

St. Gaspar's Letters

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2501

March 28, 1833
Fr. Mattia Cardillo Pisciano

Hail to the most Precious Blood

Dear Father Mattia

After my issuance to you, that you know about, I shall not be able (please believe me) to take care of the expenses for the hat, which I shall see that you get, along with the two pairs of stockings which I shall order for you. In time, we will work it out with your Masses. I shall procure one or the other book for you, gratis. As long as after one hundred years of your life, they will become, in case of death, the property of the Institute, precisely for our Houses in the Province of Campagna where the need for them is very well recognized, and *ad mentem*¹ of Father Biagio, in the case of my death. Have I forgotten anything? In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 28,² 1833

On Tuesday evening the Mission there will come to a close. Chiodi will be arriving there and with him you will proceed to the other Mission. I hope that this will allow also for a bit of economy in the expenses.

2502

End of March, 1833
Fr. Carlo Giorgi
Genazzano
Dear Father Carlo³

¹ In mind.

² In the copy of this letter, the month is written as "May", but it is a slip of the copyist. (cfr. the following letter).

³ This letter does not have a date. However, as the postal markings indicate, it was sent from Rome. The year (1833) is deduced from the mention of the Mission in Pisciano, begun on March 24th and concluded by April 3rd, Wednesday of Holy Week.

Please, check the enclosed immediately. On Tuesday of Holy Week, a Missionary will be arriving in Pisciano because of the other Mission to be conducted etc. His name is Father Giovanni Chiodi.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2503

April 4, 1833

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General of S. Salvatore Maggiore

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Monsignor

When I have the opportunity I will discuss what you have written to me; *utinam*⁴ fruitfully; but I do not know. Prayers.

The Mission in Concerviano is approaching. One of our Missionaries will be the same Paoletti; the Brother will be on hand. Furthermore, I am sending along the excellent Father Giovanni Chiodi to help with this great work. So, tell me now how I am to deliver the baggage; perhaps Luigi de Angelis can be responsible for this duty. I am not able to say on what day the arrival will be. This means that the work will begin in the seminary; afterwards you can notify Paoletti who, in the meanwhile, can be working where you consider it best, with regard to neighboring places. If Chiodi would have to wait for a day or so, patience. With regard to the baggage, I think that Chiodi will be able to bring it. Send Luigi to me here for the devotional materials. It will be necessary to share the more restricted expenses for this ministry. Paoletti can let you know what his are and you can determine the instalments for Poggio S. Lorenzo and the Abbacy. The same holds also for Chiodi. Have a meeting together on this. After the Mission in Concerviano, let me know whether anything else will be needed. I hope not. This will not stand in the way of the people, in the meanwhile, fulfilling their Easter duty. So often, the best is not to be attributed to our doing. Sickness has afflicted our men etc. and so adjustments have to be made etc. I shall be awaiting your response. As I kiss your hands, asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 4, 1833

2504

April 4, 1833

⁴ Would that ...

Fr. Tommaso Meloni
Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

It will be necessary for you to be concerned with the usual compensations where there has been damage to the trees, etc., and to file away memoranda on this whole matter in the archives.

*Laus Deo*⁵ for the conclusion of the dispute with the Delegate,⁶ I thank you for the great charity that you demonstrate in bringing about a great benefit for that House; that is, in making use of the talents that the Lord has given to you for solving that problem.

With regard to the Mass offerings, I believe that we are all squared away, except for one last notification which, unless I am mistaken, you are preparing now. If I do not get a response in this matter, it will be an indication that all is in keeping with what I have said in this letter.

Tell Rosati that I shall write to him in the future ordinary mail. Am I forgetting anything? I am constantly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 4, (1833)

Does Rosati have any Masses?

2505

April 9, 1833

Fr. Rafaelle Rosati

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Rafaelle

The expenses that you incurred for travel you are to present in a notification to the economist of that House and from the Lenten income you will be given a reimbursement.

I am sending you 20 Masses which are to be celebrated immediately. As for the other things, I reserve them for another letter of mine. Pray for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁵ Praise to God.

⁶ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Colle d' Antico

Rome, April 9⁷

2506

April 10, 1833
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

In applying myself diligently to the ministry, I fear that I may have forgotten to give a reply to your most appreciated letter. So, just in case I have forgotten it, I now send this response. With regard to your return to our Institute, you are always the one to decide that. However, I would like Father Giovannelli, as your director, to assist that decision. In coming back, you know that community life calls for a greater exercise of virtue, and therefore is of higher merit: "*Poenitentia mea*", Venerable Berchmans used to say, "*vita communis*".⁸ Hence, it will be up to you to know how to adapt yourself to it.

Furthermore, it will be necessary to observe the regulations *pro viribus*;⁹ and, because your age and health require it, assignment would be made to a House where there is not too much labor. I would judge that S. Felice in Giano would fit you best. Certainly, the daily fare is frugal and one must eat what is available in that area. However, one does not suffer. At the foot of the crucifix, make the decision as though you were making it from your final bedstead. After all, how much more time do we have here below? So, first of all look into the matter of your canonry as well as your other possessions; verify that *relictis omnibus, secuti sunt eum*;¹⁰ this is something that must be duly applied in this situation. Then, after getting the blessing of your bishop, write and let me know your decision so that I can proceed to have a room prepared for you.

With regard to a foundation of ours in Ascoli, Fr. Giovannelli will know whether that can be successfully done. Much work will be needed.

In the mail, I shall be sending the small treatise about which you spoke to me. However, the other one on humility, how am I to see that you get that? Do you want me to send that by mail too?

Above all, let us propagate our great devotion. Let us work hard with the pious

⁷ The year is 1833 (cfr. the letters Nos. 2468 and 2510 to this same person dated February 4, 1833 and April 16, 1833).

⁸ My penance is community life.

⁹ In accord with one's strength.

¹⁰ Abandoning everything, they followed him.

organizations and let us become saints. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 10, 1833

2507

April 11, 1833

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

Here I am inconveniencing you again. Please send me five reams of the usual type of stationery, also three of the finer, white variety, and one of the kind used for packaging. At the same time, send me at least one bolt of cloth to be used for making shirts for our community. I ask, only, that you use all possible haste. Let me know whether the printer has any copies of the Chaplets. Pray for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome April 11¹¹

2508

April 11, 1833

Fr. Pietro Ferrante Ripi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

I hope that the Three Hours Service turned out fruitfully. With regards to the married individuals, these are matters that only the bishops are able to deal with. Furthermore, I would not be able to do anything about this since on the 21st I shall be in Veroli for the beginning of a holy Mission. So, please release me from this matter. I urge you to take care of the pious organizations as well as the devotion to the Divine Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 11, 1833

¹¹ The year is 1833 as can be seen from an annotation made by Possenti.

2509

April 16, 1833
Luigi De Angelis
Concerviano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Please meet with the most reverend Vicar General and the pastor to determine the date for the holy Mission. Come to an agreement on the means to be used and try to arrange this good work with the zeal with which you are animated. I shall personally be coming to Concerviano. It is a good idea to select a favorable season of the year. I would say, precisely, the summertime, because of the condition of the roads as well as the convenience of the people. Think about this and please let me know what your ideas are. On that occasion, I shall have the pleasure of seeing you again to renew my feelings of esteem and respect. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 16, 1833

P. S. There will be the Lenten income, freely made etc.

2510

April 16, 1833
Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Pieveterina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

Upon receiving this letter of mine, procure for yourself a seat on the coach and return to your residence in Rimini where you will preach the month of the Divine Blood, *hoc anno*,¹² and at your pace. It makes little difference that you preached it last year. Just make some changes in your presentations. God will give you the graces for doing that. However, before the month of April ends and, speaking in a general way, toward the end of April, you will have to help with a Mission in the mountain area of Cesena, as you will learn from Liparelli as soon as he gets to Rimini. Because of your virtuous nature, you will fulfill what I am asking of you in the name of the Lord. With regard to the means of travel, in particular about expenses, I am giving instructions to Father Tomasso Meloni. I repeat that you, according to the circumstances, should

¹² In this year.

try to speed up as best as possible, *et per breviorum*,¹³ your return to Romagna where God wishes you to be for just a bit longer.

I have recently received letters from Romagna concerning the Mission referred to above, which is to begin on April 27th. So, arrange things in such a way that you will arrive at the earliest possible time in Rimini, after having obtained a seat on the coach if necessary.

I am running short of time, but I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 16, 1833

2511

April 16, 1833

Fr. Tom. Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tommaso

As to the offerings for the Masses that have been said, are we all settled? *Ad melius esse*,¹⁴ give me another reminder.

Continue zealously to defend our rights before the Delegate. Actually, I do not know what to say about the faculties that a Delegate has with respect to roads. But you can find that out precisely in Cammerino. If a letter from His Eminence Card. Frasoni is required, let me know, and with respect to what particular items.

You speak very well about the services of the Institute and in the handling of Good Friday. Courage and patience.

I urge you to take care of the other Masses committed to you.

Fr. Domenico Silvestri will be returning and he will conduct the month of Mary in our church. Prepare for him the room that he used to have and let me know what office or offices he held there.

Rimini should take care of Silvestri's expenses and Pievetorina for Rosati. Rosati has received from me the notification that he is to leave immediately for Romagna, or at least as soon as Silvestri arrives. Just to make sure, I am informing Silvestri not to get tied down so that perhaps Fr. Raffaele Rosati could travel with him in the same conveyance to Romagna. In extreme necessity, Sig. Antonelli should advance the money and that sum should be deducted from the eight *Sc.* that he provides for that House.¹⁵

¹³ And sooner.

¹⁴ The better to be.

¹⁵ Cf. Additional Biographical Data.

During the retreat for the priests, you will give the conferences and the one whom you have as your companion will give the meditations.

If Sig. Antonelli does not offer the money for the trip, you shall provide in another way. Then, write to me about it and we will settle it between ourselves. If Fr. Raffaele Rosati should advance the amount necessary for getting there, the House at Pievetorina will return it to him whenever it can. Everything is to be done according to the rules. You have understood me. If there aren't any retreatants, it will not be necessary for Rosati to wait for Silvestri. Speed things up the best you can; and, if you wish, use the carriage. With your foresight, you will take care of this matter well for me. One is not to travel in the company of women.

We come now to another point: I hope that you will be able to do the favor that I am going to ask of you. It is my obligation to handle the members according to their talents, their age, etc. I am offering you two plans. The first (keeping in mind the present arrangement of our men) is that you would be stationed either in Rimini or Cesena, at your own choice. Oh! how much good you would be doing for me and for the greater glory of God.

The second plan is that you remain in Pievetorina, but with the office of ViceSuperior, at least, in charge of the Archives, as well as being Economist for the House. Because of your difficulties, I have not, as a rule, assigned you to the Missions. So, please do this favor for me, not because I deserve anything of myself, but, I repeat, do it as an act of charity. How useful it is to have wellregulated Archives. You have a gift for it from God. With reference to the position as Economist, with you remaining firm, things will go better for me. There will not be that variation in things so often produced by the labors of the ministry. I like this second plan and it pleases me as much as the first one. Furthermore, it gives me satisfaction, especially with regard to a better distribution of our manpower. I would be most obliged if you would accept it.

Be obedient. Once you have made your decision, then I shall take it from there for whatever is to come next. I shall conclude the plans and arrange the budgeting. It is true that you have made yourself available to me there, and I am most obliged to you for that, even without being named to any particular position. But, to be obedient to the rule, which calls for each Missionary to accept a responsible position, is an act of virtue, it is good example! I trust in your docility, virtue and goodness to be cooperative, by your own choice, with my wishes. I ask only that you send me your reply immediately. You know, too, that we have Congressi: and through them the responsibilities are lifted. There is letterexchange with me: hence, the rule does provide. In the meantime, handle everything zealously, and after you have sent your reply, I shall look forward into what comes next.

With regard to the Brothers, let me know (and for the time being let us keep everything between the two of us) whether the three who are there are providing sufficiently; and whether, because of the collections or anything else, a fourth one is required for the Church as porter or in the assistance to be given to the sick, etc. etc. A far as Brothers are concerned, I always say, rather one more than one too few. Send me a reply.

This year's Visitations shall be held with great regularity. Either I shall make them all by

myself, or, I shall have the assistance of a member who is one of the original companions.

Thank you for the papers that you sent me. I shall peruse them, starting today. Continue (I now am replying to your last letter) to insist on and defend our position. Having first subtracted something for the postal costs, I am sending you the offerings for the 50 Masses that you are to fulfill. Be looking for the arrival of that money.

Insist on the income for holding the Moral cases, etc. I am also sending you in return the best regards of my relatives. You were correct in writing to Cardinal Fransoni. It was also in keeping with good order to have informed me of that. I am sending you 20 more Masses to be celebrated *immediately*. Am I forgetting anything? *Ora pro me*.¹⁶ I am in J. C.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 16, 1833

2512

April 19, 1833

Fr. Antonio Gammarelli

Rome

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

Venerable Canon

Upon leaving for the Mission in Veroli, from which I will then return immediately to Rome, I am sending you these couple of lines to recommend to you, inasmuch as I can, the matter known to you concerning the devotion to the Divine Blood. It will be sufficient that you please send any pertinent report to Father Filippo Gonnelli.

Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 19, 1833

2513

April 24, 1833

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

¹⁶ Pray for me.

¹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Most esteemed Canon

I return my own particular best wishes to the excellent Canon Domeniconi.

Let us now turn to the programs of the holy ministry.

With regard to the nuns of Guarcino, I do remember the promise; but, at the same time, I recall not having set a precise date. In May, I have a Retreat for the Cistercian monks who, in withdrawing for their devotion during the Novena of Pentecost, are accustomed to invite one or the other worker to handle this holy function. So, if the nuns want their Retreat and extraordinary visitation right away, I will quickly send another of our capable companions. You need only drop me a word. In that case, you should also indicate the time.

With regard to the Retreat for the seminary, I shall willingly send a Missionary. However, the only thing to keep in mind is that he is to be free by the Friday before Pentecost, or, in other words, to conclude the Retreat on that Friday so that on Saturday he will be able to return to the Mission House. This is not a difficult matter to arrange; that is to say, that the Retreat could begin on the previous Friday, namely on the vigil or on the day of the Ascension. So, please, send me at least a line or so. Once the matter of the monastery of Guarcino and that of the seminary are determined, I will be able to decide something with regard to the Conservatory. Generally speaking, you need not have any doubt that this good work will also be taken into consideration. Let me know whether the Missionary will be able to have lodging in the seminary, as I suppose can be done, and, if the seminarians are few in number whether it would be possible to combine that work with the Conservatory, depending on the number of individuals involved. I am indifferent about that.

With respect to selecting de Victoriis, I must say that, because of previous engagements, I do not know whether I will be able to send him, but, I do promise to do whatever I can. Therefore, have no doubt about the fitness of the person selected since, in operations such as these, they will not be entrusted to anyone who is just a beginner in the ministry.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Veroli, April 24, 1833

2514

April 28, 1833

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

On Thursday, the feast of the Ascension, by noontime, you are to send the mounts to Frosinone. With the Missionary setting out on the trip after the noon meal, he will be able, once

he has arrived, to begin the Retreat in the seminary, covering also, according to the set schedule, the work at the Conservatory, thus combining the two tasks in the best practical way. So, let us be agreed on this. You can be sure that with my usual openness, I repeat that if it will be possible to have de Victoriis available, he will be there in Alatri. Otherwise, you will be getting another of our capable workers, who, with the grace of God and your assistance, will do great work.

With respect to the nuns in Guarcino, generally speaking, they will have their Retreat and extraordinary visitation in the month of June. If possible, I myself will be coming; otherwise, I shall send someone else.

I shall mail the rules to Canon Crescenzi. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop, to Canon Domeniconi, etc.. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, while asking you for prayers, I remain

Your humble; devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Veroli, April 28, 1833

2515

End of April, 1833

Fr. Pietro Ferrante

Ripi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Pietro¹⁸

Next Sunday morning send the mount for the Missionary and he will come to Ripi. The Missionary will first eat here in Veroli, then hurry off etc. See that the footman has already attended Mass. As soon as he arrives here, he is to present himself to me. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2516

May 8, 1833

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

¹⁸ This letter has no date. From the text, it is evident that it was written in Veroli. St. Gaspar went to Veroli at the end of April 1833. In 1833, the correspondence between St. Gaspar and Fr. Ferrante began. So, accordingly, we date this letter "End of April 1833". (cfr. the letter No. 2508 to the same person, dated April 11, 1833).

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁹

Venerable Monsignor

The secretary of our Institute has written to your most illustrious and reverend Lordship about the pertinent details dealing with our new foundation there. I submit these to your judgment and zeal for the projects leading to the glory of the Lord. Please indicate the results directly to me in Rome where I shall be located for the feast of the Ascension.

With regard to the seminary, Father Gennaro Gamboa will be coming. I had endowed him with the power of attorney at the time when he was there to preach for this past Lent. At this time I would like the canonical possession to take place so that we do not have to repeat travel and further expenses. Father Gennaro then is to return to Cesena to assume his responsibilities there and to preach the month of the Divine Blood. I have already assigned the Superior for Pennabilli along with a Brother, including Father Masi and the lay person that he has with him. In the meanwhile, make every effort to keep things moving rapidly.

With respect to the monasteries, because of Missions, Marian months etc., for the time being nothing can be arranged. After the feast of the Divine Blood, a new rotation will be begun. Let me know whether this is all right with you and that you are content. With regard to S. Marino, you will either have to send other workers or select another time period, but that must always be after the feast of the Divine Blood.

Awaiting your reply to Rome, I do not cease asking you for your prayers, and, while kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 8, 1833

P. S. Father Gennaro himself will take care of getting a mount and we are indeed set on the appointment.

2517

May 9, 1833

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Willingly will I go to Guaricino for the Retreat. If I can manage to disengage myself from preaching the month of the Divine Blood in Rome, perhaps even before July, then this good word will be done. Otherwise, immediately after the feast of the Divine Blood.

I will write to the Mother Abbess concerning the image, a task which I have not

¹⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

forgotten.

With regard to a mount for de Victoriis, hold off sending it here to Frosinone since he, presently located in Isola di Sora, will write to you, letting you know where and if he wishes to have it. Without fail, he will show up in Alatri for Ascension day and after the sacred functions, to have the opening. In everything, he will keep in touch with you. Pray a lot for me and in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 9, 1833

2518

May 11, 1833

Carlo Marani

Cereto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Carlo

In order to aggregate the *Confraternita del Suffragio* to the one in Rome, it is necessary to know that:

1. whether there are other indulgences, for in those grants there is the clause provided that it is not aggregated to other confraternities. Read the briefs.

2. it seems impossible that it has not already been aggregated. Check the archives again as well as the chancery.

3. after these are cleared up, I will send further information. Urging you to look after our pious organizations and especially our devotion to the Divine Blood and to St. Francis Xavier, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, May 11, 1833

Send your correspondence to "Rome".

2519

May 12, 1833

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

In the mail you will be receiving ten *scudi francs*. However, you are to recheck the

account. It seems to me that the cost of the cloth was seven *scudi*. I do not remember the cost for the stationery. Please figure out the account.

Send me around a thousand of the usual Chaplets and add this to the account.

The trips for the ministry have delayed the news you gave me concerning your excellent daughter. I shall be in Rome for the feast of the Ascension and I will quickly take care of whatever is necessary.

Pray for me. With esteem and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 12, 1833

2520

May 19, 1833

Fr. Mattia Cardillo

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Mattia

I received your notification of 20 Masses and the offerings; let us be in agreement concerning the total after I have gotten the hat and the stockings for you. (See below).

As for the Masses between you and Chiodi, I have nothing to do with that.

I shall send the certificates of aggregation to the pastor of Pisciano.

I shall see that you get your baggage in Nepi.

How old is the helper from Anticoli Corrado, what abilities does he have, how tall, what gifts etc.?

In your other letter, you bring up a topic that is altogether new. The benefits that you have had from the Institute with regard to your share as a boarding student, I believe, is not to be made light of. In the Institute you have free Masses, you are supported; what more are you asking for? If you leave the Institute, parochial offices are not for you, nor are duties of choir. Furthermore, by returning home, you would simply aggravate the problem of your support and your situation, it seems to me, would not be improved. Handling your belongings to bring about your own good is the thing that God will reward.

With regard to the difficulty that you explained to me, you should adhere to the advice of Father Merlini. My thoughts about you have always followed a certain line. Your clothing is not that important. Therefore, if you should have some thirty free *scudi* left over from the Masses, it seems to me that, without taking into consideration your maintenance, they should be sufficient. You also have your patrimony. Have recourse to some benefactor, and, even more so, have trust in God.

In my usual way, I place in the Heart of Jesus Christ everything else that you felt you

should express to me in your letter. To demonstrate my concern for you, just this one time, I will see to getting the hat and the stockings and I will return to you the offerings for the 20 Masses, seeing that there is nothing else I can do for you in this situation. With regard to your preaching, if you are unable to speak out loudly, then tell Father Raffaele. Likewise, if he himself does not have permission from the doctor to vociferate, then I will change either one or the other, depending on who is most in need of a change. As this matter pends, I shall delay sending your baggage. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 19, 1833

I point out that if you were to leave the Institute, in that case, I would not be able to cover the cost of the hat and stockings. It would have to be worked out with other Masses.

Be aware of the deceitful actions of the devil. I do not intend to have further correspondence on these questions. Consult with Father Merlini. I simply cannot understand how today you could become so upset, etc.. When I can, I will try to do some little thing for you, but without obligation or bond, so very, very disturbed as I am by these reports.

2521

May 19, 1833

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Grutti

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father²⁰

I shall recommend your petition, since I have no doubts about the truth of what has been presented. However, it is necessary that you write to the bishop, so that when he is asked, he might speak in favor of you, *pro veritate*.²¹

Likewise, note that the opposition offered by relatives to the patrimony, since you have a right to it, can be removed. I say all this so that the mistake is not made of asserting that there is no patrimony when there actually is one. In the meantime, trusting in your delicate handling of the matter, I have proceeded with the petition. Let us mutually pray for a successful outcome. I am constantly

Yours affectionately

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

²⁰ This letter is found among those to Cocci, but there is no other sign showing this precise identification, for example, Signor Abate, Signor Fr. Luigi, or the address.

²¹ For the truth.

Rome, May 19, 1833

2522

Student Francesco Verili
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome May 22, 1833

My dearest in Jesus Christ

I am late in sending you a reply to your two most appreciated letters; however, in all truth, I must tell you that I simply have lacked the time.

I give thanks to God, indeed, for the excellent status of your health and for the contentment which you are experiencing in that beloved solitude where I hope to come this year.

Listen for a bit to what S. Lorenzo Giustiniani says about solitude: "*Est tranquillitatis portus, delictorum fuga, gratiarum nutritrix, coeli ianua, orationis locus, compunctionis mater, directionis cathedra, meditationis incentivum, contemplationis sanctae auxilium singulare*".²²

So, cultivate yourself more and more in the spirit and in knowledge. Pray and have others pray for me *sine intermissione*.²³

With regard to the Minor Orders, you should work that out with Father Annivitti.

I have never met the priest about whom you wrote to me. It means that the Lord is probably not calling him.

Let me know whether you are getting help with Latin, as I asked you to do, and I shall ask Father Palombi once again.

Negotiations are underway for a House in Rome and I am hopeful to conclude this quite soon. Prayers. Continue your letterwriting and I ask you to excuse me for delaying in sending you a response.

In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I remain constantly,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome May 22, 1833

2523

May 22, 1833

Fr. Domenico Silvestri
Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

²² She is the haven of tranquillity, refuge of sinners, mother of graces, gate of heaven, a place of prayer, mother of compunction, seat of righteousness, incentive of meditation, singular help of holy contemplation.

²³ Without intermission.

Here, briefly, are a few spiritual reflections:

1. *Ad magna praemia perveniri non potest, nisi per magnos labores.*²⁴
2. The more exalted our ministry, so much the more does the devil interfere with it as he tries to confound us. We will do all with the help of God's grace if, like boulders in the sea, we remain immobile, though assailed by the waves.
3. The one who supplies us with the motivation to exercise virtue is the one who will help us to move evermore forward in merits.
4. Let us take bitter things as sweet.
5. It is through trials that one realizes the degree of virtue attained. I am speaking of those trials that one did not plan for, those not chosen or selected; nevertheless, they are to be endured by us.
6. By degrees we must attain to that *superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione.*²⁵
7. Where the Cross is, there also is the mercy of God. St. Vincent de Paul used to say: my Congregation would cease to be if a single day would go by without crosses. Jesus was tempted to come down from the cross: "*Si filius Dei es*²⁶ ...", but, for our instruction, he taught us to remain with the cross and to die on the cross.²⁷

Devotedly

G. Can. del Bufalo

Rome, May 22, 1833

2524

May 22, 1833

Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Before I forget it, I presume that you have sent the document of your ordination to Veroli, just like Father Antonio Sebastianelli.

Now I turn to your recent letter, very dear to me, and I point out that as a matter of principle I never forget to reply to any letter that is sent to me.

So, with reference to the soul ... The practice of most holy communion is a useful, holy

²⁴ It is not possible to arrive at great rewards except through great labors.

²⁵ With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

²⁶ If you are the son of God, etc.

²⁷ This letter is not in the handwriting of the Saint; however, the address to Silvestri, placed on the back of this same sheet, is in his handwriting. So, one is to assume that it is not a Copy but one written upon the dictation of the Saint himself.

and a most commendable thing. Let us, the sick, approach the healer, let us draw near to our consoler, let us go to the fount of every act of mercy. Even if, at times, we should experience the lack of a sensefelt consolation, we are never lacking in the God who is our consolation. On those occasions, he establishes us ever more deeply in humility, and he is pleased with the myrrh of our suffering: "*Veni in hortum, et messui myrrham*".²⁸

Meditating, in a general way, on the life and mysteries of Jesus, our Savior, you are to follow the ordinary rules; but, also, allow yourself to be led by God: "*Ubi vult spirat*".²⁹ Oh! What wonderful good things flow from meditation! "*Beatus vir qui in lege Domini meditatur*".³⁰

The practice of thinking of the last things in battling temptations [...] ³¹ a lot, and also thinking of the Divine Blood, or of M[ary most holy]³² to whose Immaculate Conception you should entrust your soul with a p[articu]lar act.³³ At one time, the sea is in turmoil, at another time, calm. May our hearts remain stable in God just like the boulder in the sea. Aspire to God and yearn to have the most intimate union with him; also, always pray for me in a special way, as well as for the Institute.

I saw your father, on foot, in Frosinone; he came to visit me. The only thing that he showed was a bit of weakness, which is attributable to the human condition. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, May 22, 1833

I urge observance of the rule.

2525

May 22, 1833

Fr. Francesco Quattrociochi

Veroli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus

Venerable Canon

²⁸ I came into the garden and harvested myrrh.

²⁹ It blows wherever it wills.

³⁰ Blessed is the man who meditates on the law of the Lord.

³¹ The letter at this point is deficient. Perhaps, it should read "helps".

³² The same is true here as in the previous note.

³³ *Idem*.

Here is my reply to your very kind letter.

1. To maintain order in his studies, your nephew *in sacris*³⁴ must go to the House of Studies in Albano. You will be given notification of what he is to bring along with him. So, before he leaves, he should write to me. We are not speaking of payment of room and board since he is *in sacris*. The only thing asked for is his statement of obligation, should he not persevere in the Institute, namely, a paper that you can draw up and give to your nephew. It will be preserved in the archives. Let us be agreed on this. Let me know whether he is ready to depart.

2. The other two in line for studies are to be sent to Sonnino. What I said above also holds in this case. I add only that with reference to the payment of room and board, I am unable to do anything else than hold them responsible for this until the subdiaconate. I shall be content with instalment payments which they will continue to make until the subdiaconate, and until full payment. I do not know whether I have made myself sufficiently clear. If not, send me your questions. With these matters clearly set, they can immediately proceed to the House of Studies.

3. As for the young man, lacking in a patrimony, speak to him or have him speak with the bishop. Right now, since I am far away, what would I be able to do?

4. A Brother who has a foot impediment is not for institutes of very active life and much less for ours. You can accept the other peasant fellow as long as he is of canonical age and has all of the requirements, a notification of which I shall send you, and as long as he has the money to pay for his first vesture and first trip. After you have made all of your investigations, sending me a report of them, we will come to a decision and it will be decided quickly, so as not to lose time.

5. With regard to your nieces, I shall send you a reply. I am already acting on that. Prayers.

6. The nephew who is 15 years old is too young for us.

7. See that prayers are offered to God for me *sine intermissione*³⁵ and speak to me of those souls. Awaiting your prompt, detailed response, I am and remain constantly, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 22, 1833

2526

May 31, 1833
Fr. Carlo Giorgi
Genazzano

³⁴ In sacred orders.

³⁵ Without intermission.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

I shall be in Rome June 7th and remain there for some time. This, for your information. Likewise, I shall write directly to the pastor of Olevano.

It is understood that pious organizations will have their tribulations. This is, as you indicate to me, a motive for comfort in the cross of Jesus who, by his suffering, has done so much for us. With your zealous activity, occupy yourself in seeking a good outcome to the situation.

Pray for me. I am ready to serve you at any call. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, May 31, 1833

2527

May, 1833

Fr. Domenico M. Silvestri

Roma per Camerino per Pievetorina³⁶

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Fr. Domenico, dearest in the Lord

You probably have received the letters patent.

In regard to temptations, three reminders:

1) Anxiety can increase one's sensitivity; hence, the following advice is pertinent: "*viriliter age, et confortetur cor tuum*".³⁷

2) The best method for overcoming them is an act of profound humility: "*abyssus miseriae invocat abyssum misericordiae*".³⁸

3) A mental glance at the five red letters of the spiritual alphabet which are the wounds of Jesus Christ, and at the white letter which is Mary Immaculate. With this alphabet, one writes:

³⁶ On the fourth page of the original, above the address, the following is written in Silvestri's handwriting: "Three reminders concerning temptations".

In his testimony at the Ordinary Process in Albano he reports the third paragraph of this letter ("the spiritual alphabet") in speaking of love for God.

³⁷ Act manfully and may your heart be strengthened.

³⁸ The abyss of misery invokes the abyss of mercy.

"*Inveni quem diligit anima mea, tenui eum, nec dimittam*".^{39 40}
 (Albano May ...)⁴¹

2528

June 2, 1833
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Camillo

There is a mistake with regard to the Chaplets, namely, in the listing of partial indulgences. General mention of the indulgence is made without stating that the indulgence is one of seven years and as many quarantines. Please inform the printer.

Please send me a final report of our accounts. Also, let me know whether you received the ten *scudi*. Your new nun will be receiving the illuminated St. Xavier. Tell me what name she has assumed⁴² and whether she has changed the family name. Are there any Chaplets available? Send them on to me, along with four reams of stationery, one of the finer kind for letters and three of the usual type. With esteem and respect, I am, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 1, 1833

I shall be awaiting the condensed form of the accounts.

2529

³⁹ I found him whom my soul loves, I held onto him, nor will I let him go.

⁴⁰ The remainder of the letter was cut away. In the margin on the left, which was not removed, one can read at the bottom: "Rome" for your reply.

⁴¹ From the postal markings stamped on the outside of the letter, one can make out only that it left from Albano in the month of May. What year? Fr. Silvestri was located in Pievevitorina in May of 1830 and in May of 1833. There are no decisive reasons for assigning the writing rather to one than the other period of time. As a matter of fact, the only element for making a judgment would be its being sent from Albano. During the month of May of both years, St. Gaspar spent a bit of time in Rome with an occasional trip out to Albano.

Nevertheless we lean towards 1833; first, because there is in existence another letter (No. 2523) dated May 22 of that same year addressed to Silvestri from Rome, which speaks of spiritual topics and seems to be related to this letter. Also, because the paper and the handwriting seem to be similar to those of the other letters written in May of 1833.

⁴² In the response which is reproduced on the second page of St. Gaspar's letter, Possenti says: "The name assumed by my daughter at her investiture was Francesca Saveria, the name suggested by you at the time when she was to become a nun in Monte Cassiano ..."

June 6, 1833
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Albano, June 6⁴³

Reverend Mother

Tomorrow, I shall be going to Rome to begin the month of the Divine Blood which will be concluded on the first Sunday of July. I shall be preaching it in S. Andrea delle Fratte and Merlini will be handling S. Nicola in Carcere. After that, if it pleases God, I shall move on to the Province to conduct the Retreat and extraordinary visitation in Guarcino. Father Biagio, in a bit of time, will be in Sezze to give the Retreat there. Pray, and especially for me, that the Lord will bountifully extend his mercies. Will the month be observed in Piperno?

I give deep felt thanks for the displays relating to our men and I express my gratitude also to Canon Setucci: "*Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*".⁴⁴

Through the grace and mercy of the Lord, you are progressing very, very well in your spiritual life. At times, the same thing happens to you that happened to the Apostles when they were out on the sea: a storm comes up, yet Jesus lies asleep. Make an application of this.

Three things. 1. Prayers that demand particular illumination, such as those asking for more suffering, I do not approve of at this time. Let us adhere to what is ordinary; let us live in a simple way, and then, if God should will some special thing, he will manifest it. 2. Have a great trust in the most lovable Lord. 3. Do not harbor excessive concerns; rather, internally, abandon yourself to the supreme will of Almighty God. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2530

June 6, 1833
 Demetrio Perciballi
 Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed and illustrious sir

Thank you for the very exact notification sent to me for our archives. The announcement of the gifts is quite external and visible at the base of the reliquary or around it in legible letters:

⁴³ The year is 1833. In that year, indeed, as St. Gaspar says here, he preached the month of the most Precious Blood in S. Andrea delle Fratte (cfr. the letter No. 2540 to Perciballi, June 22, 1833) and then on to Guarcino to conduct the Retreat.

⁴⁴ The Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

"Gifts offered by the people of Veroli to the image of the most holy Mary under the title of *Auxilium Christianorum* of the Missionary Fathers of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and left by these people as a perpetual memory to this holy image."

Have no doubt that you will soon be getting the two miniaturized images.

It is truly a great favor for the Missionaries to be able to reside in your house, a favor that you extend to our Institute. Who can ever forget it? So, I have noted here a listing of our regulations regarding the system to be maintained with respect to the table. Substantially, the following is to be noted:

1. After their travel, they are permitted to sit down at table, for example, with you and then discuss their trip.

2. While engaged in the ministry, they are permitted, for example, to be at table with the pastor, if the pastor assumes the cost on his own, and as long as the meal is in keeping with the Missionary's rule.

3. Outside of those situations, they are to remain separated as if they were lodged in a monastery, making sure that they do not fail to have spiritual reading, as we usually practice when out on a Mission, locating a cleric who will graciously perform this service. Then, he will return to his home since the reading takes place for only half of the mealtime.

I know that you, a most worthy and respectable person, will abide by these items. Our rule, in dealing with private families, takes under consideration all of the cases covering our positions, and thus, I would ask you to be kind enough to adhere to our method. In saying this, I do not wish to cause you any disturbance and, with a similar sincerity, you can speak openly to me. For sure, the Lord knows the esteem and respectful affection that I have for you.

Have no doubts about the selection of the two members; and, I shall do everything possible to be there myself in person.

Do not fail to work zealously for the pious organizations and for our Mission House. I am greatly trustful of your effective work.

If something should come up, do not fail to supply whatever will be useful for the sacred preparations. If there is any question, let us keep in touch. In Jesus Christ crucified (assuring you that I never forget to pray for your wife) I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

June 6, 1833

P. S. Send your letters to "Rome". After the feast of the Divine Blood, I shall be going to the Province where I have a previous engagement for a Retreat with the nuns in Guarcino.

June 6, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

May God bless you, and may he increase in all of the workers in those towns an ever greater spirit of zeal for his divine glory and for the benefit of souls. I am extremely edified by the enthusiasm that animates all so deeply. However, there is no saving work nor sacred establishment which is not subjected to suffering: hence, "*signa apostolatus in multa patientia*".⁴⁵

I must point out one thing with regard to the notifications sent to me by the respective directors of the various groups, and it is this, that in order to gain the benefits of the holy indulgences it is urged that the enrolments be made by the person who was selected as the aggregator during the recent Missions, or one who would like to be selected at the present time. This does not affect in any way, the government by the directors for the individual groups. I am referring only to the indulgences.

His most reverend Eminence⁴⁶ is sincerely concerned about the good progress of those pious institutions and, when he returns to his diocese, he will not fail to strengthen their practices. So, be courageous in God, and pray.

May this letter of mine be available to anyone who has written to me in reference to those pious organizations and to all of them, extend my deepest sentiments of esteem and respect, to each and every individual.

With regard to the place of establishment for those pious organizations, it seems to me that one must proceed forward in accordance to what was established in the beginning, and therefore not to make changes unless all parties are in agreement. Likewise, the customary forms are not to be altered. However, very generally, a little variety might be admitted.

Try to find an opportunity, during these days, when I can send some devotional materials requested by one of the directors of the groups; I do not remember his family name. I hope that, within a short time, I shall be passing through Genazzano. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 6, 1833

2532

June 6, 1833

Fr. Mattia Cardillo

Nepi

⁴⁵ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

⁴⁶ Cardinal Carlo Maria Pedicini.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Fr. Mattia

You probably have received the hat etc. Let me know whether you have Masses and also indicate to me if you have need of anything else. If I am able, without any trouble at all, I shall help you, and we can come to an agreement. In the meantime, I am sending you to our House in Pievevitorina where you will fill the position of Director of Retreats and Prefect of the church.

With regard to the preaching, I will cover everything by saying to you: *juxta vires et modo prudenti*,⁴⁷ so as to take care of your health. I shall write to Brandimarte concerning your travel. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

June 6, 1833

2533

June 8, 1833

Fr. Francesco Quattrociochi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Canon

I have received your most appreciated letter and am sending you a reply. I will follow it paragraph by paragraph. That fathers and mothers must look after the placing of their children is something that has been established by the providence of God. Now, in practice, for one who is offered to the sanctuary, there is no lack of complications and difficulties as well as the computation of expenses, and so forth, a thing *per se* considered implausible.

I never wrote that subdeacons are to pay room and board. The only thing I said was that, if they leave the Institute, they should then balance out the payment since it is not right that the Society, already heavily burdened, should be responsible for those priests who are going to receive ecclesiastical positions and honest income from the ministry. Thus, as a matter of fact, as soon as they become subdeacons they are exempted from the room and board payment. So, since your nephew, a subdeacon, says that he is not called to us, let him go where God wishes him to be. Be cautious, however, that he recognize well the will of God. With regard to the young man, therefore, at least for the time being, let all further discussion be set aside. If what I write by way of explanation is not clear, please bring this to my attention.

With regard to your other two nephews, I would like you to tell me clearly what economic plan you can suggest and then we can come to a conclusion. Leaving this matter in

⁴⁷ According to ability and in a prudent manner.

terms of generalities is not expedient. I shall be awaiting [another]⁴⁸ of your letters clarifying the matter.

With respect to your niece who is to become a nun, I have some hope. More, later on. The difficulty arises with regard to lay sisters who, generally speaking, are quite numerous. We shall see; however, you keep working too.

If the young Gargari, furthermore, is not to pay for his food up to the subdiaconate, let him wait to become one. You yourself have instructed me that [in]⁴⁹ extraordinary matters, one must orient oneself, having prudent outlooks in order to maintain order and economical equilibrium. Pray and have others also pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Humbly yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, June 8, 1833

2534

June 8, 1833

Fr. Raffaella Rosati

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaella

I am looking over your most esteemed letter and am sending you a reply. You are to be very, very tranquil about your position as Superior and Economist, adhering in everything with the recent congressus, as well as with the solving of the cases, a process which will nourish your talents and, even more, bring maturity to your handling of the ministry. Let Liguori's teaching and outlines be your guide. Furthermore, there are the winter months when, it seems to me, the solving of cases will not be held. So, be brave and let us bear together in charity the burdens of the Institute. Little by little, indeed, each and every item will be better given its due proportionate weight. By being blindly obedient, you will receive special blessings from God.

In carrying out your work as economist, it will be helpful for you to come to know our problems, writing to me whenever necessary, making every attempt to gradually improve our resources. By being trustful in him, God will provide the means that will allow us gradually to forego taking up collections. *Adhuc autem modicum*.⁵⁰ Keep an eye on the property and see that they do not cut down plants *absque licentia Ordinarii*,⁵¹ and seek compensation for any damage

⁴⁸ In the copy, there is a blank space here.

⁴⁹ *Idem*.

⁵⁰ However, for now a little bit.

⁵¹ Without the permission of the Ordinary.

occurring under any heading whatsoever.

The visitation talks are always given after the noon meal, going and returning, in other words, *tridui*.⁵²

Coming there as the third Missionary will be Father Mattia Cardillo to whom, in the congressus, he is to assigned to the position of Director of Retreats and Prefect of the church. His room will be the one in the section for retreatants, the second one facing out on the countryside. He will be there by the 17th. Father Tomasso, *de facto* is to be the Vice Superior, substituting for you, in your absence, *in omnibus*.⁵³ With the appointment of Father Cardillo, the question of a provision for Retreats about which you spoke to me, is taken care of. More about this in congressus. The month of the Precious Blood will be covered by one of the companions, only for the days when you are absent. This is to be settled in congressus as soon as Cardillo gets there.

I have received the notification of the 20 Masses. Please ask Meloni to hurry and send his in. The two *scudi* for the two Masses in S. Lorenzo you are to retain as an offering for the 20 Masses. The other *scudo* is to be given to you by Father Beniamino, as I shall write to him, and then we are all settled. If any misunderstanding arises, let me know.

Perhaps I should consider Orazio,⁵⁴ our deacon and soon to be priest, as the fourth individual assigned to that House, realizing that not all of you will always be at home. Good order is to be maintained and the ministry extended and evaluated. With regard to Orazio, more will be said in another letter of mine, since I have not, as yet, made a final decision. With esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 8⁵⁵

2535

June 11, 1833
Fr. Mattia Cardillo
Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Mattia

⁵² Of three days.

⁵³ In all things.

⁵⁴ Orazio Bracaglia.

⁵⁵ The year is 1833. (cfr. the letter No. 2532 of June 6, 1833 to Fr. Mattia Cardillo and what is said here).

Please go to Pievetorina where God is summoning you, and leave immediately. Be at ease, for you will help the Society by your example, your prayer and the offices you fulfill in keeping with your capabilities. You will not complain, nor do I expect it. You will be of service for me in those assignments which will be given to you in Pievetorina, always in keeping with your capabilities.

I am sending you 20 Masses which you are to celebrate immediately. We shall resume our lettercorrespondence from Pievetorina. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 11, 1833

2536

June 13, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

*Laus Deo*⁵⁶ for what you tell me about the pious organizations. In that apostolate, how many merits will be gained for heaven? With regard to the proposal to the Council of the matter of S. Pius for obtaining all those things that are justly due to Institutes, I would not be able to give my approval. If God so wills it, he will grant other illuminations; so, in the meantime, let us pray that in all things the will of God be done.

You are to inform the pastor of Pisciano that if he needs any clarification at all regarding the pious organizations, all he has to do is drop me a line or so. The example given in Genazzano will greatly influence the good work in the diocese. *Fides vestra annuntiabitur*.⁵⁷ Give my best regards to Father Bellini. Pray for me and have others do so too. In the presence of the image of most holy Mary, offer an *Ave Maria* or so for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 13, 1833

2537

June 18, 1833

⁵⁶ Praise God.

⁵⁷ Your faith will be announced.

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini
 Vicar General of S. Salvatore Maggiore

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁸

Venerable Monsignor

With regard to the Mission in Concerviano, and later in Poggio Mirteto, yesterday we had a meeting with his most reverend Eminence. Relative to Concerviano, everything is arranged in agreement with what you stated to me. As the time draws nearer, I shall write again.

In reference to Toroassetti, whom you recommended, his eagerness to move to Albano must be attributed to some error since there is scarcely a room there that is free for my usage. Tomassetti should have waited for a reply and then after the situation had been settled, he would have been directed to one of our Houses. I offered him S. Felice in Giano; but, he said that since his ordination was imminent, as he hopes, that trip did not suit him, and I agree with him. That direction would have been convenient from Capradosso, if he had written to me. So, your gentle remonstrance in this matter need not to have been made, fully persuaded as I am of your kindness towards God's Society.

As for Fraroli, I say to you that I am unable to help him. These are things that do not fall within my sphere of activity. I also lack the ability and the time. To deal with such things fruitfully, one needs, in some way or other, to be acquainted with them. If it were simply a question of a recommendation on the matter, a petition, concise and prepared well, would have to be submitted to the one who is responsible. I have not received any such memorandum, nor even a rough copy so that I could check for the wrong use of expressions. However, you, a very experienced person, are capable of contacting his Eminence Giustiniani in behalf of one of your diocesan members who is making the request. You are wise enough to judge the reasonableness of the matter. While asking you for your prayers, I kiss your hands and with complete obeisance and esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 18, 1833

2538

June 22, 1833

Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

You will be receiving a small painting of St. Xavier for your newlyinvested nun who is

⁵⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

not to forget me in her prayers. A better compensation? I direct you to our first meeting. I have sent 30 *scudi*, if I am not mistaken, to cover the mailings. I would like just a word that they have been received. Subtract 22,72 *scudi* for your account, and with the remainder, please, I would like to have eight *libre* of spun hemp and two *libre* of fine linen. If there is something still left over, some of that cloth or material which is of the best or highest quality. Fully obligated to you and asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 22, 1833

2539

June 22, 1833

Fr. Tommaso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

I do not want that dog anywhere on the premises at all. This is not our way of doing things. Sell him. They should have written to me. Pass on this information *pro opportunitate*.⁵⁹ ⁶⁰

Fr. Pedini is coming there as President (with charge also of the Economy).

Fr. Cardillo will be the Superior and Prefect and in charge of the Church.

You will take care of the Archives, record the Congressi and assist and cooperate in all the good work that the House is doing. I am not assigning you to any position because I know how you feel about that. In all, do not be unaware of the esteem that I hold for you, and how greatly I value your counsel.

We are agreed.⁶¹ With reference to the confessionals, you occupy your own and Fr. Pedini, the one opposite; Fr. Cardillo can go to one of the two near the door.

I know nothing about the advice given with reference to the Legacy, etc.. All you say is: "I do not offer advice on such matters", and let it proceed without any further specifications,

⁵⁹ For the opportunity.

⁶⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Dog, The Episode of the

⁶¹ We have seen in a preceding letter No. 2511, dated April 16, 1833, that the Saint urged Fr. Meloni to accept the positions of ViceSuperior (who was in charge also of the Archives) and Economist in the House in Pievetorina. But Fr. Tomasso, firm in his resolve not to want any appointment, also resolutely refused this time the Saint's offer, still placing himself, without any appointment at the service of the Community, according to his own desire. In fact, in the Congressus of June 25, 1833, we read: "In the letters written by the Most Rev. Director General, Can. Del Bufalo, the following has been decided: President, Economist and Director of Retreats: Fr. Pedini; Superior and Prefect of the Church, Fr. Cardilli; Fr. Meloni: guardian of the Archives, recorder of the Congressus and assistant in all the good work done by the House".

except for what might pertain to the rights in justice.

The two companions that I have given to you are excellent. Fr. Cardillo will take care of the Moral cases. You be of assistance to all, etc. The Visitation will be coming up, etc.

I would not want you to remain in the room where you have been. So, after Rosati has departed, move directly into the room where he was. Adjust the nameplates on the doors. Promote the observance of the rule, etc., and be sure that the conference is given to the Brothers. I urge cleanliness and neatness in the rooms and in the whole place. Hold the Congressus. I am sending you 20 Masses to be said immediately.

(Rome, June 22, 1833)⁶²

2540

June 22, 1833

Demetrio Perciballi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest in the Lord and most esteemed sir

The two images are now ready; however, I am seeking an occasion for sending them to you safely. If you have any suggestion, send it to me.

I have no doubts at all about the efficacy of your work in behalf of the pious organizations, *et Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.⁶³ And what about our foundation? Prayers.

With regard to the Retreat, oh how voluntarily I would come. However, realize that I will be preaching in Rome, in S. Andrea delle Fratte, the month of the Divine Blood and it will be concluded on the first Sunday of July, the 7th of the upcoming month. How can I manage to come there? *Non me elegit Dominus*.⁶⁴ The Lord knows the regret that I feel; but, for us, doing the will of God is everything. Let us often be with each other in spirit, in the Divine Heart. Therein, we can speak to each other, we can encourage each other fervently. So, I will be sending two Missionaries, but I shall spare sending a Brother, in case, I repeat, that he can be spared. Always fully obliged to you, I am and will constantly be, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 22, 1833

⁶² This date is derived from the postal markings ("Roma" and "22 Giugno", the date of its arrival in Pievetorina). and from the Congressus of the House on June 25, 1833, in which the appointments were made as indicated in this letter (cfr. preceding footnote).

⁶³ And the Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

⁶⁴ The Lord has not chosen me.

2541

June 25, 1833
Fr. Raffaele Rosati

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

I am aware of the arrival of Pedini who will remain there holding the position of President, in keeping with my previous letters.

I point out that Cardillo will have charge of the cases, assisted, if necessary, by Meloni etc., while you will remain, during your stay there, as Superior. Cardillo will be Vicesuperior and Prefect of the church. Father Tomasso will assist in everything etc.

Let us be in agreement. Also, it occurs to me that you should tell Cardillo that the office of Vicesuperior includes taking care of the archives, the books and the registering of the congressi. When you are absent, the position of Superior, in accordance with our rules, is supplied for by the President. I hope that I have made myself clear. Prepare the congressus book and inform the companions.

I give deep felt thanks for your charity in handling the Month. I would like, only, that you tell me something about Turrichio that I have held in abeyance because of your unexpected departure. I am not able to tell you how much I regret this, since I saw the good work that would have been produced in Pievetorina. If, *per procuratorem*,⁶⁵ you would be able, for the time being, to bring about a settlement to the problems, I would confirm you as the Superior there with the additional charge as Director of Missions. Only in the case that you would be able to at least defer this would I ask you to cover the three monasteries in the diocese of Pennabilli. They are S. Marino, Macerata Feltria and Pennabilli, if you could do this, then I would assign the other two, that of S. Agata and Monte Cerignone, to Father Liparelli or Father Gennaro. It seems to me that last year you went where I would be sending Liparelli. Please give me an answer. Otherwise, you, immediately after the feast of the Divine Blood, *per breviorum*,⁶⁶ would go to Rimini, *nulla interposita mora*.⁶⁷ I would reimburse you for the expenses which you should try to keep as economical as possible and entirely in keeping with our regulations. Then, if none of this is possible, at least you could return to Pievetorina and, having gathered together your possessions, you could accomplish what you desire. Also, take along with you your things; I would have no

⁶⁵ Through the procurator.

⁶⁶ Through the shorter one.

⁶⁷ No delay was interposed.

objection to that, *in casu etc.*⁶⁸ Having arrived in the Province, I would see that you remain there. With these things in mind, open up your heart to me using the mail delivery. Indeed, immense would be my obligations to you if you would take care of the aforementioned three monasteries. In the meantime, consider me to be with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 25⁶⁹

You will be receiving the offerings for the 20 Masses that you are celebrating. Pray for me, and let us become saints.

Tell Father Tomasso that I will be writing to him etc. in a future mail delivery.

If you would like to remain in Romagna, let me know that too, seeing that, if possible at least for the time being, someone supplies etc. in your house etc.

2542

June 29, 1833

Demetrio Perciballi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Demetrio

I have already sent to Frosinone the two images for you. I would appreciate a word or so that they have been received. The only thing that I fear is that I might not have corresponded exactly to your wishes.

Please inform the members of the S. Saverio group that the two Missionaries will be ready in Frosinone on the 5th. Thus, you should send two mounts for them so that they will be able to arrive in time for the opening on the afternoon of the 6th. In spirit, I join in this good work, and I retain the desire that God will afford me the opportunity of seeing you once again. I cannot indicate to you sufficiently the esteem and respect that I hold for you. Asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 29, 1833

My very best wishes to the most reverend bishop.

⁶⁸ In the case, etc.

⁶⁹ The year is 1833 as is deduced from the *Libro dei Congressi* of the House in Pievetorina, the meeting held on June 25, 1833.

2543

July 2, 1833
Fr. Carlo Gazola
Benevento

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Carlo

From the archdeacon of that cathedral I have gotten copies of the little work that you translated in order to stimulate devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. I am in the course of reading it, much to the satisfaction of my spirit. For this effort, I give you my deep felt gratitude. I renew again my warmest greetings to all in the community there, to whose, prayers, I recommend myself.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1833

P. S. The reimbursement which is due to you will be obtainable from Father Biagio.

2544

July 2, 1833

Fr. Raffaele Rosati
Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Raffaele

I was edified by your latest letter and I ask that, immediately after the feast of the Divine Blood, you head for Rimini where you will find further instructions of mine. Take along with you all of your belongings. As usual, follow our regulations with regard to the traveling, seeking to use the greatest possible economy. Once you have gotten to Rimini, send me the notification of the expenses incurred and it will be my job to see that you are quickly reimbursed. I am writing with a shortage of time. For anything further, read what is in the depths of my heart. Tell the companions that I shall be writing to them in a future ordinary maildelivery. With esteem and affection, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1833

2545

July 4, 1833
Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Camillo

I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. Please send me two *libre* of linen which has been bleached. It is to be used for understockings etc. Send the ten *libre* of coarse yarn, but not the bleached type and this, too, will be used to make stockings, but for our Brothers. Once the stockings are made, they will be dyed black. If there is some money left over, send some of the usual type of cloth.

With regard to the error made with respect to the indulgences, regardless how this matter was handled in the past, it was certain that a clear expression had to be presented. However, after I wrote that paragraph, I noticed and I see now that an explanation of the partial indulgences is given at the end of the article. So, everything is all right. I ask you for your prayers and, with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 4 , 1833

I have received the reams of stationery. It seems to me that they have been computed into the accounts.

2546

July 7, 1833

Fr Pietro Spina

Terracina per Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Let me know whether you have received the offerings for all of the Masses that I have sent you; and, how much do I still have to give you? Are you in need of Masses?

I am still awaiting the little missal. It should be dropped from the inventory of Vallecorsa. It is needed for the small chapel of *Maria SS. Auxilium Christianorum* in Albano.

How is Giuseppe? Give me detailed information.

As soon as another one of our men arrives there, which should be shortly after the Retreat which is presently being given in Veroli, you are to return to Vallecorsa, where we will resume our negotiations for the pending matters. In the meantime, I would like to point out that, once you get there, if you would like to visit your father for a few days and conclude the affairs that you have there, I leave you at liberty to do so, provided that you hurry as much as possible. We are agreed.

Your brother, Francesco Antonio, has written to tell me that it is urgent for you to go there for a while. I have not answered him directly since I do not know whether or not he is still in

Sonnino. It would be a good idea for you to add a paragraph in your letter, including my best regards to him as well as to your father and other members of your family.

Tell your brother, also, that the letter of reply to Sig. Gagliardi in Castelforte will be my responsibility. You should keep in mind whatever was expressed vocally at any time, as well as what pertains to Sig. Antonio Sarto. When you go to Gaeta, give my regards to the Most Rev. Bishop. Pray for me.

G. C. d. B.

(Rome, July 7, 1833)⁷⁰

2547

July 9, 1833

Fr. Pietro Ferrante

Ripi

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Pietro

I am sending a reply to your very kind letter. The things which you have asked me to take care of I shall bring with me, within a few days, to the Province, and I will send them to you, indicating at that time the cost involved.

Have Torrice select anyone whom God inspires it to select for the Missions. In all things, the will of God.

If Falvaterra has decided in our favor, write to me and give me the date so that all can be prearranged in time. The same holds for Castro.

As for Bauco, since I have never been there, I would not know to whom to write. So, you look into it again; also, let me know what Missionary was there last and then I shall ask him to write.

When you wish to have the Retreat, write to me in plenty of time.

With respect to the Mission in Ripi, it will not be necessary for me to write; rather, you work it out with your bishop.

Finally, pray for me. May the fire of God's love penetrate ever more deeply within us so that we will work even more fervently. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 9, 1833

⁷⁰ The place of origin, the day and the month, have been derived from the postal markings. The year can be none other than 1833 since the context recalls the matter mentioned in the preceding letter. Also, because it was only in that year that Spina had a temporary residence, of a month or so, in Vallecorsa and Sonnino, where the Mission House had been reopened on April 26th of that year.

2548

July 10, 1833
 Student Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
 Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

With regard to your ordination in September, continue, indeed, preparing yourself for the examinations and for that caliber of virtue which a status of such elevation and sublimity calls for. "The older I get," St. Vincent de Paul used to say, "the more I know what a priest is!" Read the *Selva*

predicabile of the Blessed Liguori on this subject. In the meantime, I shall cover the cost for the brief; when you have been ordained a priest, you will remind me of this.

With regard to the *extra tempore*,⁷¹ there is no canonical reason for one who is in need of an agedispensation to become a priest. Very supportive is the goodhearted and excellent Monsignor Cadolini. Once you have been ordained priest, I will be able to tell you where and on what day you will celebrate your first Mass. If I can work it out, I would like very much to assist you. In the meanwhile, I urge the observance of our rules; also let me know just what you may need. Asking you for your continued prayers for me, I am, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 10, 1833

2549

July 10, 1833
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother

With pleasure, did I read your letter. I have preached the month of the Divine Blood in S. Andrea delle Fratte, and, through the goodness and mercy of our most loving Jesus, I trust that it was fruitful! I hope to be able to get to Guarcino and, perhaps, who knows, stop off in Piperno. We shall see what the will of the Lord is.

Very correctly do you say that our enemy in common, when he fails to go anywhere with us, then stirs up the imagination. However, you are not to cultivate that impression. Live a life of simplicity and holy abandonment to God.

No, to saying prayers for special sufferings. Let us ask only to bear peacefully the ones

⁷¹ Outside of the[Ember] time.

that arise and occur during the day. Your spiritual bearing is in very good shape. Be completely at ease and let us enjoy that peace which Jesus came to bring us: "*In terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis*".⁷² and in adversities: "*Ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".⁷³

Give my best regards to your sisterinlaw and niece and ask them for their prayers. Your sisterinlaw has not been very well, but now is recovering. For all of us, at one time we have good health, at other times, we do not. Let us abandon ourselves to the Heart of Jesus Christ where I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 10, 1833

2550

July 13, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

Next Monday, the 15th of this month, around evening I shall be in Genazzano with two companions and Bartolomeo, so that I can be in Olevano on Tuesday morning to examine the plans for the new foundation as wanted by his Eminence, the bishop.⁷⁴ I ask you to petition the Augustinian Fathers for their hospitality for only one night. I hope to receive this favor. Pray for me; though in a hurry, I remain and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 13, 1833

⁷² On earth peace to men of good will.

⁷³ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

⁷⁴ Cardinal Carlo Maria Pedicini.