

St. Gaspar's Letters

201 - 250

Letter Number	Date	Page
201.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>1 March 1819</i>	210
202.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>2 March 1819</i>	210
203.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>10 March 1819</i>	210
204.	Fr. Angelo Antonini, <i>10 March 1819</i>	211
205.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>13 March 1819</i>	211
206.	Fr. Antonio Pascucci, <i>23 March 1819</i>	212
207.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>24 March 1819</i>	212
208.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>17 April 1819</i>	212
209.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>17 April 1819</i>	212
210.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>22 June 1819</i>	213
211.	Msgr. Nicola Mattei, <i>20 July 1819</i>	213
212.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>21 July 1819</i>	214
213.	Fr. Antonio Muccioli, <i>22 July 1819</i>	215
214.	Mr. Giuseppe Amici, <i>22 July 1819</i>	215
215.	Fr. Giuseppe Petrosi, <i>6 August 1819</i>	216
216.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>6 August 1819</i>	216
217.	Fr. Benedetto Corbucci, <i>8 August 1819</i>	217
218.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>12 August 1819</i>	217
219.	Fr. Benedetto Corbucci, <i>28 August 1819</i>	218
220.	Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli, <i>29 August 1819</i>	218
221.	Fr. Antonio Muccioli, <i>September 1819</i>	219
222.	Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>23 September 1819</i>	220
223.	Fr. Luigi Santinelli, <i>26 September 1819</i>	220
224.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>11 October 1819</i>	221
225.	Msgr. Nicola Mattei, <i>14 October 1819</i>	221
226.	Fr. Luigi Cocci, <i>18 October 1819</i>	222
227.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>21 October 1819</i>	222
228.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>23 October 1819</i>	223
229.	Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>24 October 1819</i>	224
230.	Fr. Francesco Galli, <i>27 October 1819</i>	224
231.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>30 October 1819</i>	225
232.	Fr. Anacleto Giliucci, <i>1 November 1819</i>	226
233.	Fr. Luigi Cocci, <i>3 November 1819</i>	227

234. Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>30 November 1819</i>	227
235. Fr. Biagio Valentini, <i>November 1819</i>	228
236. Arciprete Marani, <i>1 December 1819</i>	228
237. Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>7 December 1819</i>	229
238. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>7 December 1819</i>	229
239. Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>10 December 1819</i>	230
240. Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>15 December 1819</i>	231
241. Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>15 December 1819</i>	232
242. Fr. Luigi Locatelli, <i>17 December 1819</i>	232
243. Mr. Camillo Possenti, <i>18 December 1819</i>	233
244. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>21 December 1819</i>	233
245. Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli, <i>22 December 1819</i>	234
246. Fr. Luigi Achille, <i>22 December 1819</i>	235
247. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>26 December 1819</i>	236
248. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi <i>1819</i>	236
249. Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, <i>December 1819</i>	236
250. Fr. Francesco Galli, <i>5 January 1820</i>	237

201

March 1, 1819
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome
 Venerable Monsignor

I paid a visit to Canon Albertini in regard to the matter that you know about. To facilitate the matter, I did not think it necessary to tell him that I had to give a reply to you, but, in general, I only said on your behalf that the Holy Father was considering him for Terracina. His remarks were all imbued with the feelings of humility that he nourishes. I am purposely making this known to you. I add, furthermore, that I have given him the information that at any moment the notification might be sent to him. I pointed out to him the great good that he will be able to accomplish and I did not fail to add that in Cardinal Mattei he would find support in meeting the expenses and, if necessary, to cover the costs for the dinner. This is all that I can report now. So, full of esteem and gratitude, I again have the pleasure of renewing myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

March 1, 1819

202

March 2, 1819
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome
 Venerable Monsignor

I believe it will be to your satisfaction that I inform you that this morning, despite all my occupations, I visited Canon Albertini again, so as to confirm in his mind the proper response to the divine will and to assure him that His Holiness, in making this selection, will be particularly consoled since it is one of the best that anyone could make. I rejoice because I see in this a reward and an exaltation of virtue in a man for whom any praise whatsoever could be said to be too little. I know him *funditus*¹ and how outstanding he is. In him there is a rare, scarcely ever seen wisdom, a very special holiness and a maturity of judgment in his actions. In all of this, you too will gain special merits, for it will contribute notably to the greater glory of God a topic that I, as a matter of fact, discussed with the Canon this morning. I am with distinct esteem

Your humble and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, March 2, 1819

¹ Entirely.

203

March 10, 1819
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Venerable Camillo

Enclosed is the original document for the favor obtained. However, tell Mantini that it should be kept on file until the petition is filed away according to the regulations with a rescript issued in the usual form. This will be done soon. In the meantime, I will pay the necessary stipends which, in time, I will indicate to you but it will not be much. I do not cease insisting on the matter pertaining to the Sacconi. Prayers for me. With full esteem and affection, I am

Your humble and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 10, 1819

204

March 10, 1819
Fr. Angelo Antonini
Collamato
Venerable Father

Your most edifying letters always fill me with consolation, and you can never realize how very dear you are to me. I ascertain what your desires are, but many times God does not immediately grant their fulfillment the delay being due to the exalted purposes of his Divine Providence. So, with humility let us adore his divine good pleasure and when you have made known your wishes to your superior, what more is there to do? Prayers, and consider this important problem in the presence of the Wounds of Jesus Christ from which flowed the balm of our eternal salvation.

In the meanwhile, continue with ardent zeal the cultivation of the vineyard entrusted to you. May God bless your good intentions. I, a miserable thing, will not be forgetful of you, and you are to pray a lot for my soul so that the Lord will extend to me his special mercies that are the fruit of prayer. Have others also pray for me, and full of esteem and respect, Father, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 10, 1819

P. S. I spoke to the young man sent to me, but I saw that at present his vocation is not to the ecclesiastical state. He will serve God in other ways.

205

March 13, 1819
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano
 Dear Camillo

I have just paid the twenty *paoli* of expenses to the Secretariat of the Consulta so that with this same maildelivery the petition will be returned according to the regulations to Macerata. In a hurry, this is all that I have to say for now. Asking for your prayers, with esteem, I am

Your humble servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 13, 1819

206

March 23, 1819
 Fr. Antonio Pascucci²
 Very dear Father Antonio

After you have first obtained permission of your bishop, I would like to have you immediately here in Rome. Ask for me at S. Marco and they will tell you where I am living. You will stay with me for a few days and you will sleep in a hospice of which I am the superior. I shall also reimburse you for your travel expenses. Bring along with you whatever may be necessary for the Missions, so that you have everything with you. Try to work things out for yourself. Then, you will see Rome, and afterwards we shall depart together for the Missions. In case you are unable to come, write to me immediately with the next maildelivery. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 23, 1819

207

March 24, 1819
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano
 Dear Camillo

In secret, for several reasons which I will tell you about in person, my first Mission will be in Pievetorina. Be courageous in doing good works and always pray for me. I shall leave

² There is no place of destination indicated.

Rome on Monday *in Albis*.³ With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

More about the regulations for the S. Xavier group when we see each other in person.

Rome, March 24, 1819

208

April 17, 1819

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dear Canon

I am not able to take care of your request. Momentarily I shall be leaving for the Archdiocese of Camerino. Offer prayers for me. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, April 17, 1819

209

April 17, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo

Do not be doubtful about the Sacconi matter. I have left it wellrecommended with the very reverend Auditor. In person, we shall discuss it in Camerino at your leisure. First, I shall be traveling through the archdiocese. Prayers for me. With esteem, Camillo, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, April 17, 1819

210

June 22, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dear Camillo

If it were not that your many trips make you hard to contact quite an inconvenience for me I would really like to see you. I would like very much to convey to you information of some importance. At any rate, write to me so that we can work things out. Ask Fr. Butera to come here

³ In white. [Monday *in Albis* = Monday of Easter week.]

to hear confessions since we are swamped with penitents. With particular esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Camerino, June 22, 1819

211

July 20, 1819

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Venerable Monsignor

In complete secrecy, I am informing you that Canon Conforti has written to me that he would like to take up work in Rome. I would like to know what you have to say to me about this and what the possibilities are. With regard to the young priest that you mentioned to me, we shall try to pull some strings that will bring about the projected goal. I would appreciate getting news of your people in Comacchio. It is likewise a good thing that you should be informed that in Calderola there are some individuals who are opposed to the recitation of the rosary after the Psalms, which serves also to indicate the need for some pep talks etc. It is God who provides the good. Who will have the courage to oppose it? You should write to the Vicar telling him that you would like to have the names of those who stand in the way of the good by spreading fatuous opinions. Out of thoughtlessness they may have done so in the past, but let them be careful about the future. In these matters, it is necessary, as you point out, to keep one's eyes on the final end. And, what could that end or outcome be? The robbing from the most holy Mary of a precious good.

Monsignor, pray for me. I am totally at your disposal and ready to carry out your every wish, as I remain

Your humble servant and loving friend

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

S. Felice in Giano, July 20, 1819

212

July 21, 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Before leaving this place of blessed solitude where actually a very active life is being verified to the glory of God, I am sending this letter in which I reconfirm my sentiments of esteem and gratitude that I have maintained unshakeably for you. During these days here I have accomplished whatever good work I could do along with my companions who have come here for work in Romagna. Retreats to the clergy were conducted and some came also from the

diocese of Todi. The people enjoyed a Mission that turned out to be of great utility. In all this, may God be blessed *cui honor et gloria*.⁴ Oh how lovable is our God! For the feast of the Nativity, a retreat for the men will be given and I will send one of my companions from the Marca who is prepared for this work.

I have also been occupied with temporal matters, writing to Spoleto and to Fr. Bonanni; but, when we get together we shall speak more about this topic. Our society is from God; I have no doubts about its successful progress. In the meanwhile, it is necessary that in August we obtain for the Retreat House in this locale, truly needful of so many things, at least thirty *scudi*. In this regard, if necessary, we could get Gonnelli to work on it with his talents. At every opportunity that arises, we must keep in view the arrearpayments to be made by the schools. If the deputies were to assign even just a few *scudi* to our account, this problem could be handled systematically.

Fr. Martino has asked me to give you his regards and to ask you about the following matter. There is a poor man, sick now for about a year with a general sort of rheumatism, brought on because of his job as a fisherman, with frequent dousings endured at night as well as from having slept often out in the open. This fellow would like to be admitted into a hospital in Rome, as the doctors here have suggested to him. I do not know if this is achievable or not. He adds that he would look after the travel expenses with the help of some benefactors. If you would be so kind as to have a response given to the aforementioned priest, with the help of Girolama, you would be doing a marvellous act of charity.

Your recent letter of the 17th of this month is simply another attestation of the goodness that you always show toward me, advising me to excuse myself from the Mission in Comacchio. God knows how much I value your words and how sensitive I am to every utterance of yours. But, I would be endless in words if I were to go into all the reasons that I have that God wants me to make this trip with the other fervent priests who are the source of edification to me with their virtuous lives. It has been some fifty years since they have not heard the voice of a Missionary in Comacchio. The Missions alone that are to be given in the Marche, based on the requests of Cardinal Testaferrata, would have kept me occupied for the entire summer, but, the bishop has written to me that if this particular time in August is not taken for a Mission in Comacchio, because of the fishing season, there will be no other opportunity for that ministry. So, let us, in this instance, decide: "*si mortiferum quid biberint, non eis nocebit.*"⁵ Prayers. I will look for your handwriting again in Comacchio. I would ask you only to tell the Holy Father that he should bless our holy ministry. I never fail to pray for you and have others do so, and to repeat always to the glory of God, because of your deep concern for souls: "*Dominus retribuat in*

⁴ To whom be honor and glory.

⁵ If they drink something deadly, it will not harm them.

benedictionibus dulcedinis."⁶ With the fullness of esteem and respect, I am
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Beagna, where I am staying over in order to be in Foligno this evening.
 July 21, 1819

213

July 22, 1819
 Fr. Antonio Muccioli
 Rome
 My dearest in Jesus Christ

I received your letter on the last day of my stay in Giano, and yet, even if I wanted to, I would not have had the time to write. For your peace of mind I tell you also on behalf of Msgr. Lucchesi⁷ that God wants you in the apostolate of Rome, and especially for the young people who need untiring and fundamental training.⁸ May God fill you with his blessings. Pray for me since on this very day I am leaving for Comacchio, where I hope to see your writing again. My attachment to your person is most special. Goodbye. Goodbye. May Jesus and Mary be with us; and I am

Your loving friend
G. C. del Bufalo
 Fuligno, July 22, 1819

214

July 22, 1819
 Mr. Giuseppe Amici
 Calderola
 Esteemed Giuseppe

As a small return for the Life of Baldinucci, which I have enjoyed very much, you will be

⁶ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

⁷ Msgr. Lucchesi, Bishop of Foligno, native of Rome, a mutual friend of both the Saint and Muccioli.

⁸ F. Amoroso in the book *San Vincenzo Pallotti romano* (Rome, 1962), informs us that Canon Muccioli in 1820 purchased a beautiful garden in Vicolo delle Mantellate (in Lungara) and constructed there a chapel capable of holding around two hundred children. He initiated an Association which he entitled Maria SS. Assunta in Cielo. The purpose of the institution was to become a permanent center of religious life for young people and children who had made a Retreat and First Communion at Ponterotto. On holy days of obligation, in the morning, there was the Mass and an instruction; in the afternoon, up to the Angelus time, they played in the garden. Then, each month there was an awarding of prizes to the best ones. Later on, Muccioli, while still remaining close to his young people, entrusted the spiritual care of the project to the tireless S. Vincenzo Pallotti.

receiving a little package containing various devotions and holy cards which I hope you will enjoy wholeheartedly and will use for your benefit as well as mine. I am quite consoled by the news that you share with me concerning the progress of the pious groups established there. However, in regard to the helpers that you mentioned to me for the St. Francis Xavier group, I think that they are not needed. But, in order to handle the situation that you refer to, you could arrange to have all the members of the Oratory, who wish to do so, make the uniforms themselves, but see to it that the control of the group remains with the twelve already selected. Pray a great deal for me, and with full esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant⁹

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Fuligno, July 22, 1819

215

August 6, 1819

Fr. Sigismondo Petrosi

Canonica

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Curate

I recognize clearly the will of God for me to conduct your Mission, which I promise to do despite the many commitments that I have. Not even I know how I came to such a quick decision upon the urgent insistence of Fr. Luigi. You will see to making the required preparations with the Vicar Capitular and also obtain for us the blessing and all the faculties that are worthy of mention, for our stay in the diocese. I am hopeful that our entry can take place on August 23rd. But, in this regard, I will have more to say in my next letter, so that we can be fully agreed on each particular item. I take advantage of this occasion to assure you that from this moment on, I am ready to do your every wish.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Comacchio, August 6, 1819

Inform the Vicar Capitular that when I pass through Rimino, I myself will make known the arrangements that are needed.

216

August 6, 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

⁹ In this letter, only these words and the signature are in the Saint's handwriting.

The most reverend bishop of Macerata has sent me the enclosed paper for which I ask you to please have your secretary send a response. The faculty that he is requesting is to bless crucifixes made in the form of rings, which, it seems to me, was something already taken care of while we were in Cammerino, unless there was perhaps a mistake on the part of the person who copied the paper that the aforementioned bishop had prepared for me. If I were not completely certain of your particular zeal in promoting the glory of the Lord, I would not have dared to ask you to handle the request of the enclosed paper. At any rate, you will always obtain merit for having cooperated with the requests as best you could. I pray that God will always pour out upon you his sweetest blessings. Assuring you of the excellent health of all of us, I remain, with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Comacchio, August 6, 1819

P. S. On the feast of St. Lawrence here, the papal blessing will be given. Later, in order to get around the diocese a bit, I shall make one or the other short trip to certain key points and in that way the most holy Name of God will be given glory. Requests for Missions are like the snowflakes of wintertime. May Jesus and Mary be with us.

217

August 8, 1819

Fr. Benedetto Corbucci

S. Giovanni in Marignano

Venerable Archpriest

One of your most appreciated letters has been forwarded to me from Rome, and in today's maildelivery I received still another from you, to which I am sending a reply shortly before mounting the pulpit. I also take advantage of the fact that Mr. Mancini is on his way back to Rimini. I have already advised Fr. Luigi Geri that we would discuss matters upon my return. In regard to the Mission, I would like you to know that my true wish is to satisfy your most holy intentions. But, how can that be done with so many commitments on hand? And, with the arrival of the new man just before your notice from the rectory?

The word that I have given is firm. I know that God wants this good work there, but, to be perfectly frank, I myself do not know how I can work out a few days for that appointment. However, if my correspondence from Rome should give me the possibility of a little time for other appointments, I will show favor for yours. At the present time, nevertheless, I can give you nothing precisely. Pray for me and share my greetings with Archpriest Quagliati. With full esteem, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Comacchio, August 8, 1819¹⁰

218

August 12, 1819
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano
Dear Camillo

Thank you for your recent letter, and I always bless God for the work that you are doing to set up a legacy for Missions. May the confraternity in Cerreto be close to your heart. Tell the pastor that I have already spoken to Archbishop Mattei that he will be able to have Fr. Giorgetti as Lenten preacher next year. I have already sent the notice of this. May Jesus and Mary be with us. Pray a lot for me. Who knows, perhaps, on my return we can work out another little Mission. I shall check to see whether it will be possible for me. With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Comacchio, August 12, 1819

219

August 28, 1819
Fr. Benedetto Corbucci
S. Giovanni in Marignano
Dear Archpriest

I have delayed one day in sending you a precise date for the holy Mission, because I received your most esteemed letter here only just now. The urgent requests from Savignano have been such that in a letter to the Marca, I have set aside eight days for Savignano.

The opening for your Mission will be on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, in the morning, *summo mane*.¹¹ Therefore, see that someone comes to get us in Rimino and look after our baggage. I shall also spend eight days with you and God knows how I would like to spend many more. Pray for me who, with distinction, am

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

La Canonica, August 28, 1819¹²

P. S. Have many prayers offered.

¹⁰ In the copy, the date given is 1829, but that is evidently a mistake made by a copyist.

¹¹ Very early in the morning.

¹² In the copy, the date given is 1829, but evidently that is an error made by a copyist.

220

August 29, 1819
Fr. Adriano Tarulli
Matelica
Venerable Canon

In the recent postal delivery here, I received one of your most esteemed letters. Let this be the explanation to you for my delay in sending you a reply with regard to what you wrote to me, as you surely were expecting.

Keeping in mind the distances and the uncertainty of the times, I do not want my spirit to be distressed for having impeded you from some particular good work that will be set up methodically and with regularity. If you had not had difficulties at that time, according to the circumstances, we would have been able to come to some understanding. But, the case now is quite different and I am grateful to God to see that Missions are being promoted. I recommend to him your health so that you are not weakened by the hardships that you might encounter. May Jesus and Mary be with us.

Since there is a large crowd of penitents waiting, I must cease writing, but, my dear Canon, I do not cease being, with esteem and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

La Canonica, Diocese of Rimini
August 29, 1819

P. S. Everyone sends you their regards. Canon Betti received your letter.

221

September, 1819
Fr. Antonio Muccioli
presso Mons. Uditor SS'mo¹³

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Your very dear letters are most pleasing to me, but the last one especially so, since it brought favorable news of our most excellent Monsignor; it has relieved my distress, for you can imagine what anguish it was for me to hear that he was ill. May the Lord be blessed in all things. Give to him on my behalf my very, very, very best regards. In another ordinary mail I shall write to him. I want him first to recover more strength. I am sorry to hear of the misfortune to the father of Cencio. Alas, how disenchanting everything is here on this earth! I hope that he can

¹³ *Uditore SS'mo*: Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi, who was appointed by Pius VII to that office during the last months of 1818. The auditor of His Holiness ("*Auditor SS'mi Domini Nostri Papae*", from which comes the inaccurate popular translation, used also by our Saint, of "*Uditore Santissimo*") had the office of intimate counsellor to the Pope in judicial matters.

recover; and I shall not fail to have prayers said.

In time I will write to you for the safeconduct pass. Answer me, if you can, one more time in Rimini.

Stay well and take care of yourself. Pray for me, a miserable thing, so that I can do good effectively. May God make you holy and rich in his most fervid divine love, since there is no other good for us than to love Jesus Christ. When you can, pay a visit to St. Xavier for me at the Gesu. May this dear Saint bless me from heaven and obtain for me from God the pardon of my sins. May Jesus and Mary be with us and lead us quickly to their most happy kingdom, if that is in the divine good pleasure. Amen.

In person, we will talk about those things which time does not permit us to say in writing.
I am

Your loving friend and brother

G. C. Del Bufalo ¹⁴

A thousand gratitudes for what the Monsignor has obtained for Giano. *Dominus retribuat etc.*¹⁵

222

September 23, 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Thank you for your recent letter; but, I would surely like to hear that you are indeed relieved of the fever that continues at times to afflict you. I hope that the Lord will comfort you fully and, with all my heart, I pray that he will deign to grant you this grace. In the meantime, as soon as you can, seek a change of air and for a short time, at least, take a bit of a rest. A thousand greetings to Canon Muccioli to whom I shall not write now in order not to multiply letters.

My return to Rome is quite near; I will have to anticipate it by a day or so because of the Missions I am to give in Terracina. After this Mission here in Moscosi, I must give another short one likewise in the Archdiocese of Cammerino. But, how is it possible to please the various peoples who would like to have one? The archbishop will decide, and, today I am awaiting his reply. So, if you were to honor me with your handwriting, please send the letter in care of the archbishop. Pray for me *sine intermissione*,¹⁶ we will discuss other things when we see each

¹⁴ From the postal mark one can detect that this letter was mailed from S. Arcangelo (of Romagna), near Rimini. It should probably be assigned to the first half of September of 1819, the time when the Saint preached the Missions in that part of the country.

¹⁵ May the Lord repay, etc.

¹⁶ Without intermission.

other in person. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and, most reverend excellency, with the fullness of esteem and respect, *in osculo sancto*,¹⁷ I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Moscusi, September 23, 1819

P. S. I thank you for all that you are doing in behalf of the Hospice of S. Galla, along with Mr. Uzzeri and Father Salai.

223

September 26, 1819

Fr. Luigi Santinelli

Serra S. Quirico

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

A couple of lines in a hurry to renew with you my sincere feelings of esteem and affection. I delight in knowing that you remember me in the Holy Sacrifice and for that act of charity I am and will always be indebted to you.

Tomorrow, I shall depart for Tolentino and on Wednesday we will have the opening of the Mission in Belforte etc., *et statim finis*.¹⁸ Pray *sine intermissione*,¹⁹ and always be courageous through the merits of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. I would like to have Missions given in Mergo as soon as possible and now that, here in the Province, there are workers available, we could easily arrange this project for good.

On October 14, I shall be back in Rome and at the beginning of November I shall leave for Terracina. I am not sending a direct response to the reverend Master of Novices, so, I ask you to give him my excuses and tell him that I would advise him to write again to Muccioli concerning the petition he knows about so that he can promote the matter with his uncle. When in Rome, I too shall not fail to recommend that matter. However, I am afraid that Muccioli is soon to go on vacation with his uncle, since this is the time of year when people on the tribunals go on vacation.

At any rate, prayers, and may Jesus and Mary be with us. Always offer prayers for me who has the pleasure of renewing himself, Father Prior, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Moscusi, September 26, 1819

¹⁷ In a holy kiss.

¹⁸ And at once the end.

¹⁹ Without intermission.

224

October 11, 1819
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Mindful always of you, here I am now in Spoleto to give you the information that, with God's blessing, I shall be in Rome on the evening of the 14th. With impatience I am awaiting the rules for the St. Xavier organization.

Please take good care of this group which is of very great interest to me. And, in this matter, I will accept no excuses nor anything else; by the 3rd of December, *ad summum*,²⁰ I want to have those rules in my hands. I speak with this freedom because this is the will of God. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and, Camillo, *in osculo sancto*,²¹ I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Spoleto, October 11, 1819

225

October 14, 1819
Msgr. Nicola Mattei
Archbishop of Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Behold how often we meet each other through letters, always united as we are in the sweetest Heart of Jesus Christ. I wrote to you concerning the Lenten preaching which will be conducted by Fr. Angelo Primavera, and I suggested Caldarola or Fiastra. But, since the House in Pievetorina will be opened at that time, I would, therefore, like to have him there to share in the burden of preaching which will remain within the responsibility of that Mission House, in keeping with the plans made by the parish priest and others in Pievetorina. Thus, for this first year the preaching will be provided for, having Fr. Angelo as our Mission companion. He is very happy about this and consequently I beg you to grant this favor. I kiss your hands and, most venerable Monsignor, *in osculo sancto*,²² I am with the fullness of esteem and respect

²⁰ To the highest point.

²¹ In a holy kiss.

²² In a holy kiss.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Fuligno, October 14, 1819

P. S. Everyone sends their best regards. Fr. Luigi Risca greets you. A thousand good wishes to all, but in particular to your most worthy sister who will be mindful of me in her prayers. Mr. Ceccarelli of Pievetorina is having a bit of a dispute with a certain prior. A reconciliation has been worked out before you were involved.

226

October 18, 1819

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus

Venerable Father

From the moment that I had the pleasure of making your acquaintance in Giano, I realized how much outstanding good work you would be able to accomplish for the greater glory of God if you were to give up your parish and dedicate yourself to the apostolic ministry of giving holy Missions. I am told that the only impediment to that might be your sister who is to become a nun. Send me a prospectus on her and where a dowry for her should be sent. Be exact in all the details. At that time, then, we can all be united in our efforts to get her settled and you will subsequently be enrolled in the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood, as will be explained further to you by Fr. Biagio Valentini. You will reside in the House in Giano or in the one that is presently being established in Pievetorina, or elsewhere.

Pray for me, Father, and be assured that with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 18, 1819

227

October 21, 1819

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

My very dear Fr. Anacleto

While I was thinking about fulfilling my duty of sending you a letter, to thank you for your apostolic labors throughout the entire course of several Missions and, at the same time, to ask you to forgive me for any oversight that I may have been guilty of in any way in carrying out the holy ministry, you anticipated me by sharing with me the letter to Canon Muccioli whom I

see every day and with whom I have been discussing the works of the Lord. So, I thank you for the obliging thought that you have of me, who am unworthy of everything, and at the same time I assure you that I am incapable of expressing in words how dear to me you are, with whom I hope to be able to work again in other apostolic endeavors. Above all, and of greatest consolation, is learning from your letter the interest you nourish for the devotion to the most Precious Blood. Note that the Holy Father has granted a partial indulgence for the sacred offerings that we recited while giving the Missions, and I have sent a copy of this to Fr. Biagio from whom you can easily get it so as to be able to have other copies reprinted.

To propagate this devotion in proper fashion, it is necessary first to introduce the recitation of the Chaplet, or at least the Offerings. Later, you must find priests who wish to become aggregators, so that when you have them listed on a sheet of paper, I can then send them the necessary authorization. These are the first steps to be taken. Later on, we can handle the rest and whatever else has to be done to set it up in a stable and permanent way.

A thousand greetings to all *nominatim*,²³ and, in a special way to his eminence. Prayers for me to most holy Mary. Each time that you go into the presence of that beloved image, remember me, the poorest of all the children of Mary. In the Lord, I wish you to have the greatest fervor in promoting his glory, and especially as a procurer of holy Missions. Take care of yourself and consider me, my dearest Fr: Anacleto, as I sign myself to be, unalterably with esteem and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 21, 1819

P. S. I will now send a reply to a letter received from the parish priest, Fr. Costanzo. The lawyer that I spoke about to you is Attorney Manari. Odescalchi is in Perugia, but will return soon; we shall see.

228

October 23, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I am told in Rome that after the clergy and the people have put all the papers in order so as to have as protector a certain saint, one must then send everything to Rome to the Congregation of Rites which will subsequently issue the decree, and for this they are requesting, it seems to me, nineteen *paoli*. I wanted to write you this so that everything will be done with regularity. With esteem and very special affection, I remain

²³ By name.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, October 23, 1819

P. S. I am waiting for what you know about. What I am supposed to do in behalf of the Sacconi, and so forth, when I return from Terracina.

229

October 24, 1819

Receipt to

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

I, the undersigned, have received from Fr. Luigi Locatelli the sum of one hundred *scudi* to cover the traveling expenses of the Missionaries who have come from the Marche to help, both for the trip to Rome as well as their return.

In witness whereof, etc.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

On this day, October, 24, 1819

230

October 27, 1819

Fr. Francesco Galli

Savignano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Archpriest, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*.²⁴

I have received your packet of papers and I share with you the anguish that you manifest with regard to the division among the clergy of Savignano. *Omne regnum divisum desolabitur*.²⁵ So, for your peace of mind, I say to you that the new bishop is not precipitous in his judgment and I hope that he will continue always in his mode of action. At any rate, I myself told him what I thought was best for the greater glory of God, and you can be at ease about that.

But, what pains me very sorely and with which I cannot be in agreement, is the decision made there with respect to the pep talks. The bishop had already been wellinformed by me concerning everything, and he had decided also to come in person to Savignano to silence the evilminded ones. He showed nothing of disapproval with what had been set up during the time of the Mission; he might have become confused in mind to think otherwise. As for the procedures that I have practiced, I have the consolation of having had them approved even by the

²⁴ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

²⁵ Every kingdom divided shall be forsaken.

Congregation of Rites and also recommended favorably by the Holy See. Praiseworthy indeed was the conduct of the Cardinal of Forli in not allowing himself to get involved in something that does not pertain to him. But, how can anyone say anything good about that most unbecoming and reprehensible conduct there? I regret (because I love and esteem the place wholeheartedly) to have to say this so candidly. May the meddling end up in the depths of the waters and in the rainy season, only because it simply is not right. You could have said to the Vicar General: I cannot agree with your ideas and unless you give an absolute command *in circumstantiis*,²⁶ I do not intend to proceed in any other fashion. At least you might have reserved to yourself the opportunity to communicate in time with me and with the new bishop; you might even have used the procedures set down in expressed orders from the Holy Father himself as to how to silence the godless ones. But, let us keep control of ourselves. What has been impeded in Savignano? ... a good work ... and this is the devil's doing. Indeed, you could have mentioned that in Rome, in all of the Marca, in Forlimpopoli and wherever we have gone, that is how we conduct the Oratory. So, in the face of all the others, why cause the humiliation of a town just because of a few thoughtless ones? Is this not the argumentation to urge? A good work has been impeded and so the evil must be removed. And, in a Catholic area, in the Papal Kingdom, should one hear such things that fill me with horror just thinking of it! Oh, my beloved archpriest, for the love that you bear for Jesus Christ, seek to find a way of carrying out what was established during the last Mission. The bishops themselves of the Marca, personally, follow the Crucified one and with blessed freedom they silence anyone who would utter a contrary word.

I do not have any authority at all in Savignano, but the ministry that I exercise and the motives that support it give me the courage to speak out frankly. Our Crucified Lord will say more to you in your own heart as well as in the hearts of the other priests. Woe unto us if we were to collapse with dejection in the face of every difficulty. I regret learning these things after they have occurred; but there is a remedy for everything. Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 27, 1819

231

October 30, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I have not failed to offer holy Mass for the deceased Cesare Peribenti, and oh how it has

²⁶ In circumstances.

grieved me to lose this young man whom I got to know as an active and thoughtful person at the time of the holy Mission. What a great lesson for all of us!

When Muccioli returns, I will find out how the Sacconi matter is getting along, and, in any case, I will not be able to do anything further about it until the new year.

For the greater glory of God, I would not be displeased if (as a first move) Cereto would be selected for the printing of the Constitutions. Otherwise, let us go along with our original plans.

Pray a lot and have others do so too so that the Lord will be merciful towards us. Continue to actively carry out your ideas with regard to Missions. For the greater glory of God, take good care of yourself and *in Corde Jesu Christi crucifixi*,²⁷ I am

Your humble and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 30, 1819

P. S. I suppose that Cereto may have received the decree from the Congregation of Rites for having St. Xavier as coprotector, which, I am told, is necessary etc.

232

November 1, 1819

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Dearest Father Anacleto

I have received another of your most appreciated letters and I hasten to send you a reply. I have already delivered all the messages to Canon Muccioli whom I see every morning. With regard to the many other matters, it seems to me that I have taken care of them in another of my letters. The only thing that remains now is for me to say something concerning the method of giving Catechism instructions. In the first place, one must have as a basic principle never to use the pulpit for treating topics that are disputable, for that stand is to be used only for explaining those things that are certain and incontrovertible. In the second place, one must have read well and meditated on the Council of Trent, the Roman Catechism, drawing from those teachings the things that are adaptable for the instructions. You know very well that during the Mission we treat the precepts or the Decalogue in the morning; in the evening, the sacrament of Penance and finally something about Communion concerning which one or two catechetical instructions are given depending on the greater or lesser amount of time available.

Furthermore, one should keep an alphabetically arranged notebook in which the aforementioned doctrines are listed and also to have Fr. Segneri's book, lessons for the instructed Christian, which will be very helpful. You can likewise extract from it whatever you find

²⁷ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

adaptable, and this too should be incorporated into your alphabetically arranged notebook. Then, too, do not forget sacred theology, and when that notebook is quite filled, including other thoughts and reflections that might occur to you, then you should work on placing all of that material into an orderly and methodical system using as many notebooks as are necessary for giving the lessons. The alphabetical arrangement will serve to bring all of the topics together so that you can work on them for the instructions.

This procedure will be most useful for you. If you need further explanation, please write to me. I strongly recommend to you the organization for the young people there. Please make this project the pupil of your eyes. I ask this of you as a favor, so, please listen to me. *Toto homine*,²⁸ give yourself to it. Pray for me. I am

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 1, 1819

233

November 3, 1819

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Venerable Father

Thank you for your recent letter, and, in the meantime, prayers. You will settle things in time with Fr. Biagio or with me directly. Pray for me. And, Father, with esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 3, 1819

234

November 30, 1819

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Luigi

It is necessary to have an exact listing of Monsignor's possessions, including the things left in the Cathedral or with the Administrator of his effects. So, too, you will send a report of the administration of the revenue up to the time when the deceased was to receive it. In order that I do not have to multiply letters, in my behalf, contact the archpriest, or whoever else should be

²⁸ By the whole man.

questioned, because I am obliged here to look after his poor nieces etc. This is the judgment of the most revered Auditor. You will also get a report of anything else that pertains to this matter, and I leave all to your doing and good judgment.

As for the objects of devotion left by me, we will come to a decision in person; this holds also for the gifts to the Madonna which you will hold on to. Insist on having the stone and do not lose sight of the Pious Organizations, which form now [...] ²⁹ tender to my thoughts. Visconti probably informed you [...] ³⁰ I sent 12 pounds of chocolate that you will collect [...] ³¹ me. A package was sent to Piperno for [...] ³²; get it back and send it to me, because I need it [...] ³³. So, if some letter or other should arrive in any maildelivery [...] ³⁴ Monsignor, you will consign it to me. Jesus, Mary [...] ³⁵ with us, and *in osculo sancto* ³⁶, I remain

Your humble [...] ³⁷

G. [...]

Visconti is laid up in bed. Fr. Angelo is also laid up in bed. Fr. Rafaele got up yesterday. May God be blessed in all things. Write to Cristaldi so that he will look into the selection of the new bishop. I have already expressed my concern to him about so many matters that are pending etc. etc. etc. Take good care of yourself and do not wear yourself out.

P. S. You will receive the aggregation document for the Pious Union of the most Precious Blood. You send me your memorandum along with the rescript of the Vicar Capitular. Your memorandum should say: Luigi Locatelli etc. requests that in the Church of the Suffragio there be set up the Union etc. Goodbye. Goodbye.

November 1819

²⁹ From the middle of the page, the letter is lacerated on the right side. Probably the missing words were: "the object most"

³⁰ Torn area.

³¹ The missing word: "for"

³² The missing word: "me"

³³ The missing words: "so much"

³⁴ The missing word: "for"

³⁵ The missing word: "be"

³⁶ In a holy kiss.

³⁷ Torn away.

To: Missionary Fr. Biagio Valentini
(Fragment)³⁸

"*Sacrificia medullata offeram tibi*"³⁹... let us not cease working as usual, even though we have lost our father in common. Let us rather have greater courage, trusting that he will help us with his prayer in heaven. Let us think efficaciously about our new foundation, the House in Pievetorina.

236

December 1, 1819
Archpriest Mariani
Sogliano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Archpriest

In thinking over carefully our business, I feel that it is prudent for you, before taking any other step, to consult with the new bishop. After that, you can send your petition and accompany it with the information from the bishop in order to save time, otherwise the situation will take longer to settle. In any case, begin the project gradually. At the time, we will without further ado take care of everything: the approvals, the permissions etc. etc. If you think otherwise, please inform me of that.

When you send the six *scudi* to Alessandro Spalladoro, you should also let me know about that in a letter. You have probably already received the document for aggregation; and I am awaiting the memorandum.

Pray for me, honor me with your handwriting, and offer suffrages for the soul of the bishop of Terracina to whom our Archconfraternity owes so much. Seek to get suffrages also in Santarcangelo and in Savignano from the Pious Unions there, since he was the Primary Founder etc.

With esteem and respect, Father Archpriest, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Send notice also to Forlimpopoli for suffrages. Beccari will not act without your final decisions.

237

December 7, 1819

³⁸ With these words, preserved for us by Fr. Antonio Santelli in his handwritten life of St. Gaspar, the Saint is giving notice of the death of Monsignor Francesco Albertini which occurred in Terracina on November 24, 1819.

³⁹ I will offer you rich sacrifices.

Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dear Father Luigi

Look into the clarifications regarding the Collegio that is to be opened according to what I wrote in another letter of mine. Note down everything well in accordance with the ideas of my very dear father in Christ, *cujus memoria in benedictione*.⁴⁰ Remember, too, that package addressed to Piperno, for that is very, very important. We will speak more when we meet in person. Take care of yourself and pray for me. Tell Cirillo that he should think about his coming to Rome, so that things can go on in an orderly fashion. I embrace you *in osculo sancto*,⁴¹ and with greetings to everyone, I am

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 7, 1819

P. S. Voggi does not want to go to Sermoneta.

238

December 7, 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

If you were thinking of writing a letter to Terracina, it would be a good idea to advise them concerning the goods of the Monastery in Sonnino that they should not depart from the principles laid down by the deceased. In a memorandum, I discovered that some did not want to work certain fields and I would not want that to be prejudicial to the interests of the Monastery itself. In studying and examining the papers, which I have not completed as yet, I have come across many other matters that I do not speak about now in order not to burden you further. One must insist with the Vicars for the removal of the scandals involving some court processes etc. There is correspondence with the bishop of Anagni dealing with a prisoner. I have a number of memoranda treating the Collegio which I will send to you as soon as Locatelli provides me with the information that I requested, pertinent to our society. I shall continue the examination of anything else that involves me. I am looking forward to the time when I can hand these papers etc. over to the new bishop. And, if you yourself would like to have them, just say the word and I will see that they are sent to you. So many items demand further investigation for completing them, as for example, the memoranda written by the archpriest that I addressed to you, including

⁴⁰ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

⁴¹ In a holy kiss.

the last one sent by him to me. Christian prudence calls for this action.

I remind your excellency about the memorandum in regard to the appointment of the one who is to act juridically in the settling of the deceased bishop's property, and that nomination should be given to Canon Gregorio Muccioli. I recommend to you also the memorandum with regard to the widow etc. that must be sent to the Cardinal of Iesi. Take care of yourself; pray for me, and with particular esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House, December 7, 1819

P. S. Sonnino lies below Piperno.

239

December 10, 1819

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Luigi

I have received the package and I have forwarded the letters that you included. I have communicated to Canon Visconti the paragraph concerning the deacon who is to go there. I thank God for your regained health. All of our sick men are now better. However, Tarulli had to leave after having waited for the companions for quite a while. Take good care of your health and always pray for the one who loves you in Jesus Christ. You can be certain about my concern in recommending the Collegio to Monsignor Cristaldi, who really does not need any encouragement from me since he is very concerned on his own.

I have delivered to him the prospectus you sent, but this is not sufficiently decisive of everything involved. Following my directions, get in correspondence with him immediately and tell him:

1) That he should look into the disputes with the Dominican fathers who, while the bishop was still alive, already approached him to work out the point of interest, and they agreed to share the collections and conclude every issue with the bishop. Up to now, I have not found any precise order or ostensible regulation to them, and in this matter I turn it over to Cristaldi; so have him check it and direct it to him.

2) Point out to him which Deputies Albertini had selected for the schools and their attributes.

3) Send the packet of candidates for the office of teachers, etc. with the pertinent requirements.

4) Indicate who was to be the new Economist; I had already thought of Assorati, the temporary Rector etc.

5) Send the notification issued by the deceased bisliop concerning the Collegio.

6) Indicate whether everything is prepared, what furnishings are still lacking, and whether there is someone who can lend them until all is completed.

7) Tell him whether there are any youngsters for admittance, and what the charge is.

In short, he would want from you a methodical, precise repprt and that it cover everything under each category that has a relationship to the actual time for the prompt opening of the aforementioned Collegio. For the good of our society just getting underway, tell him that you, in keeping with the needs, will petition for the subjects who later will appear etc., etc., etc. I contacted a certain Giovannelli from Roccasecca who had requested a position as prefect, if I am not mistaken, for the older ones. You probably are acquainted with him, and you could add your judgment to the cluster of information.

Furthermore, Monsignor Auditor would like from you a report concerning the Monastery in Sonnino which consists in informing him whether the property was administered by the bishop or ceded to your new Monastery which must make progress. Explain to him the bishop's intentions, so that no dispute is raised, and on this question, tell him everything that God inspires you to say. I noticed from one page that some of the peasants showed reluctance to work certain fields belonging to that Monastery. Be careful to see that all is handled with regularity, and in nothing should there be a departure from the plans established by our father in common. Therefore, work zealously for the glory of God. Insist on the pious organizations, and draw your strength from the Cross of Jesus Christ. Let all this correspondence be with Cristaldi. I can tell you nothing about the new bishop. But, trust in God who will not fail to enlighten the Holy Father in selecting someone who will be able to bear up in such a difficult ministry with the zeal that is required. A thousand greetings to all. Extend them in particular to the Vicar, to Assorati. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and *in osculo sancto*,⁴² I am

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 10, 1819

P. S. Tell the servants of Monsignor that when they get to Rome, they should present themselves to Monsignor Auditor where they can be recommended to a new employer. Encourage the Vicar to have concern for the Collegio. Goodbye. If necessary, send the petition for the goods of the Monastery in Soniuo and include it in the packet to Cristaldi.

December 15, 1819

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

⁴² In a holy kiss.

Dear Father Luigi⁴³

Pietruccio, the servant, is seeking help and would like to know what his status is and how he is to handle himself. Among the papers, I found that Canon Cella was writing to the bishop, suggesting to him a religious to be assigned as the Lenten preacher for some place in the diocese. There was also a letter from Bassiano, it seems to be from the Confaloniere, in which he is asking for another helper. Voggi does not want to go to Sermoneta. See to it that the Sisters' land is worked etc. and that you insist on the removal of public scandals. Goodbye.

Your friend

G. C. del Bufalo

241

December 15, 1819
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I owe you a reply, but the loss that we have suffered of the holy bishop of Terracina has placed upon me several troubles that have not left me any time even to think of the ordinary mail business. *Erat mihi coniunctissimus*;⁴⁴ the outstanding propagator of our devotion etc. Procure suffrages for him.

As soon as you have completed the work on the Constitutions for the Confraternity of St. Francis Xavier, I would like you to send them to me. I regret the delay brought on by your many holy activities. I am deeply saddened by what you tell me has happened in the Periberti household; and, oh, how all of this serves as a lesson for us, to be more united to God and to become saints. Pray, and have others pray a great deal for me.

With regard to the Sacconi matter, I wish that you could look deeply into my heart, for it appears that we must continue to be patient for a bit longer. At any rate, here is another means that I suggest can be done. Have a petition worked out by the entire Confraternity for the most reverend Auditor, sending it directly to him with no intermediary stops. See that it is signed by the bishop and the magistrate, and indicate the locality etc. In saying this, I do not wish to imply that you undergo more expenses with legal advisors, but let it be only a privately prepared petition; the bishop's seal will be quite adequate. At the same time, contact Monsignor Bottaoni, the bishop's brother, so that he can support the cause, and let us recommend this entire situation to prayers. Do not delay the reports concerning the Sacrament for the excellent Signor Marani. May Jesus and Mary be with us. In the meanwhile, Camillo, with full esteem and respect, I

⁴³ The place from which this letter was sent, the month and the day, are all derived from the postal marking (Rome, December 15). The year 1819 is deduced from the context. Cfr. also the letter for December 7, 1819.

⁴⁴ He was joined very closely to me.

remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 15, 1819

P. S. I forgot to tell you that the bishop died of a malignant fever, and as far as I know, in Terracina there are those summer fevers.

242

December 17, 1819

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Father Luigi

I have received a letter from Vincenzo. Now, in a hurry, I am sending you a reply simply to tell you to contact Mr. Bianchi the doctor who removed, as Sheriff Gaspare asserts, out of devotion for the bishop, the small silver Cross. It must be returned into the hands of Monsignor Mattei, the President of the Congregation of St. Francis de Sales in which we were both enrolled. And, in the name of that same person, I ask you to send it immediately to Rome, since this is a matter covered by the Constitution of our Pious Union. Then, too, Vincenzo also informed me that your books are in the hands of Bartolini. Today, I do not have time to be more profuse. Pray for me, who remains

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 17, 1819

243

December 18, 1819

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail always to the Blood of Jesus

Venerable Camillo

I share fully in your problem, but with regard to legal matters, I would not know what to suggest. I shall be awaiting your lawyer, and you can be certain that I shall do whatever will depend on me. However, if it were possible to have another authorized individual arbitrate for a settlement, in my opinion, that would be the easiest way to conclude any controversy. In the meantime, resign yourself to God and his adorable will. Be insistent on your rights, but do not lose the peace of your heart. May Jesus and Mary be with us. and, Camillo, while recommending myself to your prayers, and in a hurry, I confirm once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Rome, December 18, 1819

244

December 21, 1819
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

I have just written to Terracina what you indicated to me. Would you please, at your leisure, send back to me the letter that I mailed to you concerning Comacchio. You probably noticed in it what has been told to me concerning what is preachable from a wellknown individual. With regard to the arrearpayments for Giano, my idea would be this that the Delegate in Spoleto should set up an annuity for the Mission House in Giano from the accumulation of monies. It is true the the Bull of St. Pius V, as you pointed out, uses the phrase *numerata pecunia*,⁴⁵ but that, *in casu particulari*,⁴⁶ could be derogated by the Holy Father, and this, for the time being, would be convenient for the schools and, at the same time, would put an end to these disputes. However, I do see the need for handling the past by arranging for some sort of extraordinary subsidy. My venerable Monsignor, the Lord will repay you a hundredfold for the troubles that you assume for his Divine Glory, and he will increase more than ever your merits for the eternal years. With the assurance of an annuity for Giano, or some other provision for this most important objective, we could then share this pension with the House in Pievetorina to whom the obligation for conducting Missions in the diocese, responsible for administering that pension, will be given, and with whom the terms have yet to be settled. Pray to the Lord for me, and, most reverend excellency, believe me to be, with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 House, December 21, 1819

P. S. I have just about completed the disposition of the papers of Terracina which I shall turn over to the new bishop. When you can, tell the Vicar Capitular that he should be watchful to maintain good conduct and to bring about, in a prudent way, the removal of scandals, etc.

245

December 22, 1819

⁴⁵ The money having been counted.

⁴⁶ In particular case.

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
Matelica

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your letter of the 15th of this month. May God be blessed who is pleased to bless our desires to see the works of his greater glory well established. Right now I am occupied in seeing that the foundation of the new House in Pievetorina is solid, and with prayers, I hope that all will soon be completed. The accounts are in good shape, and at the first opportunity, see to it that the *scudo* and the 10 *baiocchi* left over are placed into the hands of Father Rafaele Brandimarte in Giano. We are working energetically at present for the House in Rome and there are innumerable things that I could say about that, but, if time prevents me from doing so now, we shall discuss them with you when the opportunity arises.

With regard to the retreats, I find your ideas very correct with respect to Father Stramazzi, and I also feel that it would be good to begin with the shift of retreats for the seculars. So, set this down for your own procedure. I could handle the ones for the priests in the next season, since I did not have to handle those in Camerino. In the meantime, it would be well to keep a listing of the applicants - later, God will give us his enlightenment. The first shift of retreats for the seculars should be given by the one you consider fit, consulting also with Father Biagio. I would consider Scipioni fit, especially since he is in the vicinity, or also Father Serafino. In any case, there are also the Franci and the other companion, Father Agostino Ercolani that I sent to Pievetorina just a few days ago, in the company of Father Angelo. Under Father Biagio's direction, it is better to make use of our men so as to draw them closer to each other. One could give the talk on the Reform, the other give the meditation, and the whole thing would then be more decorous for the ministry and for the House.

The second shift of retreats could be given by you, if you were not to conduct the first one. As soon as the year for Choir duty comes to an end, send the usual petition; for if it were not over, you would have to cite the permissions obtained. I will give the same response to Fr. Biagio. Your letters always fill me with consolation. Oh, let us indeed work zealously for our own sanctification as well as that of others. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and with the approach of the great solemnity, may there descend upon you and the other confreres the fullness of divine mercies with which we can weave a particular crown for our heavenly Paradise. Always pray for the one who has the pleasure of renewing himself, my dear Canon, with esteem and affection, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, December 22, 1819

Fr. Luigi Achille
S. Felice di Giano
Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Fr. Luigi, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, in visceribus J.X.*⁴⁷

I was very happy to see your handwriting, and wholeheartedly pray to God that with the coming solemnities he will fill you evermore with his Holy Spirit. Be mindful of me on the eve of Christmas, and pray to the most lovable Redeemer that I may fill out *in sanctitate et iustitia*⁴⁸ the fleeting days of this present life. Let us pray particularly for our Pious Works, upon which God manifests his divine pleasure for the benefit of souls.

Presently, through Mons. Cristaldi, I am handling the affairs of that House which is never out of my mind and where I always live in spirit and in the sweet bonds of charity.

In Domino,⁴⁹ give my regards to everyone and in particular Fr. Gaetano, if indeed he is at S. Felice. Pray for me and with greetings to all in common, consider me as

Fr. Luigi, your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant
Gaspere Can. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 22, 1819

247

December 26, 1819
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

Last night I wrote quickly to Comacchio, and *fuso calamo*,⁵⁰ I tried to bring warmth to the situation. I hope that the Lord will bless our efforts. Now that we are discussing bishops, I do not know whether the deceased Monsignor Albertini ever spoke to you of Canon Gregorio Muccioli, to have him promoted to bishop *in partibus*.⁵¹ Let this be said for the records. The

⁴⁷ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁸ In sanctity and justice.

⁴⁹ In the Lord.

⁵⁰ With a free flowing pen.

⁵¹ In parts. (Auxiliary bishop)

individual referred to is a most worthy priest, and very much in line with the ideas of the deceased in governing the great undertakings relative to the Archconfraternity of the Most Precious Blood, which are going to see even greater support and grandeur. Provisionally, one could handle the matter as follows: have him remain as the Canon of S. Nicola, and continue in the Secretariat for Immunity which supplies him with a congruous stipend, allowing him alone to run the House something that would not encounter difficulties with Cardinal de Gregorio. Furthermore, in seeking a bishopric *in partibus*⁵² which perhaps might supply him with a better income, the matter could be finally settled.

Tuesday morning, early, I shall be at your place to discuss the Terracina matters. Pray to the Lord for me, and your most reverend excellency, with particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, December 26, 1819

248

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor⁵³

I am enclosing this promemorandum which, I am told by Fr. Michelangelo Mariani, you already know about. Pray a lot for me, most venerable Monsignor, who in a great hurry remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

249

December 1819

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome⁵⁴

⁵⁵From the council of Trent, Chapter 16, we have this:

⁵² In parts. (Auxiliary bishop).

⁵³ In the letter collection to Cristaldi, this is the second last letter of 1819.

⁵⁴ In Cristaldi's letter collection, this is the last written in 1819. In all probability, it deals with problems arising from the death of Albertini.

⁵⁵ *Ex Concilio Tridentino in capite 16 haec habemus*

"Capitulum sede vacante ubi fructuum percipiendorum eis munus incumbit, Economum unum vel plures fideles ac diligentes decernat, qui rerum Ecclesiasticarum, et proventum curam gerant, quorum rationem ei ad quem pertinebit sint reddituri. Item Officiale seu Vicarium infra octo dies post mortem Episcopi constituere, vel existentem confirmare omnino teneatur, qui saltem in jure Canonico sit Doctor, vel Licentiatus, vel alias quantum fieri poterit idoneus: si secus factum fuerit ad Metropolitanum deputato hujusmodi devolvatur

“When a See being vacant, the Chapter imposes upon them the task of accepting proceeds it should decide on one or more household managers, faithful and diligent, who will take care of ecclesiastical goods and finances. They shall render an account to the proper individual. He is also without exception obligated within eight days after the death of the bishop to appoint or confirm the existing Official or Vicar, who is to be at least a doctor or licentiate in Canon Law or otherwise be as suitable as possible. If it happens otherwise, the matter shall be brought to the Metropolitan by a deputy of this kind.”

Devoti was confronted and he swears nothing further.

250

January 5, 1820
Fr. Francesco Galli
Savignano

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Archpriest

I was infinitely pleased to see your handwriting which confirms even more the kindness that you deign to show toward me, and I am more obliged and grateful to you than I could ever express. I whole-heartedly pray to God that he will increase evermore in you the holy flame of divine love, so that from your lips there will always resound what de Sales often proclaimed: If ever I were to discover a single thought in my mind, a single affliction in my heart, a single work of my hands that was not entirely for God, I would want to have neither mind nor heart nor hands. Oh that the love of God would transform us into something other than what we are, so that we could spend this fleeting life *in sanctitate et justitia, etc.*⁵⁶ Pray a lot for me, *ne cum aliis praedicaverim ipse reprobus efficiar.*⁵⁷ Always insist, since there can be no doubt about them, upon the pious projects. *Insta opportune importune etc. ne quando dicat, inimicus: praevalui, etc.*⁵⁸ We are in the defense of God's honor and oh what a lovable Master we serve!

I am enjoying good health just as you do, beneficial for the greater glory of God. Procure for me the help of other peoples' prayers. And, when you write to me, please refrain from using the title Marquis since that is not proper for me. May Jesus and Mary be with us. Kissing your hands, Father, I profess myself to be with profound esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, 5 of 1820

⁵⁶ In sanctity and justice, etc.

⁵⁷ Lest after I have preached to others I myself should be disqualified.

⁵⁸ Stand firm in good and in bad times, etc., lest at any time the enemy should say: I have prevailed.