

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3001

October 24, 1835
Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, October 24, 1835
Most esteemed Canon

Pardon me if I have delayed in sending a reply to your very kind letter. The Cistercian Fathers who have opened a novitiate, for the moment, do not have need of laity. So, you should look at the Liguorini or some other Institute that fits in with the vocation that you are considering. To be a novice for the Mass with the Cistercians, it would be necessary for you to write to and get information from Father di Casamari, the President of the Cistercians in Rome. In this regard, I am unable to say anything more. I point out, however, that being a Cistercian for the Mass would require some expense. One need think only of the vesture which they use.

Let us move on now to something else. Two young men from Veroli were introduced to me in Frosinone. Let me know whether the man that you referred to is tall and thin; but, in the first place, give me information *quoad mores et vitam*.¹ Check with the most reverend bishop with regard to what is required additionally with respect to a recommendation after your response to this letter. I presume that he is of canonical age, has the means for providing his vesture, and anything else that is needed. Then, with regard to the room and board, presently the Institute is very severely burdened. I will let you know what can be done. Realize that for some other young men I have said: wait until the subdiaconate. Our Institute, I repeat, is very severely burdened and is unable to make these sacrifices. God knows how much one would like to do, if it were possible, but ... In the meantime, I will give it some thought. But, if he is willing to wait until the subdiaconate, I would welcome him.

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

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

P. S. Let me know about the Marra papers and where I can locate them here.

¹ As to customs and life.

3002

End of October, 1835
 Student Fr. Francesco Verili
 Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Francesco²

Share this letter with Father Biagio.³

1. Taking up again a few memoranda contained on the sheet of reminders, I now point out the following:

2. I am not forgetting the big budget sheet; but in the meetings; not everything can be done in a single moment.

3. Let me know how many beams are needed for all the rooms that are habitable, and approximately what size.

4. Within a short while, you will be getting the lectern. The silvercoated vases are not urgently needed. Let us pray for a benefactor or so who will have them made. At the first opportunity, I will look into the matter of carpeting.

5. Buonafede in Frosinone has been asking for a hat. Father Camillo⁴ will be sending you the bill which is to be added to your accounts there; and you should reimburse him.

6. Your father must now have the six *scudi* that I sent, anticipating the present month of October, unless I am mistaken; let this be for the record.

7. The whitened locale should have a baseboard in order to preserve it.

8. Contact Martini to draw up his bills. Encourage him, stimulate him, and try to get him to be reasonable; send me then the receipt of deposit.

9. I authorize you to collect the room and board, according to our rule, from de Castris, until his subdiaconate; include this in your economic report.

10. I expressly forbid the pouring of water into the barrels.

11. From Martini, get what you feel is of value and enter that on Martini's page; send me the receipt of deposit along with an exact explanation.

12. Leave the granary where it is until my arrival there.

13. I will recommend the Brothers to Father Biagio in an upcoming maildelivery. But, without too much anxiety, it would be good for you to alert him, so that Father Biagio will know, etc.

² This letter has no date. Verili notes: "Reply sent October 29, 1835". Also, in this letter, St. Gaspar announces that the two boardingstudents in Sermoneta will be arriving on the day before the vigil of All Saints, that is, on October 30. So, this letter must be considered anterior to that date. Hence, we assign the date as: End of October.

³ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁴ Father Camillo Rossi.

14. The chapels for the BoardingSchool can be the ones that I designated in the big section; and, I believe that by having that large section provided with an opening from the inside but walled up from the outside, we would have that perfect *clausura* that I am seeking. The altar would be set up where the doorway is now; this, in my judgment, will allow more light for the chapels as well as for the corridor. Talk this over with Father Biagio and, go ahead and have this done, if you have the material on hand and the expense is not too great. As for the outside branch, in time, depicted should be a *porta finta*.⁵ I hope that I have made this clear. For the Retreatants, there is that large chapel where the young men of the S. Luigi group meet. In time, they will have their chapel where the granary is, which is presently to remain where it is. Let me know what ideas you people have as well as the difficulties you encounter. If everything is made clear and especially given approval by Father Biagio, then the execution can go forward. However, I do not know whether I have explained my views clearly enough. Be careful that the plastering is always the kind that is used for sacred things, *et ne in profanos usos, etc.*⁶

15. With regard to the Masses which they give with the soap, make a decision in congressus with Father Biagio *bene omnibus perpensis*.⁷ In Rome, soap is worth six *bajocchi* the *libra*. I am now speaking of the usual kind; regulate yourselves.

16. Let me know whether a single sacred stone is needed.

17. I repeat, the boardingschool is to be restricted, like the one in Albano. Only those who are considered apt are to be admitted to probation, etc. Sermoneta is a House of probation.

18. The rooms for the Brothers are the ones in the large section which correspond with that narrow terrazza that leads to the rooms. Let me know how many rooms there are and by whom they are occupied. Later I will come to a decision, making known whether I will want or not want to leave the entranceway on the outside.

19. Let me know how many Brothers are actually needed.

20. Concerning NN., that will be handled in an upcoming maildelivery; in the meantime, *nihil innovetur*.⁸

21. In the large section, I reserve for myself the painted room and for Bartolomeo⁹ the one next to mine. With regard to the chairs, a certain order should be observed, for example, the older ones for the helpers etc. Describe for me what is still in my room and in Bartolomeo's. Tell me again where you are residing, where Father Biagio resides, where the others are and describe for me what things have been provided etc. and what is still needed etc.

⁵ A false door.

⁶ And not for profane uses.

⁷ Everything being well considered.

⁸ Let there be no innovation.

⁹ Bartolomeo Panzini.

23. If, without incurring further expenses, there is lumber available, have doors made for the two rooms in the boardingschool. Later we will discuss the rest. In general, I am authorizing you to go ahead with those doors, maintaining the greatest possible thrift. I note from your letter that you have gotten the tables. So, contact the carpenter and let us make haste. Likewise order as many of the small adaptable tables that may precisely be needed.

24. As for the chairs, do not purchase them; I will be sending another 12 from my house; thus, I hope that this will sufficiently take care of this provision. Pray, please, even for temporalities.

25. Then, with reference to the provision for wine, see whether you can get it for Masses; you look into this, deciding in congressus how much would be needed.

26. With regard to cheese, I will check with Bartolomeo as soon as he gets back from Terracina.

27. Send me a prompt response and in detail, about the coverlets etc.; whoever has a quilt, that is enough; let us check to see how many are available for wintertime and without their being padded. Write in detail and find the time.

28. Since there are ten rooms in the boardingschool, eight are to be assigned to boarders, including yourself, the ninth one is for Father Biagio and the tenth is for the Brother for the boardingschool who would be Emidio. He is to be given the lessdesirable room from those above the entranceway. I hope that I have made myself clear.

29. Of the rooms above the entranceway, one will be for Father Biagio, one for Emidio, one for the student deacon Ridolfi; and we are to give him everything. After Father Biagio decides, reserve the nicer one. Have Father Biagio make his choice *ut dixi*.¹⁰ Student Carpini from Sermoneta as well as de Castris, since they are diocesan, I would like to have them located in the rooms along the corridor where Minotti is. You already indicated where, etc.

30. In closing off the entrance to the vault, namely, the opening in that small corridor (you understand me), you are to put there a screen, made of glass and coppered fitting, so as not to cut off the light. The copper is to be painted yellow. The deaconboarders from Sermoneta will be arriving on the day before the vigil of All Saints. On the vigil itself, the little burros are to return.

31. Remind me of whatever I may have overlooked. Write with ease and comfort, but in detail, since these things are of very great interest.

32. School will begin on November 3rd and I will point out the treatises, etc.

33. When did de Castris enter?

34. The boardingschool is being filled. Be advised to make preparations, etc. I am

G. C. d. B.

I will be sending a bit of money. Prayers. Tell Carpini, as soon as he gets there, that at the beginning of November he will be getting the paper that he knows about etc.

¹⁰ As I said.

3003

October 31, 1835
Fr. Mattia Cardillo
Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Mattia

Instead of providing help in Macerata Feltria for the time of our Retreat and Advent, we shall provide help for Cesena. So you might go there, using the shortest route; thus, also, you will not have worries about economy. Check to see which is the shortest route; get traveling papers, if necessary etc. If you can get a burro from Macerata to be used up to a certain point; at least some savings can be made. Otherwise, take the carriage and you will be reimbursed when you get there. With that carriage, Liparelli will be going back to Pennabilli; the expenses should be divided, as is our rule. Since, on November 21st, Liparelli must be in Macerata, you should seek to be in Cesena by the 12th of the month, making it possible for Liparelli to be in Penna on the 15th. He will make the visitation in five days, with the matter previously arranged, and then on the 21st to move on to Macerata. With this understanding in mind, NN. will be getting a letter from me in Cesena. In the meanwhile, I shall not worry about anything else. The *exequatur etc.* is up to you. Keep happy, very, very happy and set aside any feelings of dejection. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 31, 1835

3004

October 31, 1835
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Let me know with greater precision, in addition to your deposit, what more you need for the cassock to be taken care of through Masses. I am writing in a hurry. While awaiting one of your letters, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 31¹¹

3005

November 8, 1835

Fr. Livio Fassini

Abate of the Cistercians

Rome

Very reverend Father President

The information which I received from the Superior of our Missionaries in Frosinone is very good with regard to the young man Cioci. Now it will be necessary that Appoloni, directed by your most reverend paternity, should complete the lettercorrespondence so that this matter can be brought to a conclusion. If he wishes, he can, in my name, correspond with the Superior of our Institute in Frosinone; his name is "Fr. Camillo Rossi". Recommend me often to God. If ever you should be in need of something, I shall be in Rome on the evening of the 13th of this month. With complete respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Velletri, November 8, 1835

P. S. I thought it best to contact our companions in Frosinone since, in that way, I would be able to get clearer information.

3006

November 12, 1835

La Madre M. Teresa Cherubina

Monastero di S. Maria del Buon Consiglio

Velletri per Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Mother Abbess

On my way through Albano, returning to Rome, I am answering your most venerable letter, not having had time before this.

I give thanks to God for the Nun about whom you wrote; that shows just how perseverance in prayer obtained what was hoped for.

I just do not see how it could be for the glory of God to approve your desire to set up another Monastery, even for a while; and I would vote negative. At any rate, you can consult the very excellent Vicar General; I have not considered mentioning even a single syllable until the

¹¹ The year appears to be 1835 (cfr. the letter (n. 3013) to him of December 1, 1835, in which he refers to the deposit, as he does here). During this period of time, Father Bracaglia was in Rimini (cfr. the letter (n. 2980) to him of September 24, 1835).

matter has matured a bit more. May the Lord give you his holy inspiration.

With regard to the Retreat, let me know if you would like it at the last part of Carnival time; for that period, I will see what I can do to correspond in the best way with your wishes. Who knows, I myself might be able to come in person, unless God should manifest his will to be otherwise. If that date is not acceptable, then, at the beginning of Lent. I ask you to send a line in reply to Rome.

Recommend me and have others pray a lot for me to God; consider me with esteem and respect as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Give my regards to the Nun, etc.

(Albano) November 12, 1835

3007

November 15, 1835

Fr. Livio Fassini

Abate of the Cistercians

Rome

Venerable Father

Enclosed is the reminder concerning the young man that I am proposing to you. You can be sure that he will be to your satisfaction. Recommend me to God. Give my greetings to Father Benigni. With complete respect for you, most reverend Paternity, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

November 15, 1835

3008

November 17, 1835

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

Here I am sending a response to your most appreciated letter.

1. Our Institute is quite severely burdened and is unable to go along with the project that you were kind enough to propose to me in one of your most esteemed letters concerning the cleric Macciocchi, basing my judgment on the policies which I communicated to you in one of

my previous most humble letters. I could not do anything else than to write to you in this fashion just as I have had to give the same reply to others. I do not deny that someone from among our group had shown some facility *quoad modum*;¹² but, in these days, our Institute can only adhere to a system of impartiality.

2. Indeed, send the two carriages to Frosinone for the morning of December 5th, so that at nightfall the Triduum can begin, just as you suggested in your letter. This arrangement would not be possible before that time since our Missionaries, will be in Retreat in preparation for the feast of the great Xavier. So, without any further discussion, let us have this understanding. I will send word to Frosinone, to the Superior of the House.

3. With regard to the cleric Cocchi, who I suppose is a truly pious person, I would say that he should, without anguish about the time, wait until the subdiaconate. In the meantime, have him introduced to the Missionary who is coming. You will agree with me that our most reverend Monsignor is doing right when he goes, just as he always does, very calmly in the matter of ordinations.

4. Please tell Canon Quattrociocchi that the young man that he is proposing for the brotherhood in our Institute should be introduced to the Missionary who will be coming.

5. Enclosed is the sample of the medals which I was able to procure. The medals, however, to which the sample refers, cost two *baiocchi* each, as of now. Let me know how many you wish to have, including different ones of the Immaculate Conception.

6. Your correspondence to me should be sent to "Rome." I shall be awaiting your reply. I kiss your hands, as I recommend myself to your prayers. With the fulness of esteem, respect and affection, I am and will constantly be

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, November 17, 1835

3009

November 20, 1835

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Camerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

I am limiting myself to three things:

1) Brandimarte will be going to Preci for the Retreat (unless I am mistaken) along with Brother Pietro from Prossedi. Have them check the faculties, etc. It is understood that this will be after the feast of Xavier.

2.) Until you are in the grave, God wishes to have you in the Institute.

3) Write to the Archbishop that he is to remove the retreatant. Anything more will be left

¹² As to the manner.

ad alias;¹³ and, during the Retreat, pray and have others pray for me, who am

Your humble

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

Rome, November 20, (1835)¹⁴

It should be made of wood or cut lumber, and I suppose, according to the rule, as you would say, having first the approval of the Congressus, etc.

Santarelli will go to the Seminary in Camerino, but he must return there, if there is urgent need.

3010

November 21, 1835

Domenico Antonio Gagliardi

Castelforte

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Domenico Antonio

Enclosed is what you requested with regard to devotion to St. Xavier, our great protector. In the books of sacred hymns there is also a song in honor of the Saint.

May God bless your apostolate.

Finally, if God wills that I should pass again through your locality, I will let you know.

I shall not fail to pray for you and for your wife. Both of you do the same for me. Everyone sends you their regards. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, November 21, 1835

3011

November 25, 1835

Felice Corbi Velletri

Most esteemed sir

Father Abate President of the order of Cistercians in S. Bernardo in Rome has accepted you for the novitiate. Enclosed is the notification of what is needed. If you have need of further

¹³ For another time.

¹⁴ The year is derived from the Congressi that were held in Pievevitorina on November 23 and December 2, 1835, where they discussed the wood of a felled cherry tree, which, in Meloni's opinion, should not be used for firewood, since it could be serviceable for other things. Also, they discussed the Retreats at Preci (in the diocese of Norcia) and the one for the Seminary in Camerino, given respectively by Fr. Raffaele Brandimarte and Fr. Nicola Santarelli.

clarification, write to the abovementioned Father Abate. Here is the address: *Reverendissimo Padre Abate Fassini, Presidente Generale dei Cistercensi in S. Bernardo, Roma*. Required would be a letter of gratitude for having been accepted. For additional clarity I am enclosing the letter of Father Abate which I would like returned addressed to me with an outer covering. So, God has heard your desires. Your novitiate will be in Rome. Since your vocation has been examined for some notable time because of your age, it will be good not to delay further. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 25, 1835

3012

November 27, 1835

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

In order to obtain the Marra papers, let me know, at least approximately at what time they were submitted to Rome in the *Segreteria della Fabrica*. Safeguarding respect for all the ordinands, the Monsignor is doing right in adhering to the method that you have indicated to me. With regard to Father Vincenzo Gargari, I see the situation, at least for now, as irreconcilable. Where are patrimonies to be found? With difficulty perhaps some sort of chaplaincy for one or the other young boardingstudent, but, I repeat "with difficulty". At any rate, offer prayers. I will keep this in mind in case something should come up; but, the situation is quite difficult. Still, God is marvelous in the workings of his providence. In the meantime, the Oratory and the pious organizations there can be your apostolate. How much does your benefice there bring you? See that you maintain direct correspondence with me etc. I am in a hurry, but, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, November 27, 1835

P. S. I have written the cost for the medals to Father Camillo to whom I have sent them.

3013

December 1, 1835

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

All of the 10 Masses given to you by de Victoriis should have been celebrated at a privileged altar, observing the semi-doubles for the privilege. For my own peace of mind, please write to me about this.

You will receive or probably have already received the six *scudi* requested by you as part of your deposit and as part of the anticipated Mass offerings. Therefore, you will celebrate 20 Masses. I shall be awaiting the usual notification of this at the earliest possible time. I myself shall send you the postal costs *pro hac vice*.¹⁵

I have already reimbursed the 3,50 *scudi* received from you in Pievetorina. Now, you are to send a detailed report of the expenses of your trip along with that of Toselli. I shall be awaiting this in the regular maildelivery.

While on Retreat etc, I am, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. d. B.

Albano¹⁶

3014

December 5, 1835
Fonziano Morichetti
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ponziano

Next Thursday, I shall be awaiting you in the morning at the time that you judge best, so that you can have your usual breakfast at my place. Recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House, December 5, 1835

3015

December 6, 1835
Fr. Vitale Corbucci
Fossombrone

¹⁵ For this other time.

¹⁶ The month and the day (December 1st) are derived from the postal markings. The year must be 1835 (cfr. the letter (n. 3027) to him of December 19, 1835). Merlini affirms, though not with assurance, that St. Gaspar went to Albano for the spiritual Retreat in 1835.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Father Vitale

It has been quite some time now since I sent you the 13,60 *scudi* as your reimbursement. I would appreciate getting a line or so that you have received that money in the mails. The delivery has been paid for and the small bag returned to the coachman.

I give you my most sincere thanks for the many inconveniences that you have endured in my behalf. My remembrance of you is indelible and I, in my wretchedness, do not cease recommending you to God, certain of your reciprocal charity, so that through your help I will be able to prepare myself well for the eternal years. With this letter, I wish you an abundant supply of celestial blessings during the holy mysteries for which the Church is now preparing us. I kiss your hands. Give my best wishes to the members of your Congregation. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 6, 1835

3016

December 5, 1835

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I would need some thread for making stockings. It is to be boiled but not bleached. Send me 15 *libre* along with that, a bit of cloth or good material for making shirts and bed sheets for our lay helpers. As usual, I leave it up to you to determine the quantity. Please excuse the numerous inconveniences that I bring you. *Dominus*, I always repeat, *retribuet pro me*.¹⁷ I am in a hurry. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 5, 1835

3017

December 8, 1835

Fr. Pietro Chiarelli

Civitella Roveto

Hail to the Divine Blood

¹⁷ He will repay on my behalf.

Most esteemed Father Pietro

I have never lost sight of the nunto. Recently I gave the Retreat to the Battistine nuns in Rome, and while maintaining respect for others, I discovered a very, very exemplary community. Their life is a perfect communal type and an emphyteusis is not required. Needed is an output of money to help out the postulant; there is no other remedy.

Furthermore I note that the means which the young lady has are not coming in. It would be necessary to contact people who would go along with this. It might be possible to have a pontifical restript declare that she is capable of participating in the endowments established for Roman women. Beyond this, I do not know of other means available. I have sent word to the confessor of the Battistine, whose name is Father Bonaventura di Luca, and also have contacted the Abbess with whom you, also, might correspond by mail. I would like to hope that there would be perhaps some discount or other, in particular with regard to food supplies. In Rome, the expenses, generally speaking, are going up. However, if she were to become a nun outside of Rome, things would be easier. Contact also Baron Coletti. Above all, let us pray. If she would like to be a *Maestra pia*, this could be concluded with little difficulty. Check to see what she desires. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.
 Rome, December 8, 1835

3018

December 8, 1835
 Student Fr. Francesco Verili
 Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Francesco
 Here is a new bill:
 For an umbrella

1,00 *scudi*
 6,10 *scudi*

Cloth for Brother Antonio with lining
 Chairs, for favorable meetings, to be valued at 20 *bajocchi* each
 Draw up the inventory etc.

The painting is donated by me. Tighten up on the economy. With regard to the small variety of salami, I think that they can be used for trips with permission; in regard to the shortage of rice, there might be a mistake in the weighing. Let us let it be. However, I do praise you for your diligence.

Be insistent about Martini's bills. Later, he will come under the economy of Sonnino. The economist is to take care of collecting the room and board from the aforementioned Martini.

Even a lighter door will be sufficient to maintain the *clausura* of the boardingschool. I shall be sending the holy stone for the new chapel. It is already completed.

With regard to the jerseys, generally speaking, they are not used except in particularly different climes; likewise we do not concern ourselves with such cares and our Brothers are not accustomed to be given such things. At any rate, if the community of the Missionaries, in congressus, thinks that one or the other should be provided with jerseys, after having considered my reasons, then let the economist see that they are obtained wherever they can be found. I would conclude: let only the gardeners have them when they are working out in the open. However, the cook is very close to the fire; the sacristan is wearing his old cassock and waistcoat like the cook. So, let us set our way clearly on this. Talk it over with Father Biagio; on this subject, the policy is to be clear.

It is necessary that you send me an ostensible letter and it should speak of nothing else than to say that you have no other patrimonial title than the pension. The reason is that someone, by some involuntary error, questioned me: whether you were provided for, quoting Father Pallotta.¹⁸ I asked Father Pallotta and he replied to me that he thought that you told him that you were provided for. I answered: it is a mistake. At any rate, send a brief letter which you will compose along with Father Biagio¹⁹ saying: In reference to the patrimony, I assure you that, etc., etc.." Hasten in making this report, etc.

Giuseppe must have a sufficient supply of shirts. Investigate further with regard to the number etc.

Be insistent, and energetically so, with the Commune's taxcollector. In this matter, have Father Biagio write to the Delegate or check first with the Prior etc.

With regard to oil, the economist might contact Pedini to see whether the House in Vallecorsa has any for sale. Then, gather together in congressus and make the policies clear. Write to me. In the meantime, I urge you to be vigilant with the economy, always safeguarding the necessary things; let this be understood.

I already spoke in community about breakfast. When it is fasting time, a couple of fingers of wine along with a theologically small piece of toast, in accordance with usage. Coffee is not to be given except to one who appropriately needs it and not for reasons of delicacy, for breakfast is not for that purpose. Be insistent about this, having discussed it with Father Biagio and Father Gentili. Indeed, I have ordered the sugar. Breakfast will be a bit more salutary. In Albano, *nemine excepto*,²⁰ breakfast. For Lent, thought will be given to the small keg etc. even though Terracina is nearby. In time, you will look into that.

I will be trying to get the chaplaincy for de Castris. Prayers.

¹⁸ St. Vincenzo Pallotti.

¹⁹ Father Biagio Valentini

²⁰ No one being excepted.

I would like to have from you, in detail, the distribution of the rooms along with the furnishings and the beds that they have, so that I can decide about other things, namely, the library etc. I am trusting in your diligence. Individual rooms where all of our men are to reside. I urge you to take care of the archives, the arrangements for the visitation, and also the legacies, etc., etc.. I am trusting in their conscientious fulfillment. Have Father Biagio convene a congressus.

With reference to the money collected in Piperno, I said that you should retain two *scudi*, the rest to be used for the economy; for me, send a receipt. With regard to the eight *scudi* given by your father, six *scudi* to me for October (unless I am mistaken) and two *scudi* to you. Later, along with your father, you can think about the allowance. I will give an accounting to you when I receive the bill and I will send the money.

It would be a good idea to write to Father Pallotta that you have no other patrimonial title, etc., addressing the letter, for forwarding, to Seminario Romano all'Appolinare. With regard to the application of the Masses, I would say: if you need something for yourself, ask for it. The remainder is to be for extraordinary expenses for the ministry, and, in particular, for Missions etc. Let me know if you would prefer doing otherwise, and you will be obeyed.

Tell NN. that in the *meum*, he should move forward with the merit of obedience; he is not to be worried about what passes through his mind. More about spiritual matters within a few days. Prayers and trust in God.

Let me know whether I have forgotten anything. I am

G. C. d. B.

Rome, December 8²¹

Celebrate 20 Masses immediately, and with a sheet etc.²²

3019

December 10, 1835

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, December 10, 1835

With regard to Canon Spoglia, please repeat for me the plan that he intends to carry out, since he writes to me that he is persevering in his vocation. Let me know about his studies and his age, and, while I have no doubts about his health, whether in addition to his good health he has any other defects. I am writing this, presupposing indeed that he has the desire to enter. Likewise, that after renouncing his canonry, whether he has a patrimonial title. If he wishes to enter the Cistercian novitiate, just as another person who has written to me, he, too should write

²¹ The year is 1835, as is derived from the postal markings, as well as from the text of the letter.

²² This postscript is found on the fourth siding, near the address.

to me including the details, as I indicated above, so that I can present this to the Superior. I can better accomplish this after I have received a reply to this letter of mine. Furthermore, I urge him to make his decision as he would make it if he were at the point of death.

Presently, I am trying to obtain a chaplaincy for your nephew.²³ Pray for a successful effort. One more thing, I fear that your community does not care to have you bear the burdens that you endure for the House in Sonnino. Speak out clearly, as I keep pondering.

As for spiritual matters, at another occasion. Meanwhile, to me it seems that one sees our present time as a deplorable one. Prayers, in particular for me, weighted down with worries, etc., etc..

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3020

December 11, 1835

Giovanni Battista Flori

Guarcino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Giovanni Battista

Oh how happy I was to see your handwriting again! May the Lord increase in you and in your companions the zeal for his glory, especially during these times in which we find ourselves. If you wish to have the Mission during Lent, it will be necessary that I know it in time and also have a letter from the bishop. However, in Lent I myself will not be able to come; I will send worthy workers. If, for example, it would be after the Epiphany, or, in general, before Lent, I would do everything I could to come there in person. This would also be so if it were arranged for after Lent. In regard to these dates, confer with the Vicar Cecacci, to whom you will extend my humble greetings, and please send me your reply as soon as possible. If, in my place, another were to be sent, there would be no difference, as long as God will be glorified. Good work will be done and the pious organizations will be revived. With these thoughts, then, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, December 11, 1835

3021

December 11, 1835

Missionary Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

²³ Enrico de Castris.

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

With pleasure did I see your handwriting again. You will be obeyed with regard to the 12 francs of postage in reference to what pertains to Bernabei. But, indeed, it is a good thing to make the payment, since I do not have a way of having Pievetorina cover the payment. The postage comes to 24 *bajocchi* to which I add another six *bajocchi* and for these 30 *bajocchi*, you are to celebrate for me two Masses; as soon as you have celebrated them, send me a separate document of this so that it can be cut off from one of your letters. With greatest eagerness I shall be awaiting the notification with regard to the 30 Masses; these call for a sheet indicating the specific days of their celebration. As time goes on, another sheet covering those previously sent. As for the offerings, we are all even. The six *bajocchi* shall remain on deposit for your further disposition. Let me know whether I am to send the packet of 12 *scudi*. Perhaps I have already done that; but you wished to be alerted, so I will be awaiting your instructions.

In reference to your nephew, I would not know where to locate him. If you know that in Rome there are positions available for young men from the Marche, send a petition to the one in charge, getting information with the Archbishop's recommendations. I, in as far as I can, will offer my prayers for success in this effort. Prayers. Continue more and more preparing instructive materials. Recommend me to God, and, while kissing your hands, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, December 11, 1835

3022

December 11, 1835

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Montalto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, December 11, 1835

Most esteemed Canon

I thank you most sincerely for your good wishes during the mysteries for which the Church is preparing us. May the Lord *repleat in bonis desiderium tuum*.²⁴ Read in my heart the extent of my pleading for every blessing of sweetness during the upcoming solemnity in whatever may be your need. With regard to the impediment to your leaving, this has been a disposition of God in order to establish well this matter of the canonry and residence, in order to

²⁴ Your desire is fulfilled in good things.

allow you to be totally at ease. In the meantime, continue activating there, evermore and more, the devotion to the Divine Blood, the Oratory and other good works to the benefit of souls, and let us frequently repeat: "May the will of God be done".

Write to me in the springtime, for at that time, I will provide you with a letter for that Superior and that House where God wishes to have you. Perhaps, it might well be the one in Nepi, where the air is gentle, located on a coachline roadway following Civita Castellana, and where, with facility, one can find whatever is needed. If you prefer to go to Giano, then tell me so. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3023

December 14, 1835

To a priest

Rome

Very reverend Canon

Enclosed is a memorandum which I recommend to your charity. I am hopeful that there is some sort of vacant chaplaincy available; we would see to the fulfillment of the obligations; it would be sufficient for a patrimonial title, something that might be indicated in the appointment, at least with a *donec aliter provideatur*.²⁵ The young man is already at the age for receiving the subdiaconate; the only thing lacking, I repeat, is having a title. He is located in the BoardingSchool for our young men in Sonnino of the diocese of Piperno. I believe that he is a native of Piperno; that, however, is purely incidental. I could have written that, but in order not to prolong the matter, I would say that in the appointment it would be sufficient to cite the name, the family name, and an indication that he is *ex diocesi Priverni*. However, just as I am writing this, someone has assured me that the young man is really a native of Piperno²⁶

With total esteem, respect and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

House, December 14, 1835

3024

December 15, 1835

Fr. Mattia Cardillo

²⁵Unless it is otherwise foreseen.

²⁶ In all probability, this is dealing with a chaplaincy for Enrico de Castris (cfr. the letters (n. 3018 and n. 3019) to Verili of December 8, 1835 and to the nun, de Castris, of December 10, 1835).

Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Mattia

As a natural secret, let me know, would you voluntarily return to Sermoneta? I would have you nearby, and I could assign you to proportionate duties. Be assured that the atmosphere is good, even though not elastic, ever since the termination of brigandry. The terrain and the territory of Bassiano is cultivated. We have planned a hospice. There one could enjoy good health. But all this is still only a plan, for presently, before Advent comes to a close, I keep on working out a balance. Keep this between us, for now I am just praying and have come to no definite decision.

Another possibility. With you still remaining in Romagna, where would you be more willing to go? Would you ultimately return to Giano? I repeat, this is all just in the planning stage and, up to now, just for the record. I shall send a reply to your letter and to NN. In the meantime, tell NN., in regard to the career which he has embraced, that he can be completely sure that it is a temptation *sub specie boni*,²⁷ only capable of raising doubts or questions *utrum*, etc.²⁸ One single observation: whoever lives in community participates in its good, etc., adds his influence, goes along with it, and assists it *pro viribus*²⁹ through his prayer, good example, advice etc. *Agitur de bono maximae gloriae Dei*.³⁰ Good work is being done elsewhere, but in addition, it is to be done by the one whom God sends etc. and not indeed by one who has been, in a general way, sent out to the apostolate. For NN. this is not to the greater glory of God. Each time that this temptation arises, it should be rejected and not heeded. I shall consider the rest, etc., etc., etc.. Using the mails, send me a reply. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 15, 1835

3025

December 17, 1835

Missionary Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

²⁷ Under the appearance of good.

²⁸ Whether, etc.

²⁹ In accord with one's strength.

³⁰ There is a question about the greatest work for the glory of God.

Dear Father Giovanni Chiodi

For Sermoneta. A bill

An umbrella (for the use of the Brothers)

1,00 *scudi*

Cheese 60 libre

4,00 "

Iron 100 libre

1,70

Delivery to Rome

0,20 "

To the carter who delivered the iron to be used in
Velletri and the porter in Velletri

0,10 "

Dried codfish 20 libre

0,80 "

For Nicodemo, a cassock

4,40 "

For Montagna and Leoni, trousers and jersey with lining
For the repair of a reliquary

3,60 "

0,50 "

A skullcap for Nicodemo

0,15 "

A cincture for the same

0,50 "

A collar for Montagna

0,10 "

A cincture, for Leoni

0,50 "

Handkerchiefs for the same

0,22 "

Stockings

0,50 "

Shirts

	0,63 "
Stockings for Andrea	
	0,50 "
A skullcap for the same	
	0,08 "
Stockings for the same	
	<u>0,40 "</u>
	19,88 "

You are to withdraw that sum and make a report of it in the respective books, as has been directed several times. If you have any doubts, ask.

You probably have received 20 *scudi* from Albano. Add this to the receipt. Then, I do not understand (perhaps it is not you) how one writes to me and at times the same things are repeated to Merlini. This is a multiplication of postal costs, because Merlini then writes to me. Give this your attention; identify what pertains to me and then write about them to me; when consultation is to be had with Merlini, do that and there will be order just as is observed in our other Houses. Send someone to collect 30 *scudi* from Norma; I am planning to make use of these 30 *scudi* after some correspondence with Buffoni, while you are making that collection. Meanwhile, our lettercorrespondence will keep things clear and we will be in agreement. See that the collection for oil is not overlooked; I am trusting in your activity and zeal. Let me know, when Advent comes to a close, what has been donated. Father Biagio³¹ will handle the Lenten series.

Do not give away the acorn crop. This will be used for our burros. Have our Brothers gather them and preserve them, at least as many of them as possible. Send me a reply on this. With all due respect to them, I do not care to have outsiders involved, and in another year it could become troublesome. Whoever is able should recover the small basket. It can always be used in the house, etc.

With regard to the doctor and surgeon, either one makes an acknowledgment during a long illness and nothing is given at Christmas and August, or, something is given at Christmas and August and nothing during the period of illness, except for some coffee when they come. Otherwise, the prudent thing is that the precise dates be decided in a congressus, and a memorandum of it should be kept. Give me the results. If oil is needed, I would say get it from Ricelli or Calleri. Insist on the establishment of the marble Cross, erected by Father Balducci, in the place that you know about. Give me information about the hospice, the area and any other details.

I sent the lumber for the rooms.

Be insistent in behalf of the petitions from Velletri, and, if necessary, pay the postage for a letter to Filippo Marchetti who is in Velletri, cognizant of the situation.

It will be necessary that the hospice be emptied of anyone who is there, so that some

³¹ Father Biagio Valentini.

stuccowork can be done wherever needed. If they wish to release that piece of furniture, make a note of this and we will put it to use, recommending that it be preserved. In everything, you are to proceed slowly; have a consultation in congressus, and keep me informed. In this way, good order will be maintained. Let us be in agreement.

When Advent concludes, NN. can give me a report on the status of his soul, and we will take it from there. Tell him this etc.

Pray a lot for me. Soon, I shall be sending the third Missionary. Prepare well the room where Alderisio lived.

With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 1?, 1935

P. S. I met with Lawyer Angelini and he gave me his promise. When you send him your season's greetings, be insistent *ut ex se*.³² I am speaking of the moral cases. I visited your nephew in the *Academia Ecclesiastica*; I recommended the same thing; but he said nothing to me about a vocation.

In regard to the bridge in Pievetorina, I am doing all that I can.

I urge you to look after the welfare of that House.

Whenever a carter happens to be coming to Rome, send him to me because I would like to ship 12 chairs. From this moment, you can enter in your books the price of 20 *bajocchi* for each one. Four of them you are to place in my room and eight in the large reception room. The others can be divided methodically. Put order in the rooms for the Retreatants and write to me.

3026

December 17, 1835

Fr. Luigi Cocci

Todi

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

With pleasure did I see your handwriting again and I recognize the zeal that stimulates you ever more and more for the glory of God, the only center for every true good.

The Missionaries of St. Vincent de Paul went to the Mission in Amelia because of a last will and testament granted to that Congregation, as far as I could discover. I would not be able, however, to give you the names or the persons whom God has directed to handle the welfare of those souls.

Let us now take up the matter of Todi. In the first place, it is some ten years now. That job was not of my doing, but, it seems to me it was due at the time to the very excellent, most

³² As from itself.

revered bishop who wanted it. It was not possible to fulfill that request, because of previous commitments of the ministry and because he wanted me to come in person. On the other hand, it would have been carried out by some companions of mine and with the grace of God, fruitfully. I recall now that my companions went ultimately to the Mission in Cesi; they were Father Beniamino Romani, Father Nicola Santarelli and Father Vincenzo Cotini. But never, as I mentioned above, to Amelia.

I feel that I will not have to write to your bishop since this correspondence with you, who have assumed this responsibility, will be sufficient. This is a better way since you are so wellacquainted with our things. The method will be adapted, more or less, since, as you know, we are accustomed to vary things, but holding firmly to what is substantial.

With regard to the time, in Lent I am engaged already in such a way that for me personally to come, I do not have a single day free. So, it would be necessary for me to send my confreres, and you can be sure that they will be from the select group. Starting from now, I have set the time for after Easter. You will be obeyed. If you prefer to have it before Lent, that, too, would be all right, as long as you write to me immediately and definitely. It could then begin around the middle of January in such a way that the Mission can be concluded by the beginning of February. Or, approximately so. You refine the plan. *Patet ergo cor meum.*³³

Send me now any questions you may have and let me know what else, in the Lord, you think will be good. Give my sincere regards to the most reverend bishop. I recommend myself to your prayers, certain of your reciprocal charity. While kissing your hands and renewing myself as always with esteem, respect and particular affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome (headquarters for my correspondence) December 17, 1835

P. S. May you have every blessing of sweetness during the upcoming mysteries. Pray for me.

3027

December 19, 1835

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, December 18, 1835

Most esteemed Father Orazio

With regard to the soul of NN., I shall be awaiting a page of explanation so that I will be able to send him a response. Let us be in agreement. Discussion has already been had concerning

³³ Therefore my heart is open.

the method that must be observed.

The offerings for the 20 Masses are already on deposit. Do you wish it so? All that is needed is a line or so. I have set their amount at 15 *bajocchi* based on the policy that the remainder is surrendered for the benefit of the Institute. With us, indeed, it is a rare, a very rare case of having Masses with the offering of 20 *bajocchi*. Let me know if doing it this way is all right with you.

It is necessary that you speak to me in greater detail about our affairs and our men. Do it in such a way that I will be able to comprehend it. I am speaking of whatever is communicable. I direct our families to be restrictive since I do not like taking on debts. In time, we will be increasing in numbers. Meanwhile, I keep seeking to maintain a balance. With the end of Advent days, everything will be in good order. Prayers. Have I forgotten anything? I urge observance of the rule, and I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 19³⁴

3028

December 19, 1835

Student Fr. Francesco Verili

Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, December 19, 1835

Most esteemed Father Francesco

Here I am with a reply to your most appreciated letter.

1. Do not fail to send to your house the documentation of what you received by way of pension through me, and what I have received, I will send. Do this for my peace of mind.

2. Pallotti's letter has indicated well that every error should be avoided with regard to patrimony.

3. The allotment for grandfather was conditioned on *donec provideatur*;³⁵ so, it has been stopped. Now, please send me a copy of the extension of the petition for the pension obtained, so that the motives can be noted. Indeed, you might consult with Father Biagio,³⁶ if you think you should, and then write to me and indicate those motives. For the sake of brevity, you could also note them in compendium form. In the meanwhile, let me know whether your grandfather's

³⁴ He repeats the date, but one day different.

³⁵ Until it is foreseen.

³⁶ Father Biagio Valentini

money is all to go to your father or whether it is to be divided by both of you. With the supposition that it is all to go to your father, then could you, in this complexity of circumstances, end up with nothing? From this moment, I point out that I would not want you to renounce anything of what belongs to you or might be coming to you. In some necessary instance, I suspend all judgment. Let us exchange our ideas. I hope that I have made myself clear.

To make a better decision, it is helpful to acknowledge the dispositions of the law, that is, in case you would be able to be pensioned. There is no need to hurry the decision; and in making a renunciation, one should be mindful of a certain repugnance to justice. Charity, perfection in actions taken, has presently no place. I repeat, you might consult with Father Biagio, explaining the situation to him, and he might supply you with a solution. Altogether different is the case of one who conceals the truth and exposes the false, something which surely does not hold in your case, having no doubts about the procedure which has been taken etc.

4. With regard to the room for the boardingstudents, that is all right. Gentili can remain in the BoardingSchool as VicePresident as well as to take over during the absence of Father Biagio. Other matters will be covered in the ordinary maildelivery on Saturday. I am in a hurry.

Your servant

G. C. d. B.

3029

December 22, 1835

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

I shall speak to Cardinal Falzacappa; but let me say that I have little hope about that procedure. At any rate, I shall do whatever I can. I have also written to Father Biagio.³⁷ Ultimately, I would say: get firmly settled in the Institute and in that case your appointment would be to Romagna. If you come to a decision, I will have a meeting after the feastsdays. Your first travel alone will be at your own expense. You are acquainted with the regulations of our Society; however, the expense will be quite small.

While returning to you my own best wishes for the recurring holy mysteries and asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 22, 1835

3030

³⁷ Father Biagio Valentini.

December 24, 1835

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

There are 12 *scudi* and six *bajocchi* that I have sent to Cammerino. The six *bajocchi* result from the remainder of the offering of 30 *bajocchi* for the two Masses that you have already celebrated. So, everything is now in good order. The money was addressed to Camerino to Angelo Bernabei.

In sending, at your convenience, the notification concerning the 50 Masses at a privileged altar, make a note of the privileged altar.

With reference to the young Marchigiani men, if there is room and if there is someone who is responsible for their nominations as well as other things that may be required, try to find in Camerino, or elsewhere, a capable person. In that case, you are to discover whether the petition can be made and how, as well as to whom it is to be addressed and what are the necessary requirements. In the meantime, prayers.

I am sending you 30 Masses which will have to be celebrated in such a way that they are completed by the end of January, if not sooner.

Pray for me during the recurring mysteries. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 24, 1835

3031

December 24, 1835

Fr. Pietro Spina

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pietro

Very happy feastdays! Fioravanti must have received a gift of a *pangiallo* from his folks. (Keep this between us) I have sent 15 *bajocchi* for the decorating of the entranceway.

The room and board, at 50 *scudi*, for the aforementioned Fioravanti, until he is a subdeacon, you are to compute from the first of November, and in computing the trips which are charged to the Institute, I had included some of my own money. He came in late October. Check the enclosed accounting. Send me the receipt for the room and board which I anticipate, since I will then handle it with Luigi's father. This receipt should be a separate one. The other, of the internal order. Check to see what results as a deposit. I am ready to receive any word from you. More than this I cannot do. I delayed in sending an answer because I was very, very busy. During these feastdays, I shall write more at length. Would it not be possible to repair the vault instead

of the girders? With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 24 ³⁸

For the sake of regularity, the transfer of the *Luoghi dei Monti* has been made.

3032

December 28, 1835

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I have received your letter and I am returning my sincere wishes for prosperity and peace in every way possible with the beginning of the new year, and, along with this, huge loads of greater merits for heaven. I am extremely grateful to you for so many ways in which you have shown kindness and gentility. Now, I screw up my courage to beg you to see whether you can find a bit of cloth in your neighboring area, since we have a precise urgency for it. I will be most obliged to you for this. I shall be awaiting the thread, that you mentioned to me, and that is simply another reason for expressing my true feelings of acknowledgment. Likewise, I shall expect the listing of the costs, as I presuppose that they will be about the same as previous ones. In case I have forgotten something, please be kind enough to remind me.

I learned about the holy Mission. May God bless its happy progress. Will we be seeing each other again down here? We pray for that everlasting union in Paradise, the center of every true and solid felicity. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 28, 1835

3033

December 29, 1835

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

³⁸ The year is 1835, evident from the book of congressi for the House in Nepi. In the congressus of November 2, 1835, it says: "the Director General has decided to place in this House a young man for probation in the person of Luigi Fioravanti, to be of assistance in the church services. ... He will pay the annual room and board of fifty *scudi* ..." just as mentioned here in this letter.

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

A request has been sent to me from Rimini for a Missionary to preach the Lenten series in a parish of that same city, giving three sermons per week from a platform, thus observing in everything our Institute's prescriptions, since we have in Rimini a Mission House. Recognizing the need for them to hear another voice, I thought of sending you. From the general supply of preachable materials, it seems to me, you should be able to gather some useful and instructive topics. With a bit of editing, indeed, I would be able to provide you with one or the other sermons, as you, in your own time, will be passing through Rome. You will see that you will be greatly influential in producing a good work. But, if this direction of mine should be the source of anguish for you, then, please consider it as not written. In that case, I would have available a Lenten series in the countryside, in a parish near the city of Rimini, where you would go after the noon meal to deliver sermons of visitation, hence going and returning, in keeping with our practice. Try to go along with me for the one in the city and I will be most obliged to you. Or, at least, accept the one in the countryside.

In Lent, a certain mobility of our men is inevitable because of the requests for preaching Lenten series. I shall be awaiting your reply; I ask you to send it with the greatest possible haste. As time goes by, we will come to an agreement. In the meanwhile, continue doing good work there. I received your recent letter and I understand what you say to me in it. There is the matter of the notification about the Masses, etc., etc.. A thousand thanks to you for your season's greetings *et Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.³⁹ Pray for me always as well as for our Institute, especially during the recurring mysteries.

I sent you some other Masses in my recent letter. Please drop me a line that you have gotten them.

In going to Rimini, I would be happy to have you preach the Marian Month there. God is opening up for you a broad field of activity through which you can become enriched with merits for the beloved fatherland of heaven.

As I now renew my esteem, my respect and special affection for you, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 29, 1835

3034

December 31, 1835

Madre Abbadessa

Monastero della Purificazione

(Roma)

³⁹ And the Lord will repay on my behalf in sweet blessings.

Mother Abbess

I shall be there on Friday, the 8th of January next, at the usual hour, for the Day of Recollection.

I am writing in a hurry. I wish you a Happy New Year with many more to come, all filled with merits for Heaven. Communicate these same good wishes to the Community.

Pray a lot for me, and consider me, with esteem and respect, as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

House (Rome), December 31, 1835

3035

September December, 1835

Fr. Michsle Gentili Sonnino ⁴⁰

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

It has been established by the most illustrious and very reverend Director General that on the Recollection Sundays in those Houses where there is a Boarding School, the following is to be observed.

The sung Mass is not at all be omitted and, if necessary, is to be coordinated effectively with the communion for the people. While the assigned Missionary is putting on the sacred vestments, a boardingstudent, dressed in surplice, will recite, while kneeling on the platform, the prayers for a happy death. Once that is completed, the aforementioned solemn Mass is to immediately follow. After the *Confiteor*, having given the absolution according to the rite, the celebrant will deliver an appropriate short discourse. The so-called Spiritual Praises relating to the most holy Eucharist are to be omitted, and taking their place is to be that special hymn alone which is in keeping with proper choral order.

If both of these functions should not coincide, that is to say, if the people had approached the divine Table on a weekday, then quite properly should the custom be conserved which was in vogue before this present practice originated.⁴¹

In the afternoon of that Recollection Sunday, wherever there is a Boarding School, Vespers may be had, and the Reading is to be omitted. Where there is no Boarding School, before the reform the Reading is to be had.⁴²

⁴⁰ Fr. Michele Gentili was located in Sonnino from December 1835 until January 13, 1837. This letter, determining the norms governing the monthly day of recollection in Houses where there was a Boarding School (the one in Sonnino was reopened in 1835) probably should be assigned to the end of 1835. We have tentatively chosen to date it: September December 1835.

⁴¹ Up to this point, the handwriting is not St. Gaspar's.

⁴² This final paragraph is in St. Gaspar's handwriting.

3036

January 2, 1836
Luigi Baldi
Meldola

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Very grateful to you for the felicitous and religious best wishes that you were kind enough to implore for me from the most merciful God during the recurring mysteries, here I am now, with this most humble letter of mine, offering you my most sincere thanks, while assuring you at the same time that I have not failed nor will I ever fail to reciprocate your charity by imploring, especially through the holy Mass, those blessings of sweetness that you may be hoping for. May the Almighty listen to my pleas addressed to him for those true goods that form the very center of peace for our hearts.

More and more am I edified by the zeal that you show in procuring the wellbeing of our institutions, as well as of the people of Meldola through the Retreat that is being planned for the 4th of March. Indeed, a Missionary will be coming, along with a Brother. You will send to get them on that very morning of March 4th in Cesena, so that after the noon meal, as usual, the Retreat can begin, just as was done last year. This is a holy work that is to be perpetuated. Have no doubts about the member who will be selected for he will be a capable one, and he will be ready in Cesena at the time that was indicated above. I intend to give him the necessary instructions.

You acted quite properly in addressing yourself to Monsignor Vannini, to whom I have recommended you so very highly. Prayers.

As I renew my esteem and respect for you, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 2nd of 1836

P. S. Father Nicola Santarelli will be occupied in the preaching of the Lenten series in our foundation in S. Felice in Giano.

3037

January 2, 1836
Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani
Ancona

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

Grateful, very grateful for the felicitous and religious best wishes that you implored for me from God during the recurring mysteries, here I am now, with this letter of mine, expressing

to you my sincerest sentiments of very particular acknowledgment, overwhelmed as I am with the many examples of incessant kindness with which you remember me. At the holy altar, I have not failed nor will I ever fail to join with you in that holy union of charity in God, from whom I also implore for you, in whatever need you may have, every blessing of sweetness. My dearest Canon, may God grant us that real peace which is found in true love, holy and divine.

Therefore, may devotion to the Divine Blood be our comfort and through it may we be strengthened in our apostolate so that we will work with ever greater fervor wherever we note the greater need among souls. Remembering that God rewards *secundum laborem*,⁴³ let us never cease working for and defending the cause of the glory of his adorable name. May the Association of the Apostles, the Oratory for men, and other branches of good work always be the sources of our delight. Who knows, perhaps God, in this new year that has begun, will provide us with the comfort of seeing each other once again. Prayers, so that his most lovable will be done.

Through the mercy of God, our Society is moving along well. Recommend it in a special way to God, while meditating on those words: "*Ipsi vicerunt draconem propter Sanguinem Agni*".⁴⁴

I kiss your hands. Give my warm greetings to his most reverend Eminence and to anyone else who remembers me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem, respect and always a very deep affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 2nd of 1636

P. S. Be tireless in promoting and spreading our devotion to the Divine Blood. I believe that I have explained the various ways to you.

3038

January 3, 1836

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Rome, 3rd of 1836

Venerable Canon

I am inconveniencing you with this most humble letter of mine in order to find out, please, through the maildelivery, at what time the papers of the Marra legacy were sent to the *Segreteria della Fabrica*, so that we can obtain them, since now everything has been completed; the legacy is fulfilled and brought up to date. Please, send me a response, since these papers are needed for our archives. I seize this opportunity also for recommending myself to your prayers.

⁴³ According to the labor.

⁴⁴ They conquered the dragon because of the blood of the Lamb.

With esteem and respect , I renew myself as
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

P. S. If there should be a young man who is truly called to the novitiate with the Cistercians, as it seems to me that I wrote to you on another occasion, then propose him to me, giving details concerning his age, studies, birth etc.

3039

January 5, 1836
 Madre Maria Maddalena Bonarell
 Monastero di S. Cecilia
 (Rome)

Hail to the Divine Blood

I have been invited to sing Mass tomorrow at the Vincentians.
 Realizing the inconvenience that they have experienced in coming to me, I did not have the heart to refuse them. I realized, too, that I could supply at S. Cecilia at another time.
 Soon we shall see each other again. Pray for me who am with esteem and respect
 Your humble, devoted, obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 House (Rome), 5 of 1836

3040

January 5, 1836
 Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli
 Convittore
 Giano S. Felice

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Rocco

As of now, your brother has gone home with permission.⁴⁵ The time that had been allowed to him has come to an end. We shall see. Prayers. The most Rev. Bishop does not like diocesan men who have been in the Institute to return to their homes. Ordinarily, such meanderings, except for rare cases, do little good. Let that be for the records, and likewise that he know the reasons which motivate me to conduct myself in this manner. Now let us get back to you.

In Fuligno you will receive ten *Scudi* which I am sending addressed to you; and, since I

⁴⁵ A brother of Father Rocco, Fr. Antonio Sebastianelli, was also in the Society, having entered in 1827 as a Boarding Student who was already ordained a priest for several years. Later he left the Institute.

am paying the postal charges, you will be able to get whatever things are most urgent. With reference to the linens and other things that you can get from your home, write and tell them to prepare a bundle and send it on to me; I will then deliver it. This takes care of everything for the present. Write to whomever you wish in Castro.

As far as the Boarding Schools are concerned, experience proves that these Houses of Probation are open to anyone who wishes to come, even already ordained a priest. In accordance with the rules, you should try to come to an understanding with Fr. Beniamino. I have no doubts about the exemplariness of your life principles, of your words or your good conduct. The observations you made on perseverance edify me; I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 5 of 1836

3041

January 5, 1835

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Before we continue our lettercorrespondence with reference to the various projects relating to the glory of God, let me know: would you like to be nearer? In that case, if I were to have a position open for you in Sermoneta, where you can be assured that you will be very happy and for you, being a young man, that House would be good in preparing sermons etc., would you be willing to go there? All of this is still in a planning stage. If it does not please you, I already have someone else to place there.

So, please send me your reply immediately through the mails, otherwise I cannot complete my scheduling. Also, keep this to yourself. Preaching in Albano demands too much; for the present time, that is not the House for you. Sermoneta, yes; but if you are not content with this, then write to me; you can be sure that presently the area is being cultivated, the climate is very pleasant, and our men are enjoying good health. Pray for me. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 5th of 1836

I have heard about Father Luca.⁴⁶ In a future maildelivery I shall be writing to Mosconi,

⁴⁶ Father Luca Masi.

to whom you will extend my greetings.⁴⁷

3042

January 6, 1836
Tommaso Tallarini
Forlimpopoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁸

Venerable Tommaso

Most grateful to you for the happy and religious best wishes which you were kind enough to implore for me from the most merciful God, especially during the recurrence of the sacred mysteries, I am, with this letter of mine, sending you my sincerest and special thanks. I keep repeating with the prophet: "*Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*".⁴⁹ I can assure you that I never forget you in my poor prayers joined with yours for whatever you may need. Even if I do so regularly, I now, even more forcefully, present my wishes that the Lord, during these solemn days, will increase in us his holy fire of divine love and a zeal for promoting in our respective states the greater glory of God whom we must serve incessantly.

Let us, in the meanwhile, remain always closely united in the Divine Heart through the holy bonds of charity, holding to the desire for that everlasting reunion in heaven. Amen.

With all my best wishes, I remain
Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 6th of 1836.

3043

January 6, 1836
Lawyer Francesco Moretti
Rome
Venerable Lawyer

I am inconveniencing you with this most humble letter of mine in order to ask you to obtain for me an extension for the enclosed petition, since the reason is truly most urgent for the House of S. Felice in Giano, though the endowment is very, very meager. We also have there a Boarding School for our young men which is, in a large part, in need of support.

I take advantage of this opportunity to renew my feelings of esteem, respect and

⁴⁷ This postscript is on the fourth siding, near the address.

⁴⁸ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁴⁹ The Lord will repay in sweet blessings.

gratitude. I am and will constantly be
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere Can. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

6th of 1836

P. S. Once the favor is obtained, please be kind enough to send it to Mother Prior of S. Caterina to whom I shall give the money that will be needed, which you will indicate to her. *Dominus retribuet etc.*⁵⁰

3044

Januarv 12, 1836
 Fr. Pasquale Virgilj
 Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

I am writing this letter for three reasons.

First, to assure you that *hac vice*⁵¹ you are excused from the trip to Romagna. I will let you know what you will have to handle during Lent in your position and in accordance with what you have as preachable matter.

Second, that all the 50 Masses, already sent, will have to be said at a privileged altar. Sufficient for me will be a line or so in which you give me the assurance on the sheet you send that they were, indeed, offered at a privileged altar.

Third, that with the presence in Vallecorsa of the Lenten preacher, you will have to be away; so, please see that the rooms and the beds are prepared there, needed also for Merlini who will be making a quick trip to Vallecorsa to get a coach. Discuss this with Pedini, the President there. Then, go to Sermoneta and from there, with the burros that we have, proceed to Albano where more will be settled in person. I have sent word to Sermoneta. You, for sure, are to go without any further directions. Bring along with you whatever is transportable in the coach that you take. In Sermoneta, likewise have a couple of burros available also for the Brother who will accompany you. Share this letter with Pedini to whom I shall write in a future maildelivery. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. A.

Rome, 12th of 1836

⁵⁰ The Lord will repay.

⁵¹ In this case.

3045

January 16, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

The Abbess of Campo Marzo has probably informed you that on the first Thursday immediately after Ash Wednesday, it will begin. I shall be going there during carnival time to arrange the horarium. Better to contact Giovanni⁵² who was supposed to have said: "Put the answer in writing" But that is of little import.⁵³

3046

January 16, 1836
Fr. Francesco Verili
Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

16th of 1836

Most esteemed Fr. Francesco⁵⁴

You have probably handed over the book of temporary Masses to Gentili so that the obligations might be fulfilled exactly.

I hope that Merlini will supply the oil and that you will have informed the aforementioned Gentili.

I have already given the directions for obtaining the ritual from Capobianchi, sending nine *paoli*.

With regard to the pension, I have the following reflections: 1. whoever exposed it must have been a person of timorous conscience; 2. he must have cited the favor of the laws; 3. he must have said that you did not have a patrimony; and, in fact, you did not, while your grandfather was living. So, now, I do not know what you might be able to estimate. However, if the law owes you a right to retirement, then that is what must be valued. I conclude by saying that you should do nothing without first checking with me. *Agitur enim de re gravissima*.⁵⁵ Value the advice of Father Biagio⁵⁶ and we will come to an agreement.

At the holy altar, I have sought to make an exchange for the happy and religious good

⁵² Giovanni Minicucci.

⁵³ St. Gaspar put these words on the same letter sent to him by his niece on January 16, 1836. Hence we assign that date, January 16, 1836 to this bit of writing.

⁵⁴ There is no address given, but it is clearly a letter to Fr. Francesco Verili.

⁵⁵ There is activity about every grave matter.

⁵⁶ Father Biagio Valentini.

wishes that you sent me: "*Dominus retribuet pro me*".⁵⁷

You will learn from the companions there that I have sent a few Masses; in the meantime, I shall think about others. Have you understood?

The notification concerning Masses can correctly be done on a halfsheet of paper and can be signed along with a letter, as long as where they are listed, there is no other writing, or, you might conveniently divide the page in half [...]⁵⁸

3047

January 16, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁵⁹

Send Giovanni to see a certain Pietro Capobianchi, employed at the postal services, and, in the name of Verili, our boardingstudent, obtain a Roman Ritual which you will preserve until my return, sending me a reply on this. It will be necessary to hand over nine paoli to the aforementioned Capobianchi from the Institute's account.

I shall offer the Mass before the 26th, and you are to retain the offering along with the account of the five *paoli* that I am sending to cover the upcoming March. I hope that I have made myself clear. It is already understood that this is without a privileged altar. Do you want the document for the Mass?

I know that Locatelli is in Rome. In charity, may he not come to see me.
I have offered the Mass for Cencio's⁶⁰ mother.

Check over the enclosed matter diligently. Separate things to be mailed from the things to be forwarded. There is a letter for Felice Venerucci, Father Paolo's nephew. Put stamps on that letter since it deals with the cincture for the Brothers.

Enclose Moretti's letter with that of the one to the superioress of S. Catarina.

Since I am short of time today, I will send other packets with Bartolomeo's⁶¹ return.

When Caringi brings the money, give him two *scudi*, in my name, from that same money, along with a thousand thanks. You have understood. I repeat, two *scudi* to Caringi. Keep that

⁵⁷ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁵⁸ The rest of the page has been torn away.

⁵⁹ From a comparison of this letter with the one written to Verili on January 16, 1836, in which reference is made to the ritual, we date this letter also January 16, 1836.

⁶⁰ Vincenzo Severini

⁶¹ Bartolomeo Panzini.

deposit separate, while writing on top: "Two *scudi* to Caringi".

In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

Father Camillo⁶² sends the enclosed note in order to locate the small carton case addressed to Father Giovanni Merlini. It must be either in the coach or at the post office. See that this is carried out diligently and then send it to me here in Albano, using a safe method, including the note of Father Camillo which I would not want to see lost. The note speaks very clearly. It was a small case containing writings, but addressed to Merlini. Write to me at your convenience about this.

3048

January 17, 1836
Fr. Raffaele Ruffoli
Palestrina

Hail to the Divine Blood

17th of 1836

Most esteemed Canon

I received your letter with the listing of the enrolled people. I suppose that they are all from Palestrina; otherwise, as you exercise your office as aggregator *in loco*⁶³ where you have the faculty, it would be necessary for you to indicate the hometown and diocese of the enrollee, in addition to the month, day and year in which the enrollment took place.

Let us continue zealously the apostolate of our relationship. Let us be with each other often in the Divine Heart. Pray for me and have others do so too. I am ever grateful to you for the singular kindness that you show toward me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3049

January 17, 1836
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

17th of 1836

Most esteemed Father Orazio

I begin this letter of mine by giving you my thanks for the happy and religious best

⁶² Father Camillo Rossi.

⁶³ In the place.

wishes you sent me upon the recurrence of the most beautiful mysteries of our holy religion. *Dominus retribuet pro me*⁶⁴.

Punctually I remitted the 3 *scudi* of your offerings to your father. I know of the surrendering of the 5 *bajocchi* and that is very, very good, also *ad exemplum*.⁶⁵ The Lord will compensate you for your charity.

Thank you for the information and continue always in that fashion. In the meantime, I keep trying to make provision, *hoc anno*,⁶⁶ as best I can, with the desire of setting up a better order for things within a short period of time. I have understood about Fabrini.

I repeat, always keep me informed. You must do so for me, whenever necessary.

You are exempted from the Lenten series in Riparotta. Instead, around the countryside, you will preach, *ad instar*⁶⁷ visiting sermons, perhaps in the vicinity of Pennabilli. However, I am seeking to refuse; and, in fact, I do refuse.

I have heard about the good Father Luca⁶⁸ for whom suffrages are being offered.

I shall be awaiting the spiritual report of NN. when he gets to Penna.

If I have forgotten anything, please remind me.

Whenever I find some preachable matter for you, I will send it when the opportunity arises.

So, you are assigned to Pennabilli along with Mosconi. This for now, *et donec*:⁶⁹ here are the reasons:

1. You are capable of guiding Mosconi for me and I feel that you are brought together by the grace of God (let this be between us).

2. Furthermore, a companion is needed there who is experienced and will be helpful with his sound reflections.

3. The House there is involved in quite a bit.

4. Liparelli is authorized with regard to the exchange.

5. You are to surrender yourself to the will of God.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁶⁴ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁶⁵ As an example.

⁶⁶ In this year.

⁶⁷ After the fashion of.

⁶⁸ Father Luca Masi

⁶⁹ And until.

Prepare a room in the second corridor, in the section facing the garden where the boarding area was, for Father Mattia⁷⁰ who is going to be staying there.⁷¹

3050

January 17, 1836

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

17th of 1836

A couple of lines in order to assure you of the reception of your recent letters. In reply, I tell you that I have presented to God my humble prayers that your nephew⁷² will be settled in his vocation. If, in the diocese, there would be a chaplaincy available, but one without the obligation of residence since this would be contrary to our Institute, you might ask the Monsignor to give him the nomination. In the meantime, let us continue to pray.

From your letters I notice the zeal with which your soul is imbued for the doing of good work. God also rewards good desires. There is certainly a great need for solid education for the people. Pray for me and for our Institute so that God will always keep giving us his strength. I would like you to offer special prayers for this intention. If I have forgotten anything, please remind me of it.

As for your soul, be perfectly tranquil in God. Crosses, tribulations and suffering purify it and bring it to an ever greater perfection. The Cross is the ladder to heaven, the seat of truth and the mirror of all sanctity. So, let us hold firmly to the Cross so as to gain merit in our present time, as well as crowns for that blessed eternity. I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁷⁰ Father Mattia Cardillo.

⁷¹ This postscript was on the fourth siding, near the address.

⁷² Enrico de Castris