

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3201

August 1, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

With regard to the surplices, it will be necessary to wait for the opportunity when there is a sale at some chapel. I have also written to Father Filippo, namely, to be watching when some Prelate is called by God to himself, etc., etc.. This is the request of the pastor who would like to have them.

I received the package with the *capicciola* and everything else. It is all very good. With the sale of the diurnal, it will be sufficient that you let me know what you have done with it.

It is understood that the money for S. Nicola is to be given, depending on the need. You are now quite experienced in matters of economy. Understood, too, is that it be in accordance with our policies. You already know that.

I will have to see Merlini's Madonna. Then, we will come to a decision. He wishes it to be like the one in Albano or like the one in Frosinone.

I have gotten the bills; and I have understood everything.

How is Piatti's unfortunate manservant? Father Filippo¹ is to send him de Rossi's biretta.

I knew nothing about the rumor of the new vicar. So then, what job will they be giving to Odescalchi? Neither did I know anything about the vicegerent's affliction. Let us pray that things return to what they were with reference to burial places. Indeed, the pastors ought to be insistent. No one is in favor of novel changes. So, prayers; there are an infinite number of reasons for returning to the old ways. The pastors should draw up a petition on the matter. Perhaps they will look into this during this winter. Rather, the churches in the area of the parish should give their assistance, if necessary, also for the cleaning of the burial places. I believe that the Sacconi might have this privilege.

¹ Father Filippo Gonnelli.

Bartolomeo² is planning on coming tomorrow, Tuesday³ evening. On Wednesday, he will have a lot of things to do. Spina wrote to me that you sent him 1,15 *scudi* from Fioravanti. If these are the ones for travel expenses, please note that I had already paid them to Spina; so, at the first collection, recover them for me and give them to me at the time when I return to Rome.

If, among the books bound by Minu for accounts and for the archives, there is one, or two at most, on which nothing is written on the outside covering, send them to me here for the general archives. However, none of those that have something written on them. I am speaking of the books with white paper that have been bound. You understand. Little by little, everything will be put in order.

Finally, Maria Giuseppe has written to me again that she is waiting for you. She says that the 5th of this month is a good day for it. I answered that if she does not get a word from you, it is a sign that you will not be going there; and thus I dispatched the matter. I repeat, I simply do not understand all this concern.

You will have to send to Fabriano 60 *scudi* in *francs* which Camillo Possenti knows about.

Keep informing me as to what we still have in the cashbox; keep a record of it which you will then give to me on my return, after having put in order all the writings and papers of our disheveled archives.

For a notification of Masses, to the number of 20, celebrated by Fontana for the Zamboni obligations, put on deposit four *scudi*. In person, I will let you know what you are to enter into the reminders. Also, inform me as to whether I sent a notification from Father Camillo⁴ for Zamboni Masses. Write to me about this. I am writing so that I do not forget about it, sealing various packets so that they are not reopened. I am, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ,

Your affectionate uncle

It would be good that you order a pair of shoes for me.

Are there any more certifications of the Divine Blood? If there are any, while keeping a copy or so on hand, send me a few here in Albano; also, two *gnomeri* of twine.

If I have time to get a letter off to Possenti, put stamps on it; otherwise, when I send it.

I am sending two missals so that Minu can put the Masses for bishops in them and any other Mass that may be lacking. He is to tint the pages with yellow gold where necessary. One of the missals is to be tinted in yellow gold on all of the pages. He should rush this since they will

² Bartolomeo Panzini.

³ When comparing this letter to the one (n. 3202) to Possenti, dated August 1, 1836 (cfr. the mention of the 60 *scudi*) it must be considered as contemporaneous with August 1st. It is confirmed by the fact that in this letter, it says that "Bartolomeo is planning on coming tomorrow, Tuesday evening", as a matter of fact, however, August 1, 1836 was a Monday.

⁴ Father Camillo Rossi.

be needed here.

Classify methodically the books and the printed materials in the cabinets. In the large cupboard, put adaptable materials and do so in an orderly fashion so that one can easily locate what he wishes and see that everything is kept moisturefree. In the cabinets, put things that are to be dried, and, again with good order.

I have sent various items and will send others for my return. Among other things, I sent a little sack that was tied. So, open that and you will find that it contains some scapulars. Take care of this, as follows:

1. If there are things written, but I do not believe there are, save them for my return.
2. Arrange the boxes in the large cupboard. In one, put the less expensive scapulars, writing on a small piece of paper which you will place on top: "There are this number ...". In another box, put the more expensive ones.
3. Arrange another for letterspatent.
4. Another will hold the linked Chaplets.
5. Still another is to contain crucifixes, indicating the number. All to be used for future Missions etc.

It seems to me that you may have sent a notification of Masses to Regis.

Who has gone as bishop of Amelia? Do you know?

3202

August 1, 1836

Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

August 1, 1836

I have already asked you about the printed materials that you know about.

Now I am informing you that you will be receiving in the mail 60 *scudi* in francs. From those *scudi*, subtract 12 *scudi* for the printed matters and the remainder you will please use as follows. First of all, subtract whatever is due for the reams of stationery ... number six of the *palomba* type ... of the type as I write number six ... one ream of the large type for memoranda ... putting altogether in one bundle three reams, for writing things that are not urgent, the type that is not absorbent nor trimmed. I repeat, two reams of the less expensive sort, as they say. Please, that much is to be subtracted for this purpose. The remainder is for cloth or material that you select, but of the better quality, excluding anything inferior. All of this, I leave to your judgment in using up the residue of the 60 *scudi*, and also, if you wish, the 66 leftover *bajocchi* from past accounts, if I am not mistaken. I hope that I have expressed myself clearly. Please excuse all of these inconveniences. Pray for me. Miserable thing that I am, I, too, will do the same for you. Take good care of yourself.

For these expenses, I would appreciate getting a small note enclosed to me on which you will specify the individual costs, for my own records. Also, assure me that you have received this money. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. With reference to those two young ladies, write to me again their given names and their family names and the time when they made their petition for the dowry.

3203

August 1, 1836
Ignazio Lesinelli
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Ignazio

His eminence, Cardinal Randini and the most reverend secretary write to me saying that the petition from Frosinone has been submitted to the Delegate, to whom I, too, have written on the matter. I think that during these days Frosinone will be giving a response. You are to regulate yourself, please, in keeping with these moves, and many special thanks.

Within a short time, I, in person, will confirm the sentiments of esteem, respect and gratitude that I have for you, and I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

August 1, 1836

3204

August 2, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Enclosed is the page⁵ which you can join to the ones dealing with the house and the Scrofa lady. Nanna who is helped will pray for me and for my Institute.

Let me know whether the enclosed page is all right.

[there is no signature]

⁵ The page that the letter refers to is the following attestation:

"I, the undersigned, attest that Masses corresponding to the sum of 50 *scudi* have been celebrated in the event that our House would be sold to the Scrofa lady; thus, with this statement, everyone can remain quiet and tranquil.

Signed, on August 2, 1836. *Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*, Mis. Ap. "

3205

August 3, 1836
Fr. Giuseppe Maria Renzoni
Morolo

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giuseppe

With reference to the method which you are intending to observe for the year *ad deliberandum*⁶ it will be the fruit of the inspirations that the Lord will communicate to you through prayer.

In regard to the Retreat, the Institute never demands anything. Nothing more is needed than the provision of victuals, and also mounts for going to Frosinone to get the Missionary who, not permitted to go alone, will bring a layman with him. Both will reside separately, and between them, as they would in community life. So, if you see an urgency for a Mission, trust in God and go ahead and act. If, in regard to the Retreat, you wish to have further dilucidation, all you have to do is drop me a line. After making your decision, if you so determine, in order to have a Missionary come, it will be required to get the invitation of the bishop, thus adhering to the usual regulations. Also needed is a precise determination of the time.

I am returning to you your page and I confess the truth to you that by letters or writing, things are not so easily aired. So, I intend only to make one or the other observation which I submit to you for your scrutiny.

1. After first really verifying the question of title with respect to *lucrum cessans* and *damnum emergens*,⁷ one must not only consider the matter of the proceeds, but it is necessary to clear away the expenses, the responsibilities, the taxes etc.

2. If an evaluation of the efforts involved, which are estimable, is made, Tizio, in giving the money, either is spared them, or it is put to use in some other way. Whoever receives the money takes on everything. The enjoyment of that money, in lawful cases, however, was always most discreet.

3. Many argue as follows: "I could have been given such and such an amount ... so, etc." But, *a posse ad esse non tenet illatio*.⁸

4. When you say that for one *scudo* I get this many *bajocchi*, you can tell what you will get for a hundred. However, when I say that I put out money for a piece of land, an urban piece

⁶ To weigh carefully.

⁷ Gain ceasing and loss emerging.

⁸ The inference from potentiality to actuality does not hold.

of property, *detractis detrahendis*,⁹ and I make an evaluation of the above, I wonder, what return will I get? Experience will show that. So, let me put it this way, while I am sleeping, my dreams bring me a return that exceeds anything that so many are earning nowadays. This is something altogether quite different. Consequently, an examination of the circumstances in the cases is to be thoroughly weighed.

5. Instead of a letter to the people of Vallepietra, rather try to make arrangements for a triduum and speak to them in person. Cardinal Gerdil, in his writings, argues well against usuries. Concerning the loan, the teaching is more clear. In reference to the *monti frumentaraj*,¹⁰ the synod of Cardinal Mattei is very good and one can learn a great deal etc.

Pray for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, August 3, 1836

P. S. See to promoting the devotion to the Divine Blood. I believe that in that area there is someone who has the faculty of enrolling people. Tell me, was the nowdeceased Canon Bonderl the priest from Anagni who preached Missions and who went about preaching during Lent?

3206

August 3, 1836

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Urbino per Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

I am sending a response to your letter which was written *in aestu*, etc.¹¹

1) Fr. Cardillo will be coming there, but with the office only of ViceSuperior. I have already discussed it with him. He will have charge of the Archives. You will remain as the President of the House. Fr. Galli, the Director of Retreats. Fr. Domenico, *in die Sancti Domini, seu in vesperis*, etc.¹² ..., let us not give a victory to the devil. Be obedient and remain calm. I am not going to comment on your numerous reflections, for I am most convinced that God will immediately give you an answer in your own soul.

2) You will keep the documents pertaining to the church, separate, etc. as for the Conferences, observe the rule. Cardillo should be helpful, it seems to me.

⁹ Having removed what has to be removed.

¹⁰ To the mountain of grain.

¹¹ *In aestu*: in the heat, that is, in a moment of agitation.

¹² On the holy day of the Lord or in the evening, etc.

3) Negative, with respect to your question about the donkey. Furthermore, let it be known that I order that it is not to be loaned out. To say yes to one and no to another (this is the reason why), *non expedit*.¹³ Nor is it possible to say yes to everybody. So, you work yourself out of it.

Oh! Would that Fr. Domenico would get back *ut erat olim*.¹⁴ He would be such a great help to me! You know the principles: the devil harasses, because You understand me. I hope that everything, etc.

4) As a fact and by my order, you are to fix the little porch as you describe. When there are differences of opinion and doubts, it is up to me to make the final decision. Also, in regard to the *luogo*,¹⁵ you take care of that; but two of them will be needed. Think about that, for oftentimes there are urgent situations, etc. You understand.

5) Let us pray for Macerata, and let us do whatever good that is possible.

6) I am dealing with Fr. Rubertini on those matters. Prayers.¹⁶

7) I am telling you expressly that God wishes to have you in Macerata, at least for now, to take care of everything. Oh, how many merits you could earn! You will get experience in the country -life; in that way too you will be of assistance in sacred matters. Fr. Segneri, Jr. should be your guide. Bear this cross that God is offering you. One or the other trip for the ministry will not be lacking. Be assured that the Institute is what must continue to exist. The devil just produces confusion. Let our own individual wills be curbed and everything will proceed in orderly fashion.¹⁷

8) I am sending you 70 Masses which, along with the ten, make up the 80 for the twelve *scudi*, already deposited with my niece by Fr. Galli. Furthermore, the 70 Masses are all to be said at a privileged altar. It is all explained in the folio. The entire current year can be used for the celebration of the 70 Masses.

Is that all right? Are you relaxed? Let us be in peace. I love and esteem you equally, and if you allow yourself to be directed, you will accomplish a great deal of good. War on the devil; maintain the observance, etc.

I kiss your hands, and I remain

Your humble servant

¹³ It is not expedient.

¹⁴ As it was formerly.

¹⁵ *Luogo*, or also *logo*: an elliptical expression, now no longer in use, to say: the comfort room, the lavatory, the latrine, etc..

¹⁶ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Rubertini

¹⁷ In his deposition at the Ordinary Process in Albano, Fr. Silvestri uses the citation of this paragraph, which is so incisive, to confirm what he had asserted in reference to the Saint's fortitude in his observance of the rule as well as seeing that the rule was observed by the others.

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 (Albano) August 3, (1836)¹⁸

Do not be surprised that the devil should tempt you against me and the Institute. That is a sure sign that you should be obedient, and furthermore, love the Institute, etc.

The Masses would be at 15 *baj.*, but I, for the benefit of the House and not of the individuals, give them a stipend of two *paoli*, in order to balance out, etc.

3207

August 6, 1836
 Pietro Barcaroli
 Chiaravalle

May the price of our Redemption always be blessed

Most illustrious sir

I am sending a reply to your very kind letter which I am not returning to you because of the copy of the Curia letter of which you retain the original.

First of all, I ask you to extend my particular greetings to Father Abate Fabretti, who is an acquaintance of mine, as well as to anyone else who remembers me, recommending myself to the prayers of all of them.

I esteem and respect Canon Tarulli; however, the status of our Institute nowadays is in a period of growth because of the supply of members and foundations that have been made, ever since the time of Leo XII's pontificate. We go out on Missions only with individuals who are *de gremio*¹⁹ and live in our Mission Houses, with all due respect to those priests who were of assistance in the beginnings of our Society. With this as a premise, the closeness of our Houses to each other has brought about a reduction of expenses both with respect to making trips to and

¹⁸ The place of origin for this letter is found in the postal markings. As a matter of fact, we know that during July and August of 1836, the Saint was staying for several week in Albano where, after the Visitation, as Merlini informs us, "he clarified a few points of the Rule, he reread his letters, sorted them out, and continued to put the final touches on the affairs of the Institute"

The year, however, is derived by the process of elimination. As a fact, Fr. Silvestri, after having arrived in Macerata Feltria during the final months of 1833, assumed the position of President and Economist in February of 1834 (at first he had been Superior and Economist). August of 1834 is excluded, because Fr. Filippo Galli, whom the letter supposes to be in Macerata, had not as yet gone to that House. He was located in Frosinone, as is derived from the *Libri dei Congressi* of the respective Houses. Also excluded is the August of 1835, since there are no records at all in the *Libro dei Congressi of Macerata*, for in 1835 and 1836, they were completely discontinued. We know with certainty that on August 3 (all the way to the middle of the month) the Saint was located in Frosinone and not in Albano, from whence the letter originates. Finally, we exclude the August of 1837 when Silvestri had already been relieved of the burdens of President and Economist. August 1, 1836 is the only one remaining, a date which agrees with the stay of the Saint in Albano and with other circumstances referred to in the letter.

¹⁹ Of the group.

from places. If Chiaravalle is able to make a donation *ad libitum*,²⁰ it will be welcomed. Otherwise, because of my affection for the people there, I will take care of it. I am referring here only to the matter of the trips, since anything beyond that should be frugally and economically handled by you as you express in your letter. The heart will not be wanting in handling everything; so ... difficulties will be overcome, for whatever God provides for us we will use for his glory. You do whatever you can, also for the matter of the trips.

Now, there are still two things remaining. First, that a definite time be set. Second, that a letter be sent to me either from his Eminence the bishop or from Father Abate in the bishop's name. I will do everything possible to be there myself in person. *Veritatem dico et non mentior*.²¹ If that is not possible, I promise to send you workers of such capability that you will then express your cognizance of the things accomplished. If God did not provide them for our Institute, I would not be able to write to you in these terms. I repeat, however, that I shall do all I can to come, even though I scarcely recognize sufficiently my own wretchedness. In addition, settle firmly the basic procedures.

As far as I am concerned, nothing more is needed except to pray; we will have to abide by what God gives in inspiration to the bishop in order that everything can be brought to a conclusion. at any rate, be sure to write quickly.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1836

3208

August 6, 1836

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Pieveterina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Father Camillo²² has sent me the enclosed. I am sending you 15 Masses presently, all to be celebrated at a privileged altar, which you will then note on your report. On semidoubles, it will be necessary to celebrate a Requiem Mass, as you know, in order to enjoy the privileged altar. If my intention gets to you on time, you can regulate yourself being able to fulfill this starting on the 7th of the month inclusively. If this does not fit in with your schedule, that of the

²⁰ At one's wish.

²¹ I am telling the truth and I do not lie.

²² Father Camillo Rossi.

9th, do not fulfill it except in agreement with what I have directed. For my own peace of mind, please notify me of this. Later on, do not act using this method because, in practice, you will see that it cannot work out, nor do I care to suffer anguish.

As for catechetical instructions, study well the Roman Catechism along with Segneri's *Cristiano Istruito*. Whenever I am able, even though far away, I shall write.

If God wills it, I am hopeful of seeing you again. I urge observance of the rule. Whatever you judge that you should write to me, do so. Pray for me and in Jesus Christ I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 6, 1836

3209

August 6, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I am sorry to hear that you are not feeling well. But I am hopeful that you will improve soon. Take care of yourself, and take nourishment. Nausea for food is sometimes a real weakness of the stomach. *Utere modico vino propter stommacum, etc.*²³

Please make yourself available for whatever pertains to the Institute, *pro viribus*.²⁴ With kindness, give your advice, your encouragement, in addition to charity, etc.

A letter has been forwarded to me from Giano, concerning which I say, in as far as it pertains to me, that I have nothing to say to you.

I am sending 20 Masses, and all of them are to be celebrated at a privileged altar. This will be indicated on the listing sheet. On semidouble days, as you know, the Requiem Mass.

Pray for me, and, in J.C. Crucified, consider me as

Your humble devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

²³ Use a little wine for your stomach, etc.

²⁴ In accord with one's strength.

(Rome) August 6, 1836²⁵

3210

August 6, 1836
Fr. Vitale Corbucci
Fossombrone

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos a peccatis nostris in Sanguine Suo*²⁶

Venerable Father Vitale

I am hurrying to send you an answer to your very kind letter. In reply, I mention the following:

1. In order to be obedient to the most reverend bishop and to his suggestions, I shall conduct the Retreat for the clergy and the people simultaneously, working out, as soon as I get there, our method which will be just as all will be pleased. I say simultaneously in order not to put off to long or delay too much the Mission in Cagli, namely, in October.

2. Along with me (in addition to Bartolomeo),²⁷ I shall bring along at least one companion. The other two will join up with us for Cagli; we will then be four in number. If circumstances should demand that I make separate arrangements in bringing them, I shall inform you and I am hopeful of sending a letter in time to you, before leaving Rome.

3. Generally speaking, I shall be leaving around the beginning of September. Sooner than that I cannot. I hope to be available for the 9th. That will depend also on the availability of the carriage. Perhaps it might be possible for me to arrive sooner. Since this is not a matter of a Mission, that will not change things that much. In general, all is set.

4. Concerning S. Vito (if ever) more in person.

5. Give my thanks and particular best wishes to the most reverend bishop and the priests of the congregation there.

6. If you have anything else to mention to me, your letter and your suggestions will be most welcome.

7. Above all, pray, and have others do so to, for me and for the good work that must be promoted.

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

²⁵ In July and August of 1836 the Saint often went from Rome to Albano in order to sort out all of his writings and documents, as Merlini tells us. Hence, some of the letters from this period are dated from Rome, others from Albano, within a day or two of each others, or even on the same day. Thus, on the date of August 6 we have one dated from Rome to Sig. Pietro Barcaroli of Chiaravalle and another dated from Albano to Sister Nazarena of Piperno. The letter above undoubtedly was sent from Rome since, even though the place of origin is not evident in the postal markings, a portion of the stamping characteristic of Rome's is visible.

²⁶ Christ loved and washed us from our sins in his blood.

²⁷ Bartolomeo Panzini.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. A.

Rome, August 6, 1836

3211

August 6, 1836

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

August 6, 1836

I would like to know whether the *Carteglorie* were satisfactory to the sister sacristan, since I was unable to see them beforehand. For something of that little expense, the payment will be a visit, made by the sister sacristan, to the most Blessed Sacrament for me, imploring in my behalf the holy fire of charity. You, too, could make a similar visit and I will be most obliged to you.

With regard to the book on the Heart of Mary, I point out that this book is understood to be donated to the Oratory of St. Francis Xavier; so, our patron saint will take care of that expense.

Send me information concerning Roccasecca.

With reference to the tasks of the Oratory, as long as they are carried out in accord, the job is not difficult for one or the other. I have no doubt that, with the golden ring of charity, everyone will be active in achieving the good work of that Oratory whose regulations must be observed with full vigor. Canon Setucci, however, should be vigilant, should promote it and should act in a very special way.

I shall go to Maenza to preach if God allows me to bring to a conclusion the Mission in Piperno. Otherwise, they will be able to have the services of Father Biagio.²⁸ For Maenza, the Mission during the upcoming Lent has already been set in place of the Lenten preaching. Thus, the closing blessing will be given on Palm Sunday and, in the morning, a general communion.

A thousand thanks for the prayers offered for me on July²⁹ 31st. Keep them up, however, otherwise I will be deprived of the crutches by which I am supported.

As for the Mission, if the time is not definitively set, nothing can be concluded. So, prayers. With regard to the housing, prayers.

I will consider the matter of Canon Spoglia; however, I view the situation as something

²⁸ Father Biagio Valentini.

²⁹ First he had written "August", then canceled it.

difficult. It would be better if the bishop³⁰ were to assign him to the seminary in Sezze. Sezze is also thinking about having a Mission as well as Terracina and the other surrounding towns. Father Biagio is wellacquainted with the bishop. Be advised of this. I have some acquaintance with him, but Father Biagio, it seems to me, a bit more. Everything will be worked out.

Give my greetings to your dear mother; and I give thanks to God for the pastor found for Roccasecca.

If I have overlooked anything, please remind me.

The horns of plenty have been ordered and I hope that you will have them soon.

Tell Sister Veronica Baratta, if I am not mistaken, that the small, completely silver vase for purification is on order and will be coming. As soon as it is finished, I shall send word to you to let you know the cost. The money, however, I will have to send to another of our Missionaries who is not in Sonnino. How is it with the Father confessor? At any rate, with all due respect and only because of his advanced age, would not de Bonis be available? I do not know. Pray for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. You counsel me, indeed, to come for the Mission. However, I do not know what the clergy and the principle town leaders will think about that. I could have the main sermon handled by others. You, who are there, should let me know what your opinion is. We have many requests sent to our Institute. Praise be to God.

3212

August 7, 1836

Luigi Baldi

Meldola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Luigi

I give thanks for the novena booklets and the triduum in honor of the great Xavier. Have no doubts, your zeal will be rewarded by God. Indeed, let us continue the Retreats as usual. Let me know whether, starting now, I should be considering one of our members.

With regard to Monsignor Vannini, what am I to say? Send me a new petition and that will give me a motive for pleading once again. That petition is to be addressed to the aforementioned Monsignor Vannini.

Recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

³⁰ Monsignor Guglielmo Aretini Sillani.

Rome, August 7, 1836

3213

August 7, 1836
Fr. Francesco Paradisi
S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, August 7, 1836

Venerable Canon

As well as I can remember, I have always sent a reply to your most esteemed letters. Now, I am replying to your recent one. You have no reason at all to be upset and there is nothing for you to be afraid of. I supposed that Father de Victoriis, who is adept with regard to our rules, might have pointed out the urgency for you to remove the ring. You are aware of what the church's discipline is with reference to the use of rings. In our Institute, they are altogether forbidden. With regard to your devotion of the holy rosary, be satisfied in bearing it and carrying it otherwise as though you were bearing the crown. You know that in Institutes there are two things that are called for, namely, impartiality and uniformity. With all my heart, I would have liked to write in a different way, but, as a matter of principle, that cannot be done.

With reference to the boarder, I already told you that that could not be worked out. Little by little we shall put in order the canonical matters there. Prayer and trust in God.

I am sorry to learn about the inconvenience that you encountered on your trip. I give thanks to God that now you are feeling better. When the opportunity arises, please extend my good wishes to Father Giovannelli.

Any plan for going out on a hunt, be it as a concession to others be it to profit by the gain of thrushes, be it just for the sake of hunting, this is excluded everywhere by our Institute for you, for our young men and any others. Indeed, the President there surely knows these things. Why write about this? For a Missionary and for anyone else who is being formed for our Institute, it is not sufficient just to have some sort of sanctity; we are called to a special perfection, indeed a gentle and suave type, but one that is proportionate to the ministry. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3214

August 8, 1836
Fr. Domenico Silvestri
Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

You are correct. All of the Masses are at 15 *baj.* and that is the offering. The mistake was mine. *Satis*.³¹

Tell Fr. Filippo that the 12 *Sc.* have been deposited with my niece, and at his credit.

Where am I to find Masses at two *paoli*? A rare, very rare thing. Under the circumstances, we are agreed.

With regard to the flooring in the church, *expedit*³² that you get information; then we will come to an agreement and work things out together.

In J.C. Crucified, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 8, 1836 ³³

You will not cease to advise prudently you know whom so that each one remains at the position where God has placed him.

3215

August 8, 1836

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Ignazio

Thousands and thousands of thanks. More, when we see each other in person. A copy of the manuscript is needed so that, upon my imminent return, I can join together both your power of attorney and the last will and testament, as well as anything else pertinent, giving this matter its place in the general archives of our Institute as an historical record of our dealings. If you need to have a meeting with the very reverend auditor, you make that decision. Perhaps that may be superfluous. Let all things be done according to the will of God. I would suppose that by the vigil of the Assumption, or a bit later, the Delegate's defense from Frosinone will have been returned. While asking you for your prayers, I remain

³¹ Enough.

³² It is expedient.

³³ In this date, the year is derived from the circumstance that Fr. Filippo Galli was still located in Macerata Feltria, from whence he left in the following October. Even more so from the fact that in a preceding letter, written a few days prior to this one, the Saint had already pointed out that the 12 *Sc.* for Fr. Filippo Galli were deposited with his niece, Luigia del Bufalo (cfr. Lett. n. 3206 of August 3, 1836, paragraph 9). It is one of the parallel instances that are so frequent in the letters of the Saint. In fact, we know that he had adopted the system of repeating things either because of his insistence on exactness or to be more assured himself that they would be carried out.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 8, 1836

3216

August 10, 1836

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Pasquale

I am sending you ten Masses, all to be celebrated at a privileged altar. This you will then note in your report. For the recent 12 as well as for these additional ten, you will be receiving the offerings from Canon Fontana. I am referring to those recent ones that you know about. Let me know whether our accounts agree. Also, let me know the age of your nephew and what studies he has had. Please send an answer. You will be getting more Masses. I am writing in a hurry. Pray a lot for me and with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 10, 1836

3217

August 11, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece³⁴

For this time only we shall send the payment of money to Sonnino for Cotino and Fabrini. Maria Nazzarena told me that it would be a shorter trip to address this to her with the instruction that such and such an amount is to go to Cotino and such and such an amount to Brother Fabrini. As far as I am concerned, I say that it is just the same to address it directly to them. But, you decide as you judge to be best. I think that there is one or the other coachman from Piperno since there are coaches that come and go there. Otherwise, you can write to Maria Nazzarena and have her set the arrangement herself.

Seal and send out the enclosed.

³⁴ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on August 11, 1836.

Merlini is waiting for the ribbons of thread for the curtain.

I received the *terliccio*, the printed matters etc. and I am returning the empty basket. I understand about the cost of the *terliccio*; it is quite all right.

Also, order that ciborium that we have discussed in the past. Do you have the measurements? See that it is a beautiful one and let us try to spend as little as possible. But it should be wellmade along with a small, silver key which you will buy, following our practice, and it can be given to Fumante. You will already understand.

With reference to the measurements for the frontal piece, more in person. Include this among the reminders. It is a frontal piece for Sermoneta; but in good time. I have understood about the wine that we have on hand. This time, I am writing in a hurry because I am very, very busy.

[there is no signature]

3218

August 12, 1836
 Msgr. Antonio Begni
 Bishop of Montefeltro
 Pennabilli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Father Santarelli, who has arrived there or who will arrive upon returning from various assignments of the ministry, will preach holy Advent in your cathedral church there. He is likewise scheduled to give the sermon from the platform, at a time after the noon meal that you will determine, in honor of the glorious S. Andrea Avellino, in keeping with what you directed in previous correspondence. As for the Lenten preaching, we have already come to an agreement.

Most illustrious and reverend Lordship, while asking you for your prayers, I assure you once again of my esteem, respect and gratitude.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 12, 1836

3219

Middle of August, 1836
 Luigia del Bufalo
 Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

Father Pietro de Victoriis would like to have a picture of the Pope, more or less the size of a halfsheet of paper. See that you get one and then, with an outer covering, send it to him and let

me know the cost. He would also like to have a picture of the two Secretaries of State, but these cuts, I have already responded, are not available, nor is it the practice to have such things publicly sold. Let us be in agreement.

Write a couple of lines to Father Francesco Saverio Riccardi concerning the large image of St. Xavier. Indeed, Cencio³⁵ might check at the Gesu church and then send me a response. If the Jesuits cannot be of help, the matter is finished.

You are to send that little vase for purifying³⁶ to Mother Nazzarena in Piperno to whom I will send instructions by letter. I will take care of the reimbursement which I will assign to Sermoneta. Write down 10,75 *scudi* for Sermoneta. I hope that I have made myself clear.

Perhaps Muti or Minu will be able to dispose of the daily, whatever you consider best. Let me know what is collected if it is passed on to the boardingstudent.

With pleasure did I learn the news concerning Monsignor Piatti's manservant.

For Father Camillo,³⁷ deposit 4 *scudi* and then, when I return, remind me of this since he has already indicated to me what he wanted done.

It goes without saying that not only Nanne but you, too, are to pray for me and for our Institute. I am thoroughly convinced that you both will not forget to do this.

I hear that Father Finelli at the Gesu church is not feeling well. Is this true? How is he doing?

The papers from Perugia are to remain in Rome. They are not needed.

On the walkway, put what Pallotta has ordered. Furthermore, in discussing things, namely, old and wornout books, if the paper is still good, send them to Minu so that he can bind them, as usual. Then, when I return, I will look into this.

I understand about the deposit of 12 *scudi* for Galli. That is all right. I have received the books and other stuff. I am awaiting the ribbons for the curtain along with the cost.

If I am not mistaken, we have written several times, concerning matters, to Father Filippo. Let us repeat this.

I shall write concerning the title of the church of the Addolorata.

If the opportunity arises, it would be a good idea to make use of it to send to Pievetorina Fr. Orazio's³⁸ and Pedini's packages. But, if expenses are involved, then hold off.

The nuns in Piperno would like to have two beautiful horns of plenty, together with the

³⁵ Vincenzo Severini.

³⁶ This letter has no date. Comparing what is stated here concerning the "little vase for purifying" which cost 10,75 *scudi* and what is mentioned about this same matter in the letter (n. 3223) to Mother Maria Nazzarena de Castris of August 13, 1836, we tentatively assign this letter to that same period of time, even more so because St. Gaspar affirms that he intends to "send instructions by letter" to Mother Maria Nazzarena, which he actually did do.

³⁷ Father Camillo Rossi.

³⁸ Father Orazio Bracaglia.

eyelets, for when they receive communion, that is, for where the nuns receive communion. Beautiful, wellmade ones are available in Rome. Purchase them and send them to Maria Nazzarena and to me the cost. They should be made of beautiful brass and nothing more. I would like them to be to their delight, as I have no doubt you will handle well. Let me know the cost.

It will be necessary to prepare the packet. The rest, tomorrow. I urge you to take care of the enclosed matters.

See that the stockings that I am sending to you are patched and send them back to me as soon as possible. I am writing in a hurry.

Read the superscripts.

Ricciardi has written again concerning the small images of St . Xavier. So, it would be good, if they have not as yet been sent, to use some diligence quickly.

Let me know the expenses for the devotional materials sent to Fontana.³⁹

3220

Middle of August, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴⁰

Purchase quickly a beautifully made collar for one of our Brothers who is Andrea from Sermoneta. Include, also, a pair of summer stockings, if there are any, and send these to me here in Albano.

It appears that with 50 *bajocchi* a member of the St. Xavier group might be able to have a coatofarms, a crucifix and a chaplet. Figure out the account and let me know. Thus, the member in Vallecorsa will be getting what is due to him.

I would like to know whether I have, in Rome, any pair at all of summer trousers, either new or old ones. From the reply you give me, I will determine whether I should get some here, since I will have to make out an account.

When you have the time, I would like you to check over my winter cassocks, that is, the linings, and with the use of coffee, to remove any stains.

With reference to the continuation of our method of cleaning off the books and other things, you already are wellexperienced.

Send here to me a Life of Father Paolo, the socalled Minima, indicating to me the cost of the binding. Take note of the following.

³⁹ This final sentence is found on the fourth siding.

⁴⁰ This letter, as is evident from the content, was sent from Albano a day or so before the 15th of August, 1836 (cfr. likewise the letter (n. 3223) to the De Castris nun, dated August 13, 1836). Tentatively, therefore, we assign its date as: middle of August, 1836.

Here, they are still waiting for the ribbons of yellow thread for the curtains in the church, concerning which Merlini wrote.

Because of some matters dealing with a desk, which I must take care of, my return to Rome will be delayed until next Friday, after the feast of the Assumption. I will be coming in the morning, since after the noon meal, an appointment with the Ursulines has already been set! So, I repeat, Friday, in the morning in time for the noon meal. Perhaps, I will be free for the Paolotte. Hold on to the letters that arrive on Thursday. Let us be in agreement. If necessary, have Giovanni⁴¹ get some ink and dusting powder etc. in addition to some wellsharpened pens.

With Giovanni paying a visit to Monsignor Vannini's office, which is on a small street near S. Ignazio, he could learn on what days and at what hours Monsignor Vannini can be seen. I must contact him upon my return and at a time that will not inconvenience him etc.

Tell Minu that, if it is not too hard, he should find the first volume of the work in Latin of Zaccaria which treats of Advent and Lent. Cotino is in need of it. If it cannot be located, then, in order to save me this concern, when you have the opportunity, write to Cotino, saying: "The Zaccaria volume cannot be located". Write a note to Minu that this is his job.

I have just received your letter in the mail.

Likewise, get some red moire, strong and beautiful, and at a cost as thrifty as possible. What you sent to the nun in Piperno is all right. I hope that the horns of plenty are beautiful.

Send me here in Albano the books delivered by Pallotta. That book that Minu spoke of, he is to bind.

The chickens that have arrived are from Luzzi. Make a meal of them, especially on the feast of the Assumption. Let us be in agreement.

Hold on deposit for me the 1,50 *scudo*.

Order for a Missionary an ebony crucifix, like the one I use, wellmade, and see that the ebony has no defects. The small chain is not needed. Upon my return, I hope that this will be on hand. You probably already know the price.

Send me a cincture, from among those that we have on hand, of the smallest size, used by our Brothers.

If there is among the printed matters, stored in the cabinet, one or the other thing that is not of use for the Missions, even though everything can be useful, send it to me.

In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

Among the books with white pages, bound in parchment by Minu, I notice that there is none with nothing written on the outside.

Our butcher here would like to have a large image of most holy Mary. I would say like one of those in Ancona.

The 70 *baiocchi* for the horns of plenty, you are to sign down as: "Account of Sonnino".

⁴¹ Giovanni Minicucci.

Send to Ventili, when you have the opportunity, a chaplet of the Sorrowful Mother, linked in brass, economical and strong.

3221

Middle of August, 1835
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴²

You have received the cupel, a form and the ringshaped cakes, as that Prelate from Pesaro said.

I urge you to reply concerning the daily for the boardingstudent in order that he can be given what is due to him.

You will have to place on deposit, in favor of Father Virgilj, the offering for the 22 Masses at 15 *bajocchi* each. Let us be in agreement.

In regard to the ciborium, it will be necessary to have a small and economical covering made with a proportionate cross.

It need not be completely gilded. You, to whom I am sending the design, should take care of this. It would be good to line it on the inside with that golden *fajione*, should there be a little of it leftover from my frontal piece. You take care of this too.

Write to Fontana that he is to inform Father Francesco Saverio Ricciardi in Vallecorsa that the large image of St. Xavier, the kind that he wanted to have, cannot be located. If he wishes to have a large one, that is, one that does exist, he will be provided with it. So, we go on fulfilling needs.

Upon my return, I will bless the corporals.

Do the ribbons for the curtain cost 65 *bajocchi* each or is that for both of them or does that include the one that is to come? Hurry to get even a third one to finish the cloth since there is an urgent need.

With regard to the hat, my decision still holds and I will not change it. I have given the old one to Filippo since, in not wearing it any more, it was gathering dust and, in one part it was showing wear. Otherwise, I would have had it blocked and cleaned for winter and even without having it cleaned again, I would have continued to wear it. However, the circumstance of its being wornout or spent has caused me to come to this decision.

Bartolomeo's basket was, in part, provided also here with cheese.

With reference to the book that Minu has located, I will say more upon my return. For the time being, hold off on this.

⁴² This letter has no date. It must, however, belong to the middle of August 1836, but after the preceding letter (cfr. the correction he makes with regard to his return to Rome: Friday, August 19th in the afternoon).

Do the 1,45 *scudi* cover the one copy of Biamonti or both copies of Chiodi?

In regard to the trousers, I will use a pair of the ones I have without having others sent from Rome.

You were correct in not having the Life of the Minima bound. I will check it upon my return.

On Friday, after celebrating Mass, it will be hot; so, I will be coming after the noon meal; indeed, it will be Friday, and I will be coming. I wrote by mail to Maria Giuseppe that I will be going there on Saturday. Contact or write a line or so to Maria Caterina Buzzonetti in S. Marta and tell her that I will be going there on Saturday. Giovanni⁴³ could go and call her to the Rota, or you can send a note.

For the moire to be used for the mantle, I am thinking of having it lined with red muslin, or even use as a lining the old red mantle. We will work this out in person.

I received the image of most holy Mary. I was mistaken in di Ancona. With regard to the books with sheepskin writing paper, more in person.

I have mailed the letter of de Victoriis in order not to delay it.

When money is to be sent, Guglielmo has let me know that for Frosinone Iangiorgi presently has a method for sending any sum. So, it will be necessary to send an order of 100 *scudi*, I repeat,

one hundred *scudi*, addressed to Father Vincenzo Fontana, Missionary President, and try to get Iangiorgi to hurry it, for Guglielmi has been alerted. Then, I will send instructions to Fontana. We have people in the Institute who are ill, but no one seriously: this involves new expenses. May the will of God be done. Even here in the city of Albano, there are many who are ill. I give thanks to God that I am rather well; and, God gives me strength to continue to work for his glory.

Take a good look at our house and let me know whatever might be needed, always following our usual method, and especially for the upcoming winter. More in person.

With my greetings to all, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your affectionate uncle

Contact Contedini and have him come to see me, Sunday night, about a halfhour before nightfall; and also, Minu, to see me on Sunday morning shortly before noontime.

Check to see how many images I have of Xavier and most holy Mary, help of Christians. Let us do good work and let us become saints.

Make for me a list of the deposits.

Send to Pedini in Pievetorina ten *scudi* in *francs*. On Saturday, de Marchis will be coming around the *Ave Maria* hour.

Do not send the letters that arrive on Thursday. In sending packages, you also send letters; but this time you will not, since I will be coming there Friday after the noon meal. Bartolomeo is having some *preciutti* come from Subjaco.

⁴³ Giovanni Minicucci.

I remind you of the hosts for the Mass on Saturday. Have Zamboni's Masses gone well? Whatever I have overlooked, we will take care of in person.

3222

August 13, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴⁴

I have received the package with the old books, the ribbon and I have understood the total price. Everything is all right.

The box with the letters that I sent, once it is emptied, you are to set aside in the closet where the uniforms etc. are kept.

I will be returning on Friday, after the noon meal.

In person, I will look over the plan for your wardrobe just to please you and I will judge whether it is discreet and whether it corresponds with my opinions; all is to be done with prayer.

I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3223

August 13, 1836
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

The small vase for purifying, ordered by one of the religious named Baratta, must have arrived there. It was, I believe, Mother Veronica to whom you will give my greetings. It costs 10,75 *scudi*. I do not know whether it is satisfactory. If it is not, feel free to let me know that.

The hornsofplenty cost 70 *bajocchi*. I do not know whether these have met with your satisfaction. If not, I will take them back and use them in our chapels. If I am not mistake, I believe that the total comes to 11,45 *scudi*. Because of certain circumstances, you will please send this amount completely to Father Michele Gentili. Let us be in agreement.

Now, let us turn to your letter. The method you are using in going to confession is very good. I need not repeat here what I have pointed out on another occasion. Your past confessions were likewise made well; have no doubt about that. Those are the worries that you must get rid of altogether.

I would say that the conference to the sisters, if this is considered to be prudent, can be

⁴⁴ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on August 13, 1836.

conducted in your church. Actually, however, benediction need not be given since, while kneeling before the ciborium, along with a devout colloquium, we can implore a blessing and that should be sufficient.

One cannot, at times, demand the optimum; only, desire it; at least in certain circumstances.

May the pious organizations be in charge, for the Mission will consolidate them. Indeed, I will come for the Mission; but is not the where and the time to be opportunely arranged? Up to now, all that we have are desires. In reference to Canon Spoglia, I have spoken to reliable people; but, up to now, *nihil*.⁴⁵

The iron for making hosts will be procured. But, prayers, time and patience are needed. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. Can. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 13, 1936

Address your letters to me to "Rome"

3224

August 14, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Camerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

I do not have time to reread this. Mistakes correct them,

Dearest in the Lord,⁴⁶

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

I have read your last letter, and after spending time in prayer, I now send you my reply.

1) No, it is not the Institute, it is not our holy Society, precisely because it is holy, that has anything to do with what happens. Rather, it is ourselves and our own way of doing things which we choose to adopt. I mention first that I excuse the intentions of all, and I meditate on the matter in itself and on its own merits. Therefore, I now make the following observations:

2) Anyone living in an Institution must live according to its regulations and be diligent in its prescriptions as well as anything else that is enjoined upon him, for example, his turn for hearing the confessions of women, and other things.

3) To take care of his assigned duties, and not get involved with things that God did not

⁴⁵ Nothing.

⁴⁶ The Saint wished to locate this note, which he certainly wrote after he had finished the letter, precisely at the heading of the sheet, and not without reason. Perhaps he sought, because of the impressionable character of Meloni, to use that affectionate "dearest in the Lord" so as to soften a bit the remarks that he was constrained to make to him. He did make them as one would to a very dear friend.

entrust to him; and, at most, with something coming to his attention, to give notice of it to the Superior, and that is sufficient.

4) Since we are to give evidence that *omnia vestra in charitate fiant*,⁴⁷ following the example of Jesus Christ, it follows that all should be done with kindness.

5) In doubtful cases, not to panic.

7) ⁴⁸ To interpret matters dealing with one's neighbor, in as far as one can, with a benign sense. We are not in court. Let us leave the judgment to God. Furthermore, *nemo praesumitur malus nisi probetur*.⁴⁹

8) It is true that at times, you say something meaning one thing; and someone else interprets it to mean another: but all that simply calls for an effort of virtuous tolerance.

9) If you were to apply yourself to a study and practice of the works of De Sales in whatever way you can imitate him, you would acquire more and more, the ways of God.

10) Examine yourself to see where these things that have happened have their source. Then either you will discover that there is an explanation in general, for them and some correction must be made in yourself; or, there is no explanation, in which case you try to find out how they came to be and with the sprinkler of charity hasten on to do the true good.

11) To avoid certain gross terminology: v.g. "he eats *utpote animalia immunda*".⁵⁰ All of our speech should be moderated.

12) What has the Society to do with it? The reform must come about in ourselves. One could go elsewhere but the suffering would not cease since isn't the whole world a kind of hospital? "*Tribulatio et angustia invenerunt me*".⁵¹ The one who strives harder to promote the good is the one who is going to suffer more, just as was foretold: "*Multae tribulationes iustorum*".⁵²

13) Should I go to another Institute? That would be against the will of God: "*Manete in*

⁴⁷ Let everything you do be done in love.

⁴⁸ The enumeration skips from 5 to 7: it is one of several lapses noted in the writing of this letter.

⁴⁹ No one is presumed bad unless proved so.

⁵⁰ As unclean animals.

⁵¹ Tribulation and hardship have found me.

⁵² Many tribulations of the just.

ea vocatione in qua vocati estis".⁵³ Let us not sully the windows .⁵⁴ Let us live with a holy abandonment of our own wills.

14) Should one go around looking for proofs. ... for goodness sakes, isn't that going to cause suspicions about something that does not exist? Proof is required either to present, defend or deny a given point in court. One person, interprets the point in one way, and someone else in another. In practice, that is how it goes. Debtors that we are to the learned as well as the unlearned, we place in jeopardy the good name of our ministry just when we think that we are safeguarding it. *Parcat tibi Deus*.⁵⁵

15) Never do anything *absque prolissa oratione et concilio*.⁵⁶

16) Never belittle the Brothers in charge of the things in the House.

17) Furthermore, in conscience, I could never counsel your departure from the Society. *"Ecce quam bonum et quam iucundum habitare fratres in unum."*⁵⁷

Method of a New Life

Look after yourself and the things that pertain to you; in not wishing to accept any position, then don't do so: but do not fail in the observance of the rule which is set up for all.

To be indifferent about the place where God wants you. The letters of Xavier speak of this abundantly.

I would advise you to change Houses. Have no doubt, you shall travel at your own convenience. Were you to ask me for my opinion, I would say: Nepi or Giano or Rimini. Make a selection, and then write to me. I do not intend to oblige you, but pray: *"Seniorem ne increpaveris, sed obsecra ut patrem"*.⁵⁸ Send me a reply. It has been quite a while that you have been there. A change is due. To go to Giano one uses the carriage as far as Montefalco; to Nepi and Rimini, there are postal routes.

May God give you his holy inspirations. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

⁵³ Remain in the vocation in which you were called.

⁵⁴ We cannot understand just what the Saint precisely meant with this expression. In keeping with the context, it might be a figurative mode of speech meaning: let us not besmirch our interior view (*fenestre*) with useless thoughts and fantasies. It might also have been a lapse of the pen; but we have not succeeded in making a good guess of what the correct word might be; possible, "fantasies".

⁵⁵ May God have mercy.

⁵⁶ Without prolonged prayer and with deliberation.

⁵⁷ Behold how good and how pleasant that brothers live in unity.

⁵⁸ Do not reproach an man, but reason with him as a father.

M. Ap.
 (Albano) August 14, 1836
 P.S. Your answer: " Rome "

3225

August 14, 1836
 Msgr. Prefetti
 Pesaro
 Venerable Monsignor

During your stay in Rome, your most illustrious and reverend lordship was pleased to promise me a copy of the small work on the Three Hours of Agony. The abundance of occupations weighing upon you has probably caused you to forget this. So, with this most humble letter of mine, I wish to ask you for this very special favor, indicating to me the cost of it, as is only right.

I kiss your hands. Pray for me, and, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, for forwarding, August 14, 1836

3226

August 14, 1836
 Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
 Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

I received your report about the Masses celebrated at a privileged altar.

With regard to NN., he should not be surprised by his repugnance for the ministry. What good work is ever promoted without virtuous sacrifice? We are at war; hence, we are not to cease fighting. Fear will accompany us in our work, but this is both a restraint and a stimulus to work with wariness. Therefore, he is not to be disjoined from trusting in God, in whose immensity we reside. Examinations of conscience, meditation every day, a monthly day of recollection, silence and union with God are the spiritual refreshments, may I say, that the ever lovable Lord provides for us.

Our vocation, in contrast, is an indication that the devil, in an effort to destroy the spiritual edifice, will try to strike at the very foundation stones. If everyone is provided with the usual means for recognizing and cultivating his vocation, NN. has them in a very special way. He

should often reflect on *quomodo intrasti*?⁵⁹ Likewise, he should verify the meaning of *manete in vocatione*.⁶⁰

Anyone who finds himself tempted with respect to his vocation should exercise charity twice as much praying and being cautious. The ailments that we find in ourselves are never sufficiently recognized and never are they sufficiently cured. This is the reason why so many begin to imagine things that do not exist. The devil keeps on being vexatious and the individual becomes like the sick person who takes it out on the doctor. As a result, he is attributing his trouble to our holy Society, which is something that must be a matter of examination by the members. We pardon everyone; but the cure is urgent.

Then, too, crosses will never be lacking as long as we are here below. One might make a change in the method, but there will be no change in the crosses to which we are heirs as children of the redemption.

So, in respect to the situation, you are to remain very, very tranquil in the position to which obedience has called you, remembering that you do not wish to be in Nepi nor in Sermoneta. Nor to be in Frosinone, since that is your hometown. There is no room in Sonnino, nor in Albano. Giano is a possibility. Hence, with a bit more time, etc., we shall see. Furthermore, when God wishes something to be done, he immediately presents the encouragement and the means, etc. Prayers. In the meantime, trust in the good and do not be fearful.

Recommend me to the Lord. In the Heart of Jesus, the center of peace, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome⁶¹ for forwarding, August 14, 1836

P. S. I have just received another of your letters. I will think it over, pray on it and make provisions. In the meantime, be cautious in speaking even with the Brothers, so that they do not relate things out of ignorance. Sprinkle etc. charity and you will achieve the best results etc. Here you have occasions for virtuous deeds. I, too, will be praying for this. Consider me to be etc.

3227

August 15, 1836
Filippo Castellani
Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁵⁹ How did you enter?

⁶⁰ Remain in vocation.

⁶¹ This letter was sent from Albano as is evident from the postal markings.

Most esteemed Filippo

I have already been informed about what you write to me in reference to Father Tomasso⁶² and you are correct in saying that these are matters of little import. The transfer that you ask for in regard to that individual is not altogether within my power. When a worker has reached a certain age, it is more proper to pray than to give a command. Such is the practice in our Institute, wellknown to our members. I shall do whatever I can, but with gentleness and propriety and without anguish. Let us be trusting in God and let us pray.

It is very true that the most reverend archbishop is in correspondence with me. Recommend me to God, and, in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, I remain, with esteem and gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 15, 1836

3228

August 17, 1836

Filippo Castellani

Pieveterina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Filippo

That people there should be writing to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops is an unreasonable thing, requesting something which is not within the established principles of our Institute. It would be the same as demanding that a plant bring forth a fruit that is proper to some other plant.

I will be thinking about Father Tomasso.⁶³ Have no doubts. Just a bit of time. One must be compassionate. I am grateful to you for your concern about our Society. It is not difficult that I may come this year. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

August 17, 1836

Address your letters to "Rome".

3229

August 17, 1836

⁶² Father Tomasso Meloni.

⁶³ Father Tomasso Meloni.

Fr. Domenico Silvestri
Urbino per Macerata Feltria⁶⁴

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Domenico

If Lipparelli or anyone else, in my name, were to write and get a triduum on the occasion of the feast of the Sorrowful Mother in Falciano of the Republic of S. Marino, I assign you to it at this very time. I trust that by that time the Mission in Balze will have already been finished and the companions will have returned there. You will take with you as your helper whomever you wish from that House. You are to arrange for the carriages and ask for the faculties that you will need, etc. You are well acquainted with the rules. While you are handling that triduum, Fr. Cardillo will supply for you in your other duties. In case he should not be in residence, due to causes unforeseen by me, then whoever is there will supply for you. If it should be necessary, *pro unica vice*,⁶⁵ one is to try to get someone for the last Mass or the first one. But, as I said before, by that time the Missionaries should be back from Balze. You will do a great work. If the problem should arise that you have to have the services in the church on the feastday which occurs during the triduum and there is no one else there who is prepared for the sermon, you are to lead the Chaplet of the Sorrowful Mother, *pro hoc casu*,⁶⁶ with the *Stabat Mater*, etc., *et satis*.⁶⁷

Since Pontoni is going to come there to supply during the Mission in Balze, he can return to Pennabilli, using the same beast of burden that the companions use to return. *Satis*.⁶⁸

I urge you to be careful about cleanliness in the beds. Alessandrino's came from Rimini, and you will see to replacing it, using all precautions, etc.

I am presently trying to obtain a privileged altar. However, the present pope has established certain principles from which I am not too sure that he will be willing to depart. We shall see.

The new Bishop of Sora is very kind to the Institute.⁶⁹

Now we come to the *cembalo*.⁷⁰ These are my feelings on the matter.

⁶⁴ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Harpsichord.

⁶⁵ For a single instance.

⁶⁶ For this case.

⁶⁷ And it is enough.

⁶⁸ Enough.

⁶⁹ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Mazzetti

⁷⁰ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Harpsichord [continuation]

As a matter of principle, it cannot be introduced, for very easily one contracts such an attachment that the observance of the rule collapses and private study goes out the window, so to speak. We all live in Community. For many, that repeated sound would constitute a disturbance. Sometimes very nice lay people would like to hear it: but, I do not want outsiders coming into our midst. With all due respect, the Missionary should be like a Carthusian in his own room. If it is heard from the street (trust in my experience) there will be those who will say: "the Missionaries are having a good time". If you have to pay a teacher, they will add: "they could be helping the Mission House they could be assisting and visiting the sick in the hospitals, the prisons, etc., as our rule directs". In short, private study in preparing sermons would be all through or greatly reduced. Who is there who cannot deepen himself by more study? How many things are there that could be investigated? I would have more to add, but, I shall pass over them all. "*Non omnia quae licent expediunt*".⁷¹ The case of a Trappist is quite different. But, the devil seeks to be vexatious everywhere.

Nevertheless, while still maintaining our policies firmly, here is what I can permit or tolerate only for you *et non aliter*:⁷²

1) The Institute will never assume the cost for the loan of a harpsichord, but you will, *tantum taxative*.⁷³ It is also your responsibility to take care of it and bear whatever expenses may arise.

2) In the event of your transferral, something which is not presently being considered, you will have to send the harpsichord back.

3) It must be set up in an outoftheway place, without taking one of the bedrooms and in such a way that it will not be heard from the street or by anyone else.

4) You are forbidden to have a teacher, or to invite people in to hear it, even with the laudable purpose of practicing hymns, etc.

5) No one from the outside, even the person loaning it to you, is ever to listen to it.

6) It will not be played if there are Retreatants about.

7) It will be played only during the hours or periods of recreation in the morning and evening. At any other time or hour, absolutely not. I enjoin and prescribe this duty upon you in holy obedience.

8) The whole matter, in as far as possible, is to be kept between us. This is all that I can say to you; more, I cannot. Realize that this is being done only in so far as my heart is inclined to condescend.

9) As for the other matters, in another ordinary mail. I am in J.C. Crucified

Your humble servant

⁷¹ Not everything that is lawful is expedient.

⁷² And not otherwise.

⁷³ Only taxatively.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, where I am returning tomorrow,⁷⁴ August 17, 1836

I urge you to look after Alessandrino,⁷⁵ who hopefully is feeling better.

For the record; tell me: in view of the fact that our preacher will be there in Lent, tell me: would you repeat the Lenten series in Riparotta (nothing has been decided up to now) while keeping your residence and duties in Macerata? I thank you with all my heart. Be assured that God wills it.

(on the outside page, on both sides of the address, one reads:)

As for Viola's expenses,⁷⁶ even though I will still be sending something, do we want to settle it with Masses?

The management of the church is to be kept separate from that of the House.

3230

August 20, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Camerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

I am in receipt of your letter in which you give me an answer with reference to the Masses that you are celebrating: and all is well.

Permit me to alert you with regard to what follows, with respect, loving kindness and the same affection as always.

1) God no longer wishes you to remain at Pievetorina, and a change is inevitable.

2) In my last letter to you I presented a listing of our wellknown Houses for your own selection. In that Mission House you will not be concerned about anything else except to celebrate Mass to say the Office to hear confessions to preach, if your health permits and whenever you are assigned to it to be present at the Conferences, if you wish. It is the same as saying that this is the apostolic life, without the least worry about external things or about individuals. I, in virtue of holy obedience, relieve you of every responsible position. I would like to see you make a voluntary choice for Nepi. I trust in your virtue. Your enthusiasm must be prudent and not cause incidents out of the ordinary. Excuse this bit of advice.

⁷⁴ As is noted from the postal markings, the Saint wrote this letter while he was still in Albano where he mailed it.

⁷⁵ Alessandrino: cfr. biographical section.

⁷⁶ Viola: cfr. biographical section. Also see Additional Biographical Data: Di Girolamo.

Tell Fr. Pedini that I shall write to him in the next ordinary mail delivery.

Courage and obedience and trust in God.

In a hurry, I am etc. I shall await your reply.

Your humble servant

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Rome, August 20, 1836

3231

August 20, 1836

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Camerino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Monsignor

The petition for the Morelli absolution has been sent to Your Reverend Excellency; I am handling this case, *titulo charitatis*.⁷⁷ The Sacred Congregation is awaiting information from you. I shall also send you a Missionary.

I kiss your hand. I am writing in a hurry. Pray for me, and always consider me with esteem and respect as

Your reverend Excellency's

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Rome, August 20, 1836⁷⁸

3232

August 23, 1836

Fr. Mattia Cardillo

Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Mattia

I do not know why you, at times, lose your control, using certain expressions which are not in keeping with virtue, even though this may be in small matters. Such things are the result of diabolical suggestions. Our attitude must be altogether different. By observing well our rule which calls us to carry out various practices, in addition to private study, namely, the training of

⁷⁷ Under the title of charity.

⁷⁸ Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Mattei (suspension of St. Gaspar)

various groups, prisoners wherever they exist, soldiers to whom time for a monthly conference is not to be lacking and not to be advanced, and in such a way that even in places where there are different kinds of people, one can, with God's help, do some good work. The propagating of the spirit of alienation from certain duties is the source of discouragement for our companions. That you should manifest to the Superior whatever is necessary *transeat*,⁷⁹ but it is to be done always with trust in doing the will of God.

Still, our companions continue being encouraged, animated. I cannot say how conducive to the greater glory of God is your adherence to certain things. I would like each of our individuals to have that same sort of affection for our Institute as Xavier had for his. Each word, therefore, that we utter should be one of encouragement. Doing certain tasks where everything is easy is indeed virtuous; but, far greater are they where greater effort is called for. At the present time, there is no economist who does not keep in touch with the general headquarters and, with the grace of God, we will continue working things out.

How have holy establishments come about? We read about that in our Church History. Furthermore, God abides in his holy societies. Let all this be *in communicacione spiritus*,⁸⁰ with all due respect, esteem and affection for you. I realize that it is the devil who is being troublesome, but we are to set up our defenses against him. That enemy of ours would like to have attributed to our Institute what is attributable to certain ways of doing things that, if they are not notably foreign to a virtuous way of life, they surely are alien to achieving perfection. Your statement: "Grace is not capable of being joined at all to nature" can have various interpretations. You will have to pardon the advice to find out how to explain the meaning of those words as they should be understood. Then, teach me; you will also find certain expressions in printed books.

With reference to the idea about the Month, you are very correct; make use of whatever will be easiest for you.

Especially, recommend me a lot to God from whom every good thing comes. Pray for me and for the Institute; let us recognize as a special grace, our vocation. Let us be strong in running and sustaining the Lord's Work. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 23, 1836

3233

August 25, 1836

Pietro Barcaroli

⁷⁹ Let it happen.

⁸⁰ In the communication of the spirit.

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most illustrious sir

The present circumstances in Ancona,⁸¹ the just provisions made by the government, the difficulties in making trips, all call us to reflect on transferring our plans for the holy Mission to another time. You, along with Father Abate to whom you will extend my best wishes, should come to a decision at the foot of the Crucifix. The fear and the apprehension of the people is certainly something that will diminish the good work to be done, since that calm that is desirable will be lacking. I will adhere to your advice and in the meantime I will pray that God will give you his holy enlightenment. I am writing regretfully; but, another time is to be set, starting now. If you should write to me that the time previously set will remain so, then, as far as I am concerned, I will be in the hands of God. But, I repeat, starting now, work things out to delay it for another time. Prayers for a right decision.

With esteem and respect, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 25, 1836

P. S. The regular letter, up to now, has not arrived. Perhaps, the situations have deferred it.

3234

September 1, 1836

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

I have already written to the bishop of Norcia. After his answer, I will be able to tell you what will be needed. In the meanwhile, prayers. Your offerings are put on deposit and are at your disposal. I am now sending you 50 Masses to be said at your convenience, but all of them have the obligation of a privileged altar. This you are to note in your report. On semidoubles, as you pointed out to me, a Requiem Mass is to be celebrated etc. Pray for me. Though in a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

⁸¹ Cholera was claiming victims in Ancona, where it had reached precisely in August of 1836 (cfr. the letter (n. 3240) to the De Castris nun of September 8, 1836).

Rome, September 1, 1836

3235

September 1, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Bachettoni

Spoletto

Most esteemed Canon

With pleasure did I receive one of your very kind letters and in reply I say to you that yesterday evening I visited his Eminence Galleffi who assured me of the following:

1. That he expressly wishes to have the Oratory continue, since it is a work bringing so much glory to God.

2. That as soon as the most reverend archbishop wrote to him, he sent a reply in which he left the solution of the situation entirely to his good judgment, while firmly maintaining the principle that the Oratory is to be continued.

3. That it would be a good idea to have pages printed on which its institution is recalled and which present, for the sake of the historical archives, what has been occurring.

From all of this, you will note that the total matter stands in the hands of the most reverend Archbishop upon whose prudence and good judgment anything further depends. His Eminence also added that he had received a letter that everything has been worked out laudably. So, you are to maintain your interest in this work that is such a holy endeavor. I am hopeful that it will be continued peacefully. Whenever I can be of help, please give me your orders. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, September 1, 1836

You can bring all of this, if you wish, to the attention of the most reverend archbishop with my very warm greetings to him.

3236

September 4, 1836

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Pieveterina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

I received your report on the 15 Masses and I thank you for your diligence.

Soon, I will send the *scudo* to Father Gennaro⁸² and the remainder will be applied to the many needs of the Institute. A thousand thanks for your charity.

⁸² Father Gennaro Gamboa.

Have no doubts, everything there will be put in order. Prayer and patience, and a discreet amount of time. But, I repeat, everything will be worked out.

I am sending you 20 Masses all of them to be celebrated at a privileged altar. This is to be mentioned in your report. I urge you to take care of this quickly, and, for my peace of mind, drop me a line that you have received this letter and indicate that you will promptly fulfill these Masses. With esteem, respect and affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 4, 1836

3237

September 4, 1836

Msgr. Gaetano Baluffi

Rome

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed are the certifications for propagating the tender devotion to the Divine Blood. If some expression is not clear, it might be helpful for me to add the following observations:

1. A list is to be kept of the ones who are enrolled, reporting to me the given name, the family name, the day, month, year, home town and diocese of the enrollee.

2. If the canonical establishment of a pious union is desired, then, we can get in contact, since this procedure will require time for the correspondence, due to the distance of the places involved.

3. The printed booklet containing the blessings will also point out clearly what will be required.

4. An archive report of those enrolled can be kept in the neighboring confraternities that have been aggregated to the Archconfraternity.

If you need to have more information, please drop me a line. I wish you a happy trip⁸³ and the best and most fruitful stay promoting the programs for the glory of God. May it please the Lord to grant me the comfort of seeing you again. In the meantime, let us remain in the holy union of charity in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ.

I am enclosing some samples of the rosaries that go along with the Chaplet book. With a few Ave Marias and without any chaining required, many can be made in order to propagate their use. You can have the Chaplet translated and promote its recitation in public. It is not essential to give a certification to the one enrolled.

Respectfully kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem, respect and a very special

⁸³ On the fourth siding, in another handwriting, we read: "Letter of the Ven. Canon Del Bufalo to Msgr. Gaetano Baluffi at the time when the latter was about to undertake a trip to North America as an internuncio".

affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

September 4, 1836

3238

September 6, 183

Fr. Alessandro Pontoni

Urbino per Pennabilli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Alessandro

I thank you for what you have done for the House in Giano. May the Lord give you full compensation.⁸⁴

You will be doing very well in coming to an agreement with me in all matters and you will see that things will go well, with the grace of God.

For the records, tell me: did you receive the devotional materials which I sent to Terni, for Collestatte?⁸⁵

I am sending you 50 Masses, all of them to be celebrated at a privileged altar. I repeat, fifty, indicating in the folder the use of the privileged altar. If Santarelli does not have any, you two work it out together. They can be celebrated at your convenience and there is no urgency as to the time. By anticipation I am sending the offerings to the sum of 7.35 *Sc.* For the postal charges, 15 *bajocci* will be subtracted. When you have received the money, you will give me that information for my own peace of mind. I shall write to Santarelli in the next ordinary mail.

Tell Santarelli that the assignments are to be distributed as follows: "Santarelli, President; you, the Prefect of the Church and Sacristy and Economist. Have all of this set up in Congressus, according to the rules." That is all for now. More, in my future ordinary mail.

On semidoubles, it is fitting to celebrate a Requiem in order to enjoy the privileged altar, which I presume exists in that church.

I am, etc.

Humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 6, 1836

⁸⁴ Before going to Pennabilli, Fr. Alessandro Pontoni had for some years been at S. Felice in Giano with the position of Economist, working diligently for the welfare of the House.

⁸⁵ Cf. Geographical Data: Collestatte

3239

September 8, 1836
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

I am informed that you have received the 60 *scudi*.

Once again I have recommended the dowries for the Rondoni girls. Let us pray for a successful outcome and await a favorable result.

I received the six pieces of cloth and the reams of stationery. Compute the things that are still pending and let me know how our accounts stand.

Here we are observing the Holy Jubilee.

Prayers. How have you been?

I am in a hurry, since this is a day of festivity. With esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 8, 1836

P. S. You will not advance any money; rather, get some more cloth, the best kind.

3240

September 8, 1836
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

1. I have ordered the horns of plenty. Send the small ones back to me and then we will figure out the accounts.

2. You will be receiving 1,50 *scudi* from the Sister Treasurer as a reimbursement from me. When you have gotten them, send word to me and I will tell you to whom they are to be given. They are to go to the President of our Mission House in Vallecorsa. His name is Father Francesco Saverio Ricciardi.

3. When one or the other coachman gets there, send him to me. I will be sending you a Life of a Servant of God which could be useful for spiritual reading in your community.

4. Right now, I have still not received a decisive letter dealing with the Mission for November 6th. I am waiting for it to come from either the bishop or the Vicar General so that I can properly arrange everything.

5. Tell Canon Setucci that he should take care of the pious organizations in the best way that he can, and, please, that they do not perish. As for the Mission, more later.

6. Perhaps (but keep this to yourself) I myself shall handle the conferences, the catechetical instructions, the confessions for the Mission and leave the main sermon to someone else. Eventually, I will better see what the will of God is.

7. You are to remain quiet and peaceful; you have no reason to become upset. Pray for me, for our Institute and for public needs.

8. I understand that Ancona has been visited by God with cholera, as it is called. Let us hope that God preserves the province from it; we must pray. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 8, 1836

P. S. Ask that gentleman, who is to get the duty from the annuity, whether the grant for the property has arrived. I have spoken here with the prelate and he said that they probably have issued it.

3241

September 1, 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

The House where God is summoning you is the one in Nepi. The water is the best and the air is thrashed like that of Rome. So, be compliant and do not deprive yourself of the royal road of obedience. I am giving instructions to Fr. De Victoriis about your trip, which I ask you to speed up. After having prayed to God, this is my decision.

I am sending you 20 Masses, all of them to be celebrated at a privileged altar, which is noted on the page. I have forwarded all the other offerings to my niece, and they are at your disposal.

Let me know when you are setting out on your trip. In the meantime, I shall see that they prepare a room for you that is higher in elevation. Thus, you will have the attention that you so well deserve.

In the Heart of Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap,

Rome, September 13, 1836

3242

September 15, 1836

Pietro Barcaroli

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Pietro

As soon as the Lord provides a bit of respite from the present upheaval, you will resume the work for the Missions.

In the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ, with my regards to the Cistercian Fathers and in particular to Father Abate, and recommending myself to your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 15, 1836

3243

September 15, 1836

Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris

Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, September 15, 1836

With regard to the hornsofplenty, please send me a measurement on paper which you can include in one of your letters.

I have sent the iron hostmaker for our House in Sonnino. The most reverend Vicar has already written to me and he would like the entrance of the Mission even before the 6th of November. This will be worked out.

Many, many thanks to Mr. Martelli. I shall not fail to pray for his consort who is ill. Send some blessed water of St. Xavier and let us hope for a cure. Sicknesses are a test of our virtue.

With God's help, you are to remain tranquil, and more and more build up your courage. Of ourselves, we are able to do nothing; but we can do everything, with God's help. May his grace be our support.

Offer prayers for my giving of the principal sermon. Who knows, perhaps I may not be giving it. We shall see. On other occasions, I wished to give it to others, but my companions objected to it. I repeat, prayers.

With reference to those to be ordained, certainly the House in Sonnino offers them a beautiful place of refuge. It would be necessary to increase the number of beds available. Let us pray over this. You acted very correctly in writing to Father Biagio,⁸⁶ to whom you will write whenever you are inspired by the Lord.

In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

⁸⁶ Father Biagio Valentini.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

3244

September 17, 1836
 Ignazio Lesinelli
 Rome

House, September 17, 1836

Most esteemed Ignazio

After our meeting yesterday morning, Monsignor Alberghini, after midday, sent a packet addressed to me in which there was the handwritten document of the derogation of the last will and testament of his Eminence Cristaldi, deceased. So, now I shall quickly have a copy of it made. I felt it was my duty to inform you of this so that, in this regard and purpose, you would not be further inconvenienced or worried.

I seize this opportunity also to state again my sentiments of esteem, respect and gratitude to you and to assure you once again that I am

Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

3245

September 18, 1836

Fr. Angelo Santangeli
 Bassiano

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundat nos ab omni peccato*⁸⁷

Venerable Archpriest

The very singular affection that I have for the people of Bassiano and the esteem and special affection that I also have for you make me, so to speak, want to fly there to conduct the Retreat in person. But how can I do that since you supposed that I was in Cori and yet I received your letter in Rome. I shall be in Cori for Sunday, the 25th, to initiate the Retreat there. So, it will be necessary for you and the magistrates to accept another worker from our Institute whom I shall select, a man who is very capable for the task. Please send your reply to Cori with a forwarding address to the nuns so that the letter is not lost. I would say that the Retreat might begin on the feast of the Rosary. Later on, there will be the vineharvest. So, if a decision is made, send word to me immediately. Along with the Missionary will be an accompanying laybrother. However, if there is a pious layman there who can be a helper, I will send two Missionaries, thus

⁸⁷ The blood of Jesus Christ washed us from all sins.

sparing the laybrother, since this is in accordance with our regulations. *Patet ergo cor meum.*⁸⁸
 May God fill us with his holy love. In the divine, sacred Heart, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 18, 1836

3246

September 20, 1836

Ignazio Lesinelli

Rome

House, September 20, 1836

Venerable Ignazio

In order not to be remiss in my duties, I paid a visit to his Eminence Radini and to the prelate Secretary of the *Buon Governo* to recommend the matter of the Canon from Frosinone, whom the Commune, with the authorization of the *Buon Governo*, must yield to our Institute and Mission House in Frosinone. I was warmly received and hopeful of a favorable response. Someone had told me that they would not be having a meeting until November and that there would be ample time for getting together. Now, I am just about ready to leave for Cori. But, having been informed by the most reverend Secretary of the *Buon Governo* that they will be having a meeting this very month, I am compelled by necessity to ask you for the following. It will be necessary for you to go to the most reverend Secretary as well as to the Chancellor's office and find out what you will be required to do. Likewise, perhaps you might have to go to see the prelate in charge of the situation in the *Congragazione del Buon Governo*, so as to learn, may I put it briefly, just which reasons are to be proposed.

1. The Canon is in the classification of 40 *scudi* and no more; the revenue, 2 *scudi*.

2. He gravitates toward the new church of S. Saverio in Frosinone; it will be necessary to move him.

3. The people and the gonfalonier of that period of time engaged the Institute for the new church; the Institute is in need of help.

4. Originally, the Canon was with the Augustinian Fathers. Later, he was assigned, along with other goods, to the Commune of Frosinone for public instructions. Our Institute itself, out of moral persuasion for Catholic piety, concurs in this work and has been given the expectation of receiving the full benefit of the goods, once granted to the Augustinians.

5. Never has another petition been advanced to the Commune of Frosinone even though there might have been reasons and urgencies for doing so. Thus, what is being sought from the *Congregazione del Buon Governo* is the authorization given to the most reverend Delegate in

⁸⁸ My heart is open.

Frosinone to assign the aforementioned Canon to the church of San Saverio.

Ignazio, I have had to be a bit longwinded in explaining these matters clearly. If further clarification is needed, just drop me a line. If the most reverend Secretary should tell you something else or if expenses arise for the withdrawal of papers or for a rescript, as long as it is a favorable one, or if justice should demand something further, I will immediately see that you are reimbursed.

Once again I give you my particular thanks, not knowing really how to respond properly for the many, many obligations that I have to your most worthy person. The Lord will be the generous repayer. Pray for me, and (with the desire of seeing you again, upon my return from Cori and that is in the not too distant future) I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Please, it will be necessary to hasten with your meeting with the most reverend Secretary, to whom you will extend my very best wishes.⁸⁹

3247

September 21, 1836
 Mother Maddalena Costante
 Monastero delle Barberine
 Rome

House, September 21, 1836

Venerable Mother Prioress

I am most obliged to you for your many, many acts of kindness. Please hold on to what I am sending you until my return from Cori where I am going now to conduct a shift of Retreats. I will be with you. In the meantime, the one who is cutting the copper form can apply himself to other tasks. Likewise, the outline which I have already prepared can be given to him. Around the beginning of October, generally speaking, I shall be back in Rome. At that time, after meeting with you, everything can be concluded. I am now recommending myself to your prayers. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3248

September 22, 1836
 Ignazio Lesinelli

⁸⁹ This postscript is on the fourth siding, near the address.

Rome

House, September 22, 1836

Venerable Ignazio

May it please God, tomorrow I shall be leaving for Cori. I recommend myself to your prayers.

Recently, I received your most appreciated note. Thousands and thousands of thanks to you for your charity and kindness.

In this morning's maildelivery, the most reverend Delegate assures me that the information has returned or has arrived with the ordinary maildelivery from Frosinone to the *Congregazione del Buon Governo*. So, it will be necessary that tomorrow, on the day preceding their meeting on Saturday, you should take those steps which you deem most opportune, otherwise, the matter may be postponed until November. Furthermore, since things have maturely developed, they should be able to settle it on Saturday.

I am trusting in your handling of this. Please allow me to say this: arrange for your transportation at my expense. I recognize the generosity of your heart, but please excuse me for being so bold as to suggest these things. I simply wish to supply you with what is perfectly just in regard to expenses that might arise for the rescript, etc., etc.. At any rate, I express my gratitude, the acknowledgment of my many, many obligations to you. I add nothing more.

With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3249

September 22, 1836

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

Here is what the bishop of Norcia has replied: "The young student can be situated in the seminary of Visso where the room and board is 30 *scudi* whereas in Norcia it is 40 *scudi*. However, point out to the uncle that during the two months of September and October, seminaries are closed and it will be necessary to send them back to their own homes". So, you resolve things based on these procedures. I am writing in a hurry. Pray for me. I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, September 22, 1836

3250

September 26, 1836
Fr. ngelo Santangeli
Bassiano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Archpriest

We have time to postpone the Retreat. In a letter from you, sent in plenty of time, keep me precisely informed; please indicate one or two other possible dates. I am in a hurry. Asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Cori, September 26, 1836