Sorrowful Mother and St. John. It will turn out to be a bit larger. I have mentioned that it will not be necessary to use either a frame or glass. In the meantime, collect the money, for as soon as it is completed, I will inform you. Pray a lot for me and let us become saints.

Tell the Archpriest of Varco and of Vallecupola that the two patterns for the habits for the S. Xavier group are on order in Rome. I would like to know whether I should send them. Write and give me that information.

With esteem, consider me to be
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, May 21, 1828

Tell the pastor of Porcigliano that when Monsignor Abate arrives, he should speak to him concerning the one to become a nun that he knows about, and give the same message to the priest in Poggio Vittiano, a seminary professor, since there are postulants also in Poggio.

1750

May 26, 1828
Fr. Venanzio Pierangeli
Gagliole

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Vicar

In answer to your letter, I tell you that the head moderator for the Confraternity that has been aggregated is to be selected, for this first time, by the most reverend archbishop. Later, rules can be drawn up and approved by the most reverend archbishop and the members are to observe these regulations even with regard to the election of their leader. But, I do not know whether the Confraternity there will wear the habit or not, or, whether they will adopt the Constitution of the Archconfraternity in Rome. At a later date, I will be able to respond on this matter with other clarifications. But, for now, it is definite that the most reverend archbishop is to make the selection, for this first time.

The formula for admitting members wearing habits is more methodical; without the habit, it is a simpler form. Again, later on, after I receive another letter from you, we will discuss this question further.

Pray a lot for me. Encourage this devotion zealously for you will gain great merit in the

eyes of God. Do not forget the upcoming month of June, consecrated to the mysteries of the Divine Blood. With esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

For the purpose of forwarding: Rimini, May 26, 1828