

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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2151

April 30, 1831  
To a Canon Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Canon<sup>1</sup>

I am most obliged to your very worthy person for the rescripts sent to me. The package of books which Monsignor de Angelis left with you really belong to me; I asked him to deliver this package to Mr. Vincenzo Severini on Via Morgana n. 3, since I, at that time, was involved with a Mission.

Knowing that you would be able to have it forwarded to Mr. Pietro Paolo Tosti, an acquaintance of your brother, we could make use of this means, if you will, so that these booklets then will be forwarded back to me. Always expressing my very deep obligations to your most worthy person, I have the honor and pleasure of stating once again, with esteem, respect and very special affection, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

April, 30, 1831

2152

May 2, 1831  
Mr. Bartolomeo Panzini  
Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, May 2, 1831

Dearest Bartolomeo

With pleasure did I receive your letter. I recommend to you ever so much the great concern of eternal salvation which, once it is assured, every good is assured.

As for Brother Placido, what are we to do? We must be prudent. It is certain that anyone who is truly called to be one of us, does not give up. I have given mention of this to Fr. Liparelli. I am delighted that Brother Placido is content with us. It is necessary, then, for us to control the

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<sup>1</sup> Cfr. the letter to this same person, dated April 17, 1831.

expenses, because especially during these times as well as in some other castigation which God has reserved for us, there is a great deal to be remembered. I do not have the possibility of moving forward with the artists. So, you handle it yourself. In the meantime, I am sending you thirty *scudi* for which the economist is to send me a receipt. I will be needing you in Rome for a number of things; but, if the House there requires your presence for a bit longer, you make your own decision. I yearn to be there in Albano and in the Province; but the regular meetings with Cristaldi in business matters prevent me from coming at this time. In the meanwhile, let us pray that in all things the will of God be done. as for other things, I will discuss them in person with Father Camillo. Pray for me as I wish you every blessing

Affectionately yours in J. C.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2153

May 3, 1831

Arciprete Riccelli<sup>2</sup>

Sermoneta

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>3</sup>

Venerable Archpriest

Enclosed are the documents for the one hundred and twenty Masses which you were so kind to offer for us as a means of repaying you for the grain. Whenever you have extra Masses, you will be doing us a great favor by sending them to our Institute.

You will notice that in one of your letters, which I am including here, you specified the day from which the fulfillment of the Masses could be computed. In my notes, I have pointed out that only six were said anticipatedly, and hence, on a separate page I have indicated that six of them were celebrated again. I hope that I have expressed myself clearly. In addition, 14 will be celebrated for the oil.

I am including also booklets to be used in the promotion of the pious Exercise in the

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<sup>2</sup> On the manuscript, Merlini appended the following Note: "The Archpriest Riccelli of Sermoneta, having sold two measures of grain to the House of Missions and Retreats at S. Francesco of Sermoneta at the current price, in all 18 *Scudi*, asked as satisfaction the celebration of 120 Masses. The lists are appended here on this sheet, just in case the heirs should make some demand, ... since the aforementioned Riccelli is now deceased, January 20, 1835". In another note he adds: "The lists appended to the present one had already been sent to Riccelli, but Msgr. Vespignani, who handled the disposition of the papers of the deceased, returned them to us; so, they form a file in the Archives (sic). Gio. Merlini, Miss. Seg.". On the fourth facing of the sheet, again in the handwriting of Merlini, there is a listing of the 120 Masses celebrated. Furthermore, a note with regard to the six Masses, repeated because they had been applied before the intention of the benefactor had been expressed; finally, a last word of explanation which says: "The file of the Masses is elsewhere. This folio has been separated because it is in the handwriting of the Servant of God. ... July 23, 1841 Gio. Merlini".

<sup>3</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

various parishes; likewise a copy of the Month which can be made wherever it is convenient. If the Month of June is not suitable, they can select another month. Find a priest who would like to assume the responsibility of enrolling people. This will be the topic of our further correspondence, since I am always ready to cooperate in any way possible, both for the devotion to the Divine Blood as well as for the good in general of the glory of God.

Asking you for your prayers in the meantime, I am and will constantly be with esteem and respect and very special attachment

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House (Rome), May 3, 1831

2154

May 3, 1831

Fr. Domenico Costantini

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Archpriest

How obliged I am to you and how many reasons I have for gratitude and most sincere acknowledgment! I had written to my most beloved Father Domenico Silvestri, and the letter was forwarded through you. So, whatever the case may be, you can indeed burn it. Tell Father Domenico, therefore, that I shall be awaiting him in Rome, *nulla interposita mora*.<sup>4</sup> He can also bring along with him Brother Francesco, for I am counting on that being more economical. See that he finds out there whether he will need a travel paper. With this understanding and while asking you for your prayers, most revered archpriest, I am and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 3, 1831

2155

May 5, 1831

Giovanni Calvi

Sora

What you say about the Retreat for your respective confraternity is all very good and we shall hold to the indicated appointment. With the fullness of esteem and respect, I am

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<sup>4</sup> No delay was interposed.

(there is no signature)  
Rome, May 5, 1831

2156

May 7, 1831  
Fr. Francesco Paradisi  
Montalto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

You will be doing a good thing in selecting Pievetorina as your place of residence, as you will find it quite suitable for your health and for your relationships. I shall send them word of this. You should go there at the earliest possible moment. You are always master of making the selection of any one of our Houses; but, you will see that Pievetorina, if I am not mistaken, is the one for you. You must be courageous, however, and make your decision. You can, indeed, be quite assured of the delight of all the members upon your return. No one will be lacking in those considerations which you are deserving of, and for me it will be sufficient that you give your assistance in running internal matters, if you prefer not to go out giving Missions because of your health. So, set aside any feelings of melancholy for that is the work of the enemy of every good.

The image of the most holy Mary has already been ordered for you. When it is completed, we shall deal with the matter of reimbursement and the occurring expenses, which, I assure you, I shall, in the meantime, try to keep with every possible economy. Let me know whether you want me to take care of getting the frame and the carrying case.

I give thanks to God that the new priest is firm in his vocation. Tell him, however, that he should be alert to preserve it. We are working for Rimini; but, in regard to temporal matters, you know what the condition of the times is. Prayers. God is wonderful in his workings. Let us meditate on these words: "*Inquirentes Dominum, non deficient omni bono*".<sup>5</sup>

Let us remain in the adorable Hearts of Jesus and Mary, where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
M. A.

Rome, May 7, 1831

2157

May 10, 1831  
Mgrs. Ottavio Zolio  
Bishop of Rimini

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<sup>5</sup> Those who seek the Lord will not lack any good.

Rimini

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

Venerable Monsignor

With this humble letter of mine I present to you Father Raffalle Rosati, my companion in the ministry, who, because of the urgency to get to the Mission in Pennabilli, has not had the time to obtain, at our House in Albano where he has his things, the documents of approval for confessions and preaching. You can, however, be most assured that he is endowed with the necessary properties for this ministry. So, I ask you please to grant him faculties for the time that he will be helping out in this good work in Romagna.

I seize this opportunity, likewise, to renew once again my feelings of esteem and respect for you.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 10, 1831

2158

May 11, 1831

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, May 11, 1831

Most esteemed Canon

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. With regard to the nuns, it seems to me that in Guarcino there is a certain Canon who used to be in Anagni, capable of handling nuns. I, too, would like to see someone found; in an extreme case, with permission etc. there is the Father Serafino from Monte S. Giovanni. This would be a suitable job for him. In the meantime, *donec, etc., etc.*<sup>7</sup> God will supply you with the strength, but you are still beckoned to the open field of the apostolate. If, to the 80 *scudi* thereabouts, one would be able to find something else applicable in Alatri from among the certain and uncertain things, then it would not be difficult to find someone to take over. Prayers. But, upon leaving the nuns, because of a most serious duty you have for other concerns, see that you introduce a monthly day of recollection in preparation for death. This will facilitate quite a bit the good to be done.

It is surely quite true that I yearn to be in Guarcino, since the brethren there are deserving of special dilection because of the good work done in their Oratory. In case I cannot go, Father

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

<sup>7</sup> Until, etc.

Biagio Valentini, one of our men, will be there. But, I repeat, I hope to get there myself in person. I expect that this Retreat, if it can be worked out, will prepare the people there for the feast of the Divine Blood as well as for the feast of most holy Mary, assumed into heaven. With regard to the nuns in Guarcino, this good work cannot be arranged for them this month because of all the other commitments that have already been placed on the schedule. However, it can be set up for the Saturday before the first Sunday in June. In this way everything can be concluded in accordance with the desires of those religious. It is understood, this will be a Retreat and an extraordinary confession opportunity. With this understanding, on Saturday morning *ante primam Dominicam Junii*,<sup>8</sup> the nuns will please send two mounts, one for the Missionary and the other for the Brother who will be accompanying him. Thus, shortly after their arrival, the introduction will be made. The Missionary will be located in Frosinone. Is this all right? Send your answer quickly, please. While kissing your hands I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2159

May 12, 1831  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, May 12, 1831

Venerable Camillo

There is no doubt ... our devotion is the weapon for these times; "*Ipsi* (says the Apocalypse) *vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>9</sup> So let us propagate it evermore, and do not overlook this year the month of the Divine Blood, urging the people in charge to observe it with particular solemnity. Fabriano was the first city to have the monthly devotion printed. Be courageous, for you will see great things effected by this very important devotion: "*Iustificati in Sanguine salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*".<sup>10</sup> Thus, if we know how to draw profit from this truce, God will be propitious towards us. Hence, let everyone of us, with the greatest vigor, cooperate with the great designs of providence. There is no good work accomplished which is not accompanied by difficulty; there is no work of God that is not a triumph of patience and longanimity.

Let me know whether by mail or through someone here in Rome I am to deliver the 15

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<sup>8</sup> Before the first Sunday of June.

<sup>9</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>10</sup> Justified by his blood, we shall be saved through it from wrath.

*scudi* owed for the printing. If I am not mistaken, that is the amount due to the printer. I would be pleased if, at the earliest possibility, you would send me five reams of stationery. One, similar to the sample that I am enclosing, another of the type that you yourself use for your letters. one for copies of sheets that are more or less larger, and the other two, the usual kind, *della palomba*. Let me know the cost and to whom I am to send the money, which, in this instance, I could send along by mail with the 15 *scudi*. Also, let me know whether the printer has on hand some Chaplets all set to go. I still have some; but, perhaps, for a commission. We will look into this again.

I will be needing two bolts of wellwoven and strong cloth for our brothersinservice, adaptable for shirts; it should be of prime quality. Try to purchase these for me, but observing every possible thrift. I beg You to excuse me for causing you so much inconvenience, and with esteem and gratitude, I remain always

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2160

May 12, 1831  
Bartolomeo Panzini  
Albano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, May 12, 1831

Dearest Bartolomeo

Next Monday, Godwilling, I shall be in Albano to pay a courtesy visit to Cardinal Falzacappa who has demonstrated his delight with Liparelli; also, to go along with Canon Fontana on the following Tuesday for the Mission in Sezze, staying over night on Tuesday in Sermoneta and then on Wednesday beginning the holy Mission. The case for the crucifix will be the one that I sent to Albano; patience, if it is not my own; it is more economical to do it that way. The Madonna, along with the accouterments, I will get in Sermoneta; from Rome, I will bring along St. Francis Xavier in a small case together with a covering. With things set up in this way, we shall then meet with Father Biagio in Sermoneta where I shall also direct another of our Missionaries <sup>11</sup> who will handle the pep talks, the prisons, and other things. So these are the arrangements made along with my prayers for that Mission; I cannot dispense myself from them except for some unforeseen occurrences. If you would be able to leave things there in Albano, I would be delighted if you would come here with me. In case of evident impossibility for you to do this, perhaps Carlo, the sacristan, could come, since he is next in line; then he can return to

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<sup>11</sup> First, he had written the name of the Missionary, but then he crossed it out in such a way that it is not legible.

Albano by the time you will be going to Sezze. So, I would say that you might get a position on a carriage and come to Rome, either Saturday night or Sunday morning before the noon meal, so that we could leave on that Monday for Albano, as I mentioned before. However, if you are unable to come to Rome, send me a couple of lines to let me know so that I can regulate my moves. Then, we will see each other at the noon meal next Monday. Indeed, I may be getting there in time, perhaps, for saying Mass. I do not know. Write to me. I am

Affectionately yours in Jesus C.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2161

May 12, 1831

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, May 12, 1831

Very reverend Mother

Here is my answer to you with recollections of St. Teresa. The sea has its storms and its periods of calm. So too is it so in the life of the spirit. Storms will not be lacking; but the ship of the heart will not be wrecked because Jesus is there as its guide; and, if he sees that we are disturbed, he says to us: "*Quid timetis modicae fidei?*".<sup>12</sup>

You have seen the boulder in the sea. It is battered by the waves but remains motionless. So, too, with the grace of God, will our hearts be. We do not want blame; we despise sin, and the soul trembles at the very mention of the word. It is fearful and frightened if there is any doubt at all about having been remiss. However, those doubts, by following spiritual direction, are dispelled, since in this instance precaution is always beneficial to the soul. Reflect on these words: "*Ponis nubem ascensum tuum*"<sup>13</sup> and say: here is a cloud ... darkness, disturbance; but even amidst such hardships as these one rises heavenward. So, disregard everything, and move forward.

You asked for news about me. Here it is: I am always busy. How I am with respect to my spirit, God will make known to you if you pray for it. I am most needful of everything. In short, that is the plain truth. The Institute is doing great work everywhere; but the devil is madly opposed to it. With your prayers, help us to crush his pride and arrogance. Would you do this? I have no doubt you will. Pray for the locales of Sonnino and Terracina, for only God knows what will become of them now that we have no one living there. Such are the grand dispositions of providence! What can you tell me about the Institute as well as about my soul? Does the Lord

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<sup>12</sup> What do you fear, O you of little faith?

<sup>13</sup> You place a cloud your place of ascension.

not tell you something when you pray? Indeed, ordinarily God speaks to one's heart. I feel a sort of presentiment, whether it is true or not I do not know, that our two Houses of Terracina and Sonnino will be reopened. At least let us pray that someone will go there, even from another Institute, to do some good work. Prayers.

One thing: I am about to make a triduum to the Sacred Heart. I enjoin you to pray and have others pray for this too. There is also a Mission to be conducted in Sezze, and I am hopeful of going there in person. Prayers. However, for the sake of good order, always send your letters to Rome. I am (on this feast of the Ascension) desirous of that holy union in Paradise.

Your humble servant

*G. C. d. B.*

M. Ap.

2162

May 17, 1831  
Pietro Cajani  
Bologna

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>14</sup>

Venerable Pietro

Upon rereading some of my letters, I came upon one of your letters referring to Countess Bentivoglio. You were to compose a brief eulogy and make arrangements for her funeral. I presume that all of that has been done, and, in that case, if possible, I would like to have a copy of the eulogy. The return there of the deceased lady's maidservant should have provided you with many particular details. His Eminence Falzacappa and I could only provide a general sort of testimony regarding the solid practice of virtue by this Countess. I felt that everything should be submitted to your own good judgment. While recommending ever more and more to you the glories of the Divine Blood, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

P. S. If necessary, send your reply to "Rome".

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo of Albano, May 17, 1831

2163

May 17, 1831  
Fr. Pietro Butti  
Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

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<sup>14</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

House in Albano, May 17, 1831

Venerable Canon

A project of the ministry has required that within a few days I am to leave Rome, but then return there quite soon. The reason for this is a Mission in Sezze where I shall remain until the end of the month, leaving, if necessary, one of my companions there after the last blessing, for I must urgently return then to Rome. You should always send your letters there.

It remains agreed that on the Saturday before the first Sunday in June, a Missionary will be on hand for the Retreat and Extraordinary visit for the nuns of Guarcino. After that, he will conduct the Retreat to the members of the Oratory in accordance with what you mention in your letter to me. In the meantime, please obtain all the faculties worthy of mention including those of very special mention, and let us be settled on this point. However, it is not possible to overlook the Brother whom I would willingly maintain on my own, if it were necessary. So, inform the nuns there that, aside from any thoughts about who will be giving the Retreat, ordinary meals will suffice for the two of them. Canon Domeniconi, to whom you will give my best regards, will give the instructions applicable in this project, and will also take care of the members of the St. Xavier group. If I were free to give this Retreat to the members, I would do this at my own expense along with the one handling the Extraordinary visit. But since this is not possible, he will carry through with the apostolate in Guarcino, managing the program as indicated. Let us be in agreement.

I will look into the matter of a confessor for the nuns; in the meantime, prayers. I realize that this is something that is not that easy; at any rate, have the nuns offer prayers. In an extreme case, if they have not had their Retreat, something could be worked out here within a short while to cover things until God provides otherwise. In this question of confessors for nuns, either one is unable to locate them or they turn out to be somewhat mediocre. I am speaking in a general way, but I am not altogether wrong. So, be convinced that by insisting *in extremis*<sup>15</sup> with the Capuchins on this point, *ad tempus*<sup>16</sup> a subject will be obtained from their General. Other avenues might also be tried.

With regard to the Oratory there, as a means of reviving it, you might set up a seven-day service in preparation for the feast of the Divine Blood. Or possibly a Retreat for the members for the feast of the Assumption? Pray over this. God knows the need there is for the Oratory and especially during these miserable times of ours. Even if only a few show up, do not abandon it. God rewards *secundum laborem; honestavit illum in laboribus*.<sup>17</sup> It is necessary to stimulate that association of the brethren. I shall not be lacking in support of it in whatever way that I can. One could also, every now and then, make use of extraordinary means of encouragement. St. Francis

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<sup>15</sup> At the end.

<sup>16</sup> At the time.

<sup>17</sup> According to the work; he honored him in his labors.

Xavier will be praying earnestly in heaven for this cause. I kiss your hands, and with my best regards to Canon Domeniconi, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

P. S. A thought comes to me with regard to sending a Brother, and it is this: instead of the Brother, I could send two Missionaries. One for the nuns, the other for the Oratory. If the one who gives the Retreat for the Oratory finishes first, he could continue with hearing confessions for the public. In this way, the saying will be verified: *numquam solus*.<sup>18</sup> At any rate, send your reply quickly to Sezze.

2164

May 23, 1831

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Sezze, May 23, 1831

Very Reverend Mother

I am writing with a shortage of time; so, for now I shall limit myself to telling you that after the Mission in this city, I will have to return immediately to Rome for the triduum in honor of the Sacred Heart, for which you should not cease praying. After that, I shall return to the Province. At that time, I see that it could be easier for me to get to Piperno, if the Lord so wishes. In the meantime, pray and have others do so too. The thought of having a Mission in Piperno is an excellent and holy one. Most important is to pray that God will render serviceable again the two locales of Terracina and Sonnino. You are to keep up observing the usual rules. In the Divine Heart, and most needful of prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2165

May 28, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Sezze, May 28, 1831

Most esteemed Camillo

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<sup>18</sup> Never alone.

Always send your most revered letters to Rome. If they are ready on time, please send me another two reams of stationery. With regard to the cloth, select the very best and try, as I know you will, to observe the greatest possible thrift. Finally, if possible, see that it is a bit wider. Please send me four bolts of that cloth as soon as you can. I was very pleased with the sample. You take care of the rest. Also, send me the Chaplets that the printer has on hand. At this time, I will not order any other printings; but, later I shall see what decision to come to when we have figured out our entire account.

I understand about the small compositions, and, after you have figured out our entire account, I will send you the money.

I do not fail to pray for your family. In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2166

June 9, 1831  
 Msgr. Antonio Begni  
 Bishop of Montefeltro  
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>19</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

What you were pleased to indicate to me, in your recent most venerable letter, is nothing other than the effect of the mercy of God and of your singular kindness toward our humble Institute. So, now, let us always be evermore united in spirit so as to hasten the continued mercies of the Lord in bringing about the desired peace sought for in our present circumstances which call for very special prayers.

With regard to the two monasteries of Macerata Feltria and Santagata, we will be able to arrange the time as follows. On the evening of August 31st, the mounts are to be in Rimini so that we can follow our method for the two monasteries that will be benefitted both by the good work of the Retreat and the extraordinary visitation for the ones heading the entrance, in accordance with the appointment made. Thus, contemporaneously, the aforementioned monasteries of Macerata Feltria and Santagata will be having their Retreats and extraordinary visitation, accompanied, as always in all things, by your prayers. With regard to the Mission to be given in Macerata Feltria, and for any other good work to be done, all you have to do is to give the order, only keeping in mind, however, that a proper amount of time be allowed beforehand so that everything can be predisposed, just as your most reverend excellency has been accustomed to do.

I bring this letter to a close by imploring the charity of your prayers. While kissing your

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<sup>19</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

hands, I remain, with the fullness of esteem, respect and veneration

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Please send a line or so of response.

Rome, June 9, 1831

2167

June 9, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 9, 1831

Venerable Camillo

You will be receiving 38,10 *scudi* from the Lotti in payment of our accounts. I am always obliged to your most worthy person.

I am writing with a shortage of 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.

2168

June 9, 1831

Fr. Luigi Savj

Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 9, 1831

Most esteemed Canon

Your letter was most pleasing and I cannot tell you how anxious I am to go along with your desires, all of which are directed to the greater glory of God whom we serve. I hope that our dearest Mother Mary most holy will bring consolation, I repeat, to the desires that we hold in common and, particularly, your own which are so edifying and inspiring.

I am writing with a shortage of time. As often as you can, say an *Ave Maria* to Mary most holy in your very beautiful church. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with respectful esteem and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2169

June 14, 1831  
Fr. Francesco Paradisi  
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 14, 1831

Dear Canon

The most reverend bishop is very happy that you take the year *ad deliberandum*,<sup>20</sup> and I am already drawing up the memorandum for you. Now, all you have left to do is to verify the counsel given to you by the excellent Father Giovannelli as well as the divine inspirations given to you for your vocation. Let me know whether you are content with remaining in Pievetorina or whether you would want to go to S. Felice in Giano, or to Rimini where you have your things which I would like you to have with you. The image of most holy Mary is finished. Let me know where I am to send it. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your most humble, affectionate and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2170

June 15, 1831  
Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 15, 1831

Venerable Camillo

I have already worked it out with the Lotti for the balance of your account. For my own peace of mind, I would appreciate a line or so from you. I am in a hurry, but with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

The material or the cloth is excellent. I have received everything. A thousand, thousand thanks.

2171

June 16, 1831

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

Fr. Felice Felici  
Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Most esteemed Father Felici<sup>21</sup>

I inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine in order to find out whether in the church of S. Maria in Vincis the Pious Union of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was erected. As far as I know, I think that this good work was established ever since the time of the nowdeceased Canon Carboni, secretary of the vicariate. However, in the aforementioned church, no record can be found. It will be necessary then to favor us with the usual printed matter and instructions that will suffice to revive this good work, and, that the faculty for enrolling people should be granted to the director of that function to be supplied by the society of St. Francis Xavier which is installed in that church. I take this opportunity to renew my esteem and respect for you.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

House, June 16, 1831

2172

June 16, 1831  
Fr. Angelo Luzzi  
Veroli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 16, 1831

Most esteemed Father Angelo

Always grateful for your goodness and the kind acts of the people in your house, I now send a reply to your recent most appreciated letter. I have already written everything to Father Tomasso Meloni and I am awaiting a response which I hope will be favorable.

We agree about the Retreat for the members of the St. Xavier group. I shall do everything possible to be there in person. However, in case I am unable, already prepared to come is the member who is the superior of our House in Albano. We will be in Frosinone for the established time; have no doubt about it. Good work will be done and with great blessing from God. Generally speaking, it is certain that I shall soon be in the Province and I shall come to Veroli to visit with the Monsignor and I will, at least, take care of the Oratory, I am hopeful however that the first part will be verified. Do not cease praying and have others pray for me who, with esteem and respect, remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>21</sup> The copy of this letter to Fr. Felici, secretary of the Pious Union of the Sacred Heart, is from Fr. Giovanni Merlini.

*G. C. del Bufalo*  
Mis. Ap.

2173

June 16, 1831  
Fr. Luigi Cocci  
Grutti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 16, 1831

Venerable Father Luigi

May God bless your apostolic efforts for good work which must be promoted for the benefit of the souls there. These are times which call for a multiplication of pious organizations so as to placate the Lord and to accelerate his mercies toward us. If you agree, I would say that you should arrange to have the Mission on the first Sunday in September. It would last for 15 days; perhaps, even, more or less, an additional day. There will be three Missionaries on hand along with a Brother in service, making four in all. I shall do everything possible to be there myself in person, but in case that should be truly impossible, then allow me to see that an extraordinary good work will be done, always of course, with the help of prayers etc. If you would care to have only two Missionaries, let me know. I think that there should be three. I would appreciate having a couple of lines from you. I leave it to you to give complete information to the most reverend bishop to whom, at the proper time, I shall send the usual letter. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*  
Mis. Ap.

2174

June 22, 1831  
Fr. Nicola Palma  
Napoli per Teramo

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, June 22, 1831

My dearest and most respected Canon

Your distinguished book on the Mysteries of the Divine Blood has prepared you very well for the practice of those virtues of which you have now rendered yourself an example in the series of trials to which the ever adorable Providence of God has subjected you. Through it you have taught us all how to suffer. Now you can repeat with reference to the Crucified One: "*Sub*

*umbra illius quem desideraveram sedi*".<sup>22</sup> Courage, however; for I feel in my heart a premonition, so to speak, of your recovery. Therefore, do not lose sight of Xavier and the work that you have contemplated. Direct your intentions to him together with your most fervent prayers.

Once you are restored to health, and adhering to the statement that you made to me, realize that, in addition to the Life of the Saint which has not been reprinted often, there are also some letters written by the Saint himself that have been published in Ascoli.<sup>23</sup> Furthermore, there are many other materials that can be gathered for this project. I am looking forward to this great favor from God and your indefatigable zeal. In time, we will discuss the procedures further.

On the 3rd, the first Sunday of July, the feast of the Divine Blood, I will celebrate Mass for you, as I will also do on the 12th. I am so hopeful for the favor.

To tell the truth, I do not remember anything of the purchase. But send me the information to study, and as soon as possible I will give you the results of my investigation.

*Laus Deo*,<sup>24</sup> because of the Sundays in honor of S. Luigi. But this is not enough. The entire plan for these most recent Missions must be revised by your industrious charity. Oh, what a joy, for the pure glory of God, to have some kind of consoling news with regard to this matter. I trust that God will restore the holy ministry which has been reviled and together with it, *salvo equivoco*,<sup>25</sup> the maligning of those whom God has sent to cultivate that area of the evangelical field. May he renew his glories: "*Vinea mea electa, etc. etc.*"<sup>26</sup> Nevertheless I love all equally and even though I cannot excuse the deed, I do excuse the intention.

I would appreciate your questioning Mr. Quartaroli to see whether I owe him anything for the books of the ten Fridays in honor of the great Xavier. A package containing several copies, which had been sent some years ago to the one who was acting in my name in Rome, namely Vincenzo Severini, has finally reached me; from all indications, to be used presumably in my ministry. Here is how the mixup occurred, as far as I can figure it out. A certain Msgr. De Angelis of Ascoli left the package with a priest in Rome who, unaware of Severini's address, did not

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<sup>22</sup> I sat under the shade of him whom I had desired.

<sup>23</sup> This is reference to the translation made by Father amici: "*Lettere istoriche di S. Francesco Saverio*, put into popular language by Rev. Fr. D. Francesco Amici, an Olivetan monk. Two volumes. Ascoli, 1828, printing by Luigi Cardì". The work is dedicated to Cardinal Giovanni Franc. Falzacappa and in the preface he speaks of "a new union of apostolic Men, who under the auspices and invocation of the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ and the special tutelage of St. Francis Xavier, have dedicated themselves as an institute principally to the ministry of the Missions."

At the end of Vol. II we find: "List of the individuals who have graciously sponsored this edition", and under the letter D: "Del Bufalo, Can. D. Gaspare, Missionary Apostolic, for 26 copies". Amici had undertaken the translation at the suggestion of our Saint.

<sup>24</sup> Praise God.

<sup>25</sup> I hedge for the one saved.

<sup>26</sup> My elect vineyard, etc.

know where to forward the books. Now, by accident, everything has been cleared up. I am telling you all of this to make up for any oversight on my part.

Not long ago I returned from the Missions. A person was inspired by God to make a donation for that holy project. The Work was blessed by God very greatly.

As for our correspondence: address your letters regularly to Rome.

Finally, news of you is always most pleasing, delightful and welcome. But this time it was especially delightful and welcome. So, I am full of trust that it will be productive of comfort. It surely supplies me with consolation in regard to our<sup>27</sup> relationship in God and to the good of his glory, whom we serve. My regards to all who may be mindful of me. *Gratia Dei nobiscum*.<sup>28</sup> Regard me ever at your beck and call, with respectful esteem and sincerest attachment

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2175

June 25, 1831  
Fr. Pietro Spina  
Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Rome, June 25, 1831

Esteemed D. Pietro

Whenever anyone who wishes to have Masses said is a person who can be trusted, and you know that that person is solvent and has a good conscience, even without signing a note, at least for this case, you can sign up the Masses. It is understood that there be a leeway of time for the celebration of them, and likewise that they can be said *ubique*,<sup>29</sup> even in a private chapel; furthermore, let me know what the offering is.

At the first opportunity, send someone to Albano and the money will be sent. Do not use a Brother. I am speaking of trustworthy means.

I urge you to look into the systematic collection of grain, and I pray that God will bless it for his own glory. I presume that you have carried out what I listed for you on the page of reminders. I would like to have the results, beginning with Terracina, then, Sonnino, etc.

Please explain better what you meant by the expression: except for my head. Are you perhaps not well?

The *Via Crucis* will be arriving from Vallecorsa at the first opportunity. It will not be able

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<sup>27</sup> In the manuscript the word "our" is repeated.

<sup>28</sup> The grace of God be with us.

<sup>29</sup> Wherever.

to be set up in the Cemetery Chapel,<sup>30</sup> since there is one there already at the present time. Likewise, it will be necessary to request Indulgences. Those prints, each one protected by a little screen made of copper wire and a new cardboard framing, could be set up inside the niches of the shrines that are found along the road.<sup>31</sup> Remember, too, that crosses will be required for they are necessary for the indulgences.

Prepare yourself more and more for the ministry of the Missions. It will be helpful if you tell me what preachable materials you have.

Three hats probably have arrived there already. The cost of them is 75 *baj.*, which you will include along with the first receipt.

I am, etc.

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2176

June 25, 1831  
 Msgr. Antonio Begni  
 Bishop of Montefeltro  
 Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>32</sup>

Rome, June 25, 1831

Venerable Monsignor

When I returned from the holy Missions, I found your most appreciated letter. In reply, I say that such is my esteem and respect for your most worthy person that I shall regulate my appointments in such a way as to fulfill the ministry to the nuns of S. Agata and of Macerata Feltria at the time that you will indicate to me. I ask only that you send word at the soonest possible moment. I kiss your hands. 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

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2177

MayJune 1831

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<sup>30</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta (Cappellina del Cemeterio)

<sup>31</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Shrines. Roadway

<sup>32</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris  
Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother<sup>33</sup>

Praise be to the Lord now that peace has set its roots ever more deeply in you and in such a way that those very, very bitter experiences will never again alter that peace: "*Ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".<sup>34</sup>

It is an incontestable thing that the most Blessed Sacrament should be the center of our hearts. The sacred ciborium is the wine cellar wherein Jesus captures our affections and draws us to himself. When you are there, beg for me holy divine love; also, the reform of my heart. Likewise,

try to recognize Paradise in that area of the most Blessed Sacrament. Every morning, I place myself at the holy altar; pray that I be inflamed with the fire of love that will compensate for my passed acts of coldness and that I will be stimulated to a new life of fervor.

Now, with regard to your nephew: first of all, we are to be assured of his vocation; secondly, we are to be assured of his vocation to our Institute; thirdly, it will be necessary to have a patrimonial title, which can be gotten with the assignment of at least a chaplaincy. However, we cannot make any promises. You, in your prayers, realize these verities. Then, too, he will have to apply himself to sacred studies as the years go by. So, you make up your mind and send me a reply after you have contacted your nephew. Note that in his wanting to become a priest, I would be able to find some vacant place somewhere in the diocese for him. Perhaps, who knows, it might be possible to find that in Piperno. Finally, if he should feel drawn by God to join some other Institute, I would not fail to be of assistance to him.

With regard to the selecting of Canon Celle, a very excellent priest, tell Canon La Penna, to whom you will give my greetings, that the Chapter will write to the *Uditore Santissimo*, since that is the thing that is usually done. I, too, will do all I can to go along with the good work being done for the people there, even though Monsignor Grati may not yet be installed. Let us do everything through prayer. I do not have the time to reread this letter. I am ...

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<sup>33</sup> This letter has no date. It is difficult to give it a precise location. The content offers some elements of orientation. Especially, it mentions Msgr. Luigi Grati who was the administrator in Terracina, Sezze and Priverno from 1829 to 1833. Furthermore, it refers to the vocation of the nephew of De Castris, a theme that appears for the first time in the Letter Collection of St. Gaspar on July 27, 1830 and then appears again numerous times (July 9 and 28, 1831; November 8, 1831; October 1, 1835; December 10, 1835; January 17, 1836 etc.) Therefore, it seems that the best placement for this letter is May/June 1831. In fact, based on what is said in this letter about the vocation of the nephew of the De Castris nun with whom he discussed the vocation of the nephew during the Mission in Sezze (May 1831), St. Gaspar, on July 9, 1831 writes a letter to Enrico De Castris in which he invites him to examine himself with regard to the vocation to the priesthood, etc. In the letter of July 28, 1831 to the De Castris nun, St. Gaspar assures her about her nephew's vocation.

<sup>34</sup> Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

Your humble servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 M. Ap.

2178

July 9, 1831  
 Enrico De Castris  
 Anagni

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>35</sup>

Most esteemed sir

Your aunt spoke to me about you on the occasion when, not long ago, I was in Sezze giving a holy Mission. I do not see that it is necessary for you to come to Rome since this matter can be handled by means of lettercorrespondence. At the foot of the Cross, you will come to realize: 1. whether God is calling you to the ecclesiastical state of life; by reading Liguori's *La Selva predicabile* you will note the signs of a true vocation; 2. whether God wishes to have you as a priest dedicated to the care of souls or in other lines of duty, or one dwelling in a religious house; 3. that you have a spiritual guide for counseling, someone whom I suppose you have already selected. With this general plan in view, more later. Finally, place great trust in the merits of the Divine Blood. Consider me always to be what I declare here as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*  
 Mis. Ap.  
 Rome, July 3, 1831

2179

July 9, 1831  
 Msgr. Antonio Begni  
 Bishop of Montefeltro  
 Pennabilli

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

Venerable Monsignore

On August 16th please send the mounts to Rimini since one of our Missionaries along with a Brotherinservice will be going to S. Agata, and another Missionary with a Brotherinservice will be going to Macerata Feltria. You are to give them the pertinent instructions. With that understanding, asking you for your prayers, as I kiss your hands, most

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<sup>35</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

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

venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly remain, with profound esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 9, 1831

P. S. I, myself, shall take care of informing the Missionaries.

2180

July 9, 1831

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 9, 1831

Venerable Camillo

Excellent, holy, and hardly ever sufficiently to be praised, is the donation of 60 *bajocchi* for the triduum of the Divine Blood, a devotion which I always recommend more and more to your wellacknowledged zealous spirit. "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>37</sup>

With regard to the vocation of your daughter, quite necessary before a decision can be made are the illuminations that God gives to the one who is the spiritual guide of her soul. At any rate, in a general way, I would say that, in the first place, very highly to be valued are those first impressions of grace that come with the passing years of age. Along with Monsignor Strambi (for whom the following was a familiar saying) I add that it is from one's deathbed that one can best view his vocation and state in life, which is the one that will lead the soul to know how best to correspond to God's call. I wish for you every heavenly blessing, shared also by all in your family. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be, with total respect and esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2181

July 9, 1831

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 9, 1831

Most illustrious sir

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<sup>37</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

On this day on which we are remembering here in Rome the miraculous opening of the eyes of the most holy Mary, I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. Oh how much<sup>38</sup> I regret not having seen you in Rome as I would have liked. However, God did not dispose things so, and may his will be done.

Very gratifying to me were the details concerning the religious observance of the feast of the Divine Blood. Offida must distinguish itself in this devotion and must, each day, see to the recitation of our Chaplet before the sacred relic. You might give this some thought during your prayers, and I ask you to do this with the complete outpouring of my poor soul. My prayer includes, likewise, your excellent wife to whom you will extend my very best wishes.

You did very well in varying the readings from the book, for variety, as you know, is another way to encourage the doing of good work.

Most delightful and likewise of historical importance was the meeting with the Holy Father. Indeed, I love to refer to the city Offida, because of its fervor and because of the sacred relic which it has, as the Holy City, the glorious city because of that grand monument of religion which is located there. Oh how blessed you are ... *aemulor, sed Dei aemulatione*.<sup>39</sup>

Now let us turn to the matter of studies. In each one of our Mission Houses, we apply ourselves to scientific conferences as a preparation for our ministries. But also there is available for our young men a most regular system of studies of the sacred sciences in S. Felice in Giano of Umbria as well as in S. Paolo in Albano. Here is the method that is followed: the students have a section reserved apart for them. In the morning, after allowing time for religious acts, they dedicate themselves to private study, following what was presented in the previous lessons. Later, the classes are held (the head Missionary is a teacher who does not go out on Mission work except during school vacations). The classes cover sacred Dogma, Moral etc. Our Institute makes us of the finest talents; we make a distinction between what is certain and what is opinion. Through the grace of God, the young men who are trained in these fields of knowledge as well as in their spiritual lives, I simply cannot describe the progress that they make to the glory of God. However, we admit only those who demonstrate at least an inclination for our Institute. As long as the Institute has the means, it provides the young men with daily needs and for its new priests, an alms of Masses which is helpful in this regard. I tell you these things by way of information and I am always ready to answer any questions that you may have with respect to this matter. Because of its proximity, one might select S. Felice in Giano where at the head of the curriculum there is a certain Missionary, Fr. Merlini, who is quite recognized for his merits. Concerning all of this, I shall be awaiting your latest resolutions from which so much good can result for the Church of Jesus Christ, once decisively made, as you yourself can well realize.

Finally, do not cease insisting on the continuation of the work of the holy Oratory, on the

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<sup>38</sup> Underlined three times.

<sup>39</sup> I emulate, but with the emulation of God.

recitation of the Rosary. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, consider me to be invariably

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2182

July 9, 1831

Fr. Innocenzo Betti Missionario

Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, July 9, 1831

Esteemed Canon

Up to now I have not even written to Fr. Mosconi concerning the Visitation, which will be able to be held a bit later on. I am pleased to learn of the duties of the Companions, for my own benefit.

As for the reminder of your last letter, it demands rather an act of virtue than a response. I stand by the policy expressed in the Circular concerning the Brothers. In order not to get lost in repeated futility, I point out to you that when you obey, you will be doing everything. Pray, Canon, for you are in danger of not having the grace of perseverance in the Institute. Your conduct up to now is to be pitied.

Our letter exchange, not having any further purpose, is at an end, at least for the time being. Whenever you wish to be relieved of the matters dealing with the economy, say so and I shall make provisions. All this is in line with your last letter.

Consider me in J.C. Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2183

July 9, 1831

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Pievotorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 9, 1831

Venerable Canon

Today is the day on which we recall here in Rome the opening of the eyes of most holy Mary, and on such a memorable day, I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. I thank you wholeheartedly for the charity of your prayers which I ask you to multiply and increase for me. With regard to your image of the most holy Mary, have no doubt that you will be getting it

on the first available occasion. I would say that the glass should not be put on it for the trip since, by experience, one discovers that it is easily broken and the expense would be in vain. So as a matter of practice with regard to a painting, it is a good thing that the holy image be sent from the beginning without glass. As for anything further on this procedure, I refer you to what I mentioned in a previous letter.

The visit there in keeping with what De Victoriis writes will be deferred for a while.

I would say that you should have your properties removed from Romagna for fear that it may suffer loss. However, do whatever you feel is best on this question, keeping in touch with Father Giovanni Chiodi.

I thank God for the release which you have obtained; thus, with serenity of spirit you can apply yourself to the works of his glories. Dear Canon, let us not lose those very beautiful opportunities which God offers us for the pursuit of his greater glory. While kissing your hands, I repeat once again that with esteem and respect I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2184

July 12, 1831  
Maria Di Mattia  
Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 12, 1831

Most illustrious Miss

Many occupations have retarded any treatment at all concerning foundations in Norcia discussed between me and Monsignor Bonanni. Now, I am writing once again. Pray that the will of God be done. With esteem and respect I remain<sup>40</sup>

2185

Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

You computed the accounts for the cloth at 25 and a half measurements in length and, as a matter of fact, it measures at 28. Check over your accounts so that no one suffers a loss etc. Let

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<sup>40</sup> The lower righthand corner, where St. Gaspar's signature was located, has been torn away. After the text of the letter, the following notation of Fr. Giovanni Merlini is found: "I, the undersigned, attest that this letter, although lacking a complimentary close, is however in the handwriting of the Venerable Servant of God, Gaspare del Bufalo. *In fede*. On this July 20, 1854. Giov. Merlini, Miss. Ap. , Dir. Gen. "

me know whatever else I still owe you.<sup>41</sup>

2186

July 13, 1831  
Fr. Pietro Spina  
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, July 13, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

You will not send the Brothers out until you hear from me. I thank God for the collection of hay. I hope that God will bless the other one of grain. Let me know when this second collection has been completed, and I will determine when to have the Brothers come, etc., as well as to send help for the feast of S. Anna and for August 2, although I do not know whether we have the indulgences, since both parishes have that privilege. We shall see.

With respect to the articles donated to us by the deceased Rossi, figure out how to have them transported. After this heat wave is over, try to get an answer from Fr. Andrea Rossi through his relatives, before shipping them. In that way, it can all be done with one swing. I shall await your answer on this, and whether there are other means available for the transportation.

The death notices are all ready and are located in Albano in a basket. You will send them back to Rome, where the candlesticks are, too. I shall send the account later. The sugar and coffee are ready also. I shall send them to Albano at the first opportunity. Be advised of this. In the meantime, shift as best as possible.

See to it that Captain Calleri is satisfied with seven *Sc.*;<sup>42</sup> check to see whether I should give them to Canon Mancini and whether I should get a receipt.

Later on the things for that House will arrive for the feast of S. Anna.

Insist on whatever pertains to wellregulated order there, just as the companions do etc.

In J.C. Crucified, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

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<sup>41</sup> These words, without the usual complimentary opening found in his letters, as well as lacking his signature, were written on a halfsheet of paper and the postal mark is that of Rome. We do not know precisely what date to assign to this writing. We place it in this location because at this period of time St. Gaspar, on several occasions, has asked Possenti to order the cloth.

<sup>42</sup> This *Captain Calleri*, who is often named in the books of the Archives in the House of Sermoneta, was a friend of the Missionaries and was, among other things, one of the contributors for the *Via Crucis* which is spoken of in the footnote of Lett. 376, June 25, 1831. With regard to what is mentioned here in this letter, we find in the Register of accounts paid for 1831, under date of July 21: "7.50 scudi, paid to the Captain Calleri for some oil".

And what about the collections there?<sup>43</sup>

2187

July 14, 1831  
Fr. Luigi Cocci  
Grutti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 14, 1831

Venerable Father

Be assured that I shall do all in my power to be there in Grutti for the Mission; however, in case my trip to Giano is either delayed or should not take place in this year, we are not to delay that good work, for God, is wonderful in the disposition of his providence. I repeat, I hope that I will be able to come; but in case I cannot because of some obstacle that may arise (relative as they can be), the Mission will be conducted and I shall see to sending three workers who will surpass your expectations. I say this for the glory of God and for your peace of mind. With this understanding, then, you should proceed to prearranging everything. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, consider me to be what I now repeat with esteem and affection, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2188

July 16, 1831  
Fr. Raffaele Rosati  
Rimini

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 16, 1831

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

With regard to hearing confessions there, contact Fr. Chiodi or Fr. Romani so that you will not be lacking in that wisdom which prayer, humility and practical knowledge brings to us more and more. I trust greatly in your charity and zeal for the glory of God. I am speaking of what is extrinsic and a matter of prudence.

Indeed, because of the urgencies of the times, let us not cease praying. The news concerning the month of June is truly consoling. My beloved, we are not to cease propagating always this most meaningful devotion.

As for your remaining there, in my judgment, I lean more toward the negative than to the

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<sup>43</sup> At the foot of this letter, Fr. Spina wrote the following note: "Materials for the Brothers' shoes and their pants". Perhaps it was a reminder of what he was supposed to ask the Saint when he sent his reply to this present letter.

affirmative. Please allow me this entire month to come to a decision. At the beginning of August, you will be given the *ultimatum* and then at that time we shall see whether and where your trunks should go. Prayers. Many things are dependent on my lettercorrespondence with Fr. Merlini.

Let us remain in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2189

July 16, 1831  
Fr. Nicola Palma  
Teramo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 16, 1831

Venerable Canon

Here it is all taken care of. I would like to have news concerning your state of health. Being obliged to open the brief *in actu confessionis*,<sup>44</sup> as you instruct, if the confessor should have a reason to write after that, which is something I do not believe will be so, I shall follow *more solito*. Pray a great deal for me. Though in a hurry, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2190

July 28, 1831  
Msgr. Antonio Begni  
Bishop of Montefeltro  
Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>45</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

If in times past there was urgency for the ministry, that need is evermore increased at the present time. Indeed, holy and never sufficiently commended is your religious and pious plan to found and establish a Mission and Retreat House in Macerata Feltria, *et Dominus repleat in bonis desiderium tuum*.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> In the act of confession.

<sup>45</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>46</sup> And may the Lord fill your desire with good things.

I shall be awaiting your document with all the details so as to be acquainted with what your desires are as well as to be able to exchange ideas and reflections on this project. In the meanwhile, I kiss your hands. Always beseeching more and more the charity of your prayers, in which I confide greatly, most illustrious and reverend lordship, I have the honor of stating once again with profound obeisance and particular esteem, that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 26, 1831

2191

July 26, 1831

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Terracina per Benevento

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Rome, July 26, 1831

Esteemed Canon

I beg you not to be distressed nor upset; but read this letter of mine at the foot of the Crucifix; and obey, and be mindful of my affection for you. No reply is necessary, since I will not give an answer until God recalls that House back to its duties.<sup>47</sup>

You mention that your conscience is at ease with regard to what you determined to write to me. I tell you that you are in error. Your soul is without a guide; and if you have one, I fear that it may not be the one given to you by God. I am not speaking out of spite, of which I know nothing, but out of a deep feeling, for I love the Institute as well as your soul. God and his glory motivate me. I confess that if I were able to agree with your suggestions, I would not hesitate a moment, both because of my natural tendency as well as from principles of religion. But I am telling you once and for all that I am not able to do so.

In short, I want you to reflect on the fact that our *Transunto* was only a rough draft, or a plan, or a general outlook for the Society, put together when about all we had was the House at Giano and in expectation the one at Pievetorina. At that time, we did not have clear title as an Institute, as we now have with the approval of the Common Office, something which is given only to true Institutes, either by decree's of the Congregation of Rites in the various rescripts from the Congregation, or by the mention that is made of our title in the Brief of Leo XII, or, finally, in the rescripts of possession in the Province of Campagna, etc., etc., etc.. Furthermore, the Church does not, nor has it ever, nor will it ever give recognition to Institutes that wear the

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<sup>47</sup> This introduction which immediately warns of the gravity of all that follows and anticipates its tenor was inserted by the Saint in the lefthand margin at the top of the page, written in smaller handwriting. Evidently he wrote it after having finished the letter.

round hat.<sup>48</sup> In that case, our Houses would be similar to private houses, with the loss of the privileges connected with establishments as true Institutes. The *Transunto*, therefore, nowadays is in need of additions, which in no way will alter its spirit, and in many places that same *Transunto* gives indications of urgent need.

Let me point out to you, furthermore, that the Supreme Pontiff is already quite acquainted with our procedures because they have been presented to him *pro opportunitate*,<sup>49</sup> and that he has confirmed me as the Director of the Society, to bring it to the point of further improvement. This will be the fruit of prayer, of humility and patience as well as of peaceful times. I have said enough.

Until the House at Benevento has conformed itself to the practice of all our other Houses, I shall remember it in my prayers to the extent that I am able and look upon it as any other work of God in general. But, through its own fault, it can be nothing more than a thorn in my spirit. I am not even telling you all that I would like to about my truly deep felt affliction. How many lessons God is giving me!

The examples of the Saints prove altogether different than what you say. I would be able to convince you with the grace of God if only I were certain of your docility. Henceforth, our exchange of letters has no further purpose: not for spiritual direction, which is not appreciated; not for business affairs, since I have been told nothing, not for counsel, in so far as I cannot make it acceptable to you. *Bonum mihi quia humiliasti me.*<sup>50</sup>

I know that *factus sum apud vos in parabolam*<sup>51</sup> and, along with me, so many others of my true Brethren whom God looks upon as cornerstones in the Society. If I were to die at this moment, I confess to you that, as far as the Institute is concerned, I have had no other motivation than to have sought always to establish it on solid canonical grounds that would give a Christian a definite rule to live by and not something uncertain and changeable. Since continued correspondence with you there is to the detriment of charity, even though serious matter is not involved, and encouraged factions, stirs up divisions and tears our unity asunder, I do not see any justification for continuing it.<sup>52</sup>

I place all within the wounds of my Jesus and, mindful of what I preach to others, I shall occupy my time in prayer and pray even more for you and for all the individuals with you, for whose souls I desire, as I yearn for my own, the acquisition of a true knowledge of one's own

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<sup>48</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Hat, Round.

<sup>49</sup> For the opportunity.

<sup>50</sup> It is good for me, because you humiliated me.

<sup>51</sup> I have become a byword among you.

<sup>52</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Unity Assunder, Tears Our

nothingness in the presence of God. If we should come to that knowledge, we should consider it well and look upon ourselves always as an abyss of misery.

So, let us remain in the Heart of Jesus Christ. May peace and concord reign in us; and since you stated that you have suffered anguish because of me, do not have any doubts, you will not receive any more letters from me, for, I repeat, they are useless. By different roads, we shall see each other again in Paradise.

Consider me as  
Your humble servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*<sup>53</sup>  
Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 26, 1831<sup>54</sup>

2192

July 28, 1831  
Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, July 28, 1831

Most esteemed Camillo

Please send me as much material or cloth that is completely similar to what you sent me before, and please see that there is not the least bit of difference. It seems to me that there were 108¼ *braccia*. It all came to 13,50 *scudi*. This is as much as I can, presently, *in circa*<sup>55</sup> make use of.

Furthermore, for my house we need to have *canne* of our measurements, number 14 of material or linen cloth of one half *canna* in width; if it happens to be three and a half *palmi* in width, that is all right too. Excuse me for giving you so much trouble. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, as I now state again here,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
G. C. del Bufalo  
M. Ap.

2193

July 28, 1831  
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris  
Piperno

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<sup>53</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Betti's reply

<sup>54</sup> This letter, written in Rome, was later mailed from Albano as is noticeable from the postal markings.

<sup>55</sup> In the neighborhood.

## Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

From your letter I note that holy love of God is calling your soul to a special testing of your virtue. So, you must call to mind the sufferings of St. Catherine of Siena and the response that she received from the Lord. Courage "*cum ipso sum in tribulatione*".<sup>56</sup> all of the anguish of your soul lies in the imagination; however, your heart is under the press of, suffering, and God sees what suffering there is because of your fear of offending God. But, one does not lose God without knowing it. That is, as you know, how St. Teresa put it. Suffering, then, is a sign that God is mindful of us, and there can be no more terrible temptation than that of thinking that we have been abandoned. While you are drinking that chalice of suffering, the devil would love to profit from it for himself; but, *ipsi vicerunt draconem a propter Sanguinem Agni*.<sup>57</sup>

You are discovering that you are traveling through a dark night. You see the darkness, you get fearful, and you yearn for the light. Day comes and you rejoice; that is how God puts our faith to the test. Continue to meditate on this. Meanwhile, any heart that desires a most intimate union with God, I point out, what else can this signify if not that it loves him?

With sorrow did I learn about your sister, the nun.<sup>58</sup> But I am hopeful that the Lord will grant her good health and an even greater vigor in her spiritual life, for it is through crosses that one matures. I also learned about your other sister whom God is drawing closer to the grotto of Bethlehem ... what a comfort to see Jesus on so little straw! Is she sick too? Just being human is also a cross for us. Anyone who serves God must be patient in life, and death (as St. Philip Neri used to say) is to be desired, but never losing conformity to the will of God. The anxieties of humanity cause us to have anxieties for celestial love and bring us to love the one who, alone, is worthy of being loved, our own Jesus.

Your nephew is persisting in his vocation to the ecclesiastical state of life. Pray *ut Dominus repleat in bonis desiderum ejus* <sup>59</sup>

May the Lord reward you fully for the charity that you show toward me on the feast of St. Ignatius Loyola. Poor me, who am writing, and who preaches to others, *Quid dicam cum surrexerit ad judicandum Dominus?*<sup>60</sup> What does God say to you when you pray both about me and about the Institute? I remember that in Piperno there is among the clergy one who has the faculty of enrolling in the Divine Blood; in that event, it would be good for you to make use of that so as to have your girlstudents enrolled as well as to give you the opportunity to speak to

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<sup>56</sup> I am with him in tribulation.

<sup>57</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>58</sup> He had added "in Sezze", but then canceled it.

<sup>59</sup> That the Lord fill your desire with good things.

<sup>60</sup> What shall I say when the Lord has risen to judge?

them of our devotion. Give me further information on this subject since we must try to establish this great good there in a stable fashion. I believe that it is Canon Giusti who is authorized in this regard.

The news concerning the devotion to the Divine Blood cannot be more consoling to me. Propagate this great work more and more, and in Piperno especially, see that they do not overlook the recitation of the Chaplet etc.

Oh how much I want to get the Office and the Mass of the Divine Blood for the first Sunday in July extended throughout the entire Catholic world! One bishop has spoken to the Pope about this devotion. Up to now I have not seen any particular result. Prayers. In August, the month of the Precious Blood will be observed in the church of the *Croce dei Lucchesi* in Rome; in September, in the church of the *Madonna dei Monti*. Prayers.

Finally, pray for me and have others do so too. I am

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>61</sup>

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2194

August 2, 1831

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, August 2, 1831

Venerable and most beloved friend

The holy Mission remains fixed for the first Sunday of September. First thoughts are the most beautiful. However, we must clarify a couple of things with the prompt use of the mails; this is to be done before I open up correspondence with your bishop. First: if I cannot really come, you must be content if I send Father Merlini as the director of the Mission there. You can be assured that, with the grace of God and the help of your prayers, he will do a great deal of good work. He will give the conferences to the clergy. Another of our Missionaries, Father Gentilucci, will be there along with a third very capable man who is returning from the ministry in Romagna. Here, for you, is my wideopen heart. Still, if God should deign to have me come, you can be sure that the joy in my heart will be most exceptional.

The other secondary plan would be to wait, in general, for the time when God will bring me back into that area. When I set out on a trip, even for other reasons as well as observing necessary thrift, I shall send you word saying: I am setting out on a trip etc. In saying this, however, I do not intend to delay this good work, for I am quite aware of my own wretchedness; nor would I wish to bring anguish to my spirit. Presently, to tell you everything, I am occupied,

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<sup>61</sup> To his lowest servant in Christ.

among other things, with settling of a usable locale in Rome, as a hospice. Likewise pending is the discussion with the bishop of Veroli concerning the establishment there of a new foundation. As a result, the general good of the Institute deprives me of the pleasure of doing what I myself would like to do. Feel free to send me your reply and at the foot of the Crucifix. I shall assist you with my poor prayers. I ask you, however, to send me an answer through the mails.

Your last letter to me was very, very touching and it caused tears to come to my eyes. May God bless and crown with success your holy desires, and may He *repleat in bonis desiderium tuum*.<sup>62</sup> Indeed, keep in mind trust in God and the discretion which God has willed you to use, except in things of a special order, concerning which I must only adore his supreme dispositions. With these details which I have expressed to you, it seems to me that you should be at peace and tranquil. God sees what my desires are, desires directed only to his greater glory; all is due to his grace.

I kiss your hands. In Jesus Christ crucified, with all my most intimate affection, most sincere respect, returning my sincerest best wishes to Canon Girolami and the other priest you mentioned, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2195

August 4, 1831  
Fr. Francesco Paradisi  
Pieveterina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, August 4, 1831

Venerable Canon

As a firm decision, before the season advances any further, you should collect the things that you have in Rimini. I inform you in this most humble letter of mine that the case with the image of most holy Mary should, by this time, be in Fuligno at the house of Canon Father Filippo Petruccioli, to whom you can address yourself. With this seasonable weather, the case should be opened so that the painting does not suffer damage. Already underway now is your year's time *ad deliberandum*.<sup>63</sup> However, I think that the Chapter was not favorable toward you since another Canon is not available.

At any rate, we shall see. Because of this, though, you are not obliged to leave the Institute to which, for so long a time, the Lord has been calling you together with the counsel

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<sup>62</sup> May he fill your desire in good things.

<sup>63</sup> To weigh carefully.

given to you by Father Giovannelli. *In extremis*,<sup>64</sup> you might be able to provide a coadjutor, or even renounce it, as long as this does not deprive you of what is needed for your living expenses. I mention all of this by way of a friendly and respectful suggestion. I imagine that the climate there is more healthful for you than would be the climate of Giano, especially in the wintertime. At any rate, you can make your own decision as you like, for I assure you of my complete affection, esteem and respect for you. Asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2196

August 8, 1831

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, August 8, 1831

Most esteemed and dearest in the Lord, Giovanni Francesco

I cannot express adequately how much your recent, very dear letter moved me, for it assured me even more that you have a continuous remembrance of me to the Lord; I, who am so very, very needful of your prayers and those of your wife, to whom you must give my warmest greetings. Indeed, there can be no doubt that the devotion to the Divine Blood is the mystical armament for our tings: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".<sup>65</sup> And oh how much we are to propagate the glories of this most meaningful devotion! In particular, Offida should distinguish itself and, by way of epithet it ought to be called "the City devoted to the Divine Blood". With tenderness, I recall the Mission I conducted there, especially the procession with the holy relic. So, once again, I beg you and anyone else who remembers me, *ut memoriam mei faciant in orationibus ne cum aliis praedicaverim ipse renobis efficiar*.<sup>66</sup>

I would like to know on what basis you speak to me at Bologna, the city to which I was sent from Piacenza during the time of my exile. Write to me more in detail, for this would make me very, very pleased. In the meantime, you are to encourage there the pious organizations and in a special way the holy Oratory. Promote the perpetual cult to the Divine Blood by finding in that area as well as neighboring towns, 12 churches who, in succession, will observe each month with at least the recitation of the Chaplet, or use the book with monthly meditations, and

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<sup>64</sup> At the end.

<sup>65</sup> They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>66</sup> That they remember me in their prayers lest when I have preached to others I myself should become disqualified.

reserving the month of June for Offida.

I shall deliberately pay a visit to good Nicolino,<sup>67</sup> as I did once before, and I shall express some of my thoughts to him. I desire that, as he advances in age, he will also grow in virtue, just as I hope that he will be heir to that true religious spirit that his parents have.

Our Mission Houses are prospering with great emphasis to the glory of God and the welfare of souls. Pray that they will always have even greater progress. During these most recent upheavals, nothing bad has happened to our Houses or to our Missionaries. Let us remain in the adorable Hearts of Jesus and Mary, where we will always speak in spirit, with the desire for everlasting reunion in heaven. With my feelings of esteem, respect and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2197

August 12, 1831  
Fr. Giovanni Merlini  
Spoleto per Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

S. Felice, August 12, 1831

Esteemed Fr. Giovanni

You will go to the Mission at Grutti and be its Director. Canon Fontana will be there to assist in all things, since I will be sending him within a few days; prepare a room for him among those that are not occupied in the Boarding School, especially a comfortable bed. When the Mission at Grutti is being held, the young men will have a part of their autumn vacation. It will be granted when the regulations direct it should. Brother Facondo who will be coming with Canon Fontana and who knows how to cook will be the helper for the Mission. You know how to set up the procedures, especially since Grutti is the central point, with a number of other villages and goodsized towns surrounding it. You will give the conferences to the Clergy and the Main Sermon, provided that you are able to withstand all this; otherwise, you may assign it to one of the other Companions.

In the meantime, Fr. Rosati will also be present. He will be your Companion for giving the invitational talks, for the Oratories and the Catechetical instructions. The distribution of work is left up to you. I hear that Rosate is doing much better as a preacher. The third Companion will be Fr. Ledi, if he gets there in time for you to get him into the spirit of things. Figure out what tasks to assign him, and give him directions with regard to hearing confessions. If Ledi does not come, perhaps I may send someone with Fontana as the third hand.

Brother Franco will move over to the Boarding School as the helper and cook there; I am

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<sup>67</sup> This is Palmucci's son who was in Rome at the Collegio Nazareno (cfr. Vol. VI, 648 v).

thinking of transferring him. Clean up Franco's room thoroughly, starting with the bed, and prepare it for Facondo. You know what I mean. Assign to Fr. Rosati, who will be there all alone *ad tempus*,<sup>68</sup> one of the four rooms in the old wing. I shall send along some devotional materials for the Mission with Canon Fontana. If Fontana should bring another person with him, you will put him for now in one of the four rooms of the old wing.

Fontana will make the Visit according to the Rule. Perhaps he may bring with him a Subdeacon to be placed in the Boarding School. As far as possible, leave something for him to do during your absence. During the Visit, direct him in all things and help him. You can be sure that he is one of the best we have.

After Grutti, while Canon Fontana is still at Giano, you will leave for the Visit to Pievetorina; this, of course, presumes that all the student vacations will be anticipated. Upon your return, they will have their tests. Classes will be held at the time when vacations were scheduled. I hope that I make myself clear. Upon your return from Pievetorina, Canon Fontana will leave for Rimini where he will make the Visit. Then he will remain there as President with the tasks of running the household.

I am also writing to Fr. Gentilucci to the effect that with Brother Antonio, whom you will assign to him, he is to go to Pievetorina for the purpose of preaching the Mission at Rignano together with Fr. De Victoriis, who will be the Director of that Mission. It is necessary for them to be in Pievetorina before the last Sunday in August. After Rignano, tell De Victoriis that he is to use Gentilucci for touring through the little villages which depend on Pievetorina for their Missions and Retreats, letting them know in plenty of time. With regard to hearing confessions, I am hopeful that you have brought him to a mature level. Arrange for him to return with you to Giano after the Visit, for if there would be some course of Exercises to be given, De Victoriis himself could do so, or Fr. Tommaso. In that way Gentilucci could return with you along with Brother Antonio.

This is all for now; the rest, *ad alias*.<sup>69</sup> I am in Jesus Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap

P.S. In Giano, if there is only one Mass for a feast day, have the Chaplet recited apart from the Mass; later on, that is, at the usual hour, have the High Mass celebrated. Fr. Fontini can expose the Blessed Sacrament, and Fontana can preach whatever he has already prepared.

2198

August 13, 1831

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<sup>68</sup> At the time.

<sup>69</sup> For another time.

Fr. Raffaele Rosati  
Rimini

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

August 13, 1831

Very reverend Father Raffaele

Upon receiving this letter of mine, try to set up a good traveling arrangement with men alone and use the most economical costs. Following our usual methods in all things, go to S. Felice in Giano where Fr. Merlini will be awaiting you to go out on an interesting Mission. Whatever you have spent will be reimbursed to you there in Giano, since I am sending money from Rome to Fr. Merlini. If, by way of anticipation, you will receive some *scudo* or other, you are to remit that once you get to Giano. In Giano, another letter of mine for you will be there. Be informed that it is necessary that there be an end of the present and not otherwise. If you want to go by way of Loreto, the Institute would have to pay a bit more; however, you are accustomed to providing help, so, go ahead, and while there on your trip to the most holy Mary, pray for me and for the Institute.

Before leaving your place, explain clearly the idea of the new vesture for the Brothersinservice, which I hear is already being carried out as required. For my own peace of mind, drop me a line or so. So, now there is verified what I told you in Rome, namely, that I would send you out only for Missions, and gradually I have been reminded of that. That is the reason why you did not carry a certification nor your luggage. I urge that everything be done with proper regularity. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

With regard to the faculties, check with Fr. Merlini

2199

August 13, 1831  
Fr. Luigi Locatelli  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

August 13, 1831

Venerable Canon

When necessary, send your letters to Rome. Thanks to you for your information for which I will eventually learn the results, hoping that they will be favorable.

With regard to the Retreat in Terracina, it is certain that we had it arranged from Rome previous to its rejection by the Father General, Father Tomasso of Incarnate Wisdom, without the least bit of interference from the Commune, which I think, let me put it this way, you consider that they had the right to do. If they do have that right, then in the meantime you should check to

see whether the rejection is contrary to it; use those means which will lead to the glory of God, as I would hope you would do.

So, the thing that is needed now is a new rejection made by the Passionist Fathers to whom it was offered again. In Sermoneta we have a Mission House and a memorandum to us would be the proper procedure. However, for Terracina, perhaps another procedure is needed which, when you are asked, I would suggest that, once the freedom of the locale is assured, the Commune should show their willingness to go along with the foundation. But, if the *Congregazione dei Seogli* should be in charge of it, then, indeed, we will be able to see what can be done. We must pray to God for this and also for an increase of necessary funds. He is, assuredly, wonderful in his workings. I simply do not know what I can say to his Eminence Odescalchi since I am not totally aware of the state of things. After getting a memorandum from you, I could possibly make some recommendation. I kiss your hands, and with esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Try to involve the Archpriest in care of souls there to join in this effort.

2200

August 14, 1831

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

Spoletto per Giano S. Felice

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Esteemed Fr. Giovanni

Get into correspondence immediately with the Bishop of Todi and get:

1) All the diocesan faculties for yourself and the companions that I will appoint for the Mission; also, the faculties for the Bishops' Tribunal, which differs somewhat from ours: the list begins with *Liceat*.

2) The extension of all these faculties to all the priests of the diocese who will come to help out during the Mission.

3) If anything else comes up, ask for it right after the opening.

4) Give all the usual instructions to Father Cocci.

5) Ask for faculties to bless the Crosses and Images which the faithful may bring, etc.

6) Your letter should be a credit to the Society, precise, theologically correct, and clear.

7) Answer Fr. Cocci for me. Tell him that I am assigning the Missionaries, but I do not know whether I can come personally. Just tell him in general: "the Mission will take place", and that is enough.

(in the margin:) Write immediately to Grutti.

I will write another letter to you.

(Rome, August 14, 1831)<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> The present letter and its address are written on the two inside sheets of another letter sent by the Saint to Fr. Luigi Cocci of Grutti, in which it deals with the recent agreements for the Mission to be held in that town. The Saint's letter was sent from Rome on August 14, 1831, as is evident from the postal mark. But, on the same day, the letter that follows (as the postmarks themselves reveal) dated by the Saint "August 12, 1831", also departed. The correspondence between St. Gaspar and Fr. Cocci must have been frequent. 13 letters of the Saint to Cocci are preserved in Vol. III (from f. 105) and 16 in Vol. VI (from f. 490).