

St. Gaspar's Letters

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2701

April 6, 1834
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj
L'Aquila

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

In the first place, I am sending a reply with regard to the Indulgences for Regular Orders; in order to gain them, it is sufficient to recite the Glory be to the Father seven times. This is the explanation given to me by Monsignor Muccioli, the President of the Archconfraternity. With this, the other questions are answered. You referred to those enrolled in our devotion. In order to obtain the rite of the second class for the feast of the Divine Blood, a petition from the bishop is required, detailing clearly its placing in the Calendar of the city and the diocese. In the meantime, I have obtained for you the enclosed decree which provides for the one solemn Mass on the first Sunday in July. This grant, in general, does not alter the one already obtained in reference to this point; and it is valid whenever necessary. The expense for the enclosed decree is 16 and one half Roman *paoli*.

I am content to receive any printed materials which you, at your convenience, might make available to me, if you wish and as you judge best. I will be completely happy with whatever you do for me.

With reference to the medals, in Rome they are cast as follows: on one side is St. Xavier, Protector of the Archconfraternity, on the other side, the insignia of the mysteries of the Passion. I do not know whether this meets with your wishes; or should we try to have something else cast? Let me know what your thoughts are, for I value them highly.

With regard to the altar of the Cintura, you will get the results from Father Emidio Castellani.

With reference, in general, to indulgences and other privileges, including that of the privileged altar, check to see whether there is one in the church; that is to say, it is necessary, when asking for another one, that the first privileged one be mentioned, just as is the case when an aggregation is made to another pious organization, for example, to a Confraternity. In matters such as these, it depends on the explanations given and the practices observed.

The privileged altar in S. Giusto, with the translation of the Confraternity, is requested anew since the Brief states nothing differently. In such a case, it is necessary to be cautious about Masses celebrated or to be celebrated at a privileged altar. As for other things, please remind me of anything that I may have overlooked.

Do not cease praying for me and have others do so too so that I can prepare myself for the eternal years. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop¹ and when the opportunity arises to Cavalier Rivera.

In regard to the novena in honor of the most holy Mary, Help of Christians, *oh utinam*² ... I were capable of such a beautiful attestation of devotion to the most holy Mary. I will consider the situation; and then, we shall see what can be worked out. But, rather, you yourself, should be occupied in promoting both a composition as well as the printing of it. Let us remain with this understanding.

I am enclosing three copies of the Marian Month that you requested. You send me some copies of the Chaplet, if you have any. I have delayed in sending you a reply because I was awaiting the decree, and likewise, because I did not succeed in getting to see Castellani.

I kiss your hands. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 6, 1834

2702

April 6, 1834

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ignazio

With the desire of seeing you once again soon, I anticipate that with this most humble letter of mine in order to inform you that Canon Muccioli³ will admit to his first holy Communion the young fellow whom you recommended. However, for the sake of good order, it will be necessary for you to have a meeting with the aforementioned Canon. He still resides opposite the nearby S. Girolamo della carita.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

¹ Msgr. Girolamo Manieri.

² Would that ...

³ Fr. Antonio Muccioli.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo
Miss. Ap.
House, April 6, 1834

2703

April 7, 1834
Fr. Tomasso Meloni
Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

In the mail, you shall receive 3.50 *Sc.* on account, which you can use for the expenses incurred of 9.11 plus, unless I am mistaken. Let me know whether and how you have figured in the 1.50 *Sc.* which you got on account from Brandimarte, since I have reimbursed you from the first accounting, if I am not mistaken.

I understand what you warn me about, and I thank you.

Please inform me as to how things are going there. I hope, well.

Tell D. Beniamino that Fr. Paoletti is in Macerata Feltria. When he has to write to him, write: "Urbino per Macerata Feltria".

Perhaps the Probandate will be arranged in Pievetorina, and in Giano the House of Studies, a better distribution of locales. Experience will produce a more mature judgment. It is a matter of accidental change. Communities are always budgeted etc.

With that change, if and when it occurs, you shall achieve what you wrote to me about. It will not cost me anything. But then, youth is cultivated by kindness and orderliness. He is already in major orders: so, etc. The Vicar General of Piperno gave good references for him. Furthermore, *nemo praesumitur malus nisi probetur*.⁴ Consequently, prayers, enthusiastic application and mutual help, charitable and kind. I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, April 7, 1834⁵

2704

April 8, 1834
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁴ No one is presumed bad unless proved so.

⁵ The place of origin and the date are taken from the postal markings. We note again here, as we have mentioned elsewhere, that in general the postal markings give the date of arrival and almost never that of the time of departure.

Very reverend Mother

The painting of the great Xavier is on order; you will see that it is blessed there by someone who has the faculty and with a certain solemnity which a certain benefactor will verify.

The entire cost comes to 7,72½ *scudi*. If this is somehow not correct, I will check it again myself. Feel free to write to me.

Send to get it with the coachman; however, in order to protect the case, which is not that small, send along a rather large basket with a cover.

As for your soul, either in person or in another letter of mine.

Send your reply to Rome. Up to now, please believe me, I have lacked the time to reply. Nevertheless, I have made a special remembrance of you at holy Mass.

In my name, remit the money to Father Pietro de Victoriis in Sonnino.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 8, 1834

2705

April 8, 1834

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, April 8⁶

Dear Father Pasquale

Please excuse my delay in answering. Celebrate 30 Masses immediately, and send me a notification. You will be receiving the offerings from me. You will likewise preach the Marian month there. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

2706

April 11, 1834

Fr. Giuseppe Bellisarj L'Aquila

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Please let me know how many Chaplets of the Divine Blood, in the hundreds, you could

⁶ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Vigilj, Fr. Pasquale

supply for use in our Missions; likewise, if you will assume the charge. After having worked that out, see that I get them in Rome. Awaiting your reply, I have the pleasure of renewing myself, with esteem and respect, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 11, 1834

2707

April 17, 1834

Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina

Monasterio del Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Abbess

Regretfully, I am unable to comply with the wishes of the new religious for the time period indicated. So, try to make other arrangements. Many and such are the appointments that I have for the ministry. Note that in May the major solemnities occur; as a result our workers cannot be called back. In June, Fr. Pietro⁷ will be preaching the month of the Divine Blood, and that is another obstacle. If I could be of obedient assistance in any other way, all that would be needed would be a word from you; this holds true for any project at all of the ministry. However, it will have to be at a time other than the one indicated.

When the occasion offers itself, let me know whether a good quality of wax is available there; specify the size and the price I will be pleased to receive that information. See that your correspondence is always addressed to "Rome", a central location for my letters.

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

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, April 17, 1834

2708

April 17, 1834

Carlo Foresi

Camerino

Hail to the Divine Blood

My dearest in Jesus Christ

⁷ Fr. Pietro De Victoriis.

I am writing while traveling. With regard to your problem, believe me that it is a matter totally pertinent to the Curia, and in such a way that even if you were to have recourse to Rome, information from your archbishop would still be sought. In the event that a peaceful settlement cannot be reached, always safeguarding both justice and charity, the judging must first be made in Camerino. Consult with Father Fedele; have him look into the matter; regulate yourself following his advice. To come to Rome would be a useless expense. If I can be helpful in any way, let me know. Pray for me. With complete affection, I remain

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, April 17⁸

P. S. If Father Fedele advises "Rome". I will be there at the beginning of June. However, it is not necessary for you to come. Your petition will be sufficient.

2709

April 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Roma per Nepi⁹

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I have received your notification of the Masses, and all is in order.

The Marian month that you shall preach there will surely redound to your eternal blessing because of the good that you will do.

The public funeral rites for the deceased Brother have probably been held.

Read in the Archives the memorandum dealing with the Indulgences at the time of Retreats. If you cannot find one there, let me know. One will be sent to you in order to remove all doubts.

With regard to your studies and writing of materials to be preached, I have had a discussion with Merlini. You will get from him the conclusions that we came to. Later, you can write to me.

Concerning Sermoneta, send me a detailed report. For the present, it is necessary that you remain in Nepi. As time goes by, we shall see. But I repeat, for the present, Merlini will take care

⁸ The year must be 1834. In fact, in that year, St. Gaspar, towards the end of April, proceeded to make the visitation, called for by the rule, of all the Houses in the south, and then returned to Rome at the beginning of June, as he mentions in the postscript.

⁹ The posterior halfsheet for this letter bearing the address which we have reproduced here comes from the Cart d'Arch . It has been restored to Vol. II of the Saint's manuscripts for the reasons stated in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters).

of Sermoneta. Instruct me.

With regard to the consultation with the doctor, if it is required that you come to Rome, write to me. I hope that it will not be harmful for you to come a short while after the Marian month. Recommend yourself to Mary Most Holy, and I hope that you get well. Then, you shall return to Nepi.

Your letters: Rome. Let me know how much material and what kind you need for your summer cassock. I shall send it to you immediately. With regard to having it made, I would say: have it done there, in order to avoid mistakes which could happen if it is done here in Rome. Make up your mind, and write to me. If you would rather have the loan of the money instead of the material, let me know. If you were to send an old cassock, every mistake could be avoided if it were to be made in Rome.

I have no doubt that the offerings from Bassanio amount to 15 *baj*.

By mail, you shall receive 15 *paoli*, postfree, which were loaned by you to Fr. Lampreda.

I was not on time in sending you the little booklet to be used for the services of Holy Week.

Am I forgetting anything else? I am

G. C. d. B.

Your letters: "Rome".

Albano, April 1834¹⁰

2710

April 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Do you know anything about a small vestlike garment of green color that has been found in the church in Sermoneta? It seems to belong to some woman.

Let me know if the earthenware pot belongs to Sig. Impaccianti.

Two of the wine casks have been added to the inventory. There are three more there. Are they ours? I am speaking of Sermoneta. I am

¹⁰ The place of origin is derived from the postal markings. The year is deduced with certainty from the fact that in 1834 Fr. Pietro Spina preached the month of May in Nepi; likewise, that in March of that same year Brother Gius. Di Nicolo died. He had been associated with that Community and the public funeral rites for him were to be held. These are all events that agree with the content of this letter. Finally, the month is known to us because, just as the letter itself affirms, Holy Week had already gone by (Easter fell on March 30). Since it was written from Albano, it is certainly anterior to the trip which the Saint made to Sermoneta for the Visitation called for by the rule (completed April 25 cfr. footnote in Lett. n. 2734 of the beginning of June). Merlini informs us that Gaspar had celebrated the services of Holy Week in Albano. Probably, he stayed on there even after Easter for the Retreat to the seminarians.

Your humble servant¹¹
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Your letters: "Rome"

2711

AprilMay 1834
 Fr. Luigi Cocci
 Todi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Father¹²

Excuse the delay brought on by the ministry. My heartfelt feelings for you, my esteem and affection are always the same. I received the news of your transfer from Grutti to Todi. I point out that God has disposed things in this way for the purposes of his greater glory, as well as for the spread and diffusion of the great devotion to the Divine Blood. I presume that your faculties for enrolling people continue; therefore, the notifications of those you enrol are to be sent to Giano since those names are, from year to year, to be placed in the archives either in Rome or in a church where the pious union of the Divine Blood has been canonically erected. This, as far as I can recall, is surely erected in Giano. You can check with the President to see whether this is certain or not.

With regard to the young man whom you have proposed, let me know his age and the studies that he has made. With respect to the room and board cost of 50 *scudi*, I am unable to prescind from that charge during these present times. Note, however, that when the young man has reached the subdiaconate he will be exempted from it. Up to now I have not made any conclusion since the situation has not as yet matured. Finally, always pray for me and let us do good work, applying greater concern wherever the need is greater.

¹¹ With the name of the addressee removed, our research has not permitted us to establish with certainty any of the other data for this letter. Probably it should be assigned to the end of April of 1834 when Fr. Spina was only recently moved from the House in Sermoneta to the one in Nepi and the Saint was carrying out the Visitation of the House in Sermoneta (April 25). We base this probability on the same information that is requested here, which seems to be a consequence of the Visitation, plus the agreement of this letter with the one of April, 1834 which follows: "Concerning Sermoneta, send me a detailed report"; as well as with Letter n. 2722 (dated May 14, 1834): "Concerning Sermoneta, I have written as a precaution". Then, there is Letter n. 2823, dated January 8, 1835 (when Spina had returned to Sermoneta from Nepi) in which mention is again made of this green vestlike garment. It states that with it they had a "little silver heart" made as an offering to the Madonna.

¹² This letter has no date. Tentatively we assign the date as AprilMay 1834. In fact, St. Gaspar, in this letter, speaks of the news of the transfer of Fr. Luigi Cocci from Grutti to Todi. That transfer took place in 1834. In the parochial archives of Grutti, for April of 1834, the signatures of Cocci appear in the recordings of Masses *pro populo*. In the episcopal archives of Todi, in the Bollario dal 1833 al 1838, the document of Fr. Luigi Cocci's nomination as pastor of the parish of SS. Redentore in Todi is found. This document, along with the act of possession, is dated March 22, 1834. Granting the bond of friendship between St. Gaspar and Cocci, the latter would not have delayed in communicating to him the news of his transfer.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and affection
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

2712

May 14, 1834

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris¹³

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother

I owe you a reply; and, in regard to spiritual matters, you can be certain that if, up to now, I have not given you an excuse for my delay, the reason for it was a true incapability. Please believe me. Presently, I am preparing a sheet which, in my judgment, is appropriate for confirming in you that peace of mind which you already possess: "*Ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".¹⁴

Let us conclude, then: First: With reference to your soul, that sheet will be sufficient, while continuing to adhere to the usual method; and, have no doubt at all that I have already noted and understood well, even without speaking to you, everything that you mentioned. As for sacramental confession, a special faculty is required etc., since the general faculties which I have from the new bishop are not sufficient. So, we will have time on some other occasion; beyond this, all that is needed is your usual reconciliation, brief and simple, without dwelling on details. ... As a result, I point out that, for the time being, in this matter, a trip to Piperno is not called for. I will undertake that at a different time, one that you might suggest. Speak to me with full freedom of spirit.

In regard to the blessing of the painting, oh how much better it would be to arrange for a public triduum in honor of St. Francis Xavier, in order to allow time for confessions and a general communion in the cathedral, along with a devout procession with the painting of the saint. Lodging for two Missionaries will be required. I will take care of the matter of meals. However, the Vicar General is to be properly informed, for it is he who will have to accept the nun Pellegrini, to whom I send my best regards. If, in your judgment, you feel that you would not care to go along with this arrangement, then stick firmly to the ceremony already established, and, in that case, I would prefer that Father Pietro de Victoriis would conduct it, since he is there

¹³ This letter has no date. A notation made by Merlini says: "Sonnino, May, 1834". In fact, even from the text it appears that St. Gaspar is in Sonnino. From the books of administration for that House, it is evident that St. Gaspar was in Sonnino from the 1st to the 4th of May, 1834. Hence, this letter is to be assigned to May 14, 1834. Cfr. also the letter (n. 2704) to this same person dated April 8, 1834.

¹⁴ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

in residence and would subsequently be able to be influential in the doing of good work for the welfare of the people of Piperno. I hope that I have explained myself clearly.

In having that triduum, the work of the Oratory and the other pious organizations will be revived. Nothing more is necessary for us to do than to offer these suggestions. Say a Hail Mary to the most holy Virgin and make your decision. If you are content, presently, with only that ceremony planned, next Sunday, as soon as the main meal is over, I shall send Father Pietro. When the ceremony is completed, he will return in the evening. I will be doing some work in Sonnino, so very dear to our Institute. You understand what I want to say and the reason I have for writing in this way.

Finally, if I were decidedly expected to conduct the ceremony, I would have to do it in an abridged fashion, and perhaps on a weekday, in order not to repeat traveling arrangements. I do not know how pertinent this would be for accomplishing the greater good. Prayers.

Pray to Jesus for me. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. You people decide as you wish. On Saturday, I shall send you a precise reply. I am hopeful of finding an opportunity; otherwise, I will send someone. Think it over well and send me a reply immediately. A thousand thanks for your kind acts. I am praying for the enclosed.

2713

May 4, 1834

Ponziano Morichetti

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ponziano

I understand everything that you spoke of in your recent very kind letter. If it pleases you, I would say that the following should be done: the pastor of S. Angelo in Pescaria should preach the month of the Divine Blood in S. Nicola, and in Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, the Missionary who was supposed to preach in S. Nicola. In this way, everything will be arranged well for a change of voices. The Missionary will stay at my house and will be provided for by me so that none of you need be concerned about that; everything should be done with good order. The observance of the month will begin on June 6th so that it can be terminated, as usual, on July 6, the first Sunday. If this arrangement is not satisfactory, both for the religious of S. Andrea and for you, please drop me a line or so and I will give you my word. Make your decision at the foot of the Cross; but, send an immediate answer to this letter of mine so that I can regulate my moves and appointments. With this understanding, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. When you need to write, address your letters to my house.

2714

May 7¹⁸, 1834

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother¹⁵

I am sending this letter to inform you of a number of things.

1. Up to now, my occupations in the ministry have been, let me put it this way, immense.
2. Unexpectedly I have to preach the month of June which begins on the 6th, and I must be in Rome. With this season being so uncertain, Fr. Biagio¹⁶ tells me not to multiply trips.
3. I thought that the Provincial of the Capuchins would be arriving, and that was another thought.
4. I will not be coming. It is too inconvenient.
5. There are no projects of the ministry in Piperno.
6. I am intending to write to you from Rome.
7. God will provide us soon with another meeting and that one with greater convenience.
8. Whoever stands at the head of an organization is subjected to a variety of unforeseen things.
9. I am writing likewise to Fr. de Victoriis.
10. I give you and all the others my thanks. Let us do the will of God. The only thing that I ask is that it be acknowledged in this letter of mine. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

2715

May 7, 1834

Demetrio Perciballi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

¹⁵ This letter has no date. An annotation by Merlini says: "Frosinone, May 1834". The letter, as can be seen from the reference to Fr. Biagio Valentini who was in residency in Frosinone, must have been written and sent from that House some time between the 7th and the 18th of May, 1834, before St. Gaspar departed for the visitation of the House in Benevento.

¹⁶ Valentini.

Most esteemed Demetrio

Here I am with another inconvenience for your most worthy person. 12 *canne* of beechwood boards are needed for the ceiling in our refectory, that is to say, to be used to cover the ceiling. They are to be nine *palme* long, and *da carro*, which is the term used by the carpenter. I do not know whether I have clearly explained this. Please excuse this additional inconvenience which I am causing you. The Lord will reward you abundantly. I do not cease praying for you and for your wife. May she continue to be encouraged in God. In the meantime, while recommending myself to your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 7, 1834

2716

May 9, 1834

Fr. Antonio Gammarelli

Rome

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

Most esteemed Canon

With regard to the Missionary, Father Pietro de Victoriis, I reply, with candor, that at the present time he is beginning a period of cure covering forty days which has been prescribed by the doctors as a just precaution against a sickness to which he has been subjected during the season of summer. From this, you can see that it is not within my faculties to occupy him in the work of the ministry. I have written this likewise to the Mother Abbess of the monastery in Cori. Therefore, until autumn, Father de Victoriis will not be going out on ministerial work. If, during this period of time, you need something, just give me the order. Likewise, if, during June, you should have need of some individual, also give me your command and you will be obeyed. Extend this information also to the excellent Father Giovanni Sole, to whom I send my best regards.

With reference to the office for the *Divina Pastora*, may the will of God be done in all things. On other occasions, I have noted that much is dependent upon the approach which is used by the one making the application. I will not go into further details on that. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone (for forwarding at this time), May 9, 1834

¹⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

2717

May 9, 1834
 Camilo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I am sorry about the illness that you are suffering. I would love to have a reply to this letter informing me of an improvement.

I understood about the material or the cloth. I hope that you will hasten, etc. For the time being, the Chaplets are no longer needed, in case I am on time. I made other provisions. Please send me six reams of the usual stationery; also, one of the type used for memoranda, another of the fine quality for letters that are more delicate, and one more of the rougher quality. I am in a hurry because of the ministry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

May 9, 1834

Your letters, "Rome".

2718

May 12, 1834

Most esteemed Demetrio

The boards for the ceiling of the refectory here in Frosinone are exactly like the ones in Sonnino. Briefly, that is it in a nutshell. As soon as they are ready, please send them to Frosinone, addressed to Father Giovanni Chiodi who will then reimburse you for the costs.

I shall occupy myself in trying to succeed in finding the housemaster concerning whom you wrote to me. But please allow me a bit more time to think about it, and also to write, always discreetly and in proportion to the delicacy demanded for this situation.

With regard to the relic of St. Philomena and the books about her, I shall apply myself with special concern. Furthermore, I shall follow the lines that lead to where the body of the Saint is, to find that very precious relic that you are seeking. Let us be hopeful.

I understand about the Retreat. Father Biagio¹⁸ and I will be preaching the month of the Divine Blood which will end on the first Sunday in July. Also, the Retreat there will begin on the preceding Saturday. So, it will be good that you be ready for two capable companions who will not have the burden of the month. I hope that I have made myself clear. God, however, will provide us with other occasions. Oh how much I would like to have a foundation there in Veroli!

¹⁸ Valentini.

Prayers. Continue zealously in taking care of the Oratory and the pious organization of St. Xavier; it is such a sweet thing to serve and to work for the glory of God.

Finally, I give thanks to the Lord for the very good news concerning your wife. Inform her that if I am able to free Father Biagio from preaching the month, then certainly he will be there. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, obliged and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 12, 1834

2719

May 14, 1834

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

While occupied with the ministry I am sending a reply to your letter. In order to go along with your wishes, all that I am capable of offering you is a place in our House of S. Felice in Giano. If this meets with your approval, you are free to go there, but first sending me word so that I can predispose whatever will be necessary. If this does not satisfy you, remain at peace in Montalto and may that area there then be the apostolic field which the Lord is entrusting to you.

With the fullness of esteem and respect and asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 14 1834¹⁹

2720

May 14, 1834

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

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

Venerable Canon

The two Missionaries will be arriving very punctually for the upcoming Retreat. For a

¹⁹ An annotation made by the copyist says: "Missing is the locale from which this letter was written; from the postal markings, however, one can note that it is from Frosinone".

²⁰ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Mission House, we would need to procure the church and the locale of S. Agostino; then, too, more, in regard to the pious places. It will be necessary to make a beginning in some way or other. Prayers.

May the Lord bless and increase evermore the zeal for his divine glory that resides in your heart and which is totally directed toward your own welfare.

I am aware that you have the papers from the Marra legacy, only in order to have them registered in the Chancery. Please send them here to Frosinone, to Father Giovanni Chiodi, since the unfounded dispute no longer exists. I have already collected the first maturity from that same legacy. Those papers are needed in order to have an exact execution of it, as you yourself directed me. In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 14, 1834

2721

May 14, 1834

Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Giovanni Francesco

Pardon me if I have delayed in sending a reply to your very kind letter. The reason for it was that I wanted to learn from the local superiors whether there was a place available for the person you recommended; also, I have given the pertinent, wellprepared information. With regard to our Institute, his age raises an obstacle and it is for that reason that you might advise him to seek another Institute in which he can cultivate his calling from the Lord.

I am writing to you while engaged in the ministry. Pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, obliged and devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 14, 1834

Address your letters to "Rome"

2722

May 14, 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Nepi²¹

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Renew your diligence with regard to the 1.50 Sc. for the mail, and go there in person. In this matter, I shall make an inquiry with respect to the mail for Rome.

As for Sermoneta, I wrote as a matter of caution.

In regard to the funeral rites for the deceased Brother, what the rule says is correct, but it is also true that, since he died in a Convent outside the Institute, the first obligation rests with Nepi which he served. At any rate, I shall take care of it in another way, but the decision stands that it would be the responsibility of Nepi. Be sure to make a note of this in the Congressus book.²²

Also, using safe and economical means, send the package that came to Rome. The package will have to go through customs, too. Address it as follows: "*al Sig. Francesco Verili e per recapito al C. Gaspare del Bufalo, Mis. Ap., Roma.*" As soon as you send it, write to me and let me know what the cost is. I beg you to see that all goes well, and also give instructions to the one who is bringing the baggage, along with a detailed report of what is being sent.

Tell me immediately: are you preaching the Marian month there?

I am, etc.

Your humble; devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Your letters: "Rome"

(Frosinone) May 14, 1834

(on the fourth page, alongside the address, one reads:)

I shall write to Fr. Rafaele in the next ordinary mail.

2723

May 14, 1834

Student Antonio Ridolfi

Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

My dearest Ridolfi

It is quite true that I have been seeking a chaplaincy for the time when you would be ordained, and I did obtain one. However, it is a chaplaincy only of Mass offerings and it can be

²¹ The posterior halfsheet for this letter, with the address and a postscript alongside it, comes from the Cart. d'Arch.. For the reasons explained in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters) it has been restored to Vol. II of the originals of the Founder, alongside the letter to which it belongs.

²² Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Di Nicolo, Bro. Giuseppe

renounced at any time. In fact, it must be renounced if one were to be otherwise provided for. While these arrangements were being made by me, I came to the knowledge that you might not succeed in the examinations and that would be the cause an ugly impression. This is not something dependent on me. But, since you are not of age and are of limited talent for reaching the priesthood in our Institute, try either to contact another Institute or return to your hometown with your parents.

A young ecclesiastical student, recently come to our group and acknowledging that he is not succeeding, should look for another sacred order. I repeat, this is not something of my doing, but yours. If you were to consult with Father Gennaro²³ and if the Lord inspires you, you might stay on, if you wish, as our sacristan, or become a layBenedictine or after being ordained you might take the exams in other Institutes where the programs of the ministry are not so numerous. I add nothing more. Pray over this; read *La Selva predicabile* by Blessed Liguori and note the things that are required for the priesthood. Make your decision as though it were one made at the point of death. In any case, the situation should be handled prudently. With esteem and respect (send your answer to Rome), I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 14, 1834²⁴

2724

May 15, 1834
Fr. Pietro Butti
Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

With reference to your brother, I have recommended him to Cardinal Fransoni, to whom you also might write and introduce your brother to him. In addition, I have recommended him to Lawyer Alberghini, the brother of Monsignor Alberghini, who likewise has many connections. I shall not forget him when other opportunities arise.

Pray for me. The Oratory, at least on feastdays and on Fridays. *Viriliter age*.²⁵

You have probably received the offerings for the Masses. With my sincere regards to Canon Domeniconi and to the most reverend bishop, in particular, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

²³ Fr. Gennaro Gamboa.

²⁴ From the postal markings, it is evident that the letter was sent from Frosinone.

²⁵ Act manfully.

G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Frosinone, May 15, 1834

2725

May 15, 1834
 Fr. Pietro Ferrante
 Ripi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Pietro

I hope that the Oratory of St. Xavier is getting along well; but, if you wish to have my advice, try very hard to maintain harmony and prudent communication with the Archpriest. With that union, everything else will fall into place. Asking you for your prayers and with esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, May 15, 1834

2726

May 15, 1834
 Fr. Tommaso Meloni
 Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

On the 6th of June, you shall begin the month of the Divine Blood so as to terminate it on the 6th of July, the first Sunday. You know that I have assigned you to preach it in S. Felice. Make arrangements to have transportation to get there by the evening of the 5th of June. We are agreed. Using the House's mount will save us the expense.

Nothing in Nepi about what you wrote to me.

I am waiting for the notification concerning the Masses.

Rather, try to get there before the 5th, for then the mount can return with another one of our men to Pievetorina.

How is your health?

Pray for me who am with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.²⁶
 May 15, 1834

2727

May 15, 1834
 Mother Maria Teresa Cherubina
 Monastero del Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Mother Abbess

Whenever the Lord would wish to have our Missionaries be of service for another shift of Retreats for your community, please indicate that to me in good time.

Also to Rome, you wrote to me in reference to Father de Victoriis; but, I want you to know that, because of certain indispositions, he is now initiating a cure of some 40 days, so not even I can do anything about that. In autumn, he will be resuming his work in the ministry; and, even though he may not be concerned about his health, still the doctors insist upon this procedure. If you need any other one of our men, willingly will I provide you with that service.

Pray for me. Send your letters to "Rome". With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

In the course of the ministry, May 15, 1834

2728

May 18, 1834
 Fr. Francesco Paradisi
 Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I thank you for your concerns. I see no other place for you than Giano, in accordance with what I said in my other letters. Please show this letter to Father Giovannelli. This is my final word. In a hurry, but with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

²⁶Almost certainly this letter was written from the House at Frosinone where the Saint was located during that time, on his tour of Visitations of the Houses in Marittima e Campagna. In fact, on the 14th of May he wrote, precisely from Frosinone, to the resident student Antonio Ridolfi.

Frosinone, May 18, 1834

P. S. Presently, in Pievetorina, we have a House of Studies, but because of Retreats, I do not have any rooms available.

2729

May 18, 1834

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Bishop of Camerino

Camerino

The most reverend Archbishop is requested to look into the following items:

1. That he straighten out whatever has to be rectified concerning the past, including the Masses not celebrated by the Missionaries during the past year, in view of the dispute regarding the obligation; first of all, because the Monsignor did not wish to see any innovations; then, too, because they were supposed to have been celebrated *juxta solitum*²⁷ by the priests; and, finally, because the 19 *scudi* from the LL. of the MM. were retained by the Abbess.

2. That he reduce the number of Masses to a considerably smaller number since these, cumulatively, gravely affected all of the benefits from the LL. of the MM. from which 12 *scudi* were withdrawn; also, because of the transfer, we are responsible for the *dativa* from those funds, and it will be necessary to subtract from those funds what is necessary to cover the farm expenses and the maintenance. Likewise, he is to keep in mind the purpose, that is, for which those benefits were given to the House, that is, as something to be active not passive.

3. That, in order for us to be able to claim those funds, he should be able to do that because of the faculty that he has and thus avoid new disputes. I am not referring to those retained by the Abbess, since they are included in the grant. Clearly, they are to be consigned to her.²⁸

Venerable Monsignor

Father Beniamino Romani wrote to me and asked that I request your most worthy personage to turn your attention to the above listed items. In your customary charity, please take them into your consideration, while seeking further clarifications from the aforementioned Father Beniamino. I am not acquainted with the matters in detail, but only in a general way. At the present time, it is necessary for you to be concerned about the bridge, erected on church property. Prayers and patience. I am writing while occupied in the ministry. Send your letters to "Rome". My Monsignor, pray for me. I never forget you in my poor prayers. May the Lord grant us that holy reunion in heaven which we all hope for.

This year, for the third time, I shall be preaching the month of the most Precious Blood in

²⁷ As usual.

²⁸ Up to this point, these three paragraphs were not in St. Gaspar's handwriting, but that of Fr. Tomasso Meloni.

S. Andrea delle Fratte. Pray for a bountiful fruit. If it please God, may I be able to provide you with some programs of the ministry. I am hoping to see you again within a short while, in autumn, generally speaking.

Take good care of yourself. While kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor, and with the fullness of esteem and respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 18, 1834²⁹

Please let me know when information comes to the Council. Likewise, try to bring to a conclusion that other matter dealing with the 200 *scudi* from Ceccarelli.

2730

May 20, 1834

Antonio Sarto

Mola di Gaeta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Don Antonio

I am writing from Capua. On the vigil of *Corpus Domini* I shall be in Mola around dinner time. There, with a small boat which you will arrange to get for me, I shall go that night to the Capuchins in Gaeta. I have tried to get this information to the Father Guardian through the President of our House in Vallecorsa.

In the meantime, give my best regards to Gagliardi of Castelforte and tell him that I shall be leaving from Capua on the indicated day of the vigil of *Corpus Domini*; so, I shall be passing through Garigliano etc.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Capua, May 20, 1834

2731

May 23, 1834

Fr. Carlo Gazola

Monterusco

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Carlo

²⁹ The letter was sent from Frosinone, as is evident from the postal markings.

With this most humble letter of mine, I ask you please to arrange your appointments in the ministry in such a way that you will be able to take care of preaching the month of the Divine Blood here in our church. That will begin on the 6th of the upcoming month and will terminate on the first Sunday of July which falls on the 6th. It appears that there is time to handle beforehand the fiveday Retreat to the nuns, or, that can be arranged for later. Up to this morning and since the time of your departure, I was convinced that Canon Betti would be able to cover this branch of the ministry; however, after consulting with him, he has made it known that, because of reasons of health and several other reasons, he will not be able to do that. So, acknowledging the just and reasonable situations pointed out to me, I find myself under the pressure of having to write this letter to you; it likewise offers me the opportunity of renewing myself, with esteem and respect, as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Benevento, May 23³⁰

2732

May 24, 1834

Pietro Barcaroli

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed sir

While traveling to our Mission and Retreat Houses, I now am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter, which, however, brought some sadness to my spirit. Nevertheless: "*Ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".³¹ May your spirit always remain calm, your trust in God most vibrant, and forgiving your neighbor in keeping with the laws of charity. Do not forget to work hard, to be active, and to stimulate everything through prayer.

1. The first remedy to be applied is that you, personally, should speak to the Cardinal Bishop and urge him to establish more firmly the principles dealing with the holy Oratory.

2. If one or the other religious were in Rome, from among those who were there at the time of the Mission,³² and would speak with Father Benigni, then that same Father Benigni would write and get things underway. I am referring to one or the other religious who, at the time of the Mission, was present there, as I pointed out in the margin.

³⁰ The year is 1834 (cfr. the letter (n. 2726) of May 15, 1834 to Meloni in which mention also is made that the month of the most Precious Blood would begin on June 6th and terminate on July 6th).

³¹ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

³² This insertion was added in the margin, indicated with his usual reference sign, a small cross.

3. In the meantime, continue the work of the Oratory in one of the churches or chapels; that, provisionally, *et donec*.³³

4. Is there not a locale somewhere around there that would already be walled in and, with little effort, could be converted into a small church in honor of St. Francis Xavier? Think about this. I repeat, in the meantime, continue the work of the Oratory.

Above all, let us pray. Your correspondence to me should always be addressed to Rome. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, most revered Pietro, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Benevento, May 24, 1834

2733

End of May, 1834

Mother Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

The will of God, once again, has called me to another very interesting project in the ministry. Since I do not clearly see the same will of God for Piperno, with prudence I have entrusted the blessing of the painting to Father de Victoriis. You are to continue to observe the usual proprieties, for that is to the glory of God which, alone, is what we are to procure. I am writing without knowing anything about what de Victoriis has done. God will reserve a good opportunity that is more ordered, more replete and with a lot more allowance of time. You understand me.

On the evening of the 2nd of June, I shall be staying overnight in Piperno, on my return to Rome where I will be preaching the great month that begins on the 6th. I shall pass through Piperno to say an Our Father to St. Xavier. On the morning of the 3rd, I shall offer Mass in your church; after that, we can speak to each other. That night I must be in Sermoneta. I will be bringing Bartolomeo along with me and one other Brother. I do not know whether the Capuchins will have rooms to lodge us, even giving them some offering. I would be pleased to stay at that monastery; if they were to have four rooms available, you could inform Father de Victoriis to be there likewise at the place of the Capuchins. Send your reply to Vallecorsa where I will be within a few days. I shall order the mounts at the hotel. I am

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.³⁴

³³ And until, etc.

³⁴ This letter has no date. An annotation made by Merlini says: "It must have been sent from Frosinone in May of 1834, when he had returned from the visitation in Benevento". Cfr. also the footnote to the following letter.

"I am writing in a hurry".

2734

June, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina
Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Let me know if you have received the 15 *paoli*.

Tell Franco that I cannot agree to his coming to Rome to see his father; rather, the father, if he is able, should go to Nepi to see him.

I am writing in a hurry, having just returned from the Visitation of Benevento and the Visitations in the Province, all of them blessed by God.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, June (at the beginning) 1834³⁵

2735

June 8, 1834
Carlo Marani Cerreto

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Carlo³⁶

Enclosed is what I am able to send you. If you wish to have the images of Xavier, it will be necessary to write to Rome. Wholeheartedly, I remain

Your servant

G. C. del Bufalo

In keeping with my word, I have written concerning the papal benediction. Even for me, that trip seemed to be an impossible one. Prayers and holy humility.

2736

³⁵ In May of 1834, the Founder, after having made the Visitation of the House in Sermoneta, went on to Sonnino for the same purpose, then to Frosinone. From there he proceeded to Benevento where he closed the Visitation on May 25. On his return from that House, after probably making a brief stop at Frosinone, he went to Vallecorsa, and here, after completing the Visitation, "since one wing of the new House was set in order, he celebrated the solemn act of entry with a public function on June 2 ... He left on the next day and headed for Rome where, for the third time, he preached the month of the Most Precious Blood in S. Andrea delle Frate". Very probably as soon as he arrived in Rome the Saint wrote this letter. In the postal markings (which, however, is torn in half) one is able to make out a number which appears to be a "4", in addition to the beginning of the word "Roma". Hence, in all probability, the letter left from Rome on June 4, 1834.

³⁶ This letter has no date, but one is evident in the postal markings (Rome, June 8, 1834).

June 9, 1834
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Bishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³⁷

Venerable Monsignor

Submitted to you is the petition *pro informatione*³⁸ relative to the bridge on the property of the Cappelanie in view of a just defense of the rights of the sanctuary.

In regard to the moral cases, please do me the favor of informing the Congregation of the Council according to the faculties which are indeed quite ample. The Congregation will give the *ultimatum* to this pending matter and in this way the situation will be brought to a conclusion which is deserving of the hoped-for solution. Do not overlook the remarks of Father Beniamino concerning the Masses.³⁹ My Monsignor, please excuse my many and repeated inconveniences, but they will increase the crown of your merits: "*Signa apostolatus in multa patientia*".⁴⁰ As a favor to me, would you please send me word when the information reaches you. I kiss your hands. With esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 9, 1834

2737

June 14, 1834
 Camilo Fossenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Camillo

I have received the stationery, the material and the cloth. Thank you thousands and thousands of times. A short while ago I sent you 10 *scudi* on our accounts. Now I am sending you 20 more. With your usual goodness and kindness, let me know the situation.

I am writing with a shortage of time. Pray for me. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

³⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

³⁸ For information.

³⁹ Cfr. the letter of May 18, 1834

⁴⁰ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, June 14, 1834

2738

June 14, 1834
 Giovanni Battista Flori
 Guarcino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Giovanni Battista

You will be having the Retreat for the feast of the Divine Blood, that is to say, in preparation for it. I praise you for the concern you show for this good work. Presently, I shall be writing to the Vicar General in Alatri. Then, we shall fix the precise date for the appointment. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 14, 1834

2739

June 25, 1834
 Fr. Tomasso Meloni
 Fuligno per Giano S. Felice

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

You shall receive three *Sc.* from Fr. Pedini for the last listing of Masses. Do we have any other accounts?

Now I am sending you 30 more Masses which you shall celebrate with haste.

After you have completed the month, you are to return to your residence in Pievetorina. Work out the travel arrangements with Fr. Pedini and Fr. Beniamino. It is urgent that you go quickly *post festum Pretiosissimo Sanguinis D.N.J.C.*⁴¹

Pray for me who am with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 25, 1834

⁴¹ After the feast of the most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

2740

June 26, 1834
Fr. Ferdinando Angelici
Matelica

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Ferdinando

Enclosed is the decree for the solemn Mass and the rescript for the indulgences. The total expense is as follows: 1,65 for the decree of the rites and 30 *baiocchi* more for the rescript of the indulgences. To settle this expense, I will be satisfied if you would celebrate seven Masses according to my intention, sending me then the notification as soon as possible. Thus, we will be even in all our accounts.

In regard to the other matter, let me say this, concerning the panegyric in honor of St. Philomena, I would advise you to have posters set up. Thus, I would be hopeful for a happy outcome from your printings. Let us not cease propagating the great devotion to the Divine Blood. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 26, 1834

2741

June 26, 1834
Giovanni Battista Flori
Guarcino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Giovanni Battista

I learned of the suspension of the Retreat and I shall send word to our companions in Frosinone who had been contacted by me. However, with respect to the Novena in honor of St. Xavier, we, in November, will be making our Retreat. You should select another time under the direction of your excellent Vicar Forane to whom I send my very best regards, as well as to all the others. In order that I can arrange my schedule, please write to me.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 26, 1834

2742

June 28, 1834

Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

On how obliged I am to you. I received the Chaplets; attribute to forgetfulness that I did not send you a reply. It is very true that we have opened a new House in Vallecorsa. Praise be to God. and, what about Fabriano?

At your convenience, I would like to have two more bolts of cloth similar to that already sent. Pray a lot for me. With respectful esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, June 28, 1834

2743

June 28, 1834
Student Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Rocco

Let us do it this way. We will set a value of 5 *scudi* for the works of St. Thomas. Keep that in mind; form a listing of the account. I shall send those 5 *scudi* to Canon Fontana, after subtracting something for the delivery. Meanwhile, send me a sheet covering the time from which you entered the House of Studies, where you have been and how long you stayed. Also, mention how the room and board was worked out. I will figure things out from that information up to when you were ordained priest, and we will come to an agreement. For the time being, remain at ease. Let me know whether you donated any other books, and, if you did, a settlement is not necessary. If you intend to sell them, then, send me a listing of them and where they are. However, I think that you donated them. Father Pedini will send you the money from Giano, and I shall be awaiting a receipt from Father Fontana who will see that all is handled diligently. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 28⁴²

2744

June 30, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed D. Pietro

Since the Ceremoniale has not been sent at the present time, certain accidental practices in regard to our services are to be kept as they have been.

I shall send the *Memoriale Rituum* for the library there.

From this moment on, I would like to have you prepare yourself for a Lenten series in one of our places, three days per week. What do you say to that? Consider the matter *per se* ...

In general, with regard to kissing the pulpit, this practice is used in the Missions. In other cases, *ut plurimum*,⁴³ a genuflection is made, etc. That is what they have begun doing in most of the Houses.

I am sending you 30 Masses, which you are to celebrate immediately.

When the occasions present themselves, set NN. straight. You understand. Consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, June 30, 1834⁴⁴

⁴² The year is 1834. Cfr. the notes to the letters (nos. 2667 and 2681) addressed to him on January 29th and February 19th, 1834.

It seems that this letter ought to be assigned to 1835, first because the context suggests that Sebastianelli appears already close to the priesthood; also, because of the reference to the work of St. Thomas and to "the other book: donated or sold to the Society, which links this letter to Lett. n. 2891 (May 15, 1835), which almost certainly is dated in the year 1835.

The place of destination for this letter is probably Sermoneta. From the context, in fact, one concludes that Sebastianelli was no longer at Giano. On the other hand, it does not seem reasonable to consider the Boarding Schools of Pievetorina or of Rimini, because in that case there was no need of sending to Rome the money addressed to him. Between the Boarding Schools at Sonnino and Sermoneta, the latter seems preferable, both because in the House at Sonnino, just recently reopened, only with difficulty could a Boarding School be operating with a school of Theology; and also, because in March of 1836 Sebastianelli was sent to Sermoneta to be examined by Fr. Biagio in preparation for his approaching ordination to the priesthood. (Cfr. Lett. n. 3099, March 12, 1836)

⁴³ That the most ...

⁴⁴ The posterior halfsheet for this letter on which the address occurs which we have recopied here comes from the Cart. d'arch. For the reasons explained in the Additional Biographical Data: Spina (Letters), we have inserted it here in Vol. II of the originals of the Founder.

2745

July 2, 1834
Fr. Pasquale Virgilj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

The buckles that you got cost 15 *bajocchi*. For this, you will say one Mass, then sending me a small documented sheet. As a matter of fact, I am asking you to celebrate 20 Masses which are to be offered immediately. One of them is already taken care of as I have indicated above; the other 19 you must yet satisfy. So, all of them can be verified by sending a single document.

I have already made arrangements for the Retreat in Veroli. I thank you for your good intentions.

I am preparing the package of devotional materials. That has not slipped my memory.

I hope to see you again soon in Sermoneta, *et os ad os loquamur*⁴⁵ about what pertains to the glory of the Lord. Asking you for your prayers and with esteem, I am constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1834

2746

July 2, 1834
Fr. Sebastiano Agostini
Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Sebastiano

I shall balance things out with Chiodi and I shall figure out what still remains in your behalf in Rome. I had six *scudi* sent on to Robertini; you can write to him.

In the meanwhile, you are to celebrate immediately 30 Masses, sending me the usual notification. I hope to be seeing you again soon.

Asking you for prayers, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 2, 1834

Send me your reply. Tell Father Pontoni that in a future ordinary maildelivery, I shall be writing to him; also, that Brother Pietro is to be assigned where Gaetano was.

⁴⁵ We will speak mouth to mouth.

2747

July 7, 1834
Fr. Sebastiano Agostini
Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Sebastiano

Within a few days we shall be talking to each other in person. Meanwhile, in regard to the case of NN., three things :

1. *Virtus in infirmitate perficitur. . . sufficit grratia mea.*⁴⁶ The soul groans under the weight of the winepress, may I express myself thus; suffering; and one is not willing etc. *Beatus vir qui suffert tentationem.*⁴⁷

2. He is too timid, too pusillanimous: *Fiducialiter agam et non timebo.*⁴⁸ Trust in God...*omnia possum in eo qui me confortat.*⁴⁹

3. In trials such as these, let him invoke the Divine Blood and he will see prodigious things.

Let us move on now to other matters. You are to be prepared and see that whatever you have in our Houses should come to you in Sermoneta; put everything together for I believe that you will be traveling, within a few days, with Virgilj to Benevento. However, I shall be coming to Sermoneta; in the meantime, plan to get all your things together and be ready. Inform Virgilj also. Keep these things between us. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 7⁵⁰

You have time to send a reply to Rome. Greeting to all etc. NN. should be open in making his confession. With precision, and that will be sufficient.

2748

July 10, 1834
Fr. Tomasso Meloni,

⁴⁶ Virtue is perfect in weakness ... My grace is sufficient.

⁴⁷ Blessed is the man who endures temptations.

⁴⁸ I shall act with confidence and shall not be afraid.

⁴⁹ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

⁵⁰ From the postal markings, the year is seen to be 1834.

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I am sending another 30 Masses, in addition to what I have written to you in another letter in this regard, and you are to celebrate or have them celebrated in their entirety by the *15th* of August, etc.

Concerning your health, let me know what I can do. Take care, and you are already aware of what the rules say in these matters.

If you would prefer to live in Giano instead of in Pievetorina, write and let me know. But, it seems better to me that you stay in Pievetorina.

I have written to Fr. Pedini that he should pass on to you the 4.50 *Sc.* for the 30 Masses that I had forgotten. Send me a reply on this.

The little glass container has already arrived. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, July 10, 1834

2749

July 10, 1834

Student Fr. Stefano Pigliucci

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon⁵¹

I have been able to learn (but with reserve) from a meeting with his Eminence Falzacappa that if you, on your own, would send him a memorandum, he would grant you some small subsidy for your own personal needs. On that occasion, you might speak about your vocation, since I cannot assume that responsibility. The Cardinal already knows that, because of health, I now have you in Pievetorina. Speak *bene in omnibus*.⁵² In a future ordinary maildelivery, I shall write to Father Beniamino concerning further matters. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

2750

July 12, 1834

⁵¹ The letter does not have a date, but from the postal markings we note the date of departure (July 10, 1834) and the date of the arrival (July 12th). Also, a notation made by Pigliucci himself (July 12, 1834).

⁵² Well in all things.

Fr. Antonio Gammarelli
Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵³

Venerable Canon

The reverend lawyer, assigned by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, will be contacting you with regard to the current expense for the elevation to a rite of a double of the first class with an octave for the feast of the Divine Blood in behalf of our Institute. All that you need do is to drop a word to Father Filippo Gonnelli who will be glad to obtain from me the money that he will pass on to you. I hope that you will do me this favor. Pray for me. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, July 12, 1834

⁵³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.