

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3051

January 17, 1836
Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

Here I am with a reply to your most appreciated letter, as I thank you, in the first place, for the many acts of kindness that you show to me and my confreres.

I have understood about the Marra legacy. Check to see whether the papers might have been left with Canon Gigli. In the meanwhile, I will be making a search in Rome. And, indeed, as I will be informing you as things progress, so for the time being, let us suspend the investigation with the excellent reverend Canon who, I think, is in Anagni, if I am not mistaken.

With regard to the cleric, Cocchi, if he is ordained soon as a subdeacon, he will be exempted from the charge of room and board, namely 50 *scudi*, as long as he remains in the Institute. If he comes before that, then, here is what is required, in addition to the requirements of examinations etc.. 1. Annually, 50 *scudi* for room and board, and that includes everything: food, linens, oil for the lamps, no thought of having to give gratuities to anyone, since that is forbidden. The Institute is likewise responsible for his barbering. 2. He will dress in accordance with our usage, and, when he comes he will be instructed. 3. It will remain for him to be responsible for the expense for medicines only, if he should get sick, and that only until he becomes a Missionary; also, he will have to supply his own stationery and postage, and this too until he becomes a Missionary. 4. He must bring along bed sheets, hand towels, a brass lantern, fork and spoon made of bone, napkins. 5. For the completed bed, not counting the linens, he is to pay ten *scudi* only once and never again, even when if he leaves: the Institute will take care, I repeat, of the mattress, the coverlets etc. When the Institute gets more means, it will provide more.

So, presently, being responsible for subdeacons, deacons and new priests, we are unable to do more. So this is about it, substantially speaking. May the Lord bless your efforts for our foundation in Veroli. Let us try to accelerate them, and, meanwhile, occupy yourself in looking into the locale of S. Agostino. Starting from now, I shall attempt to get canonical possession, once the basic things are established. It might be possible to join with this the legacy of S. Salome. I am praying for this objective, being very, very much interested in having a foundation in Veroli. Prayers. I kiss your hands. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 17th of 1836

3052

January 18, 1836
 Luigia del Bufalo
 Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece¹

Canon Fontana would like the following things:

1. Four *canne* of good and strong material to make a surplice to fit him. Have it worked on in Frosinone; it is sufficient to send the material. Get the usual lace; I think: two *canne*; but the ordinary lace, see that it too is strong. Also he wants *Le glorie di Maria* by Liguori, in a simple volume, with good, readable print. Furthermore, 100 images of St. Xavier to be gotten from the Bianchi. Put all of this in one packet to him in Frosinone. Send me the cost involved with an exact notification. Do all of this at your convenience. I am in a hurry etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3053

January 19, 1836
 Mother Teresa Cherubina
 Monastery of Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio
 Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother Abbess

In reply to your very kind letter, here is what I have to suggest for your consideration. In view of the fact that Lent, this year, is early, let me know whether you can change the Retreat to immediately after the Sunday *in Albis*; it could start on the Monday *in Albis* right after the noon meal. I would be most grateful. If this change can be made, write to me and you will be contacted as soon as Lent begins.

If it were to be held during Carnival time, I would be able to send you Father Biagio² whom you asked for on other occasions. Generally speaking, whatever the case, have no doubts about the member who will be selected. When will the Mission be held? I heard about the

¹ The letter is not dated but one is obtained from the postal markings: Albano, January 18, 1836

² Father Biagio Valentini.

religious sent to Rome. Prayers. If you reply immediately, send your letter to Albano, otherwise, to "Rome". With esteem, I remain in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, 19th of 1836

3054

January 20, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Antognetti

in S. Girolamo della Carita

(Rome)

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³

Esteemed Father Tommaso

Your note caught up with me in Albano, where I am staying for a short while, because of the ministry. We will have time, God willing, for another meeting. Pray for me. Give my best wishes to that holy Community, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(Albano) 20 of 1836

3055

January, 20, 1836

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Actually, I will not delay in getting to Rome; but if I should, then supply, if necessary, by letter. Even though I may be getting letters and correspondence here in Albano for the time being, I am not sure of staying here in residence. That is so because of the smallness of the place and a lack of room, especially since our young men are here. That is why we are paying rent for some rooms in the Abbey.

May God guide your every resolution, and, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

³ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

20th of 1836

3056

January 21, 1836

Mother Abbess of Campo Marzio

Rome

Venerable Mother Abbess

On the Thursday, immediately after Ash Wednesday, the Retreat will begin. I ask you please to obtain the usual Faculties from his Eminence, the Cardinal Vicar. Then, too, on one morning during Carnival time, I shall stop off to see you to determine what will be necessary. In the meantime, recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

21st of 1836

3057

January 21, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Dearest niece⁴

Of the 48 *scudi*, if I am not mistaken, collected from Caringi, send 40 of them, by mail, to Possenti. I shall inform him so that he will go to get them at the postal services. Take the postal costs out of the deposit, and after subtracting the two *scudi* for Caringi, send the remainder to me through the services of Bartolomeo.⁵

The money that Bartolomeo collects for Nepi, you are to keep on deposit until my return or until I give further directions by letter.

3058

January 21, 1836

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁴ St. Gaspar wrote this letter to his niece on the same sheet on which Camillo Possenti, on the date of January 12, 1836, Fabriano, had written to the Saint asking him for "some thirtyfive *scudi*" for the cloth and the thread that had been ordered. St. Gaspar was in Albano. Because of the agreement with the content of the letter to Possenti, dated January 21, 1836, we give this letter that same date.

⁵ Bartolomeo Panzini.

Most esteemed Camillo

You will be receiving 40 *francs* in the mail, from which you can subtract the 35 that you mentioned to me. The remaining 5 *scudi* are to be used to pay for some reams of stationery, varied as usual. You will please note that the entire cost, covering the cloth and the thread, is to be included in those 40 *scudi*.

With esteem, respect and incessant gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, 21st of 1836⁶

3059

January 21, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

With reference to the case, particularly the circumstances dealing with the time in which it happened, do not alter the intrinsic examination *prout de jure*.⁷ Never have I made a study of such a thing, not was it ever necessary.

I thank you for your joyful good wishes. *Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁸ In holy correspondence with charity, I have not nor do I ever fail to be mindful of you at the Holy altar.

The information in your letter to Giano is incorrect. *Ne verbum quidem*.⁹ True inspirations from God are always found in truth.

There were other enigmatic things, so to speak, which I did not understand in your letter. If they are going to appear in our letterwriting, please be kind enough to elucidate them.

Pray for me who, with esteem and respect, am in Jesus Crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, 21 of 1836

⁶ On January 21, 1836 St. Gaspar was in Albano. This letter was mailed from Rome.

⁷ As by law.

⁸ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁹ Not even a word.

3060

January 21, 1836
 Domenico Antonio Massarella
 Fondi
 Most esteemed Domenico Antonio

21st of 1836

To this present time, a single letter, dated yesterday, the 20th of this month, has been delivered to me here in Albano. You will be doing right in always addressing your most appreciated letters to Rome, whenever necessary.

Indeed, the news concerning the death of the good Canon, your most worthy brother, has been very deeply felt by me because of the many obligations that I, as well as our Institute, acknowledge to him for being so wonderful a priest, as well as to you and all of your family. I shall not fail to procure the customary suffrages for him. You are to retain the certification of the deceased as a memorial in the family, especially because of the zeal that this praiseworthy Canon exercised during his life. This, surely, is a reminder for all of us! We are to prepare ourselves evermore for that great passing on, by placing our trust in the merits of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. In his adorable Heart, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3061

January 22, 1836
 Student Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli
 S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Rocco

I comprehend what you tell me in your recent letter. I limit myself to commenting on what is necessary. You will also understand those things about which I say nothing. With reference to your ordination, in order to make my decision, I must first learn, through the President there, whether you have what Liguori prescribes for new priests. In making this investigation, please realize that it is your own true wellbeing that is sought. As far as I am concerned, the Lord knows how much I would like to have you as a Missionary. However, *omnia cum tempore*.¹⁰ Just what is the priesthood? You should examine this often.

Father Antonio,¹¹ your cousin, would like to have a bit more time for his concerns; but I

¹⁰ All things with time.

¹¹ Father Antonio Sebastianelli.

will not be able to give it to him. You should encourage him, and especially offer prayers. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

22nd of 1836

3062

January 24, 1836

Fr. Mattia Cardillo

Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Mattia¹²

I praise greatly your holy conformity to the will of God to go anywhere. This is a true characteristic of an apostolic person. May the Lord ever increase in you the zeal for his glory.

Let us come now to NN. To leave ... that is really a temptation. He is not to fail, *pro viribus*,¹³ to continue *in omnibus et circa omnia*¹⁴ ... There are in the world both vicious torrents and pleasant founts. *Alius sic, alius vero sic*.¹⁵ We are to be content with everything since everything gives glory to God. As long as we dedicate 24 hours a day to God, *hoc sit ad solatium*.¹⁶ God acknowledges our good intentions, our purpose in life, the virtue that we continue to preach about, and the manner in which we seek to perfect our practices. *Oculi Domini super justos*.¹⁷ Blessed Leonard used to say: If from the conducting of one Mission, there should result a prevention of a single venial sin, what a great good work that would itself be!

So, it is necessary that NN. apply himself. We are here on this earth to suffer! ... and everywhere *tribulatio et angustia invenerunt me*.¹⁸ So, courage. May the Cross be the great book of comfort. That the devil should attack our obedience is not surprising. For obedience is the

¹² St. Gaspar had sent the letter to Rimini and from there it was sent to Cesena where Fr. Cardillo was located for the ministry.

¹³ In accord with one's strength.

¹⁴ In all things and about all things.

¹⁵ One this way, another that way.

¹⁶ Let this be a consolation.

¹⁷ The eyes of the Lord are upon the just.

¹⁸ Tribulation and hardship have found me.

anchor that helps us navigate safely to the port of salvation. Once obedience is taken away, the mystical ship can no longer maneuver well. I have understood the details about the temptation, and we laugh at the devil because of that. Rather, NN. should meditate on what Jesus said to St. Peter: "*Si amas me pasce oves etc.*"¹⁹ Father Avila says: Each one is to apply that in his own circumstances". To be zealous for souls is a testimony to the love of God. Every work of the Lord is usually quite similar to plants which, though being tender, are assailed; still they continue to set their roots deeply. Eventually they spread out their branches, and finally produce their copious fruits. Let us allow ourselves to be cultivated by the celestial planter. He is the owner of the vineyard. I am not out of the way in this application.

With regard to the regulations for NN.'s good work with reference to the career which he has assumed, he should propose just one thing at a time to himself in meditation and implore understanding from God. He will come to see the relationship and the order. In a garden there is a variety of flowers, just as there is a variety in the works of God. Each flower grows according to the order of providence, so also, etc., etc.. The method that is used renders the soul spiritually dead to everything. NN. should read the meditation of the great Xavier for December 3rd.

God wished in Saul, an Ananias; so also in every soul, an Ananias; and to oppose confusion is the most certain sign that God wishes to have that particular Ananias and not others. Thus, S. Filippo would ordinarily not admit any change after he had been selected, etc., etc.. For NN., observance of meditation, examination of conscience and attentiveness to tablereading as well as silence etc. are the adequate means for always walking in the presence of God. Furthermore, if, at times, he would have the opportunity, he should increase his practice of meditation. In meditation, *exardescit ignis*.²⁰ But, if the glory of God calls him, he should leave God for God. As for selecting the book for private usage, let him, indeed, choose that book which most nourishes his spirit. I would like to know which ones he selects. Now, let us move on to something else.

I have sent the books. For the meeting send me a listing of them. At that time, I will indicate to you the prices. Those that you do not get simply means that they were not available, for example, Pinamonte. In one way or another, I will have them looked for in Pesaro. I just do not have a copy of the Month of the Divine Blood, composed by the Canon of Teramo. Perhaps De Victoriis can find a copy. Pray a lot for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome²¹ for forwarding, 24th of 1836

¹⁹ If you love me, feed my sheep.

²⁰ The fire glows.

²¹ The postal marking shows the point of departure as "Albano".

3063

January 24, 1836
Fr. Giuseppe Bellisari
L'Aquila

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I am wholeheartedly delighted with the consoling news concerning the action of the most reverend Nunzio. May God strengthen your zeal in the programs for his glory. Would it not also be a good work to have a House of our Institute in Aquila? I hope that God, in his time, will grant us that favor. In the meantime, let us occupy ourselves in prayer. You are to continue exercising zealously your mission there. Oh how regretful I feel that I am not able to be there at the time when Merlini will be coming to that city. However, God does not need us, poor creatures that we are. *Oremus ad invicem ut salvemur*.²² With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

24th of 1836.

3064

January 25, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece²³

Here is what is needed. Little by little, everything will get done.

1. A cloth skullcap for Brother Giovanni from Veroli,²⁴ to be sent to Sonnino to Father Gentili.

2. Two shirts (the cloth has arrived) for Brother Francesco from Lenola, whose familyname is Mastrobattisti and who comes from Sonnino. For me, an account of the prices with the documented receipts.

3. For Spina, and only for this time, a package of assorted devotional materials of the more ordinary type, of a lower cost and a discreet number. Among these things, three copies of the Novena of St. Xavier.

²² Let us pray for one another, that we may be saved.

²³ This letter has no date, but one is obtained from the postal markings; (Abano) as the place of departure and Rome (January 25, 1836) as the place of arrival.

²⁴ Giovanni Fontana.

4. For here in Albano, that crucifix with the small chain which costs less; a cincture of the type used by a Missionary, always at the lowest price, but new. Let me know the cost.

5. Send me the two small packets left there for me by Cotino, unless you have already given them to Bartolomeo.²⁵

6. With a couple of lines to Monsignor Muccioli, inform him of the death of Canon Massarella from Fondi. He was enrolled in the devotion of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7. Cotino has found the certification for the Carmine. You can send the address to that priest from Malta, since a registration must be made. The mail is leaving now. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3065

Middle of January 1836

Fr. Luigi Cocci Todi

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*²⁶

Venerable Curate²⁷

May God bless your apostolic works. Oh! what a consolation for me to see you again!

Do not worry about the companions. Our Institute is not presently experiencing the anguish that it did in its beginnings. More when we see each other in person, *Deo dante*.²⁸

Now, I need a favor from you; and what is it? To get together industriously with your most worthy bishop, to whom you will extend my very best wishes, to get the Mission to begin at such a time that it will be able to be completed on the day of Pentecost in May. What a triumph for the month of Mary; it should begin, at least, on May 3rd. Since it will last for 15 days, you check it and you will note that the ending would indeed fall on Pentecost day. In general, in May. The reason for this is that on the Sunday *in Albis* the Easter *quindena* concludes. To begin there on the Sunday *in Albis*, it would be necessary to lift, at the most crucial time, confessors and workers wherever the ministry was being entered into. So, I would leave a bit of room in April and in May, the Mission. For this act of charity, I would be most obliged to you.

I shall be awaiting your prompt reply. At that time we will come to a decision with regard to the other things and between us, we will prearrange everything.

Todi, so wellknown for its devotion to the most holy Mary, will be pleased to have the

²⁵ Bartolomeo Panzini.

²⁶ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

²⁷ This letter does not have a date. But, from what St. Gaspar says in his letter to Father Antognetti, dated January 28, 1836, this letter must be assigned to the middle of January, 1836.

²⁸ God being the giver.

Mission in the month of May.

Asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Your letters to me "ROME"

3066

January 28, 1836

Fr. Tommaso Antognetti

S. Girolamo della Carita

Rome

Venerable Father Tommaso

You will recall our interview with regard to the prisons. As a result, I have written to Todi, to the Pastor Cocci, from whom I have received the enclosed; in all charity, I asked him to try to persuade the Bishop to have the Mission begin at the start of the Month of May. Enclosed is his answer to me. You can read it for yourself and then return the letter to me in a packet through Canon Giuliani. Notice that the Bishop, in other preceding letters, was asking for me. I find myself in a dilemma. If I go to the Mission, I cannot handle the prisons: if I go to the prisons, I cannot take care of the Mission. As for me, you can see that I have tried to do good in both regards; but with no success. I think that with respect to the prisons, if there is time, it would not be difficult to find a substitute; I do not know if that would be equally the case with regard to the Mission. With a line or two, let me know how I should conduct myself, and Canon Giuliani will drop it off at my home.

The only plan that would seem possible would be to take care of the prisons eight days before Pentecost. Furthermore, it would not be wise to alter the usual method observed in the prisons.

I would conclude that you should make every effort to figure out what can be done for the prisons. I repeat, let me know what your opinion is. For if, because of unforeseen incidents, I should not go to Todi, then, God willing, I shall be ready. But, the Mission at Todi must not be forsaken. I would be greatly upset by that, since the Missions are of the first importance, especially with the Retreat for the Clergy associated with it. As a last resort, you might keep me in mind for some other ministry and at a different time. See to the selection of Workers from among the members of Ponterotto, besides Canon Prinzivalli, Ab. Sacchi, Bianchini, Gammarelli and others that are known by Canon Giuliani, whom you will greet for me along with the others of that renowned Congregation.

Upon my return I shall visit you in person. Pray for me, and remember me to the dear St. Philip.

Consider me in Jesus Christ Crucified as

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. If you think that I should not go on the Mission, let me know. Pray over it.

House at Albano, 28 of 1836

3067

January 30, 1836

To a priest

Rome

Venerable Canon²⁹

With regret did I learn about your illness and about your present period of convalescence. I hope that it will be of short duration and that very soon you will be able to resume your apostolate. Within a few days I shall be in Rome, and immediately I shall try to arrange to have the pleasure of seeing you again in order to take care of the asylum for which you are to get the customary faculties, since I am not acquainted with the procedures of that pious place. In general, the preaching will perhaps best be arranged for the mornings. More when we meet in person.

I am enclosing the memorandum of Masses in S. Felice which has been sent to me. I note that the favor was obtained by rescript at the time when Cardinal Guerrieri was the *Segretario de'memoriali*. It seems that the present practice is for it to be heard by the *Economo della Fabrica*. If you have a different interpretation, sufficient for me will be a line or so from you by way of advice.

With reference to the Marra affair, the nephew of the deceased Marra, who has the same family name but I do not remember his given name, presented a request since he was of the opinion that there was no obligation of fulfilling it. As time went by, he was persuaded to have the legacy fulfilled exactly. On the other hand, the last will or the extraction of practical matters was left to the *Segreteria della Fabrica*. This is all that I know about. In receiving a word from you, I will take care of any expense that might occur.

Recommend me to God. With esteem, respect and gratitude and (I must also add) with very special affection, dear Canon, I am and will be

Your humble servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

²⁹ The copy of this letter, as well as the one (n. 3572) to this same person on November 4, 1837, was made by Merlini who added the following notation: "The originals were submitted by someone, but I do not recall who. Signor ... asked the witness whether these letters had been written by the Ven. Servant of God. I made copies of the first and second letters and then I sent them back to that same person. G. Merlini, Mis. Ap."

3068

January 30, 1836
Fr. Michele Palombi
Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

30 of 1836

Esteemed Fr. Michele

Bartolomeo thanks you for your letter. With respect to what you wrote me, do not at all be fearful. Imitate the Saints as they defended the truth. The things that are being said there, let it be noted once and for all, are not from God. I forgive our opponents because of their good intentions, but I shall never approve what they say nor the way that they do things.

There is still a rule in our Institute, and it covers everything.³⁰ The only thing that is presently required, due to the lack of copies, is to have more reprinted. In the Visitations, I was wondering in my own mind where to have the printing done, whether in Benevento or elsewhere. If it were to be in Benevento, perhaps I would have committed to you the checking of the orthography; if elsewhere, then to someone else. During the Visitation, the material was gathered together and put in order. So, we are right back at the beginning again: everything changes.

Everywhere else, there is peace and tranquility. At that House, however, the devil is at work. Prayers.³¹ Everything has been done and is being done with the knowledge of the Roman Pontiff. It is not at all necessary that I go into detail. Continue to defend the right that belongs to the one whom God has selected for the government of our Institute. This is your precise duty. Ever since Fr. Carlo has been in Benevento, all those novel ideas have arisen.

I conclude as follows:

- 1) Stay as you are and stick to basic principles.
- 2) Do not lose your enthusiasm and be happy.

3) If you are not at peace in Benevento, I authorize you to come, through CapuaTerracina, to S. Paolo in Albano, without any further notification from me. If you do decide to come, let me know beforehand. I am not obliging you to do this. I leave it all up to you to make the decision you feel is best. If you can remain there in peace, then stay; otherwise, you may come to Albano. I repeat, inform me in the event that you are coming, by saying: "I am setting out on my trip and I am coming". Make this decision at the foot of the Crucifix. If you decide to leave, in order to observe prudent conduct, give a true and justifiable reason for it. If you should say, for example: "I am leaving because here in Benevento I do not recognize the Institute", that is, indeed, a

³⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Triva: Opposition from Fr. Michele Palombi.

³¹ At this point, we were unsuccessful in deciphering a couple of words that seem to be forming a sentence by themselves.

plausible reason. Handle the matter *ut ex se*,³² for in reality I leave you completely at liberty to do so. If I am writing this to you now, it is only because I do not like to see you in anguish. With regard to the rest, do all as you see fit. Send an answer, etc.

G. C. d. B.

30 of 1836³³

3069

January 30, 1836
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Indeed it is always a solid principle to abandon oneself to the will of God, and so I have served him. Father Cardillo will be going to Pennabilli, where he was before, and I have informed Father Liparelli. If Cardillo is there, tell him that in a letter to Cesena, I have written about this. So, you tell him in person. Since he had already been in Pennabilli as Superior and Director of Retreats, tell him that he will be resuming those responsibilities and that Father Mosconi, to whom you will give my greetings, etc., has been selected as President, managing the administration, the church and everything else, in accordance with our rule. Within a few days, you will be informed just what God has in store for you.

You might adduce a reason which is true: but because of reasons of health in one of our men, this accidental variation in assignments was caused. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

30th of 1836

Liparelli will be preaching the Lenten series in Riparotta, *ad instar* sermons of visitation, after the noon meal.

3070

End of January, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

³² As from itself.

³³ In all probability, this letter was written from Albano, as the very context seems to suggest.

Dearest niece³⁴

Send a calendar to Father Tomasso³⁵ at his expense.

They are still awaiting the calendar in Romagna. They are swamping me with letters. So, it will be necessary to write to Petruccioli and tell him that he should make use of the coach, indicating the expense. This is something truly urgent.

The 50 pages of Latta and Diotallevi have come. When will Fratini rush off to me the Institute's seal? If it is made, send it. Remember about the chalice. The cost for the lacework we will figure out when the making of the vestment is completed. I received the mattress etc.

I am waiting for the cost of the skullcap and the shirts for Sonnino, following the directions which I have already given.

In the meantime, I shall be sending Cotino's account to the priest from Malta. So, you can await my return and then remind me of this.

The letter to Perugia has gone out. I understand about the money.

Send the reliquary of S. Marta to Maria Diomirra, telling her to have "S. Filomena" inserted. See that the small cross is repaired. Perhaps it is the sacristan who may not wish to give the relics. They can be gotten elsewhere. I will check when I get back. Let me know whether I wrote that I have celebrated your Mass. I mentioned that you should ask Canon Reggis whether the ten Masses that I am to say are to be at a privileged altar or not. Also, within what amount of time, for then I shall hurry to take care of them for him.

That is all for now. Always with a shortage of time because of responsibilities, I still remain

Your affectionate uncle

It would be a good idea for Giovanni³⁶ to go to Tanari and extend my best wishes in the event of his departure.

3071

End of January 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece ³⁷

³⁴ This letter has no date. Comparing it to the one written to her on January 25, 1836 (cf. the skullcap and shirts for Sonnino, the priest from Malta) this one is a bit later. Hence we date it: End of January, 1836.

³⁵ Father Tomasso Meloni.

³⁶ Giovanni Minicucci.

³⁷ This letter, with no date, was written from Albano. Comparing it with the letter to her in January of 1836, it appears that this letter, too, should be assigned to: End of January.

Read the directions.

While keeping with what he says in his note, when will Fr. Camillo's³⁸ little box arrive? I urge you to look into this. I mentioned to you about the seal. Everything is all right with regard to Petruccioli.

The coachdriver has delivered the lightpincers. They had remained in the small box.

I received the cassock. See that Pelzolet is asked about the remnants of the material if there are any, for he might have forgotten about this, and send them to me here in Albano. Did you pay the bill for the cassock? In case you did, let me know how much.

I have learned about S. Galla. It is certain that the Secretary was supposed to go.

Send to me here a green doorcurtain, removing the attachments so that it might appear to be a covering. Take the one either in the large salon where the library is or even the one in the room where I sleep. Whichever one it may be, see that it is prepared and then send it on to me. Supply another one, in place of the *Droghetto*, at the expense of the Society, and upon my return I will make adjustments. I urge you to look into the matter of the napkins as well as the linens ordered by the boardingstudent. It is necessary to clean the walnut door as well as the *priedieu* in the chapel since dust collects in the framework. I am

Your affectionate uncle

Send Orazio's³⁹ package to Rimini. Let me know the cost.⁴⁰

3072

JanuaryFebruary 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴¹

³⁸ Father Camillo Rossi.

³⁹ Father Orazio Bracaglia.

⁴⁰ This postscript is found on the fourth page.

⁴¹ This letter has no date. As it says in the text, it was written from Albano and, precisely, at the end of January 1836. In fact, mention is made in it of Merlini who is still in Porto d'Anzio, and in the congressus of January 24, 1836 of the House in Albano, the report says that Missionaries Merlini, Pedini and Virgili are in Nettuno and Porto d'Anzio for the Mission. In the letter, St. Gaspar says that he has received the skullcap and the cincture which had been requested in the letter (n. 3064) of January 25, 1836. He also mentions the notification of Masses from Msgr. Ginnasi to whom he gives his thanks in the letter (n. 3083) of February 12, 1836. He informs them that he will be returning to Rome, next Thursday evening, and we have the first letter (n. 3079) written from Rome on February 4, 1836, which was precisely a Thursday, whereas in the letter (n. 3074) written on February 3rd he uses the usual expression: "for forwarding, Rome". Hence there is no doubt that this letter should be assigned to: End of Januarybeginning of February 1836.

I am short of time. A couple of things. I knew nothing about the death of the Marchese Cioja for whom I did not fail to offer suffrages.

Give the enclosed note to Cencio.⁴² They are Masses from Ginnasi in Imola. He knows about this.

I got the candle holders. I received the cincture and the skullcap.

I understood about the bedlinens.

Check the letters carefully. Some are for the maildelivery immediately, others for forwarding, etc.

I understand about the coffee from Piatti.

You will give me in Rome the notification brought by Canon Valentini.

I have understood about the donation of Pigliucci.

With regard to Zamboni, more when we meet in person. I would like to give contentment to everyone, but one cannot always manage to do that. I will think about it.

Immediately send the wax to Poggioli and tell him to give you the bill quickly which you will then send to me here in Albano immediately so I can withdraw the money. However, you are not to pay Poggioli. Immediately upon my return, I will take care of it. Right now I want to collect it here. I am sending a set of *Carteglorie* which you are to place in the sacristy of the chapel for my return. With tomorrow's maildelivery, send me the letters. On Thursday, after the noon meal, I will be coming to Rome and get there about the *Ave Maria* hour, and possibly even before that. On Friday, after the noon meal, the beginning will be had *alle Ceneri*. In the morning, I shall contact the monasteries. I have sent the package from Sardagna for my return.

Inform Minu that he should come on Saturday around midday.

Merlini is still in Porto d'Anzio. The crowds are immense. I am etc.

Eat the sweets given by the Bonarelli lady.

3073

February 2, 1836

Mother Teresa Cherubina

Monastery of Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Mother abbess

Here I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter, advising you that in the future send your letters to Rome in every instance.

So, the Retreat will begin after the noon meal on March 4th, the day on which the Novena begins to our patron St. Francis Xavier about whom Father Croiset writes in his book. Please obtain all the required faculties from the most reverend Vicar General, to whom you will

⁴² Vincenzo Severini.

extend greeting for me. The Missionary will promptly arrive in Sermoneta and, for the sake of economy, he will not be passing through Velletri.

Hence, arrange for the mounts in Sermoneta, one for the Missionary and one for the Brother. The member that I have selected for you, to the glory of God, is excellent. Hence, it will be necessary that either on the evening before or better yet quite early in the morning of March 4th, the man with the mounts should be there in Sermoneta so that the Missionary can be there with you for the noon meal, and, after that to begin the Retreat. In the meantime, prayers. Send a couple of lines in reply for my own peace of mind and let us maintain our correspondence as I continue recommending myself to your prayers.

Give my regards to your community. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 21, 1836⁴³

3074

February 3, 1836

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

For forwarding, Rome, February 3, 1836

Most esteemed Camillo

I understand about the shipment of the material referred to in the account. Thousands of obligations to you. What you say to me about the stationery and other things is all very good. May the Lord give you a reward and the fullest blessings for the charity that you show in every instance.

How is the bishop? I hope that he is recovering. However, I am unable to do anything with the present most reverend auditor. I simply am not acquainted with him and, you understand, I cannot comfortably give him a legitimate and honest piece of advice. Offer prayers that the will of God be done; I repeat, prayers. Still, oh! how I would love to have our Institute in Fabriano, supporting the intentions of the deceased Bottaoni! As soon as I get back to Rome, within a few days, I shall send you the books that you requested. Recommend me to the Lord. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

⁴³ The postal markings indicate "Albano".

3075

February 3, 1836
Fr. Anacleto Giliucci
Ancona

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, February 4, 1836

Dearest Father Anacleto

Please excuse me if I inconvenience you with this most humble letter of mine. Its purpose is to ask you to provide me with three *canne* of cloth similar to the samples. I could have written to the good Canon Ottaviani, but I did not want to burden him. So, be kind enough to do me this favor without involving others. Let me know what amount of money I should remit to you, while you seek in every way possible to get the very best economical buy that you can. You will not lack some handy opportunities to send this package to me. I repeat, please excuse the bother that I cause you. In any way that I can be of help to you, just give me the order. Let us renew our union in charity in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3076

February 3, 1836
Fr. Luigi Cocci
Todi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Luigi

A couple of lines in a hurry. I shall adhere to everything that you mentioned in your recent letter, having April as the terminating point for the Mission.

Address your letters to me to "Rome". I am writing in a hurry, asking you for your prayers as well a a line or so of reply etc. Let us be in agreement with regard to everything else etc.

[there is no signature]⁴⁴

February 3⁴⁵

Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop.

3077

⁴⁴ The lower section of the page with St. Gaspar's signature was torn away.

⁴⁵ The year is 1836 as is evident from the other letters to this same person treating with matters of the Mission in Todi. The letter left from Albano as is seen from the postal markings.

February 3, 1836
Fr. Vincenzo da Campotosto
Convento della Foresta
Rieti

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁴⁶

Very reverend Father Vincenzo

With pleasure did I receive your most appreciated letter. Please let me know whom I am to contact for the devotional materials as well as the faculty for enrolling people in the Sacred Heart association, that is to say, to whom am I to write for the package. It is not too easy to get Masses. At any rate, I shall try to occupy myself in this. In case I do, let me know to whom I am to consign the offerings. Say a prayer that I can succeed in this matter as I hope to do.

I remember the many favors received in Poggio Nativo; *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁴⁷ I always keep you in my prayers and, while kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, February 3, 1836

3078

February 3, 1836
Fr. Salvatore Valentini
S. Lorenzo in Damaso

Rome
Venerable Canon

A certain religious by the name of Father Vincenzo da Campotosto, presently located in the Convento della Foresta of the Franciscans (I think the Reformed) would like to have the faculty of enrolling people in the devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. You, as its primary promotor, will be doing a very great favor if you satisfy the desire of this religious as well as my own. Whatever instructions may be needed, you can supply them along with the faculty granted. Also, if it is customary to include some printed matter, this too would be another favor on your part. You could send the package to me in S. Marco, but indicating also a forwarding address to Father Filippo Gonnelli who goes there every morning to celebrate holy Mass. I beg you to recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁴⁶ Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

⁴⁷ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

Miss. Ap.
February 3, 1836

3079

February 4, 1836
Vincenzo aversano
Gaeta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest in Jesus Christ

With pleasure did I see your handwriting once again and with exultation did I learn of the progress being made in the pious organizations as well as in the devotion to the Divine Blood. Pray for me and have others do so too. Let us become saints.

I am sending some devotional materials. With esteem, consider me to be

Affectionately yours

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 4, 1836

3080

February 11, 1836
Fr. Tommaso Antognetti
S. Girolamo della Carita
Roma

Venerable Father Tommaso

I stopped off this morning at your place, but I found out that you were making the Visit of the Seven Churches. I said a prayer and took counsel. I do not intend to miss the appointment at the prisons; but I ask only that the days be set. It is a question of determining what is best for the glory of God. Think about it.

I would suggest, therefore, that on the Thursday or Friday before Low Sunday, we should begin the Retreat for the Prisons; in that way, by the 15th of April, it will be finished. That being the case, on Saturday the 16th, I shall depart, God willing, for Todi; on the 17th, the Holy Mission will begin. In your wisdom, arrange things so that they can be worked out easily in this manner. Likewise, I will be able to preach to the men.

I am awaiting your decision, while with esteem and respect I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap,

Rome, February 11, 1836⁴⁸

3081

February 11, 1836
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

By coach you will be receiving a package. For the transportation by coach, the expense comes to 50 *bajocchi*. Opportunities are not that easy to reach. You probably have been in need of these things; so etc.

As soon as Father de Victoriis gets there, you will be able to inform him, in my name, that I will be writing to him with the ordinary mail delivery on Saturday.

For 50 *bajocchi*, you will celebrate three Masses: one with an offering of two *paoli*, the other two with an offering of 15 *bajocchi*. It will be sufficient that you send me word of the fulfillment of them; for this time, no special notification will be necessary. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 11, 1836

3082

February 12, 1836
Fr. Vitale Corbucci
Fossombrone

Hail to the most Precious Blood

Most esteemed Father Vitale

I am inconveniencing you with this most humble letter of mine in order to inform you of the following matter. I will take care of whatever will be necessary for the arrival and departure of the Missionaries with respect to the traveling. Thus, I shall see to the fulfillment of two Missions, precisely in the Marche, thus delighting places where our Institute has never been. The people will have the following responsibilities: 1. The lodging is to be arranged in homes of pious people; 2, our usual frugal meals; 3. the preaching platform and anything else that is needed are to be arranged at

the most economical expense. You look after the manner of travel. Then, you are to let me know

⁴⁸ In the manuscript Atognetti appended the following annotation, then crossed it out: "instead of the 17th to the 23rd, from the 8th to the 15th of April."

about this; I will go along with what you decide together with the choice of the bishop as to your preferences. Likewise, let me know where the needs are the greatest. Awaiting your response, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 12, 1836

3083

February 12, 1836

Msgr. Dionisio Ginnasi

Imola

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

Most illustrious and reverend sir

Having returned just a short while ago to Rome, I give you my thanks for the 30 Masses which you were kind enough to celebrate for a pious cause. I shall be awaiting the usual paper which you very kindly promised to send. I thank you anticipatedly for the other ten Masses which you likewise were kind enough to agree to celebrate during the current year. While asking you to keep me present in your prayers and sending my particular greetings to your mother and to the others in your household, I remain, with feelings of esteem and respect,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, February 12, 1836

3084

February 16, 1836

Fr. Calamati

Rome

Enclosed here, Father Calamati, are the three nominees⁵⁰ for enrolment in the Carmine for the three certificate which you were kind enough to issue. Pray for me. Full of obligations to you, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁴⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵⁰ On the same sheet. St. Gaspar wrote: "Father Vincenzo Cotino, selected for enrolling in the *Carmine* on October 5, 1835. Father Cristoforo Frioli, selected as an aggregator for enrolling in the *Carmine* on February 4, 1836. Father Giovanni Merlini, selected as aggregator for enrolment in the *Carmine* on February 4, 1836".

House, February 16, 1836

3085

February 17, 1836
Fr. Salvatore Cortesi
Forlimpopoli

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵¹

Most esteemed Canon

I am returning the regulations which you eagerly requested for the welfare of the pious organization over which you preside. The aggregation, in keeping with the rules of the Archconfraternity, I believe, took place at the time of Vicar Ghinozzi. It is always presumed that the pious organization did not have any other aggregation. In whatever way that I can be of assistance for its welfare, give me your orders, as I assure you that whenever it is possible for me, it will be a pleasure to work along with your holy intentions.

I thought it would be good to include the book for our pious organizations in case you would consider it useful to read through it before giving approval to the new constitution.

Recommend me to the Lord. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, February 17, 1836

3086

February 19, 1836
Fr. Tommaso Antognetti
S. Girolamo della Carita
Roma

*Xtus dilexit nos, et lavit nos a peccatis nostris in Sanguine*⁵²

Father Tommaso

Without fail I was just about to come to get an answer from you. But, you favored me by anticipation. Thank you for all the information that you have brought to my attention, and all is proceeding very well.

We shall begin on the Friday which precedes Low Sunday and then terminate it on the following Friday. On Saturday, April 16, I shall depart for the Missions at Todi, God willing. The Lord will reward you for your charity. Sufficient for me, however, is that you recognize the care

⁵¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁵² Christ loved us and washed us from our sins in his blood.

that I have taken in not going back on my word. Within a short time, let me know what I am to do in the line of the ministry in behalf of these men. Send me the schedule and the folder of faculties. Try to procure the most generous concessions possible, especially in regard to the obligation to report crimes, since there is question here of imprisoned men.

Greet your Priest Brethren for me. I recommend myself to your prayers; kissing your hand, I am with esteem.

Your humble, devoted, obliged, servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome February 19, 1836

3087

February 20, 1836

Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

At the first opportunity, I shall be sending the six copies of the Marian Month, for which nothing will be necessary. Just say an *Ave Maria* to Mary most holy.

I am writing in a hurry. I understand about the bishop being ill. So, let us pray. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, February 20, 1836

3088

February 25, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

Until Fr. Santarelli gets back, have Fr. Brandimarte take care of spiritual matters, and you look into the management, for it is a very practical experience for you. Do me this big favor: and I shall be most obliged to you for it.

When Santarelli returns, I shall have him tell Brother Tabella what I think is necessary. In the meantime, hold off etc.⁵³

⁵³ *Dilata*: the matter is being taken into consideration. Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Tabella.

I have understood all about the offerings, and you shall receive them.

Let us be in agreement with regard to the rest. Pray for me, who am in Jesus Christ Crucified

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis Ap.

Rome, February 25, 1836

3089

February 25, 1836

Valeriano Pillozzi

Acuto

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most illustrious sir

With Lent already begun, I have received your most appreciated letter. To my great contentment, I have remembered the people there. God knows how willingly I would wish to go along with the desires for a holy Mission. However, Lent is all filled out both for me and for my companions. May this word be sufficient. At some other time, and also after Lent, very willingly can something be worked out. With regard to the period selected, if I am not able to come, have no doubt about it, you will have some excellent members. So, God is disposing things in this way which is to his glory. If I had gotten word earlier, Acuto would have been given preference.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, February 25, 1836

3090

February 28, 1836

Msgr. Giuseppe Costantini

Vicar General

Albano

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵⁴

Most esteemed Canon

I have read and pondered over your reserved letter. I note that God is directing you down the avenues leading to Paradise. I have never forgotten nor will I ever forget you whom I esteem and love sincerely in the Heart of Jesus Christ crucified. I do not fail to keep alert for a time

⁵⁴ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

when we can meet. Offer prayers that in everything the lovable will of God may be done.

Father Biagio⁵⁵ will be preaching the Lenten series in Sermoneta. Our Society is being blessed by God.

I kiss your hands. Asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, February 28, 1836

3091

March 2, 1836

Fr. Anacleto Giliucci

Ancona

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Aacleto

With regard to that cloth, we would like it to be a bit heavier since it will be used to make cloaks. I am reliant on you in every way and also that you see that it gets to me in Rome. I am trusting in your very special kindness. Let me know how I am to send you the money, francs in the mail or in any way that you care to indicate to me.

From this very moment, I am sending you my thanks. Recommend me to God. With total esteem and affection in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, March 2, 1836

3092

March 2, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

Let me know whether you want the offerings for your 13 Masses put on deposit or sent to you by mail.

With regard to the hedge, you probably know that the premises are exempt from any taxation. By removing the hedge one would get into difficulties concerning privileges, unless I

⁵⁵ Father Biagio Valentini.

am altogether mistaken. So, I wrote to Santarelli: "*nihil innovetur*".⁵⁶ I put everything briefly, and I simply do not know why that hedge has to be removed.⁵⁷

I am sending 50 Masses which you can share as you wish with Brandimarte. I would say: 30 for you, 20 for Fr. Raffaele. Do as you please. Make a single notification of all of them, or make two, as you wish *hoc in casu*.⁵⁸ I am checking up on the offerings for the Masses celebrated in the last listing, already received by me, from Fr. Raffaele.

Am I forgetting anything? Pray for me who am in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 2, 1836

3093

March 4, 1836

Fr. Vincenzo Gargari

Frosinone per Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Vincenzo

I was pleased to receive your letter of February 27. I understand everything that you say in it. In the meantime, it is necessary that you take the year off *ad deliberandum*,⁵⁹ under the guidance of someone from Veroli who is in Rome. As for the things that are needed, considering the season in which you will be here, very little is required. Think carefully about making a good decision. You have probably been contacted already with regard to the necessary credentials and recommendations.

Pray for me who am with esteem and respect, and recommending greatly to you the devotion to the Divine Blood

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

⁵⁶ Let there be no innovation.

⁵⁷ Alongside the premises annexed to the Mission House, there was a piece of property called "*il Pianetto*", belonging to the holdings of S. Agostino, which at first was leased out but now the Missionaries were reserving it for the House in order to use it for direct cultivation, as part of the premises. Hence, the hedge that separated the premises from that piece of land, in their opinion, was useless, and they considered getting rid of it. But the Saint did not approve this plan for the reason which he expresses in this letter. As a matter of fact, they were to restore the hedge where it had gotten dry.

⁵⁸ In this case.

⁵⁹ To weigh carefully.

Mis Ap.

Rome, March 4, 1836 - 1st day of the Novena of the Patronage of St. Xavier, of which Fr. Croiset speaks in the volume of the Month of March.

3094

March 5, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Mugnaj

Rome

Most esteemed Father Giuseppe

I spoke to Canon Giuliani and I urged him to get interested in the pious organization of S. Galla. So, when you see him, encourage him in this regard. Do not forget about the Giacchesi legacy, as I have no doubt that you will take care of this. Recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

March 5, 1836

3095

March 5, 1836

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

The expense for the package came to fifty *bajocchi*. Everything is all right with regard to the Masses.

Now, I am sending you 20 Masses to be celebrated.

May God bless the work being done in Riparotta. Speak courageously. Give brief and appropriate introductory talks. Always bring a Brother along with you.

With regard to hearing confessions, specifically those of women, use caution, but take your turn. For men, at any free time. I urge observance of the rule.

I do not have time to read this again. I am etc.

G. C. d. B

March 5⁶⁰

3096

March 8, 1836

⁶⁰ The year is 1836 (cfr. the letter to this same person dated February 11, 1836).

Pietro Barcaroli
Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Pietro

Your thought is a holy one. While giving respect to every Institute, I think that the interest nowadays is for reviving pious organizations and propagating more and more the devotion to the Divine Blood. This is what leads me to decide to advise you not to overlook our Institute. We have Houses in the vicinity. Do not have doubts about the economy involved, for I know how to manage things. In April, I will be going to the Mission in Todi. It will be around the middle of the month. After that, another appointment, covering just a few days, will occupy me. As time progresses, who knows, I might be able to come there in person. At any rate, you need have no doubts at all concerning the selection of our most capable members. I put this in the superlative because that is the truth. With this understanding, then, the rest is up to you. A letter from the Curia will be required etc. But, hurry.

With reference to the rescripts, any one of them that has expired will need to be renewed, with a copy made of them, along with a couple of lines of reminder for their confirmation. I will handle this. I shall be awaiting it. With regard to the others, until the grant runs out, it will be good not to make any move. I hope that I have made myself clear. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 8, 1836

P. S. As for the rescript dealing with the chapel, if you wish to have it now, I will look into it after your next letter.

3097

March 8, 1836

Madre Donna Maria Maddalena Bonarelli

Monastero di S. Cecilia

Roma

Hail to the Divine Blood

Thank you for returning the book. Let me know when the time for the visitation of the extraordinary confessor expires. Pray in a special way for me who am in Jesus Christ Crucified, with esteem and respect and with my best wishes to your aunt.

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

(Rome) S. Croce,⁶¹ March 8, 1836

3098

March 10, 1836
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

A couple of lines to let you know that, for the true good of the Institute, I will be needing you in Pennabilli. The reason for this is that Mosconi is looking after the House, but I will need you to help him etc. The total reason for this is his being all alone, and that Mosconi is not at an age that he can be moved about. For you, one or the other trip would be easier, and while promising this to him, would you see whether you can be of help to me. I will pray for this as much as I can. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 10, 1836

P. S. It is understood that this will occur after the Easter precept. Your father is awaiting letters from you.

3099

March 12, 1836
Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli
Convittore
Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Rocco

Please have this letter of mine read either by Fr. Pietro De Victoriis or, in his absence, by Fr. Pontini. The reason is that you must go immediately to Nepi, using the House's mule, in order to save money. Make sure of the route and take along a bit of provisions. There in Nepi I have given instructions to Fr. Pietro Spina that he is to direct you immediately to me here in Rome. After you have arrived in Rome, I shall send you on to Sermoneta for the Retreat. There, you will

⁶¹ Very probably the Saint was preaching the Retreat to the Cistercian Monks of S. Croce in Gerusalemme. Pallotti says that those Religious "during Lent, asked him to give to the entire Community joined together the meditations of the Retreat, not only once, but for many years in succession; I believe that once they experienced the salutary effects, they regarded him as their ordinary Director for these meditations; as far as I can recall, they invited him back every Lent up to the last year of the Saint's life". Merlini adds that once, when he was preaching their Retreat, "the Pope (Gregory XVI) arrived unexpectedly. The Saint told me that he suspended his preaching, and both he and the Monks gathered around the Pontiff".

also take an examination given by Fr. Biagio, and then, with the certification that you have made the Retreat and taken the examination given by him, you will proceed to your own Bishop in Veroli where you will be ordained priest on Holy Saturday.

Bring your possessions along with you. If you should have to hire another mule to get as far as Nepi, do so, for it will be taken care of by the accounts of the House. But, if you can economize, all the better: you handle things. Meanwhile, pray, study and ground yourself more and more deeply in virtue; and consider me with esteem in Jesus Christ Crucified, asking you for your prayers,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Hurry your arrival, as I have directed. The muleteer can lead the mules; stick to everything just as I have written. As for the rest, we will talk in person.

Rome, March 12, 1836

3100

March 13, 1836

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi

Albano

[Marginal replies to a letter from Chiodi]

March 13, 1836

I am sending the money. You are very diligent.⁶²

I am sending.⁶³

No parcel at all was found at the postal services, and not even Father Gabrielle.⁶⁴

Bartolomeo is raising the 2,80 *scudi* which you will than, for Marchetti, join with the ones that you have on deposit.

⁶² Relative to an expense incurred for the repair of a wheelbarrow for the House in Albano.

⁶³ Relative to the request for some devotional materials for the prisoners.

⁶⁴ About a package for which Chiodi is awaiting the outcome.