

St. Gaspar's Letters

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2051

June 15, 1830
Fr. Francesco Quattrocchi
Veroli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

With concern I am awaiting the notifications concerning the 50 Masses for which I am vary anxious. Pray for me and in Jesus Christ crucified, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 15, 1830

2052

June 26, 1830
Mr. Giovanni De Mattias
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni

Your son was extremely needful of a hat. It cost 2,50 *scudi* which I paid out; in addition, he needed shoes and a few other small things, costing 99 *baiocchi*, that is, ninety-nine. So, altogether, if I am not mistaken, it comes to 3,49 *scudi*. At your earliest possibility, please see that this amount is sent to me, and I have no doubt of your diligence in the matter.

I take this opportunity to recommend myself once again your prayers and, with esteem and respect, to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, June 26, 1830¹

¹ On this same page, there is the reply of Giovanni de Mattias, dated July 2, 1830. On pages 2, 3, and 4 of the letter, there are different notations (accounts, fees etc.) made by de Mattias himself.

2053

June 27, 1830
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I have received the reams of stationery for which I send you my thanks. I have already given instructions in the house concerning the 500 Chaplets and the 200 Offerings. Let me know how our dealings stand and how much I owe you. Then, I shall figure out my accounts and try to work out how I will be able to get the additional Chaplets. Right now, I could not do it. I do not recall at this moment how we stand with regard to that little work to be published. The final word in each matter will depend upon your reply.

Pray for me and let us pray together with a most vivid faith. In the meanwhile, with all my affection and esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, June 27, 1830

2054

July 6, 1830
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Pro Vicar General
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Thank you for your recent very kind letter. With regard to our Monsignor Albertini, there would be a desire in common, having first gotten due permission, to look at the body again and to see whether God has kept it incorrupt or not. I understand that this will not reflect on his sanctity; At any rate, speak about this to the Archpriest to whom I also expressed interest in Rome and we shall see what God disposes.

In Giano, we have two of our deceased members who died with the reputation of being saints and to whom God, up to now, has granted incorruption. The usual process has already been undertaken with the Curia. For this simple procedure, I believe that it will be sufficient to have the bishop's approval, since there is no question here of transferring the body or anything of that sort.

With regard to the Retreat, since it has been accepted by the Passionist Fathers and things are well underway under their care, based also on the inspiration of their venerable Founder, for I am one who would be insistent, I am hopeful that they will be coming there to do good work in

that city which is so very, very dear to me. Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 6, 1830

2055

July 6, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

The acknowledgment of the gifts of God is not, as you well know, contrary to the practice of virtue. Acknowledgment gives rise to recognition, in the words of St. Teresa. And, if we are to render an account of five talents, how can we not acknowledge them as the largesse of the Supreme Lord? So, admire likewise the bounty of God and say: "*Lauda anima mea Dominum etc.*"²

With regard to your doubts, fears and empty rationalizations, I say that this is entirely the work of the devil. One does not sin without willing it, and one does not lose sight of God without realizing it. So, since it would not be possible to swear that there has been a failing, keep moving ahead. Those things are diabolical maneuvers. Using the most courageous disavowal is the most efficacious means of combating the pride of that enemy. Then, too, invoke the Divine Blood, and let that most effective devotion be your solid foundation. Also, say to the Lord: "*Trahe nos post te*";³ O Lord, I am entirely yours". Your meditations on the Divine Blood, in reference to your spiritual life in the Blessed Sacrament, as you make a greater effort to be united to Jesus Christ, are the means that will facilitate the achievement of that good.

Therefore, I cannot help but give my approval to them. In fact, the Lord himself, in the Scriptures, has given us a total encouragement in this regard.

In regard to general confessions and other particular acts of this kind, be calm, very, very calm. There is no need at all that I should know a single syllable about that, nor do you have to discuss this with anyone else. Not only once but several times you have subjected internal matters to the benefit of the Sacrament; now, let us consider loving God, of establishing ourselves more and more firmly in the practice of virtue, and let us make progress. With respect to other acts of penitence for you, God has given me no further inspirations. Adhere to the usual practices of the Church and to the practices of your community. Only with the spirit of ease

² Praise my soul the Lord, etc.

³ Draw us after you.

should you present to me a reflection of the spiritual method that you are following and nothing more. Propagate, indeed, the devotion to the Divine Blood; and you should you not cease pursuing, with respect to your spiritual direction, the very practical system which Monsignor Albertini laid down in his little booklet "*direttore diretto*" which, I believe, is wellknown to you.

Above all, pray a great deal for me and especially during this month, as you recall that on July 31st I was ordained to the priesthood. Pray that I might be able to prepare myself for the eternal years and that I might always carry out the will of God. In the meantime, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

*Suo infirmo in Christo servo*⁴

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 6, 1830

2056

July 7, 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General

Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵

Venerable Monsignor

If letterwriting had not obliged me to be at my desk, I would have come to extend my respects to you, for I did not learn of your return until last night.

I thank you wholeheartedly for taking care of the enclosed matter; I am sincerely consoled in the Lord. As for the rest, here is everything in a nutshell: "*Veni in hortum, et messui myrrham*".⁶ This is the offering that we shall make to Jesus who *est fasciculus myrrhae*. Tomorrow morning I will have the good fortune of seeing you again in person. I kiss your hands. While asking you for prayers, I am and will constantly be with the fullness of esteem, respect and gratitude and a very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission House, July 7, 1830

2057

⁴ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶ I came into the garden and harvested myrrh.

July 12, 1830
Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

The two lanterns have already arrived at my house in the Palazzo Savalli on Piazza Montanara. Therefore, send someone to get them and, at the house, you will be told the expense which you will find to be quite reasonable. Do not fail to continue to be ever spirited in promoting good work to the glory of the Lord. While recommending myself to your prayers, I have the honor to renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano, July 12, 1830

2058

July 12, 1830
Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani
Ancona

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

The occupations of the ministry and the fact that I have not felt well during these days obliged me, in my recent letter, to give you scarcely any information at all concerning the matter of interest dealing with the Retreat to the clergy. So, on August 21st we will begin a work which calls for prayer, a caliber of knowledge, and everything else that you are well aware of. Therefore, in obedience, I shall be coming. To come there is the only thing that gives me comfort now that I have been requested to carry out this good work which I never would have expected to do. Hence, I abandon myself to God and I add nothing more. I am not writing to his most reverend Eminence because it seems that the Lord, in this matter, has wished to have the letterexchange between us. However, if you advise me to do that, I shall do so immediately. Thus, I shall be awaiting another letter from you in which you also give a new affirmation of the time selected, namely, August 21st. With regard to the method used, the distribution of materiels and anything else, you should work things out entirely with his Eminence, the bishop. I will be an obedient child. This is not a matter of a Mission, in which case we would send the pertinent papers of suggestions etc. I shall do what I am told, *et iuxta vires*.⁷ By September 12th, therefore, I should be free, and it is necessary that I know this clearly because of other replies which I must give. So, I beg you to immediately send your answer to this letter of mine, addressing yours to

⁷ According to one's strength.

Rome.

In the intervening days between one shift and the next, I shall do whatever you say.

I feel one pang of worry and it is that his Eminence might be upset if I make mention of the expenses involved, which will be, I assure you, reduced in the best way that I can. I say this because you are aware of the heavy burdens which I have. But, for my own peace of mind, write to me also with regard to this.

In your letter, I learned of the expense of five *scudi*. I shall send you these quickly; but, first, let me know if there is anything else; so; after I get your next letter, you will have them right before your eyes! Indeed, on second thought, I shall see that they are sent to you immediately, but then you are to make a notation of that in the memorandum to the Delegate as something which I have taken care of. Please do this favor also for me. Later, either at the postal center or at the delivery coach, you might go in search of the abovementioned five *scudi*. Meanwhile, a thousand, a thousand thanks to you for your charity.

It was the confusing work of the devil that our Tarulli refused to be on hand for the introduction to the great month. I did not have the opportunity of having another of our man pass through Ancona; otherwise, as you can imagine, I would have been immediately obedient to do this in behalf of an objective that is so close to my heart and on which my greatest motivation of trust lies, with reference to eternal salvation.

It surely is not necessary for me to ask you to extend my humble best wishes to his most reverend Eminence as well as to anyone else who may remember me. I recommend myself to their prayers in common and I am sure of the charity of your own. Among the memoranda dealing with the Delegate Silvagni, it will be necessary that you please include there all of the historical references that you can find. As for your own most esteemed letters, after I have given a reply to them, I shall not save them as I am accustomed to do with other letters. But, even in this matter, I shall be awaiting a line or so from you.

Permit me to remind you about the platform to be set up, as well as a chair and table there, since the Retreat will be given in the church. Likewise, see that during the Oratory they include the recitation of our Chaplet to the Divine Blood. For this are we priests: "*Redemisti nos Domine in Sanguine Tuo, et fecisti nos Deo nostro Regnum, et Sacerdotes*".⁸

In regard to the arrangement for rooms, I shall be bringing Bartolomeo along with me. Let me know what your sentiment is about the Superior of Rimini, Father Giovanni Merlini, to whom I shall give the appointment, or even to bring along with me from Rome, Father Biagio. Your advice will depend, it seems to me, on whether you think that two should do the preaching; I would reserve to myself the giving of the conferences and the other companion would be given the job of conducting the meditations. Once this procedure is determined, perhaps it might be a better idea to have Merlini, not because our very dear Father Biagio does not have equal merits, but because one might rather prefer to have someone who has not been heard there before. Open

⁸ You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your blood, and have made us for our God a kingdom and priests.

up your heart to me and speak to me with full liberty. I am in God's hands and am indifferent. If I am to take care of everything that is to be preached, let me know how many meditations are scheduled, how many reforms and whether the two shifts of Retreats are of seven or eight days. Also, let me know at which shift the clerics also will be present and whether the bishop will participate in both. You can be sure that if either of the two aforementioned men were to be placed in charge of this good work, they would accomplish more than I would because of my wretchedness, and there would be a chance to hear another voice.

Furthermore, if I were not to come, the Institute presently has other men, besides the ones referred to here, who are very excellent preachers to the clergy. Have no doubt, however, that I will be coming, if you so wish, unless of course God calls me to himself. The rubrics must not at all be overlooked. In this regard, perhaps the one in charge of ceremonies could offer his services in whatever pertains to practice and perhaps someone else for whatever relates to reading. I mention a person in charge of ceremonies since every clergy has some accidental variation. But in this matter, too, I shall do whatever you wish.

Each day's method should conclude with the recitation of the psalm *Miserere* and benediction with the Blessed Sacrament. On the final day, there is the *Te Deum* and the solemn blessing to be given by his most reverend Eminence. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*,⁹ using the words of the Blessed Liguori. The psalm *Miserere* would be recited following the usage of the Capuchins. In the Masses, it is customary to add the Collect of the Holy Spirit Mass. This is about all that I must say to you now. In the meantime, with esteem I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 12, 1830

2059

July 14, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

The Chaplets have now arrived in Rome. I am awaiting our accounts, since I do not remember what they are. Let me know whether you received the copy of the month that I sent you through the mails, if I am not mistaken. With respectful esteem and regard, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁹ However, I submit to those who are wiser.

Albano, July 14, 1830

2060

July 23, 1830
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I received your letter and I give you my thanks. I wrote about the Retreat for my own peace of mind since this is a matter of doing a good work. May the Lord now dispose whatever will be to his greater glory. In the meantime you, as I have not doubt about it, should do all you can to direct the organizations set up during the Missions. We are living in a time that is most needful of prayers. Please pray also for me and get as many others as you can to do the same, so that I will be able to prepare myself for the years of eternity.

I noted that you have suffered from an initial attack of gout. I have been given to understand that, at the beginning, it can be cured; not, however, if it has progressed. Prayers also for this intention. Oh how miserable, indeed, is our life here and oh how it calls us to turn our thoughts heavenward!

Let us observe, and have others do so too, with great fervor the upcoming novena of the Assumption of most holy Mary into heaven, *et ibi nostra fixa sint corda, ubi vera sunt gaudia*.¹⁰

Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop, to Canon Domeniconi, and to anyone else who remembers me. Whenever you need to write, address it to "Rome". I kiss your hands, and with esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, July 23, 1830

2061

July 24 , 1850
To the Father Vicar General
of the Friars Minor
Very reverend Father

The members of the association of St. Francis Xavier in Rome, the most humble petitioners to your most reverend Father, request, with all due respect, the favor of being able to erect in their church, S. Maria in Vincis all'Arco de'Saponari near Piazza Montanara, the Stations

¹⁰ And may our hearts be fixed where true joys are.

of the Way of the Cross, etc. That etc.¹¹

In behalf of the members of the association of S. Fran. Sav.

2062

July 25, 1830

Giovanni Battista Tobia

Trisulti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed sir

With pleasure did I receive your letter to which I am now sending a reply. I am pleased to learn of your sacred retreat in Trisulti. I ask that you do not fail to pray for me and have others do so too, as well as for our holy Missions. You know that prayer is the key to heavenly treasures and through it come the illuminations, the affections and the energetic activities of divine glory. St. Mary Magdalene de Pazzi used to say, in speaking of her solitude: Oh blessed walls, you close me in, but you also defend me.

I know that Father Vicar Menicucchi has returned. Please give my best wishes to him and ask him whether there is room for a young man who would like to become a laybrother there. In the event that they would accept him, let me know what the requirements are, what age, and anything else that would be needed for the purpose of bringing consolation to the desires of this postulant.

In the meantime, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano, July 25, 1830

2063

July 25, 1830

Giacomo De Persis Torrici

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹²

Most illustrious sir

I am late in sending a reply to your most appreciated letter since I have been very much occupied with the ministry.

I have reflected deeply on the desire of the people there in Torrici with reference to setting up a foundation of ours. God knows what desires lie also within my heart, and how

¹¹ This is followed at the bottom by the rescript issued by the Delegate General of the Friars Minor, dated July 24, 2830. On the fourth page there is a notification that the erection was completed on September 20, 1830.

¹² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

voluntarily I would be in accord with so great an undertaking. But, on the other hand, I have noted on my visit to Torrici that things have not as yet reached a state of maturity; there is, indeed, only a most laudable feeling of zeal for the project which must be brought to realization with great composure. I limit myself to making two observations. First of all, I could not go along with setting up a hospice. Secondly, the place must not be too confined since there must be room for admitting those who would like to withdraw for a holy Retreat, whether they be priests from the surrounding areas or the laity.

Without going into more detail, let us keep this in our prayers, persuaded as I am that the leaders there of this plan will get together to consider the project, as I am hopeful they will, and then our handling of it will move forward to the greater glory of God and the welfare of souls. In the meantime, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano, July 25, 1830

2064

July 27, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarens De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

I am sending you a reply to your most esteemed letter and I shall follow your paragraphing. The suffering endured in hardships is the most certain attestation of divine love. *Potestis bibere calicem*,¹³ Jesus asks. So, let us often draw closely to this chalice and through it all contrary feelings of defectiveness, of imperfections or of failings will be removed; we shall acquire soundness of spirit. You yourself have seen how the Lord leads you to experiencing this very situation.

The encounter with your sister must remind you that the master of the world himself did not find shelter at the time of his birth: "*Non erat locus in diversorio*".¹⁴ Your sister also found shelter in the openness of the monastery and she got along well in the hands of God.

The other occurrence, the reunion with your mother, is a situation concerning which I cannot immediately come to decision, as one looking at it from the outside. But as far as your soul is concerned, it must have been a new testing of your virtue. Perhaps God may have wished to have you learn from it that you are called to live more in solitude, without becoming a Capuchin nun, and that within a short while you might be living thus in your own monastery. Your mother's cravings arouse pity ... but she is a mother! If you had left or would leave, you would still be doing everything and praying for everybody. Your agitation was due to the

¹³ Are you able to drink the chalice?

¹⁴ There was no room in the inn.

entanglements of the circumstances. We are wretched human creatures and not angels. God recognizes our lowliness. So, do not think any more about becoming a Capuchin nun. Rather, be an example of virtue and of suffering in the place where God has led you. With regard to your nephew who is seeking a sacred career, since he does not have a patrimony, why doesn't he embrace an Institute? The difficulty might be in the matter of health. This, too, is something to pray for. As for everything else, remain happy in the Lord; do not afflict yourself nor become upset. Rest in the Heart of Jesus crucified where I remain constantly as

*Suo infimo servo*¹⁵

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, July 27¹⁶

2065

July 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo¹⁷

As for what is still due to you I have no recollection; but, here I am ready at any word from you. It seems to me that the last entry was one of ten *scudi*. So, you check over the account.

The reprinting of that little work, it appears, does not go beyond 14 *scudi* for 500 copies, if I am not mistaken. Since that is the situation, go ahead and order the printing, but see that the cost remains between 14 and 15 *scudi* for the number of copies that can be covered by that sum. More than this nothing more at all can be arranged. I urge you to keep an eye on corrections to be made. May the Lord repay you for your charity.

The Chaplets have arrived already in Rome. I have found some people who will take the additional 500 which the printer has. So, send them and address them to me, and then let me know what I must remit in cash for the cost of mailing them, indicating in your letter also what the cost is for the 500 Chaplets.

In order to have a renewal of the indulgences, I must certainly have immediately the memorandum along with the original rescript and all will be taken care of. Please, let us try to direct good work everywhere.

¹⁵ Being his lowest servant.

¹⁶ The year is 1830. Cfr. the letter to this person, dated September 3, 1830

¹⁷ This letter has no date. But, from the postal marking it evidently was sent from Albano. an annotation by Possenti mentions 1830. The letter is to be placed, very probably, with the ones written to the same person between the 14th and the 31st of July, 1830. (Cfr. the letter to him of August 6, 1830).

From your letter, I note also that the collections have been going badly. This is all the result of sins: "*Miseros facit populus peccatum*".¹⁸

I need to have printed the enclosed certificate, done with the greatest possible haste. The heading is to be the same as the one printed. The explanation varies and is, in part, written by hand. This, too, must be printed, paying attention to the corrections¹⁹ and spelling; in this way, the printing will be done well and without errors. More than ever will you now have to be patient with me. See that this printing is done quickly and that the number of the printing does not exceed that of one hundred copies, since we must adhere to economy which is called for in our circumstances. I trust fully in your industry and in your lovable kindness, *et Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.²⁰

Pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Send your reply to "Rome".

2066

July 31, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

In the sample for the printing of the certificates for our Missionaries, which I sent to you, please observe that after having stated that there is the faculty of blessing rosaries, crucifixes, habits *in articulo mortis*,²¹ there is the term *et similia*.²² Well, that must be removed; likewise, where it speaks of the faculty of saying Mass one hour before dawn, the sample states that the faculty is valid for Missions and Retreats as well as when traveling for those objectives. Rather

¹⁸ Sin makes people miserable.

¹⁹ At this point, there are some words crossed out.

²⁰ And the Lord will repay on my behalf in sweet blessings.

²¹ At the moment of death.

²² Toward similar things.

it should say, *in actu Ministerii*²³ there is the faculty of saying Mass ante auroram²⁴ and then cancel all the rest. The sample that was sent will say: one hour before dawn and there is no correction in that. Excuse so many inconveniences; send your reply to "Rome". With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, July 31, 1830

2067

August 4, 1830

Fr. Nicola Palma

Napoli per Teramo

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

Praise be the Lord who has blessed and will bless ever more and more your efforts in your most interesting work on the Mysteries of the Divine Blood. "*Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*".²⁵

I shall read the work with pleasure; and with anxiety I await the copies which will always be a new pledge of your loving kindness and goodness toward me. You can be sure that I will be careful in distributing the copies, seeing to it that all of them will serve the interests of the greater glory of God, for which we live.

I do not know what to say to you about the rumors that are rampant concerning my death, nor for what reasons the news was given such widespread coverage. Let us adore in all things the dispositions of the Providence of God, who assures us: "*Capillus de capite vestro non peribit*".²⁶ For future generations let me say it clearly, neither I nor the Companions have ever had need of even an *et*.²⁷ Still pray that I will be able to prepare myself for the years of eternity, which is man's greatest thought!

Furthermore, let me assure you that the remembrance of you is indelible in my mind, and I cannot tell you adequately how I would love not only to write to you often but also to see you and speak to you. Who knows, perhaps the Lord may provide that opportunity. ... In the words of

²³ In conducting the ministry.

²⁴ Before dawn.

²⁵ The Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

²⁶ Not a hair of your head shall perish.

²⁷ And.

De Sales, He ripens the times.

And how about the Pious Works there? Oh, how I yearn for their resumption! Finally: To round out your career for many more long years, why do you not come to one of our Houses? Perhaps there are motives pertaining to the glory of the Lord that hold you in that area. May the Almighty be blessed. Return my distinct greetings to our Brethren and fervent Companions. Let me know if I can purchase any copies of the ten Fridays in honor of our great Xavier.

I kiss your hand; and with the usual unalterable respectful esteem and special affection in Jesus Christ Crucified, I am and will constantly be

Venerable Canon, your
Humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
Mis. Ap.

When necessary, address your letter: = Rome =
House of Missions and Retreats in S. Paolo di Albano, August 4, 1830

2068

August 6, 1830
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

If my recent letter did not arrive in time to make the corrections of the certificates, do not become upset; send them nevertheless since this is a matter of little importance.

Through the mails you will be receiving ten *scudi* in payment of our account. Your bill was for 9,60 *scudi*, but as I recall there was half ream of very fine letter stationery. I am not able to identify the other reams, so by way of caution, I decided to handle it this way. Thus, it seems to me that we are all even up to now, though always acknowledging everything that relates to my intimate feeling of gratitude, of thankfulness, for so very, very many favors that you have done and which would take forever to list. *Retribuere dignare, Domine, etc*²⁸. is all I can say; this thought brings me peace and tranquility. I could be wrong about the quality of the stationery, which at the present time, I would not be able to find anywhere, not even in Rome, so perhaps I am somewhat confused about it. Feel free to inform me.

I shall keep in mind the 35 *scudi* for the 500 copies of the Month which, however, are not due right now. I repeat, I shall keep this in mind for the time when we Missionaries, after getting together, will be able to cover that reprinting.

With regard to that little work by the Capuchin, I am not in a position to be spending 25 *scudi*. So, at your convenience, send it back to me since I would like to save it for some other

²⁸ To deign, O Lord, to repay, etc.

possibilities. If the printer should agree to print 500 copies for me, adhering to 14 *scudi*, perhaps one more, and this would satisfy him, then go ahead with the printing, placing on the title page "reprinted by the Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ". However, I do not intend to raise the payment for the workers. Let the printer do whatever he judges best in the Loud. As far as I am concerned, I simply cannot pay more than 15 *scudi* under any circumstances and on this decision remains the whole matter, inclusively or exclusively. Otherwise, I again recommend exactness in the printing, as I have no doubt will be done. In the meanwhile, I shall pray that also in this matter may God's will be done. As a matter of principle. I do not like assuming debts; and I always govern my actions *juxta vires*.²⁹ You can imagine how many aggravating circumstances surround me, not even knowing the hour of our death.

I understand about the forwarding of the Chaplet etc. I shall take care of the rescripts for Cereto. Filled with gratitude, but sorry to see that you prepaid your last letter, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, August 6, 1830

Send your reply to "Rome".

2069

August 8, 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General

Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁰

Most illustrious and reverend sir

With this most humble letter of mine, I assure you that there is room here for a retreatant to make a holy Retreat. Tomorrow evening, Monday, you will be able to withdraw into solitude to listen to the voice of the Lord. I have no doubt that you will find a problem with the food, since the Institute is not in a position to supply it as you would desire it to be. It will be necessary for you to adapt to the circumstances.

I kiss your hands. With the fullness of esteem, respect and special affection, begging you for prayers, in Jesus Christ crucified I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

²⁹ According to one's strength.

³⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Miss. Ap.
Mission House in S. Paolo, August 8, 1830

2070

August 10, 1830
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo³¹

It will be necessary to repeat the printing because of two errors, namely, in the word *nominis*; and in this regard, enclosed is the more correct sample which I recommend to your charity both for the sake of exactness as well as for the dispatch. Have him immediately draw up the number of 100 copies, indicating to me the cost. Later I will send a printed page from which you will take only the heading ... along with the *datum Romae*³² and what follows. The explanation will be the same as what is written. As soon as you have the printing done, before sending it to me, drop me a line. I am in a hurry

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Please send me five reams of stationery and a half ream of the finer kind. Let me know the expense involved.

2071

August 14, 1830
Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani
Ancona

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

The discourse on the most holy Mary for the 16th is not possible for me because there is such a shortage of time. As soon as I have completed the work with the clergy, I must immediately depart. I regret that I am not able to be of service; however, among the many who are present for the Retreat, there are any number who come to mind among the reverend Canons in attendance who are quite capable of carrying out this holy task!

Next Wednesday, God willing, I shall set out on my trip at the latest, I shall arrive on the morning of the 21st at some time or other, and after the noon meal there will be time only for the

³¹ This letter does not have a date, but from a notation made by Possenti himself, it belongs to August 10, 1830. (cfr. also the letter to the same person dated September 2, 1830).

³² Given at Rome.

introduction. You take care of any other matters. Merlini will arrive from Rimini on the evening of the 20th as a precaution, if necessary, for him to handle the introduction on the 21st. But, I repeat, I shall be coming. Give my warm greetings to his most reverend Eminence and ask him for prayers. I shall be the leader in the Seminary. At the city gate, leave a notice of free entry in order not to lose time in the customs examinations. With regard to my room, I ask you, please, see that it is not too confining.

In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 14, 1830

2072

August 28, 1830

Msgr. Luigi Parisio

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

The General Direction of the Venerable Archconfraternity entitled of the Most Precious Blood

The Reverend Mr. John Lacacca de Trajecto of the Cajetan Diocese has lived for about three years in our houses of Missions and Exercises, namely, at Arimini, Giano (?) in Spoleto and at Sermoneta of the Terracino Diocese following a course of studies with the intention of remaining permanently in our Sacred Institute entitled of the Most Precious Blood according to the norm of Privileges of His Holiness Pope Pius VII and of the Apostolic letter of Leo XII has asked of us a good testimony for the reception of the Sacred Order of the Subdiaconate with his Ordinary. Using all diligence we express confidence and bear witness in the Lord to all concerned that the Reverend Mr. John Laracca, during all that time, led a celibate life, incurred no canonical impediment, was a student of Sacred Theology, lived laudably, frequented the Sacraments, eagerly served our churches, and wore the habit of our Community. All of this in testimony, witnessed for our Ordinary with the seal of the Institute, we gladly and freely vouch for its truth in the usual form, etc.

Given at Ancona by act of the Apostolic Ministry this 28th day of August 1830.

Director Generalis

Gaspar Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Apostolicus ³³

2073

August 30, 1830
Luigi Graziani
Cotignola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I hope that by this time you have received the package with the aggregation requested. The cost has been set at six *scudi*, but I willingly pay that amount in honor of the mysteries of the Divine Blood as well as to be a sharer in this great good. I regret that I am unable to do more as I would like to do. Yet God welcomes our good desires.

I am writing from Ancona where the ministry has summoned me. However, I do not think that I will be able to continue to remain in Romagna. After the middle of September, therefore, if necessary, send your letters addressed to Rome. Pray for me who constantly remains

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ancona, August 30, 1830

2074

August 30, 1830
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

When I least expected it, the Lord led me here to Ancona for the clergy Retreat, divided into two shifts, in preparation for the synod. I shall remain here until around the middle of September. After that, our correspondence will resume with "Rome" as the address.

³³ *Directio Generalis Venerabilis Arch. cui Titulus a Pretiosissimo Sanguine*

Cum Reverendus Dominus Ioannes Laracca de Trajecto Cajetanae Dioecesis per annos tres circiter commoratus sit in nostris Missionum et Exercitiorum Domibus, Arimini nempe, Jani apud Spoletum ac Sermonetae Terracinensis Dioeceseos secundum ordinem studiorum, animo permanendi in nostro Sacro Instituto cui Titulus a Pretiosissimo Sanguine ad normam Privilegiorum SS. Papae Pii VII et Litterae Apostolicae Leonus XII quaesitus sit nobis bonum Testimonium pro sacro Subdiaconatus ordine suscipiendo apud Ordinarium suum, omnibus adhibitis diligentibus, fidem facimus et testamur in Domino quibus interest, ipsum Reverendum Dominum Ioannem Laracca. toto illo tempore, in caelibatu vitam duxisse, in nullum Canonicum impedimentum fuisse incursum. Sacrae Theologiae auditorem fuisse, laudabiliter vixisse, Sacramenta frequentasse nec non nostris respective Ecclesiis inservisse, habituque nostri Convictus incessisse, quae omnia in testimonium, nostro Ordinario Instituti Sigillo obsignata, libenter pro veritate, gratisque consignamus in forma consueta etc.

Datum Anconae in actu Apostolici Ministerii hac die Augusti Millesimi Octingentesii Triginta

Enclosed are the rescripts for Cereto. Once the *publicetur in Curia*³⁴ is obtained, a prorogation will be required and it would be a good idea to have a triduum for the sake of revival. Pray a lot for me; with all my heart I repeat that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ancona, August 30, 1830

2075

September 2, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

In reply to your letter, I do not cease recommending exactness in the printing. Send the stationery to my house or wherever you care to, as long as you let me know. If the certificates alone are ready for the middle of September, see that I get them in Pievetorina when I pass through there, or otherwise, send them to Rome. However, send the stationery directly to Rome. I cannot carry that along with me.

With regard to Father Filippo Ledi, what can I say? I note a great inconstancy. Perhaps the vow will establish him firmly in his vocation. Since I always fully appreciate everyone, let him know what is necessary for entrance.

1. Testimonials and letters of recommendation showing his wholesomeness of conduct up to the day, when he enters the Society, as I do not doubt will be the case.

2. The first trip will be at his expense.

3. He must have good health, no deformity in his body, since this is a matter of a Society that works externally.

4. The House to which I will assign him is the one in Albano. As soon as he is ready to receive the letter of admission to that residence, all he has to do is drop me a line. I repeat, Albano. This is all that I wanted him to know.

Wholeheartedly will I pray for your son Giuseppe, and with all my heart, I wish him every blessing in his new status.

You will be receiving some money for postage, the 6.20 *scudi*, as I always feel deeply obliged to you whom I never fail to recommend to God.

In sending the stationery, also send back that little work that you know about. With esteem and respect, I am, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

³⁴ It may be published in the Curia.

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Ancona, September 2, 1830

2076

September 3, 1830
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

I am writing from Ancona where God has summoned me for a clergy Retreat. However, you should send your letters to Rome where I shall be within a short time.

I repeat: "*Manete in ea vocatione in qua vocati estis*".³⁵ God wants you to be in that monastery wherein there is a great field open for the practice of virtue.

With regard to your dark moments, I say that these provide an enlightenment toward recognizing that we are totally nothingness and that "*in lumine tuo videbimus lumen ... sicut tenebrae ejus, ita et lumen ejus*".³⁶ Wherever one may be, one will encounter suffering! Indeed! *Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*.³⁷ By means of thorns and crosses we shall reach our fatherland. Oh what a comfort it is to know that those thorns, through our holy religion, will be converted into roses!

I hope that your mother will have remained with you; otherwise, in all things, may God's will be done.

Your practice of making seven visits to the most blessed Sacrament in memory of the seven bloodsheddings are seven crutches supporting you on your way to God. I cannot help but approve of this salutary practice. But as for the 33 visits, that will depend on the availability of time as well as on other circumstances. I am more consoled by the promoting of our devotion to those whom you instruct. Oh! Blessed is the one who is steeped in it and moved by it! For thereby the soul aspires to God, and what a delightful thing that is! *Stillat ad te, Deus meus, oculus meus*.³⁸ In applying this practice, however, for the soul, it will be necessary to avoid the time periods after the noon meal, allowing for the reinvigoration of one's physical strength. This was a principle for all the saints, namely, that discretion is the thing that maintains balance. This applies especially to you who are in charge of educating the girls.

As for community meals, not to be omitted, I reply: what is needed is that you allow the

³⁵ Remain in the vocation in which you were called.

³⁶ In you light we see light ... as his darkness, so also his light.

³⁷ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

³⁸ My eye turns to you in tears, my God.

Lord to lead you down this path. With moderation, give it a try *ad tempus*,³⁹ and we shall see.

With regard to helping the sisters, I would regulate myself as follows: what the rule says is the safe procedure. What the monastery grants by way of faculty to the Superior, make use of it, for in such a case the community is extending that act of charity out of love for Jesus Christ.

Rather, on a level basis, with proper permission and making sure that it is not in opposition to the rule, help the sisters, while praying to Jesus to liberate you from such needs: "*De necessitatibus meis erue me*".⁴⁰ In this regard, you are not to take on burdens; continue to govern yourself in this in the best possible way.

I leave you in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, the center of peace, the furnace of burning love, the mystical fountain of every blessing. Therein, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁴¹

[there is no signature)

September 3, 1830

2077

September 9, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

A couple of lines in a hurry. Send the stationery to Rome, for I am not able to carry it along with me. It will be necessary for you to forward the 100 certificates immediately to Pievetorina, addressing them to the Superior, Father Pietro de Victoriis, who will hold on to the package for the time of my imminent arrival there.

Let me know whether you have received the money.

It is not possible for me, during this rapid trip of mine, to see you again. God gives me the desire, but he also wants me to make this sacrifice. On the 16th I shall be leaving Ancona and heading towards Pievetorina where I shall just be passing through. So, it will be better for you, in the future, to continue your pleasant and most appreciated letterwriting by addressing it to Rome. I also want you to know that I shall stop off for a short time at the House in S. Felice in Giano.

Always most obliged to you, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

³⁹ At the time.

⁴⁰ Rescue me from my necessities.

⁴¹ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

Ancona, September 9, 1830

2078

September 28, 1830
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴²

Venerable Monsignor

According to the letterexchange carried out from the beginning with Father Giovanni Merlini, the President in the Mission House in Rimini, I supposed that the Monastery of S. Marino would have held the Retreat, whereas it was instead the Monastery of Macerata Feltria. I discovered this information after the correspondence concerning which I am going to speak. Unexpectedly, I got word of the Retreat for the clergy of Ancona in preparation for the synod there under the direction of his Eminence Nembrini. I tried to be exempted from that but I was not successful. In having also to do some good work with the people there, I recognized the urgency of having a companion along with me. The one who was destined to go there got sick. Keeping in mind the appointments that we have for Missions in the autumn and feeling the need for speaking to Merlini about our affairs in Rimini, and always concerned about thrifty economy, I summoned him and suggested to him that he beseech your most worthy person either to be patient about his return or to take advantage of the services of Father Beninmino Romani, who is very capable of handling this branch of the ministry. I hope that you might profit from the services of the aforementioned Father Beniamino.

For a short time, now, Merlini has been in charge of the work being done on the church of S. Felice in Giano which was sorely in need of attention. Since he is skilled in this type of work, our poor Institute is saving the expense of hiring an architect. Also, to have him return first to Rimini for the appointment in the second Monastery and then repeat the trip to S. Felice for the purpose just described, would be a multiplication of expenses. I thought I would have him, with ingenuity, draw up a listing of the things needed as well as the circumstances involved so that you would be fully persuaded of the concern that we all have to be of service to you. The situation is one that is altogether singular. However, you can be certain, I repeat, of the intimate affection, esteem and desire that we have of working along with you on whatever projects you would wish to ask us to handle.

Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

⁴² Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, by way of Fuligno, September 28, 1830

P. S. When necessary, drop me a line, addressing it to Rome. I am going to be here in this beloved solitude only a day or so. This is also a House of Studies for our young men etc. etc.

2079

October 3, 1830

Student Orazio Bracaglia

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved in the Lord

It has been quite a while since I have seen your letters and I imagined that perhaps you had selected another director who would provide your soul with that good which I, in my wretchedness, am not able to give. Now, I notice that you are continuing as usual and I have noted the baring of your soul that you presented in your recent letter.

With regard to your vocation, therefore, I offer three pieces of advice. First, that in your case it is very clear that you have a vocation and nothing more need be said. Recall the way in which God, in a wonderful manner, led you to our group. In our Institute you have learned the ecclesiastical way of life, the studies and the preparation that is proportionate to the call of the ministry. So, duty, gratitude and the training itself calls for your correspondence.

The second piece of advice is that, by returning to your home, even pursuing the greater glory of God, I am fearful that you will suffer a diminution of spirit. Your soul, which has made the sacrifice of virtuous action by detachment from relatives, from your home town etc., by returning to your home town, even to the contentment of your people, will suffer a deterioration in perfection. In saying this, I do not in the least intend to accuse anyone who has left our ranks. I do not enter into such judgments: I respect all of them. But now I must think only of you in this letter of mine. It is an entirely different case with one who has embraced the solemn vows; but God does not ask this of everyone. In a garden there is a variety of flowers: the same can be said of vocations.

The third item of advice is that, nowadays, in this world of ours, there is a dire need for workers, and oh what a pity it would be to forfeit the beginnings that God has given to you. Do not be at all surprised if the devil tempts you; yet, even this is a sign that the devil is completely enraged when he finds anyone dedicating himself to the Lord. But, *ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*.⁴³ Trust greatly in the Divine Blood, and do not be afraid.

With respect to the other matter, here is the means to be used: profound humility. At each disturbance, an act of humility. Try it; you will see the ever lovable conduct of God. The devil does vex, and I would say: "Oh Lord, behold my miseries ... Oh Lord, give me holy humility... Oh Lord, what an abyss of misery am I". The elder Father Segneri always kept on his lips the

⁴³ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

following words: "*abyssus miserise invocat abyssum misericordiae*".⁴⁴ In short, have great confidence in God: "*Quare tristis es anima mea?*" Use the normal precautions; and do not allow your imagination to become overly agitated so that these words would be verified: "*trepidaverunt timore ubi non erat timor*".⁴⁵ Are we, perhaps, all alone in our battle? We have Jesus with us; and with Jesus we can do all things: "*Omnia possum in eo qui me confortat*".⁴⁶ While asking every blessing of the most merciful God upon you, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

While traveling: S. Felice, October 3, 1830

Send your reply to "Rome".

2080

October 1830

Student Orazio Bracaglia

Benevento

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Orazio⁴⁷

I add a couple of lines so that you will become totally at ease at the foot of the Cross and will pray to Jesus that you do not lose your vocation. Wishing you every blessing, with all my love, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2081

October 3, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

From the beloved solitude of S. Felice, I am sending a reply to your recent letter. I would be happy to know whether our accounts are now in agreement. I am always grateful to you for

⁴⁴ The abyss of misery invokes the abyss of mercy.

⁴⁵ They trembled with fear where there was no fear.

⁴⁶ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

⁴⁷ This letter does not have a date, but from the context it must be associated with the preceding one.

your concern and your favors.

With regard to the rescripts for Cereto, I have already mentioned that the *publicetur*⁴⁸ from the Curia is necessary.

I would like to have returned to me the little work that I wanted to have printed. Address it to Rome since I would like to preserve it for a more opportune time. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, October 3, 1830

2082

October 8, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

S. Felice, October 8, 1830

Venerable Camillo

I have been obliged to remain here in this Mission House longer than I intended because of a setback in our church here. Within a few days, I shall resume my travels.

With regard to Ledi, *utinam*⁴⁹ that he would persevere effectively in his decision. I am willing to wait for him. However, I do not know whether he will adjust the detail of having a suspicious nature. At any rate, he will undergo the test. God is wonderful in his workings of grace; so, let us be hopeful.

You will be receiving 2,40 *scudi* from Rome, in payment for the certificates. I think that we are all even. Let this letter of mine serve as the notification of that reimbursement which could vary a bit, more or less, because of postal costs. In Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, October 8, 1830

2083

October 9, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

⁴⁸ It may be published.

⁴⁹ Would that ...

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

I am writing this letter, in reply to your recent one, from our Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano from which I shall soon be departing and heading for Rome.

I find three things that are urgent. First, the working of the devil on your imagination, from which arises an overwhelming fear, a tenacious apprehension about many things. God would like to sweeten those moments with the mystical honey of his mercy. Ultimately, there is a certain restlessness that derives from this situation. Now, is there anyone who does not realize that when an enemy discovers the doorway firmly secured, he will then make all sorts of noises on the outside? The same thing is true with regard to the soul: the heart is fortified by the grace of God: the enemy sets up his garrison wherever he can, and then seeks to batter that courageous soul until it grows tired, so to speak, and finally allows an entrance to the tempter. But it will not be so, for through the merits of the Divine Blood, the devil will not succeed in conquering it. The soul agonizes, but that is because it loves God, the only object of its delight and peace. So, make the devil tremble and repeat: "*Ecce elongavi fugiens, et mansi in solitudine*".⁵⁰ What solitude is that? It is the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, the mystical and invincible tower of defense.

The second thing pertains to the duty of praying for the extremely urgent needs of the Church, our most loving mother, betrayed by so many of her ungrateful children. There can be no doubt that we are direly in need of praying a great deal. Yes, God is with us, so whom should we fear? We rest in his arms and we say: if you give us life, it will be so only in order that we might make use of it for you; if you call us back to yourself, may our death be that sweet expectation of the eternal joys of heaven. "*Sive vivimus, sive morimur Domini sumus*."⁵¹

The third thing pertains to your rule which, if I am to make a correct judgment, I would have to have it before me. It would be a most proper thing for Monsignor Grati to provide an opportune clarification. In the meantime, with respect to any doubts that you may have, set those doubts aside, for the heavenly teacher with his inspirations, along with your bit of praying, will remove from your soul every feeling of distress. Finally, pray for me and have others do so too, for I am more needful of prayers than anyone else, a complete pauper in the presence of God. Consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

October 9, 1830

⁵⁰ Behold I depart in haste and have remained in solitude.

⁵¹ Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.

2084

October 11, 1830
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Montalto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

From the Mission House in S. Felice in Giano I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. You are the boss about coming to S. Felice and, if you decide quickly, you will find me here. You are also the boss in going to Pievetorina where I have also left word, as I did likewise in Rimini. I conclude: all of our Houses are at your disposal. You give us true consolation when you come. More than this I cannot say. It will be necessary for you to withdraw your belongings from Rimini, and concerning this you should give it your attention since I will not be able to take care of that. With respect to the deacon, my thought would be that he should first celebrate Mass and afterwards everything can be worked out to everyone's satisfaction.

Then, to you I say that you will not, in any way, be burdened by the ministry. However, in coming with us, you will

In the meantime, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice, October 11, 1830

2085

October 13, 1830
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

Come, along with the reverend Canon, next Friday morning. This is on me. Because of his advanced aged, make sure that it would not be something harmful for the Canon. This is what I am greatly fearful of. With esteem and respect, but in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, October 13⁵²

2086

October 14, 1830

Nicola Ratti

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵³

Venerable Nicola⁵⁴

Always filled with respectful esteem towards your most worthy person, whose wisdom I have noted many times, I now find it necessary to inform you of the following. With your approval the lock on the entrance to the apartment of the Abate Commendatore was reinforced, because, as far as has been noted, when we heard of its being opened, we were unable to do anything about it. The method that was used for opening it was always with a key, in instances concerning which I shall speak a bit later. I mention that it was done with your knowledge because, finding myself at the time in S. Paolo in Albano, I could not help but make some provision for this emergency situation. Thus, without even a single line of contact, Mr. Carnevale presented himself to the Superior of the House and asserted that, in his opinion, the reinforcement should be removed, threatening him even with violence, something that, in pious places, arouses horror with the very mention of it. Indeed, in the event of thoughtless opposition, there is recourse to ecclesiastical authority, *est enim modus in rebus*.⁵⁵

But, in order to prevent bitter feelings in the future, I ask that any exchange of letters relating to the Abbacy of S. Paolo be personally directed to me; we are not to call in the services of third persons, for even though I have great respect for them, they are not in a position to

⁵² The date does not include the year. But it must be 1830. In fact, the years in which St. Gaspar was in S. Felice on the 13th of October are 1830 and 1833. This letter cannot be assigned to 1833 because Merlini asserts that on October 14th of 1833, St. Gaspar paid a visit to Nepi and from there proceeded to Rome. However, in this letter, he invites Cocci to S. Felice for "next Friday morning" which in 1833 was the 18th of October. As a matter of fact, in 1830, St. Gaspar spent the entire month of October in S. Felice.

⁵³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁴ On the backside, St. Gaspar wrote: "a copy of the letter *quoad substantiam*, [as to substance] written to Mr. Ratti".

On the same sheet, Merlini notes: "The Director General, Canon del Bufalo, points out that every good reason argues in favor of having the courtyard of S. Paolo in Albano, kept completely free of the intrusion of outsiders, of women. He was not cognizant of the Bull of Alexander VI in which the Gugliemini were replaced by the Gerolimini, otherwise he would have more clearly demonstrated the liberty which was being requested, and which was not able to be obtained, for which etc. The present setup of the monastery is not that of the ancient one of the time of Honorius. The first and second cloister, granted to the monks by Alexander VI, no longer exist. The original freedom was greater. The Gerolimini, during the past century, made changes as did the Abbot Cardinal Colonna".

⁵⁵ For there is method in things.

determine what is proper for an Institute. I do not think that I am asking too much if I request what good order calls for, along with the harmony that comes with doing good which is something I hope to continue to my grave. Now, to get down to the merits of the situation, I am appealing to your counsel concerning the following question. Honorius, the Roman Pontiff, in founding the abbey, made separate entrances. He also wished to have a religious institute which would attend the sanctuary.

Now, that the Institutes were obliged to maintain a *clausura* was a canonical principle. But we, who are *ad instar*⁵⁶ the Filippini Fathers, likewise have this precise order; and this is so from the very beginnings of the Institute. So, very rightly did the one who founded the Abbey set up separate entrances, so that the area of our court yard is bounded by three walls: first the one of the church, then the other two of the monastery, and in such a way that there is a fourth one which is simply the rear wall or the abbatial palace. So, the Cardinal Abate's delightful access did not at all disturb the quiet of the religious who proceeded to the church, to the garden, to the kitchen and to the refectory by way of the court yard.

These are most evident bits of truth. Note also that there is no disturbance to the Cardinal Abate. At the same time, neither is it right that our quiet should be disturbed. I am personally aware of the one from whom this bitter chalice is being offered, and out of proper respect, I prefer to remain silent. More or less content with this suffering, as well as with the expenses involved, with the concern we have demonstrated for the very interests themselves of the abbey, even though they do not wish to grant us this separation and quiet, which I have always respectfully implored, let us come to an agreement.

If you or the Abate were to find another Institute who, without sufficient means of sustenance, would take over this sanctuary, we will contact the Holy Father, indicating to him that since we cannot remain here with the women present in the choir areas of the church or peering through the windows of the court yard, etc., etc., we will willingly cede this locale to others, for we would no longer wish it to be occupied by us. I would like to see these extreme measures, and God sees into my heart. But, with respect to the delicate matter of separation, I hear no other voice than the voice of conscience. Therefore, may regard be given to an Institute which merits the gratitude of the Abate; no value should be placed on the undue clamorings of individual persons from whom one would ask a higher degree of reasoning. Neither should these worries be heaped upon those to whom we are subject as we carry out the work of the Lord God in San Paolo in Albano. Prescinding even from the question of rights, solid reasoning alone should be sufficient to admit the justification of this matter.

Presently, I ask you to communicate your order to Mr. Carnevale for the payment of 15 *paoli*, if I am not mistaken, which were customarily given to the carpenter for the repair of the burial machine. I have spent them for work on the church with a bit more, known by God; that was enough for me. I spoke to him before I went to Ancona where I was summoned by his

⁵⁶ After the fashion of.

Eminence Menbrini, and he told me that you had not given him the order. In Rome, you said to me that you would come to an understanding with Mr. Carnevale. Now, I do not know what more I can do. Remind Mr. Carnevale to check the roofs in order to avoid further worse damage, and you can be sure that no one is asking for anything more than what is just. For the good of your soul itself for which I am always greatly desirous, I beg you to be interested in the circumstances of our Institute that deserves your mediation, your patronage and your authority, so that, ultimately, everything will redound to the greater glory of God whom we serve.

Ready always at your beck and call, with the fulness of esteem, respect and gratitude, most venerable Nicola, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Felice in Giano, October 14, 1830

2087

October 15, 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Constantini

Vicar General

Albano

*Christus delexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁷

Venerable Monsignor

Pardon me if I inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine. Please read the enclosed matter and you will note the difficulties that I have, along with so many other things that inundate me, and that after so much time, the matter with the tailor in Rimini, who supported Mr. de Marco,⁵⁸ has been balanced out. I point out that this individual still has to pay his very small rental fee, contributed to the Institute, and I say: "Please. Do not ask me to disturb the Society in Rimini." Meanwhile, I have sent a reply to the tailor that I would look after the payment. Also, I feel sorry for the good de Marco fellow whom I love equally in the Lord. But, if he cannot, on his own, manage this, then it will be necessary for him to take up a private collection from among his relatives and friends. So, this too is something more to be recommended to the Lord. Asking you for a continuation of your prayers for me, most venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in S. Felice, October 15, 1830

⁵⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁸ Andrea de Marco, from the diocese of Albano, entered the House of Studies in 1828.

2088

October 22, 1830
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Niece

Set down for me, on a small sheet of paper, the listing of the expenses in Giano and send it to me by prompt mail delivery. I wrote to you to send the stationery, along with the rice, to Albano, but holding on to the receipt, etc.

I also wrote to Spina for the little sacks or baskets so that he would send them back to you. You figure out the cost; otherwise, you will have to write to him again. Write of this to Father Biagio who handles things well everywhere. You can also remind him of whatever you have sent to him, and that he should alert Father Camillo about this as soon as he returns from the Missions.

I presume that you have forwarded already the 2,40 *scudi* to Mr. Possenti in Fabriano in accordance with what I mentioned in my other letter in this regard. I received the document dealing with the Mass in S. Lawrence Outside the Walls.

Once and for all, it is understood that you must always be equally cheerful about my travels. This is the great teaching of de Sales. St. Francis Xavier was born in Spain, and yet God wished him to go as an apostle to the Indies. There would be very little good work done in the world if each one were to seek only his own comforts. I, too, would be pleased to remain at home; but then I would be adapting myself to human will and not to God's, which is something that should never occur. That is why one says: "*Fiat voluntas tua*".⁵⁹ It is not good to have inopportune desires, for in doing so one could be displeasing to God whom we are to serve with cheerfulness.

I shall remain away whenever God wills it; I shall be in Rome whenever God wills it. Indeed, I shall soon be returning there since I do not have a winter cassock with me. In this regard, ask your mother to check all the winter garments, as I am hopeful that they will be adequate for the season. You are to order two new birettas for me and two skullcaps of the customary type, lined as usual and of satin, so that I will have them immediately. In fact, you might order three skullcaps. Be sure that you do not make a mistake about the form.

Romani spoke about another cincture which he presumed I would forward to him. He received the first one. If the lettercarrier does not arrive punctually, when I come to Rome, I shall take his place and by myself send it through the mail. The account will be for me to handle. I have enclosed a letter for Perugia, so see that it is stamped. This is something that, perhaps, in my hurry, I forgot to mention to you. I understand what you say about the handkerchief; that is all right.

⁵⁹ May your will be done.

Pallotti's money, one *paolo* and 15 *baiocchi*, is only an alms for Masses which are to be distributed to our men. I will take care of the alms for the one who celebrates the Mass. In the meanwhile, hand over to your mother these fifty *scudi*, along with the four *scudi* from Lovatti and the alms given by Father Eugenio.⁶⁰ These are to be used for living expenses.

I do not deny that my teeth are doing better. Only one of them wobbles a bit; but it is not one that I use in preaching. Let us continue to pray, always with holy abandonment to the will of God. an Our Father, a Hail Mary every day to St. Apollonia, but first of all, to Jesus of Nazareth.

Not before yesterday was the crucifix with the escutcheon etc. received, addressed to Chiodi who is presently out on the Missions. Now another one, with the cloth, the escutcheon and the usual crown, is needed. Prepare the package, and, when you have the opportunity, send it by way of coach, letting me know the cost. Likewise I ask that you get hold of one of the frames that I may have there, as long as it will fit for the image of the Madonna for Father Pedini. Before time runs out, send him that image. You do not have to use glass, since we want to avoid that expense; furthermore, that is not serviceable for images that are carried in traveling. So, use strong packing material, wellarranged, for that image so that the picture is not damaged and send it by safe means to Fuligno, addressing it to Canon Petruccioli. At that location, someone will be sent to get it. If you wish to make use of the coachmen from Massa, do whatever you think is best. Massa is a bit closer to S. Felice. Try to figure out the most economical method. In arranging the packing material, see that it is done in such a way that damage to the frame also is averted. Spalladoro, who is skilled in this, could handle this matter in order to avoid the expense of sending for Father Pedini's trunk which is here. Try to pick out a very select frame, that is, one that will fit into the trunk. If you do not find one that is suitable there in the house, have a new, decent one made immediately, at a good cost and not too much handmade work. Then, send on the painting. I hope that I have made myself clear.

With regard to the power of attorney, let me know whether it is necessary only for the twelve *scudi*, or for all of the dealings; also, at what time will it be necessary? Send me a reply quickly. I mentioned Castellini as a convenience to you for the 12 *scudi*. Now, voluntarily will I suggest Giovanni, since I, in no way at all, wish to multiply expenses, exceedingly burdened as I am from all sides. Upon my return, what is deposited will soon come to an end. However, God is very true and very wonderful towards this career of mine as well as to this, his holy Society. Prudence calls for us to keep this matter to ourselves. The money is to be used for the more important provisions of grain, wine, oil etc.

If Father Biagio⁶¹ does not have the little sacks, then try to find out where they are, etc. I repeat, you check this out with him.

With respect to the alms from Pallotti, I shall see what remains available for the Institute. Alas, how many things there are that the House in Giano alone needs. You, too, should give

⁶⁰ Father Eugenio Pechi.

⁶¹ Father Biagio Valentini.

thanks to God for his many merciful acts towards us. Let us pray.

Send an order of 20 *scudi* to Father Antonio Liparelli in Frosinone, adding the superscript "or to whom it may concern". I shall write to him about them.

Send postagefree to Canon Petruccioli in Fuligno nine *scudi* and 60 *baiocchi*, advising him that this amount is to be given to Father Pasquale Modestini of Cannara which is just a short distance from Fuligno; also that Canon Petruccioli is not to fail to use safe means; and that you will be expecting a response. I am writing this letter in shifts and I do not have the time to read it over. Tell Liparelli that of the 20 *scudi* about which I wrote to him, he should send five of them to Vallecorsa, to Santarelli, in assistance to the economy in Vallecorsa. I repeat, fifteen for Frosinone, five for Vallecorsa. See that you also get a reply concerning the two *scudi* issued to the Meloni lady. With greetings to all, I remain

V. A. Z. [Your affectionate uncle]

October 22, 1830

Demand receipts etc. What else do we have to be concerned about?

Let us cling to what was said on the Mount, and that is sufficient.

I am etc.

Seal and forward the enclosed.

2089

October 22, 1830

Fr. Mattia Mattiangeli

Montemartana

Hail to the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

Reverend curate⁶²

May the Lord reward you for your acts of charity. The pastor, Father Roselli, and Father Angelo Luza are not here in San Felice. They were here yesterday, but they said nothing to me and they spoke of nothing to me. Quite offhand, I asked them about you and they spoke of you in respectful terms. If they should return, you can be sure that I shall conduct myself in keeping with what you say to me. In the meantime, let us bear with one another. You, too, may come whenever you wish for a Retreat and you will have your meals in accordance with your doctor's orders, adapting yourself to what we are able to provide here. Have no doubt that you will be given every possible care as you deserve. You can be sure of that.

However, it will be necessary for you to complete your retreat by November 19th, since we ourselves will be making our community Retreat, adhering to our rule. On that occasion, we do not admit outsiders. I realize that you could be worthy of an exception; however, I urge you to adapt yourself likewise to this regulation so that we do not face the problem of making exceptions.

⁶² This copy is very imperfect.

Therefore, let us be in agreement on this matter. I would like to ask you for a load of good apples which, ordinarily, are very abundant in that area there. The man who will transport this load will be given the money immediately in reimbursement. I am most obliged to you.

With regard to your vocation, two thoughts come to my mind. First, I am not acquainted with the illness that you are suffering from. If you are required to avoid certain foods, that could be an obstacle in some institutes of strict observance. However, God is wondrous in his workings. Second, you might ask yourself the question whether one who is already accepted for hearing confessions would be giving greater glory to God by withdrawing himself to a cloistered life. I would like you to read, if you can work it out, the life of S. Filippo who provides some illumination on the topic. At any rate, according to your letter, God is calling you to take the vows, and this is something that calls for prayer. Your upcoming Retreat will possibly be of help in making this decision. Take care of yourself and pray for me. With esteem and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your [...] obliged

Gaspere del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

S. Felice, October 22, 1830

2090

October 28, 1830

Msgr. Antonio Santelli

Rome

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

Venerable Monsignor

With regard to the Flemish young man, as you recall well, I did not cease recommending the helpfulness of the Latin language which is something presumed in our studies. This has always been a point that I have repeated and inculcated. Perhaps Father Biagio did not express himself clearly or I probably did not write with sufficient clarity. So, I am trusting in your help. I say nothing further about the refinement of behavior which I (counting in you) must demand in any young man. Here, too, with similar concern, I am ready to be of help, for the good of the young man, in anything that may depend on me. Nothing beyond this needs to be pointed out. Do not forget about the patrimonial title and how necessary that is for one of our students. Pray and have others pray for me.

Wholeheartedly, with esteem and very special affection, I renew myself as

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

⁶³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

S. Felice, October 28, 1830

P. S. We are going ahead with new studies for the fellow from Genoa if the Madonna will grant him an open mind! Prayers.

2091

Fr. Giovaennelli (Vincenzo) dell'Oratorio
Ascoli

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovannelli

After the ministry in Ancona, there were additional tasks for the glory of the Lord that detained me in those parts up to the present time. If it were not for business matters that call me back to Rome, oh, how much good one could do in so many places! Nevertheless, I shall leave on November 3, God willing. Recommend me to the Lord *sine intermissione*.⁶⁴

From what you mention, I am supposed to know that there are copies of the little work by Canon Palma awaiting me in Rome. As yet I have not been able to see it firsthand. I would like you to do me the favor of communicating this to Canon Palma, to whom you will also extend my most humble greetings and thanks. Once I have arrived in Rome, I will take care of the Mass, and we shall await the will of God. I hope, however, that no difficulty arises. Say a prayer, the mystical key for every good.

With regard to the Priest that you mentioned to me, here is what I know. He was quite close to Cardinal Atonelli, of happy memory, and endowed with knowledge and holiness. He was never a member of the Institute; but he was and is most devoted to the Divine Blood. He could be called an Auxiliary Missionary because of what happened at the time when I was unable to go to aquila. I asked him to go on that Mission. Afterwards, since there was no room available in our House and he was entirely on his own, when asked by the Bishop of Aquila, he remained there, always giving evidence of being an Evangelical Worker. I know him intimately and I know that he is truly pious. The devil brewed up a storm for him. Even good people were involved, the Lord permitting some sort of mistaken judgment on the part of somebody. The matter developed to such a point that he was called in for examination. You, who are⁶⁵ so versed in Church History, will not be surprised by this at all. All I know now is that he is staying with the Passionists in Rome, says Mass, is quite settled down, and bears his cross in peace.

Thank you very much for your charity in advising me in the selection of new members. I can say to you that your observations are most correct. However, I am duty-bound to require this, that and the other, plus so many documents. I write to the bishops to get information so that from all this I can determine that true spirit of God by which our Missionaries are animated. They

⁶⁴ Without intermission.

⁶⁵ At this point in the manuscript there is a line crossed out which said: "in the history of the Church, something that happened even to many saints", followed, however, by what is seen now in the text.

serve the glory of God amid inescapable thorns and tribulations here below, without thinking of their own comfort, their own interest, their own ambitions.

With all this in mind, recommend us offer to God, to most holy Mary and to St. Francis Xavier; and me more than the others, so that I learn how to prepare myself for the years of eternity.

Kissing your hand, I am, with the fulness of esteem, respect and special attachment in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Excuse me if I do not re-write this letter with all of its cancellations.

S. Felice, October 29, 1830

2092

October 30, 1830

Fr. Carlo Gazola

Benevento

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Carlo

Lest I forget, Rosati, having to go out on the Missions, told me that he did not have time to send a reply to one of your letters, which he would have done except for the urgency of departing.

I understand the details about the matters which the devil has caused to be propagated there. What shall I say? I would say that, looking at the situation objectively, it is nothing but a texture of falsehoods. If an investigation were to be initiated, one could refute it to the last piece of evidence. So, in my judgment, I shall say: "*Bonum mihi quia humiliasti me*".⁶⁶ That is it in a nutshell. I add that my letters to the bishop of Teramo were nothing more than instructional matters dealing with arrangements worked out for Missions made with his predecessor in reference to the pious organizations to be set up, and nothing more. So, it is not at all surprising, nor is it anything new in history, that at times someone will read a letter in terms which, as a matter of fact, are not so. Thus those words are verified: *videntes non vident*.⁶⁷ Indeed, if I have always prayed in the past for Monsignor Pezzella,⁶⁸ I shall now do so even more.

If you feel that it is expedient, write to him, though that will be dependent on the relationship between the two of you. I am consoled by the thought that in the great valley of

⁶⁶ It is good for me, because you humiliated me.

⁶⁷ Seeing they do not see.

⁶⁸ Msgr. Giuseppe Maria Pezzella, bishop of Teramo.

Jehosaphat the Almighty *revelabit occulta tenebrarum*,⁶⁹ as I cherish the desire for the salvation of everyone. In general, therefore, as a sentiment of comfort for all, I say: "*Omne gaudium existimate, fratres, cum in varias tentationes incideritis etc. etc.*"⁷⁰ But also, at the same time: *Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni.*⁷¹ Trust in the Divine Blood. All of us together must dedicate our hearts, our zeal to this devotion.

You will be doing me a favor if you forward, at the earliest possible occasion, the five *scudi*, *et Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*⁷² With esteem and respect, asking you for prayers, I remain invariably

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice⁷³

P. S. When necessary, write to "Rome"

2093

November 3, 1830
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

God has held me here in Umbria a long time and a bit more than I had anticipated. Now I shall be leaving for Rome, so you should address your very kind letters there.

I hope that you received the money as a reimbursement, and with gratitude for your many favors, I have no doubt that our accounts are even. If not, please write.

With regard to that wellknown little work, I have only 15 *scudi* available contributed by a pious priest who would like to have it printed since he would like to distribute the copies for the good of souls. More than this, he is unable to spend at all. I am not able to add anything of my own because what I have disposable has been allocated to the Divine Blood. I cannot veer from this intent nor do I want to extend myself beyond what is possible to do. So, why won't the printer put out as many copies as could be covered by the 15 *scudi*? Considered *per se*, other

⁶⁹ He will reveal the dense darkness.

⁷⁰ Count it all joy, brothers, when you encounter various trials, etc.

⁷¹ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁷² And the Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

⁷³ This letter, written from S. Felice, passed through Naples on October 30th as seen from the postal markings. So it must have been written a day or so before. The year is 1830.

projects, though *in melius*,⁷⁴ are not practically realizable. These times and these circumstances are not the type that allow for hoping for donors. You, better than I, know what are the present conditions in families. Therefore, either the printer will come to this agreement, make adjustments and execute the printing for no more than the 15 *scudi* or he will not go along with it and I will earnestly look for someone who will print as many copies as can be covered by 15 *scudi*. I would like to have a definitive reply from you, warning you that many time the best person can be opposed to a good work. Let us do what we can.

As for Ledi, I have received no word, despite the fact that in every ordinary mail delivery I receive letters from Rome. Perhaps he has changed his mind. In this regard, as in every other thing, may the will of God be done. Finally, if God is calling him to the business world, be assured that God will be given glory even therein. In saying this, I would add (let this be for the record): as long as they are carried out trustfully.

The Father General of the Silvestrini Fathers, who will be reopening their novitiate, notes that he is in need of a young man as a layman at the most economical cost as possible. Who knows whether before dying a visit will be made to the shrine of Monte Fano? With total esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, November 3⁷⁵

2094

November 13, 1830

Francesco Fortini

Abano Laziale

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁷⁶

Albano, November 13⁷⁷

Venerable Francesco

After our meeting, I received a latter from the Superior of the House in S. Felice in

⁷⁴ For the better.

⁷⁵ The year is 1830 as seen from a notation made by Possenti.

⁷⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷⁷ The letter does not have an address or handwritten forwarding. Only the name of the addressee is distinguishable: Francesco. It was submitted on June 18, 1868 by the Archpriest of Albano, Father Celestino Del Frate. Hence, it is a letter written from Albano to Albano. Reference is made to the admission of a young man into the House of Studies in S. Felice. In 1830, Francesco Fortini entered there as a student from Albano. So, this letter must have been addressed to his father who has the same name.

Giano. When he was informed by Father Biagio Valentini that you, in accordance with regulations, would take care of the anticipated trimester, he wrote to me that he made allowance for part of the payment because of the grain that you provided. So, it will be necessary for you to manage to get 12,50 *scudi*, a very reasonable rate for the trimester, from a friend or relative. In this manner, the economist there will not be off in his ledger. I ask you to do this favor.

There is time for you to obtain the certificates for your son, along with one from the Vicar General, always an additional document. You should send them to the Superior in S. Felice and you will get your first response from him in which there is expressed the agreement made between you and the Institute with regard to the expenses for board. Have a good trip; stimulate the Oratory there and may the new Canon de Marco become more and more interested. Arrange to have a bit of stationery provided for your son. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Note well that the baptismal certificate should indicate precisely his canonical age. Hurry your trip, as much as you can, because of the schools.

2095

November 23, 1830

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

It is quite true that I have delayed sending replies to you; but it is also true that, even though I have had the desire to respond, God then has taken the time away, but not my willingness. So what do we do? We adore his divine will which is, for us, everything. So, in the meantime, I have gone over your letters in the order that I received them, and the following is what I have to say.

1. That you have an eagerness to pray for me is the working of grace in behalf of my welfare, for you are deeply concerned about my eternal salvation and see very clearly the need I have for prayers.

2. Your boundless desires toward the most Blessed Sacrament as well as the mysteries of the Divine Blood, a devotion that I inculcate upon you more and more, are likewise gifts of God who says, through the prophet : "*Desiderium pauperum exaudivit Dominus*".⁷⁸

3. With regard to my statements dealing with internal matters, they were made in reference to the communication of your spirit in sacramental confession, in which we say:

⁷⁸ The Lord has heard the desire of the poor.

"*Peccavi nimis cogitatione, verbo, et opere*".⁷⁹ I conclude: in the consideration of those things, under whatever heading, realize that you are not only not to speak of them, but not even think about them. It is sufficient that you often repeat: "*miserere mei Deus*".⁸⁰ Have trust in God and go forward. "*Credo remissionem peccatorum*".⁸¹ I hope that I have made myself clear. Make your examination obediently for that is, in a special way, what God wills in your case.

4. Also, repeat often: "*Fiat voluntas tua*",⁸² since "*cibus meus est ut faciam voluntatem tuam*".⁸³

5. With reference to the situations in the Church, prayers, and trust in the merits of the Divine Blood: "*Te ergo quaesumus tuis famulis subveni quos pretioso Sanguine redemisti*".⁸⁴

6. I understand what you told me about your illness. Jesus has drawn his chalice a bit closer to you and has wished that you make an offering of myrrh: "*Veni in hortum, et messui myrrham*".⁸⁵

7. To think that I consider you as being in a bad state of conscience is simply a delusion of the devil. I tell you that is not so. I say this decisively; I say this without hesitation. So, be at ease, be very much at ease about that.

8. I notice that even among the thorns in which your soul is plunged, mystical roses of love of God have blossomed. Be happy about that.

9. Do not refuse the remedies that are offered for your convalescence; the comfort that they provide does not exclude the idea of suffering, but only help to keep the human spirit under control; and, as they provide strength, that strength can be applied to fulfilling community duties, observing the rule, and making the observance more perfect.

10. I am writing while I have withdrawn for the Retreat here in this House in Albano. I myself am preaching to our community. Pray that I give a good sermon to myself too. Who knows, this may well be my last Retreat. Prayers. You surely must realize how needful am of prayers. And, since all of our communities are making their Retreats, pray for all of them.

11. It seems to me that God wishes you to make a more exact communication of your soul to me, namely, with regard to the inspirations that you have, so that we can determine which ones come from God. With respect to those human setbacks, to those human inclinations, not

⁷⁹ I have sinned excessively in thought, word and deed.

⁸⁰ Have mercy on me, O God.

⁸¹ I believe in the forgiveness of sins.

⁸² May your will be done.

⁸³ My food is to do the will of my Father.

⁸⁴ We beseech you help your servants, etc., whom you have redeemed by your precious blood.

⁸⁵ I came into the garden and I harvested myrrh.

only does he want you to give an exact rendering about them, but also about the gifts; which ones are they? of what caliber are they? what is God insisting on? Why are you so taciturn? Do you, perhaps, think that you are lacking in humility? No ... you are deceiving yourself. ... All is from God; and it is necessary to identify what God is seeking to bring about through them and what will remain only as a desire. Furthermore, how much of this is something that confounds, something only under the appearance of good etc. Pray likewise with respect to this item. I note, for example, that the affection that you show to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is increasing; I note special, ardent impulses of love toward Jesus etc. etc. Grace is at work and the mystical soil of the heart is bringing forth good fruit. For this, let us give thanks to God, our only true treasure. In his Divine Heart, I am

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*⁸⁶
G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, November 23, 1830

12. Read this letter, then burn it. Let us prepare ourselves for the feast of the great Xavier.

2096

End of November 1830

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General

Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸⁷

Venerable Monsignor⁸⁸

I thank you for the trouble that you took the other day to favor us here in this Mission

⁸⁶ Being his lowest servant in Christ.

⁸⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁸⁸ The letter, which has no date, was written from Albano and addressed to the Vicar General of that diocese, Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini who later became the Vicar General in S. Salvatore (Rieti) (cf r. the letter of St. Gaspar dated October 29, 1832). So, this letter must be prior to 1832. From the letter, it is evident that St. Gaspar was about to begin the Retreat which was held at the end of November in preparation for the feast of St. Francis Xavier (December 3rd). Before 1832, St. Gaspar was in Albano for Retreats in 1829 (cf. G. Merlini, o. c. 576), in 1830 (cf. *ibid.*, 577) and in 1831 (cf. *ibid.*, 581). From a listing of the students it is evident that Stefano Pigiucci from Ariccia entered the Institute in 1828. In the letter of June 1, 1830 to Msgr. Costantini, St. Gaspar says that he sent word to Card. Galleffi "concerning the affair dealing with Canon Pigiucci. It is, perhaps, only another example of your zeal ... so that our Institute would be granted what, in justice, is due to it, since we are not in a position to surrender it" Consequently, this letter most probably belongs to November of 1830. In fact, from October/November of that year, St. Gaspar was in S. Felice where Pigiucci was located, and he was able to speak to him about the "affair" for which he was energetically seeking a solution. Furthermore, in that year, with Giovanni Merlini going to S. Felice, there was a shift in the order of administration in that House, as seen from the Congressus records.

House. That is the effect following from your goodness of heart and all the virtues that adorn it. Today, we are withdrawing into holy solitude which I hope will be most fruitful for my soul, and for this intention I beg you for incessant prayers. The affair dealing with Canon Pigiucci deserves to be brought to a conclusion. Either he is guilty and is to be judged or he is not guilty and one should go no further into the matter. Even the conciliatory method dealing with many aspects in view merits a conclusion to this affair after so many months of deliberation. I told the young man all that I could so that he would adjust himself to some sort of systematic life, but he replied that he did not wish to leave his career. I am writing this so that you, with such an industrious charity that is so capable of bringing things to a settlement, might interfere with his most reverend Eminence so that some sort of solution can be reached. I realize that this reminder is completely superfluous since I am wellaware of the concern that you have. Still, the young man is yearning for a conclusion to it, and he is losing time etc. While kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem, respect and a very sincere affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2097

November 23, 1830

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

S. Felice in Giano

[a fragment]⁸⁹

We come now to your soul.

During the holy Retreat, and before it is concluded, or even on the feastday of the Saint, about the time that this letter of mine reaches you, you are to ask three things from God.

First, spiritual infancy (*quoad Deum*⁹⁰).

Second, a most ardent zeal for giving glory to God (*quoad proximum*⁹¹).

Third, an angelic purity (*quoad teipsum*⁹²):

After the Retreat, you can give me a rendering of your tendencies, your inclinations, your inspirations, your desires etc. and anything beyond. In the meantime, trust in God.

Pray a lot for me. With all my heart, I am and will constantly be

⁸⁹ This is but a fragment of a letter without an addressee. However, that person must be Fr. Giovanni Chiodi, and the letter was sent by St. Gaspar, as can be deduced from a comparison with the letter to the same person dated January 9, 1830.

⁹⁰ As to God.

⁹¹ As to neighbor.

⁹² As to oneself.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, November 23, 1830

2098

November 23, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir⁹³

You will be doing me a great favor by sending me six reams of the sturdier stationery; four reams of the usual type; one ream of the finer variety and Bella Grande; and one ream of heavy paper for making packages. Let me know the cost. Recommending myself to your prayers, I state once again that with distinct esteem for you, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Rome, November 23, 1830

2099

November 24, 1830

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I am sending a reply to your very dear letter.

Thank you for the savings made with regard to the recent printing. You will be getting a letter from my house with a request for some reams of paper. Go ahead and send them and please indicate to me the cost involved so that, along with the 15 *scudi* for the 500 copies, I can remit to you in one mail delivery the entire sum. Tell the printer that this is not an order that I myself can support, for you know well that what I am able to dispose of is all allocated for the devotion to the Divine Blood, hymn books, rosaries etc. and for anything beyond these, I simply cannot manage. Therefore, I come to this conclusion: my obligation is to satisfy the payment for the 500 copies at the cost of 25 *scudi*. With regard to the additional 500, I will not, in any way at all, accept that burden. But, I assure him that if there is a favorable opportunity, I shall try to have them made available on sale, and I shall write to you about it. If we were to come up with

⁹³ This letter, crammed with errors, was written by Luigia del Bufalo in behalf of her uncle who was in Albano (cfr. the following letter).

another *15 scudi* of alms for Masses to be distributed *ubique*⁹⁴ and conveniently, in that case I would regard this as a founded hope for making use of the other 500 copies, closing out the one thousand copies. In saying this, I merely wish to indicate my concern for doing a good work; but beyond that I will not take on the least responsibility. This is something that should be made clear to the printer.

Ledi has written a few lines to me. In them he says that he has the documents ready, but that he fears that he will not be admitted since he is unable, because of the sickness he has endured, to handle the fasting, at least for the time being. The same holds true for lean foods. In my reply to him, I gave him encouragement, having him realize that since he has not suffered in the chest area, such indispositions would either pass away or even that, because of just and excusing reasons, theology could be pursued. In order to shorten his travel, after he has come to a final decision, I would assign him to the House in Rimini. Finally, before resigning from his assignment, he could, with the bishop's permission, spend at least one trial month in the Institute, and thus come to a more mature resolution.

Presently, I am awaiting the most recent results. Prayers, so that also in this matter, the will of God be done.

I understood everything about the young layman, proposed as a Silvestrino; now I am going to direct him elsewhere.

With regard to the other young fellow, the musician, be assured that, once all the circumstances are examined, there will be no other solution than to place him in the Sacro Convento of Assisi, where the most reverend bishop of Nocera could have his complete cooperation; or even in Loreto, being of service to Monsignor Cristianopolo. Along this line, I have no connections in Rome and even wishing to take on the matter, it would go on lengthily, and I do not know what the degree of success would be. Indeed, I esteem and respect all persons, but I would insist on a thorough examination concerning the placement of the young man, so that he would not be wasted. I always speak in general terms. So think about what has been said here, and then let me know what you think I could do. In this sacred aspect, such as young men wishing to become religious monks etc., it appears that I am beginning to see some approach; but in other regards, it is difficult.

Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, November 24, 1830

⁹⁴ Wherever.

November 27, 1830

Pope Pius VIII

Most blessed Father⁹⁵

The members of the association of St. Francis Xavier in S. Maria in Vincis in Rome, celebrating on March 12th (the anniversary day of the canonization of this Saint) the patronal feast of their protector, beseech your Holiness for the favor⁹⁶ of being able, on the aforementioned day, to have both a sung Mass as well as a read Mass, using the same feastday Mass of that Saint. That etc.

In behalf of the members of the St. Francis Xavier association

⁹⁵ The petition is written in someone else's handwriting and only the address and the signature are written by St. Gaspar.

⁹⁶ The rescriptgrant is dated November 27, 1830.