

St. Gaspar's Letters

2401 - 2450

Letter Number	Date	Page
2401.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, Fabriano, <i>16 August 1832</i>	1942
2402.	Mother M. Nazzarena, De Castris, Piperno, <i>17 August 1832</i>	1942
2403.	Fr. Vitale Corbucci, Fossombrone, <i>17 August 1832</i>	1942
2404.	Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani, Osimo, <i>17 August 1832</i>	1943
2405.	Fr. Giovanni Chiodi, Frosinone, <i>August-September 1832</i>	1943
2406.	Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli, Ascoli, <i>8 September 1832</i>	1944
2407.	Fr. Pietro Spina, Macerata Feltria, <i>8 September 1832</i>	1944
2408.	Mother M. Nazzarena De Castris, Piperno, <i>8 September 1832</i>	1945
2409.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, Fabriano, <i>16 September 1832</i>	1946
2410.	Fr. Andrea Petruccioli, Foligno, <i>22 September 1832</i>	1947
2411.	Fr. Tomasso Meloni, Pievetorina, <i>24 September 1832</i>	1947
2412.	Mr. Giuseppe Cicconj, Sonnino, <i>24 September 1832</i>	1947
2413.	Cardinal Tommaso Bernetti, Roma, <i>24 September 1832</i>	1948
2414.	Mr. Camillo Possenti, Fabriano, <i>25 September 1832</i>	1949
2415.	Mr. Giuseppe Cicconj, Sonnino, <i>26 September 1832</i>	1949
2416.	Fr. Giovanni Chiodi, Frosinone, <i>September 1832</i>	1950
2417.	Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci, Offida, <i>8 October 1832</i>	1951
2418.	Fr. Rafaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>9 October 1832</i>	1952
2419.	Msgr. Antonio Begni, Pennabilli, <i>9 October 1832</i>	1953
2420.	Fr. Tomasso Meloni, Pievetorina, <i>10 October 1832</i>	1954
2421.	Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli, Ascoli, <i>13 October 1832</i>	1955
2422.	Fr. Luigi Felici, Roma, <i>15 October 1832</i>	1955
2423.	Fr. Pietro Spina, Macerata Feltria, <i>15 October 1832</i>	1956
2424.	Fr. Rafaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>16 October 1832</i>	1957
2425.	Fr. Giovanni Chiodi, Frosinone, <i>16 October 1832</i>	1957
2426.	Fr. Giovanni B. Pedini, S. Felice di Giano, <i>16 October 1832</i>	1958
2427.	Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani, Ancona, <i>20 October 1832</i>	1960
2428.	Fr. Tomasso Meloni, Pievetorina, <i>22 October 1832</i>	1960
2429.	Student Orazio Bracaglia, S. Felice di Giano, <i>23 October 1832</i>	1961
2430.	Fr. Raffaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>25 October 1832</i>	1962
2431.	Mrs. Annunziata Bonarelli, Roma, <i>27 October 1832</i>	1963
2432.	Student Orazio Bracaglia, S. Felice di Giano, <i>27 October 1832</i>	1963
2433.	Mother M. Nazzarena De Castris, Piperno, <i>27 October 1832</i>	1964

2434. Fr. Isidoro Paoletti, S. Felice di Giano, <i>October 1832</i>	1964
2435. Mr. Michele Di Mattia, Vallecorsa, <i>5 November 1832</i>	1966
2436. Fr. Vincenzo Ceccani, Guarcino, <i>6 November 1832</i>	1967
2437. Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini, Pescosolido, <i>8 November 1832</i>	1967
2438. Fr. Rafaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>9 November 1832</i>	1968
2439. Mr. Giuseppe Cicconj, Sonnino, <i>10 November 1832</i>	1969
2440. Student Orazio Bracaglia, Rimini, <i>19 November 1832</i>	1969
2441. Mr. Luigi Baldi, Meldola, <i>26 November 1832</i>	1970
2442. Student Orazio Bracaglia, Rimini, <i>28 November 1832</i>	1970
2443. Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli, Ascoli Piceno, <i>30 November 1832</i>	1971
2444. Fr. Rafaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>2 December 1832</i>	1972
2445. Fr. Pietro Spina, Macerata Feltria, <i>2 December 1832</i>	1972
2446. Mother M. Nazzarena De Castris, Piperno, <i>5 December 1832</i>	1973
2447. Fr. Pietro Butti, Alatri, <i>11 December 1832</i>	1974
2448. Fr. Rafaele Rosati, Rimini, <i>11 December 1832</i>	1974
2449. Gonfaloniere di Sermoneta, <i>14 December 1832</i>	1975
2450. Msgr. Antonio Begni, Pennabilli, <i>22 December 1832</i>	1975

2401

August 16, 1832
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I am so sorry to learn about the grave sickness of your other brother. I shall not fail to recommend him to the Lord.

I am awaiting the bolt of cloth, having already received the reams of stationery. I would like to have the bill for the expenses. I told you already about the 500 Chaplets printed as usual with no thought presently about anything else, since the means are lacking.

You probably have received the other rescript, assuring you that I have been informed. No further clarification is needed.

Pray to God for me. I remain constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 16, 1832

2402

August 17, 1832
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

I am going to Sermoneta for the holy Mission. Prayers.

Tell Canon Satucci that since our ministry is directed in an orderly fashion, to carry out what he would like done requires properly a request made by the bishop. He would like to find a way of reviving the pious organizations there. I shall recommend this intention to God. I am thoroughly mindful of your very great attentions during my recent traveling. May the Lord reward you. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
Rome, August 17, 1832

2403

August 17, 1832
Fr. Vitale Corbucci
Fossombrone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Vitale

I have already explained everything to you in a previous letter of mine. Now, I add that in Rome they do not wish to give at present dispensations from canonical residence without knowledge of the reasons. I, who am aware of such things, concern myself only with our own men in the Institute. So, try to be understanding with me as I assure you that I would consider myself quite fortunate to serve only in the office of servant, if I were able, for the subjects whom you have selected. Even though you may not know me that well, still I say to you that only the most just reasons for the glory of God have led me to this determination, and nothing else. So, I can say: "The Lord looks into my heart".

Let me know by what means I would be able to send you the booklets and anything else that may be needed for your Mission. I shall pray a great deal for it, and am ready to serve there in any other place in the diocese of Monsignor Ugolini.¹ I ask you please to make him aware of the state of things and in sending him a reply of a couple of lines, I was not able to go into long details.

With respect to your ideas, relative to the Congregation there, of being joined to the Institute, that will depend on the bishop, on you and on its membership. Perhaps an observation such as this might delay the good work? Not at all. Believe me, it was about time to come to a definite position in this present development. Many bishops have sought this, with due respect to all. I kiss your hands, and remain

Your humble servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 17, 1832

2404

August 17, 1832
Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani
Osimo

Hail to the Divine Blood

¹ Msgr. Luigi Ugolini, Bishop of Fossombrone

Venerable Canon

I am always grateful for the efforts that you make, and I would say that you should treat the matter yourself in Ancona if you see your return there soon. In that way, the whole thing can be first aired out in the Curia and in the presence of the Vicar Baluffi, to whom you will extend my greetings, and do so with a peaceful meeting. Later on, you can send me the plans that result, along with your observations, and we shall then see what can be done. I would not wish to have any quarrels.

I am writing with a shortage of time. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 17, 1832

2405

AugustSeptember 1832

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

With regard to the young man Anaccone, write to him that he is to send for his belongings, since he is poor, and that is all.

The death of the good Majorano² forces me to ask you to make copies from the writeup that I am sending. Later, I shall relieve you. Now, it is urgent that the work be done, and this will be something useful for you too. Each copy with its model, once it has been completed, you will send to me sealed under an outer coverig. Please send it to me using a secure method.³ Try to take care of this at your earliest possibility. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2406

September 8, 1832

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

² This letter does not have a date. From the reference to the death of Missionary Fr. Nicola Maiorano, which occurred on August 1, 1832 in the House in Frosinone, as well as from the letter of October 16, to this same Chiodi, in which he speaks of the "copies that were made", we conclude that this letter belongs somewhere between August and September of 1832.

³ Underlined four times.

Ascoli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father Giovannelli

Thank you for your help in regard to the 11 *scudi*. It cannot be denied that these are critical times. Indeed, we find more and more need of the apostolate. His Eminence Nembrini in Ancona, in their recent synod, spoke about the Association of the Apostles as well as about the pious organizations set up during our Missions. You can strengthen them there in keeping with the needs of the times. Keep me ever present in your prayers. I am writing while I am in the course of conducting a Mission. Address your letters to "Rome". Continue always to propagate evermore the devotion to the Divine Blood. Give my warm regards to Father Amici. Kissing your hands, I remain constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sermoneta, in the course of the Mission, September 8, 1832

2407

September 8, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Sermoneta, while on the Missions
September 8, 1832⁴

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Your letters are to be sent to: "Rome". I have received your letter, and the following is what is pertinently necessary.

1) I am firmly convinced that you should accustom yourself to giving the principal sermon. But, in the meantime, just for the smaller Missions.

2) Since you have selected Fr. Biagio as your director (and you have done very well), it seems to me, according to the rules of De Sales, that you are to direct yourself to him alone in matters spiritual. Let there be only one director. Indeed, with your permission, I have already communicated to him what is necessary. We both adhere to the same principals since they are utterly basic.

⁴ *The Mission in Sermoneta*, one of the few given by the Founder in the year 1832, of which he spoke in Lett. 384 of May 10, 1832, ended on Sunday, September 2 after having begun, very probably, on Sunday, August 19. Companions of the Saint for that ministry were Fr. Biagio Valentini and Fr. Giovanni Merlini. His presence, as well as the selection of his companions, reveals the predilection that he had for the House in Sermoneta, referred to in the biography of Fr. Spina. Once the Mission was closed, the Saint stayed on there for about a week to conduct the Visitation of the House and perhaps also to engage in other complementary ministries.

3) Doesn't it strike you that a status of suffering may be in accordance with God's will? It is inevitable that God should want you to give blind obedience. I am convinced that the Lord will not fail to have you come to that realization too.

4) What happened to you while giving the Visitant sermon (which I presume you gave after dinner and had time to go and return) is not something new. God is pleased that you make use of means. Furthermore, he has willed to have you acknowledge how much we are to trust in him.

5) Your stomach distress and other ailments will vanish as you continue to preach. To give in to them and to set aside your preaching is to abandon the pursuit of the greater glory of God. So you should be like a helmsman who, in contrary winds, sets sail for port. The fact that your condition is a bit out of the ordinary is something that has not escaped the attention of the person who directs you. It matters little for you to know its origin.

How is the observance of the rule? Please, attend to it.

I am, etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2408

September 8, 1832

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Sermoneta, September 8, 1832

Reverend Mother

I am late in sending a reply to your most appreciated letter. The details that you give me concerning your interior suffering confirm my conviction that it is all coming from the Lord who is making you a participant in a special way of his own interior suffering. Therefore, make use of these words: "If this is what is pleasing to you, O Lord, then may your will be fulfilled in me".

As for the forgiveness of your sins, continue to say: "*credo remissionem peccatorum*"⁵ and the Lord, in increasing your feelings of contrition, will purify your soul evermore thoroughly. From this will follow your spiritual dying to everything. "*Beati mortui, qui in Domino moriuntur*".⁶

With God's love continually increasing in your soul, any excessive fear will be excluded, a fear that might be the cause of faintheartedness in fulfilling the ways of the Lord.

⁵ I believe in the forgiveness of sins.

⁶ Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.

With respect to that thing that happened, you need do nothing more than to forget about it.

Finally, pray for these people and the diocese, so that the Lord will multiply his merciful acts.

And, what can I say about your gift? It has been distributed to the sick people in Sermoneta and to the boys and girls making their first holy communion, since we, while in the course of conducting Missions, do not allow ourselves to accept sweets. May Jesus be our delight. I will be leaving for Vallecorsa, then, on to Rome, the center where you should always address your letters. Consider me to be constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Give thanks to God in my behalf for so very, very many things, and for this present Mission.

2409

September 16, 1832

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

Address your letters to "Rome". Please be patient enough to review our accounts covering the stationery sent, the last bolt of cloth and the Chaplets that you sent. Only subtract the small amount which is to be due for postage, and, in a single word, let me know the remainder that I owe. Every account will be settled immediately.

Have no doubt that I will keep in mind the Chaplets still remaining with the printer, after subtracting the 1000 that I ordered, and nothing more. With full gratitude and respect, and asking you for your prayers, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, September 16, 1832

2410

Septembar 22, 1832

Fr. Andrea Petruccioli

Foligno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Andrea⁷

To take care of the suffrages etc., read the enclosed and then let me know in a letter from you your thoughts. Send this letter back to me. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Send your letter and this one to my house. I had a Mass celebrated.

2411

September 24, 1832

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Pievotorina

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

Unfortunately, it is necessary to wait for things to run their course in this matter dealing with Sig. Morelli,⁸ just as in everything else; for, otherwise, we could find ourselves in trouble. Nevertheless, I thank you for all your concern in bettering our foundation there.

Pray for me who with esteem am, having the desire to see this whole affair brought to an end,

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House at Albano, September 24, 1832

P.S. Send your letters to: = Rome =

Concerning something of the temporalities, I am writing to Fr. Beniamino Romani.

2412

September 24, 1832

Sig. Cicconj (Giuseppe)

Frosinone per Sonnino

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

(Rome) September 24, 1832

Esteemed Sir

Enclosed is the petition that I will have someone present. Notice that we have adhered to truth and propriety, while offering to the Lord the anguish that was brought about by the closing

⁷ This letter has no date. An annotation, in the handwriting of Fr. Giovanni Marlini says: "Fuligno, September 22, 1832. Canon Petruccioli is investigating the possessions of the deceased Anastasia Valentini". The postal marking on the letter of response from Canon Petruccioli has "Foligno, 24 Sett."

⁸ Cf. Additional Biographical Data

of the House of Sonnino, after so many expenditures. This petition is supported by documents containing a narration of the facts, as well as the signatures of the Pastors and others of the Clergy. In addition there are signatures of the civic Representatives. Later, send this back to me in Rome, for I will then take care of the rest.

Let us keep our correspondence, and let us pray. Do not get discouraged because of the difficulties that you encounter in working for the divine glory. It will be a great comfort to you to know that you have cooperated in this holy endeavor and perpetuated the continuous concerns that your own deceased Mother used to express.

In the meantime, praying as we should and concurring with the many mercies of God, we shall remain in ever greater agreement so as to speed up as quickly as possible this effort of ours. Greet Archpriest Bernardini and anyone else that remembers me; and consider me constantly as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. At the direction of the Bishop there should be a Retreat arranged in order to stress the importance of this.

Answer, and always write to:= Rome =

2413

September 24, 1832

Cardinal Tommaso Bernetti

Secretary of State

Rome

Your Eminence⁹

The clergy and the people of Sonnino, diocese of Piperno, humbly petition to take possession of the monastery and the church of S. Maria delle Canne, which is entirely free. Pope Pius VII, by canonical rescript, granted it as a regular possession for a Mission and Retreat House, to the Missionaries who have the most august title of the Divine Blood. These men occupied themselves with very great zeal and even at their own expense to repair in great part this locale without receiving the least bit of reimbursement, although it had been promised to them from the start. Then the following happened: when Leo XII assumed his pontificate, he judged it best to grant to the Carthusian Fathers the monastery of Fossa Nuova, and as a hospice, for the summer in particular, the aforementioned locale, transferring the Missionaries elsewhere. Now it is five years, as a matter of fact, that the Carthusians have not been maintaining residence

⁹ In this rough draft there are several corrections made. On the fourth facing, Merlini adds the following annotation: "a copy of the petition submitted to the Secretary of State for the granting to the Institute of the Precious Blood the Convento delle Canne in Sonnino. In the original, there are the signatures of the pastors and the principal leaders of the town. A similar petition was presented by Cardinal Franzoni in October of 1832 and it got a favorable rescript".

there in Sonnino, nor is there any expectation of their doing so presently. Furthermore, the locale is gradually deteriorating. Because of the absence of our Institute for Missions and Retreats, notable damage is resulting for all the people who ardently wish for the Mission House to be reopened; a House that did such great work during the time of the recent brigandry. The Commune is ready to do all that it can in favor of our holy Institute. The present bishop administrator¹⁰ is also in favor of the installation of our Missionaries.

However, without a new rescript from your most reverend Eminence, he does not see how he can go along with the desires of the clergy and the people who are making this plea. The Director General of this wellreceived Mission and Retreat Institute has been contacted and he has replied that he will not fail to do all within his power for the welfare of souls. Nothing more remains to be done than to get the necessary authorization declaring that what Pope Pius VII, using the services of the former Secretary of State, the nowdeceased Eminence Consalvi, determined to be valid with regard to this establishment is presently in full force. Similar establishments of ours are quite evident in other locations of the Province of Marittima e Campagna; that etc.

2414

September 25, 1832

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I have found a way of disposing of the other residual 500 copies. add this item to the other accounts. I am writing in a hurry. You probably have learned about the opening of two more of our Mission Houses, one in Nepi, the other in Macerata Feltria.

With esteem, respect and gratitude, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

September 25, 1832

P. S. Let us fervently observe the 10 Fridays in honor of the great Xavier; they began last week. Send your reply to "Rome".

2415

September 26, 1832

Sig. Giuseppe Cicconj¹¹

¹⁰ Mgrs. Luigi Grati.

¹¹ *Giuseppe Cicconj*: cfr. biographical section.

Sonnino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Albano, on the way back to Rome, September 26¹²

Most esteemed Giuseppe

I have received another of your very kind letters. In reply, here is what I find necessary to say to you. Send to me in Rome the complete position for the *Buon Governo*, and I will willingly occupy myself in obtaining a favorable result in the matter. If some other person presents the papers, in that case I would, in keeping to the rules, have to have copies. Perhaps the autumn vacations will delay for a while this matter pertaining to the *Buon Governo*. Still, in the meantime, we can possibly put some of the things in order and regularize them so as to effect the good work as best as possible and to avoid later confusion. So, let us pray that the devil will be confounded, for he is always the enemy of any good work.

With regard to the number of individuals, you know quite well the affection I have shown for the people of Sonnino, even setting up there a House of Studies, since I desired to give that establishment a religious grandeur. However, the devil, with the permission of God, ruined everything. So, all now depends on the means available. It is urgent to see, without prejudice to anyone, whether there is a chaplaincy that can be included, or, something else available from the *Luoghi pii* in order to increase the endowment. Otherwise, God will provide. Let us trust in his love. Have no doubt, our members will not be lacking, since our numbers to date have been increased.

I would find it useful to set up an interior hospice, such as is going to be done in Sermoneta, so that even more good can be accomplished. However, it will be necessary to make adaptations. It seems to me that there is the church of S. Marco; however, I do not know whether there is a room there or not. For the time being, it will be enough for us to think about the Mission and Retreat House. How many souls, whether those to be ordained for the diocese or lay people, will withdraw for a sacred Retreat? More about this later. In the meanwhile, keep an eye on the area and see that it is guarded and preserved carefully, and take care of the plants that are there.

Once we have received the necessary authorization, our canonical possession will result, just as it was done formerly. Perhaps, it may not be necessary to repeat it. We shall see.

In the meantime, with my best regards to Archpriest Bernardini, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. With regard to the begging, I would say that you should take care of that. If necessary, however, I could send a Missionary for a short while; write and let me know. See that

¹² The year is 1832. (cfr. the letter to this same person, dated September 24, 1832).

among the papers, there be a letter indicating the bishop's good pleasure, for he has already, on a number of occasions, shown his approval of what I am referring to.

2416

September 1832
Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Frosinone

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giovanni

The room where you will put Cardillo is to be the one opposite to our chapel, next to the stairway that leads to the refectory. Be careful to do just what I say. As soon as Father Mattia gets there, Cotino is to go to Vallecorsa for the period of the bishop's visitation there. More in a letter of mine to Father Cotino in Vallecorsa. You instruct him with reference to the faculties. Cotino is to remain in residence there; it is a trip made as if going to a Mission. You are to provide all the necessities, etc. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

Instruct Cardillo about the faculties there. As for the preaching, *you, ut plurimum*.^{13 14}

Using a safe method, send back to me the writing and the copies made of the writings, and be sure that they do not get dirtied. Your temporary room should be the one that Merlini uses, allowing the room of Paoletti, whom I am awaiting, to remain free. All the others should be kept reserved as Francesco knows. I urge you to look after the other writings if they have not as yet been copied.

If necessary, have the bed of de Victoriis cleaned, replacing the sheets. I shall not be long in coming. Send your letters to Rome.

The two rooms, mine and that of Bartolomeo, should be kept reserved. I am waiting for Filippo as I wrote to de Victoriis, presuming that he is there.

The candle holders which are upstairs in the attic, are to be sent to my house in Rome by some rural cartdriver.

2417

October 8, 1832
Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Oh how pleased I was to see your handwriting again and the news you gave! I can assure you that despite all the cares that surround me, I always preserve the most vivid remembrance of

¹³ This is underlined four times.

¹⁴ That the most.

you, and in my very poor prayers, I keep you incessantly present. I recall with pleasure the fortunate time that I spent in Offida in your home on the occasion of preaching our great devotion. You can imagine the grateful recollections that are still with me. But let us set all of this aside. I ask you to pray for me, and have others do so too, so that I will be able to prepare myself well for the eternal years, *quod est maximum*.¹⁵

With pleasure, likewise, did I learn about your son, in the prime of his youth. I pray to God that he becomes ever more and more firm in doing good work. And oh! how cautious one must be in these times of ours. I shall be in Rome around the feast of all Saints. Then, I will have to go out again on the ministry. If I could have precise information, I would do everything possible to see him again. I know, however, that it is a very difficult thing to be precise.

With regard to the family in S. Benedetto, with whom you are arranging a marriage for your daughter, I can recall, in a general way, having had lodging in S. Benedetto; I remember the kindness of the people who showed us such hospitality. In general, I know that Father Biagio Valentini was on friendly terms there, and he spoke highly of them to me. You are doing a very good thing in looking for the solid and true virtues which render a soul noble, and the Lord will bring you great contentment for all that you do along this line.

Through the merits of the Divine Blood, our Society is making great progress. Here is the number of our Houses: Macerata Feltria and Rimini (in Romagna), Pievetorina (in the Marca), S. Felice in Giano (in Umbria), Nepi (the latest foundation made under the present Pope, and the episcopal city after Civita Castellana), Albano, Sermoneta, Vallecorsa, Frosinone, Benevento. Under negotiation: Sonnino, Veroli, Cesena, Pennabilli.

Pray and have others do so too for me, a miserable one, as well as for our Institute which is embracing two very great works: the training of the clergy, and also of the people.

The love which God is increasing in my soul for this holy work is indescribable. Our sole objective: to promote the devotion of the Divine Blood as the great motivation for consolation! Presently in Rome, efforts are being made to establish a perpetual cult and, among other means being used, there is the effort to have the devotion practiced month by month in different churches, using at least the booklet provided. Oh what good and what fruits! You are to do all in your power to stimulate this in your area for the people who are so very dear to me. I do not know whether it is the good Lord's delight to have me return there again. "*Bonorum meorum non indiges*".¹⁶ This is the great lesson taught us by the prophet. In Nepi, the bishop is having the devotion practiced from town to town every month.

Dearly beloved, let us do this great work: "*Zelus domus tuae comedit me*".¹⁷ Let us look after the pious organizations in the manner respectively indicated by Providence, and always

¹⁵ Which is the greatest.

¹⁶ You do not need my good things.

¹⁷ The zeal of your house has eaten me up.

with the most industrious charity. Let us dedicate ourselves evermore to the love of Jesus who gave his life in sacrifice as our Redeemer, for our good. Yes, encourage the priests to join up with our Society and do so efficiently and accompanied by many, many prayers. A plant, in one type of terrain, renders a certain amount of fruit; in another climate, in another terrain, it produces a hundredfold. So, what shall we do? Apply this accordingly. You probably know likewise that we have boarding schools for young priests who are preparing themselves for the active ministry. This is our greenhouse.

When they are subdeacons they do not even think about what they are going to eat. Everything is being done to increase the number of workers. The Lord knows how many and of what nature are all the worries. But, God is wonderful.

I knew nothing about your new office there as councilor. May God bless your occupations for good work. Give my regards to all in your family and to anyone else who remembers me. In particular, implore for me the blessing of Father Giovannelli for whom, with due respect to all others, I have an esteem which is beyond all conceptualizing and for me beyond all expression.

I repeat, please extend your charity to procure for me, through the help of prayers from others, the true spirit of God; that I may aspire only for God, and thirst only for God: "*Unam petii a Domino, hanc requiram*" etc.¹⁸

May Jesus be the love of our hearts, and may our hearts be irrevocably the possession of Jesus. Let us love him, love him fervently, while maintaining the true desire of possessing him forever in heaven. In the meantime, with particular esteem and respect, I remain

(there is no signature)

Rome, October 8, 1832

2418

October 9, 1832
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

Pardon me for not having immediately answered your most esteemed letter . With regard to the offerings for the 50 Masses, you will be getting an account from my niece. So, you have no reason for expecting anything from Montini. Simply let me know whether the account is correct. In the meantime, I am sending you five Masses, and they are to be celebrated immediately. I shall be awaiting the notification. Under these offerings, we shall include the cost of the cincture etc. More about this later.

With respect to the Retreat called for by our rule, I can do nothing better than to remind

¹⁸ One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek, etc.

you to make a good preparation; just like the Lenten series in Macerata Feltria.

As for the octave of the Poor Souls, Gentilucci says that he will come to handle that, and you should remind him about it. In case he cannot, please be kind enough to supply, telling me what you have; in this regard, follow the sermons that every Lenten preacher uses. I repeat, however, that I am hopeful that Gentilucci will take care of this. Write to him about it. It is understood that this is done from a platform.

As for matters dealing with the House, you, in the meantime, should temporize, at least until next spring. In another letter of mine, I will give you more precisely the ideas that I have in mind, and we will keep in touch in this regard.

Have I overlooked anything? 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

M. Ap.

Rome, October 9, 1832

P. S. The aggregators do not have the faculty for the blessing *in articulo mortis, nisi in specie impetrata*.¹⁹ However, the Missionaries do have this faculty, post annum probationis; it is to be used only in behalf of those enrolled in our devotion.

2419

October 9, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁰

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter dealing with our foundation in Pennabilli, here is what I find necessary to indicate to you.

Father Masi, whom I do not know personally no matter how hard I try to remember, wrote to me only once in a very general way about what was pending in regard to that city and the good work to be undertaken there, or, more precisely, to be carried out by our Institute. Substantially, my reply was based on the words: "*Quod Domino placet, fiat*".²¹ I have no information about the balance of income and outgo. I would surely have to have this report along with your petition to the Holy Father, concerning which I have already informed his Eminence

¹⁹ At the moment of death, unless obtained in a picture.

²⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²¹ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

Fransoni, who became our Institute's protector after the death of his Eminence Cristaldi. So, after the basics are settled, we can then proceed to further details. Father Masi, wishing to join us together with his brother, a layman, has made us very, very happy. But, in order to proceed prudently, I would say that, upon the arrival of the new superior, he will become acquainted with all our regulations and will be able to initiate there his year and a half of probation to see whether he can accommodate himself to our way of life (which is something that I have no doubt will happen) and can then make his decision as the Lord directs him. The same is applicable to his brother, the layman, about whom he wrote to me.

Then, too, I want to thank you for your approval in behalf of Canon Curato whom God is calling to our Institute, that is to say, for not standing in the way of true vocations to a life of higher perfection, as well as being of assistance to pious institutes that, along with the seminaries, are preparing new plants.

Last of all, I recommend to your prayers my soul and the welfare of our Institute. Furthermore, I beg you to do all you can with respect to the temporal needs which are certainly not overabundant. So, let us place our trust in God: "*Inquirentes Dominum, non deficient omni bono*".²²

As the program develops, the Superior who will be coming there will have the qualities that you seek, and other locales will be assigned to those who will be participating in the ministry. He will bring along with him another lay Brother, since two Brothers are indispensable: one for the kitchen and the other for the church. The one who is there, I suppose, is the one capable of handling the kitchen. Furthermore, the church of the Filippini Fathers, I believe, is most needful of restoration. At any rate, let us be trustful in the providence of the Lord. I kiss your hands, and, with profound respect and esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

P. S. With regard to the extent of the programs to be undertaken by our Institute, your most reverend excellency has already been informed. Always address your correspondence to me to "Rome".

2420

October 10, 1832

Fr Tommaso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

In reply to your letter I assure you that I am obliged to your charity, since you are cooperating so well in the affairs pertaining to that foundation.

²² Those who seek the Lord will not lack any good.

As far as I am concerned, in this matter of abuses, you can be certain that I shall do my best to see that they are removed. In the Congressus, called for by the rule, the members should not fail to confer and communicate as much as is necessary. Continue to keep me informed.

Encourage the lady president to continue her direction of the Sisters of Charity. I shall write to Fr. Beniamini, *ut ex me*.²³

I am sending you five most urgent Masses, to be celebrated immediately. Send me notification at once. You will receive the offerings at a later time of accounting.

I am in J.C. Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 10, 1832

P. S. In case you are unable to take care of the five Masses, have someone else come to your aid, immediately, etc.

2421

October 13, 1832

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, October 13, 1832

Venerable Father Giovannelli

A thousand thanks to you for your concern in the delivery of the booklets.

I shall be getting for you the faculty of enrolling in the Sacred Heart.

May the pious institutions be your delight and may you be the support of the association or pious union of the clergy under your direction. You are to look for the devotional materials sent to you at the coachdelivery office. I hope that you will find them there.

I have not yet had the pleasure of making a close acquaintance of the new bishop.²⁴

Pray for me and have others do so too. While kissing your hands and recommending evermore our devotion to the Divine Blood along with the public recitation of the Chaplet, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

In Rome, the observance of the month of the Divine Blood is being promoted in 12 different churches, each taking a month at a time. In some of them, they use only the booklet; in

²³ As from me.

²⁴ Msgr. Gregorio Zelli, on July 2, 1832, succeeded Msgr. Giovanni Cappelletti.

others they also have a brief sermon. It is brought to a close with a general communion. Oh! the great good etc.!

2422

October 15, 1832

Fr. Luigi Felici
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁵

Venerable Father Felice

A very holy priest of the Filippini Fathers in Ascoli has asked me to get him the faculty of enrolling for the hour of perpetual adoration of the Sacred Heart. So, I shall be awaiting your kind favor as well as the pertinent instructions. Asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, October 15, 1832

2423

October 15, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Fuligno per Acqualagna per Macerata Feltria²⁶

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter.

The reason why I told you to follow Fr. Biagio in matters pertaining to the soul was that since you have selected him as your director (and the choice is the very best), his advice is preferable to anything that I could say to you. At any rate, since we both belong to the same school, I expect that we are in agreement on the basic issues. So, feel free to write to me also whenever God inspires you to do so.

In regard to your stomach distress, two things. First, keep in mind that Jesus accomplished much good through suffering: offer it up and you will be comforted. Second, take

²⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁶ The posterior halfsheet for this letter on which is written the address reproduced here was located in the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett. 368 of October 13, 1831, it has now been restored to its proper place, that is, in Volume II of the originals of the Founder, alongside the letter from which it had been severed.

a little water of St. Xavier. But my dear friend, do not set aside doing good because of that ailment. If God so disposes it, it is because he wants you to be a victim of obedience: "*Vir obediens loquetur victorias*".²⁷ There are three degrees of suffering: "*patienter, libenter, gaudenter*".²⁸ Why not prove as true the saying: "*ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima?*"²⁹

The Visitant sermons during a Mission are taken care of in the morning, returning to the house or back to the place of the Mission for dinner. At other times, one goes and returns in the afternoon; the same holds for a triduum.

I shall send the images and the etchings when Liparelli comes to Romagna.

Pray and have others pray for me. Study in preparation for giving the main sermons. I urge the observance of the rule.

While begging you for the notification of the Masses, in J.C. Crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 15, 1832

2424

October 16, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, October 16, 1832

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

If you would like to have the breviaries of our deceased beloved Father Nicola Majorano, they are at your disposal. The price is two *scudi*. However, send me your reply by prompt maildelivery so that I can forward them on to you with the arrival of Liparelli. On that occasion, also, I will send along the certifications that you asked for so that our very important devotion can be spread further.

With regard to the seal, I cannot use it. I am speaking in reference to your other request. However, if you wish, I will be able to order a new one for you if that will accommodate you. But, I would not be able to say whether you could have it made in Romagna more economically. In Rome, indeed, it will not cost much. You make your decision. In this regard, I have learned that it can be had for eight *paoli*. It seems to me that I have not overlooked anything. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

²⁷ The obedient man will speak of victories.

²⁸ Patiently, freely, joyfully.

²⁹ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

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

2425

October 16, 1832
 Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
 Frosinone

With regard to the copies made, it seems to me that you have not done the ones relative to the deceased Majorano, but you may have taken them *a principio*;³⁰ and, that is better. That's true. A thousand thanks for everything. Send me a *barrozzaro*, etc. Tell Pedini that, on the enclosed paper, he will see what is pertinent to the estate etc.

Do you have any Masses? Write and let me know.

Send me a detailed report of the boarding students; immediately.³¹ Leave the candle holders there, until I get there. I am speaking about the ones that are to be silverplated.

With regard to those windows, tell de Victoriis to work that out with Iannini through the assistance of the Gulielmi woman, handling the matter, so that etc.

As for the octave of all Souls, de Victoriis is assigned, so inform the Deputy.

For the discourse to be given to the Cura di S. Martino, have Father Mattia Cardillo prepare himself, in my name. You give him the instructions.

For the portrait of Majorano, with the frame, we would have to have around four *scudi*; we will try to cut it down to 3,50 or 80, and surely at the most 4 *scudi*. But then the frame will be needed, and that need not be gilded. Figure it out.

Have I forgotten anything? I remain in Jesus Christ crucified, You are to prepare yourself for speaking to our Community in the Retreat called for by our rule, etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rome, October 16³²

2426

October 16, 1832
 Fr. Giovanni Battista Pedini

³⁰ From the beginning.

³¹ Underlined three times.

³² The year is 1832 as is evident from various elements (the death of Maiorano, the copies made, etc.) referred to in the letter.

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giovanni Battista

I am sending a response to some of the Questions of NN. As for the other ones, *adhuc modicum, et nihil innovari*.³³

1. Is the devotion of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ growing more and more? Let NN give thanks to God and let him put his heart in this devotion, and let him offer it for the conversion of souls, about whom our most beloved Jesus is thirsting.

2. Fervor, which sometimes is experienced more as a gift of God's mercy. Let him guard this good deposit.

3. Let the desire of suffering be submitted to direction, and not otherwise: "The Lord has heard the desire of the poor, and your ear has heard the preparation of the heart" (says the prophet). Nevertheless let NN seek in suffering conformity to the will of God, patience, and peace. He experiences this in a threefold manner: 1. patiently 2. freely, 3. gladly; in progress with "superabundant joy etc." But I do not admit for now a special prayer of imploring an increase of penances and sorrows. "More, O Lord" requires extraordinary strength. It will be enough for us for now to say: "May the will of God be done"; and meanwhile may he embrace that cross which is sent by God in the course of his providence. If I am not explaining this teaching sufficiently, let NN ask me. .

4. The frequent offering of the price of our redemption, as I already said above, is useful and commendable.

5. Consolation in endurance is a grace of God etc. But it will not always be thus.

6. Certainly indeed obedience alone is the royal road to heaven.

7. Desires of the heart ordinarily have furnished the principal extension, in comparison to works. Nevertheless everything should be expounded sincerely, and meanwhile direction must be insisted upon.

8. Frequent recitation of prayers to the price of our salvation must be recommended in any case, but without restraint, and with freedom of spirit. For the observance of the rule stands; moreover study must not be omitted. You will, therefore, preserve order, and in cases you fulfill (tell NN.) the most tender object of our heart by aspirations towards the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9. In any case meditation on the mysteries of the sheddings of the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ must be preferred.

10. NN. should use no instrument of penance until obedience joins it; and this holds for drinks etc. He should support this by governing the community, restraining the defects of others,

³³ For now a little bit, and there is to be no innovation.

also correcting his own, even if they are very small. ³⁴

12. Depression of spirit without loss of peace is an exercise of humility decreed by God in order that we might acknowledge our worthlessness.

13. What NN. sustains in his body will cease, as I think. Some times he will sustain punishment in order that he may exercise himself in suffering.

14. He should not give up food needed for sustenance.

15. If he gives up some penance, he secretly enters another for the exercise of virtue. For we will never be without practice.

16. Concerning the status of the soul the summer heat will soon be experienced (in a mystical sense) , soon the rigor of winter, soon other varieties so that only the soul receives

³⁴ He omits number 11.

solace, soon it will prefer humility, etc. This for now, the rest I will speak about etc. etc.^{35 36}

2427

October 20, 1832

Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani

Ancona

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

Please read reservedly the enclosed matter; I am doubtful whether this communication is prudent or not. I will submit to whatever the most reverend Vicar General judges in this regard. Since it deals with matters for which I am only the executor, I will align my decision in accordance with the decision made by the praiseworthy Monsignor, to whom I am writing today

³⁵ The signature is missing.

³⁶ 1. *Devotio praetiosissimi Sanguinis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi magis magisque augetur? Deo gratias agat NN., et in hac devotione sistat cor, et offerat pro conversione animarum, de quibus sitit Jesus noster amantissimus.*

2. *Fervor, qui aliquoties magis experitur est donum clementiae Dei. Hoc bonum depositum custodiat.*

3. *Desiderium patiendi sit submissum directioni, et non aliter: "desiderium pauperum exaudivit Dominus, praeparationem cordis audivit auris tua" (ait propheta). Attamen NN. quaerat in patiando conformitatem voluntati Dei, patientiam, et pacem. Triplici modo patitur: 1. patienter 2. libenter 3. gaudenter; in progressu "superabundo gaudio etc." Verum non admitto pro nunc orationem specialissimam implorandi augmentum paenarum, et dolorum. To "plura Domine" exigit vires extraordinarias. Nobis satis erit pro nunc dicere: "Fiat voluntas Dei"; et interim amplectatur illa crux quae a Deo immittitur ordine suae providentiae. Si non satis hanc doctrinam explano, interroget me NN.*

4. *Utilis et commendabilis est oblatio frequens praetii nostrae Redemptionis ut supra jam dixi.*

5. *Consolatio in sufferendo est gratia Dei etc. Non semper autem ita erit.*

6. *Certe quidem sola obbedientia est via reggia ad coelum.*

7. *Desideria cordis ordinarie extensionem praeseferunt praecipuam, in comparatione operum. Attamen omnia sincere sunt exponenda, et interim directioni insistendum.*

8. *Frequens recitatio orationum erga praetium nostrae salutis utique commendanda, verum sine vinculo, et cum libertate spiritus. Observantia enim regulae instat, insuper studium non omittendum. Servabis igitur ordinem, et in casibus suppleas (dic ad NN.) aspirationibus erga Sanguinem Domini Nostri Jesu Christi objectum tenerrimum nostri cordis.*

9. *Utique meditatio circa mysteria effusionum Sanguinis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi est praeferenda.*

10. *Nullum adhibeat NN. paenitentiae instrumentum donec obedientia hoc injungat; et id valet pro potionibus etc. Suppleat regendo communitatem, sustinendo aliorum defectus, ementando etiam proprios, etiamsi sint minimi.*

12. *Depressio spiritus absque amissione pacis est exercitatio humilitatis a Deo ordinata ut agnoscamus nostram vilitatem.*

13. *Quae sustinet NN. in corpore cessabit, ut opinor. Aliquoties poenam sustinebit ut in patiando sese exerceat.*

14. *Cibum pro sustentatione non relinquat.*

15. *Si cessat aliquam poenam, subintrat altera pro exercitio virtutis. Numquam enim erimus sine exercitatione.*

16. *Circa statum animae mox experitur calor aestivus (in sensu mystico), mox rigor hiemis, mox aliae varietates ut modo anima solatium accipiat, mox humilitatem praeseferat, etc. Haec pro nunc, caetera dicturus etc. etc.*

a couple of lines of gratitude. At the same time, I will inform him that I have also written to you on the matter. Now I leave all to God, as well as to your charity and counsel. With esteem, respect and acknowledgment, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Please file the enclosed matter with the other papers that you have, and which you will return to me, when the matter is completely settled.

2428

October 22, 1832

Fr. Tommaso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

Here I am sending you a reply to your last letter.

From the start, I want you to know that you are exercising a true act of charity by helping that foundation with your advice.

1) Concerning the lands and the cultivation, let us trust in God who *facit mirabilia magna solus*,³⁷ and especially in the book of Psalms where he tells us that "*divites (at times) eguerunt et esurierunt: inquirentes autem Dominum non minuentur omni bono*".³⁸ Does he not also promise in the Sacred Writings a copious blessing upon anyone who seeks his glory? Merlini is already making an effort to gain information on the matter. Together we shall cooperate for the attainment of the good, and we shall not be fearful.

2) Never, indeed, has it been my intention of selling the house because of the affair that we have pending with the Abate.³⁹ Rather, we are to get rid of the gaming there. However, that can also be removed in another way. So, let us hold on to the house, but be very vigilant so that everything proceeds in accordance with good order. Let all know that this is my intention.

3) In reference to the 200 *Sc.*, you realize that there is an obligation to reinvest them. Hence, it has been planned to use them in the removal of other debts, in a way that will become known, later on, when the matter has developed further.⁴⁰

³⁷ He alone performs great wonders.

³⁸ The rich (at times) have been in want and have gone hungry; but those who seek the Lord will not lack any good.

³⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: House of the Missionaries (Pievetorina)

⁴⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Legacy, The Manganelli Family

4) I thought that you would not take it amiss that Fr. Beniamino should give the discourse for San Felice. If this letter gets there on time, tell him that I am going to make other provisions, so that trip will not be necessary, either for Fr. Beniamino or for the Brother. Furthermore, I point out that, in situations such as this, becoming upset is not in keeping with the glory of God. In Community living, much patience and composure are needed, otherwise the devil will win out. As long as we seek for good order, we heap confusion upon him. Most innocently did I assign Fr. Beniamino as a change for hearing another preacher. If he has gone, you can be certain that on the vigil of all Saints he and the Brother will be back. So, all must be done with a gentle and ingratiating zeal. I recognize that the objective as expressed in your letter is all directed toward the good. For this, I cannot but praise you. In short, however, I point out that *bonum ex integra causa, malum ex quocumque defectu*.⁴¹

May Jesus be our love, and with esteem and respect, recommending to your charity what has been written, I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. I would say no to extending the barber's lease for more than a year. We cherish the advice of the people who know all about renting. See that the conditions are affixed to the contract, namely, it is to be used for . . . excluding any gatherings for gaming, etc. etc., dances; if there should be danger, etc. I would think that it might be necessary for the sake of assurance, etc.

Am I forgetting anything? Do you have Masses? Do you need any? Write to me and let me know.

I shall send the offering for the last five Masses when it is safer.

2429

October 23, 1832

Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Orazio

A couple of lines. I see it as almost impossible not to admit one or the other Frosinonese in that Boarding School. If it will not disturb you, as I feel it will not, to have this company, I would advise staying one more year in that Boarding School. If this would be a source of difficulty for you, then, out of necessity, I would have to place him outside the Boarding School, in a house of probation either in Sermoneta or Pievetorina. If he selects Sermoneta, it would not

⁴¹ Good from a integral cause, bad from whatever defect.

be difficult then to summon him to the Hospice in Rome, once things are set up here, and he would remain there until the priesthood. Otherwise, he could complete everything in Pievetorina under Father Beniamino. It would be better, as I surely would urge, that he remain in the Boarding School. Send me your reply, quickly, *nulla interposita mora*.⁴² In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 23, 1832

2430

October 25, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele⁴³

Through the services of Liparelli, you will be receiving the breviaries. As a payment for them, you will celebrate 12 Masses computing the alms at 16 *baiocchi* for each Mass. It comes to the sum, if I am not mistaken, of 1,92 scudi which I find is in keeping with the mind of the deceased donor I will be awaiting later a notification from you. There will be a remainder of eight *baiocchi* which we will not compute. But, if God so inspires you to celebrate one Mass for the deceased, I would be very happy. The Lord, of course, will give you an abundant reward for this, while also recalling that for the cincture, I am content with the five Masses that you celebrated recently. This will come to a total offering of 75 *baiocchi*; as far as I can remember, the cincture cost 85 *baiocchi*. But that is of no further interest. We are all even in each and everyone of our accounts, always safeguarding, of course, any involuntary mistake that I may have made. So, the 12 Masses are to be begun after the Masses have been said for the deceased, as mentioned above.

In a future maildelivery, I shall write to Santarelli about the conciliative method with regard to our rules as well as Lenten preaching; you will be getting from him a copy of my paragraph. I want to give you the highest possible praise for the diligence that you show in taking care of everything there, *ut omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant*.⁴⁴

I shall be sending the hymnals. With regard to the variations during the octave of Holy

⁴² No delay was interposed.

⁴³ This letter does not have a date. From the postal markings it is evident that it left from Rome on October 25th. The year is 1832 (cfr. the letter of October 16, 1832 to the same person).

⁴⁴ That everything be done honorably and orderly.

Souls, in my opinion, I would have used an act of humility in accepting the two vacant evenings. For the record, I say that God would have won out. At any rate, I do not intend, by saying this, to offset what the congressus has determined to establish. Have I forgotten anything? Pray, *sine intermissione*,⁴⁵ for me. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

2431

October 27, 1832

Sister Annunziata Bonarelli

Monastery of S. Cecilia

Roma

Sister Annunziata

Here are two books by different authors for the Month. If you do not already have a copy of the other one on the Love of God, you may retain this one as your own. I am sending back the Da Ponte since I will not be able to use it because of my departure. More, when we talk in person, on my return.

Pray for me who am with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House (Rome), October 27, 1832

2432

October 27, 1832

Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Orazio

With regard to the cloth ordered from Norcia, which I am expecting within days, truly fine material, I shall be sending it to Rimini for the cassock that you need. Later, I shall settle things with your father without any difficulty. Let me know whether you need anything else; write to me freely.

In Rimini, you will find another letter of mine concerning the other things. Be happy in the Lord.

Write to me about the dimissorials when necessary. It seems to me that would be for the first ordination of Lent. Have I forgotten anything? Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

⁴⁵ Without intermission.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 27, 1832

2433

October 27, 1832

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

I am sending a reply to your letter just a bit late; I have lacked the time but not the will.

By way of response, I say that your soul is totally directed to God; be very much at ease about that. However, does not the enemy cause disturbances for God's work?

The soul suffers from attacks of the imagination, but suffering brings an increase of merits. The mind acknowledges the good that we have in God and the will aspires to God. The workings of the imagination or the apprehension experienced therein is the product of the enemy; he causes fear to arise where there is no reason to fear: "*trepidaverunt timore, ubi non erat timor.*"⁴⁶ Indeed, what I am trying to get across to you is that you are to have full confidence in God, the mystical fount and center of every good thing.

Then, in regard to your suffering, I hold firmly at present to the principle that you are to do nothing other than the following: 1. suffer in accordance with what God wills; 2. suffer as much as God wills; 3. suffer with no other choice than that of the will of God. Also: we are to suffer with patience, we are to suffer with cheerfulness, we are to suffer with joy. Oh! adorable Cross, what treasures you beget for us!

Likewise, we are always to keep scrupulosity, worries, melancholy etc. at a great distance from us. God is the God of peace.

Be abandoned to God with reference to the decision made by your mother; everything will turn out well.

You acted correctly in writing to Canon Locatelli whom you must encourage even more to be active; often say to him that the more the demon fails, that much more are we to be hopeful in the Lord and work hard for that. *Oratio et operatio.*⁴⁷

In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁴⁶ They trembled with fear where there was no fear.

⁴⁷ Prayer and work.

Rome, October 27, 1832

2434

October 1832
Fr. Isidoro Paoletti
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Isidoro^{48 49}

The foundation in Monte Leone presents no small number of obstacles. Recognizing the will of God, I limit myself to telling the pastor there that he should suggest to his bishop what he judges to be the position of the public representatives. As far as we are concerned, there are certain moves that are not proper for us to make. I hope that you will agree with this principle of action. As for Cascia, the program is even more involved. The only thing required is that you should ask whatever person you judge to be the right one to set aside the ancient convent of the Frati, at least, since it is outside the inhabited area, assigning an Eremita there.

It was a mistake that Pedini wrote that you went there, without being ordered, to conduct the Retreat; I had already informed the most reverend bishop of this. Surely, he is not capable of inventing etc.

As for your trip home, I say openly that it is a temptation *sub specie boni*.⁵⁰ I fear that you may regret it. If you would like to have my advice, take care of your affairs through the mails, the best you can, without even a thought of going home. All the spiritual directors would give this same advice. So, with generosity, get rid of the temptation. All of this is in reply to what you said in your previous most appreciated letter. Now, let us move on to other matters.

I cannot sufficiently praise you for your virtuous dispositions with respect to the House in Sermoneta. If, at some later time, God would want you there, I will take advantage of that, since this method is truly *juxta cor Dei*.⁵¹ However, for the timebeing, your presence elsewhere is of greater utility for me.

Let us now speak a bit more about spirituality, treating your notions, while establishing firmly our own basic principles.

1. God is a God of peace, and he wishes to be served with cheerfulness: *et hilarem*

⁴⁸ The family name is crossed out.

⁴⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cascia, House in

⁵⁰ Under the appearance of good.

⁵¹ According to the heart of God.

datorem diligit Deus".⁵² The contrary is not in keeping with what God wants.

2. Despite the fact that it is pleasing to the Lord to share in a special way in the interior sufferings which he endured out of love for us, this procedure should never destroy our peace of mind; "*Ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".⁵³ There are three degrees of suffering: the first is to suffer *patienter*; the second, to suffer *libenter*; the third, to suffer *gaudenter*.⁵⁴ From here, one moves on gradually to higher levels and finally arrives at the point of saying *superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*.⁵⁵ When the devil sets up his opposition to the practice of virtue, it is not at all surprising that our life becomes a spiritual battleground: *Militia est vita hominis super terram*".⁵⁶ That diabolical work can be increased in its effects and can try to lure you away from any opposition and make you inoperative; but *ipsi vicerunt draconem pronter Sanguinem Agni*.⁵⁷ Oh how discouraging our apostolate must be for the enemy! In order to achieve peace, we must apply ourselves to it with a blind, prompt and magnanimous obedience: *Vir obediens loquetur victorias*.⁵⁸

3. We will always be content whenever obedience reigns. Let us construct our mystical building on a spiritual foundation, a foundation of the spirit, and thus the human element will be directed by the spirit of religion: *et diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum*.⁵⁹

Thus, recalcitrant humanity will not rebel. Indeed, we shall be like those pilots who navigate against contrary winds and their efforts become evermore worthy of reward. The same idea is applicable to us. At times, we maneuver in favorable winds; at times, there are contrary ones. In this latter case, the more difficult the efforts, the more meritorious the reward.

4. With regard to prayer, in addition to the directions suggested by Rodriguez, I say that since we do not have the same ability of communication or affluence of affection, we should manage things as follows: 1. adore the divine presence; 2. be pleased in being included in the divine immensity; 3. profoundly humble ourselves, realizing that *sine me nihil potestis facere*;⁶⁰

⁵² And God will love the cheerful giver.

⁵³ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

⁵⁴ Patiently, freely, cheerfully.

⁵⁵ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

⁵⁶ The life of man on earth is a warfare.

⁵⁷ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁵⁸ The obedient man will speak of victories.

⁵⁹ And for those who love God, all things work together for good.

⁶⁰ Without me you can do nothing.

4. be mindful of the words: "*Expectans expectavi Dominum etc.*"⁶¹ In following this procedure, the soul is introduced by God to etc. Still, in any case, time will be put to good use.

5. The Lord will move your soul, as I see it, in such a way that by the proper use of this conduct, and I have no doubt that this will be the case, there will be brought about in you a movement toward a deeper sanctity. In this voyage of yours, let your anchor be your guide.

6. Furthermore, let fear not displace confidence. You are to say, often: "*Fiducialiter agam et non timebo*".⁶²

Let us move on now to something else. Your destination is Frosinone and I confirm this appointment. The position that you will hold there is that of local Superior, everything being done in accordance with our regulations. I would like you to prepare yourself for the Lenten preaching which is to be done this year. I will be able to tell you where late on. As soon as the "*barrozarro*" arrives, you will have your trunk. I will send it on to Frosinone. I will be sending it on to you within a short while. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am, in the meantime

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P.S. In person, in Frosinone, I will give you advice on how to conduct yourself in your position. I shall be sending you the offerings for the five Masses.⁶³

2435

November 5, 1832

Michele Di Mattia

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Michele

With the imminent return of de Victoriis, please be kind enough to instruct him in what you know in reference to the wellknown matter, so that he can take it under examination and in every way seek the glory of the Lord.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁶¹ Waiting I waited for the Lord.

⁶² I shall act with confidence and shall not be afraid.

⁶³ This sentence is found on the outer covering.

November 1832⁶⁴

2436

November 6, 1832
Fr. Vincenzo Ceccaci
Guarcino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁵

Venerable Canon

Next Sunday I shall be concluding the Retreat in Sora. On Monday, I intend to be in Veroli; then, on Tuesday morning, I shall be expecting the mounts from Guarcino for two Missionaries and Bartolomeo, along with a burro for the baggage. In all, three mounts, plus the burro. You should make arrangements for me to stay with the Franciscan Fathers in Veroli. By starting on Tuesday, at some time or other, it seems to me that within a few days some encouragement can be given, in particular, to the members of the Oratory. If there should be any changes, write to me so that I can arrange my schedule accordingly. I am writing in a hurry. I shall be awaiting your reply. With total respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

November 6, 1832

I will be expecting a couple of lines quickly. Please write about this to Canon Butti in whatever way you decide, so that the most reverend bishop will be informed.

2437

November 8, 1832
Fr. Vincenzo Buzzolini
Pescosolido

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁶

Venerable Archpriest

With pleasure did I receive the invitation for a holy Mission for September of the upcoming year, may it please the Lord. You should see to setting this up, at your convenience, with the Curia, thus observing the usual proprieties. I reserve for myself the task of writing to you as that time approaches, as well as during the upcoming spring so as to make proper arrangements for that September. While asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be,

⁶⁴ St. Gaspar was in Sora preaching a Retreat to the Confraternity of the Sacconi.

⁶⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁶⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

with esteem and respect

Your devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sora, November 8, 1832

P. S. Let this letter be made known also to the mayor to whom I send my best regards.

2438

November 9, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Raffaele

You probably have already received the certifications. I realize the anguish that you must feel with regard to the situation in your house, and, after recommending myself to God, I say to you, in all candor, since you have requested my advice, that the Lord would wish to have from you an absolute sacrifice of every temporality, because of the great projects in which you are presently engaged, pertinent to the glory of God himself. So, I would write home as follows:

"Dear dad

"With regard to the career to which almighty God has called me, there is nothing that can divert me from my occupations. The things of this earth are temporary and our thoughts must be turned to our most blessed eternity. I keep before my mind the words of the holy Gospel and the hundredfold which is promised by the Savior to his disciples is of comfort to me. For anyone capable of sound thinking, there arises suddenly the thought that we might not be worthy of offering any service at all for the glory of God for whom we live, and families ought to be most grateful to the supremely lovable Jesus. With the help of certain special acts of mercy, we do not expose ourselves to the dangers of remaining unworthy. At the present time, my situation calls for me to be a child of obedience toward the one who is in charge, and thus I am not to expose myself to taking on heavy expenses, making trips or causing a disruption in the ministry entrusted to me, which is totally divine. If God is pleased to have me come there, which at times happens, then, in person I can reaffirm what I am here stating. In the meantime, I surrender myself and all that I have into the hands of God, certain that he is the Father of all, *et non deserit sperantes in Se*".⁶⁷

Fr. Raffaele, these, approximately, are the thoughts which the Lord is directing to you. You yourself should, in humble prayer, consult with God. If I were to give in to my human feelings, that is, my propensity to condescend, I would be betraying the dictates of my heart. I praise you highly for your way of questioning, and I conclude that you should look after nothing

⁶⁷ And he does not desert those who put their hope in Him.

other than your sanctification and the ministry entrusted to you. As for anything else, you can, by way of letterwriting, do whatever your conscience dictates, and then leave everything in the hands of God.

With regard to the Retreat called for by the rule, since you wish it so, tell Fr. Gennaro that he could likewise conduct it. As for the method to be followed in Macerata⁶⁸ during Lent, to which you are assigned, I shall write more within a short while; I would first like to have a few clarifications which I am awaiting.

I do not have the time to reread this letter. I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

November 9⁶⁹

2439

November 10, 1832

Sig. Giuseppe Cicconj

Piperno per Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Giuseppe

I can never sufficiently praise your zeal in behalf of the foundation there. Up to the present time the sickness of his Eminence, the Cardinal Secretary of State, has delayed the situation entrusted to the zeal of pious persons who are truly working hard to achieve this great good.

Meanwhile, keep working on the preparations there, and look for help, first from God and then from anyone else who can be of assistance to the installation. The Missionary who is to preach for Lent, as the Bishop has already written, has been selected.

You must look after the plants on the property to make sure that they are taken care of, as well as the surroundings themselves. Be very careful that no further damages come to the locale and to the church.

I am constantly with all esteem, and asking you for prayers,

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁶⁸ Macerata Feltria

⁶⁹ From the postal markings it is evident that this letter left from Frosinone. The year is 1832 (cfr. the letter to this same person, dated December 2, 1832).

In the process of the ministry,⁷⁰ November 10, 1832

2440

November 19, 1832
Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Dear Father Orazio⁷¹

In the mail you will find seven scudi which you are to use for having a cassock made. Work out with Father Gennaro the arrangements etc. Help Sebastianelli⁷² with his revisions etc. I urge the observance of the rule; I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2441

November 26, 1832
Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

In reply to your recent letter, I tell you that I have no way at all of fulfilling your requests. I shall recommend this to God, who is the Father of all, so that he will open up another avenue for you. Try to get in touch with Cardinal Albani in Pesaro.

Though in a hurry, since I am presently engaged in the ministry, with esteem I ask you to pray for me. I inform you that if you will have your documented petition reproduced, I shall try to find a way of having it submitted; however, do not be relying on my support of it etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁷⁰ This letter was mailed from Frosinone, as is evident from the postal mark. We do not know, however, what the ministry might have been to which he refers. Not even the most accurate biographers speak of it. Perhaps from an examination of the entire collection of letters one might be able to discover something of the apostolic activity of the Saint during November and December of 1832.

⁷¹ This letter has no date. The place from which the letter was sent, together with the day and month are derived from the postal markings: Frosinone, November 9th. The year is 1832. In fact, Bracaglia was in Rimini as a student in 1829 and in 1832. St. Gaspar was in Frosinone only in 1832 upon that date (cfr. also the letter to this same person dated October 27, 1832).

⁷² Fr. Antonio Sebastianelli.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, November 26, 1832
 P. S. I urge devotion to the Divine Blood and the Oratory.

2442

November 28, 1832
 Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
 Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

For the new year, the House of Studies will be set in order; at that time, everything will be better regulated just as I shall be writing to Liparelli. In the meantime, you hold on to your life as a student. Up to that time, you should check over and study what you feel you need to review. Upon the arrival of Santarelli to conduct the Retreat there for the ordinands, you be a help to him as much as you can. The President of the House and the House of Studies has already been established as soon as Liparelli returns. For all things, let us give thanks to the Lord.

As for the expenses that you incur, I have already written to Father Gennaro, especially since Sebastianelli's presence is going to lessen the difficulties. If you need anything else, write and let me know. Asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 28, 1832

P. S. Prepare for the ordination to the diaconate in Lent.

2443

November 30, 1832
 Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
 Ascoli Piceno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father Giovannelli

With regard to the 200 copies, already paid for by me, of the Fridays in honor of St. Xavier, which I ardently desire, if this is simply a matter of revision, then that is of little concern. Likewise, if the expenses were to be kept small, I would reimburse you for that. However, if the expenses were to be sizeable, write and let me know, for in that case I will draw up a memorandum and I will send the rescript to you. In the meanwhile, recommend to the one in charge that they do not make a mess of the printings for they are to serve purely for the glory of God. If I would have found them already prepared in the State, I would not have sent them to the Kingdom, for these printings are rare. Furthermore, they are most urgent for the ministry.

If you would like me to investigate in Velletri in regard to the faculties for you, just drop me a line in the mail, and you will be obeyed.

Sub specie boni,⁷³ indeed, I note that the devil has managed to tie your hands with respect to the pious organizations and the association of the apostles. That the Congregation of the Filippini Fathers should have their own practices, nothing more need be said. However, to declare that they should forbid those pious works that do not in any way at all alter the observance of their rules but rather stand in support of the spirit of St. Philip, is not to the glory of God. I would like to see you show a bit more courage. I have observed the Filippini Fathers in Rome undertaking many pious works that are foreign to their Institute, but, they have not altered their spirit. I am truly regretful.

Finally, pray for me, and, as I kiss your hands, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 30, 1832

P. S. address your letters to "Rome".

2444

December 2, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaelle

The foundation in Cesena, as far as you are concerned, will not cause any changes except for the Lenten preaching. Instead of doing that preaching in Macerata Feltria, you will do the preaching in Pieve Torina. Afterwards, you will return to Rimini as your place of residence. With regard to the traveling, we will come to an agreement. You will be doing a great work for those people. A sermon is delivered three times a week; you will take care of the Three Hours of Agony and you will give catechetical instructions from Passion Sunday to Palm Sunday, thereabouts. The St. Xavier Retreat from March 4th to the 12th will be conducted in our church by Father Tomasso Meloni at a different time than the Lenten sermons. In a hurry, but with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, December 2, 1832

2445

⁷³ Under the appearance of good.

December 2, 1832

Fr. Pietro Spina

Fuligno per Acqualagna per Macerata Feltri⁷⁴

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed D. Pietro

In order to extend the ministry of our men in Romagna, I have had to adhere to a provisional arrangement which Liparelli will explain to you.

So, you are to continue assigned to Macerata in the position of Vice Superior, and also in Rimini as the Director of Retreats. I shall arrange for you to alternate your place of residence, with the hope that you will have the faculties in both Houses. You shall remain there until around Ash Wednesday of the coming Lenten season. At that time, you shall move to Rimini. I have selected you as the Lenten preacher in S. Martino in Riparotta, where one preaches after dinner only on feast days, going there and returning just as you would do if you were giving a Visitant sermon. Liparelli will give you further instructions. Be assured that you will do a great good; and be blindly obedient. Santarelli could give one or the other sermon; so, preach what you have! Always be accompanied by a Brother, following the rule in everything.

Gamboa has probably sent you the offerings for the Masses. He has them in his possession.

I have already made a note of your orders for the Life of Xavier, etc. etc. at the first opportunity, you will have all of them.

With regard to the soul of NN., I would say that he is in a crucible, or to put it better, in a labyrinth. The devil is enraged because that man is working and the devil would like to ensnare him in order to prevent him from continuing. But, with obedience, all is conquered.

Therefore, three reminders: 1) great purity of intention in your actions; 2) be aware of venial sins, but avoid all scrupulosity; 3) suffer adverse situations willingly. In regard to inner suffering, look at Jesus in the Garden of Olives. Strengthen your faith and hope. Do what you are supposed to do even when it is without delight and contrary to your inclinations. Allow yourself to be held by obedience, just as an infant reposes in the arms of its mother. Act under obedience and learn how to do the will of God. Through prayer, occupying your time in simple adoration of the God in whose immensity we have our existence, you will accomplish everything with this practice. Your prayer will turn out very well.

In J.C. Crucified, I am

Frosinone, December 2, 1832

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁷⁴ The posterior halfsheet for this letter on which is written the address reproduced here comes from the Cart. d'Arch. Because of the reasons explained in the footnote of Lett 368 of October 13, 1831, it has been restored to its proper place, that is, in Volume II of the originals of the Founder (f. 333 bis), alongside the letter from which it had been severed.

M. Ap.

2446

December 5, 1832

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Now that the Retreat called for by the rule in preparation for the feast of the great Xavier is completed, I am sending a reply to your most esteemed letter.

In the first place I do not cease recommending to you a continual trust in the goodness of God. *Fiducialiter agam, et non timebo.*⁷⁵ Anyone on the high seas is looking out only for the port. In this miserable world, suffering is never lacking; but, if a soldier, in time of war, fails to have courage, what will happen? *Spera in Deo*, therefore; *non timebo malum, quoniam tu mecum es.*⁷⁶ Disdain the tempter, and with bold courage: *fortitudo mea Dominus.*⁷⁷

In the meanwhile, here are three reminders:

1. Stabilize your purity of intention in God.
2. Live with continuous ardent feelings of love in God.
3. See that he is glorified in the encounters which are offered, and in particular, with the spreading of the devotion of the Divine Blood.

Recommend to the Lord the situation in Sonnino. I am hopeful of good results. How you have governed yourself and continue to do so with regard to this situation is very, very good. You might indeed say: I have this inspiration; in fact, this is how the thing is.

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

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, December 5, 1832

2447

December 11, 1832

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

⁷⁵ I shall act with confidence and shall not be afraid.

⁷⁶ Hope in God ... I do not fear evil, for you are with me.

⁷⁷ The Lord is my strength.

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. God will bless the Retreat. I am hopeful in the merits of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. actually, according to our rule, the Missionary "*numquam solus*".⁷⁸ But, realizing that your excellent company supplies for everything, *hoc in casu*,⁷⁹ not to be set forth by way of example, I shall spare the Brother; provided that he does not eat with the Missionary except for you. With this understanding, not indeed on Christmas day, but on the following feastday, by noontime, the mount is to be here to transport the Missionary. In short, send it in such a way that it gets there in time so that the introduction can be held in the evening.

May the Lord bless and strengthen your zeal. While wishing you every sweet blessing for the celebration of the mysteries for which the Church is preparing us, I am and will constantly be

Your devoted, obliged and humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 11, 1832

2448

December 11, 1832

Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

Please deliver the enclosed. I could never approve your withdrawal from our Institute; nor is it what God wishes. Do not even think about it.

I shall be awaiting the notification of the Masses.

Prepare yourself well for a fruitful Lenten preaching in Pievetorina and for the Retreat there to the men during the feastdays of Christmas (at night). I shall continue giving suggestions whenever necessary. Give me a more detailed information about things. Pray for me; in a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, December 11⁸⁰

Send your letters to "Rome".

⁷⁸ Never alone.

⁷⁹ This in case.

⁸⁰ The year is 1832 (cfr. the letter to this same person, dated December 2, 1832).

2449

December 14, 1832

To the Gonfalonier of Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed sir

Whenever God offers me the occasion, I do not fail to stop off at this Mission House because of the affection which God gives me for the projects there leading to his glory. With the coming new year, I shall try once again to establish a place of study there, trusting that the Lord will provide health, for I am confident in his mercies. In the meantime, I have already contacted the mason who will do the work; God sees my good intentions. Father Giovanni Chiodi, the President in that House, will in person give you more information. You can freely consign to him the 100 *scudi* allotted for making the more urgent repairs at the present time.

You are not ignorant of the concerns that have stimulated these hopes in me and have spurred me to do everything that is known to be advantageous to this pious place. So, I will be able to give you an account of the proper use of the 100 *scudi*, while trusting that, with the harmonious cooperation between our Institute and the Commune, God will concur with very special blessings for our mutual benefit here as well as for eternity.

I urge you to be concerned about the Hospice. Give my best regards to all the members of the Commune government in the Heart of Jesus crucified, with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

December 14, 1832

2450

December 22, 1832

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁸¹

Venerable Monsignor

The question of our foundation there will be brought up in an audience with the Holy Father within a few days. The matter had to be delayed because of the gout which afflicted his Eminence, the Secretary of State,⁸² but who is now back in good health again.

With the recurrence of the mysteries, I extend to you my best wishes for every blessing.

⁸¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁸² Cardinal Tommaso Bernetti.

Nor will I, in my wretchedness, fail to pray especially for you to whom I have the honor of stating once again, while asking you for your prayers, that with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 22, 1832