

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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2601

September 22, 1833  
Fr. Pietro Spina  
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Pietro

Letter correspondence: Rome<sup>1</sup>

I know nothing about the room in which you are living. As for that last one, the one you had done over, I understand that it was in need of support in the ceiling. You know more about it than I.

Look after my room so that the same thing does not happen again that happened before. Also, remember that I keep forbidden books in my cupboard.

I urge you to maintain good order in things there.

Until winter comes, I do not want the dried salted cod to be used in that climate. Use greens, eggs, frogs; which I suspect are good, farina, etc.<sup>2</sup> But then, if you should want the dried salted cod, write to me again.

Whenever you have any doubts, consult with me. Pray for me who, in J.C. Crucified, am  
Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del. Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

(Concerviano) September 22, 1833<sup>3</sup>

2602

September 25, 1833  
Fr. Luigi Savj  
Poggio Mirteto

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<sup>1</sup> This phrase seems to have been partly crossed out with a stroke of the pen which (very probably) might well have been an accidental thing on the part of the writer due to his hurry.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Food, Expenses for

<sup>3</sup> The Saint was located at that time in Concerviano (Rieti) for the Holy Mission, which lasted from the 17th to the 27th of September.

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

One of your sisters, but I do not know which one since I have not met them, asked for the book which I am enclosing here.

I recommend to your zeal the pious organizations and in particular the holy Oratory.

I am not forgetful of my obligations to you.

Father Giovanni Chiodi, if he passes through your town, will tell you in person some other things in reference to the pious works.

Once again I urge you, in your charity, to get together with your sisters and free yourselves from the problems<sup>4</sup> which arise relative to the one who is there in the other house. Even though I am more than certain of your irreprehensible conduct, knowing full well your basic principles of action, still, debtors that we are to everyone, *expedit*<sup>5</sup> that you continue adhering to all that I keep on reminding you of because of my particular affection for you.

Tell Pietro Paolo Pesciatelli that his uniform for the St. Xavier group has been ordered already and that he will soon be receiving it. Later, when I send the uniform, I will write to him.

The images that I promised you, I will myself send to you around the middle of October; keep in mind the people to whom they are to be given and inform them of this.

If I have forgotten anything, remind me. Let us maintain a holy union in charity in Jesus Christ crucified. In the meantime, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Concerviano, September 25, 1833

2603

September 25, 1833

Madre M. Teresa Cherubina di Gesu Sagramentato

Monastero del Buon Consiglio

Velletri per Cori

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Reverend Mother Abbess

There were two reasons for the delay in answering your last most kind letter.

The first, because I am presently on the Missions. The address, however, for your letters: Rome.

The second, because I was waiting for specific directions from Palestrina where,

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<sup>4</sup> On the second page of this letter, there is a copy of the reply that Savj sent, in which he explains his situation.

<sup>5</sup> It is expedient.

previously at his invitation, Cardinal Pedicini had engaged me for the Retreat at the Seminary. That Retreat, therefore, will begin on November 2nd and will terminate on the 10th. I must also inform you at this time that on the 24th of November, all of us Missionaries, according to our Rule, will be entering the holy Retreat for ourselves and our communities.

Hence, between these two projects just mentioned, there are not fifteen days available for your Monastery. So let us try to reach an agreement with regard to this good work. You could select another time, if God inspires you to do that, but be sure to inform me promptly by mail so that I can adjust other matters; or, if it pleases you, let me know whether you will accept another of our Companions. I have some individuals capable of doing this work in Monasteries. You can be certain that, with the grace of God, you will be happy with the selection.

I regret that I must write this to you. May the Lord give you his holy inspiration to decide what is for his glory, the only thing that we must all search for. With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

(Concerviano) while on the Missions, September 25, 1833<sup>6</sup>

2604

September 25, 1833

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I would like you to list for me the postal expenses. As soon as the 400 Chaplets have been printed, please send them to Gubbio addressed to Canon Father Vincenzo Cinotti, Director of the Oratory of St. Francis Xavier. Be kind enough to send these copies in my name, keeping me informed, and letting the Canon know that I shall write to him at a later date. Please excuse this inconvenience. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

In the course of a Mission, September 25, 1833

Send you letters to "Rome".

2605

September 26, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

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<sup>6</sup> Cf. Geographical Data: Concerviano

Sermoneta

To Can. del Bufalo, Mis. Ap., Palazzo Savelli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most venerable Canon<sup>7</sup>

I am enclosing the notification of the 30 Masses, celebrated by me, for which I received the offerings.<sup>8</sup> If you have others that can be said with ease, you could send them to me. Within a few days I will send the five Masses forwarded to me by Cencio in behalf of the organization of St. Xavier there.

Likewise, I shall be sending you a comprehensive statement of outgo and income covering my brief administration, just as Merlini directed me to do. In the meantime, you might be able, as also Merlini has written to you, to provide those things that are needed here (sic) as well as for money for the six loads of wine ordered by Merlini in Bassiano at 33 *paoli* the load, including delivery.

I am enclosing the measurement<sup>9</sup> for the hat which is to be purchased for Brother Sante; the hat is to be measured on the inside, and should rather be larger than tighter.<sup>10</sup>

I kiss your hand and ask you for your prayers for me, dear Canon; with respect, I sign myself as

Your devoted and most obliged servant

*P. Spina*

Miss.

Mission House in Sermoneta, September 26, 1833

P.S. In addition to what I have written above, we also need some stationery.

2606

September 30, 1833

Msgr. Antonio Begni

Bishop of Montefeltro

Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Monsignor

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<sup>7</sup> On the same letter sent to him by Father Spina, the Saint notes down a few concise replies and sends the written letter back to the sender, folding the sheet insideout and placing the address on the vacant side. In the footnotes are the Saint's replies.

<sup>8</sup> I have received the notification Merlini must have more. If needed, write to me again.

<sup>9</sup> I gave it to Bartolomeo. Speak to him about it.

<sup>10</sup> I will send it with Bartolomeo.

I am writing during the course of ministry and I inform you that I have already signed the letter of proxy for Father Antonio Liparelli so that he can work out with the Curia there the acts of possession which you will seek to reduce to the lowest possible economical cost, but always in such a way that the act is completely authentic; likewise in such a way that the installation will not be lacking in a firm foundation. So, I surrender myself entirely to your zeal and charity, since you, too, have no other aim in mind than the pure glory of God which assuredly calls for regularity in method and direction. Whatever the expenses may come to, it will be necessary to determine the method for the act of possession so as to meet whatever problems may arise. Still, those temporal considerations are not to stand in the way of fulfilling the spiritual programs. Let us seek only the communication of ideas so as to assure the doing of good work and, at the same time, gradually satisfy the occurring expenses in some prudential way.

I will write to Father Luca Masi, asking him to please prepare a room for our excellent member, Father Antonio Liparelli, Missionary, a gem of a person (with no ill reflections on the merits of our other members); likewise, a room for the lay brother accompanying him. Father Luca, indeed, always does us the favor of working along with us, as I hope he will, and the same is true, I have learned, for the Filipini Brother who is there. I have no doubts at all about his good qualities. So, in all, there are four individuals involved. Gradually, more will be discussed. Your reply and your correspondence should always be to "Rome". In the meanwhile, I am happy to renew my feelings of esteem and respect, with which I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, September 30, 1833

2607

October 6, 1833  
Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

1. Send me the two thousand Chaplets, after first subtracting 400 from that number of Chaplets which you will send, by safe method, to Canon Cinotti, Director of the Oratory of St. Francis Xavier in Gubbio. After you have made that delivery, please inform me, so that I can write to the Canon to whom you will address them, in my name, and tell him that I shall write to him from Rome.

2. See that the linen cloth and that of hemp be of full length and of the best quality; even if it that would be higher priced, that will not change things. Do for me what you would do for yourself. I repeat, you make the decision as you see best, and that will be perfectly all right with me.

3. I hope that the thread is on order; I would like you to send all this in one bundle,

without repeating addresses.

4. I shall be awaiting your note, and do that, since you, out of forgetfulness, might not consider sending it.

My obligations to you are immense: "*Dominus retribuet pro me.*"<sup>11</sup>

Let us keep in touch with each other often in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in San Felice, October 6, 1833

Address your letters to "Rome".

2608

October 11, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta<sup>12</sup>

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

Within a few days I shall be in Rome and Bartolomeo will be coming quickly to Sermoneta. Perhaps I, too, if I am able, will come.

Inform Giovanni Belardi that I shall bring him the money for the grain sent to Albano. I ask you, please, at your convenience, would you give this information immediately to the aforementioned Belardi.

The association has written to me in Rome about the wine. Check with the archpriest or whoever it was who donated the wine,<sup>13</sup> whether they want the money in Bassiano or in Rome etc. I repeat, give me precise data.

I reminded Bartolomeo about his duties.

I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>11</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>12</sup> The posterior halfsheet for this letter bearing the address which we have reproduced here comes from the Cart. d'Arch. It has been transferred to Vol. II of the manuscripts of the Founder for the reasons presented in Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters).

<sup>13</sup> In Vol. VII, 78, there is a letter from Fr. Pietro Spina, dated from Sermoneta on October 8, 1833 in which he, among other things, brings to St. Gaspar's attention that he has need of a subsidy "to pay for five loads of wine already received from Bassiano...". St. Gaspar sends back that same letter to Spina, adding the note, alongside the word "wine": "it will be paid".

M. Ap .  
 (S. Felice of Giano), October 11 (1833)<sup>14</sup>

2609

October 17, 1833  
 Fr. Pietro Buffoni  
 S. Agata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, October 17, 1833

Very reverend and dear Father

I praise wholeheartedly the sincere manifestation of your vocation and the details about the obstacles that you submit to me for my consideration. Briefly, I am able to say simply that I would be able to place you, at least for the time being, in our House in Macerata Feltria. At the foot of the crucifix, try to decide whether this deliberation of mine is satisfactory for you; I have the desire to nourish your vocation and, at the same time, to maintain that sagacity which, in the external ministry, cannot and must not be overlooked. While asking you for your prayers, I remain, with respectful esteem and affection in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2610

October 20, 1833  
 Demetrio Perciballi  
 Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Demetrio

I am sending Bartolomeo to take care of the accounts. I am full of obligations to you. I do not fail to pray for your wife. We must persevere both in prayer and in trust in God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 20, 1833

2611

October 21, 1833

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<sup>14</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Wine

Fr. Pietro Butti  
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

Please let me know whether your brother is a lawyer and in what line of law he is, so that I can keep him in mind when something comes up. It is quite true that I can do only little; but that little, you can be sure, I shall not overlook doing for his good. I would consider myself happy, so to express myself, if I could succeed in this intention. *Patet ergo cor meum*.<sup>15</sup> However, you should not cease trying to get other worthwhile mediators.

With regard to those two souls ... the Lord purifies *tamquam aurum in fornace*<sup>16</sup>... The difficulty in expressing themselves must arise either from a diabolical force or from an intellectual confusion. In order to stimulate them, it would be a good idea, for example, that they have a talk with Father Biagio at some time or other. The alienation of absolution is a consequence of what I have mentioned above. If they are dreadfully fearful of not receiving it correctly.. .that is the pain etc. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*.<sup>17</sup>

Is the Lenten preaching in the cathedral all arranged for? If not, let me know. I would have an excellent priest to propose. How much is needed to cover the expenses? Information such as this is necessary to have. Please, send a quick reply to me.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain  
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
M. Ap.

Rome, October 21, 1833

2612

October 21, 1833  
Fr. Rafaelle Rosati  
Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Rafaelle

You probably have collected the package from the carriage. The expense came to nine *paoli*, plus three more *paoli* for the certification of enrolling people in the Immacolata. I relieve you of the payment of the three *paoli* as long as you see that one or the other *Ave Maria* is said for me. As for the other nine *paoli*, you will offer three Masses according to my intention and

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<sup>15</sup> Therefore my heart is open.

<sup>16</sup> As gold in the furnace.

<sup>17</sup> I submit to those who are wiser.

then send me a small documentation to this effect.

You probably have heard that I am assigning you to the Mission in Bosco. From Father Gennaro you will learn of the method of travel etc. Together with Father Santarelli and Canon Fontana, the work will be divided as follows: "You will give the grand sermon the introductory one and the reminders visitation sermons, with permission, etc. if, where you go, etc., the people belong to another diocese and the conferences to the *Ceto colto*.<sup>18</sup> This much is definite; the rest, you will learn from Father Fontana, etc. I wish to avoid repetition now, and also because I am presently writing in a hurry. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 21, 1833

2613

October 22, 1833

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

You will be getting around 40 *scudi* in the postal delivery; I say around, because of the gold coin which in one place is worth more, and in another, less. Send me word that you have received this money. According to the last accounting, you should be getting 31.59 *scudi* (but be careful not to give *de proprio*<sup>19</sup>). I, however, am sending forty because I did not see the entry for the 400 copies of the Chaplet, subtracted from the total 2000 copies, which were sent to Gubbio. Let me know what the price was for that. With the usual esteem and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 22, 1833

It has been just a short while since I have returned from the Missions.

2614

October 22, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

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<sup>18</sup> Well educated class [of people].

<sup>19</sup> About [of] one's own

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

A couple of lines in a hurry to find out whether everything has been completed with regard to the money for the altar of St. Xavier and the Chaplets which I sent. Do not cease working zealously, not only for the institutions in Genazzano but even more so in the surrounding towns. Give my best regards to anyone who remembers me and let us solidify our union in charity in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ where I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 22, 1833

I will be going to the seminary in Palestrina, etc. to give a Retreat. Pray etc.

2615

October 24, 1833

Giovanni Battista Flori

Guarcino

## Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Giovanni Battista

Relative to the indulgences, it is necessary first for you to read well the listing of the indulgences which are granted to the enrollees of the devotion to the Divine Blood. You will also see there the notation for Xavier. Furthermore, for the Congregation, on the morning of the feast day, perhaps, who knows, there may be an indulgence granted in that regard. So make an investigation along with the Vicar Ceccaci, to whom I send my very best regards, and also at that time with the Vicar, prepare a petition for whatever may be needed, thus doing everything with regularity and with good system.

The printed materials have been sent to Frosinone addressed to Father Biagio Valentini, Missionary President. See that they are picked up.

Always be very enthusiastic about the good work of the holy Oratory. The blessings upon you will be multiplied.

In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 24, 1833

2616

October 24, 1833

Michele Di Mattia

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Michele<sup>20</sup>

I am sending this reply to two of your most appreciated letters. In regard to the first one, since Merlini is much more experienced than I am in what pertains to an examination of the benefice, thus noting any involuntary mistake and doing whatever is to be provided, I am forwarding that letter to Father Merlini. In general, I will point out that Apostolic Briefs ordinarily are sent to the bishops *pro executione*.<sup>21</sup> It is up to them to inform the Datary of what might be needed as well as to propose their projects. You can be sure, as far as I know, that this is the way that is practiced.

With regard to the habit that the lady who wishes and can make the habit for a pious cause, for which I have no doubt, I would say that it should be made proportionately fitted for the statue of most holy Mary Immaculate, a devotion very dear to our hearts. The future collection taken up on the feast of the Conception could be used for decorating the head and the hands. However, if the Daughters of Mary have means of handling the expense beforehand, then in that case the other congregation of the men should not be involved on the feastday. You work the plan out.

Soon, I will have to send the new President along with a companion. This is due to the change of climate required by Father de Victoriis as well as to the Lenten preaching for which he will perhaps be assigned; furthermore there is the rotation of the Missions which will include Father Paoletti and the Houses involved as above.

I understand what you tell me about the notary and I will give directions to Father Merlini. I thank you and anyone else who is cooperating there in doing good work. With esteem and respect, I am, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 24, 1833

2617

October 24, 1833

Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina

Monastery of Buon Consiglio

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<sup>20</sup> On the third siding there is a copy of a letter from Maria De Mattias to "*Signor Carlo Capo, Governatore della Confraternita della Morte*" in which she thanks him for selecting her as the leader of the Sisters of that same confraternity. The copy is dated October 29 (then corrected to 31), 1833.

<sup>21</sup> For execution.

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother Abbess

As a conclusion to our lettercorrespondence concerning the Retreat, I would say that it should remain as determined.

1. I assure you that I, myself, would like to come in person, and, as far as it will be possible for me, I shall make every effort not to fail in this. However, at times, because of the job of directing our Institute, I do not always have the faculty of doing what I would like to do.

2. So, in case of a real impossibility of my being there, I will send one of our leading companions, already experienced in monastery work, and, with the grace of God, he will do good work, assisted by the prayers of all of you.

3. The time is set for after the feast of St. Francis Xavier. That period is the time when our Missionaries have completed our own spiritual Retreat. The feast of St. Francis Xavier falls on December 3rd. So, note that before Christmas we will have time to fulfill this holy work of cultivating your souls, so wonderfully aimed along the way to eternal salvation.

4. In regard to the date and the arrangements, it is necessary now to obtain, as you know very well, the usual letter from the reverend Vicar of Velletri or from his Eminence. In this way, the work will be assured, the time will be definite, and the ministry wellordered. With respect to the day for the introduction, whether that be the day immediately after December 3rd or some following day, I will be able to tell you after I get the letter from the Curia. Let me know if you have guestrooms or whether we are to go elsewhere, since we do not travel alone but always with a man or laybrother. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 24, 1833

P. S. For the entire ministry, everything will be done, as you indicated to me, in around 15 days. That is how I think it should be.

2618

October 25, 1833

Fr. Domenico Antonio

Folignano Monte Santo

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>22</sup>

Venerable Father

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<sup>22</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Your excellent brother<sup>23</sup> has been busy with the Missions. He is, indeed, in very good health, and, if you wish to write to him, address your letter to Frosinone. Please pray and have others do so too for me and for our holy Missions. Spread more and more the devotion to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 25, 1833

2619

October 26, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta<sup>24</sup>

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

In reference to the Masses sent by Merlini, both you and Canon Aloysi are to come to an agreement with Merlini, for I like to have things in order. Merlini, then, will keep in contact with me. In this way mistakes will not arise.

With hope in God, this year I expect to make the Retreat called for by the rule in Sermoneta. I say that I expect to do so, but you know that this is for me a relative thing, for my office calls me at one time here and another time there.<sup>25</sup>

With reference to the temporalities, I shall learn more when Bartolomeo returns. I left there several pictures that can be used to complete the decorating of the corridors. Put them up following the pattern of the Capuchin Fathers.

Let me know what is available there in the line of materials used for the ministry.

The mask of the deceased Fr. Renzi will arrive and you will preserve it wherever you think best, placing on it an identifying card showing that it is of the deceased Renzi.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Fr. Giovanni Chiodi.

<sup>24</sup> In regard to the posterior halfsheet for this letter on which the address recopied here is located. cfr. Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters) .

<sup>25</sup> As a matter of fact, he was not able to get to Sermoneta for the Retreat called for by the rule. In November of 1833, Gaspar preached the Retreat in the seminary in Palestrina. After stopping off for a few days in Rome, he went on to Albano and there he made his Retreat. After that, he went to the Mission in Ronciglione. The Retreat in Sermoneta was preached by Fr. Pietro De Victoriis, "sent there for that purpose from our House in Albano by the Director General".

<sup>26</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Renzi, Fr. (Death Mask). Cfr. biographical section: Renzi.

The painting<sup>27</sup> also will arrive and you can put that in the reception parlor, namely, opposite the street and above the inside door. I hope that I have made myself clear. As for the crate, etc., in which the painting will arrive, return it to Rome by safe means.

I have learned of the departure of Farricelli and that is very fine; the same is true of Visconti.<sup>28</sup>

Draw up immediately the authentic testimonies of the witnesses who had knowledge of the disposition made by the deceased lady there. Inform the archpriest that we are not able to surrender our rights. Register this protest along with Canon Aloysi. Keep Merlini informed of everything, for that is why I have assigned him there as President. In one way or other, conduct yourself as you judge most expedient. The relatives of the deceased woman, who are cognizant of the situation, could inform the Curia.<sup>29</sup> First of all, contact Merlini who, within a few days, should be moving on to that House, as I expect.

In J.C. Crucified, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, October 26, (1833)<sup>30</sup>

2620

October 27, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

Please, if you can, join me in Palestrina since you probably remember that I shall be going there for the upcoming Retreat in the seminary. If you are unable to come, write to me; by letter we will decide finally what is to be done. With this understanding, I ask you to keep me in your prayers more than ever. With esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

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<sup>27</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Painting of Fr. Renzi

<sup>28</sup> Canon D. Giacomo Farricelli was a resident student; Canon D. Giuseppe M. Visconti was a Priest Probandus.

<sup>29</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sermoneta (rights of burial and funeral services)

<sup>30</sup> The year is derived from the agreement between the content of this letter and what is recorded in the Congressi for the House in Sermoneta, from September to November of 1833.

Rome, October 27<sup>31</sup>

The Retreat will begin on the 3rd or 4th of November.

2621

October 27, 1833  
Fr. Mattia Cardillo  
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, October 27, 1833  
Most esteemed Father Mattia

As soon as I read your letter, forwarded to me by the young relative of Verili, I am sending this reply and the answer to the Berta case.

Let him think seriously about this in his soul and effectively fulfill his conversion. Only let him fear God, and while Titius (?) and attempts chidings, let him act confidently and not fear the reproach of men. Let him lead a life with God next to his heart, and let him safeguard the appropriate rules, etc.

Given these things. Such diligence should be exhibited in the sacramental forum that nothing external should be admitted which would give rise to alienation from the sacraments, and other matters of this kind. For in cases in which the Church itself enjoins a strict obligation of denouncing, it imposes this burden not on the confessor but on the penitent. In other matters concerning externals there is the external tribunal. Therefore concerning these matters which the Vicar can handle externally, why does he not act? Many things, therefore, come together in the case: the observance of silence on the part of the confessor, who knows well how much he knows through confession; the practice of not involving himself concerning external matters; for it is not appropriate to our ministry; precaution for Berta and her reputation; a prudent manner in acting. The confessor, therefore, in confession will enjoin what should be enjoined in accordance with theology; as to the rest let him commend everything to God and with an outpouring of prayer let him eagerly desire special compunction in the soul.

Next it helps here to take note that for direction he is never free in practice to ask permission from a penitent for current cases; for whoever acts otherwise exposes himself (and the Sacrament) to dangers, frauds and strifes. Thus ordinarily speaking. This is for you my most beloved in the Lord.

[There is no signature]

P. S. Sometimes he strayed and something is not in the case because the penitent makes up what in reality does not exist, and therefore the confessor should be concerned only about

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<sup>31</sup> The year is 1833 as is evident from the letter No. 2614 to this same person dated October 22, 1833.

acts, and those matters examined in the internal forum.<sup>32</sup>

2622

October 28, 1833  
Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

Oh how obliged I am to you! I am awaiting the coachman as you indicated to me. Through the mail, I am sending an additional 12,59 *scudi* and Canon Cinotti of Gubbio is to send you three more. In this way, I believe that we will be all even. However, I fear that perhaps you may have been mistaken in saying in one of your letters that there were seven *scudi* yet in my favor; I certainly have no recollection of this; check once again also those 40 *scudi*; if there is any alteration to be made in this, please inform me. Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 28, 1833

2623

November 5, 1833

Fr. Raffaele Rosati  
Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

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<sup>32</sup> *Haec anima serio excogitet et efficaciter adimpleat suam conversionem. Solummodo timeat Deum et dum Titius mines, et objurgationes attentat, ipsa fiducialiter agat, et non timeat opprobrio hominum. Vitam degat juxta cor Deum et regulis appositis caveat etc.*

*Hisce positis. Ea est diligentia exhibenda in foro sacramentali ut nihil exterius sit admittendum ex quo alienationem exurgat a Sacramentis et caetera hujusmodi. In casibus enim in quibus ipsa Ecclesia injungit obligationem strictam denuntiandi, hoc onus non Confessario sed poenitenti imponit. In reliquis circa exteriora adest tribunal extrinsecum. De his ergo, quae poterit extrinsece cur non agit Vicarius? Plurima ergo concurrunt in casu; observatio silentii in Confessario, qui nimis scit quod per confessionem scit; praxis non se immiscendi circa exteriora; non est enim id conveniens ministerio nostro; cautela pro Berta ejusque fama; prudens modus in agendo. Confessarius ergo in Confessione injungat quae iuxta theologiam injungenda sunt: caeterum omnia Deo commendat et fusis mrecibus specialem in Aima compunctionem exoptet.*

*Porro hic iuvat animadvertere numquam pro directione in praxi expediri licentiam petere a paenitente pro casibus occurrentibus; qui enim secus agit periculis se (et Sacramentum) exponit, dolis et jurgiis. Ita ordinarie loquendo. Haec tibi mi charissime in Domino.*

[there is no signature]

*P. S. Evaxit aliquoties et si non in casu quod paenitens fingit id quod reapse non est, et idcirco Confessarius provideat secundum acta, et probata in foro interno tantum.*

Most esteemed Father Rafaele

Here I am satisfying your wishes by recalling you to the Province. As soon as the Mission in Bosco is finished, you are to make travel arrangements hurriedly, both because of the weather and to be on time for our Retreat called for by the rule.

Keep the following things in mind: 1. the usual spiritual regulations; 2. the arrangements for beds in the rooms of the inns even if there are more in each room, but, I repeat, separate, sharing etc. 3. you be the director and the economist for the trip, giving good example, as I have no doubt you will, wherever you go. 4. you take care of bringing together for the coach the following: Father Giuseppa Ballini Father Orazio Bragaglia a new boarding student known about by Father Gennaro Gamboa and Brother Luigi Falcione. If you wish to observe the *apoca* which I made for our recent arrivals in Romagna, you can get it from Cotino in Rimini. That *apoca*, however, is dependent on different occasions and circumstances. Be economical inasfar as possible, since we are already weighed down by expenses. I say, inasfar as possible.

#### Directives

for setting up the contracts and for the carriage

Father Orazio Bragaglia is to head in the direction of S. Felice in Giano where he will take up residence. The new boarding student is to head to Pievetorina with Father Beniamino who is stationed in Pievetorina. You govern things and if, out of convenience, Father Orazio should go with the boarding student to Pievetorina, in that case, then, Father Beniamino will see that Father Orazio gets to S. Felice in Giano, while keeping with himself the boarding student whom Father Gennaro is sending. I hope that I have made this sufficiently clear.

Even though I am very convinced of your circumspection in every regard, still I make the recommendation that during the travel and always, the talk should only be of useful and edifying topics. All of you should have your passports and papers in order, and may the Lord bless your trip. Seek out the shortest and most economical itinerary.

With respect to the temporalities involved with this traveling, I ask that you contribute whatever you are able to give, considering that it is not I who am moving you from Romagna; however, it is I who am adapting myself to the circumstances. The boarding student must, on his own, give his share for the expenses, while you keep in view the greatest possible discretion. Father Orazio will give you something or other, as I have directed him. So, by each one contributing something and supplying what he has, there will be a proper sharing. It will be my responsibility to provide for the reimbursements. Some portion can also be paid at my house as soon as you arrive, without having to spend more for sending the money.

I point out, furthermore, that the traveling companions should be informed that they are only to be more than ready to follow any direction you give and always in keeping with our regulations. You look after this reunion.

When you, Father Bellini and Brother Falcioni have arrived in Rome, you will come to my house and then from there go to Albano for the Retreat called for by our rule. In person and

with the passing of time, we will discuss whatever else is needed, as well as the lineup of services to be undertaken for the glory of God, whom we must serve incessantly. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

November 2, 1833

Send your letters to "Rome".

See whether you can contact the coachman who has handled our men, making adjustments in the contracts in accordance with circumstances.<sup>33</sup>

2624

November 5, 1833

Orazio Bracaglia

Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Subdeacon Sebastianelli<sup>34</sup> will be coming there as a primary boarding student with the other two remaining there; more, as time goes on.

In obedience, you are called to travel to S. Felice in Giano where I am assigning you as a Missionary in residence there. However, I would be pleased if you would not preach until the time of Lent so that if there were requests for Lenten preaching, I would like to know whether you have properly prepared yourself through study to be able to preach easily three times per week. After writing this, however, I feel that the situation may be a bit hurried; so let us allow this to be set aside for this year and you just be on hand taking your turn in preaching with the other Missionaries. I hope that I have made myself clear. In your quiet retirement there, in silence and in prayer as well as in study, you will derive great profit.

The position to which I am assigning you is that of Director of Retreats and Prefect of the church. This latter position, that of the church, I recommend to your care in the fullest sense. Books are not to be taken out of the library; you know this. Be an encourager of observance of the rule; and, pray for me. Seek my advice whenever needed, in addition to discussions with your companions. Nearby is Father Beniamino. So, continue being happy. As for faculties, work this out with your companions in Giano. Travel, carrying the Missionary crucifix. I have already sent this to you by coach. You are to go get it. See that they give you certification *pro viris*<sup>35</sup> which you will be able to exercise in S. Felice in Giano. Consult diligently our directory book for our

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<sup>33</sup> This paragraph was placed on the fourth siding, near the address.

<sup>34</sup> Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli.

<sup>35</sup> For men.

practices, trust in God, and do good work.

Father Rosati has been given charge of handling your travel, as he himself will be proceeding to the Province. In the maildelivery, you will be getting a few *scudi* being sent to you for traveling expenses. Give them to Rosati along with some other thing concerning which I wrote, sent there in view of this trip. With Rosati, figure out the total income and output. Check the maildelivery and if you do not see them addressed to you, ask whether they were addressed to Father Gennaro.

There should be six *scudi* there. As for other things, Rosati has been given instructions. See that your passport is in order. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

November 5, 1833

Send your letters to "Rome".

Inform Luigi Falcioni, as I have instructed Rosati, that he is to travel with you priests and come to Rome with Rosati, where I shall be awaiting him. Also notify Father Gennaro of this destination and anyone else of the Missionaries who are there. See that the passports are in order. The departures are to be made in accordance with our practices.<sup>36</sup>

2625

November 9, 1833

Fr. Carlo Giorgi

Genazzano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

I had nothing precise to say to you; however, you did very well in not undergoing the inconvenience of coming to Palestrina. Not fully aware of the distance involved, but wanting to see you again, I went ahead and wrote so that we would have the chance to see each other again. I am consoled, in the meantime, by the progress made in doing good work there. Let us seek evermore to strengthen it *cogitatione, verbo et opere*.<sup>37</sup> If necessary, revive in Olevano and in other places too the continuation of good work. Especially pray for me and have others do so too and never forget me at the holy altar. Extend this message likewise to Father Curate Bellisini, etc., etc.. I kiss your hands and in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>36</sup> This second paragraph is found on the fourth siding, near the address.

<sup>37</sup> By thought, word and deed.

Mis. Ap.  
From the seminary in Palestrina, November 9, 1833

2626

November 16, 1833  
Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina  
Monastery of Buon Consiglio  
Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother Abbess

The reason why I feared that I would not be able to come there personally was because of a preceding arrangement for a Mission promised a notable time before which I was seeking to defer, in order to be there, I repeat, immediately after the feast of St. Xavier. However, I was not able to succeed in what I was hoping to do. Consequently, I am compelled to follow through on the second part of my reply to you, namely, to send one of the outstanding companions in our Institute such as Father Biagio Valentini, Father Camillo Rossi, etc., etc..

Now, however, I find myself limited by the rescript of the Monsignor Vicario sent to me. So, what is to be done? You make the decision. Either to return to the first plan or, if you wish to have me come personally, it would be necessary to make arrangements for after Christmas. I shall be awaiting your reply in regard to this alternative; then, I will tell you quickly of the day for the introduction.

With regard to admitting an outside person to be heard delivering the divine word in your church is not, in truth, according to regulations.

This is all that I can say by way of reply to your letter. Asking you, please, by way of postal delivery, to inform me of your decision, I have the pleasure of reasserting that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 16, 1833

2627

November 16, 1833  
Fr. Pietro Spina  
Velletri per Sermoneta<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> The posterior halfsheet for this letter which bears the address reproduced here along with the postscript associated with it was located out of place in Vol. VII of the originals of the Founder, f. 89. For the same reasons mentioned in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters), it has been restored to Volume II, f. 351 bis, alongside the letter to which it belongs.

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Have the shoes that the Brothers need made there. The materials cannot be sent. The other stuff will be sent. Perhaps it will be more economical.

I see that the receipt for 20 *Sc.* has been returned. I already mentioned in another letter of mine that I would be responsible for the 97 Masses, and, in due time, I shall send the documents for them.

I can understand the mistake made by the one who traveled as well as the one who set up the trip. I probably did not express myself clearly. After long experience, I have come to the realization that I must remember to maintain sole control of community matters for the time being.<sup>39</sup> This in no way prevents you from consulting with Merlini both in respect to the office that you have there as President as well as matters dealing with the building project and other concerns. But, then, either you or Merlini must write to me before anything is done. This, therefore, is simply a reminder of something that has been our regular practice. It has always been done in this fashion and I would like to have it continue that way in order to regulate things more perfectly. If I do not explain myself clearly, write.

You tell me that I have met Sestili. I answer: I can say that I have high regard for every individual, but I know very little about him, practically speaking, since the ministry takes up all of my time. We shall see what turns up during the Retreat.

In J. C. Crucified, I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, November 16, 1833

Go to the agent for the Gaetani house. He has orders to pay you 48 *Sc.* If he does not pay them, write to the man in Cisterna, if he is someone different; make your demand promptly.<sup>40</sup> Read the document, make a copy of it, and send the copy to me. In making out the receipt, state that it relates to the Legacy. If you need a sample copy of a receipt, write to me. Later on, let me know the results, and we will be in agreement. In this matter dealing with that house, I have been trying to have order restored. It has declined since last September and up to now nothing has been worked out. Hence, here in Rome, I have had to get power of attorney so that normal order

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<sup>39</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Government, Centralized Community

<sup>40</sup> This is a reference to an annual income of 24 *Sc.*, resulting from a pious Legacy, instituted in favor of the Reformed Franciscans (once the possessors of the Convent of S. Francesco) by Duke Guglielmo Gaetani, in his last will, dated January 21, 1516. Since the Missionaries of the Most Precious Blood succeeded the Franciscans, the Saint, in the year 1830, obtained this income from the Gaetani house for them, including back payments. It had, therefore, been agreed upon that, in order to recoup the yearly endowments that had not been paid since 1822 (the year that the Society entered Sermoneta) up to 1830, they should double the yearly amount, that is, 48 *Sc.* each year until it was completely balanced out, namely up to 1839 inclusive.

could be restored. Later, we shall speak more of what is to be done with it.

Have Sestili assist Gaetano *pro viribus*<sup>41</sup> during his free time, and Pietro should work in the garden etc.

With regard to that order for the 48 *Sc.*, at present it is a double amount to make up for back payments that were due, etc. If you are not clear on this question, write to me. In the meantime, be present there when, etc.<sup>42</sup>

(on the fourth facing, alongside the address, we read:)

Pontoni is coming there to make a Retreat. Prepare a room for him, and pay the carriage for his trip. More, later on.

2628

November 16, 1833

Fr. Pietro Buffoni

Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

I understand all that you were pleased to call to my attention in your recent very kind letter.

The delay in sending you a reply to your preceding letter was caused by the work of the ministry.

In the meanwhile, continue your charity towards me by keeping me in your prayers. With esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 16, 1833

2629

November 19, 1833

Student Fr. Stefano Pigliucci

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Letters for Father Beniamino are to be forwarded to Pievetorina, as you already have

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<sup>41</sup> In accord with one's strength.

<sup>42</sup> At this point the Saint had added: "Have them" but then he crossed out those words.

done.

Prepare yourself well for the examination and confer with Father Mattia<sup>43</sup> to whom you have been entrusted.

I have just returned from visiting with his most reverend Eminence and he has assured me that he will be sending you the dimissorials; he has declared to me his concern for you; he said that he would release you from the status of your canonry and that he will try to get some sort of subsidy through the help of his father who can be particularly insistent with Cardinal Weld.

You, however, are to continue recommending yourself to God as well as to the charity of his most reverend Eminence and to his father. So all has been taken care of.

His most reverend Eminence has recovered; and he has promised me that he will write to you.

Do not yield to feelings of depression. I shall see that 1,60 *scudi* are given to you by Pedini as a subsidy for you and these come out of my own pocket, however burdened I may be. You will say a prayer for me.

I know nothing more about your brother. I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, November 19<sup>44</sup>

2630

November 19, 1833

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Camillo

I have mailed an additional four *scudi*, as a precaution. Now, I am putting together the picture; review the account and let me know how we stand. I have not received a single syllable from Gubbio. Let us see whether we can, if possible, get the Chaplets back.

Excuse my many and repeated inconveniences. I am writing in a hurry. I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

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<sup>43</sup> Fr. Mattia Cardillo.

<sup>44</sup> In a notation, Pigliucci writes: "1834", but this cannot be correct, both because in November of 1834 Fr. Mattia Cardillo was not in S. Felice, nor was Fr. Beniamino Romani in Pievetorina but in S. Felice in Giano. Furthermore, Pigliucci was in S. Felice from October of 1833.

Rome, November 19<sup>45</sup>

2631

November 20, 1833

Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

In the Retreat, one must propose for oneself three things:

1. An ever greater purity of intention in working.
2. A decisive aversion to venial faults that have been noted.
3. A love for the suffering that one must face day after day. More about this after the

Retreat, *in communications Spiritus*.<sup>46</sup>

I ask that in addition to the tasks that you have there, you help with the cleaning and *in omnibus*.<sup>47</sup> You have understood me.

Let me know what inspirations God gives you in your Retreat meditation.

Indicate the privileged altar on the sheet referring to the Masses. I am speaking about the ones that you will be handling. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 20, 1833

With regard to Advent in Sonnino, you will be informed in a future ordinary mail-delivery. The same holds for the time of the two Missions that have been accepted.

2632

November 20, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta<sup>48</sup>

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

<sup>45</sup> The year is 1833, evident from a notation made by Possenti.

<sup>46</sup> In the communication of the spirit.

<sup>47</sup> In all things.

<sup>48</sup> The posterior half-sheet for this letter with the pertinent address comes from the *Cart. d'Arch.*. We have located it here in Vol. II of the Writings of the Founder in keeping with the principles stated in footnote of Letter n. 368, dated October 13, 1831.

I repeat clearly: food, shoes, urgent matters dealing with the Church and House which will not allow for delay, came under the title of ordinary permissions. Also, investigate getting the shoes made for the Brothers. See to it that they are ankle-snug, round-toed and without glossy finish. In short, follow the Community practice.

Up to now I have not seen your brother. You can imagine how willingly I would like to see him, if he could arrive before the approaching day for withdrawing for the Retreat. In whatever way that I can, let me know what I am able to do both for you and for all of your family. I say this in all sincerity. As soon as your brother gets here, you will get a letter from me.

Be careful about the beds, for I feel that they are very needful of attention. Some have to be painted white and others need to be aired out.

I do not know whether the wax will be ready or not in time to send. If I cannot do so, make provisions the best way you can and as opportunely as possible in your own area there. How else? I will do all I can to send it to you.

Pray for me during the upcoming retreat.

The offerings for the Masses from Bassanio should come to 15 *baj*. Is this correct? I need this information.

In J.C., I am

Your humble servant

*G. G. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, November 20, (1833)<sup>49</sup>

2633

November 20, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

The Retreat will begin as soon as De Victoriis, who is going to conduct it, arrives. Prepare the room for him that was occupied by Visconti. I shall come at another time, which will not be too long from now.

You shall receive the following items

Sante's hat ..... Sc. 1:30

Lard, 15 hounds .. ..... Sc. 1:10

Table settings for 6 ..... Sc. 1:20

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<sup>49</sup> The year is derived from Lett. n. 2627 (November 16, 1833) of which this one is a clarification, as well as from the other that will follow later on, namely Lett n. 2633 (November 1833), in which the Saint enumerates the things included in the package which he mentions here as coming in the near future.



November 23, 1833  
Fr. Luigi Savj  
Poggio Mirteto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I am late in sending a reply to your very kind letter because I have been busy with the ministry.

With regard to the suggestions that I made, I would not wish to burden you. I have tried to use the language of friendship which you also were pleased to use toward me. But then, you really have no need for my advice.

It is a false, a very false report that the Cracas does not wish to report articles on the Mission. Hence, I consider what has been related to you as an involuntary mistake. This is said as a just defense of the truth. So, pray for me. When necessary, send your letters to "Rome". Continue to stimulate the pious organizations. With esteem and respect, I remain

With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, during the Retreat, November 23, 1833

2636

November 26, 1833  
Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina  
Monastery of Buon Consiglio  
Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Mother Abbess

I am writing this very humble letter of mine during our Retreat. I would say that the beginning of the Retreat in your monastery should be set for the Feast of the Conception. On the 7th, the trip there will be made. Let me know whether you want the Missionary with the lay-brother to stay in Velletri in the Comparetti house, or if you wish to send two mounts, or one mount and a burro, here to Albano, whichever you think best. Give me, by prompt return-mail, the instructions that are needed. This time, you can send your reply to me here in Albano. At a later time, for any project leading to the glory of God, you can send you letters to Rome. In passing through Velletri, our Missionary will pay the usual respects to the most reverend Vicar General, who, I presume has been kept informed. This is what I felt that I should give as a response to your recent letter.

While waiting for your prompt and detailed reply, and asking you and your community for prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, November 26, 1833

2637

November 27, 1833

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta<sup>53</sup>

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

If Andrea could find an old cassock there that used to belong to a Missionary, that he can wear in the garden and for other work, it would save me, in that way, the expense of a new cassock for him this year.

What he needs is a plain woolen cloak made with sleeves and a pair of trousers. You might find out from the tailor just how much material will be required.

I am writing in a hurry and I am

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Albano, November 27, 1833

P. S. It would be good if you got some family to take care of darning your stockings, Try to ask somebody to do you that favor.

2638

November 28, 1833

Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina

Monastery of Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother Abbessa

After re-thinking matters, I realized that the House in Sermoneta was closer to Cori; so, you are to send the two mounts to Sermoneta, to the Mission House where the Missionary will be found ready. In that case, however, since the Missionary may not be able to go to Velletri, you see to obtaining all the faculties. If the Missionary is able to go to Velletri, then it will be sufficient that you indicate this to the Missionary when you send for him. His name is "Father

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<sup>53</sup> The posterior half-sheet for this letter which bears the address that is reproduced here comes from the *Cart. d'Arch.* n. 3, fasc. 2, n. IV, 20. Because of the reasons explained in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters), it has now been restored to Vol. II of the originals of the Founder, alongside the letter to which it belongs.

Pietro de Victoriis".

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, November 28, 1833

2639

November 29, 1833

Fr. Lodovico Finaguerra

Matelica

I cannot sufficiently stress how greatly interested I am in promoting the devotion to the Divine Blood. I tried to do all I could there. Now, it is necessary that you and the other priests continue the work: in sharing this reasonable and gentle burden, there will be no lack of zeal on your part in finding the means for furthering this good work that has been initiated. I say this because I find myself more and more weighed down with expenses in the ministry, especially in those difficult times.

At any rate, let us not lose enthusiasm: in providing this devotion, we are contributing a great work for the longed-for reform. This is something that you might call to the attention of Emidia Santucci with whom, at the very beginning, I corresponded on this topic of devotion, simply because in a letter to me, she asked me about this. So, at the present time, no further dilucidation is necessary in this regard. Pray for me and have others do so too. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Albano, November 29, 1833

2640

End of November 1833

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Giovanni<sup>54</sup>

Are you writing to me about Carluccio Guglielmi? Maybe you do not know the rule, then. We accept only those for the Institute, and those for sacred studies. *Satis*.<sup>55</sup>

I had Merlini write to Polini. I am

*G. C. d. B.*

Send him to the Jesuits in Rome.<sup>56</sup>

2641

December 2, 1833

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cemmerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tommaso

I am sending you a reply to your most esteemed letter.

1) In reference to the papers that you enclosed for His Eminence Card. Fransoni, I know already that the Cardinal has passed them on to the Delegate in Rome. They are, therefore, in the Delegate's hands.

2) I left with Merlini the other papers that you had previously sent to Rome, because of the autumnal vacations and because of my rounds through the Marche. Should you need copies, we can come to an agreement.

3) In regard to the *60 Masses* in two different listings, already received from me, all is well. We are in agreement with respect to the Offerings. As for the others, adhere to what I wrote in my letters. You shall resume what I indicated there for the celebration of them. I shall expect the documents to be done with the usual care and in keeping with what I have expressed in writing.

4) Likewise, I have left the Cases in the hands of Merlini. If you need them, I shall write to him about it so that he can return them to you.

5) In order not to transfer Fr. Beniamino from the school, I ask you to go immediately to

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<sup>54</sup> This letter has no date; it bears the postal marking of Albano; it is addressed to Chiodi, Superior of the House in Frosinone. Fr. Chiodi was made superior of the House in Frosinone by the congresses of May 17, 1833 until the congresses of July 24, 1834. During this period of time, St. Gaspar was in Albano where he did letter-writing: at the end of May - the first part of June, and at the end of November 1833, as well as from the beginning of February up to April and the middle of July 1834. Since the letter speaks of accepting young men in the boarding school - which was ordinarily done in November (cfr., e.g., the letters of November 5th and December 2nd, 1833) - very probably this letter too should be assigned to the end of November 1833. A comparison of this letter, in its script, with other letters of this period, seems to confirm the matter.

<sup>55</sup> Enough.

<sup>56</sup> This postscript is on the outer covering, near the address.

Cammerino, but *quasi aliud agens*,<sup>57</sup> inform the Vice-Delegate about the bridge. Give that information to the Archbishop; and also, inform the Archbishop about the Cases. If it should be required that you spend a day or so in Cammerino, patience. *Agitur de re gravissima*.<sup>58</sup> Make it all worthwhile through prayer. Speak to Lawyer Fianza; from what I have learned from the Delegate, with whom I have spoken, a letter from Lawyer Fianza and from the Vice-Delegate, as well as from the Archbishop, would make an impression. The Delegate will not refuse to send the case on *in devolutivo*,<sup>59</sup> even though he says that the Commune of Pievetorina was opposed to it, except for the Prior. I realize that if the Prior would write to the Delegate on this matter, it would be greatly helpful. He added that he would have preferred not to give such an order. But, the situation was decided with the Consultors of the Delegation who were influenced by the motives that you are well-acquainted with. I shall act in Rome with this information, but it is more important that you prudently follow through there: always, of course, with the backing of prayer, with distrust of ourselves, and confidence in God. I am hopeful for the best. The Delegate promised me that he would resume the review, etc, etc..

6) In the event that they put up the beam, which I do not think they will do, make a formal protest. But, with the case and claim still pending, I hope that they do not erect it. Give to the Lawyer Fianza all the material information that you have communicated to me, and urge him to write. Everything will soon be brought back to order.

7) In the event that we lose the case, then, without farther harm if possible, consider the exchanging that terrain for another piece of property. I say: in the event that we lose the case, because I would like to have every possibility in view. Likewise, it can better be discussed in the Community Congressus.

8) Finally, it is urgent to get a copy of Fianza's opinion, if indeed it should not already be among the papers of His Eminence Card. Frasoni.

9) I have nothing more to add from this side, except to beg you for prayers and to renew myself with esteem as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

(Rome) December 2, 1833

2642

December 2, 1833

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

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<sup>57</sup> As if doing something else.

<sup>58</sup> There is activity about a very grave matter.

<sup>59</sup> Send to a lower authority.

Pievetorina

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>60</sup>

Most reverend Father Pasquale

With pleasure did I receive your very kind letter. In reply, I say to you that you should not be disheartened, for each one in our Institute works *secundum mensuram donationis Christi*.<sup>61</sup> So, set aside any perplexities and you would do well to be reliant on the virtue of holy obedience.

As for your nephew, he is quite tender in age; and since he is not of canonical age, as you realize, it is not within my faculties to accept him. However, as long as you are in the Institute, you will be able to give him some help from your Mass offerings. Even after subtracting something for clothing, and in this also adhering to the usual directions, you will be able with the Lord's help, to give him some assistance. As he reaches a more mature age, we shall see in what direction God is calling him. I would be quite happy if, in some way or other, I would be able to do something for his welfare. In the meantime, pray to God.

I presume that you have your patrimonial title, your papers all in order, as Father Beniamino will indicate to you in more detail. I write this *ad abundantiam*.<sup>62</sup> The House where you should go ought to be our House of probation in S. Felice in Giano. At any rate, after the passage of a bit of time there in the House in Pievetorina and after you have become better instructed in the more important items of our Institute, I will assign you to the House in Nepi where you will then contact by letter Father Beniamino Romani to whom I will give instructions. There, in Nepi, you will find your cincture and the crucifix, the payment for which we will work out with Mass offerings. This applies also for your first travel expenses, if you have no other means, as you will learn better from Father Beniamino.

Meanwhile, I ask you for the celebration of 30 Masses according, to my intentions. You will learn from Father Beniamino how the notification is to be made out. This is all that I have to tell you for the present time. I have the pleasure of reassuring you that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

December 2, 1833

2643

December 5, 1833

Missionary Fr. Carlo Gazola

Benevento

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<sup>60</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>61</sup> According to the measure of the gift of Christ.

<sup>62</sup> For an abundance.

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

I give thanks to God for the good work of the holy Mission. I shall write to the two priests that you proposes for our Institute. Let us pray that the Lord will increase fervor in all, in our apostolic careers.

I understand about the Archdeacon and about the devotional books. Give my thanks to the excellent Father Antonio Mosti. Extend my best regards to all in that House and, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Albano, December 3, 1833

2644

December 18, 1833

Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina

Monastery of Buon Consignio

Cori

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

In a hurry, I must tell you that for the vigil of Christmas, the Missionary has to be in S. Paolo in Albano. Please inform the Brother, that is, the lay brother, that he is to go on to Sermoneta. Father Pietro will understand. Work of the ministry prevents me from going along with your holy desires for me to be there on Christmas night. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Ronciglione, during a Mission, December 18, 1933

P. S. Always send your letters to "Rome".

2645

December 28, 1833

Demetrio Perciballi

Veroli

## Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Demetrio

Fully obliged to you, I now ask you to send me the bill for the wood so that I can promptly reimburse you. I am writing in a hurry. Happy New Year and many more of them, all filled with merits for our beloved fatherland in heaven. With esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 28, 1833

With regard to the candle holders, it seems to me, if I am not mistaken, that our accounts are all even.

2646

December 28, 1833

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>63</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Here is a listing of the workers for whom it will be necessary for you to divide up the assignments that will be needed in S. Nicola.

For the day of recollection in January, I would suggest Canon Giuliani; in this way, there will be time to assign the other months.

For the Three Hours of Agony. I have contacted Canon Gonnelli; he is ready to handle that, if you are in agreement. I would say that you should confirm that and I would appreciate getting a line or so from you at the earliest possible time; otherwise, I shall send word out elsewhere.

For the fervorinos during the Way of the Cross on Good Friday, I would suggest Canon Mancini who should then be informed by you.

As for the aggregation in Frosinone, no papers have been received here, as yet; I will investigate further in Frosinone, and perhaps it will be sought again. No trouble in doing this. Since you have some certifications for aggregators, I would be pleased to get them, at your convenience.

In behalf of our Missionaries, it seems to me, that you would be so kind as to obtain for them the blessing *in articulo mortis*.<sup>64</sup> Please remind me about this; with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

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<sup>63</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

<sup>64</sup> At the moment of death.

House, December 28<sup>65</sup>

2647

December 29, 1833

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

You will be receiving the proper. We will settle all the bills with the celebration of the Masses. So here they are:

For the crucifix and cincture 2,80 *scudi*

For the Proper of the Saints 0.90 *scudi*

3,70 *scudi*

Pray a lot for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. A.

Rome, December 29, 1833

If I have made any mistake in these bills, please advise me.

2648

January 1, 1834

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother

I begin by asking you to excuse me for my delay. It has been just a few days since I have returned from the holy Missions.

First of all, the painting of St. Xavier which was supposed to have returned to Rome has not at all arrived as of now, and my niece has not received any letter with regard to the ordering and the measurements for the painting which is desired there. So, look into this.

With respect to Sezze, I have replied as follows:

1. Father Biagio has already been tentatively set for Vallecorsa.

2. It is contrary to our regulations to preach a Lenten series where we do not have a House.

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<sup>65</sup> The letter appears to be from 1833. In fact, in the volume, *Istituto* (1808-1841) there is a letter from Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli, dated January 12, 1834 which indirectly has connections with this latter (Fr. Gonnelli, the preacher of the Three Hours of Agony, the blessing *in articulo mortis*, the certifications etc.)

3. We could supply with a 15 day public Retreat and this would be very, very fruitful, just like a Lenten series, and even more so.

4. If they wish to have some particular good work, we are ready; however, it is to be in keeping with our regulations.

Now, with regard to your soul:

1. You are enduring suffering and indeed quite a bit: "*Multae tribulationes iustorum*".<sup>66</sup>

2. Let us joyfully carry the cross that God gives us: "*Superabundo gaudio in omni tribulatione*".<sup>67</sup>

3. Get rid of your vain fears.

4. Do not think about the past; be at peace, very much at peace and even more so with regard to the present which promises further and more ample blessings. If suffering is a grace, which it truly is, this is a sign of those more mature merits for which God is disposing us.

Our lives, more or less, are like winter. In the springtime one sees the work that the winter has produced in the depths of the earth. Be courageous. These are the fruits that arise from the plant of the cross. Let us apply this image of winter to our souls.

Never lose hold of a sweet confidence in God: never lose serenity of mind in God. To pray, for example, for more suffering is not, in my judgment, something called for at the present time. Let us willingly suffer whatever God wishes. Let us repeat often: "*Fiat voluntas tua sicut in coelo et in terra*".<sup>68</sup> We are to do the will of God as it is done in heaven. So, make distant those feelings of anguish, I repeat, those fears, those perplexities. *Quare tristis es anima mea?*<sup>69</sup>

Burn my letters. Let us enjoy the peace which God grants to us and in his divine Heart let us find that feeling of calmness even in all the storms that surround us.

I am about to complete 46 years of life<sup>70</sup> on the feast of the Epiphany. Who knows how close one is to the eternal years? Offer prayers for me, most needful of prayers.

Finally, I thank you for the many inconveniences that you undergo in behalf of our Institute, which you, in your charity, know how to work out so well. I remain constantly

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, 1st of 1834

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<sup>66</sup> Many tribulations of the just.

<sup>67</sup> With superabundant joy in every tribulation.

<sup>68</sup> Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>69</sup> Why is my soul sad?

<sup>70</sup> This is how it appears in the original letter. However, St. Gaspar is mistaken in his calculations! On January 6, 1834, he was completing 48 years of age.

2649

January 2, 1834

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Divine: Blood

Most esteemed Canon

A certain Innocenzo Volponi tells me that he would like to come as one of our students. But, first of all, I would like from you some very accurate information as well as your advice on this matter. Furthermore, for him to be excused from the boarding costs he would first have to be a subdeacon. I will not write to him in order to save him the burden of postal costs. However, you speak to him. I await your reply, and though in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

2nd of 1834

2650

January 2, 1834

Fr. Pietro Ferrante

Ripi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

It would be better to arrange the holy Missions in Strangolagalli. However, needed first is the request or the letter from the bishop, and this should be done quickly. That is how I will handle it and I shall write to the bishop myself. It seems to me that when the Mission is set up for 15 days, that should be sufficient. A sermon on Purgatory will not be omitted, as well as one on the Passion etc. With the ceremony of general communion being arranged for Palm Sunday, the Easter precept will be thus fulfilled. Let me know how many souls there are in Strangolagalli. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

2nd of 1834