

St. Gaspar's Letters

1751 - 1800

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1751

May 31, 1828
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

With this most humble letter of mine, I introduce to you Father Pietro Torsani from whom you will learn of a small incident that took place in Monte Cernione. As a result of that, I have found him to be exceedingly depressed and afflicted. Likewise, he is quite aware that this will be the cause of some anguish to his soul. Therefore, I ask you, with your well-founded charity, to restore tranquillity to him, supplying him with those bits of advice which you judge to be most opportune under the circumstances. While kissing your hands, I seize this opportunity also to repeat, with the fullness of esteem, respect and veneration, that I am, most venerable Monsignor,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Maria di Soanne, May 31, 1828

1752

June 3, 1828
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²

Venerable Monsignor

Since the season has not as yet settled down in this area, I am compelled to ask that you do not inconvenience yourself to come here next Sunday. I realize that it would not be for you a slight inconvenience. So, I believe that you should spare yourself this effort even in regard to your holy visitation which, in your zeal, you are anxious to begin within a short time and for

¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

which it is urgent that you be in full strength. Still, if you should decide to come, all you need do is drop me a line and an indication of the approximate time you will be able to be in this locale for the general communion. The archpriest will not fail to prepare whatever will be necessary, realizing also your ability to know how to adapt yourself to the situation. Therefore, in your own good judgment, you make the decision, even though I would suggest that you should not take on this overexertion.

With regard to the nuns in that city, it will be necessary to reschedule the extraordinary visit to when the rounds of the others will occur. With God's help, I hope to take care of this personally. However, at the present time, certain letters are absolutely calling for my presence in Rimini. So, I hope to expedite those matters in such a way that I can be present for the Mission in Santagata around the 24th of this month and soon thereafter to come to Penna for the nuns.

The Mission in Carpegna has already been set for September, and then in October the one in Montebello. There are no other appointments as I notice that your correspondence has not as yet been concluded. I kiss your hands, and in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, most venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

S. Maria di Soanne, June 3, 1828

1753

June 10, 1828

Fr. Francesco Rosati

Villagrande

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear archpriest

I am sending you the certificates for the aggregators. Please check them since I did not have time to reread them and make a correction of any mistake that may have occurred in the familynames of the pastors etc. Have them read the printed matter and tell each pastor to write to me if further clarifications are needed. I am sending the Chaplets for Canon Palmegiano of Pietrarubbia and I am also sending 12 booklets for the oratory to be conducted on feasts of precept as well as on lesser feasts. I am sending 12 of them because one or the other parish is aligned with another. However, if you should need more copies, just write and let me know.

Tell the curates that on Saturday evenings and on the vigils of feastedays they should be on hand to hear confessions in the church for the men alone. Likewise, for the oratory conducted on feastedays, they should, when possible, have a procession with the Crucifix accompanied with singing so that the peasant folk can learn the sacred hymns. Then, they should read from the booklets that I am sending for the oratory conducted for the men, having them repeat aloud the reminders that are contained therein. At any of those functions, they should return reciting the

Rosary. The crosses are adored with procession on May 3rd and September 14th.

As for anything else that may be needed, for the greater glory of God, just write to me. If I have not made myself clear, have them send me their questions. The task is yours to make these details and information known to all the pastors with regard to our mission. For this, you will receive great merit before God. Should you need any other certificates which I may have forgotten, write to me. Let us wear ourselves out in doing good work. I know that all this is an inconvenience for you, and I give you my thanks. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem and respect, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, June 10, 1828

1754

June 11, 1828

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Pietro

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. I am addressing it there since I presume that you have returned from Rome. Conducting Missions has prevented me from writing to you sooner; so, *habe me excusatum*.³

I know about the sickness of our good Liparelli who has now recovered. At any rate, I am hopeful that, substantially, the good work will be done by the nuns there and that God, ever provident, will have supplied for whatever was lacking in the form of extrinsic help.

With regard to Quarcino, I say to you that I cannot arrange for a Retreat until August 2nd. If the nuns and the most reverend bishop cannot wait until then, they will have to find someone else, and, for my own government, you will please let me know if that is the case. However, if they can hold off, then you can count on the 1st day of August until the entire day of the 15th, but nothing beyond that. Whether I will send Liparelli or another capable member, I cannot now decide. It is certain, however, that it will be a capable number. You can be sure of my efforts and the practice for monasteries.

With reference to Father Vittorio, I believe that he should not think at all about returning, and you can be assured that as long as he continues to be in the unimproved condition with regard to his physical being, it would be too heavy a burden. But, in view of the fact that advancement in age, experience, and greater inspirations from God always bring about improvement, I would not find it difficult if he would write to me beseeching my remembrance

³ Hold me excused.

in prayer, and then, I would come to a decision. It is understood that the traveling would be at Father Vittorio's own expense, and, if he is not approved as a confessor, it will be necessary for him to pay for his supplies until he is approved for confessions. Later, we will decide about the House. Please give me the benefit of your thoughts about this for I value them very highly, since I do not like to be faced with natural changeableness.

Willingly will I look into the listing of the books of the deceased Canon del'Uomo. However, I will be able to spend only very, very little since I am weighed down from every angle, or, I could have one or the other friend look into it and in that way, if possible, be helpful. I am presuming that the prices will be reasonable. Willingly will I acquire the writings, but before coming to that decision, I would like to know the prices, as well as to check to see whether the writings are in legible condition. Finally, I would like to pay for them in part with Masses for the deceased and in part with instalment payments, if this could be worked out. Right now, I make no decision. I shall await further clarification from you. Along with your advice as to the merit of these writings that I am referring to. Pray a great deal for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini (for forwarding), June 11, 1828

P. S. Think about the oratory. It is necessary to have a listing of the writings and objectives.

1755

June 12, 1828

Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani

Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Now that I have returned from Penna Billi, I have the opportunity to reply to your very dear letter. As for my stay here in Romagna, I still cannot state the precise amount of time. We shall see what the will of God is. However, I am considering passing through Ancona again to visit with you and renew our spiritual pacts. I do not know whether there is room in the Retreat House, since my stay there will be a short one, and Bartolomeo could see to the provision of food. If there were available some other religious community, I would be happy. Perhaps I might have along with me one of our new boarding students from the Marca or Father Biagio. I do not know. However, on second thought, since we have a good relationship with the Paolotti, I will try to work out something with them. It will depend on the carriage whether I shall stay over night in Ancona or not. Prayers.

With regard to the Retreat for the clergy, so deeply desired by you with a holy spirit, it will be necessary to see whom God will select. As I see it now, it is not for me to determine that,

and prayerfully I can only say: "*Ostende quem elegeris*".⁴

I am sending you a copy of the regulations for the women, the organization of the Daughters of Charity. At the present time, I do not have additional ones. Likewise, I am including a few copies of the petitions for a happy death to be used for the day of retreat. I do not know whether you were referring to these copies or to the little booklet describing the method which was laid out by Monsignor Albertini.

Do not cease praying for and having others do the same. While sending you also the greetings of our Father Biagio, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, June 12, 1828

1756

June 13, 1828

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

Let us, indeed, give thanks to God for the good work. *Omne enim datum optimum desursum, est, etc.*⁵ Let us remain in admiration of his goodness in making use of us, inept instruments, in works that give him so much glory!

The detail with regard to Paduli is truly a moving one. May God, through his grace, increase his blessings of sweetness on the people there; and it is the obligation of the one who conducts the Mission there to pray always for permanence in the fruits of the holy Mission.

My contentment is increased as I learn of the completion of the church of St. Xavier which, may I say, I saw when it was only in a skeletal form. We are hoping that Xavier will set up our foundations in the Kingdom. For any and every project there is need for continuous prayer.

Do not fail to give full consideration to the sheet containing the "*Monita salutaria*"; and, in your morning meditation, let your attention be set on those sayings, selecting for yourself now one, now another. Let your ejaculatory prayer be: "*Fiat cor meum immaculatum in tuis justificationibus, ut non confundar*".⁶ See that your young men are careful and even a bit restive when hearing the confessions of women. Let them be more available for the confession of men

⁴ Show whom you have chosen.

⁵ For every good gift is from above, etc.

⁶ Let my heart be spotless in your judgment that I may not be confounded.

and for older women. The devil is a shrewd one. In matters such as this, there is never sufficient caution. See that they take their turns according to the rule, and on different days, to take care of the elderly people. In writing to our members, I mention to this person one idea, to another a different idea so that we do not overlook the duty of being concerned about each other. Finally, pray for me so that I can prepare myself well for the eternal years. While kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, June 13, 1828

1757

June 14, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I would like to know whether you have received your reimbursement in addition to the ten *scudi* for some printing that I ordered concerning which I must inform you that I need for you to remind me of the quality and the quantity of those printings. I usually remember everything because I jot it down on a piece of paper, but, this time, I forgot to do that. Please let me know the number and also when the printing will be finished. Pray to Jesus for me. Excuse my many and repeated inconveniences. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini (where we have already opened the boarding school for our young men) June 14, 1828

Those large, imperial-sized sheets, it seems to me, would cost two *baiocchi* a sheet. Correct? That is what I thought.

1758

June 14, 1828

Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine in order to advise you that if a small carton comes to you forwarded from Rome in which there is a painting enclosed, you are to

immediately inform Baldassarre Rogaj, the mayor of Vaccareccio, so that he can see that it is picked up. Then, send back both the container and the cloth that is used to wrap the painting. Excuse this inconvenience. Pray for me and, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini (for forwarding), June 14, 1828

1759

June 15, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo

A couple of lines. I have need, here, of a ream of stationery. Let me know what the cost is. In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, June 15, 1828

1760

June 21, 1828

Fr. Venanzio Pierangeli

Gagliole

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Venanzio

With pleasure did I learn of your appointment to the office of Director of the new Confraternity. In virtue of that nomination and of the already accomplished aggregation to the Archconfraternity in Rome, you now can enrol there both men and women so that they can both participate in the holy indulgences that are usually found printed in the booklets of the Chaplet. It would be a good idea to have a clearlyprinted notice made which could be placed near the holy water font at the entrance of the church.

For enrollment, there is nothing more to it than to keep an alphabetical listing in a book, registering the person who is being enrolled: first name family name the day month year, and the time of prayer, during the year, which that person, out of pure devotion, selects. In your place of residence, you are also authorized to enrol outsiders who happen to be there, and, in that case, you should note down their home town and their diocese. In the event of the death of an enrolled person, a cross should be placed before the name in the book.

Now, in order to be enrolled, there is nothing more required by the person involved than

to perform the devotions, if that person wishes to gain the plenary indulgence attached to the enrolment, and to be listed in the book which you, with your canonical faculty, will keep. You should instruct the person that nothing obliges under the pain of sin and that every day they should recite seven Glory be to the Father etc. in order to gain the indulgences, etc. Essentially, nothing else is required. Those people who are enrolled form the complement of the aggregated. From the men who are enrolled, a number should be selected who wish to wear a uniform. Later on, more details will be discussed, as we shall point out.

But, with regard to the uniforms: there are two categories or types. One comes under the title of the Archconfraternity of the Divine Blood and the other under the title of our holy protector who is St. Francis Xavier. The indulgences, however, are always the same for both those of the Divine Blood as well as those of St. Francis Xavier, the protector of the Archconfraternity.

After a choice has been made in this regard, details can later be pointed out with respect to the uniforms, as well as to send you the formula for the blessing, along with the rule which is pertinent. It is quite similar to the one that is found printed for the men's organization of St. Xavier. Once they have the rule, the men who are enrolled, as described above, are to meet.

Pray for me. I inform you that the uniforms for the title are red, whereas those of the protector St. Xavier are black, with a red sash. More later. Be assured that the rule which is proper is the one that has been referred to and which I will obtain for you as soon as I receive your reply to this letter of mine. Recommending that you remember me in your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, June 21, 1828.

1761

June 27, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I received your letter and I am sending you a reply while engaged in the holy Missions. I understand what you tell me concerning the printings. I have written to Rome for the reimbursement for the ream of stationery, but I found myself in a state of uncertainty since I did not know the cost. If there is some discrepancy, all you need do is drop me a line or so. Those imperialsized sheets should, it seems to me, cost two *baiocchi* each. Correct?

With extreme regret, however, did I learn of the status of your health and I wholeheartedly assure you that I am ever so distressed. The affection, the esteem and so many other motives that unite me to you have made me very, very sensitive about the news which you

revealed to me in your recent letter. It seems to me that a change of air might be quite beneficial for you. You should consult the doctors, not omitting any means for recovering your health, since this is a matter of precise obligation. Oh what a place of endless misery and disillusion is this world! My dearest, let us be united more and more to the Cross of Jesus, which is the only book that brings comfort, and, in the Heart of Jesus, let us incessantly have regard for each other. Upon my return, I shall do everything possible to visit with you again. In the meantime, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged sarvant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

June 27, 1828

P. S. Send your answer to "Rimini".

1762

June 29, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter, as I continue working in the ministry. I understand what you tell me and, for my own peace of mind and consolation, I beg you to continue sending me information about yourself, using the reliable address in Rimini.

I really have to write to you about many things, but I will do that at a more opportune moment. Right now, three things are urgent.

The first is that you should not delay too long in sending me the report for the Province of Campagna. The other bookkeeper, when treating the matter of food and other living expenses, was in favor of having the report sent at the beginning of the month; the present one, gives it late in the month. He probably has just reasons. But if you, *ex se*, think it is a good idea to drop him a line, you would be doing me a big favor. In addition to the food, the clothing, the functions in the church, the constructions etc. for which the faithful provide some assistance, there is also the expense of maintaining the House of studies for our young men. At the present time, a House of studies is being set up also in Albano and on August 15th it should be inaugurated to the greater glory of God. This is something that adds more worries for me.

The second thing is that my correspondence is multiplying to such an extent that I can no longer bear the postal costs. Ten *scudi* per month is simply not sufficient. If the ministry is draining me of everything relating to the temporal, I am not responsible for that; for God, everything is but little; I repeat, I am not responsible. But how am I to manage things? At least

⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

the Holy Father might relieve me of the pension to Monsignor Bonanni relative to the only benefice which I have. This would afford me some relief to cover expenses for the reasons which I have just referred to. Could he not have that paid out by the Datary?⁸ Among so many favors, after those received from God, that I have gotten through your kind services, now please add this one. I shall be forever obligated to you. You know that I speak to you with that respectful sincerity which is sufficient to show you the precise urgency of the situation. God will give you his holy inspirations. So, for now, at least a bit of a subsidy to cover postal expenses. Above, I have suggested a way to handle this since you will not always remain in the present office as Treasurer. I trust in God, but it is also necessary not to omit the use of those means which are at the disposal of divine providence.

The third thing is for you to present to the Holy Father the enclosed,⁹ and to obtain the rescript for the preparation of things for the ordination in September. Please excuse all of these inconveniences. But, you are our all. On the first Sunday in July, the feast of the Divine Blood, I shall offer Mass for you. Be kind enough to obtain this help for the one who, with esteem, respect and very special affection, in Jesus Christ crucified, now renews himself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 29, 1828

P. S. Monsignor, send the rescripts or copies of the two surrogates for the deceased Carboneri: Father Raffaele Brandimarte and Father Beniamino Romani. I beg you not to forget this.

1763

June 29, 1828

Pope Leo XII

Most blessed Father

Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, the petitioner and most humble subject of your Holiness, finding himself engaged in the extension of the ministry, heavily burdened with expenses, especially those for printings, books of devotion, chaplets etc., now begs Your Holiness, as a favor, to be pleased to have the Datary Treasury pay the sum of 50 *scudi* annually to the illustrious and most reverend Gaetano Bonanni, the pension which the petitioner must annually satisfy to the aforementioned most worthy bishop, being responsible for the benefice which he has in the diocese of Perugia; that etc.

In behalf of the undersigned petitioner

⁸ Cfr. the following letter.

⁹ Cfr. the letter No. 1764.

1764

June 29, 1828
 Pope Leo XII
 Most blessed Father¹⁰

The cleric, Alessandro Pontoni, most humble petitioner to your Holiness, humbly asks your Holiness to please grant him the favor of being ordained under the poorest title arising from the small share that he awaits from his inheritance, while continuing to live in the Mission and Retreat Houses directed by the Missionaries enrolled in the venerable Archconfraternity of the Divine Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The petitioner gives the assurance that in the event that he should leave that group, he will first procure another sacred position which will be able to provide for his fulfillment of the synodal tax, *ad instar*,¹¹ more or less, as do the Regulars who, upon departing must first provide for some sacred title.

However, the petitioner has been in this Institute for nine years and finds it to be to his satisfaction. He is drawing close to 40 years of age and has still not been able to be ordained because of the lack of a title. If your Holiness should deem it proper to assign to him some annual subsidy for the objective indicated, he, beyond all possible words, will be most appreciative. He implores you to grant this as soon as you can give your approval to what has been explained above; that etc.

In behalf of the cleric, Alessandro Pontoni

1765

June 29, 1828
 Msgr. Belissario Cristaldi
 Rome

From the time of S. Gaetano, the Confraternity of the Divine Blood etc. was promoted in Naples. I recommend to you the enclosed.¹²

¹⁰ The petition does not bear a date but is probably to be considered along with the letter (n. 1765) to Cristaldi of June 29, 1828. In fact, this petition could have been "the third thing" which St. Gaspar recommends to Cristaldi, namely, to make preparations for "the ordination in September". Furthermore, in the letter (n. 1787) written to Msgr. Mattei, August 1, 1828, he asks him to recommend the petition which he had sent in behalf of Pontoni to Cristaldi. Finally, in the letter (n. 1797) to the same person of August 20, 1828, St. Gaspar says that he has sent the petition to Cristaldi in behalf of Pontoni "about a month ago from this area". Consequently, June 29, 1828 appears to be the most likely date for this petition.

¹¹ After the fashion of.

¹² This telegraphic note has no written date, but from the postal marking, one is obtained. It was sent (Rimini) and arrived (July 5). The year is certainly 1828. In all probability it was the outer covering for the letter of June 29, 1828, which has no address. Thus, we give it the same date.

1766

July 1, 1828
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Roma per Benevento
Esteemed Canon

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Please read the enclosed matters.

It is now four years that he has been seeking admittance, and in the humblest way. Where there is humility, there is the Spirit of God. Two reasons move me to accept him; but without your advice, I will not make a decision.

The first reason is that even though in the beginning I used to say: "anyone who leaves cannot reenter", now it is well that you know that I am retracting that position. Realize that this change of attitude on my part is the fruit of prayer. In an Institute with vows such a proposition for the moment would make sense; but, in an organization such as ours, set up for the reform and formation of the Clergy, the situation is quite different. It is possible to have cases that are worthy of consideration. The more I advance in years, the more I recognize human weakness and I see that charity must be extended as far as possible and wherever possible.

The second reason is: after examining Pellegrini's conduct and good behavior, there is nothing more that need be said. His entirely new career was brought on by poverty in his family. Now, he is no longer tied down. Time and experience have extinguished the fire. He is young and can still do a lot of good. Even outside the Institute he has always shown deep respect for our men.

I consulted with Fr. Biagio. He approves his return. Canon Fontana also approves, and I, without prejudice to anyone else, esteem him a lot. Furthermore, I am inclined to say yes because it is a charitable act to put back on the road of his vocation a priest who also had an uncle in our society, greatly loved by all of us. He has faculties from Rome *pro utroque*.¹³

So, let me know if you are in favor of accepting him. At this point, I am the only one who wants to place him in the Missions in the Kingdom, under your direction.¹⁴

Consider me as
Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

Send your reply to: Rimini, July 1, 1828

1767

¹³ For whichever [sex].

¹⁴ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Pellegrini, Francesco.

July 8 , 1828
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁵

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how pleased I was to receive your most appreciated letter. Although I am far away, I always think about you and in my poor prayers I never fail to pray for whatever you may need. When I do not receive a letter from you, I am always fearful that you may not be well. Please, take good care of your health and do not work beyond your strength.

Thank you for your encouragement to the General Bookkeeper to send his report at the beginning of each month. Also, I shall be awaiting the extraordinary grant to cover my very heavy postal coats.

Enclosed is the memorandum dealing with the benefice.¹⁶ I sincerely recommend this to your charity. God sees what my intentions are. I add nothing further.

As soon as you are able to do so, it is necessary that you provide me with the two copies of the rescripts for the 25 *scudi* for Father Rafaslle Brandimarte and the 25 *scudi* for Father Beniamino Romani, both substituted for the deceased Carboneri. This is so that they can act in accordance with the terms set down for the collecting. Please, enclose those copies for me, and, I pray to God that, with all the work that you have to do, you will not forget to do this for me. Likewise, you would be doing me a great favor if you would provide me with the monthly payment due to him for January 1828, in keeping with the charge left to me by the deceased Carboneri, the remainder of the arrearpayments, until others are assigned, so that I can use that for our poor House in Rimini, for which even you, as a favor, thought it a good idea to provide relief in the payment of the tax, and, indeed you promised rather to obtain some help which possibly could now be worked out in conjunction with these same backpayments for the deceased Carboneri.

In reading the final paragraph of your letter, oh! what anguish I felt in learning the sorrowful news of the death of the excellent and holy Canon Cesare Storace! Oh the adorable judgments of God! I have not failed to offer holy Mass for the deceased and I have made efforts to procure many suffrages for him.

For just a bit, let me return to the matter of the benefice. In my petition, I felt that I should be brief. But here are a few details.

1. This is the only provision that I have in compensation for my canonry in S. Marco, though I still hold there only an honorary canonry.

2. Monsignor Bonanni, bishop of Norcia, when he became bishop, likewise retained the

¹⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁶ Cf. *Epistolario*, I, 125.

continuation of the pension from which he has not withdrawn.

3. The benefice was erected in the small, rural church of S. Bartolomeo, also known as Sanguineto, in the diocese of Perugia.

4. If a more detailed memorandum is needed, please ask for it in order to have a greater exactitude. I thought it was a good idea to keep it brief. In my judgment, the reasons explained therein were quite sufficient for the Datary office.

Pray a lot for me, most venerable Monsignor, and, since the postal delivery is just about ready to go out, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini (for safe forwarding) July 8, 1828

1768

July 9, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁷

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is the packet of papers from the most reverend bishop in which you will find motivation for speaking to the Holy Father in regard to endowments. Here, I have already activated a community of 16 individuals. Six Missionaries three in the House three making the rounds of the ministry. A House of studies for our young men in sacred studies, and the brothers in service. You cannot imagine the urgency which exists here in Romagna nor the endless number of requests that keep increasing day after day. I sent you a list of certain, small, open funds for the Reverenda Camera Apostolica. But you who are *in faciem loci*¹⁸ are to act as you judge best for the glory of God. Everyone in our Institute, wherever they may be working to the glory of God with a true ecclesiastical spirit, (and it is a mystery that a Society such as ours, so despised by the devil and so worthless in the words of some people) form the central reason for requests coming from so very, very many bishops. One day, *in splendore*,¹⁹ God will make known both the reasons for this Society as well as the objectives it aims to achieve, and this very thing will constitute its apologia. It will grow among thorns ... this is the sign that it is the work of God.

From what I have been told, I believe that, very soon, it will be necessary to open up

¹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁸ After the fashion of the place.

¹⁹ In splendor.

Terracina again, so completely deprived of every sort of Institute. Let us adore the holy Cross and may it be our *lectulus floridus*,²⁰ spoken of in the Canticle. With esteem and respect, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, July 9, 1828

1769

July 10, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I hope that you have received from Rome the reimbursement of 1.20 *scudi* for the ream of stationery. Excuse me if I inconvenience you to check again the cost of those imperialized sheets. I believe that it could be two *baiocchi* for each one. Likewise, let me know whether the printer has any more Chaplets on hand and whether he would be in a position, at his convenience, to promote the association of the Life of Xavier, by reprinting the one of Fuligno, but with some accidental variations.

From what I learn from my companions, I hope that the coachman will have received what is due to him. In case I am mistaken in this, just drop me a line or so.

Now, why do you not tell me something about the state of your health? You do very well by keeping busy. Be happy in the Lord, doing very quietly his lovable will and gently submitting yourself to it. I am hopeful that God will grant you a long life so that you can gain ever more merit. My beloved, the world is a school of crosses ... everything in it calls us to a union with the supreme and only Good. Let us see each other often in the Divine Heart, and therein let us always be evermore spiritually united in the desire for that everlasting reunion in heaven. Work harder and harder for the good, activating it, encouraging it, defending it, and sustaining it. May the oratory in Cereto be one of your apostolic endeavors. May Jesus fill us with his holy love. In the meantime, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, July 10, 1828

1770

²⁰ Bed of flowers.

July 11, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I am always very cognizant of the confusion with which we are presently faced in these miserable times of ours. God alone can, by extending his arms toward us, bring immediate relief through the merits of the Divine Blood. The report of the General Bookkeeper begins by granting me the amount of 20 *scudi* as a subsidy to cover postal expenses, (this is the fruit of your most industrious charity). And he states the following words: "Not having the authority to respond to the request of your most illustrious person, which was sent to me to obtain a continuation of the payment of 20 *scudi* annually since that amount had been granted circumstantially only for the Jubilee year (these things are all new to me), I remain, etc."

My Monsignor, I know of the anguish that you feel and that is why I have inconvenienced you to put yourself out to get relief through the pension of Monsignor Bonanni, in order to have some help for the immense expenditures related to the ministry. Likewise, in the calculations for Giano I was overwhelmed by another equally heavy correspondence. With every wellfounded reason, I can assert that to handle the unfinished correspondence, it was necessary to dig into some other subsidy that had been received, yes, but not for Giano. Well, however the matter may be progressing presently, let us allow things to run their course. I sent the documents of my request in behalf of Rimini so that the people in charge would realize that I do not write just for the sake of writing. I would like my correspondence to be respectful in appearance and relative to the ministry. I made up my mind that I would rather be a beggar than to ask, when letters of an offensive type might be received. *Propter te mortificamur tota die ... improprium expectavit cor meum, et miseriam...bonum mihi quia humiliasti me.*²¹

One final word about the accounts for Giano where rights have their claim. If the bills cannot be cleared away, why not conclude *judicio prudentis*.²² Of the one thousand five hundred *scudi* for the five years of arrearpayments, let us allow five hundred for expenses up to a thousand that should have come in for the support of that House. Yes, I, too, realize that there is *tempus tacendi, orandi. et satiendi*.²³ Really, it is truly evident *ut jumentum factus sum coram te et ego semper tecum*,²⁴ as the Psalmist observes. These concluding words offer me some consolation. However, infinite are the obligations that I profess to have to you and I will always

²¹ Because of you we mortify ourselves all day. My heart awaited reproach, and misery ... it is good for me that you humiliated me.

²² The judgment of the prudent.

²³ The time to keep quiet, to pray, to suffer.

²⁴ I have become a beast of burden before you, and I am always with you.

say: "*Oblivioni detur dextera mea si obliviscar tui*".²⁵ Let us remain at the foot of the cross as God wishes, and let us pray that his divine mercies will increase upon us. But I do not know whether we will be able to avert another chastisement. I kiss your hands, and with esteem, respect and a very special affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini (for forwarding), July 11, 1828

1771

July 11, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

Here I am sending you a reply to your letter of June 22, and not July, as you wrote.

With regard to the Pious Legacy, I have expressed my opinion. Do not think further about Alessandro. With reference to accepting it, I will adhere to everything that I have offered for your consideration. Then, if you think that we will not be burdened by this legacy in any inconvenient way, settle it with His Excellency.

For, when I am asked, I give an opinion, and I do not see anything offensive in that. Otherwise, it is useless to ask for an opinion in something that has already been decided. Therefore, you can see that I say what I think. Then, I wait to see what you have to say. So, why should we get all excited? I realize that we could spare ourselves certain crosses, and yet continue to carry on a sincere correspondence, but one that is, at the same time, gentler and not quite so turbulent.

From this you argue that it was not necessary to get all worked up about the 300 ducats. Do as you wish, and that finishes it. I will be very happy about that, convinced as I am of my own incapacities. Furthermore, if you would wish to set up a fund, the deposit should be made in our House. This would not alter the last will. But you say that the House cannot do that: well, then, since the testator does not impose any such obligation on us, let us do what we can with it

²⁵ May my right hand be given to oblivion if I forget you.

and follow the consensus of the Congressus, adhering to the rule in all of this.²⁶ Also, in this matter, I do not recognize myself, at least not certainly, the least stubborn. I am simply communicating to you what I think, and in a conditional way for you and all to approve. Indeed, since my trust in you is so very great, I beg you to make the decision, with God's help, now and as long as you are there, doing as you think best. But, for the records, give me a report of what is done and that will be sufficient.

You say: do we not understand each other anymore? Could all this be something permitted by God? Let us do everything with prayer. As for me, I shall adhere to this method: "Pray, explain, communicate ideas; and, in case of doubt, adhere to the decision of the one who is presumed to have those helps of God without which we could only end up with confusion."

In regard to the patrimony for the new applicants, we shall see. God can do all things. The dispensation from the title for a period of three years up to now is applicable to anyone who is already a priest, as you know. Am I responsible for the difficulties? You know how hard the times are. But God disperses the mist in a flash. If, indeed, we may not agree in all of our opinions on matters that do not affect the basic rules, what does that matter? Should we be upset? No. Let us say: ... should I then say no more? Not at all. Let us explain our position, let us pray, and that is how we will make progress. Even when I was in disagreement on accidental things with the first members of our group, I nevertheless accepted the plurality of opinions expressed and I still went forward: no ascetical person could object to such principles of procedure. Ordinarily, *ex me nulla decido*.²⁷ I do recognize and I do repeat that the communication of ideas is very beneficial.

As for Pellegrini, I have written to the Vicar General of Albano who has given me a favorable recommendation and has convinced me that I can be certain of Fr. Pellegrini's very best conduct. I am saving the letter. Up to now, I have not made a decision about him. But, you are not correct in repudiating him indiscriminately. In any case, you would not regret having him with you there. As soon as I decide to accept him, you can be certain that I will not assign him to Benevento, because I look for your peace of mind as well as that of the Institute. In case I do accept him, I shall assign him according to how God inspires me. But, someone else might say he is doing wrong! etc. I reply that, after using all methods of diligence, my way of acting is not precipitous. I am, after all, somewhat older and I move with a greater degree of slowness, rather

²⁶ This is a question of a sum of 300 ducats which the deceased benefactor Sig. Francesco Pellegrini left to the House, "to be distributed in six installments within the space and expiration of six years". The Community Congressus of September 2, 1828 speaks of it and then adds: "finding ourselves engulfed in the expenses of the building projects (of the church and House), it has been decided that we apply the sum of 50 ducats, the first installment which is to be paid by the heir, Sig. Schinosi, next month of October. That money is to be applied to the building expenses, since there has been no opposition to it by the Superior General and it is not in opposition to the intentions of the benefactor himself, who left this alms for the needs of the House".

²⁷ I decide nothing by myself.

than with activity or energy.²⁸

The inscription for the deceased Carboneri has pleased me greatly. I would like a copy of it, on a separate sheet, for Fr. Merlini to place in the General Archives. Three cheers for Canon Betti!

You are to give the Retreat there, as required by the Rule.

Also, supply Fr. Antonio De Matteis of Castelpagano with all of the requisites, agreements and conditions of our directory.

*Ora pro me. Sum tuus ex corde.*²⁹

G. C. d. B.

Also, send the new applicants to Fr. Merlini, according to my other letter, etc.

1772

July 12, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rimini (per il recapito) July 12, 1828

Esteemed Canon

I am returning the folio because you may have need of it. I did not examine the contracts. You decide whether the aforementioned funds will allow for improvements. Having examined the situation, if you think that it should be rejected, please do so, getting together with His Excellency.

Let us now proceed to the matter of spiritual direction, etc. Whatever is properly directed toward achieving the good, should never be hampered; otherwise we would never have any principle to guide us.

1) The more general the desires are at this time, so much more are they in keeping with God's Will. You should not limit yourself by saying: "Lord, if it pleases you, I would love to die"; say rather, *in casu*:³⁰ "Lord, let me live for you; let me die whenever you so will it. I have only one desire: Your Will."

2) I love a humble spirit, yes indeed, but not one that is abject ...; humble, by recognizing that all comes from God; but at the same time, magnanimous with God, by using this ejaculation: "*quare tristis es anima mea? etc.*"³¹

²⁸ Cf. footnote to Letter n. 211, July 1, 1828

²⁹ Pray for me. I am yours from the heart.

³⁰ In the case.

³¹ Why is my soul sad, etc.?

3) The spirit is subdued because it is depressed by an interior hypochondria or melancholy, caused by seeing how everything is in a state of confusion nowadays. But we, O my dearest friend, shall do everything possible, filling out the 24hour day in our Institute by doing whatever we can; remember that God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.³²

4) When the Office and Mass are said with spiritual dryness, with no human satisfaction resulting from them, offer your suffering to God: we shall not always gather roses from our garden, but at times also myrrh: "*messui myrrham*".³³ On one occasion we can offer the gold of burning love, on another occasion the myrrh of special sufferings, accompanied always with the incense of prayer. We must never present ourselves before Jesus with empty hands. At least, let us offer our desire of wanting to love Jesus. Does not the suffering of not loving him arise indeed from the desire of loving him? Come now, let us stand with Jesus, now on Tabor, now in the Garden of Olives. Most of the time, we are on the mount of lovers, that is, Calvary, as De Sales used to refer to it. I want your spirit to be in perfect equilibrium, in such a way that, let me express myself thusly, the exercise of virtue and interior abandonment to God may be effected. "*Iacta curam tuam Domino et ipse te enutriet..., non dabit in aeternum fluctuationem justo ..., dicite justo quoniam bene ... diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum*".³⁴

5) With regard to the description of the Society, I repeat, please go ahead and do it. But, begin with something like this: "After having offered prayer, it seems to me ... I describe it for these particular reasons. I beg God that the Lord communicate to us his holy enlightenment": then, keep calm and pray. In airing your opinions *hinc inde*,³⁵ something which in humans must be done, do not be distressed. Listen, then gently reply: "it seems to me that you have neglected to point out, etc. ..., and I conclude: *quod autem placitum est coram Domino fiat*".³⁶ In what way do I not understand your spirit? ... Read the directives of Msgr. Albertini, and meditate. I asked you to compose a small summary a short time ago. Do not neglect it, at your convenience. Abound in the love of God, and be mindful of this that "*omne gaudium existimate, fratres, cum in varias tentationes incideritis, etc. Nondum usque ad sanguinem restitimus*".³⁷

Now let us turn to temporal matters. The community life in Rimini *est ad modicum et*

³² According to the work, not according to the fruit.

³³ I reaped the myrrh.

³⁴ Cast your cares upon the Lord and he will support you ... He will never allow the just to waver ... rightly tell the just that for those who love God, everything works together for good,

³⁵ From here and there.

³⁶ Therefore whatever is pleasing before the Lord, that will happen.

³⁷ Count it all joy, brothers, when you encounter various trials, etc. We have not yet resisted unto blood.

donec etc.,³⁸ in such a way that if one of the members is not able to surrender his Mass stipends, nobody says a word to him. Charity is the great balance. The rule is not affected that much. Even Silvestri and Rosati who are there would agree to try to get used to that way of doing things, as much as possible. The collections of which St. Paul speaks are wellknown. More can be done by direct contact than *per chartam et atramentum*.³⁹

Finally, Sermoneta has an excellent climate, better than our Convent here at Rimini and Benevento. What are all those rumors and fears all about? In apostolic men and in anyone else who offers himself for the ministry, I look for a noble spirit, not one that is shackled so; otherwise, what kind of Missionaries would we have? Just drop any ideas to the contrary. So, if God should not give one the strength necessary, after all, is it not a fact that the Society is like a mother? I would like to live all the time either in Giano or in Sermoneta. You know what the doctors there told Fr. Vitale. At any rate, in this matter, send the new applicants to Sermoneta so that Merlini will be able to see them and examine them. Then, I assure you that, in line with your views, none of them will remain there and I will assign them to the other Houses of Studies.⁴⁰ Since you know exactly what the room and board is (which I cannot dispense with), as well as the papers and everything else necessary for a student, see to it that the new ones have whatever is required. Try, I repeat, to send them immediately, giving them the usual instructions for making the trip, etc., etc.

Prayers for me who am with all affection in J.C. Crucified and with esteem

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

⁴¹ G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1773

July 12, 1828

³⁸ It is for a short time and until, etc. An elliptical phrase taken from Apoc. 6, 11: "*Et dictum est illis ut requiescerent adhuc tempus modicum, donec compleantur conservi eorum et fratres eorum etc.*" This manner of expression occurs frequently in the letters of the Saint to signify that a situation is only transitory and exceptional, until it will be possible to set things in a very definite order and according to the rules. In Rimini, indeed, one such emergency was taking place, namely, that the Missionaries were invited to surrender freely to the House their Mass stipends.

³⁹ Through paper and ink.

⁴⁰ Even though Sermoneta was in the zone infested with "malaria", the Mission House was located on an elevation, in a healthy climate (cfr. Lett. 270, Nov. 3, 1821). Nevertheless, Betti was not in favor of having the young men, whom he had sent, stay there in that House of Studies. In reality, in October of 1828, "for economical reasons as well as for other just considerations" (perhaps the widespread warnings about the climate) the House of Studies at Sermoneta was transferred to Albano, as Fr. Giovanni Merlini relates (cfr. footnote to Lett. 213, August 18, 1828; see also Lett. 208, August 2, 1828, at the beginning).

⁴¹ Here, the Saint had begun to write the date again, which had already been put at the beginning of the letter; then, realizing that he was about to repeat it, he crossed it out.

Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

With pleasure did I see your handwriting again when I returned from the holy Missions. Let us arrange the Retreat in Guaricino for autumn, thus avoiding the real hot season. A bit sooner or a bit later does not matter, but, by differing it to autumn, I will be able to send our Liparelli. So, work it out with the nuns and the bishop for autumn and then write to me immediately. Let us be in agreement. Should August be preferred, I will not be able to send Liparelli.

I realize that the locality of Albano is not that centrally located; that is why we are moving to the other church in order to set up the oratory. Has it been poorly frequented? Well, *ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati etc nolite timere pusillus grex.*⁴²...God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum.*⁴³ If a single venial sin would be prevented, we can be content. During the course of the year, good work will be done. I know that the times are critical and for that reason it is necessary for us to always encourage each other evermore in the accomplishing of good work.

The most reverend vicar of Albano is a close friend. We maintain correspondence. In August, the House of studies will begin in Albano. In residence there is Canon Gonnelli who went to Rome for a short while. Also in residence there are Mosconi, Moscatelli and Valentini. But, we are still Missionaries. You cannot imagine the number of requests that have come in from everywhere. We cannot keep up with them. Those requests have been more numerous during this present year than they were for the Jubilee year. Believe me. All of our men are heavily burdened and it allows them no rest. However, we are not worthy of this.

I understand what you say about Fr. Vittorio. His behavior is a worry for us. He has received nothing but love from the Society, and God does not have need of his influence for the government or the spread of the Society. I forgive his intentions, but you know very well what writers of moral theology and asceticism say about the discrediting of an Institute. Yes, you can be sure, it is truly an eccentricity. If you think it is a good idea, write to him.

With regard to the writings of the deceased dell'Uomo, let that ride for the time being. Item, with respect to the books, I am not in a position to acquire them except perhaps for one or the other work, only after having discovered the price. If there should be a delay in the payment for them, a discreet delay of course, that can be worked out. I repeat, with regard to the writings, I will get them only with the provision of Masses and under the condition that they are clear and legible. But, for the present time, nothing is definitely concluded.

As for the oratory in that area, make the monthly round of the parishes until it is set up

⁴² Where two or three are gathered, etc., ... do not fear, my little flock.

⁴³ According to the work, not according to the fruit.

and its establishment should be placed under the title of St. Xavier. Blessed will you be if you achieve this good deed. Take it on with sincere purpose and you will see prodigious things happen. If you wish to prepare a petition to Rome, accompanied by a testimonial from the bishop, I will willingly recommend it. We will pray for a successful outcome.

I will send the message to Canon Fontana. Most esteemed Canon, pray for me and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini (for forwarding at the present time) July 12, 1828.

1774

July 12, 1828

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj

Aquila

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I was greatly pleased to see your handwriting again. Here in Romagna the ministry is never at rest. I cannot express to you how my heart, so to speak, is like a ship out on the open sea. Help me with your many prayers. God knows how deeply I love that city so very dear to me because of the outstanding group established there to the Divine Blood. When I was in that vicinity, there was no project underway at that time ... and now ... I am far away. It means that God is reserving this work for some other time. For example, if it is possible to arrange for a clergy Retreat as soon as I can inform you that the time is available, and having allowed sufficient time for the preparations, everything could be set up. Even if it were only for the clergy in that city, that would be sufficient for making the appointment. More about this when we can meet in person.

Actually, I have written all of this only in order to have something to work with as well as to demonstrate my sincere feelings. However, one must wait to see what the will of God is, and in order to accomplish this good work, it is necessary to promise those prayers which the most reverend bishop will offer. He shall have to recognize that I am not making a show of myself, for in that I would have scruples. I have stated all of this explanation only that I will be able to say: "*Patet cor meum*".⁴⁴

I have received word from the bishop of Teramo. Offer prayers that good work can be revived in that city.

As for the hardships encountered while fulfilling the ministry, keep your glance on the

⁴⁴ My heart is open.

crucifix, *et in hoc solatium spiritus*.⁴⁵

With pleasure, also, did I learn of the settlement of the Passionist Fathers in Aquila. The city has made a great acquisition in having them.

With regard to opposition being offered to the doing of good work, we need not dwell on that for any length of time. I simply say that it is the work of the devil who, though he can get around in theaters, cafes, in gatherings, it is only in the church that he can be prohibited, observing prayer at around the *Ave Maria* hour. The bishops must, with apostolic freedom, speak with the religiousminded sovereign; speak to him in person; enter into discussion with him and have him acknowledge that through the oratories for men peace in the Kingdom could be restored, freed from mutinous laziness, bad habits, rumors and everything else of that sort. That most worthy bishop should also write *fuso calamo*,⁴⁶ and, by weathering those impetuous storms, we will come to see the port clearly. We must not stop. *Insta opportune, importune*.⁴⁷ May Jesus be our love and, in his Divine Heart, I remain, with complete affection and esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(for forwarding) House in Rimini, July 12, 1828

P. S. a little work on St. Joseph is about to be printed. You, who bear his name, could you find some helpers?

1775

July 12, 1828

Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj

Mayor of Vaccareccia

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

In reply to your letter, I say to you that I shall willingly occupy myself in getting the relic of St. Francis Xavier. When you receive it, you should have the Vicar General, to whom you may give my greetings, affix the *exponatur*.⁴⁸ The most reverend Vicar might well appoint the curate to use the relic to prepare the holy water of St. Xavier. Whenever any prodigious occurrence takes place, it is necessary to document that in accordance with the rules, since we keep a record of those things. With respect to the relic of St. John, we shall see.

⁴⁵ And let this be a consolation for you.

⁴⁶ With a free flowing pen.

⁴⁷ Stand firm in good and in bad times..

⁴⁸Let it set fourth.

When you have the opportunity, seek out the lady in Varco who is the president of the congregation of women and ask her whether she has received the image of most holy Mary along with a letter from me. I shall be awaiting the letter from the archpriest of Varco.

Your painting is already in Poggio Mirteto in the hands of Canon Savj. Do not concern yourself about the reliquaries for the relics which I will send. This will be no trouble at all. I am enclosing the painter's receipt. See that you have the reimbursement sent to Rome, Via Morgana, n. 3, second Floor, addressed to Mr. Vincenzo Severini to whom I have already sent word. Via Morgana is near the Capitol, across from the Muti building.

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

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(for forwarding) House in Rimini, July 12, 1828

P. S. Encourage everywhere the doing of good work and the pious organizations.

1776

July 12, 1828

Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

A case containing a painting has probably arrived there already, and I have informed Mr. Baldassarre Rogaj of Vaccareccia that he see that someone should come there to get it. Please excuse the many inconveniences that I cause you. You cannot imagine how much work occupies us here in the ministry. Prayers, so that the Lord will give me strength.

Zealously keep insisting in behalf of the pious organizations. Pray for me, and have others do so too. With greetings to the archpriest and anyone else who remembers me, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, July 12, 1828

1777

July 15, 1828

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. I begin by saying that in reference to spiritual direction you are to listen to the voice of only one guide. As for everything else, you can take that as a general encouragement to establish yourself better in the practice of virtue, and continue advancing, etc. The excellent Capuchin Father has repeated a principle that is very clear: "Anyone who does not adhere strongly to humility is in great danger". However, one does not lose the doing of a good work without realizing it.

Furthermore, God sees that the soul yearns for perfection and the doing of good. So, do not be discouraged; the advice that has been received is nothing more than a confirmation of the vigilance that must be exercised in guarding the practice of humility. So be very, very much at ease. Interior peace comes from God, have not doubt about it. God, indeed, wishes us to have it: "*Pax multa diligentibus legem tuam*".⁴⁹ It is quite true that this virtue has various degrees, but, all in all, its basis lies in the divine grace in our hearts. Thus, we keep on advancing in perfection, but with gentleness and with trust. God is a God of peace: "*Princeps pacis*".⁵⁰ Hence, seek your place of refuge in the divine Heart, the haven of tranquility. Within that furnace of saintly love, become evermore inflamed with love for God.

I treasure very highly the lesson given by De Sales, in particular in *Teotimo* or the treatise on *The Love of God*, as well as in the letters that the saint wrote to nuns. His gentleness is completely adaptable to our hearts, for through the avenue of holy love for God, we become united to God himself .

With respect to your fasts, adhere to those laid down by the Church, and by your rule, and let that be sufficient, at least for the time being. Never take on, by your own choice, any other without doing so with the merit of obedience. Offer to God your desire to fast and with that offer the sacrifice of your desire. In one of my letters to you, I wrote: "that one must listen to one's interior guide". I now explain better just what that statement means, namely, that one must not omit communicating whatever God inspires, nor should the soul ever have to make a decision when there is need for counsel. It is not easy to do this through a letter, but God will generously supply his enlightenment. We will discuss this further when God wills, and we will do everything by relying completely on his most lovable will.

Think no more of the expression uttered by the Capuchin Father, for that is to be understood in a proper manner with regard to the soul. In obedience, do not be further occupied with that. Keep moving forward, for God is with you.

Life in community will be enlivened in the Novitiate where more is available. The professed nuns will be closely united and within a short time, everything will be accomplished; your attitude in this regard is very, very good.

Your love for the Mass and the Office of the Divine Blood is something that comes from

⁴⁹ Long lasting peace to those who love your law.

⁵⁰ Prince of peace.

God and according to God, and I would be ever so content that, before dying, I would have such consolation. Yes, let us offer prayers for that! That very word: "divine Blood" defeats Lucifer who, because of that, is scornful of us who promote its glories. This year, in Rome, in the monastery of the Ursulines, the nuns observed the month of the Divine Blood. Let us offer prayers, because it is upon this devotion that peace in our times depends. Encourage it in every way that you can. I would even like to see perpetual adoration.

I would be pleased to have more information about what you wrote concerning the deceased Manassi. One more thing, if you have any knowledge of it: who has taken over the convents of Terracina and Sonnino?⁵¹

Pray for me, and, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, consider me to be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁵²

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(for forwarding) House in Rimini, July 15, 1528

P. S. From the moment when the bishop, the most reverend Frezzi was made bishop, whom I esteem and love in Jesus Christ, I got word of the difficulties, etc. He had me informed that he had nothing to do with it. Once brigandry had been quieted down and I was occupied in setting up and activating our Houses of study, I was informed to set aside any thought about Terracina and Sonnino, and from that very moment when Monsignor Frezza became bishop, we have found ourselves faced with this critical situation. However, all for the glory of God.

It would be necessary to find 12 churches which, each one taking a month in turn, would observe the month of the Divine Blood. For example, Maenza would have such and such a month, etc. Pray to God for the pious organizations etc.

1778

July 16, 1828

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

May thanks be given to God that you are mindful of me, a wretched one; I could never be doubtful of that since I am fully convinced of your charity.

I am consoled to learn of the good work done there for our great month which was certainly deserving of a rousing sermon. I would be ever so fortunate if, before my death, I would once again be able to promote our devotion there. Prayers.

⁵¹ At this point, St. Gaspar placed a small cross, indicating a reference to the first paragraph of the postscript.

⁵² Being his lowest servant in Christ.

Father Marcellino⁵³ has been beneficed in Albano, and, though he is a very good priest, he is not endowed with the gifts for our Institute. I will see that he gets the message you entrusted to me.

Blessed are you and Father Giovannelli, who has not written to me for quite some time, that you have withdrawn into the mystical wine cellar to become inebriated with the mystical wine of divine love. You will both be remembered by me who continues to repeat: "*Ego sum vir videns paupertatem meam*". *Aemulor, sed Dei aemulatione*.⁵⁴

I would like you and Father Giovannelli to try to initiate perpetual adoration of the Divine Blood by finding in the various localities there 12 churches that, by taking turns, would observe each month in honor of the Divine Blood, at least by using the little booklet. For example, Offida could take June; then, it would be necessary to fill out the year with one taking January, another February etc.

Ora pro me, et ego pro te semper orabo. Sum tuus ex corde in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.⁵⁵

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini for forwarding, July 16, 1828

P. S. A small work is being printed in honor of St. Joseph. Would you have anyone there who would like to help? Would you have a nice Missionary's cross available and on sale? But, how much would it cost? Send a reply quickly; then, I will decide.

1779

July 18, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor

I am inconveniencing you with this letter of mine in order to suggest to you a thought that I have concerning the matters pertinent to the House in Albano with relationship to the Lateran Chapter. I would say that a wellthoughtout petition should be prepared for the Holy Father, requesting thereby the two chaplaincies which the very reverend Chapter assigns to S. Paolo in

⁵³ Fr. Marcellino Brnadimarte

⁵⁴ I am a man seeing my poverty. I emulate, but with the emulation of God.

⁵⁵ Pray for me, and I always pray for you. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

⁵⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Albano. In addition, for the sake of conciliation and peace of mind with regard to the matter at hand, a right to the section of the locale and few benefits that the monks of S. Alessio in Albano have had, in case they are needed, while the Chapter adheres to what was in abeyance for us. That part of the local is adjacent to ours, and it would be very helpful to me for expanding the area for our House of studies as well as the place for Retreats. It would be of the greatest utility to us. What do you say to this? Am I to send the petition to you, assuming the circumstance that the Holy Father will recognize the reasonableness of our claim and that the rescript should be issued to you? You make the decision, and then please send me your reply promptly by mail.

Also, please read my previous letters so that you do not overlook anything which you could do to help me, so that I do not become importunately repetitive in the things that I have submitted to you. In particular, I refer to the copy of the rescripts For the two substitutes for the deceased Carbonari, etc., etc., etc. Consult my letter, if you have still kept it. The requests here in Romagna are, shall I say endless, nor can I, at the present time, even set a fixed time for approaching them. I kiss your hands and, with esteem and respect, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini for forwarding, July 18, 1828

P. S. The Mission in S. Leo will begin on August 2nd. Say a prayer etc.

P. S. I hear that the Holy Father may wish to reunite a few monastic congregations. Remember the occasion when we had S. Clmente and afterwards, the precise assurance of the present Pope for a place which would be roomier, keeping in mind the proposal for a House of studies along with the other projects undertaken by our Society. These could also be separated in case there would be a lack of space. In the meantime, provisionally and *donec etc.*,⁵⁷ we might, perhaps, be given the hospice which was occupied by the Cistercian monks and now by the Reverenda Camera Apostolica. (For the House of studies, perhaps S. Alessio, once it is vacated etc.)

With regard to regulations, I pray to God that the sheet which I wrote some time ago, as you recall etc., will be placed in the hands of the Holy Father.

1780

July 18, 1828
ProVicar General
Rimini

A respectful memorandum for the most illustrious

⁵⁷ Until, etc.

and reverend Monsignor ProVicar General of Rimini⁵⁸

Canon Gaspare del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, humbly points out that, in carrying out the duties of his office, and after having examined the conditions set down by the Archpriest Father Gaetano Forli and the deceased Missionary, Canon Father Gaetano Bertoni, relative to the church of S. Chiara, he finds them lacking a canonical basis. The purpose that both of them had is a laudable one, a holy intention, and an effort was made to execute it. However, to close one's eyes to the nullity of the act would be nothing less than failing to adhere to the precise duties of conscience. The deceased Canon Bartoni was not capable, *ex se*,⁵⁹ of sanctioning something that was a matter pertinent to the Institute, which, after having studied the conditions proposed, would have drawn up for its representative a proper letter of proxy.

Furthermore, the Institute would never have agreed to any conditions which involved parochial bonds. For the same reason it did not accept the handling of the foundation of S. Maria del Piano. Consequently, it is now to rectify this situation in such a way that the necessary Archpriest Frioli would freely grant the church of S. Chiara to the Institute, relieving it of every obligation of maintenance, and with the agreement that, when the Missionaries leave this locale which they are presently occupying, the church will return in full to the pastor. And since the Institute is not unaware of its just sentiments of gratitude to anyone who has cooperated in the good work, bringing glory to the Lord, just as it has occurred under the direction of the archpriest, it, therefore expresses its most deeply felt acknowledgment, that will always be preserved, of the outstanding Father Gaetano, Archpriest, Frioli, as one of the founders of our Society in Rimini. During the month of June each year, even in the future, the Missionaries will come to preach in the church of S. Agnese the month dedicated to the Divine Blood, their most august title, as an indication of their religious affection for the present pastor, as well as for his successors; that etc.

1781

July 19, 1828

Count Giorgio Golfarelli

Forlimpopoli

Hail to the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

⁵⁸ This protest, which is preserved in the General Archives only in a rough form, belongs to June/July 1828. In fact, in the minutes of the July 18, 1828 congressus of the House in Rimini, n. 14, there is this written report: "The very reverend Father Gaspare Canon del Bufalo, Director General of the Institute, has announced that he has registered a protest to the Curia, as the representative of the entire Institute, with regard to the nullity of the papers, drawn up in the meeting between the pastor of S. Agnese and Canon Bertoni. The report of the chapter is retained in the archives along with a copy of the aforementioned protest".

⁵⁹ Of itself.

With pleasure did I receive a letter from you and I thank you ever so much for your efforts in promoting good work. The very reverend Monsignor Vicar Abaziale has stopped off here and he spoke of the collection which the Company of the most holy Sacrament there is about to take up. I am hopeful that this matter will be concluded soon. The collection of money for deposit should be directed, indeed, by you. I will be most obligated to you for that, just as was done during the past Mission there. For the Missions, you will handle the living expenses in keeping with our regulations, the measure of usage of wax, which the Vicar mentioned, to be used for the benedictions of the most blessed Sacrament; the arrival and departure of the Missionaries whom I will send there to help out with the Mission, as well as for the devotions that will be held. If there is anything left over, it will belong to our Institute. In regard to all these items, the Director of the Mission will keep in touch with you in every way, and you will please do everything you can to be of assistance to him with your customary zeal.

The cocoa drink will not be needed, since we do not use it. The Missionaries will provide the coffee and sugar here in Rimini. More details in person after the entrance. You will see that food is prepared for the first evening and after that anything further will be determined, as you know. There will be three Missionaries coming and, may it be to the glory of God, they are truly the best. You can take that for sure. They will be bringing with them a brother in service who will also do some cooking, if necessary. I shall abstain from being there since my voice has been heard there too much. It is a good idea to have a change. Still, I will have the pleasure of seeing you again whenever I can get there, if it pleases God, on my way through the area to conduct the Retreat for the clergy of Faenza.

Hoping that I am not wearing out my welcome, at that time I shall ask for your hospitality for one night. Should it ever be necessary, I could even give a sermon or so, reviving the fruits of the holy Missions. I shall give all the pertinent instructions to my companions. I repeat, in regard to the food, please stick to what you know, as you have done on previous occasions. I shall instruct the Director of the Mission there as to what will be needed. I will assist wholeheartedly with my humble prayers. With the fullness of esteem and respect, ready at your service, I am

*Per Vostra S. Obbl.mo*⁶⁰

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, July 19, 1828

1782

July 20, 1828

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

⁶⁰ Evidently the original letter written by St. Gaspar was not accurately read. Very probably, he wrote: *S. U. D. Ob. S. = Suo umilissimo Devotissimo Obbligatissimo Servo.*

Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignor

The bearer of this most humble letter of mine will inform your most worthy person of the real impossibility of my being there in that city for the appointment to the nuns. Under the present circumstances, I was expected to substitute for the Mission in St. Leo, but I was not able to do that. I am also writing to the Mother Superior there to be patient, assuring her of the help of my poor prayers, as I am certain of the abundant reciprocation which I will receive from the nuns, as well as the kindness that I will receive in a special way from you, most reverend excellency. With the fullness of esteem, respect and a very special affection, I have the honor to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, July 20, 1828

1783

July 20, 1828

Alessandro Gambetti

Mercatino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶²

Most illustrious sir

I inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine to ask you to provide hospitality for one of my companions who will be passing through there. Trusting in your kindness, I have felt bold enough to make this request of you. While extending to you my sincerest gratitude, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, July 20, 1828

1784

July 24, 1828

Fr. Benedetto Rossi

Ripatransone

⁶¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶³

Venerable Curate

To my greatest consolation, I have learned of the good work done there for the month of the Divine Blood. Praise be to the Lord.

In order to erect the confraternity of the Divine Blood, here is what must be done. You are to select an altar that is free in your church; next, make out a petition to your bishop and request the canonical erection of the confraternity of the Divine Blood. The bishop is then to prepare the rescript *pro gratia*.⁶⁴ Once that rescript is obtained, while using a secure occasion, you are to submit that rescript to Rome to the most illustrious and reverend Monsignor Gregorio Muccioli, the president of the Archconfraternity in Rome, and ask him for aggregation to the Archconfraternity. However, you must also include in this procedure, a letter of proxy bearing the seal of the chancery, which the chancellor should grant *gratis*. This letter of proxy will authorize the abovementioned Monsignor Muccioli to select a priest of his choice in Rome to handle, in the name of the new confraternity there, those matters that are necessary as well as to see that all the usual canonical regulations are observed.

The expense to cover the certification which will be sent there, as well as other small charges that may occur, once the aggregation is completed, is six *scudi*, to be paid just once. That amount is to be remitted to the abovenamed prelate, to whom you might write in my name, and for the purpose of forwarding my mail, the letter could be addressed to the church of S. Nicola in Carcere Tulliano, near the square named Montanara. In setting things up this way, you can be relieved of the duty of sending the list of enrollees to Rome; you maintain an archive. As for anything else that must be done to complete this good work, we can discuss later.

In the meantime, do what I have explained above. The confraternity uses a distinguishing cloak or uniform, but with regard to these things, we can talk about that after the canonical aggregation has taken place. However, if you should prefer to omit the use of the uniform, then it would be necessary to seek the title as a pious union; the method of procedure, as I have just described it, is always the same *in omibus*⁶⁵ with the sole exception of the title as pious union instead of confraternity. It is a much better idea, however, to set it up as a decorous confraternity.

There is also another good work that is now to be promoted and that is the perpetual adoration of the Divine Blood. You would select 12 churches in your area there that would observe each month, by consecrating it to the mysteries of the most Precious Blood, for example, one church would select January, another February etc. This could also be done in a private way by selecting 12 or more different individuals and dividing the months of the year that they would observe. In this way, besides the distribution of the times for prayer, this would also be a very

⁶³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶⁴ As a favor.

⁶⁵ In all things.

effective method of prayer for the very, very urgent needs of holy Mother Church. Monsignor Strambi has already brought to light a printed work that can be used for this very important devotion. I believe that it could be bought in Fermo or in Ascoli. Otherwise, just drop me a line and I will see that you get a copy. Nevertheless, you continue always to practice the month of June, just as it is observed by the Archconfraternity in Rome and in our Mission and Retreat Houses.

I am sending a certificate to the priest in Grottammare. You, however, are to instruct him *in omnibus*.⁶⁶ Also, I shall enclose for you a copy of the Chaplet; in order not to burden you with postal costs, I point out that you could also get one from Father Giovannelli in Ascoli.

I remind you that in order to effect the canonical erection there, it is necessary that already a certain number of enrollees have to be had, accepted by one who has been granted the ecclesiastical faculties for this purpose. As for the duties to be observed and the good works to be done, these things we will have time to discuss later.

Pray for me to Jesus, in whose most sacred Heart, with esteem and respect I remain as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, July 24, 1828

1785

July 24, 1828

Doctor Bajocco

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Doctor

With this most humble letter of mine, I am requesting that you please do the favor to this Mission House of supplying a barrel of wine of 12 some, for which, from month to month, I shall make payments in accordance with the means that God, the Father of providence, will give. Indeed, you can be certain of my efforts. The containers in which the abovementioned 12 *some* are to be kept have already been procured. Be assured that you will receive great merit in the eyes of God if you do us this good deed. Indicate to me the total cost so that I will know the debt that I am assuming. From this very moment, I assure you that I shall not object to whatever you determine precisely. Most revered Doctor, pray to the Lord for me, and, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, July 24, 1828

⁶⁶ In all things.

1786

July 31, 1828
 Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I say to you that at the present time the crucifix, about which I wrote to you, is no longer needed. The Lord has made other provisions.

I give thanks to God for the concern that you nourish in promoting the glories of the Divine Blood and I hope that abundant blessings will be your reward.

Our Father Amici is putting the final touches on the little work on St. Joseph to be printed after having gathered together a good number of supporters, the printing will be undertaken. This great saint is the special protector of our death. People are interested in this devotion.

With pleasure did I learn that Brandimarte has concluded with you the matters that were pending. I am even more consoled to learn that he is the Prior of that community, another field which God is opening up for him to exercise virtues even more, and in particular, to be in God courageous.

I am leaving for the Mission in S. Leo. Pray for me, and have others do so too. If necessary, write to me, addressing it here in Rimini. Most esteemed Giovanni Francesco, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, July 31, 1828

1787

August 1, 1828
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Rome

Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo⁶⁷

Venerable Monsignor

Since you are presently in Rome, I ask you to recommend to the most worthy Monsignor Treasurer a petition which I have submitted to him in behalf of the cleric, Alessandro Pontoni from Pievefavera. In it I requested that, since he was not capable of having any other patrimonial title, he might be ordained with the one hundred *scudi* from his own funds and that furthermore it

⁶⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his Blood.

should be sufficient for him to live in our Mission Houses in which, for many years now, he has been residing to his complete satisfaction. In case he should choose to depart, *quod absit*,⁶⁸ he would then try to find a supplement for the title, *ad instar*⁶⁹ the Regulars. All this is expressed in the petition which I hope the Lord will bless.

Upon your return, I hope to execute the two rescripts, that is, the one dealing with the Morelli contract, the other dealing with the moral cases to be treated in accordance with the plan for future lessons in November, if this meets with your approval. In your fervent prayers, do not forget me, a miserable wretch. If I may be so bold, I would like to know just when you will be returning so that we can work things out in good order and that I might have once again the pleasure of seeing you. Please urge your most worthy brother to support whatever petition is made to the *Buon Governo* pertaining to any of our Houses, in particular, the one in Pievetorina. *Gratia Dei nobiscum*.⁷⁰ While kissing your hands, with esteem and respect, I remain in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House in Rimini, August 1, 1828

P. S. Upon my return, I shall try to arrange the usual shift of Retreats for the clergy in our Mission House, just as in years gone by.

1788

August 1, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

Enclosed is a notification concerning the one hundred Masses celebrated *a tempo debito*. I was awaiting another notification from one other Mission House where I know for certain that they were celebrated. As soon as I receive that, I will send it on to you and then we can come to an understanding on the alms for the 100 which I have already distributed among my companions. Furthermore, I would say that if you should be able to send me another good number of them, I would be most obliged, indicating, of course, the time for their celebration.

Tomorrow, I am leaving for the Mission in S. Leo. Send your answer to Rimini. Pray for me, and have others do so too. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be, with all my affection and esteem

⁶⁸ May it be absent.

⁶⁹ After the fashion of.

⁷⁰ The grace of God be with us.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, August 1, 1828

1789

August 2, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

All three of the young men of the House of Studies will be in Albano, as also will the brother tailor. Student De Cillis is assigned to Pievevitorina. Merlini is supposed to write to him; and you will learn from him just which means and what cooperation will be needed.

I have just read your letter. I am so sorry to hear of the damage to our church,⁷¹ Would it not be well to set up the men's Oratory in the chapel and the contiguous area on the first floor?

From what I hear, I believe that Mr. Galasso has not paid the room and board for his son. You will probably talk to him about it. at any rate, tell him that he can go and pick him up, if he does not pay on demand.

I am writing on this occasion with a shortage of time. Pray Jesus for me and have others do so, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rimini, August 2, 1828⁷²

With regard to Mr. Galasso's building, you do whatever you feel is within our jurisdiction.

1790

August 4, 1828

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

⁷¹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Benevento (earthquake damage).

⁷² According to the postal markings, this letter sent from Rimini passed through Naples on August 2. The year, which the postal marking does not make readable, can only be 1828, since only in that year did the Saint spend August in Romagna, acting as the head of the House in Rimini. In the *Libro Congr. Benev.* of July and September 1828, it mentions, furthermore, De Cillis and Galasso, both named in this letter.

Please see that the enclosed material is mailed to Naples.

With regard to the Subdeacon, your observations are most correct and I see in them the inspiration of the Lord. You will note that perhaps after he is ordained Deacon, he will continue his career there. At any rate, I hold to everything that I have said about Giano, and that he is to make exact payment for his room and board with anticipated installments, as well as fulfilling everything just as the resident students do, etc. You will send him, together with your letter, to Fr. Camillo Rossi who has already been informed by me, etc., always with the previous consent of the Curia and the archbishop there, letting them know the purpose which motivates us to help the Clergy; even more so since there is question here of someone who in the process is innocent. *Nemo enim praesumitur malus, nisi probetur.*⁷³

With regard to the others sent with the blessing of your thaumaturgic and protective hands, I have already instructed Fr. Merlini. Thaumaturgic, because they have worked and do achieve great things in every place. *Manum suam misit ad fortia ... protective, in sensu explicando,*⁷⁴ in so far as they keep placing souls *in asilo pacis. Manus tuae ergo tornatiles* (we apply in due form) *plaenae hyacintis.*⁷⁵

You have done very well in writing to the Treasurer concerning the certification of survival, letting him understand that a Missionary is like a shocktrooper: "*sicut sagittae in manu potentis ita filii excussorum*".⁷⁶ If need be, state the matter again to him in another letter, for he will not take it amiss.

Are you working on the History? Are you checking everything contained in recent Circulars? And who could be doubtful of that? Are you activating all of the associations with your thaumaturgic hands?

*Ora pro me.*⁷⁷ I am leaving Saturday for the Mission at St. Leo. Pray for me. I am taking the great Fontana with me, a truly great man, as well as De Victoriis. Send your reply here to Rimini, where a person cannot at all speak either of Neapolitan or Beneventan resident students, because of their connection with the Kingdom. A Betti would be a Moses. Others, no.

Let us abide in the pleasant inn of peace, the Heart of Jesus, where you will remember to implore for me a true love of Jesus: *ego enim sum vir videns paupertatem meam.*⁷⁸ You will give the Retreat there that is required by the rule.

⁷³ For no one is presumed bad unless proved so.

⁷⁴ He put his hand to the strong points ... in explaining the sense.

⁷⁵ In the gadfly of peace. Your beautifully wrought hands, there, (we apply in due form) are full of flowers.

⁷⁶ As arrows in the hand of a strong man are the sons of the oppressed.

⁷⁷ Pray for me.

⁷⁸ I am a man seeing my poverty.

As far as other matters are concerned, deal with Merlini who is presently handling the entire Institute, for which I thank God, inasmuch as this ship is old and is approaching the port.⁷⁹ Pray, *ut cani sint sensus mei*.⁸⁰

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rimini, August 4, 1828⁸¹

1791

August 17, 1828

Msgr. Antonio Begni
Bishop of Montefeltro
Pennatilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine*⁸²

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter pertinent to the matter of Father Giovanni Vicini, I have the pleasure of informing you that a document of settlement has been drawn up, for which we can never cease giving thanks to God.

The feast of the Assumption in S. Marino in the church of the nuns and the young men for our House of studies having arrived, have delayed the retreat to be given in the monastery there. Another consideration has given me relief concerning this, namely, that this delay, perhaps, might afford you the opportunity to be present for the clergy Retreat. In this regard, I would appreciate a word from you so that I might know whether I am to limit myself only to taking care of the nuns. In that event, it would be proper to send them word to set aside, at least in a general way, a time that would fit in with my other appointments, which you know about. At times, I simply cannot manage to do all the things that I would like to do. Still, God has no need of my wretchedness, and those appointments can be handled equally as well by others in the Institute, after having, of course, your previous approval. Finally, in St. Leo, they urged me to ask you to anticipate a bit, and on account, the 270 *scudi* to Leonardo Giommi. With this money, he would like to be helpful in accomplishing a good work for a friend of his who is urgently in need of Giommi's assistance. I have no doubt at all that, if this is at all possible, your most reverend

⁷⁹ In the original manuscript, because of a tear, a piece of the letter containing the letters from this word is missing, namely, the letters in parenthesis. Nevertheless, the word is easily reconstructed.

⁸⁰ In order that my senses may be gray.

⁸¹ According to the postal stampings, this letter, sent from Rimini, passed through Naples on August 4, 1828, then to Benevento. It was, therefore, written during the last days of July: on Saturday of that same week, August 2nd precisely, the Saint was supposed to leave for the Mission at St. Leo, as he states in this letter.

⁸² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

excellency will be favorable to this request. At any rate, the Lord will be pleased with our good intentions.

I would like to add one other thing, if I may, be so bold as to do so. However, let this be strictly for the record and a simple matter of an exchange of ideas. This is a situation that must be subjected to the illumination that comes through prayer. The archpriest of S. Leo (safeguarding the merit of the case concerning which nothing is to be said) in returning to S. Leo, will he be effective in achieving good work? In my own wretched judgment, I would advise him to seek some other opportunity. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto.*⁸³ Please extend my warm greetings to the archdeacon, and, while asking you for many prayers, with the deepest obeisance, I have the honor of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini, August 17, 1828

1792

August 17, 1828

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Luigi

Enclosed is the report of the 100 Masses. Please send the offerings to Father Giovanni Merlini, whom I have already notified. If you have other Masses, please do me the favor of sending them to me, addressing your letter to me here in Rimini. I shall be most obliged to you. Pray a lot for me and, in Jesus Christ crucified, consider me to be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rimini, August 17⁸⁴

P.S. The Society here is showing a very special development.

1793

August 18, 1828

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

⁸³ I submit to those who are wiser.

⁸⁴ The year is 1828, as is evident from a note that Fuschi himself placed at the bottom of the letter: "August 26, 1828; 100 Masses requested for the current year, to be celebrated *ubique [wherever]*."

Roma per Benevento⁸⁵

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

My very dear Fr. Domenico

With pleasure I have seen your handwriting once again. In reply to your last letter, I point out that you must not attribute to harshness what I said in regard to some compositions by the deceased Carboneri, just because the decision that I made, as soon as I found out about his death, happens to be opposed to your desires.⁸⁶

With respect to the vow, of which you spoke to me, its renewal redounds to the highest glory of God. You will be able to renew it *ad mentem*⁸⁷ of the person whom God has given to you as a guide. Surely, it is the work of the devil for anyone to say: "so, I will go home". Let us pray to God for ourselves and for all. At present I see that things are in a certain stage of tranquility. Crosses will never be lacking since this is our inheritance from our Divine Master. But *omne gaudium existimate, fratres, etc. etc.*⁸⁸ The Society is God's. God is protecting it and will protect it. A great text for meditation is this one: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".⁸⁹

I wrote to you once of a certain compendium of the life of a saint. I do not know whether you remember it or not.

Pray for me who am a most miserable creature. In a hurry, because the mail is leaving. Consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, August 18, 1828

⁸⁵ On the outside page of the original, above the address, we read a note written by Fr. Silvestri which says: "Renewal of the vow of remaining in the Institute, made to St. Francis Xavier". The Saint speaks of this in the second paragraph of this letter.

It is well to point out that, although the temptation to leave the Institute was always seething within Silvestri especially now that, on the one hand, he found the Society being opposed even in high circles (for which the Saint's critical reply in that same paragraph) and on the other hand, that he was considering the attractive prospect of his being named pastor in Campoli, his home town (cfr. Lett. n. 212 of March 5, 1828) nevertheless his resistance was just as ardent and resolute, so much so, that he wished to arm himself, with the guidance of the Saint, against those spiritual barriers which his own conscience was looking upon as insurmountable.

⁸⁶ With regard to the compositions of the Missionary, Fr. Gaspare Carboneri, who had died in Benevento on January 30, 1828, the Saint, the executor of the last will, had determined that they should all be sent to him in Rome, either because that was the desire of the deceased or because Gaspar wanted to have them preserved in the General Archives. It was a matter of sermons and the like. Perhaps Fr. Silvestri would have liked to have kept one or the other for himself, but the Saint had opposed it, in keeping with previous arrangements.

⁸⁷ In mind.

⁸⁸ Count it all joy, brothers, etc.

⁸⁹ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

1794

August 18, 1828
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Roma per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Canon

Having just returned from the Mission at St. Leo, I am sending a reply to several of your letters. I shall take them in the order that you wrote them.

1) The first one, that of July 30, informs me in detail of the new applicants that you have sent. I wish them all the very best because they are the fruit of a good root.⁹⁰ Up to now, no standard form has been followed in the investiture of our young men. I would like to know what method you follow. With reference to their patrimony, I hope, as Fr. Merlini will be soon writing to you, that something can be worked out that they be ordained *titulo instituti*.⁹¹ However, if they do have something now, please check it out so that what they do have will be considered their patrimony in the Papal States. That will be a big help for the young men since then they will be able to count on something. With regard to the buckles, I very much like those made of steel, but *adhuc modicum*.⁹²

For now, I have restricted myself to recommending moderation in this matter. You may say that I should set the example. I answer that my policy is to take time in thinking over the situation thoroughly before introducing something new. So, I shall think more about it. As long as you keep suggesting such a thing, I approve heartily. I need another kind of buckle, one of gold, that will unite my heart gently to God. In external things, I prefer gravity and simplicity, for I do not like to have others think that I have a certain perfection which I actually do not possess. You know that I stress external appearance and in this I am different from many others. What I mean is that when I have worn out the ones that I have, I will change to others *quasi aliud agens*.⁹³ However, you should not cease suggesting and recommending this matter. In general, I still have a few matters to think over, but, I repeat, *adhuc modicum*.⁹⁴

2) I have learned about the casing for the Crucifix, etc., as well as the repairs on our church there.

⁹⁰ This refers to the new resident students. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Albano (House of Studies).

⁹¹ Under the title of the Institute.

⁹² Till now not much.

⁹³ As if doing something else.

⁹⁴ For now a little bit.

3) With regard to the Subdeacons, you manage things as you see best. It is understood that they will be ours. Before sending them, I beg you to write to me about it.

4) You have done very well in informing the Most Rev. Treasurer concerning the sending of the new applicants. The Society belongs to God. He will protect it. Let us often say: "*Perfice eam quam plantavit dextera tua*".⁹⁵ I approve your customary style in writing to the Monsignor.

5) I thank God for the good work that is being done there in the Oratory; news of this kind is of the greatest consolation to me.

6) Have no fears, Fr. Pietro Pellegrini will not be coming there. I have already given you my word on that. The Vicar of Albano has provided us with a most ample testimony. I have told you that he will reenter on probation. We who are the image of God must abound in kindness. Pray, therefore, to God that I am always aware of my own nothingness because, even though I may give the impression of being severe, I have a heart that melts like wax, so to speak. It has now been months and months that I have been sticking to my refusal to accept Fr. Pietro; but then, the letters that he has written to me, his pleas, etc., etc. have overcome me.

7) In your letter of the 6th of the current month, I learn the details concerning the good work there, which we shall never cease recommending to God *a quo bona cuncta procedunt*,⁹⁶ trusting always in your ability to better things, and in particular, for activating the association of the apostles.

8) Have you not begun the History as yet? It is a sign that God may not want it. Needed are the reports from the Missions, supplied by our own men; there is paper, inkstand and pen for writing; and interviews.

9) I do not favor your not going out for any reason on the Missions. In my opinion, it would be helpful to your health to go out at least for a brief trek. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*.⁹⁷

10) That Fr. Vitale, or anyone else, should write, what can I say?

11) Canon Fontana,⁹⁸ here in Rimini, has the idea that the principle good work of the Institute is due to him, with due respect to all others. That is how it is. *Cum simplicibus sermocinatio mea*.⁹⁹ A neighboring bishop sent for him and asked him to visit a sick man who, without knowing him and only having heard about him, wanted to see him. He preaches, goes on Missions and in Catechetical Instructions and other similar activities, he succeeds in winning over a considerable number. His devotion to Mary, Most Holy, raises him to the sky, so to speak.

⁹⁵ Bring to completion what your right hand planted.

⁹⁶ From whom all good things proceed.

⁹⁷ I submit to those who are wiser.

⁹⁸ Cf. Additional Biographical Data:

⁹⁹ With the simple ones my discussion.

12) I learn from another one of your letters of the 8th of the current month that the last effects of the deceased Carboneri will soon be in Rome and that the watch and money will be sent later. For my own records, please inform me of that since I must put the money into an annuity in Rome, with a little supplement. You will, therefore, select a safe method of doing this, without letting anybody else know about our affairs. But then, you do not have to be given such warnings. I still have the list and the letter collection. I do not know what to say about Gonnelli. Prayers.

13) I notice that you have sent me holy cards of Jesus Christ under the winepress, and I thank you, particularly, for them. What examples for us to govern ourselves while under the mystic winepress of suffering here on this earth!¹⁰⁰

14) Have I forgotten anything? It seems not. Pray for me a lot; and in J.C. Crucified I am and will constantly be with all affection and esteem.

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House at Rimini, August 18, 1828

1795

August 19, 1828

Father Vicar of the Paolotti Fathers

Rimini

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰¹

Venerable Father Vicar¹⁰²

Here are two packages of Monsignor Marchetti's books. Each package contains six copies, so ... in all there are 12 copies. For the first one hundred I am directed to ask for four paoli per copy. In case you do not find a way of selling (as a favor) one of the packages, then please send it to Canon Ottaviani in Ancona whom you will instruct either in person or by writing him a couple of lines, without my having to inconvenience him with further letters of mine. You would be doing me a great favor by sending me a reply on this matter and *a tempore opportuno*.¹⁰³

Pray for me and with esteem and respect, while wishing you a very pleasant trip, I

¹⁰⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia:

¹⁰¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹⁰² This letter was delivered by hand and, therefore, very probably addressed to Rimini to the Father Vicar of the Paolotti Fathers who was to be going to Ancona. (cfr. the letter to Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani, dated June 12, 1828.

¹⁰³ At an opportune time.

remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House, August 19, 1828

1796

August 20, 1828

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

After having returned from the Mission in S. Leo, I was ever so delighted to see your handwriting again.

I have written to Rome for your reimbursement and I am hopeful that it has been quickly remitted to you. I am greatly consoled to learn that your health is improving. I wish you many long years of life with your loved ones and an increase of merits for a most blessed eternity.

Here, I am in the process of setting up the House of studies for our young men and it is going to be one of the finest communities. Pray, however, since the works of God are the fruit of groanings and sufferings. A House of studies is also being activated in Pievetorina. You know what a need there is for good training. *Ora pro me, ego pro te semper orabo. Sum tuus ex corde, in Corde Jesus Christi crucifixi.*¹⁰⁴

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Rimini, August 20, 1828

1797

August 20, 1828

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁵

Venerable Monsignor

Not too long ago, I wrote a letter to your most reverend excellency. I now add this letter

¹⁰⁴ Pray for me, I always pray for you. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

¹⁰⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

with the purpose of informing you that, a month ago from this location, I contacted the most reverend Treasurer in behalf of Alessandro Pontoni, who has been with us now for quite some time. I suggested to the aforementioned most worthy prelate that it should be possible to grant apostolic consent and authorization to you for the allotment fund of 100 *scudi* which are available, along with the *titolo Instituti*.¹⁰⁶ And, if one day he should like to leave us (something that will probably not occur) he would then procure another title *ad instar*¹⁰⁷ the Regulars. Now, because of a letter from Monsignor Cristaldi, I note that it is urgent for you to have a meeting with him in order to set down a testimonial in the terms that he will indicate, or, to put it in better terms, for you both to work together.

So, if the petition has somehow been lost, it will be quickly renewed at any word from you. If I may be permitted to ask, is what they write to me from Pievetorina true, namely, that you are being changed to another see? I would regret that with all my heart. Indeed, God's judgments are for us inscrutable. I believe, however, that this is an empty rumor. If this is, indeed, the fact, then please conclude the matters pertaining to Pievetorina and leave us with a complete feeling of contentment for your kindnesses. Here, to the glory of God, our Society is showing a beautiful development. Prayers. Let us renew our spiritual pacts in the sacred Divine Heart. It is therein that I remain, while kissing your hands, with esteem, respect and affectionate attachment

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Rimini, August 20, 1828

1798

August 20, 1828

Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁸

Dearest Antonio

Oh how delighted I was to see your handwriting again. I thank you wholeheartedly for the singular goodness that you show to me. I can assure you that I have never forgotten you, especially in my poor prayers. I am writing this letter from Rimini, where I am activating a new foundation which offers me the truest joy. If you have the opportunity, please extend my respects to Gagliardi in Castelforte. Let us all be united in the sacred Heart of Jesus and let us become

¹⁰⁶ Under the title of the Institute.

¹⁰⁷ After the fashion of.

¹⁰⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

saints. The present life is nothing more than a preparation for the years of eternity. May Jesus be the love of our hearts, and, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Rimini., August 20, 1828

1799

September 3, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁰⁹

Venerable Monsignor

It seems to me that, in behalf of the enclosed, you could in some way be influential to bring relief to the petitioners. I kiss your hands; pray to Jesus for me, and, with esteem, respect and a very special affection, most reverend excellency, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rimini, September 3, 1828

1800

September 3, 1828

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

I beg you please to take care of the enclosed matters. I am writing also to the Archbishop of Camerino that he should contact you, most reverend excellency, to work out the papers for the cleric Pontoni so that he might be advanced to the subdiaconate. I have already submitted the petition. This man has no other funds than 100 *scudi*; for the remainder, it will be sufficient for him to live in our Houses where he actually has been for quite some time. If he should leave, *quod absit*,¹¹⁰ then *ad instar*¹¹¹ the Regulars, he would first make the proper arrangements etc.; but, I repeat, he will probably die within our Institute etc.

The letters from Pallotta are for Canon Muccioli, to whom I send my heartfelt regards

¹⁰⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

¹¹⁰ May it be absent.

¹¹¹ After the fashion of.

etc.¹¹²

¹¹² This letter has no date but we obtain it from the postal markings with the departure (Rimini) and the arrival in Rome (September 5). The year is 1828. We assign it to September 3, 1828 since it is obviously contemporaneous with the preceding letter to Cristaldi and the following one to Mattei.