

St. Gaspar's Letters

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251

January 7, 1820
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome¹

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

The Diocese of Sezze does not border on Segni but, indeed, on Velletri and Anagni, as I have been told. Piperno, which is always in harmony with Terracina, should not be separated. I would think that more opportune would be the plan to be carried out in time for the reunion of Sezze and Velletri; even more so since Ostia, as is the case at present, does not give too much trouble to the Cardinal Dean for the ministry. This, too, would provide better for peace and tranquility among the people of Sezze, setting things in good order, and thus leave Terracina to enjoy its own peace and harmony with Piperno. I point out that Sezze has only Bassiano below it. Sermoneta is questionable, as I am told, but should belong to Sezze or to Terracina. In making this change, it could then remain in the jurisdiction of Terracina. This is all that I could find out with regard to the situation.

Presently I am in close correspondence for the Mission House in Romagna. May God bless our efforts. This year, however, I would need that charitable allotment which the Holy Father, through your influence, has deigned to accord to the ministry. It should be granted as soon as possible, and even with a bit of an increase, since the Mission and Retreat House will have to be provided with pertinent materials, which, in keeping with the ideas of St. Ignatius, are indispensable. One of these days, the printer is coming to visit me, to arrange for the printing of certain things that are urgently needed for the holy Missions, in view of the fact that the last copies have all been used up. Then, too, I must see to the repair of the frame around the image of the Madonna of the Missions, the missionary staffs and so many other things etc. for the ministry. As for me, with all my limitations, I would like to reach the point of being able to meet so many and such varied expenses, but I simply cannot do so, and yet, I would surely not want to see the glory of the Lord retarded.

For next season, you should please put in a requisition either to the Treasury of allotments or to the Datary, for that subsidy, when you find the opportune moment in the audiences. I felt that it would be a good idea to express these thoughts of mine, but always leaving the decision to whatever you determine in your own good judgment. I must likewise confess that even though I

¹ In this letter, there is no addressee, but from the contents it is, without doubt, directed to Cristaldi. Furthermore, this letter is not included in Volume XI, which contains the correspondence of St. Gaspar to Cristaldi.

am dealing here with temporalities that will benefit the reform of the people, I still suffer very, very much.

My only source of courage in writing this to you is the kindness of your heart which is the very support of the holy Missions during which we never cease praying for whatever relates to you, and especially, that God will fill you evermore with his holy love and grant you a long life in which to fulfill the beautiful plans that he has inspired in your mind.

Allow me to remind you about the organization for the lawyers that used to be extant at the Caravita. Oh how I would like to see that reestablished, at least for once a month. Let us mutually recommend ourselves to the Lord so that, united here below *in vincolo charitatis*² to extend his greater divine glory, we may be admitted into the blessed union of the Saints in heaven. Amen. Most reverend excellency, with particular esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House, 7 of 1820

252

January 8, 1820

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Camillo

I have not lost sight of your affliction, and God knows how much I share it with you. I do not know whether you want my uncle to speak to his brother. I have not seen the lawyer. Perhaps he realized the uselessness of our discussing the Rota pronouncement. Without him, I could do nothing. Take comfort in Jesus Christ and do not be doubtful about the blessings of comfort that the Lord will grant you from the treasury of his mercies. Please inform a certain Belardina d'Ottavio, a worker in the Conservatory for orphan girls that I have relayed the petitions for her four daughters, if I remember the number correctly, to the administrator of allotments, in request for the endowment. They will be taken into consideration, but a bit of time will be required. Within a short time, I expect to have the listings from the Sacrament congregation for Cereto. Keep close to your heart the Constitutions for the Confraternity of St. Xavier. Please pardon my insistence on this; that is to be attributed to the tender affection I have for this saint. With regard to the Sacconi matter, I already told you that I would like the leaders of the Confraternity or the Magistrate, to write and send to the most reverend Auditor a page of information. Follow my directions and, at the same time, they should send a letter to his nephew, Canon Muccioli. May Jesus and Mary be with us. With esteem and respect, Camillo, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

² In the bond of charity.

G. C. del Buf.
Rome, 8 of 1820

253

January 8, 1820
Fr. Angelo Primavera
Bologna

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Angelo

How sorry I am to hear that you are so disturbed. I simply cannot tell you how much I suffer because of that. Ardently do I want to hear news from you that will be in keeping with my wishes.

Up to now, I have not received anything from the book seller, but he has given promises; we shall wait and see. With regard to that small reimbursement, we will come to an agreement in another letter of mine. Let me know what the cost is for the purchase of summer serge material for two cassocks, or the long vesture, three and a half palmmeasurements from the floor. It is understood that it should be quite black. Likewise inform me of the cost for a winter one; it is desirable that it should not be shaggy, and it should be a firm dye.

Pray a lot for me. Encourage our pious works. And, may the House in Pievetorina be close to your heart, for I recommend it strongly to your zeal. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and Father Angelo, with total affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, 8 of 1820

Inform me precisely concerning that small reimbursement, since I am checking my accounts.

254

January 12, 1820
Fr. Anacleto Giliucci
Ancona

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My very dear Father Anacleto

How often God would like to have me go to Chiaravalle for the next season. I wonder if I should set aside a day or so for my very dear Giliucci's little flock. I say this so that everything can be worked out with regularity, and this will come about if time is allowed for coming to an understanding. So, with regard to this, let me know what your sentiments are. Pray for me who with complete affection remain

Your humble and loving friend

G. C. del Buf.

Rome , 12 of 1820

P. S. Get in touch with the Cardinal in this matter etc. so that everything is set up with order.

255

January 14, 1820

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Luigi

I received your most appreciated letter and I share in the joy that you experienced with the opening of the Collegio. Praise be to God for that. May the Lord bless this new vineyard which is offered to us.

I have not had the opportunity to see the most reverend Auditor and hence I have communicated nothing to him concerning the red sash. I, too, would like that very much. You could get the Vicar Capitular's opinion, whom, I feel, Monsignor Cristaldi should also contact.

In view of our concern to have a capable person to take the place of the deceased leader for the women, I thought of an excellent widow of middle age, very refined, though poor, who would be completely in favor of the institute, which is something that is no longer easy for the leader of the women's organization of Charity, since she is married. This lady is a very pious person, and I would not propose her if she were not fit. You, then, can instruct her in person and have her be reliant on your wishes. I find her to be courageous, and when she would come to Rome, it seems to me, that she would give prominence to our society. But, we must look after a place of lodging and, as far as I am concerned, I would prepare a room for her in the new building, and I would contact the daughters of the Most Precious Blood to furnish it for her as though for a religious. At present, this lady wears the black habit of our Archconfraternity. Then, with regard to her food, you could approach the Sacconi for alms, and a bit of an increase in support, in cooperation with the Vicar, for a pious place.

This lady could also be a coworker in teaching the fishermen's wives and in that way make her an apostolic laborer. The brother could afford to give her only 15 *paoli* per month for her wardrobe. Offer prayers and, as you see fit, make your decision freely, in God. Goodbye. Pray for me who loves you in Jesus Christ and pass on my greetings to the Vicar etc.

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del B.

Rome, 14 of 1820

P. S. In order that she will not be alone, you could have another woman stay with her. You know the locale better.

256

January 15, 1820
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor³

I, too, have been in great anguish in not having received a reply up to now. Let us pray to the Lord that on Monday, with the arrival of the mail, we shall be consoled. Whatever letter I may receive on Monday will be placed immediately in your hands. Then, very early on Tuesday morning as usual, I shall be at your place without fail, since on Monday afternoon you might well be occupied with a public audience, besides the desire that I have that you take a rest after the noon meal. Pray for me unceasingly, and most venerable Monsignor, with the fullness of esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, 15 of 1820

257

January 21, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

After receiving your most appreciated letter, I tried immediately to get in contact with Fr. Giuseppe Merli, manifesting to him the delight of our Holy Father if he were to accept the appointment to the Vicariate of Amelia. He told me that his Eminence Fontana had already spoken to him about that, and with regrets he was obliged to answer in the negative, since he had so many and such compelling reasons which would prevent him from being elected, and that he found it necessary to remain in Rome. The bishop of Amelia is a very close friend of Monsignor Piervisani; he could ask him about Fr. Lorenzo Moroni, the Vicar Forane of Gualdo. When I went there for a Mission, I observed that the aforementioned Moroni was not bound by the care of souls; furthermore I would consider him quite fit to govern the Vicariate of Amelia. He could be approached, provisionally, until God would present another candidate.

Canon Muccioli of S. Nicola in Carcere has asked me to inform you that he has not as yet come up precisely with the active and passive status, presently under your consideration, in the concern that he has for what pertains to our deceased Albertini. He is still awaiting all the papers

³ This letter lacks the name of the addressee, but from its content and from an annotation in Cristaldi's handwriting, there is no doubt that it was addressed to him. On the first facing, in a different handwriting, there is written: "N. 7 letters given to Msgr. A. Sardi by Msgr. Illuminati, March 17, 1892".

from Terracina that are relative to the properties, etc. He had petitioned the Chapter to be content with a compensation, and he surrendered the sacred vestments etc., which after being sold in Rome could be of assistance to the surviving nieces. But, I am including the document of refusal. Archpriest Sanguigni has written that he would be coming to Rome and would speak of everything, documenting all that he himself had handled. Pray for me, most reverend excellency, who with particular esteem assert again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House, 21 of 1820

258

January 23, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Among the many good works that you exercise each day, the one that should draw your interest is to approach his excellency Monsignor Governatore to get him to agree, since there can be no doubt about it, to the task of providing an extraordinary renewal in religion for the benefit of the women who are situated in the House of Correction in S. Michele. This would help to put a stop to certain disorders which have been reported by people who are trustworthy. I realize fully that every assertion always deserves to be carefully examined; nevertheless, great will be the good that could be hereby promoted. The bishop of Nocera, a holy man, and one of singular virtue is ready right now to offer his services for so great an undertaking and he would be assisted by other priests who are capable of handling the project that is being considered. The proper time would be that of the approaching Carnival season, since during Lent it is not an easy thing to get workers! May the Lord bless our desires, and grant us the spiritual consolation of seeing so many souls cleansed in his most Precious Blood. In the meantime, your reverend excellency, with the most particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

House, 23 of 1820

259

January 24, 1820

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Luigi

I have delivered already the nine *scudi* to Fr. Adriano Giampedi, and that now settles the

entire transaction. Do not forget to write to S. Felice whatever news you have. I shall be awaiting the devotional objects and the rescript for Sermoneta. I shall inform Muccioli about the 50 *scudi*. But, whoever will have to pay them without authorization should not make the disbursement. Concerning that, it is necessary for you to contact directly the most reverend Auditor and make known to him what your ideas are about the collections that are being made. I cannot say anything about something whose background I am completely unaware of. With regard to the trees, you should write to the aforementioned prelate, and do not be fearful. Also send a letter to Lawyer Angeli letting him know what your desires are, and do not fail to follow my advice. As I see it, that is the order that is to be observed in this situation. Since this is a question of a public good, you could also direct a memorandum from the Commune to Cardinal Albani; and, of course, prayers. Your reimbursement for what the Monastery spent for the past Missions was most proper. In any extreme case, you will be able to settle things with the Holy Father as soon as you personally come to speak to him in Rome when you have the opportunity. Starting now, you should fortify yourself with the permission granted by Monsignor Cristaldi so that you can proceed to come to Rome as soon as I give you the word. Relay also to Monsignor Caprano the usual courtesies. As soon as we hear of the imminent arrival of the new bishop, you will be informed. His name is Carlo Manassi; once you have gotten to Rome, do not doubt it, you will have the chance to inform him of everything in general and in particular. In the meantime, prayers, which are the only real means of settling anything; and, trust in the Blood of Jesus Christ.

In regard to the provisional secretarial appointment, I now open up my heart sincerely, while submitting myself always in this type of thing as well as in others, to anyone who has a better understanding. Either the bishop will bring someone from outside, or, in case you should be approached, I would suggest Cirillo, but not yourself: 1) because it would be the source of irritation to the most reverend Auditor, whose interest in the Collegio would, perhaps; not allow for substitutions; furthermore, God knows how many complaints would come from the parents and the young people; and, finally, if you truly desire the continuation of the Collegio, you must never set foot outside it; . 2) because I myself do not wish to compromise you, since you could likewise suggest and advise without being placed in the bishop's court; 3) because if the bishop would like to go along with my advice, the first chore that he should take care of is the Visitation which is so badly needed; in going through the diocese he will recognize the needs, and in a single stroke he will see what is required for the sheep that he will feed on that occasion with the divine word; at the same time, he can identify the places where Missions can, in time, be resumed. Tell me, is not entangling yourself in the work of making a Visitation the same as making yourself less available for the necessary attention to the Monastery and the Collegio? Furthermore, our mind, *plurimis intentus*,⁴ is less agile for what is more important. When you have informed the bishop, this should settle the matter of the Visitation. Finally, you could add

⁴ Anxious about many things.

that assuming the position as secretary would be the same as taking on all of its burdens, and anyone who wishes to be a Missionary should give little attention to the external and work entirely for the internal. The grace of God will enlighten you further on this.

You can proceed in having the seminarians wear the red sash, and point out that it was the notion proposed by the deceased bishop, and that should be sufficient. Add to that a second reason that this would be a way of differing from the vesture of the seminarians of Sezze. But, you do not have to press that point too greatly, but let the situation speak for itself. For the sake of the records only, tell the Vicar that it is necessary to add the red sash to the vesture since this was the firm intention of the saintly Albertini, *cujus memoria in benedictione*.⁵

Muccioli says that you should try to find out where a volume of the breviaries is, plus an entire set, which ought to be there somewhere. It seems that I have nothing more to add; except to say, pray for me and have others offer prayers for my intentions. May Jesus and Mary be with us; let us become saints, and, *in osculo sancto*,⁶ consider me as

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, 24 of 1820

P. S. You have never spoken to me about my oratory. Oh what a thorn in my side is this for me! If it is not opened, I shall always live in disappointment. God wants it. That's it. Be very careful in handling the economy of the Collegio. I enjoy hearing news of the young people. May God bless you and them and bring satisfaction to your expectations. How did that case of possession turn out?

260

January 26, 1820

Fr. Luigi Achille

Fuligno per Giano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Fr. Luigi

In reply to your letter I must tell you that the most Reverend Auditor has taken full responsibility for that House. It would seem to me that the horse should be sold.⁷ Many things are useful, but not expedient. One could, it seems to me, postpone that for another occasion. Sufficient; I am far away. You people there know the situations better than I. Furthermore, the creditors could be satisfied with the equivalent in oil, and I hope that God will bless our begging

⁵ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

⁶ In a holy kiss.

⁷ In the original, two crossedout lines follow and are illegible.

for alms. Also keep in mind the begging for grain, when it is in season, as I will write to Fr. Rafaele. Little by little everything will work out: meanwhile, prayers.

Take care of yourself. Always filled with true gratitude for the dedication that you show toward that House, and recommending myself to your prayers, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

P. S. Inform Fr. Rafaele, to whom I shall write at a later date, that Fr. Filippo Gonnelli tells me that he should suspend his Masses and not celebrate them any more. However, do not have any doubts; there will be other Masses. Canon Gonnelli adds further that the Cracas⁸ of 1820 will be printed in February and the price will be 50 *baj*. Hence, you should write and let him know whether you want a copy at that time. Prayers, and let us not be fearful. I am, etc.

Rome, 26 of 1820

261

January 26, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor, *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁹

I am presuming that you will not be able to make a trip here to Rome until after the ordinations in Lent. So, with this letter, I am informing you that since the time for my retreat is drawing closer, the time when I make my plans for the coming season with respect to giving Missions, I would like to know if you still want me to go to Fiastra for the sacred ministry, having in mind the interest you expressed last year. Your prompt reply will give me an idea of how to arrange things along with the other appointments that I have. Offer prayers for me *sine intermissione*.¹⁰ Take care of yourself; give my best regards to *omnes nominatim, etc.*¹¹ and, most reverend excellency, while kissing your hands, I am, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary with total esteem and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, 26 of 1820

P. S. I recall that when I was in Pievetorina, the people of Fiastra were starving for the

⁸ *Cracas*: cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: *Diario di Roma*.

⁹ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

¹⁰ Without intermission.

¹¹ All by name, etc.

word of God. Please tell your Vicar General that the most reverend Auditor has submitted his petition to the Cardinal Bishop of Jesi.

262

January 29, 1820
Count Giorgio Golfarelli
Forlimpopoli

Jesus Mary Joseph

Sir Count

In response to your letter, I assure you that the papers pertinent to the holy Missions that are to be conducted there in due time in virtue of your legacy are presently in my hands, so, you can be at ease about that. Right now we are moving the Archives of the Archconfraternity to a more suitable place, and when things are all arranged, these papers will be properly kept on file. If you please, tell Fr. Attanasio that I have not forgotten the booklets that he requested. He will have them within a short time. Pray for me, sir Count, and with particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, 29 of 1820

263

January 29, 1820
Fr. Adriano Tarulli
Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Your letters are always so pleasing to me, and I thank you for the remembrance that you make in my behalf in your prayers, as well as for getting others to do so. But now you must increase your prayers as I prepare soon to review the status of my soul; beseech the Lord that I draw fruit from my holy retreat. What you told me about the Monastery of Santa Maria Maddalena has filled me with joy. May the Lord be indeed blessed and may an abundant flow of his divine mercies descend upon that fervent community. For this coming March, see that you publicly promote the Novena in honor of our saint. This must be the apostolic concern of the workers in the Oratory. I have already delivered the message to Canon Gonnelli, and it will be taken care of.

With regard to the gifts, as yet not revealed, I feel truly disappointed. I spoke of it to Cavalier de Santis. If the obstacle has arisen because of the guardianship, tell that gentleman to fulfill the task as he was deputized, when he showed himself to be most zealous for the Madonna during the past Missions. I would be please to receive further clarification.

Tell Fr. Agostino Grellini that the person upon whom I could rely while I was in Bologna was Monsignor Arrighi, the Director of the Missions. However, this man has passed on into eternity. Likewise there was the saintly Marquesa Tanari, whose biography has been written, to whom I could have referred him, but she too is deceased. My other acquaintances there are not such that I could promise a great help.

Tell the Archpriest that at the beginning of Lent, he should see to publicly ask for alms to assist the novice, and do not be doubtful, for we will succeed in our efforts. But, one needs to have a bit of patience. I shall not cease insisting on it.

I have understood everything that you told me about the Missions. I shall deal with that more precisely in another letter of mine. In the meanwhile, prayers, and everything will turn out well.

Finally, I read the letter that you included from the Polidori woman. I presume that she is of middle age and has good health. I am presently awaiting some information. I shall not fail to get in touch with her as soon as possible.

How is that young man of yours doing who wanted to become a religious in Monte Corona? If that should not work out for him he could join the Discalced Carmelites or the Passionists; they share a great deal in the spirit of those holy hermits. If any of the young ladies that you direct would like to join the Maestre Pie, a dowry would not be required, but board during the Novitiate, a certain aptness, and a minor expense for the habit. Then, after the investiture, they will not have to worry about anything else. But, they must be ready to be assigned either in Rome or outside of it, as God wills.

What news do you have for me concerning our Fr. Francesco? Is he happy there in Giano? In God, I hope so. In case he is not, please do not fail to inform me. Take care of yourself, and do not overwork. Make a memento of me *nominatim*¹² at the altar when you raise the chalice. In the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am, dear Canon

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, 29 of 1820

264

February 4, 1820
Fr. Luigi Locatelli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My very dear Father Luigi

The so-called orders concerning Carnival are neither precepts nor counsels, but permissions, and so you do not have to be worried about them. The Holy Father will be happy as

¹² By name.

soon as he gets news of the offering made to the Madonna by the people of Terracina. Keep Cristaldi informed of everything so that he too can be consoled in God, and all of us together should render thanks to the Giver of every good gift. In the trip that you will be making to Rome, do not forget to bring along the devotional objects and the report of what you took charge of in dividing everything in a proper manner. Let us not doubt, God will provide. I think that a letter to the new bishop would be useless, since he is already on his way, according to the latest maildelivery. I am taking time off for my retreat. Therefore, write to Cristaldi so that as soon as you see that you are nearing the gates of Rome, word can be sent to bring you immediately into Rome.

Leave Grilli as ProRector and see that he is fully instructed about everything by you. Also, tell the most reverend Auditor that he should recommend the new director of the Collegio and the Monastery at the first meeting, and be trusting that we shall see great things. I shall have two more nuns for you; the one, however, whom I would want as a substitute prioress, *pro interim*,¹³ you should have come here immediately. I would like to hope that up to 30 *paoli* per month could be provided for her relatives as an allowance. She will need some help for her investiture, etc. but I am convinced that if the young women were to band together, and someone for the time being would take her into their home, she could get along with very little, and she will do a great good, and will enkindle even more the fire of God's love in all the women. And, having then been sent from Rome, she will actually bring greater prominence to the society. Have a meeting with the families of the young women and see that she gets settled in a Godfearing household. In that way, you will have a coworker to carry out your ideas. Those are my opinions; but, you make the decision as best you can in the presence of God. Whoever is *in faciem loci*¹⁴ can decide better than someone who is far away. I enjoy receiving all the news that you send. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and in their most Sacred Hearts, believe me to be

Your humble friend in J. C.

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, February 4, 1820

P. S. Pray a lot for me, and have prayers etc. Do not forget the document for Butirroni.

265

February 9, 1820

To the archpriest of¹⁵

A couple of lines in a hurry. We have received the six *scudi*. Get in contact with the new

¹³ For the time being.

¹⁴ After the fashion of the place.

¹⁵ The original of this letter has several pieces cut away, namely, the salutation, the complimentary close, the signature and in the address, the proper name of the addressee and the city.

bishop concerning the Monastery, and arrange with him the procedure for the petitions. Let me know if you have the papers of the Archconfraternity in order, and anything that you have noted in them concerning the altar to be selected for the Pious Union. If necessary, you will correct any error. Pray for me who, with esteem, am
Rome, February 9, 1820

266

February 1820
Countess Lucrezia Ginnasi
Imola
Venerable Countess

While on retreat¹⁶ I learned from the most worthy Monsignor Annibale the news concerning your wonderful daughter whom God is calling to himself,¹⁷ speaking in human terms. *Si Domino placet ita fiet.*¹⁸ If my letter gets there in time, tell the afflicted one that when she is united with God, she should remember me always before the throne of Divine Mercy, and that she should, in my behalf, speak a word to the Queen of Heaven, Mary most holy. I shall not cease praying for so worthy and so saintly a daughter, who can be considered a veritable dove of purity. And, what am I to say to you! The 4th of March is drawing closer, the time for the Novena to St. Xavier. Since suffering is the refinement of God's love in his servants, the holy apostle to the Indies will give her comfort with his example of being conformed to the divine will. May the wounds of Jesus be the comfort for all of us. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo

267

February 18, 1820
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano
Dear Camillo

Please see that the enclosed relic is delivered to Pastor Taddei of Moscano. Pray for me, who am

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo

¹⁶ Ordinarily, St. Gaspar made his annual retreat during the period of Carnival; hence, in 1820, midway through February.

¹⁷ On the contrary, Countess Bianca Ginnasi was miraculously cured on February 2, 1820.

¹⁸ If it pleases the Lord, so it will be.

Rome, February 18, 1820

268

March 4, 1820
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

Since the time for the Missions is drawing ever closer, I beg you not to forget what is known to you. With esteem and gratitude, most reverend excellency, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, March 4, 1820

269

March 11, 1820
 Fr. Sigismondo Pedrosi
 Santarcangelo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Curate

I praise you greatly for your zeal and God knows how much I value it. But in matters such as these, it is necessary for the bishop to be the leader, otherwise one goes around in useless circles, or at least takes the longest ways. Furthermore, the care of souls is not compatible with our institute, and that cannot be changed. I hope that you continue to maintain your health, and please remember to pray for me, who *in osculo sancto*,¹⁹ dear Curate, remain with esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 11, 1820

270

March 11, 1820
 Mr. Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano
 Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ
 Dear Camillo

How glad I was to see your handwriting! I thank you for your remembrance of me and

¹⁹ In a holy kiss.

the concern that you cherish for the Constitutions of St. Xavier. Pray and have others pray always for my soul, and do not overlook this, though I have no doubt that you, in your charity, will not.

Nothing is known about Monsignor Pandolfi. After Easter, I shall go first to Velletri, then on to the Missions in Umbria. I shall give the local retreat in the Mission House in Pievetorina for the ones who will assemble there; then, etc. etc. In the meantime prayers. Take care of yourself; a thousand heavenly greetings to all who remember me. With esteem, Camillo, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 11, 1820

271

March 18, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is the petition for the 36 *scudi* for the benefit of the poor of S. Galla, as resulted from our meeting yesterday. Keeping in mind the most urgent needs that exist, and especially with the approaching Easter, I would ask you to present this petition²⁰ at the audience tomorrow evening.

I urge you to be as insistent as possible for the subsidy in behalf of the Mission ministry. Besides the expenses for correspondence that one must maintain for the glory of God, and the deficit carried over from last year, there is the necessity for me to be able to provide materials that are indispensable in order to manage well the new Retreat and Mission Houses that need things to be printed, spiritual publications, without which our holy institute cannot function well. Also, I have in mind to set up a Mission fund that will provide for what is needed for the ministry, so that as a result of that our services during the Missions can be carried out with more decorum. Furthermore, in Giano there is one of our companions to whom I must grant a small monetary assistance for the benefit of his mother who requires help, since she is most content with her son's vocation. The circumstances call for this grant of a subsidy from time to time. Tomorrow night, try to speak convincingly to the Holy Father. St. Francis Xavier will take care of things, and perhaps you will succeed in obtaining the shares allotted. In that way, Giano, Pievetorina and later on even Romagna can be handled systematically. Tomorrow I shall have a holy Mass offered for you, so that the Lord will grant you a long life, and fill you with those blessings that I wholeheartedly desire for you. Most reverend excellency, with esteem, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, March 18, 1820

²⁰ Cfr. the following letter

P. S. Last year we were helped by the Bank of Allotments; this year we will handle things as you see fit.

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March 18, 1820
Pope Pius VII
Most holy Father

Since, up to now, the charitable subsidies that used to be distributed on the Solemnities of the year by the Apostolic Datary have not been restored, the present administrator of the Hospice for the poor in S. Galla humbly requests your Holiness to deign to grant from the *Cassa delle Componendes* the allotment of thirtysix *scudi*, so that that Hospice, in the urgent situation that it faces, will not continue to feel still more the weight of poverty; that etc.

In behalf of the poor of S. Galla

273

March 18, 1820
Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
Matelica

Jesus Mary Joseph

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

The date is firmly set for your arrival in Rome, though I have not received an answer from you. I told you in another letter of mine that you will have to take the mailcoach and arrange things in such a way as to be able to get to Rome on the Thursday close to Easter Sunday. A room has already been prepared for you in my new dwelling place. Remember the address: *Monte Savelli Palazzo Gravina*. Be sure to contact your bishop; and if you think that I should write to him, let me know. Then, if you should not be able to come to Rome, you should immediately give word to Canon Betti and tell him to come in your place. I have already submitted the memorandum for you. Let me know, for the sake of precision, when your year for Choir duty ends. Then, through the fast maildelivery, send me again your petition addressed to the Holy Father for the change in your Canonry, and make this a detailed report, since the most reverend auditor has asked me for that again.

With regard to the girl seeking to be a nun, I am awaiting a reply from the Salesian nuns. I hope to be able to have her travel along with another postulant from Santanatolia, whom I am trying to get to be a lay sister. Her crucifix has already been blessed. Remember not to fail to bring back the book I lent you on St. Francis Xavier.

Canon Gonnelli who took charge of solving the doubt concerning the memorandum of whether you are an Apostolic Missionary has not as yet given me a reply. We must be patient. It seems to me that I have not forgotten anything else. With regard to that aforementioned doubt, I also thought it good, in order to save time, to ask the Secretariat of memoranda about it, and

especially because that title is certainly cause for greater privileges; thus you have acted very correctly in not taking advantage of the rescript. Pray for me a lot, and have others do so. May Jesus fill us with his spirit, and lead us one day into his glorious kingdom. Amen.

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 18, 1820

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March 24, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

Up to twenty rooms will surely be available for retreatants in Pievetorina. The Passionists used to ask for 20 *baiocchi* per day. Fr. Biagio is of the opinion that nowadays at least 25 *baiocchi* should be requested. The glory of God, which must not be retarded for one or the other *bajocco*, will balance things better and his providence will not be lacking. This is the answer that you have been awaiting. In a hurry, kissing your hands, I am, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House, March 24, 1820

275

March 24, 1820

Archpriest Mazzoni

Velletri

Jesus Mary Joseph

My very dear Archpriest *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*²¹

I have already written in behalf of the first communicants. I trust in your actions and zeal to observe good order in things. Remind the suffragan to send me the coachman on time so that we can come to an agreement, since I am very intent on order and precision that so greatly affect the doing of good work for the glory of God.

I am quite indifferent about the lodging. Our principle is, however, that the Missionaries should not be separated from each other. The best setup would be that of the Seminary, but I noticed on a previous occasion, that there was not room, and the concourse of people could also

²¹ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

be a disturbance to the quiet of our community. Offer prayers for me *sine intermissione*.²² Tell Marchetti that he should continue directing his man, that as soon as the missionary staffs are ready they will be sent, and he should write to me if there is need of anything else. I would like the brothers of the Oratory to be taken into consideration during the Mission since they are the apostolic workers throughout the year. When I was there in past years, there was no Oratory. Invite also the Company of the Stigmatists, and have them work together cordially, since there is no other goal than that of the glory of God. In a hurry, with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, March 24, 1820

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April 5, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

I am here to ask you for a special favor, namely, to grant an interview to the priest Sardo, an exhibitor of the present, very dedicated to promoting the glory of God. He will be handling things that will bring spiritual consolation to you and he will cooperate in effecting our common goals with his prayers. With the fullness of esteem and profound respect, most reverend excellency, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, April 5, 1820

277

April 8, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

Before leaving for Velletri, I ask you to remind the most reverend Auditor about the affairs dealing with the Mission House in Pievetorina, which I would like to see settled well.

The nun, Maria Colomba Massi, who receives a pension from Cammerino, recommends herself to you to ask you to help her in line with what she indicated in a letter to you. Fr. Ugo will remember what it deals with.

²² Without intermission.

Pray for me, most illustrious and reverend excellency, and kissing your hands, I am, with esteem and respect.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

House, April 8, 1820

P. S. also remember about Luisini from Santopolo.

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April 18, 1820

Chief Magistrate Luigi Sant'Angeli
Bassiano

Hail to Jesus and Mary

Venerable Luigi

The death of the excellent Monsignor Albertini and the uncertainty about the time for the election of the new shepherd has been the reason why I was unable to give an answer to your concerns. I am deeply moved by your edifying efforts which stimulate me to manifest to you the time when I will be able to come there. I have no other possible time than next winter, and as time goes on we can better determine the period of days. But I am not anxious to have this good work deferred to that time, and, in a letter written to the reverend bishop, I manifested to him my ideas; I shall wait to see whether he approves them. God does not need me to be there and the ministry is entrusted to prayers and tears. However, if things are not concluded by next winter, we will discuss this further. If the Church were ample enough for the people of Bassiano, one could be quite satisfied with that time. But, we face this difficulty, namely, that so many country people could not attend. I do not know what more I can say at present. But, by next Christmas I hope to have my appointments well arranged, unless some more pressing matter, that I do not know of now, should occur. Even then, it surely would not impede what has been adopted as our procedure. Pray for me, and with particular esteem, consider me, sir, as

Your humble and devoted servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Velletri, April 18, 1820

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April 18, 1820

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

More and more am I edified by the concern that you nourish for the glory of God; may the Lord increase your zeal. I have already sent a response to the letter that you cite from the most reverend bishop, and I included it with a letter to Archpriest Volpi, from whom I received a very urgent letter after his departure. I am responding to that one. Recommending myself to your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Velletri, April 18, 1820

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April 27, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Before beginning the Mission in Fabrica, then moving on to Spello for the feast of the Ascension, I am sending you this letter so as to renew with you my sentiments of esteem and most particular affection, wholeheartedly begging the Lord to extend to you an abundant flow of his divine blessings. I want to see you spiritually at peace because of the crosses that besiege you. Thus, may these words be verified: "*ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".²³ God, who is ever most loving, will not fail to reward you for what you suffer, for *fortiter et suaviter cuncta disponit*.²⁴ You can read even more by looking into my heart. Pray and have others pray for me; I see to it that we do not forget you during the holy Missions for which you deserve so much merit. Take care of yourself; be happy in Jesus Christ, and, most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Civitacastellana, April 27, 1820

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April 27, 1870

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

²³ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

²⁴ He disposes all things firmly and sweetly.

Dearest Father Luigi

Do not forget to establish the Pious Union in Sermoneta. When you send me notice of it, please remind me to send 100 booklets of the Chaplet of the most Precious Blood so that you can propagate this devotion to the people. Tell the bishop what I said to you concerning the Missions, his brotherinlaw and Albertini's papers which I am still reviewing. Pray for me. Goodbye.

G. C. del Bufalo

Civitacastellana, April 27

Within a short time the Mission House²⁵ will be opened. Come to an agreement with Butirroni so that the bishop will be able to house you, and you etc. I am hopeful, too, that our Pious Union can be erected also in S. Felice; all that would be necessary is for the most reverend bishop to supply four *scudi* and I will figure out how to get the other two.

282

April 28, 1820

Fr. Angelo Primavera

Bolognola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

Up to now nothing has been concluded with the bookseller. Send your reply to Spello, and let me know the cost of the serge material, and to whom in Rome, I can give the reimbursement. I am referring to what Fr. Biagio wrote to you. With esteem and affection, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fabrica, April 28, 1820

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May 3, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

A couple of lines in a hurry. Luigi Tosti is concerned about his ordination. He is afraid that you might not be in the diocese on Pentecost Sunday. In that case, he would like to be ordained by Monsignor Strambi or the bishop of Nocera. I mention this only for your records. In this regard, do what the Lord inspires you to do.

²⁵ This refers to the Hospice of the Buon Consiglio in Rome which was opened on June 17, 1820. Hence this letter belongs to the year 1820.

In Fuligno, I am awaiting a definitive reply concerning the second Mission to be given in your archdiocese. The one in Mergo is already set. As regards the other one, please decide, otherwise I shall accept another invitation. God will direct you in this matter. I kiss your hands, and with the fullness of esteem, respect and very particular affection, most venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fabrica, May 3, 1820

P.S. I beg you to insist on the finalization of the temporal affairs in Pievetorina. I am etc.

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May 8, 1820

Eminence Cardinal Ercole Consalvi

Secretary of State

Your Eminence

The holy Missions, that bring life to the faithful and lead them to clear up and recognize those things to which, at first, no attention was given, have brought about universal contentment in seeing settled the most embarrassing affairs among which is that of the jurisdictional problem between the Vicegovernor of this area of Fabriano, Feliziani, (evidenced by the petitions sent to your Eminence) and the Archpriest of the locale. May the Almighty, *a quo omne bonum*,²⁶ be praised. In informing your most reverend eminence of this consoling notice, I have the honor, your eminence, while kissing your sacred purple, of assuring you that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Fabrica, May 8, 1820

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May 10, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

A couple of lines in a hurry. I spoke lengthily with the Delegate of Spoleto to whom I also had Monsignor Frasoni write a letter regarding the affairs of Giano. He has shown himself to be entirely concerned. Oh how opportune a letter from you to that Prelate would be to

²⁶ From whom is every good.

stimulate, in general, what is still pending! Excuse the trouble that I cause you. Pray for me, and with esteem and respect, most reverend excellency, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Spoletto, May 10, 1820

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May 20, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

I thank you for your most appreciated letter which I quickly enclosed with one to the bishop, since right now I was unable to meet with him. I will discuss the matter further when I see him in person. However, I assure you that this problem with the Liguorini deserves a great deal more reflection, and the people are disturbed about it. The arguments are justifiable, but there are other means of making use of the bishop's ideas and yet contenting the people and the clergy who, generally speaking, are opposed to the suppression. I am sorry, but right now I must go to the pulpit. I am trying my best to quiet the situation down, and I fervently pray to the Holy Spirit. More about this in another letter. I would like you to consider this as confidential and secret, since our ministry is so very, very delicate. I understand the bishop's reasons, but they are to be evaluated otherwise, as I shall explain to him in person. I shall not show him, however, that I have made mention of it. Pray for me *sine intermissione*.²⁷ At least, *ad tempus*,²⁸ in a very unfortunate situation, this action should be suspended. On the other hand, the copious fruit of preaching the divine word is mounting, so much so that souls are enkindled to achieve a good result. Most venerable Monsignor, with esteem and very special affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Spello, May 20, 1820

P. S. If I should not quiet things down in time, especially since rumors of the rescript are abroad, I do not know what can be done. Finally, they even wanted to shout out publicly in Church. I was completely unaware of this controversy which really brings anguish to me. And, it is such a long story that I am still trying to figure it out.

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²⁷ Without intermission.

²⁸ At the time.

May 27, 1820
Fr. Luigi Santinelli
Serra Sanquirico

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Prior

With pleasure did I read your letter, and in the meantime I have close to my heart the Mission in Mergo so as to awaken the fervor captured from the surrounding towns, besides the fact that the people and the clergy of Serrasanquirico are very dear to me, and this is still another motive for reaffirming, on this occasion, my affection for that town. Not having received up to now any positive reply with regard to the Mission there, I recently wrote to Fr. Ugo Borgiani to let me know the decision so that I could arrange my appointments. Now, everything has been concluded. But tell me: supposing that instead of the beginning days of August the Mission were to commence around the 20th of July? Surely not before the 20th, but from the 20th on, would you go along with that? I would be pleased because of other considerations and appointments. Try to be cooperative in this, as I hope you will in your kindness. I shall await your response in Pievetorina. Address it: Camerino per Pievetorina, where I shall be within a short time. So, too, by reason of the other Missions, for which I shall need to have with me three companions so as to be four in number, would you be pleased if I were to bring along four? One more companion saves us a couple of days of Mission work. If a difficulty should arise because of finding sleeping quarters, one of us could live together with the others, *in omnibus*,²⁹ and then only for sleeping would that one go to another house. I say this only in the event that things were *in extremis*.³⁰ Pray to the Lord for me. Remember our pacts, and in the hearts of Jesus and Mary, consider me to be, with esteem and affection

Your devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fuligno, May 27, 1820

P. S. I shall make an effort not to bring along that fourth companion. I shall see what can be worked out for the arrangement of the trips. I wrote the above *ad cautelam*.³¹

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May 28, 1820
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

²⁹ In all things.

³⁰ At the end.

³¹ As a precaution.

Venerable Camillo

Your recent letter was most gratifying to me. In response, I must tell you that I shall be in Pievetorina for the Retreats. The first one for the priests will begin on June 11th, followed by the one for the seculars. You should be in contact with Canon Gonnelli who was sent lately from Rome to get the Mission House in order. I have tried to inform him beforehand. Pray for me. And, most illustrious sir, though in a hurry, I am with the fullness of esteem and respect, always

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Buf.

Fuligno, May 28, 1820

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May 29, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

The Commune of Belforte was awaiting the opportunity of placing in my hands the enclosed writing. Now that it has gotten to me, I send it on to you, most reverend excellency, for your inspection and remarks, so that you can speak in behalf of the matter desired and make every effort to straighten out any difficulties that might arise. The healthfulness of the air in Belforte is one of the things to be valued, whereas Pievetorina has a climate that is rather oppressive and not suitable for all. So, now that the Marca has these two Houses and each man can select the one that is best adapted for him, it would seem that they are well provided for, and our Evangelical Workers can go about offering through the exercise of the ministry the Holy Missions to the benefit of souls. The same motivation holds true for retreatants.

Keep close to your heart the finalization of the affairs in Pievetorina, and do not overlook whatever God suggests to you for the advancement of our Society. The Lord will fill you with his blessings. Members for the Society are not lacking; would that this were true with regard to temporal means. But God will give a happy progress to our Holy Institute.

I beg you not to forget Canon Tarulli who must be released from the obligation and duty of his Canonry so that he can do work in the Holy Missions. Since he needs a new petition in his behalf, please let me know that it has been submitted again.

From information that I have received, I learned how necessary it will be for one of the most suitable priests in Corsica to be named bishop *in partibus*³² for the good of those poor people. I am told that there is only one bishop in all of Corsica, and he is advanced in age. Monsignor Lucchesi mentioned one of those most suitable for the situation. In Rome, others could be included, and thus those poor souls would not be languishing in need. Pray to God for

³² In parts (auxiliary bishop).

me. I shall be awaiting your response in Pievetorina, where I shall be within a short time. Most reverend excellency, with distinct esteem and begging for your prayers, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Fuligno, May 29, 1820

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May 29, 1820

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerina

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have received the plan for the Mission House in Belforte. In this same maildelivery, I am sending it to the most reverend Auditor who will be in contact with you so as to make the necessary observations pertaining to the project. Let this letter, therefore, be a reminder for your most reverend excellency. Thus, with two Mission headquarters, each one would be able to select the one that has the climate most fit for him, and the Marca would be provided with Evangelical Workers who would labor in the vineyard of Jesus Christ by going about to the various places etc.

I also took this occasion to remind the most reverend Auditor about the affairs of Pievetorina, so that the House there would be set up systematically. Within a day or so, as planned, I shall be in Pievetorina. The Mission in Mergo is already set; Prior Santinelli wrote me a most urgent letter. I shall find out from Canon Gonnelli, when I get to Pievetorina, what has been decided with regard to the other Mission. For this reason, I have not wanted to accept any other appointments and one, *ad cautelam*,³³ I have left pending etc. Pray and have others pray for the one, most reverend excellency, who now again asserts with the fullness of affection and esteem, that he is

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Fuligno, May 29, 1820

You will, indeed, grant the usual faculties to my companions as per usual, etc. In the plan sent from Belforte, you will notice that they speak of a monastery. From what I gather, they would like to have the same Institute known to you, etc. We shall see what the will of God is.

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May 30, 1820

Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti

³³ As a precaution.

Spello

Dear Canon

A certain Domenico Castellani, who has dealings with you, asks that you try to find a way of finalizing the pending litigations. Since it is a matter, as I gather it, of a pious place, you could have the most reverend bishop mediate for you. I recommend this matter to your efficacy.

The news about the Oratory was most pleasing to me. May Jesus and Mary be with us, and with esteem and affection, Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fiammenga, May 30, 1820

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June 3, 1820

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Canon

I want you to know that Butirroni writes to me that he has the members prepared; please do not delay the good work of the Mission in Bassiano. I ask you then that you consider reimbursing yourself from Sermoneta for the six *scudi* that you supplied. Canon Gregorio Muccioli has these six *scudi* in hand. Even if Monsignor has the publication made whenever he sees fit, the aggregation should be here in Rome for this present month, for it is entirely our concern. Goodbye, a thousand good regards to Monsignor. Pray for me. If you write, use this address: *Camerino per Pievetorina*. With total esteem and affection, I am

Your loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

Fiammenga, June 3, 1820

Send the usual rescript etc. immediately to Canon Muccioli. At the conclusion of the Mission in Bassiano, establish our pious organizations. Be insistent in Sermoneta and Terracina. I believe that the House of Buon Consiglio is opened. If necessary, write to Butirroni and Muccioli for Monsignore and for yourself. Goodbye. I am saying this because of the housing at the present time. As the season moves on, assign the members during this year for later on, etc. but before autumn. The weather will be good.

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June 5, 1820

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The love of Jesus Christ that I nourish for you urges me to have you participate in the delightful consolations that the Lord has given to me during the Missions in Umbria which I completed today. I attribute everything to the efficacy of the Blood of Jesus Christ, the prayers of most holy Mary and St. Francis Xavier, my most beloved protector. I assure you that these Missions will always be for me a special remembrance because of the great good that has been accomplished. In particular, most moving were the penitential processions, and the compunction shown with the appearance of the sacred image of the most holy Mary of our Missions was truly extraordinary. The Mission given in the countryside to people in houses of care turned out to be a most singular experience because of the prodigious cure of a sick man, who had been given up by the doctors and who had already received Viaticum, as he was blessed with the image of St. Francis Xavier that was given to the pastor, while the man was still out in the countryside quite distant, rather far along the road, from the house of care.

I simply cannot tell you how many people were moved by the excitement of the Missions. I trust in God that, in his time, there will go forth from our Mission Houses, squadrons of workers for the Propaganda Fide. For this reason are we priests, to follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ to the extent that it is possible for us. Blessed is the one who offers himself for the Missions, for it is a means that God provides for the reform of the people. After God, I place all my hopes in you, since I see that God wishes to make use of this, his Society, to establish firmly these pious institutions. May these also be the prospectives of the government. What a consolation it is to see Oratories set up etc.

Oh, dear God, if everyone were to love you, how many there would be, who waste money on other things, who could make it available for the ministry and to cooperate in the reformation of the world. The ministry makes me feel as light as a feather; I never enjoy such good health as I enjoy when I am giving a Mission. All of my companions likewise are in good condition and most energetic. May God increase his holy love in them. I always ask for one favor of God, and that is, to always be involved in giving Missions, to die in this holy ministry. Oh, if only one day, I would be able to see in Goa the incorrupt body of my Xavier.

In the meantime, offer prayers that Jesus will fill us with his holy love, make us saints all of us, so that we can always repeat with de Sales: if I were to discover that a single thought in my mind, a single affection in my heart, or a single work of my hands were not entirely for God, then I would want neither mind nor heart nor hand. So, the remembrance of you is for me most pleasing since I rely for all upon you and you influence my sanctification through the ministry which I exercise for you. I never forget you in my prayers, and I can truly say that I love you deeply *in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*.³⁴

Within a short time, I shall be moving on to Pievetorina where I shall be awaiting your most esteemed letter. There I shall be giving two local retreats, one for the seculars, the other for

³⁴ With unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

the priests. Therefore, I had to turn down one or the other Mission. But my desire to firmly establish the Mission Houses and to make our Roman method better known, has led me to make that decision. With regard to the plan of Belforte which I sent you, from what I gather, they would like to have the administration testated to the Mission House which is to be set up there, having the annual pension granted to the monastery. It is to be opened as soon as all the details are set in order. You will be able to discuss this further with the most reverend archbishop. Pray and have others pray for me. With the fullness of esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Fiammenga, June 5, 1820

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June 5, 1820
Fr. Giovanni Caroni
Belforte

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Prior

Within a short time I shall be in Pievetorina. Meanwhile, I tell you that it is necessary for you to present the plan in the form of a petition to the Holy Father, precisely and clearly. Also, we shall be attentive to the soul directed by you. Begging you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Fuligno, June 5, 1820

P. S. The plan for the Mission House is already in the hands of the most reverend Auditor and I have also written a letter to the archbishop. It is necessary that the people also write officially to the archdiocese as well as to the most reverend Auditor. Extend my compliments to Caldarola.

If we speak about the plan, it is better to do so in person, etc.

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June 15, 1820
Fr. Giussppe Zampetti
Spello

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

If I had received a memorandum or notice from Rome about the wellknown affair, I would have made it my duty to communicate it immediately to you. Up to now, nothing; perhaps, there will be something in tomorrow's maildelivery. As for me, I am hopeful for a good

result in the entire matter.

Always keep close to your heart what we have established as a good work during the past Missions. *Tu vero vigila, in omnibus labora ... ministerium tuum imple...insta etc.*³⁵ We all have the need to remind ourselves of those obligations inherent in the sacred, sacerdotal character. I trust in your zeal, and I hope that the good established will be stable and permanent. In our book of printed regulations, there is an organization meant for the clergy, called the *ristretto per ali Ecclesiastici*. Try to bring it into being at least for the priests who are attached to the Oratory. Recommending myself to your prayers, dear Canon, believe me to be always ready to fulfill your wishes.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Pievetorina, June 15, 1820

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June 25, 1820

Fr. Luigi Santinelli

Serra Sanquirico

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Prior

On the evening of the vigil of the feast of St. James the Apostle, we shall be in Serra Sanquirico, and you could ask Mr. Anselmi to provide lodging for us in his house since it is more immediate to Mergo, but as long as it does not upset the Chief Magistrate to whom we are so obliged for his attentions in the past. I leave this entirely to your prudent judgment. On the morning of the feast day of St. James, we shall make our entry for the Mission in Mergo, and thus make it possible to have the sermon to be given after the noon meal.

I am so sorry to hear that your vision has become so deteriorated. Recommend yourself warmly to St. Francis Xavier. I simply cannot tell you how much I revere you and love you in Jesus Christ in whose most Sacred Heart I leave you, as I say that I am

Your loving servant

C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Pievetorina, June 25, 1820

P. S. For the trip from Serra Sanquirico to Mergo, we will have to have a wagon for the baggage and horses for the four of us missionaries, and one for my lay helper. With regard to the lodging, do not make a big fuss; we can adapt ourselves with no trouble.

Throughout the area of the Serra, see that prayer is offered *pro petitione lacrymarum*.³⁶

³⁵ Indeed be watchful, work in all things. ... carry out your ministry ... stand firm, etc.

³⁶ For a request of tears.

Make a listing of the pastors who will be able to give the visiting sermons, joining up with those others who will be destined to go to nearby places. We shall also have a *triduum* for all of the neighboring pastors in which we will discuss our obligations. Handle all of this in the name of the archbishop.

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June 25, 1820
Fr. Adriano Tarulli
Matelica

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Your letter was most pleasing to me. You will excuse me if I write in a hurry before Mr. Possenti departs. Yesterday, I sent the new petition for you to Monsignor Cristaldi. In the meantime, prayers; God will, with time, bring things to maturity. You should prepare yourself always for handling the ministry whenever God manifests it to you. I have turned to Rome, while urged on by conscience, since I do not see any precise need for insisting on a dispensation from the obligations of justice. You are acquainted with my frankness; this is the reason why it is necessary to be ordered in our activities. But, let us always be united in spirit, and let us become saints. The Mission House in Rome has been opened. Butirroni was named the Superior. Keep your eye on all the pious organizations there as well as those in neighboring places. Wholeheartedly, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Pievotorina, June 25, 1820

P.S. This year I shall be turning down Missions so that I can give a solid footing to the Houses that have already been founded, etc. The Society is making progress, etc.

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June 25, 1820
Rev. Mother Maria Geltrude Benedetti

Jesus Mary Joseph

The holy Mass was celebrated this morning. What a beautiful day it will always be for you! Keep it as a special memory. I want you to be entirely for Jesus. Become a saint and be a most obedient religious.

With esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Pievotorina, June 25, 1820

July 2, 1820
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Archbishop of Camerino
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am in S. Felice in Giano conducting the retreat for the seculars, and then one for the priests. You can well imagine the consolation that this brings to me. Missions and Retreats: these are the two means of reform for the world. Once I have completed this work, I shall return to Pievevitorina, and then the Mission in Turricchio will commence and contemporaneously other priests will go into retreat. After that, I shall move on to Mergo. I assure you that, as far as I am able, I shall not fail to look after your flock. I have learned about the legal disputes in the Curia in Fiastra. Oh how I would like to see them brought to a settlement. Enough about that. Prayers. Count Bernabej sends you his sincerest thanks and, when you see Monsignor Grimaldi, he asks that you recommend his case to him.

Give encouragement to the plans for Belforte since this will lead to a productive apostolate in Tolentino. If it could be worked out harmoniously, the place to be chosen should be that of the nuns; and the nuns could be transferred to the village. The project that I have in mind would be to set up the great apostolate of the nightly oratory, which would be handled by us to the fruitful benefit of souls, as I hope with the mercy of my beloved Lord. Since Belforte is close to Sarnano, try to discover whether it would be agreeable to use the funds from the Zampetti legacy, thus maintaining spiritual bonds for the people themselves of Sarnano. I do not know what the outcome of the litigation is, but, in my opinion, even the deceased Fr. Pacifico would go along with this idea. When he was alive, he was not acquainted with the installation of this great society that is being established, but in his last will, he manifested how so great a good was close to his heart.

According to the status of things, if it were possible to arrange a peaceful meeting for the settlement, oh how that would help the project. Who knows, perhaps the Commune, because of the spiritual bonds that will come about to the benefit of the people, will be in full agreement with the plan. In everything, *iudicio et prudentiae, etc.*³⁷

Vicar Forane Salvatori in Belforte writes to me that once again he is called upon to render a new judgment in this wellknown case. I have no idea how this whole thing came about; during the Mission everything seemed to be contained within dutiful limits. A thousand greetings to the excellent Monsignor Frasoni. Pray for me *sine intermissione*,³⁸ for this year I have rather

³⁷ In justice and prudence.

³⁸ Without intermission.

renounced one or the other Mission so as not to neglect the better systematization of our Mission Houses. But, through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ, they are the delight of my heart, and I am completely happy. Most reverend excellency, kissing your hands, with the fullness of esteem and affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, July 2, 1820

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July 3, 1820

Fr. Giuseppe Zampetti

Spello

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Father

The office of President of the organization, a position that was mistakenly omitted in the printed matter but will be supplied for in a future edition, serves as an assistant to the directors of the oratory (who are two priests upon whom all are reliant) to see that all the other offices are carried out by the ones who are charged with them. Observe with exactness the rules laid down for the seculars and zealously promote in everyone a spirit and an energy for the greater divine glory. Thus, the directors are the spiritual fathers, the superiors for all, the columns, so to speak, of this mystical edifice. Then there is the monthly congressus which serves to promote harmony, to appoint the members for preaching and on that occasion, each one is to give a report of his office. Likewise discussion is to be had with respect to the good management of things.

Pray a lot for me; encourage the organization for the priests about which I spoke to you. Oh, yes, let us do great work for the glory of God and let us become saints. May the love of God inflame our souls with holy zeal, and lead us each day to the perfection that is proper for us.

Up to now, I have received nothing from Rome in regard to the known case. Canon, with particular esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

S. Felice in Giano, July 3, 1820