

St. Gaspar's Letters

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2801

December 9, 1834
 Msgr. Innocenzo Castracane
 Bishop of Cervia
 Cervia
 Venerable Monsignor

You are the boss in making the decision as you see fit, as long as you will be kind enough to send me a reply. Here is how I see it, in my own wretchedness. If there would not be a preacher needed for the Lenten series, in that case, the Mission could be arranged very well, with its conclusion, however, being held on Palm Sunday and not beyond that. If there would be need for a preacher for the Lenten series, then, in my opinion, it would be better for the Mission to be held during these upcoming feastsdays or at the beginning of the new year. Good work will be done and souls will be presented to the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ. While awaiting your response and wishing you every best thing that you may wish for during the celebration of the upcoming mysteries, most reverend excellency, and also asking you for your prayers, I have the honor and the pleasure of saying once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, December 9, 1834

2802

December 9, 1834
 Fr. Pietro de Victoriis
 Terracina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

The superior of the Sagra Famiglia writes that the Retreat in that monastery can be given only in the springtime. So, you will be on time, after your work in the seminary of Sezze, to work things out for Piperno. Send your reply by prompt maildelivery. In regard to the son of the laundress, if he was the one who had been in Sermoneta, he should return there as long as he is of canonical age and all his papers are in order. In that House, he will make his period of probation. That is all that is urgent right now. Let me know whether you would be able to handle

the Lenten series in Sermoneta. I am indifferent about this; I place myself in the hands of God whose glory alone we must promote. As for other things, more in the course of time. Give me a detailed report of your movements and your stays. In Jesus Christ crucified, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 9, 1834

P. S. Presently we will be finishing the settlement of the families.

2803

December 10, 1834

Fr. Pasquale Virgili

Benemento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

I hope you can find a way of sending eight *scudi* for Angelo Barnabei in Camerino; within a few days, they should get to their destiny. For my account, you might pass them on to Canon Betti who will know how to get them to me.

With regard to the list of faculties for you as a Missionary, *post annum probationis*,¹ this will be given to you in detail by Father Merlini, to whom I shall write about it.

I give you my wholehearted thanks for the good wishes that you sent me for the upcoming mysteries, and I ask you to read in my heart what my gratitude and sincere appreciation is. I, too, with all my heart, shall pray for whatever may be your needs. Let us always be evermore united in spirit, helping each other through prayer, so that one day we will be reunited in our dear homeland of heaven. In the meantime, with particular esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 10, 1834

2804

December 11, 1834

Emidia Santucci

Matelica

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed lady

With this letter, I am asking you not to address letters to me in the future, as I now give

¹ After the year of probation.

you adequate instructions in this same letter. Furthermore, you have priests available there with whom you can consult and by whom you can be directed.

1. Many indulgences are attainable, through the services of one who has the faculties, for anyone who is enrolled in our devotion. Other indulgences, if desired, are to be provided by the one who is in charge of souls. Processions and other things of that sort are dependent on the bishop, and Rome is not required.

2. I do not play the lotteries, nor do I involve myself in such things.

3. In regard to dowries for your daughters, I have no means available, anything that I was able to get hold of has already been distributed to the one who has contacted me beforehand. Indeed, you cannot even imagine the number of requests along that line. Have recourse to Monsignor Santucci, who is presently in Rome, and make use of his services. I am extremely busy with the work of the ministry and I am not always here in Rome. Therefore, because of that, I am not able to be of help to you. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 11, 1834

2805

December 11, 1834

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Camillo

Here is a report on the money that you will be receiving by way of the carriage:

Two golden <i>Napoleoni</i> at	3,71 <i>scudi</i> each	
<i>Colonanati</i>		n. 4
A half <i>piastra</i>		n. 1
<i>Grossi</i>		n. 6
<i>Testone</i>		n. 1
One silver <i>paolo in rame</i>	4 <i>bajocchi</i>	

It seems to me that the total would be 12,66 *scudi*. Let me know if there is any mistake, for I am always ready to make things right as is only just, so immensely obliged am I to you.

With regard to the Chaplets, you should know that in Rome an association was set up and, in order to stimulate this, I too had to make a decision. So, I am well supplied. However, in the contacts that will be forthcoming, I shall keep in mind the concern that you have mentioned.

I regret not being able to get them quickly; Angelici, from Matellica in particular, I would say would be able to exert some influence in their sale, or, some other devoted person. I repeat, I shall have every bit of concern. Recommend me to God during the upcoming mysteries. I extend

to you my very best wishes for every blessing and I shall pray wholeheartedly to the Almighty for this. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 11²

2806

December 11, 1834

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I return my very best wishes for the upcoming mysteries, both to you and yours, and I wholeheartedly hope that every blessing of sweetness will be bestowed. Dear Canon, let us never cease praying even more during the solemnities for which our Church prepares us, so that we can make progress in the ways of the Lord, and, as the temporal years pass by, can prepare ourselves for eternity.

Then, with regard to what Father Giovanelli observes in your regard, I can only offer my words of praise. I recall that you have promoted in that area the Oratory, the devotion to the Divine Blood and other very valuable practices for the glory of the Lord. At the foot of the Crucified, you, along with Father Giovanelli, should make the decision of where the greater glory of God lies. Also, take into consideration the honest conveniences offered in the family as well as recognizing what our Society is, and then make your decision. Note, in saying this, I am not excluding you from the Institute. I simply do not wish to make a decision that is not for me to make.

Otherwise, this is what should be done: 1. do not have the restriction of residence; 2. observe the internal rule as best you can; 3. try to adapt to communityliving; 4. you will be altogether exempted from conducting Missions; 5. a change of House, because of the ministry, will not happen in your case; 6. you, *pro viribus*,³ will assist the House and the Institute wherever and however you can *in temporalibus*⁴. in its various programs, and always *ex charitate*;⁵ 7. I will be able to assign you to whatever place you would prefer, however, in as far as it falls under

² The year is 1834 as is evident from a notation made by Possenti himself.

³ In accord with one's strength.

⁴ In temporalities

⁵ Out of charity.

my decision, I would assign you to S. Felice in Giano. I am excluding Albano and Frosinone since I do not have room available there. So, it appears now that the only thing that I must do is await the decision made by you and Father Giovannelli. In the meantime, I give you thanks for the affection which you have shown toward our Institute. You can be absolutely certain of my delight in having you return, if God so inspires you and if that be his divine will.

I kiss your hands. With total respect and esteem, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 11, 1834

2807

December 12, 1834

Msgr. Bernardino Panzacchi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo⁶

Venerable Monsignor

I had addressed one of my letters to Terracina with the hope that Missionary Father de Victoriis was already engaged in the exercise of the ministry. Not expecting it, I learned that he has been ill. I now have recourse to your most illustrious and reverend lordship to learn just what you are considering with reference to the ministry, what distribution is to be made and at what period of time you feel that it should be carried out. I point out that the Christmas festive period is imminent (and I wish you an abundance of those celestial blessings which you may be desirous of in every respect, as well as everything else that you may need). I do not know whether that period of time is under consideration for our Community; nor, am I the one to make that decision.

So, I would suggest, always with your approval, that I assign three Missionaries to come there after the feastdays. One for the seminary in Sezze, the second for the Collegio in Terracina and the third for the Monastery in Piperno. I shall be awaiting more precise directions from you.

Upon my return from Romagna, Father Paolo Venerucci from Rimini charged me to extend to you his best wishes. I kiss your hands. Pray for me. As I submit myself to you, most venerable Monsignor, with particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 12, 1834

⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

P. S.⁷ Father Pietro is feeling better. The Advent series, both in Sermoneta and Sonnino, are going along very well and with fruitful results.

Our Community in Sonnino, as well as the one in Sermoneta, is showing an increase. In particular, Sonnino is a House of probation. But, say a prayer that means of support will be forthcoming. It is a matter of a grand scale establishment. May God also bless abundantly all of our workers in the Missions. I do not know whether I must arrange for a Lenten preacher for Sermoneta.

2808

December 13, 1834
Fr. Giacomo Righini
Forlimpopoli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Because of the many duties that you have, you may not recall the quality of indulgences requested; still, you probably have received the booklet which you asked for. I do not know whether it covers the faculties that you have obtained. You can look into that. Praise be to the Lord for the good work being done there. During the upcoming festive season, I shall occupy myself in looking over the rules of the Confraternity of the Divine Blood. Anyone who has given me something to take care of will gradually see those things carried out.

Monsignor Clarelli is very much interested in seeing the building of the church of S. Pietro completed.

Give my very best regards to the Monsignor Vicar General, to Conte Golfarelli and to anyone else who retains a remembrance of me. Wishing you every happiness during the upcoming mysteries, I remain, with total affection and esteem

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

Mis. Ap.
Rome, December 13, 1834

P. S. The payment is to say one Hail Mary for me.

2809

December 18, 1834
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁷ Since the postscript is found on the second page, at the foot of the first page St. Gaspar had written: "next page please". Otherwise, in similar circumstances, he would simply write: "next page".

Dear Camillo

You will be receiving another ten *scudi* in silver for the expense of the carriage. The other account is to be settled with the money that I gave you, in detail, in another missive of mine. With these ten *scudi*, please send me one ream of heavy paper to be used in making packages for the Institute, some reams of uncut paper to be used in writing accounts etc; a halfream of royalsized sheets, to be gotten from the printer's special line. Prepare the bill for me and check to see whether there is something left over; in that case, you will use up the 10 *scudi* by sending some other stationery for writing letters. If there is nothing at all left over, then the abovementioned orders will suffice, promptly supplying for what is needed.

Between January and February, I am hopeful of disposing of the thousand Chaplets. Little by little the others, and I am not doubtful. More about this in time. This does not retard the sale, if it turns out as I mentioned in another letter.

Oh what a load of obligations I have toward you! Thousands and thousands of thanks. Though in a hurry, I still remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 18, 1834

2810

December 18, 1834

Fr. Vitale Corbucci

Fossombrone

Venerable Father Vitale

Monsignor Muccioli has assured me that he has sent the copies of the regulations of the new Confraternity of the most Precious Blood, erected in the diocese of Fossombrone; they were sent together with the packet of booklets which are to be used as a result of the aggregation there. If they have not been located, Monsignor Muccioli does not have any more copies at all on hand and thus it would be necessary for the pastor, along with the bishop, to make some arrangement for providing them once again.

In regard to the lampholders, of discreet and proper size, there is a design for each one as described. If you wish to have them made of brass, note what is said there. You make the decision. The one who made the design is the same person who has been serving our Institute, a very upright man. Not only in this matter, but also in any other question that arises, all you have to do is to give me the command. I say this with all my heart, for I simply cannot find the words to express my esteem and affection for you.

I am awaiting the bundle of coverlets and I shall pay for the transportation. It seems to me that we are all even in our accounts. A thousand thanks for your great kindness. Have a most joyful festive season. I wish the same to the most reverend bishop to whom I send my best

regards, as well to all the priests of that Congregation, including your very excellent brother.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 18, 1834⁸

2811

December 22, 1834

Msgr. Dionisio Ginnasi

Imola

Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo⁹

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed are the facultative certificates for enrolling people in the Divine Blood. If you encounter any difficulty, write and give me your questions and I will see to it that you have an immediate response. In the meantime, let us promote evermore this most interesting devotion.

The members of the pious organization of St. Francis Xavier, mindful of your kindness, are now asking, through my services, for the celebration of 30 Masses, all at a privileged altar, with the usual notification that you will please send at your own convenience taking as much time as you wish.

On this occasion, I extend to you my best wishes for a very happy celebration of the holy feastdays. Make these sentiments of mine known and shared in common by your dear mother, in a particular way, who, I am certain, will never forget me in her prayers. May you offer them too.

With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, December 22, 1834

2812

December 23, 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta

⁸ In the letter the month "October" is written; but this is impossible. St. Gaspar was in Pievetorina and not in Rome. Furthermore, that it is a question of December is confirmed by the wishes expressed for "a most joyful festive season" as he did in the letter (n. 2811) of December 22, 1834; also from the fact that there is an X, which for Gaspar was the abbreviation for December.

⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Within a few days you will be receiving 60 *baj.* from the Archpriest Giovannelli for which you will supply a receipt at the first opportunity.

I am awaiting from you the receipts for the recent accounts.

The order from the Gaetani house is still not attainable. Keep working at it: we shall await the outcome.

When you judge it best, send Viola as the cook to Vallecorsa, at least temporarily. Have Gallina from Frosinone come there as cook; Antonio from Albano will be in charge of the church and house, and be of some occasional help in the garden, if possible. It seems to me that he should be able to do so. Lorenzo should be the gardener along with the son of the laundrywoman from Sonnino. Lorenzo is to handle the external jobs in Sermoneta, under your direction. This does not lessen my esteem for all of them.

I shall examine the details concerning the rooms and I shall send a reply. Where is Antonio lodged at present? Write and let me know.

You will conduct the Retreat for the men in the Oratory, anticipating the time, if you wish.

In J.C. Crucified, begging you for prayers, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 23, 1834

P. S. Are there any more retreatants? What has the Subdeacon decided? Well, on this matter, if he should want to pursue his studies in the usual way, he should go to Giano; however, if he wants a sufficient but shortened form, he should go to Pievetorina. Have you collected the 15 *Sc.* for the helpings of food?

2813

December 23, 1834

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Orazio

I have written to Paoletti¹⁰ in regard to the Retreat in the Oratory. Tell Monsignor Rubertini that I will be writing to him at length. Likewise, in my name, extend to him my best regards. In case Father Isidoro were not to conduct the Retreat, you people should supply with

¹⁰ Fr. Isidoro Paoletti

readings and meditations, *pro hac vice*.¹¹

With regard to the retreatant, tell Rubertini that it is not our method to take a month. I, too, shall write to him, if I remember, and as I hope to do. With respect to your temporal needs, keep in letter-correspondence with Fathers Liparelli and Luca. In the meantime, draw from the Advent series.

In Lent, which will be preached by Liparelli, everything possible will be done to allow for a delay. Let me know how the rooms have been assigned to each one. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rome, December 23¹²

2814

December 23, 1834

Tomasso Tallarini

Forlimpopoli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Tommaso

Oh how happy I was to see your handwriting again and the sincere expressions of kindness that you showed toward me. You have given and continue to give so many proofs of that. *Dominus retribuet pro me*, I say, *in benedictionibus dulcedinis*,¹³ So, may the Lord, during these very holy days, fill you with a most ardent zeal for his glory. From that zeal flows the eagerness to work hard in the evangelical field in order to maintain, sustain and diffuse the good to his divine glory. Indeed, let us do this in our relationships with others. And oh! what a beautiful crown will be awaiting us in heaven! Meanwhile, let me wish you a happy New Year, filled with every celestial favor in accordance with your desires: "*repleat in bonis desiderium tuum*,"¹⁴ and many, many more that will be usefully spent in gaining that beloved fatherland of heaven.

Extend my best wishes to all in your home and to anyone else who remembers me. May the work of the Oratory and the other pious practices be your delights. With esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble; devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

¹¹ For this occasion.

¹² The year, which is 1834, is derived from the postal markings.

¹³ The Lord will repay on my behalf with sweet blessings.

¹⁴ May he fill your desires with good things.

Mis. Ap.
Rome, December 23, 1834

2815

December 27, 1834
Fr. Francesco Quattrococchi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Father Biagio¹⁵ has written in regard to some devotions for you covered by the celebration of Masses. I have already prepared a package, and for it, you will celebrate 10 Masses for me, all at a privileged altar, as you will note on the sheet of paper. There is time for this, namely, until the middle of February. Later, you can send me the notification sheet. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 27, 1834

2816

December 27, 1834
Msgr. Innocenzo Castracane
Bishop of Cervia
Cervia

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*¹⁶

Venerable Monsignor

I understand everything that you mention in your recent very kind letter.

Our Missionary, Father Antonio Liparelli, President in our House in Cesena, has been asked to bring to a conclusion everything that will be needed with respect to the Mission.

Always ready to do your bidding, I extend to you my best wishes for a happy New Year and many more, filled with every blessing. I recommend myself to your prayers, most venerable Monsignor, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

¹⁵ Valentini.

¹⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Rome, December 27, 1834

2817

December 27, 1834
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

The death of the good Bishop of Terracina,¹⁷ very deeply felt by me, compels me to write concerning the faculties I gave you, since they were given orally. We are presently awaiting confirmation of them from De Victoriis whom I have charged to look into the matter with the Vicar Capitular. So, suspend confessions for the time being. Inform the companions of this. The usual funeral rites are to be observed.¹⁸

In J.C. Crucified, I am
Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 27, 1834

(on the fourth page, alongside the address, the following postscripts can be read)

Remember our regulations concerning trips.

With the little burro that should be available there, hasten to send Viola to Vallecorsa. The one from Sonnino can go along too, each one doing a bit.

2818

December 30, 1834

Fr. Pietro Spina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

I have just received your letter. So, have Viola remain there, until further notice.

The room that you assigned to Antonio from Albano is fine.

The receipts are in order.

The gratuity is at the discretion of the Congressus. No new procedure is needed. Simply give it.

Is the simple benefice that the Subdeacon has sufficient? If he has the other place as his residence, how can he be absent without dispensation? Send me an answer immediately on this

¹⁷ Msgr. Bernardino Panzacchi, who died on December 24, 1834.

¹⁸ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Panzacchi

question. I shall not concern myself with this dispensation for it does not pertain to me, *in circumstantiis*¹⁹.

Antonio Gallina is asking for permission to go to see his relatives again. I shall send him a reply after Epiphany.

Tell Fr. Stefano Pizzi that I have not succeeded in finding a Lenten series for him to preach. As for Albano, I have not had the nerve this year to inconvenience His Eminence Falzacappa again since I did so last year. Give him my regards and ask him to recommend me to God in his prayers. Perhaps he might be able to find a series in the Diocese if he looks into it. It would be good if he would write to someone he is acquainted with. I am not able to take on this burden.

The distribution of rooms is all right. But I understand that it is your room that has the bad ceiling. Since I expect to be there within a short time, have you fixed up my accommodations? After Fr. Cristoforo has left, that room is to remain vacant. Remember that I keep forbidden books in my cupboard.

Keep urging them to give the usual stipends there. Have you collected the 15 Sc. from the Commune? I do not know when they fall due.

In regard to the order for payment, I am continuing to work on it. Am I forgetting anything?

Pray for me, and with esteem, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 30, 1834²⁰

2819

January 1, 1835

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

With extreme regret did I learn of the death of the good bishop.²¹ He was a ripened fruit and the Lord reaped him for himself. Now, pray that I will be able to prepare myself well. I owe you a number of replies to your letters; however, I have simply lacked the time to respond. Here, briefly, are my thoughts.

1. Live in holy abandonment to God and familiarize yourself with the reminders given by St. Teresa: "Let nothing disturb you let nothing frighten you everything is passing away God

¹⁹ In the circumstances.

²⁰ The date and the place of origin are deduced entirely from the postal markings.

²¹ Msgr. Bernardino Panzacchi, bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno who died on December 24, 1834.

does not change whoever possesses God has every good thing".

2. Have great trust in the goodness of the Lord and let that be the principle virtue to practice during this new year. I wish you an abundance of every celestial blessing for this new year and for many more, all of them spent in his divine service. Trust gives honor to the infinite goodness of the Lord; it brings comfort to the soul and exercises it in showing diffidence toward self and confidence in God.

3. God rewards us according to the purity of our intentions and according to our labors. If the results, at times, do not correspond to our desires and the situation does not depend upon us, we will speak through prayer and through good example. Never should one lose equilibrium in God. We must be like the boulder in the sea which, though constantly battered by the waves, it remains immobile.

4. With regard to prayer, lean heavily on that *fiat voluntas tus sicut in coelo et in terra*;²² say to yourself that in maintaining this attitude, you intend to remain tranquil about the past, the present and the future.

5. Treasure greatly the reminders given by S. Maria Maddalena:

1. Esteem the rule as something given by God.

2. It is to be observed as though you alone were the only one obliged by it, while fulfilling whatever is dependent on us.

3. In as far as it is given to us, we should supply for the defects of our neighbor and excuse them with charity.

Perhaps we have mentioned some of these things previously. However, it is not useless to repeat them.

6. Maintain an interior tranquility and often, when contrary things arise, recall that saying "*ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*".²³ (May our holy protector for this year be our devotion to the holy Three Kings).

7. Let us strive to serve God moment by moment, and at the sounding of the clock, let us say (but without bonds which I do not care for) let us say: "Here we are just a bit closer to Paradise".

Finally, let us pray for everyone, just as the Lord taught us to say: "Our Father".

Let us pray for a careful selection of a new shepherd in that diocese, one who is holy, learned, prudent and most zealous for the honor of God.

As for our House in Sonnino, I am now speaking from a human standpoint, I have had to refuse the establishment because of a lack of means forthcoming. I had accepted that foundation for God's honor, for souls and for virtue. When one comes to the point of going beyond even one's own strength, all the more will it be necessary to turn to God, and therein lies the practice

²² Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

²³ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

of trust in him. I have said everything in just these few words. In the meantime, I give thanks to the Lord for all that has been accomplished. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 1st of 1835.

2820

January 1, 1835
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

A couple of things. First, you will find the third packet of money to the sum of 22 *scudi*, if I am not mistaken, with Luigi, along with a piece of money worth 3,71 *scudi*. I would like to have word that you have received all of this money, and after reviewing our accounts, please let me know how we stand, but not to overlook the immense obligations I have to you. The 22 *scudi* are for the Chaplets which you have on hand there and which I would like to have for my own purposes. I do not know whether those 22 *scudi* are sufficient or not. I shall await your response and the mailing of the Chaplets.

The second thing: perhaps I may have a way of setting up a Mission in a most needful place in the Marca. If this plan works out, I will let you know what that choice is. The people would have to see to the lodging, *gratis*, as well as the necessary utensils for the kitchen etc. etc.; also, thought must be given to erecting a platform and plans for the blessing with the Blessed Sacrament. With respect to the travel, foodstuffs, and devotions there will be someone chosen to see about them. That Mission should be carried out immediately after Easter. Let us pray that it will turn out that way.

Happy New Year and many more, all of them filled with merits for heaven. Pray for me. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. The package of booklets addressed to you are mine. I have received the bundle or packet of paper etc.²⁴

2821

January 3, 1835

²⁴ This postscript is located on the fourth siding, near the address.

Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Excuse me if I have delayed in sending you a reply. The occupations of the ministry have deprived me of that pleasure. I give thanks to God that in the midst of whirlwinds and storms the pious works continue to flourish. You know that, at times, the Lord withdraws his illuminations even from the good people in order to test their practice of virtue. So, be courageous, be zealous and persevere.

With regard to the Missionary for the Novena in honor of St. Xavier, you should definitely speak of it with the most reverend Vicar. Determine whether that time or some other occasion would be more feasible, for example, for the feast of the most Precious Blood. The decree of Monsignor Falconieri, whom I esteem and respect, is probably based on suppositions which do not exist and therefore does not hold. That is how I see it. The reasons for the decree were probably due (as we pardon the intentions of our neighbors) to those usual confusions produced by the devil. I repeat, nothing more needs to be done about that. You can personally work it out further with the excellent Monsignor Vicario in Forliropopoli, and give him my very best regards. We give our pardon to everybody.

To the best of my ability, I have recommended your petition to Monsignor Vannini, Commissioner of the Reverenda Camera Apostolica. As soon as I see him, I will give him a reminder. If you were a priest, I would have managed it already. In respect to seculars, I do not know just what to do. Prayers. Thousands and thousands of thanks to you for your holy day greetings. May the Lord reward you a hundredfold.

I will try to carry out your wishes the best I can. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 3rd of 1835

2822

January 3, 1835
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Here I am sending a reply to your very kind letter.

When Retreats are held at different times, then they can be repeated at those times which I indicated in another of my letters when speaking of Retreats. As for preaching them be courageous. As for the Lenten series, Father Liparelli will be coming soon and at that time you

will be relieved of the economical duties, at least, *ad tempus*,²⁵ and during Lent.

The Xavier observance is set for March 12 and you will have Liparelli handle that.

In the meantime, I am obtaining the faculty of the Immacolata for you. After you have gotten this one, we can consider others. However, one at a time and also allowing a bit of time to elapse in between. Keep on reminding me.

I have received the notification of the Masses. After you have subtracted the *scudo* for Verili, there should be 6,50 *scudi* remaining on deposit and available for you, unless I am mistaken.

Please give the enclosed to Amrbosini. You need not give him anything for the expense of going from Albano to Pennabilli; I am not in a position to make that allowance. We are the administrators of the *Luoghi pii*; and nothing more.

Thank you for your holy day greetings.

Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 3rd of 1835

2823

January 8, 1835

Fr. Pietro Spina

Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

- 1) Let me know whether there is a violet or black cope there.
- 2) Viola is to remain there at his regular jobs, *saltem*²⁶ until further notice.
- 3) The funeral rites are not to be entered into the regular book, but in the book assigned to exceptional matters. I am speaking of the Bishop's funeral services.

4) Gallina writes to me of nothing else but going to see his mother: a permission which I grant unwillingly. At any rate, as soon as you are able, send him to Frosinone with a letter to Fr. Biagio, or, in case he should momentarily be absent, to whomever may be there. Tell him that his stay there in Frosinone should be for one day only. Then, he is to be sent as cook to Vallecorsa, bearing a letter written by Fr. Biagio to the Superior in Vallecorsa. You are to advise him of all these things by letter. Include in that information that, since Pacifico is in Vallecorsa, when

²⁵ At the time.

²⁶ At least.

Gallina arrives, Pacifico is to go to Frosinone. Write also that it would be better for Pacifico to arrive first and then have Gallina travel with Pacifico's carriage. You get together with Fr. Biagio to figure out the most economical way: this is a most interesting situation. Tell Gallina that what Bartolomeo has on account will be made available to him in Frosinone to get to Vallecorsa. He should not be in doubt about that. However, since trips to one's home fall under one's personal expenses, Gallina should make arrangements for someone to come and get him. If he should not go home, at least for the present time, you are to send him directly to Vallecorsa, first notifying the Superior there, or whoever may be there, to send Pacifico to Frosinone with our little burro. We use him when the expense falls under the responsibility of the Institute. From Frosinone the Brother will return to Sermoneta, using the little burro or burros. You handle this whole business.

5) The rooms, as assigned there, are fine.

6) Also, you are to take care of the provisions there, regulating yourself according to your own prudent judgments. The order for payment has been granted and when you receive it, as I shall point out later, you are to supply me with the usual receipt for my own records. An expense of three *Sc.* was incurred which you shall enter under outlay of money to pay for the new investigation and for the reports kept in the Archives, as well as for the documentation etc., all connected with this request for the order of payment. Hence, I should get a receipt for 48 *Sc.*: 45 *Sc.* on deposit, and three *Sc.* for expenses. We are agreed. Later on, the order will be sent to you only at the beginning of January each year. Make a note of this. I would say that you should limit the purchase of provisions to the 40 or 45 *Sc.* obtained by that order. As for wine, Bartolomeo says that for the time being one barrel should do. I am not experienced in this. I am writing this only as a matter of record. A bit later on, you can manage to get more wine: unless, of course, you should find some that will keep during the summer and can be gotten at a bargain price.

7) That little silver heart has the same value as that green vest that you sent because you were in doubt etc. Place it near the image of Mary Most Holy, in the new chapel at the back of the church.

8) I have spoken to the Cardinal for Fr. Pizzi in reference to a preaching assignment in the diocese of Albano. I would have liked to have stayed out of this, but then I spoke, and I hope that he gets it.

9) Everything is fine with reference to the faculties, according to the Apostolic Vicar of Terracina; preserve the original letter.

10) The resident student will be instructed and counseled by Merlini within a short time. But it will be necessary to make a request for the canonical year. In regard to residence, you shall receive the rescript, *audito Ordinario et Capitulo*.²⁷ If they should oppose it, it will be necessary to reject it. Ask for that year. Up to now he has been in Sermoneta as a Retreatant.

Concerning my room, do what you think best. I can temporarily occupy Visconti's. I urge

²⁷ Having heard the Ordinary and the Chapter.

you to check the bed, etc.²⁸

11) It is necessary that you first look after the Hospice there and then later that other assignment. Remember that; and let us write to each other. With that last amount of money from the Commune, our cash box should be restocked. In reference to the Hospice, I would say: the Maestre should return to where they came from, and the Hospice should be given to us.

12) ²⁹

With esteem, I am
Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

P. S. You will see to it that the supplies include lard and hams. See if you can get the grain in exchange for Masses, and whether the Masses can be said *ubique*.³⁰ Then send them to me with a notification of the time and the offerings. However, you are experienced in all this matter and do not need instructions: rather, you could give them. Glory be to God.

(on the outer page, alongside the address, one can read:)

More about the order for payment in the next ordinary mail. In the meantime take care of the provisions and pay for them. The money is available.

2824

January 8, 1835
Fr. Mattia Cardillo
Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood

Venerable Father Mattia

*Habe me excusatum*³¹ for the discreet delay in answering your recent letter. Indeed, here is what I have to give you by way of an answer to the cases you proposed.

As to interrogations concerning the sixth commandment, certainly caution should be used. See P. Segneri in his section on Confession, and if the penitent is educated, let him consult B. Ligouri, B. Leopardi, etc. But NN should see to it that he does not descend into anxieties or to irresolutions. He should often consider for his exercise the following: "Let my heart be spotless

²⁸ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cleanliness and Order

²⁹ Here, in the manuscript, there are some words scratched out (it appears that one can read below the spiral scrawls superimposed: "*Hoc anno verrei da ecc.*" Very probably it is the beginning of a sentence which the Saint had started to write and then interrupted and scratched out.

³⁰ Wherever.

³¹ Hold me excused.

in your precepts that I be not confounded. Strengthen me with a guiding spirit." Devotion to the Most Precious Blood and to the Blessed Immaculate Virgin will be very helpful.

As to the second point say that I seek to determine whether physical strength is of such firmness that it is possible to begin with some morning schedule. From this the rest follows. Meanwhile the schedule should not be started and private mental prayer should occupy some time or he should be concerned with the examination before lunch or a before sunset. Approximately thus.

As to the third point concerning Lent, let NN get a booklet with some admonitions for cultivating virtue according to God's light, which meanwhile we will humbly implore.³²

Now we turn to ourselves. I recommend that you see to the good progress of our House there. I wish for you that same affection that Xavier had in exclaiming: "*Oblivioni detur dextera mea si obliscar tui etc.*"³³ Trusting in your wellfounded piety and particular zeal, I have no doubt that you will do this.

I urge you to take care of our young men. Help them *pro viribus in omnibus et pro omnia*.³⁴ Develop them, check their writings and be of assistance to the good Father Giovanni Chiodi. We are to be careful about our duties. The rule is directive for our ministry and in ascetical matters the desire of the Superior should be sufficient. So, *interim servari solitum*.³⁵ An oh that Father Tomasso.

You probably have received from Father Tomasso the 1,50 *scudi*. Tell him that the three *scudi* which he was supposed to send to Cotino should be given to you. If he has already sent them, then he should get them back. In all, there are 4,50 *scudi*. For this money, you will celebrate that many Masses, but not right away, since I have not yet set the intentions. Let me know when you will be able to say them and at that time we will come to a decision. Therefore, I shall be awaiting your reply. To the letter of Pigliucci I have set things in motion. He is in Nettuno. The Retreat to the nuns of Father Calino is not set. Check a bit to see whether

³² *Quoad interrogationes circa sextum utique cautela est exhibenda. Vide P. Segneri in suo Confessario, et Poenitente edocto, B. Ligorium, B. Leonardum, etc. Videat autem NN. ne ad anxietates descendat vel ad irresolutiones. Saepe haec proferat pro suo exercitio. "Fiat cor meum immaculatum in tuis justificationibus ut non confundar. Spiritu principali confirma me". Devotio Pretiosissimi Sanguinis et Beatae Virginis Immaculatae plurimum juvabunt*

Quoad secundum dic quaeso utrum vires physicae sint talis roboris ut possit aliquantulum orarium matutinum praeveniri. Ex hoc reliqua. Interim oraium non preveniatur et oratio privata; mentalis habeat aliquod temporis spatium vel circa examen ante prandium vel paulo ante solis occasum. Ita circiter.

Quoad tertium circa Quadragesimam NN. Excipiat folium con aliquibus monitis ad virtutem excolendam justa lumen Dei, quod interim humillime implorabimus.

³³ May my right hand be given to oblivion if I forget you.

³⁴ In accord with one's strength and for everybody.

³⁵ Meanwhile the usual procedure is to be kept.

Tomassini might conduct it in Foligno. As for the outlines, I will see to them upon my withdrawal at carnival time. I try not to forget things. But whenever I do forget, please remind me.

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

Miss. Ap.

Rome, 8th of 1835.

With regard to the ministry, *in casi dubbii(sic) tardus ad judicandum*.³⁶

2825

January 9, 1835
Ignazio Lesinelli
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ignazio

As a consequence of the discussion concerning the obligation of Masses, I must inform you as follows:

1. For the year that is coming up, and with the end of this present one, everything is even; in fact, there are five Masses which will be computed starting from the 1st of next February and thereafter.

2. The members of the St. Xavier group, who recently were questioned through the services in their behalf by Tosti, whom I directed to get in touch with Severini, have declared that that obligation does not fall upon them. Severini has pointed out that that burden, in addition to what was saved in the building project to the sum of 500 *scudi*, is extant because they provided the church with necessities; however, there are sacred utensils and other things etc.

3. It is not necessary for me to argue about this; furthermore, if, up to now things have been handled as best as possible, I still feel nervous about the future. So, tell the members there that since they have taken over the church, they must also bear the burdens. Otherwise, they should yield, for there will be no lack of someone who will assume things as they were before. But, if I am to be obligated to take on a notable burden of Masses, without having the means provided, that, surely, seems to me to be unjust. I have no means for litigating, I repeat, and even if I did have the means, I still do not wish to litigate. So, you, as the director of the provisory chaplaincy, should make every effort to bring things to an orderly conclusion. I pray to the Lord that everything will be settled with perfect harmony. I am always ready to do whatever good that I can. At least those presently in charge should find someone to celebrate the Masses at a privileged altar. With esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

³⁶ In cases of doubt be slow to pass judgment.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

9th of 1835

P. S. I intend to prepare the papers for the bishop of Acquapendente during my withdrawal at carnival time. Already one pastor from that diocese has written to me for Missions, and, precisely it is the man in Ischia, having consulted with the bishop.

2826

January 13, 1835

Msgr. Innocenzo Castracane

Bishop of Cervia

Cervia

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

Venerable Monsignor

Have no doubts about the holy Mission. I shall contact Liparelli, our President in Cesena. It will be worked out in such a way as to be in agreement with your holy wishes.

I kiss your hands, venerable Monsignor, and with total respect, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 13th of 1835

2827

January 13, 1835

Fr Rocco Sebastianelli

Convittore³⁸

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Rocco

I understand everything that you mentioned to me and all will be taken care of. Perhaps the Companions may not have understood me too well. I will write in the next ordinary mail.

³⁷ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

³⁸ During the year 1835, it seems that Sebastianelli went to the Boarding School in Sermoneta. One might come to that conclusion because of Letter n. 2743 (June 28, 1834). Since he belonged to the Diocese of Veroli, it was convenient for him to be at a Boarding School nearby, in order to go easily to receive the Subdiaconate and Diaconate from his own bishop.

Meanwhile, you men should not fail to consolidate yourselves more and more in spirit and knowledge; nor should you forget to pray for me who never forget you in my poor prayers.

A small package came for you which I shall send at the first opportunity. Also, Mrs. Marchioni has sent an old silver spoon and a silver fork. The latter is lacking two of its tines, as they are called, used for picking things up; two of them are simply missing. As a result, the fork is not usable and the spoon is quite worn out. Let me know if you want me to sell these items (which weigh very little) and collect the money. I shall do whatever you suggest. This material (I refer to the spoon and the fork) belonged to your deceased uncle, Doctor Sebastianelli.

Awaiting your reply, I am constantly
Your humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

Rome, 13 of 1835

2828

January 13, 1835
Fr. Pietro Spina
Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

In reference to Viola's cassock, I would say that since winter in Sermoneta is on its way out, perhaps he would be better off with one for summer, saving the winter one for next November. You look into the matter and let me know your opinion; consult with Viola, too.

The cloak for Buonafide is being made, for it will then be used also in the summertime, for trips etc.

Have you invested the one from Sonnino? Inform me. Also, let me know if there is something else needed.

We have given thought to the sugar from the Belardi woman and a meeting with her is being arranged. You shall have it, have no doubts. I have written about the other financial problems. In regard to Carpini, write to Merlini. Have you collected for Advent?

Investigate the Hospice and give your estimation of things to me.

Is there a request for a Lenten series? Do not ask for it however, etc. Soon you shall have a third Missionary. I urge the observance of the rule and the Study Conference.

I understand that you need some coffee. I shall see that a bit is sent to you. But, be careful that it does not harm Aloysi. He helps in some things, *quoad temporalia*,³⁹ doesn't he? Do not fail to provide what is necessary, but, I also urge economy which is so necessary, etc. Let me know whether there is a violet or black cope in the Church there. I am

Your humble servant

³⁹ As to things temporal.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 13 of 1835

Have you sent Gallina? Write in detail about this.

2829

January 13, 1835

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Pievetorina to the

Hail Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

Only a couple of lines in this maildelivery. You preach quite often in Pievetorina, so, to have a balance of Lenten preachers, I will need you for Romagna. Another of our men will be coming there to supply for you in every respect. Help our young men, in accordance with our directory. I am trusting in your charity.

Where Father Beniamino⁴⁰ was lodged, prepare for the Lenten preacher who will also be the ProPresident *in omnibus*⁴¹ during Lent. I am etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, 13th of 1835

In case you might have told the archbishop that you would be preaching the Lenten series, tell him that another of our men will be coming etc. ⁴²

2830

January 14, 1835

To the Prior in Sonnino

Sonnino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴³

Venerable Prior

You will be served in accordance with your desires. I am hopeful of a double blessing *de rore coeli, et de pinguedine terrae*.⁴⁴ With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

⁴⁰ Father Beniamino Romani

⁴¹ In all things.

⁴² This postscript was placed on the fourth siding near the address.

⁴³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴⁴ About the dew of the heaven and of the richness of the earth.

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, 14th of 1835

2831

January 16, 1835

Cardinal Carlo Odescalchi
 Rome

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁵

Your Eminence

Not long ago I preached at night to the poor of S. Galla.

I learned that Father Teodoli was given charge of the tasks as a help to your most reverend Eminence. I have not had the pleasure of knowing him; it may be urgent to provide him with information concerning this pious work; but, perhaps, just a word or so would be sufficient. I have no doubt at all that your most reverend Eminence will remember to remind the clergy of this on opportune occasions, as well as reminding the one, whom you judge to be best, to preach to and hear the confessions of these poor people. I assure you that the Lord has given me a very particular concern for that institution. Unfortunately, I am not able to do as much as I used to at one time because of the demands of the ministry.

Since there are difficulties in arranging a meeting with your most reverend Eminence, permit me to recommend to you the establishing in Rome of our Institute for the Missions. Pope Pius VII had given us S. Clemente since he had no other place that he could offer. The good Cardinal Cristaldi, *cuius memoria in benedictione*,⁴⁶ saw to its restoration. But then! Once the work had scarcely been concluded, Pius VII died. Pope Leo XII, with the desire of offering us another locale, recalled to himself that of S. Clemente in order to arrange for a passageway for the clergy, as well as to establish the Jesuit Fathers in the Collegio Romano.

Now, I am of the opinion that if the Maestre Pie in S. Agata would be offered another convenient locale, that church and monastery would be most opportune for our purposes. Likewise, it would be in a section of the city where Institutes are scarce. With that arrangement, a final touch would be given, so to speak, to our Institute which God is blessing so wonderfully. Also, it would be most appropriate because of the urgencies of our times! With our Society existing in Rome, how much more could be done in preparing our men for the study of foreign languages. This would be a great help to the Missions of the Propaganda. Since we have Boarding Schools for young men of canonical age, preparing themselves for the ministry, by installing them in Rome, what edification and encouragement would be promoted in the pursuit

⁴⁵ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴⁶ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

of the greater glory of God? I will say no more in order not to abuse the patience of your most reverend Eminence whom I see always in spirit in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, the only center of peace. Keep me in your prayers and in the holy sacrifice of the Mass. While kissing the sacred purple, most reverend Eminence, I renew to you my sentiments of esteem, respect and gratitude.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, 16th of 1835

2832

January 16, 1835

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

Have Brother Gallina depart as soon as he can, not for Vallecorsa, but rather for Sonnino, where he will attend to the kitchen. He shall go to Frosinone in due time. For now, it is not necessary for him to go. You shall send him on his way as soon as possible.

Tell Fr. Stefano Pizzi that it is set that he will be the Lenten preacher in Ariccia. I shall see to his certification. Later, when I shall send it on to you, we can get together with regard to the cost, etc. In the meantime he should contact De Volpi, who had been Archpriest there, and find out whether there is an obligatory sermon, etc. These are the Doctrinarians with whom he could work out his room and board. However, I have no connections there. Tell him that in the future I ask him to make his own arrangements for preaching assignments. I have already made the arrangements for him with S. E. R. This is a completed matter.

As for the Lenten series in Sermoneta, I just do not know; nor do I want to appoint myself *ex me*.⁴⁷ Otherwise, it will be Fr. Camillo Rossi or someone else who will be the Lenten preacher: it depends on whether they get their request in on time.

In a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁴⁷ By myself.

(Rome) 16 of 1835⁴⁸

2833

January 17, 1835
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei
 Bishop of Camerino
 Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁹

Venerable Monsignor

The projects for the glory of God and your desires for our ministry in Pievetorina have dwelt persistently in my heart. So, within a few days, Father de Victoriis will be coming to Camerino, assigned to other duties, and along with Father Giovanni Chiodi will get in contact with your most reverend excellency. Much good work will be forthcoming.

Since there is need for a different Lenten preacher, that is already taken care of.

I am writing in a hurry. I kiss your hands, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, 17th of 1835

2834

January 20, 1835
 Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
 Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Orazio

I have forwarded the letter in Fabriano to Liparelli. He will look into the matter. I am not acquainted with the situation. Liparelli gave me a kind of general idea, but in such a way that I was not to be concerned about it. Liparelli discussed it with the bishop to whom the matter was referred, as well as to Rubertini. I repeat, I did not examine the matter. Liparelli will be arriving there soon. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁴⁸ Fr. Giovanni Merlini assures us that in January of 1835 the Saint was situated in Rome and that in February he went to Albano. In addition to the context here, different letters of the same period confirm this (cfr. for example the letter (n. 2830) from Rome on January 14, 1835; or the letter (n.2834) from Rome on January 20, etc.).

⁴⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Rome, 20th of 1835

2835

January 20, 1835
Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Here I am with a reply to your letter. I begin by referring to your memorandum which I personally recommended again to Monsignor Vannini, Commissioner of the Reverenda Camera Apostolica. Since, as I believe, you do not wish to leave Meldola, have a bit of a vacation, as we remain hopeful of obtaining the thing that you desire. It does not depend upon me, and the only thing I can do is to keep on pleading. Actually, even the most reverend Commissioner, *ex se*,⁵⁰ can do nothing about it; only, as occasions allow, can he cooperate indirectly. Prayers.

Be sure to go and get the Missionary in Cesena. He, along with a lay Brother (since we do not travel alone) will be coming there to do good work on Ash Wednesday. We preach from a platform and not from a pulpit and it is required that he live apart, just as is done during a Mission, even in regard to the arrangement for meals. Give my thanks to Lawyer Mambelli for the favor that he is offering. If, each year, this type of good work is done, then the pious organizations will take on a special fervor.

In sending to get the Missionary, please note that you will have to pass through Forlimpopoli in order to pay respects to the most reverend Vicar. I would say that you could send for him very early on the morning of Ash Wednesday. He could then be on time, at the 22nd hour, according to the Italian clock, that is to say, around the first daylight hour, and, likewise, a bit before the time for the introductory services; he would also be observing our principle of finishing during the daytime. So, the morning should be kept free for the Lenten preacher, as is only right. Much good work will be forthcoming. In the meantime, let us continue to be evermore eager to work hard.

Keep me in your prayers, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 20th of 1835

2836

January 21, 1835

⁵⁰ Of itself.

Fr. Raffaele Ruffoli
Palestrina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I have already had your enrollees registered in the archives of the Archconfraternity, through the services of Monsignor Muccioli, its President. In many places, in order to spread even farther this tender devotion, 12 people come together in different groups and then each individual successively takes one of the months for the devotion to the Divine Blood. Also, in many locations, the pastors themselves do the dividing of the months of the year. So, too, you can spread the devotion evermore by following those methods, thus extending this great devotion to the most Precious Blood. I have no doubt that in your area the Chaplet is recited publicly. Oh what treasures we have in this tender devotion!

At the holy altar, indeed, I have responded to your desires and I shall not fail to do this in the future, being certain of your own charity toward me. So let us be united more and more through prayer; may our sweet dwelling place be in the Sacred Divine Heart where we can be with each other often, praying for one another.

You should continue exercising your apostolate in Palestrina, and, through the merits of St. Francis Xavier, you will come to recognize more and more the manner of activating yourself for the programs that lead to the ever greater glory of God whom we are to serve incessantly.

Now, I move on to another matter. If, at any time at all in that area, there should be someone adept at making adornments for the church, I would like to have that information and the cost involved; this would be in behalf of the churches of our Institute. In the meantime, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 21st of 1835

2837

January 21, 1835
Francesco Ambrosini
Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Francesco

I received punctually the money sent by you to me to the sum of 20 *scudi* as payment for the room and board of your excellent son, Ubaldo. He is continuing with his course of studies and is pursuing his career in an exemplary and fruitful way. May this be of consolation to you.

Most esteemed Francesco, do not cease recommending me to the Lord, as I say once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.
 Rome, 21st of 1835

2838

January 21, 1835
 Fr. Pietro Spina
 Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Pietro

You will receive the order for 48 *Sc.*, that is, 45 *Sc.* in cash and three *Sc.* for expenses incurred, all of which you shall enter both as outlay and income. Send me separate receipts.

Also, collect one *Sc.* from Fr. Pizzi for the certification which I shall have to pay for here in Rome. Advise him to make arrangements for his lodging in Ariccia. There are the Doctrinarians, but I do not have any connections with them, and I would not like to get involved in this matter. Later on, Fr. Stefano himself should look for his own preaching assignments.

To this one *Sc.* add the three *Sc.* which you shall collect from Sig. Carpini, according to the enclosed. Send me a receipt for it. Notice that in the letter from Turriceili, there is a little piece of paper which could fall out. Watch out for that when you have it delivered.⁵¹

Carpini was supposed to travel in cassock. Later, it will be necessary to explain things more clearly. I have written to Merlini almost to the point of satiety. With reference to Carpini's place of residence, I shall have nothing to do with that. I have advised the young man of this. Now I am informing you so that you can continue to direct him.

Viola will have his cassock, and I shall send the paid bill and you will send me a receipt. In regard to the Brother in Sonnino, even though he is a good person, this is also a case about which I will have to inform you at greater length. I have already spoken to the ones that I needed to. But, is that how individuals are to be admitted into an Institute? *Satis*.⁵² You cannot imagine that certain communications of ideas are just a nuisance. But, God will it so, to bring about a better formation for the true good of the Institute. Very soon, winter in great part will be over with and we can think of the summertime, unless something occurs that is inevitable, in which case you will keep me informed.

I would suggest that you get the wax from Norma, since the factories are located there. Write about it to Fuschi, recommending that, etc.

⁵¹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data - Carpini, and also Torricelli.

⁵² Enough.

Promote the good. I urge the observance of the rule, including the Conferences; the ones to the Brothers should not be neglected.

Pray for me, who with esteem am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome 21 of 1835⁵³

2839

January 21, 1835

Fr. Giuseppe Gugnoli

Forlimpopoli

*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*⁵⁴

Most esteemed Father Giuseppe

I am reviewing your letter and, in my wretchedness, I send you this reply.

1. It is an incontrovertible principle that "*fidelis est Deus qui non patietur vos tentari supra in quod potestis ... faciet cum tentatione proventum.*"⁵⁵ So, on God's part, there is nothing lacking; indeed, he abounds in kindness and in all things he draws forth his greater glory. But, we, too, are to assist ourselves by using the means available.

2. One does not sin, as you know, except with full consent of the will; nor, as St. Teresa says, do we lose God without knowing it.

3. Now, coming to the status of your soul ... the fears, the doubts ... the perplexities ... the uncertainties, your tendency to feel that you are always sinning, these things do not render you guilty in God's presence, but rather place you in a position for gaining great merit. God permits these things; thus, by establishing our souls in the spirit of humility, along with a basic recognition of our own selves, he prepares us for receiving special graces. We are trained through suffering and through internal anguish; we are detached from worldly things, and are brought to sharing through those interior sufferings. God, however, is a God of peace and we should frequently repeat *ecce in pace amaritudo mea amarissima*.⁵⁶ I note that you are needful of these three things:

1. A director whom you can obey blindly.
2. A great trust in God.

⁵³ As for the place of origin, cfr. footnote to letter n. 424 of January 16, 1835.

⁵⁴ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

⁵⁵ God is faithful and will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with trial he will also provide a way out.

⁵⁶ Behold in peace my most biting bitterness.

3. A tender devotion to the Divine Blood.

In your present condition, there is no shadow of fault, please believe that, and what is evident is that "*trepidaverunt timore ubi non erat timor*".⁵⁷ Why are you fearful? Because you love God. Why do you suffer? Because you fear God. There is no consent involved at all. Again, in your present condition, you are to repeat often: "*Fiducialiter agam, et non timebo*".⁵⁸ We are serving a most lovable Father. So, let us serve him joyfully: "*Servite Domino in laetitia*".⁵⁹ I say once again: be very, very much at ease in your conscience; and, continue to move forward with freedom of spirit. Do not allow the devil to enjoy a victory, for he would like you to lose your sense of peace.

One thing: keep up your good work in the apostolic labors, as I have no doubt you will, and you will be rewarded by the Lord. Feel free to write to me. I know that you do not need my wretched help. Be courageous. Take a little time to read one or the other letter of St. Francis de Sales. From the Barnabites in Bologna, you might get a copy of *Quadrupani*, a small work dealing with peace of mind in timid souls. You will find it to be quite helpful at this time. Oh! how many blessings I wish for you with all my heart! Recommend yourself to the great Xavier and to Mary most holy, saying to her: "*Causa nostrae laetitiae, ora pro nobis*".⁶⁰

In Jesus Christ crucified, the only center of peace, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 21st of 1835

P. S. Give my greetings to Pellegrini.

2840

January 21, 1835

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Ignazio

The glory of God and your good work stimulate me, out of a sense of pure zeal, to do all that I can with regard to the Masses which you know about. Until I can succeed in that, I shall continue to be concerned about it. Furthermore, you might read the enclosed copy and you will

⁵⁷ They trembled with fear where there was no fear.

⁵⁸ I shall act with confidence and shall not be afraid.

⁵⁹ Serve the Lord in joy.

⁶⁰ Cause of joy, pray for us.

notice that you, as the promoter of the good work done in S. Maria in Vincis, came to an agreement with the organization⁶¹ with regard to the pacts. Because of that, you rightly required the signatures of the Superior at that time, Monsignor Muccioli, as well as that of the treasurer, Contedini. Our Missionaries have only to fulfill the Masses as long as the pertinent quota is forthcoming.

This is a case similar, in some way, to the legacy of the deceased Cardinal Cristaldi. If the agreements had been made with the Missionaries and not with the organization, the situation would be altogether different. Let this be for the record and for the sake of a more precise understanding of the terms. So, I, too, in the meantime, have kept on being insistent, under the title of religion, with the members. Would it not be very useful if you would join with us in this, speaking about the organization especially with Monsignor Sevaroli, the new Superior of the Confraternity? Pray for me. With the usual feelings of esteem, respect, gratitude and affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, 21st of 1835

2841

January 21, 1835

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Concerning the Organization of St. Xavier⁶²

1. The nowdeceased Canon Carboni instituted the Oratory in S. Maria in Vincis *ad instar*⁶³ the Caravita.

2. He set up there the Organization of the Brethren of St. Xavier, following the so-called Collaroni of the Caravita; but, for the sake of adaptation, he changed their uniforms; it consisted in the sackdress that our members of St. Xavier wear, but in accordance with the original institution.

3. Later, they added certain insignia which had reference to the devotion of the Divine Blood, but which did not change it.

⁶¹ See the following.

⁶² This appendix, concerning the "*Ristretto di S. Francesco Saverio*", is in the volumes that contain the original writings of St. Gaspar, and was joined to the letter to Ignazio Lesinelli, dated January 21, 1835. We, too, keep it here since it pertains to the controversy about who had the obligation of the celebration of certain Masses. In the letter of May 10, 1835, written to Lesinelli, the controversy appears to be settled. Therefore, tentatively, we date this appendix, which was certainly sent to Lesinelli, January 21, 1835.

⁶³ After the fashion of.

4. Still later, the wellknown changes were made, making the Society a Confraternity.

5. The documents, both for its consolidation as well as for the *Monastero delle Vergiri* and the acquisition of the two rooms, always speak of and refer to the Organization and not to the Confraternity. Under that name, the Chapter of S. Nicola drew up a document and set up its Canon, but with the members of the organization, and not otherwise. So, that is as much as, etc.

2842

January 24, 1835

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Most esteemed Ignazio

Please enclose, for the Secretary of the Organization of St. Xavier, the copy that I sent to you in reference to the obligation of the Masses, since tomorrow morning the congregation is to meet in S. Maria in Vincis. In submitting that paper, seek for a happy resolution, which I hope will be so. Recommend me to God. With the customary esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

24th of 1835

2843

January 31, 1835

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ignazio

I do not concern myself in replying to every sentence in the enclosed⁶⁴ since that would be altogether pointless. I have come to a realization of the mind of the membership. Since I have found a hearing only with the Lord, with the help of his grace and mercy, I shall look for some resources so that we can proceed with the Masses and later send the notifications to you. That is how things are proceeding. My directives were merely spiritual; the administration which has been handling this matter has done so with very great delicacy. It remains for God to inspire some pious person or other, who is acquainted with the situation, to urge the matter so that the present superiors will be illuminated. Without further ado, along with my sincere wish not to hear another syllable about this, I remain, full of respect, esteem and affection and asking you for

⁶⁴ This refers to the Decree (accompanied with the letter of the secretary, Bernardino Petrucci, dated January 28, 1835) from the Confraternity and Organization of the Immaculate Conception and St. Francis Xavier in S. Maria in Vincis, with which the Congregation, on January 25, 1835, denies any obligation for the celebration of the Masses spoken of in the letters to Lesinelli during this period of time.

your prayers,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, 31st of 1835.

2844

183435

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

S. Paolo

Albano⁶⁵

I am still awaiting a receipt for the Caserta order of payment from Sermoneta.

Forward the enclosed notification of Masses since I have satisfied these intentions. I must have a receipt of deposit from Spina. You inform him. Send on these pages and Spina will understand. I believe that they are Masses from Bassanio.⁶⁶

2845

1834-35

Fr. Giovanni Merlini

S. Paolo

Albano⁶⁷

Here is another listing of Masses for Sermoneta for which I shall await a receipt of deposit. They have been fulfilled by me, etc.

I would like to know whether these, like the other 28 in the other packet, have the same offerings of 15 *baj.* each. That is how I have computed them. You inform Spina, etc.

We were not able to sign them on the sheets sent because they were divided up among our companions, etc. I hope I explain myself clearly.

⁶⁵ Above the address Fr. Giovanni Merlini wrote in his own handwriting the following annotation: "For Spina G. Merlini Miss."

⁶⁶ This brief note, which was certainly mailed from Rome, pertains without doubt to the House in Sermoneta. It must, therefore, belong to the period that extends from September of 1834 to the middle of February of 1835, because only at that time can we verify the coincidence of Merlini being President in Albano (he was named in the Congressus of Visitation of July 24, 1834 and remained there even during the following years, and Fr. Pietro Spina the Superior and Economist in Sermoneta).

⁶⁷ The posterior halfsheet for this letter which bears half of the address which we have reproduced here (since the entire sheet must have been used as a "*suprafoglio*" to wrap other letters: hence, the address was written in the middle) was located, out of place, in Vol. VII of the Founder's letters. Now we have restored it to Vol. II alongside the other half (which contains the letter reproduced above).

Above the address Fr. Giovanni Merlini wrote the following annotation in his own handwriting: "For Fr. Pietro Spina, Miss. G. Merlini, Miss."

Report on everything.

2846

February 3, 1835
Fr. Pietro Spina
Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Pietro

The receipt for the Gaetani legacy is in order.

You will have to get one *Sc.* from Fr. Staffano Pizzi for the certification. Also, three *Sc.* from the agent for Carpini. That therefore makes four *Sc.* I shall leave them for your management there to pay for the other equivalent debts, but I must have a receipt of deposit for them.

In Norma, since the candle factories are there, the cost for the wax should not be as high, according to what I hear. So, we will have to make a comparison. Let me know what they are charging per pound. Entrust this to Fuschi, asking him possibly to do us this favor.

I shall send the stationery at the first opportunity.

Viola's stockings should arrive at the same time as the cassock.

In the accounts with the Commune the management of the House there must be reimbursed with 50 *Sc.* Merlini knows this. If possible, it would be a good thing to get half of it on deposit now and the other half at the next and final quota payment,⁶⁸ In this way we will have things straightened out. So, if you get them, see that I get a receipt.

Bill for clothing, for which I expect to get a receipt from you.

Cloth for Buonafide's cloak and small expenses	6:00 <i>Sc.</i>
For the making of it	1:37 <i>Sc.</i>
Cloth for Viola's cassock ..	4:50 <i>Sc.</i>
For the making of it	1:47 <i>Sc.</i>
For leather strips	0:12 <i>Sc.</i>
Buttons of black bone	0:12 <i>Sc.</i>
Thread, silk and eyelets, etc.	0:30 <i>Sc.</i>
	13:90 <i>Sc.</i>

Check over the account. I believe that I have received a receipt for the other things.

Am I forgetting anything?

Pray for me who, in the adorable Heart of J.C., am

Your humble servant

⁶⁸ This is a reference to the contribution of 300 *Sc.* given in three installments by the Commune of Sermoneta for the work of repair on the Mission House as well as a reimbursement for money borrowed by the House for the same purpose. We have spoken of these matters previously in the footnote in Lett. n. 2785 of October 5, 1834.

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, February 3, 1835

2847

February 3, 1835
 Fr. Mattia Cardillo
 Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemsd Father Mattia

We shall continue our lettercorrespondence in Rimini where God is summoning you, just as I have written to Father de Victoriis and also in accord with our original idea. Your maturity has reminded me of that decision, just as I explained better in another letter of mine. All for the glory of God.

Let me know whether you have received some Masses from Father Tomasso⁶⁹ in my name, balancing out, I believe, the offerings, somewhat importunately. You know what I mean.

Tell Fr. Tomasso that I shall send a reply to his letter in a future ordinary maildelivery.

Give my greetings to the Monsignor in Rimini.⁷⁰ Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 3, 1835

2848

February 3, 1835
 To the Superioress

of Tor de' Specchi
 Your Excellency

Next Sunday I shall be punctual for the usual moral discussion. Furthermore, basically, I believe that for the other feastsdays I shall not be in Rome, but rather shall be preaching the sanctified carnival time in S. Paolo in Albano. There is need for a day or so free before we set a beginning time; I will be staying in retirement for a while in our Mission House. It seems to me that one or the other feast day before Ash Wednesday should be available. It will probably turn out to be arranged for one or the other Sunday.

⁶⁹ Father Tomasso Meloni.

⁷⁰ Msgr. Francesco Gentilini.

Pray to the Lord for me. Please offer my very best wishes to your honorable Community and to the excellent and very zealous Father Luigi Cesarini to whose prayers also you will recommend me in a particular way. In the meantime, your Excellency, I have the honor and the pleasure of stating once again that in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, February 3, 1835

2849

February 3, 1835

Fr. Raffaele Ruffoli

Palestrina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

The method for enrolling people is similar to the enrolling of people in other devotions. So, *in loco jurisdictionis*,⁷¹ please note the given name, the family name, the day, month and year, and the hometown of the enrolled person. If that person should return to his/her hometown, we know that the devotion is known there; on the other hand, if he/she does not return there, that will not change things. All of this then is the responsibility of the one who is to register everything in the Archives of the Archconfraternity and I have nothing more to do. However, they would like to have precise information given by the aggregators. At times, pages are sent there with nothing more than the given name and the family name. By canonically erecting there a Pious Union, the records then would be kept in that locale. If you wish to have our method of doing that, let me know; there would then be no further need of contacting Rome.

Would it be possible there to find some old, red material to be used for making two red copes to be worn by the copists? If so, I would first have to have the details as well as to know the cost before coming to a decision. Generally speaking, if that situation occurs, please send me word. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 3⁷²

P. S. I have already said that I, personally, will not be able to handle the Three Hours for Good Friday.

⁷¹ In the place of jurisdiction.

⁷² The year is 1835 (cfr. the letters to this same person, dated January 21 and February 27, 1835).

2850

February 5, 1835
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Camillo

I know of the reception of the packages sent with the money forwarded. I have received the 2000 Chaplets as well as the reams of stationery. Everything is in order. Presently I am sending postal francs, 9,66 *scudi*. The 66 *bajocchi* are a balancing out of the recent account and I ask you to check this carefully so that you do not come out on the short end. Nine *scudi* are for the cloth or material which is of the quality of the sample sent with the packet of 9,66 *scudi*. If it is not ready, we shall wait.

Money in the package

Five Florentine coins

5,30 *scudi*

which equal 1 *scudo* and 6 *bajocchi* each

More in copper

0,01 "

A gold *louis*

4,35

unless I am mistaken

9,66

Fabriano likewise has been selected for a Mission. There should be someone to look after the traveling and the foodstuffs. Also, lodging that is adapted for the ministry with beds, kitchen utensils, table linens, a platform in the church, and wax, gathered for the benediction of the most blessed Sacrament, is to be divided as you think best. Whoever is interested in this good work should limit himself to the traveling and the foodstuffs, You bring this matter to a conclusion; and suggest to me a time that is most opportune. Whoever is in charge is not to overlook the Institute. Otherwise, we will consider another city, but always one within the Marche, or perhaps there already is one. But, until you make the decision, nothing will be put into action. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.