

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3251

October, 1836
 Mother Maddalena Costante
 Monastero delle Barberine
 Rome

See that the copper plating work is completed. I am leaving everything to your charity. Urge the craftsman to please put in as much time as he can and also that he should do it carefully. In a hurry, etc.¹

3252

October 8, 1836
 Fr. Domenico Silvestri
 Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

Everything with ease.

In the meanwhile, you and Santarelli will work things out as you see fit for the triduum in S. Agata, informing Fr. Nicola that I am aware of this. However, I do not know whether Santarelli will have difficulty or not.

For your letters to me: "Rome".

In J.C. Crucified, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sermoneta, October 8, 1836

It will be necessary for you to prepare the room for Fr. Raffaele Brandimarte. He will give the retreat called for by the rule. He will preach the Advent series. He will stay on there. The last Mass will not be inconvenient for him since he is accustomed to saying Mass late. His responsibility: Director of the Missions and Retreats, since we have so established it, etc.

¹ This letter does not have a date. Comparing it with the one written to this same person on September 21, 1836, it should be assigned to the month of October 1836.

3253

October 8, 1836
 Camillo Possenti
 Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Camillo

It is true that I should have written about the money which you have already received. However, my occupations have robbed me of the time, etc.

In a hurry, I say that all of the money is to be used only for getting cloth of the best quality etc. Keep an account and subtract also the postal costs.

For the time being, send your letters to Rome. I remain etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Sermoneta, October 8²

3254

October 10, 1836
 Luigia del Bufalo
 Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³

The vests for Buffoni are to be sent to Sonnino where he is at present for a change of air. On Monday ⁴ I shall be in Albano; from there, I will have more to write. In the greatest hurry, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

3255

October 10, 1836
 Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
 Veroli

² The year is 1836 as is evident from a notation made by Possenti himself, as well as from his notes of reply written on the second and third pages.

³ From the postal markings it is evident that the letter was sent from Velletri and arrived in Rome on October 10, 1836.

⁴ Monday, October 10.

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁵

Venerable Canon

With this letter of mine I am informing you that within days the Missionary President for the foundation in Veroli will be arriving along with a Brother, and, in accordance with our understanding, will proceed to the seminary. Give my warm greetings to the most reverend bishop. Pray to Jesus for me. With my regards to the Marquis Bisleti, most esteemed Canon, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, October 10, 1836

3256

October 10, 1836

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Luigi

Enclosed is the document for the 100 Masses. Concerning the recent ones, you will soon have them.

Write to me in Rome. Let me know when the offering will be ready and we will come to a decision. You can make the acknowledgment on the sheets.

In a hurry, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Whenever you have Masses available, please, always do the favor etc.

3257

October 12, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

Although it might be necessary for me to be in a lot of different places for a couple of days, because of the Mission in Piperno, still, next Saturday, I shall be back in Rome in time for the noon meal.

⁵ Christ loved us and washes us in his blood.

With reference to Father Filippo's⁶ memoranda, more when we see each other; remind me of this.

Send word to S. Marta, and after contacting the Buzzonetti lady, tell her that either on Sunday or on Monday, I shall be at the monastery. Among the letters from the Lotti, there is a rescript for Possenti. Keep an account of the cost of the ciborium.

Send the Madonna and the mantle to Vallecorsa when you have the opportunity, and make sure it is not damaged. They tell me that the container that would be sent from Vallecorsa is quite heavy. So, set up another packaging.

Have Pedini gild the frame with good gold. I am in a hurry.

Your affectionate uncle

Albano, October 12⁷

3258

October 15, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁸

Give Father Tomasso⁹ three *scudi* for the recent notification of Masses. Ask him whether all of them have been said at a privileged altar; remind me of this. With regard to the trip, do not pay out anything. We shall see what results, in keeping with my other letter.

On Monday, I certainly will be coming to Rome, but it will be after the noon meal, since I will be too busy on that morning. I repeat, after the noon meal. Note also that in the evening De Marchis will be coming. I am writing in a hurry; I am

Your affectionate uncle

I received the package with the crucifixes etc.

Check to see whether Father Tomasso is to be given other offerings; but I do not think so.

3259

October 16, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Bachettoni

Spoletto

⁶ Father Filippo Gonnelli.

⁷ The year is 1836 as can be noted from the postal markings.

⁸ This letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on October 15, 1836, as is noted from the postal markings.

⁹ Father Tomasso Meloni.

Venerable Canon

I shall do all I can with his Eminence Galleffi, who is presently outside of Rome. I have read some copies of the letters of the most reverend Archbishop in which I noted that he demonstrated to his most reverend Eminence his concern about the Oratory.

In the meantime, offer prayers for a favorable outcome and let us place our trust in the merits of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Indeed, write to me whenever necessary in order to continue with our efforts. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, October 16, 1836

P. S. I remind you that I would like to have from you a memorandum, signed by the priests in charge of the Oratory, for his Eminence Galleffi, relating to this situation etc. Have him realize that the Oratory would fail at the time that etc. Please send this to me quickly, addressing it to Rome where I will be tomorrow.

3260

October 16, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani

Ancona

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I learn from your very kind letter the series of things that have occurred. The temporal castigations that God sends to us are meant to spare us from eternal woes, thus profiting us in a saving way. Moral education is always to be stressed, as well as the activation of pious organizations, *ut Dominus misereatur nostri. Praedica Verbum ... insta ... fides ex auditu ... auditus autem per verbum Christi.*¹⁰

In the meantime, I am hopeful, through the merits of the Divine Blood and the protection of most holy Mary, that things will continue improving. There have been vows made there, so I am told. Among them, how beneficial would have been something relating to the giving of periodical Missions, etc. etc., the founding there of a House of our Institute, and the promotion of the devotion to the most Precious Blood. Let us recommend ourselves, meanwhile, to St. Xavier in whose honor we are presently observing devotions each Friday.

Finally, do not fail to pray for me. With particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

¹⁰ In order that the Lord have mercy on us. Preach the word ... Insist ... faith from hearing ... hearing the word of Christ.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, October 16¹¹

P. S. For the pure glory of God, I am delighted with your progress. You will have an ever greater opportunity to be mindful of me when you are before the image of most holy Mary.

Always send your letters to me, addressing them to "Rome". My sincerest regards to his most revsrend Eminence, to our Gigliucci etc. etc.

3261

October 19, 1836

Giuseppe Alderisio

Velletri per Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Giuseppe

In the closet there should be some shoemaker's tools. Others will be coming from Vallecorsa. Work it out with Fr. Rocco to keep them in such a way that they do not rust; and keep them locked up, and do not loan them out, and include them in the inventory.

In the meantime, also renew the entire inventory, leaving the old reports until I check them; after you complete that, send me word: all of this in accordance with the Congressus of Visitation.

Tell Fr. Biagio that I shall send a reply, and that he should get the wine which is part of the pious legacy he wrote to me about, but it should be pure wine, without water; and it is to be understood that the Community is going to drink it, and not that some will say I like it and others I don't like it.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

¹¹ The year must be 1836. In fact, "the series of things that have occurred" and the "temporal castigations" that he mentions, in all probability, is a reference to the cholera epidemic which entered Italy in 1832 and by August of 1836 had appeared in Ancona (cfr. the letter (n. 3240) to the De Castris nun of September 8, 1836).

Rome, October 19, 1836¹²

3262

October 20, 1836

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Urbino per Macerata Feltria¹³

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

1) With regard to the ministry and the pertinent information, it seems that there is nothing more to add at the present time. I keep going over your most esteemed letter.

2) According to the document of possession, unless I am mistaken, I think that actually only the last Mass is of obligation. Therefore, *satis provisum*;¹⁴ otherwise, we will be laden with greater concerns, sufferings and cares. With these circumstances, the Chaplet should be recited at the last Mass.

3) You are correct in writing to me about everything.

4) I have read your poems. I regret that I do not have the ability to respond with poetic lines of my own. As Bishop Strambi used to say, let us chuckle to the glory of God.¹⁵

¹² In this dateline, the place of origin, the day and the month are gleaned from the postal markings. However, the year is derived from the agreement of this text and the report of the Congressus of Visitation held on October 9, in the House in Sermoneta, with the Founder in attendance. On that occasion, he established the new appointments, that is: President, Fr. Biagio Valentini; ViceSuperior and Economist, Fr. Giuseppe Alderisio; Director of Retreats, Fr. Isidoro Paoletti. At the beginning of that Congressus, one reads: "Attention. The ViceSuperior has the responsibility of renewing the Inventory of the Library and the Mission House as well as the church and sacristy, collating the new Inventories with the old ones, and after that report, they are finally to be signed by Fr. Biagio Valentini, Missionary Visitor.

"... In this matter, the ViceSuperior will be assisted by Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli, to whom copies of the aforesaid Inventories will be consigned, so as to be kept in the current archives".

Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli, ordained a priest on April 2 of that same year, was located in Sermoneta as a Probandus: as a matter of fact, in the aforementioned Congressus, under n. 20, we read: "This House continues classified as a House of Probation".

¹³ The posterior halfsheet of this letter was separated from the anterior page and cut off in one piece, as will be noted in its proper place. However, there is no doubt that it belongs to this very letter: that has been ascertained with careful examination of the letter, the context, and the numbering, etc. among other things, one notes that above the address Fr. Domenico wrote a note which says: "40 Masses said". Evidently he wishes to make reference to the Masses sent to him by the Founder in the letter to which that address pertains. So, the paragraph relating to the 40 Masses ("I am sending 40 Masses, all of them to be said at a privileged altar") is to be found in the anterior halfsheet, specifically in paragraph 16.

¹⁴ Enough provided.

¹⁵ Fr. Silvestri informs us, that he had written the Saint a letter in verse form and that the latter humbly answered him with this paragraph. As a matter of fact, it was precisely in giving a description of the Saint's simple and unencumbered humility that the opportunity offered itself to Fr. Domenico for quoting this delightful remark. But, would it be possible also to see in that expression "let us chuckle to the glory of God", a subtle comment by the Saint on Fr. Domenico's poetic ability?

5) In reference to the Brothers assigned there with you, there will be no change for the present time.

6) Have Lipparelli find out whether Alessandrino's bed is one of those provided by Msgr. Marchetti who appended some conditions to his donation. Then, after that is cleared up, I shall make a decision, at least to figure out some sort of substitution. Give your attention to this matter in order to conclude it.¹⁶

7) I cannot give Fr. Brandimarte any responsibility at all. I am sticking to what I have written on the matter: "You will be President, Fr. Rafaele, the Director of the Missions; and that is that". God wishes to have you there for the time being.

8) See to it that you get an exemption from the commune's assessment. It is understood that the convent and its environs are to be free of any taxation. Be careful that no women ever enter within those environs.

9) Prudently see to it that the confessor does not hear confessions after dinner.¹⁷ Let him go elsewhere. Even have Lipparelli write to him about it. I simply do not understand how such things happen! See that you get this done. Let him go to the neighboring church, or to the Nuns, if there is a confessional there. We have other things to do at that time. See what you can do. As I continue to read, you tell me that that confessor is going to be made a pastor: so, *laus Deo!*¹⁸

10) In regard to the income, importune the Bishop and Fr. Rubertini with letters. If it can be done peacefully, contact Sig. Antimi and tell him: "What can we do, after all? In the meantime, pray for the work done this past Lent". Come to an agreement with the Bishop. Try to set things in order. God will provide you with his holy inspirations. I have written to Fr. Rubertini. But, you can better represent our needs etc.¹⁹

11) The only reason why I wrote to you about S. Agata was the fact that you have given the Mission there. At any rate, the good work will have been done.

12) You will resume the Study Conferences after all Soul's Day. You do agree that even a priest remaining in his own private house should continue to study. Authors are the guide. *In dubiis*,²⁰ an inquiry would be made. Have a sign posted: and also let us put the case alone, one should go to the library.

13) I have already written to Brandimarte about the Advent series and told him that it would be better for him to refrain from preaching now so that his preaching at a later time will be

¹⁶ Cf. Biographical Data: Marchetti, Msgr. Giovanni Marchetti,

¹⁷ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Confession of Women (During Afternoon Hours)

¹⁸ Praise to God.

¹⁹ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Preachers, the Right to Name Lenten

²⁰ In doubts.

something new for the people.

14) The notifications about the Masses are in order.

15) With respect to the Lenten assignment, the lawful tribunal is that of the Bishop. I would say that Fr. Rubertini should be there to conclude it.

16) I am sending you 40 Masses, all of them are to be celebrated at a privileged altar, which you will designate on the sheet; and they can be celebrated without worrying about the time.

21

18) You will take care of the Lenten preaching in Riparotta, provided that they have called on us, and please inform Lipparelli of this. On that occasion, one of our men from Rimini will come to supply in Macerata, where Santarelli will be on hand for the Lenten series; and you, only for Lent, will reside in Rimini, because of Riparotta, if they call for us; later, back to your residence.

19) I urge you to hold the pep talks there, etc.

20) Galli will move on to Pievetorina. More in my next letter.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, October 20, 1836²²

3263

October 22, 1836

Fr. Alessandro Pntoni

Pennabilli

Macerata Feltria²³

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Esteemed Fr. Alessandro

I am running through your letter and am sending you a reply.

You do not have to worry about the devotional materials sent to Terni. I have put De Victoriis in charge of handling that.

²¹ Paragraph 17 (of scarcely two lines in length) which in the original was found at the beginning of the posterior halfsheet, was cut away and removed for reasons that escape us.

²² The place of origin is deduced from the postal markings, characteristic of Rome, even though the words are not legible. Furthermore, the only place in which the Saint could have been located at that time, besides Rome, would have been Albano. But, the aforementioned postal mark excludes that. The day and the month are discovered on another postal marking, placed on the outer part. Finally, the year is deduced from the various circumstances that emerge from the text of the letter, all of them belonging to 1836: for example, the trip to Fr. Brandimarte to Macerata Feltria to preach the Advent series.

²³ Below the address written by the Saint, "Pennabilli", someone else wrote: "Macerata Feltria", the town belonging to that same district. Upon the arrival of this letter, Fr. Pontoni was temporarily located in the House in Macerata Feltria, perhaps to supply a few days for some absent Missionary.

Continue zealously in your work as Economist and let us put our trust in God, who is wonderful in all his works.

By mail you will receive 7.50 *Sc.*, and you will send me word when you do. You will document for me, as usual with a listing, the Masses that you have at the present time. Later, we shall distribute the 7.50 *Sc.* with the other Masses, that I shall send you. Do not say them except as I direct you. Have you understood well?

I have settled the cost of the trip there. It is not, however, the only matter or problem that I have facing me. God accepts, for the most part, good desires.

I am, etc.

Humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 22, 1836

3264

October 23, 1836

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Pieveterina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio²⁴

Give me a listing of the topics, but discreetly, concerning which you would like some sort of outline, but I will not give you a precise time etc. They will, however, be veritable sources etc. If you have others to be attended to, keep it light for me.

I have sent the Masses to de Victoriis so that he can share them with you. Check with him.

The troubles in Ancona have delayed what I had proposed to do there.

Here, provisionally, is the will of God in your regard, at least in working out our plans. But first, keep in mind the deep affection that I have always had for you and, with all due respect to others, the trust that God inspires in me toward you. With that as a premise: you are to go as the Economist and as the Prefect of the church and sacristy in Cesena. Have no doubts, we will work out together the various tasks so that you can be fully reliant on me.

Father Beniamino²⁵ will give you a listing of everything on a written sheet of paper as well as a copy for me. In Cesena, we will have an actual functioning of three Missionaries. The President will be Father Mosconi whom you know as a good leader. I will send the Superior; and in regard to the assignment of the other positions, I will see to that after your arrival there. In

²⁴ This letter has no date, but one is derived from the postal markings (October 23). The year is 1836, because of the reference to the troubles, that is, the cholera in Ancona.

²⁵ Father Beniamino Romani.

occupying yourself with the work of the Institute, you will be occupying yourself for the glory of God. I will send instructions to de Victoriis concerning the travel arrangements. I point out too that I will have to send a sacristan and I am hoping to be able to have him go along on your trip. That is it for now. With esteem and very special affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. In the upcoming Retreat in November, we will discuss spiritual matters, and perhaps even before that, once you have gotten to Cesena. In the meantime, prayers. In Cesena, you will secure the Masses, carrying out whatever you can just as Mosconi does, etc. I will send you a few documents dealing with your duties.

3265

October 25, 1836

Mother Teresa Cherubina

Monastero di Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Mother Abbess

Please accept the two copies of the Life of S. Maria Maddalena de Pazzi and of S. Teresa. If there are no similar copies available there, these will be useful for the community.

My obligations to you are endless and infinite.

Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, October 25, 1836

3266

October 26, 1836

Msgr. Delegate of Frosinone

Frosinone

Venerable Monsignor

Godwilling, on the feast of all Saints the holy Mission in Piperno will begin. In addition, I recommend myself and my companions to your prayers. Likewise, I ask you to defer until after the Mission whatever pertains to judicatures, or other things to be executed, at least insofar as you are able, as I appeal to your charity and special zeal. The Mission will last 15 days, and no more. I kiss your hands. With profound obeisance, venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare Can. del Bufalo
 Miss. Ap.
 Rome, October 26, 1836

3267

October 26, 1836
 Fr. Luigi Cocci
 Todi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed curate

Vivid in my mind is my remembrance of you. Thank you for remembering me in particular in the holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Continue doing so in order that I might be able to prepare myself for the eternal years, *quod est maximum*.²⁶ May this be an attestation of our true friendship in God.

With inexhaustible zeal, continue to look after the pious organizations and bring the priests together as your helpers. Blessed may you be as you become enriched in this way with ever greater merits for heaven. It is a good idea to strengthen your intentions so that when some Missionary, for example, comes to conduct a Retreat for the nuns, he would be able to work along for the more stable establishment of those pious institutions. These are the effective means to be used; you understand me. As for the adoration of the Cross, see that the people are drawn together on May 3rd and September 14th.

Do not overlook the consideration of the pious Union of the Divine Blood to be canonically erected there and aggregated to Rome.

I will insist again in behalf of that poor widow. But, you also say that even from there letters are written and action is taken. The troubles in Ancona have delayed some Missions and I would have safely gone to Giano. God willing, in the upcoming spring I am hopeful of carrying out what I am now communicating to you. In the meantime, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ crucified,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, October 26, 1836

P. S. Let me know on which day they recite there the Office of the *Divina Pastora*. I believe that they have that privilege; let me know whether there is a proper office.

3268

²⁶ Which is the greatest.

October 26, 1836
 Msgr. Antonio Piatti
 Vicegerent
 Rome

Most illustrious and reverend lordship

Canon Gaspare del Bufalo implores from the goodness of your most illustrious and reverend lordship the following faculties:

1. to absolve from the nonfulfillment of the Easter duty; sales and purchases of the ticket
2. to hear the confessions of men in their home, or in habitations for penitents, or elsewhere
3. to bless sacred furnishings and other articles where it is not necessary to use holy oils
4. to hear the confessions of nuns and other individuals in conservatories even though entrusted to the protection of their Eminences, the Cardinals, that etc.²⁷

3269

October 27, 1836
 Fr. Angelo Santangeli
 Bassiano

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundat nos ab omni peccato*²⁸

Most esteemed Archpriest

With pleasure did I receive your very kind letter, while always being mindful of my obligations to you.

The people of Bassiano are close to my heart and I would like to work it out to be able to come there in person.

On the feast of All Saints, the Mission in Piperno will begin. After that our Retreat in honor of St. Xavier will be approaching, and at that time, we withdraw from any external ministry and turn our attention to ourselves.

The travel of the Missionaries could be worked out for the festive period of Christmas, that is, after Christmas day itself, and since it is a time of festivity, the people would have more opportunity to go to confession. During that time, however, the Mission in Nepi, which has been previously scheduled, will take place. I shall see whether that can be deferred. Otherwise, I will send to Bassiano some of our members who, with the help of God's grace, will do great work. I shall be awaiting your response.

After Easter, perhaps I will have to change one or the other appointment given to the

²⁷ This petition was accepted on October 26, 1836. At the bottom of this petition made by St. Gaspar, there is written, in the handwriting of Father Biagio Valentini: "His successor, B(iagio) Valentini petitioned and obtained *oratenus* the same faculties in their total extension on May 15, 1838".

²⁸ The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us of all sin.

Marche that had to be delayed this autumn because of the wellknown circumstances there. I conclude: you set the time that is convenient for the people and then I, if I am free, will assure you that I will certainly come to Bassiano, or, if those previous arrangements tie me down, I will have to send other very capable members for the ministry there. Write to me as quickly as you can and everything will be set up. In the meantime, I shall pray that the Lord will give you his holy inspirations. However, I would suggest having a Mission that is more conclusive, if you agree. Recommend me to God. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 27, 1836

3270

October 29, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Bachettoni

Spoletto

Hail to the most Precious Blood

Venerable Canon

His Eminence Galleffi is in Subiaco. I recall that before his departure I spoke to him at length about the Oratory and he indicated to me that he would like it to exist. In the meantime, I forwarded to him a packet with the petitions enclosed, along with a letter which I made, as best I could, conclusive and effective, basing it on a wellfounded trust for a successful result. Meanwhile, prayers. Ready always to follow any direction from you, I have the honor of stating once again that, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, October 29, 1836.

3271

October 29, 1836

Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Most esteemed Luigi

Here are the documents for the additional 100 Masses. With reference to your obligations of Masses, up to now, we are even.

With regard to the previous 100, in keeping with my other letter, I said that the 15 *scudi* should be addressed to Sermoneta, to the economist, Father Giuseppe Alderisio.

For this letter of mine, let me know when the money is in order; and then write to me in

Piperno where I shall be going for a Mission. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 29²⁹

3272

October 31, 1836

Fr. Vitale Corbucci

Fossombrone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Father Vitale

Having returned from Cori and getting ready now for my departure for Piperno, I am sending a reply to your most appreciated letter.

The deferral of the good work to be done there was surely not of my doing. In general, I have heard that there were suggestions for a suspending of it by a group of people. Your principle is very just; but God has willed things to be so; may his will be done. The Mission in Cagli has not as yet been settled for the new timeperiods. Eventually, I should be able to give you that information. Right now, it is surely not set. Furthermore, for the sake of economy, it will be necessary to join one operation with the other. Recommend me to the Lord. With total affection, esteem and gratitude, I remain

Affectionately and obligingly yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, October 31, 1836

P. S. In the meantime, if any of my confreres are needed for one or the other good work, and you can be certain that they are capable, all you need to do is drop me a line. Only, avoid the time of the Novena in honor of St. Xavier.

Send your letters to me, addressing them to "Rome".

Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop and to the priests of your Congregation.

3273

October 31 1836

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

²⁹ The year is 1836 as is evident from the reference to the Mission in Priverno and to the economist, Father Giuseppe Alderisio in Sermoneta (cfr. the registrybook for that House and the congressus of October 9, 1836 as well as the letter (n. 3261) to Father Alderisio which we have dated: end of October, 1836).

Fr. Tomasso

I am confirming that you are to give the Retreat called for by the rule. Please do me this favor.

In Jesus Christ Crucified, consider me as

Your humble devoted, Obligated servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis.

Rome, October 31, 1836

P. S. If ever you have need of anything at all, just let me know. Tell me when you need Masses.

3274

October 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Alderisio

Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Giuseppe

I have written to Norma for the 15 *Sc.* which are to be sent to you. After you have received them, you will, as usual, send me the notification of deposit.

Let me know about the shoemaker's tools, as soon as you have received them. See that they are stored away and list them in the inventory.

I urge you to take care of the Inventories, *iuxta dicta*.³⁰

Here is a listing of costs for objects that you will receive:

6 holy water stoups

Sc. .80

7 sandboxes and inkwells

S c .
.56

For a crucifix which you will get

Sc. 1.90

Liguori, *Storia della salute*

S c .
.75

Siniscalchi, *Scienza della salute*

³⁰ In accordance with what has been said.

	<i>Sc.</i>	.40
A trimming for the new mantle for the Most Holy Mary, which you will receive and it is to be listed in the Inventory, as usual; the material was donated by Fr. Rocco		
	<i>Sc.</i>	3.40
A small keg for wine, to be inventoried and which you will receive		
	<i>Sc.</i>	4.50
A halfream of paper for Fr. Rocco <i>Sc.</i> .40 If you have not made a note of it, when Bartolomeo left Sermoneta, he spent for meat. In case you have not, list them or remove them ³¹		
	<i>Sc.</i>	.33
Flowered paper which you will receive and give to Fr. Rocco for the House's use		
	<i>S c .</i>	.09
Yellow and black paint powder to be given, as above, to D. Rocco for the House's use		
	<i>S c .</i>	.20
A hat for Brother Antonio Mancini, which I am sending	<i>Sc.</i>	1.30
A copper saucepan, to be inventoried, of 7 1/2 pound weight Scissors for the use of the Community, to be kept in the closet, hung on a nail	<i>Sc.</i>	2.05
	<i>Sc.</i>	.30

³¹ The 0.33 *Sc.* mentioned here were canceled: it was noted that they had already been listed among the expenses of the Mission House.

For Fr. Rocco, two and a half yards of cloth	Sc.
	7.75
Trousers for Brother Antonio Mancini	Sc.
	1.60

A knapsack for Brother Nicodemo

Sc. .95

You will receive two razors, and ask Luigi about this. They are to be listed in the inventory for the use of the Community. They cost nothing in so far as they were acquired when certain pieces of old copper were returned and then sold.

(I shall write to you during the Retreat about the directory for Economists. I cannot do so now.)

Expenses or the Brothers in Sermoneta

A skull cap	Sc. .15
	Shirts
	Sc. 1.35
A scythe	Sc. .50
	Woolen Socks
	Sc. 1.50
Sweaters	Sc. 2.70
	Collars
	Sc. .20

Attention³² ³³

From this note and from the listing of expenses, you notice that some things are for you. However, the Economist must compensate with offerings from Masses, and Fr. Rocco is to do the same. As you write it into the account book, report everything under income and outgo (without, however, mentioning the offerings for Masses, as I explained to you). I am to get the

³² In the righthand margin of this note, Fr. Alderisio added, for the sake of completeness: "Also for ten small crucifixes, Sc. 1.20". These were to be used in the rooms, as Alderisio himself says in the register of administration: November 16, 1836.

³³ The listing of the expenses contained in this letter were recorded in the *Libro di Amministrazione* of the House in Sermoneta under the date of November 16, 1836, perhaps because only then did all the material coming from Rome arrive. The letter, however, is from an earlier time, without doubt at the end of October, when the Saint, as can be seen in the text, was on the point of going to the Mission in Piperno which began on November 2. The postal markings are missing since the letter was sent by hand, or in another package. Nevertheless, the place of origin can only be Rome, even though it physically might have been sent from Albano, where the Saint went immediately before his trip to Piperno. As a matter of fact, we know that at the end of October, 1836, he was in Rome. He had the shopping done there for Sermoneta, and also from there he had sent other letters, as for example, the one (n. 3263) to Fr. Pontoni on October 22 and the one (n. 3273) to Fr. Meloni on October 31.

total receipt of deposit, and you are to write that under income. Under outgo, write what must be written, but not what belongs to you or Rocco, for the purpose of increasing the income, which you will spend for other objects in the House. I hope I make myself clear: in case not, write to me in Piperno, and ask me about it.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, end of October, 1836

(on the fourth page, above the address, we read:)

For the sharpening of the razors, *7 baj*. Sign this in the account Book, and as received from me.

3275

November 6, 1836

Fr. Pasquale Virgilj

S. Felice in Giano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Piperno, November 6, 1836

Most esteemed Father Pasquale

I received your letter while engaged in the ministry. However, continue sending your letters to Rome. Tear up the letter for the Centurioni Fathers.

I have written to Monsignor Bonanni. As soon as I get a reply, I will immediately inform you. Otherwise, I would say you should work things out with Father Fedeli or with some other pastor in the best way possible. If you would like me to contact some other bishop, just as was done with the one in Nocera, I will do so.

You are to subtract the missing half*paolo*, as well as the other split one. I checked the account and I note the remainder of 4,39 *scudi*.

Unless I am mistaken, I placed ten *scudi* on deposit for you from which I subtracted two *scudi*, sent to Brother Sante; so eight *scudi* still remain, which added to the 4,39 *scudi*, come to a sum of 12,39 *scudi*. So, now, you alone, with the burro of that House, and, if necessary, hiring another, are to go to Foligno. There, having discovered an economical mode of travel, with only men aboard, you will depart for Rimini, following the route of the Furlo, and not otherwise.

Once you have gotten to Rimini, you are to await a letter from me for further instructions. From there, you will send the expense list on a separate sheet from your letter, indicating in particular the various costs which are involved, as well as those for Brother Loreto;³⁴ this also on a separate sheet. If there is something left over, as I surely imagine there will be, hold on to that for my future use. I hope that I have explained myself clearly. With the fear that you might be lacking in Masses, I direct the celebration of 20 Masses; for these, I will be awaiting, as soon as

³⁴ Loreto Petrassi.

possible, the usual documentation. Have a good trip. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3276

November 9, 1836

Fr Tomasso Meloni

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I am sending you ten Masses which you will please celebrate as soon as possible.

God will bless your retreat, and there will be, I hope, a 3rd Missionary there to attend, since he will be in transit. If this Missionary who is in transit can give you any help at all, he will be at your service.

Send your letters to me to: "Rome". Pray for me.

In Jesus Christ Crucified, consider me as

Piperno, November 9 (1836)³⁵

3277

November 10, 1836

Fr. Giuseppe Alderisio

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Alderisio

Two more shirts should have arrived there: so, be advised of this. I would like to have a listing of the packages that have gotten there as well as a notification of the prices so that I can check everything.

Sante Angelini is coming there as a Brother helper. I am writing now, asking you to prepare a room for him with all that is needed, getting together with D. Rocco. It should be in the wing for the Brothers, where there is a vacant room, and it should be cleaned up again, etc.

I am, etc.

G. C. d. B.

³⁵ The Congressus held in the House of Nepi on November 23, 1836, informs us that Fr. Tomasso Meloni, who had arrived there from the House in Pievetorina on the 25th of the preceding month, was assigned by the Founder to preach the Retreat called for by the rule to that Community. Those in attendance, on that occasion, were the Missionary Fr. Pietro Spina, the President; Subdeacon, Rev. Mr. Bernardirio Martini; the one in transit to Giano with Brother Antonio Mancini; and three Brothers of that House, namely, Marcello di Donato, Vincenzo Barbieri, and Andrea Cacciamano.

Piperno, November 10, 1836³⁶

Tell Fr. Rocco that I shall write to him.

3278

November 12, 1836

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

The peasant that you recommended either is ready to come, or we will be without a set time. Please send your reply to Albano. During the first days he will be wearing his own clothes. His vesture will be provided afterwards. It will be sufficient for him to bring along the money and the recommendations. I would like a reply so that I can give you quickly, in another letter of mine, the place where he is to go.

I am writing while engaged in the ministry. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Piperno, November 12³⁷

3279

November 13, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³⁸

All the letters to Albano; inform Merlini so that he can hold on to them.

I have received the safeconduct pass. I understand all the rest. Surrounded by penitents, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

³⁶ In this dateline, the place of origin, the day and the month are derived from the postal markings. The year, however, is certainly 1836, when Fr. Alderisio was in Sermoneta as Economist. Furthermore, the letter makes reference to the mailing of the objects that the Saint spoke about in the letter dated October, 1836, and which was entered as a whole in the Register of Administration under the date of November 19, 1836 (cfr. Lett. n. 3274 of October 1836).

³⁷ The year is 1836, as is evident from the reference to the Mission in Priverno.

³⁸ From the postal markings it is evident that the letter, sent from "Piperno", passing through "Terracina", arrived in Rome on November 13, 1836.

G. C. d. B.

3280

November 21, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³⁹

Make the purchases that Spina requested as long as they do not go beyond the sum of around ten *scudi*. With this information, you handle the matter. I would hope that the expense would be less. In saying around, I mean a *paolo*, more or less.

As for other matters, in another ordinary mail delivery.

Father Biagio⁴⁰ needs a woolen vest. Send it to me, indicating the cost involved.

With reference to the problems dealing with the mortgage for the endowment, you will reply that this is what I directed you to do. That is how you will take care of it; and this is the truth. With regard to the reinvestment, say, in time, since I wish to know what it is and I will have to examine it along with you, and we will have to think it over. All this, in time, so that you might be able to bring it to a conclusion by the 15th, as you mention. Indeed, inform them in time. I hope that I have made myself clear. It could likewise possibly happen that some thing else might be joined to it, if this does not work out. Byebye; but perhaps a separate document will be required. I am in a hurry.

Your affectionate uncle

Little is known about the mortgage and that is better.⁴¹

3281

November 24, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴²

The small satchel in which I put the package sent through the services of Merlini is the

³⁹ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 21, 1836.

⁴⁰ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁴¹ This postscript is found on the outer covering.

⁴² This letter has no date but one is derived from the postal markings. Departure: Albano; arrival: Rome, November 24, 1836.

one in which the bedsheets were that were repaired for me in Albano. It seems to me that two pillowcases are lacking. I thought there were four; but, if I am not mistaken, there are only two. So, it will be necessary to have two more made so that there will be four bedsheets and four pillowcases.

Then, the following items are needed.

For the boardingstudent Lombardi a pair of black, woolen stockings. In order not to confuse them with ours, I would say that you should purchase them and let me know the cost.

A cincture like the ones used by the Missionary, taken from the ones that are on hand, a smaller one with tassels, but one that is approximately the same and of that type. Let me know the cost.

Another pair of woolen stockings for the boardingstudent Ammirati, just as above, and send me the cost. Also for this same individual, three dozen buttons for the cassock.

Likewise needed are 20 sheets of paper, rosecolored, that is, which catch the eye, but each sheet should be tinted on both sides. Each sheet done that way. If it costs little, get that number of sheets. If it cost a lot, first inform me. It would be good to put all in one package along with the vest for Father Biagio⁴³ in order not to have to pay out so many gratuities.

As soon as the chalice has been gilded with gold, have it consecrated; after informing me of its consecration, send it to me along with the small case, and indicating to me the cost. Let us be in agreement. Because of the gratuities, put a number of things together since there is no particular hurry.

I ordered a waistcoat for myself to be made from the cloth that Bartolomeo⁴⁴ got. This waistcoat is either at home or at Pelzolet's shop. Send it to me and it is to be billed to the Institute's account.

Furthermore, when Pelzolet has completed the cassock for Father Biagio, send that to me. Finally, tell Pelzolet that the cloth that is left over from the material that he has on hand, he is to give to you; then, send it to me.

I know about Nepi and the Masses. *Laus Deo*.⁴⁵

For this time only, the cincture to Gonnelli, since he is not the only one who would like to face such burdens; but others do too; I do not intend nor must I take on those responsibilities. I think only of the Institute. In a very great hurry, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

G. C. d. B.

⁴³ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁴⁴ Bartolomeo Panzini.

⁴⁵ Praise to God.

November 23, 1836
Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

Because the Missionary will be going to a Seminary, a Brother can be spared. In short (since we are now on Retreat) you will be taken care of. So, send for the Missionary in Frosinone after the feast of St. Xavier. I am

Your humble, devoted

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss.

Albano, November 23⁴⁶

3283

November 26, 1836
Ignazio Lesinelli
Rome

On Retreat in Albano, November 26, 1836

Most esteemed Ignazio

A thousand thanks for your charity. If some expense should occur, please inform me with a line or so from you.

While recommending myself to your prayers, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3284

November 26, 1836
Fr. Angelo Santangeli
Bassiano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Archpriest

Just a couple of lines since I am on Retreat. If the Mission were to begin on the 1st day of the new year, that would be good. For now, just a general agreement. Immediately after I get another letter from you, more will be settled. Pray for me. I remain

Your humble servant

⁴⁶ The year is 1836 (cfr. the letter to this same person on October 10, 1836).

G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Albano, November 26⁴⁷

3285

November 30, 1836
 Fr. Tomasso Meloni
 Roma per Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

I am depositing 15 *paoli* with my niece for the last list of ten Masses. Up to now it seems that we are all squared away, unless I am mistaken. I understand that all of them are to be said at a privileged altar. Now I am sending you 20 more Masses to be celebrated, with the usual listing etc.

Pray for me who am in a hurry

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House at Albano, November 30, (1836)

P. S. Your answer, to Rome.

The Bishop of Nepi sent his Secretary to my home and said that the Mission could be scheduled quite well for immediately after Christmas. Inform etc. I presume that Msgr. Vicar, to whom I send my regards, is aware of this. You take care of it.

3286

November 1836
 Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli
 Sermoneta

Check the bills for the grocer as well as the economical reports of Buffoni and those of Alderisio; look into what is needed for the *probandi* and put the reimbursements under a new entry.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ The year is 1836 (cfr. the letters (n. 3269 and n.3693) to the same person on October 27, 1836 and December 4, 1836).

⁴⁸ This brief direction was sent by St. Gaspar perhaps to Father Rocco Sebastianelli who, on November 23, 1836 succeeded Father Giuseppe Alderisio as the economist in the House in Sermoneta just as the latter on October 8th of that same year had succeeded Father Pietro Buffoni in that same position (cfr. the register of administration of 1836 in the House of Sermoneta).

3287

November 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome
Dearest niece⁴⁹

Send the enclosed along with one *scudo* to Monsignor Muccioli. As soon as you send the package to the Monsignor, please inform me.

At the first opportunity, send two large images, of those from Rimini, to Canon Setucci in Piperno together with a line or so which says: "To be placed in the public streets for veneration".

[there is no signature]

Send me the winter volume of the Breviary.

3288

End of November 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁵⁰

It is very good that you are occupying yourself with looking into the nature of the total reinvestment for which a separate document will be necessary. More in person with regard to the other matter.

All is fine with respect to the de Marchis Masses; I would say nothing to Cencio.⁵¹ For everything, let us give thanks to God.

Forward the enclosed to Monsignor Piatti and inform me when he has received it.

Father Beniamino⁵² is presently in Cesena. I read the note from Maria Agostina.

I thank God that Abate Fortuna is going to hear confessions at S. Galla.

I do not know why Father Filippo had the mirror come. Hold on to everything until my return and more when we see each other in person; everything is to be kept concealed in your

⁴⁹ In November of 1836 St. Gaspar preached the Mission in Priverno. Then, he stopped off in Albano for the Retreat. This letter, in all probability, is to be placed, therefore, at the end of November 1836.

⁵⁰ This letter has no date. It is closely related to the two following letters to her (cfr. mention of the cassock for the boardingstudent Vincenzo Ammirati. Luigia del Bufalo makes a notation on the third siding of this letter of the prices relating to the pictures of S. Filomena and of S. Francesco di Paola; cfr. also here the mention of the "total reinvestment" with the one in the letter (n. 3281) written to her on November 21, 1836; in the account records of S. Felice in Giano, where Father Giovanni Battista Pedini was economist, entries listed in January of 1837 indicate ten *scudi* sent by St. Gaspar etc.); St. Gaspar says that he was making his Retreat (November 25-December 3). Hence, this letter can safely be located at the end of November 1836.

⁵¹ Vincenzo Severini.

⁵² Father Beniamino Romani.

room.

You are to pay for the tickets of the three recent arrivals, and totally it should come to 1,65 *scudi*. Our men said that everything was paid for, as long as they were not obliged to pay; that is the misunderstanding. I am writing only about urgent matters, since I am making my Retreat. Boardingstudent Ammirati needs a cassock. You will have to get the material, costing three *scudi* for a canna, and check with Pelzolet to see how much will be needed. He is a companion like the little fellow who came earlier; I am not referring to the recent one accepted by me. Ammirati is my size but he is a bit thinner. I hope that I have made myself clear. This must be taken care of immediately since he is in need of it. I, too, have gotten rid of one, the smaller one, along with some other things. But, then, I can provide for this in Rome. Have I forgotten anything?

Send to Missionary Father Orazio Bracaglia in Rimini three *scudi* which he ought to have in his deposit and join to these another three; mail them to Father Orazio, letting me know the postal cost, and informing him with a couple of lines from you. Send ten *scudi* to Father Pedini in Giano, informing him also with a short note. I repeat: return the consecrated chalice etc.

[there is no signature]

3289

End of November, 1836
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

When placing, on another occasion, an order for woolen stockings, it will be necessary to cut down, unless someone else should order them; we cannot, with ease, find someone who can deliver the vest. In the meantime, those that you have sent are very fine. More in person.

Deposit or send 15 *paoli*, the offerings for ten Masses, to Father Meloni, from whom I have already received the notification.

I received the sugar and the satchel with the cassock for Father Biagio,⁵³ and everything else. Bartolomeo⁵⁴ will be bringing back the satchel when I return.

It is good that the cloth from Fabriano has arrived. Everything else, when we get together.

With regard to the reams of stationery sent to me, everything is fine.

I will have to have the waistcoat for Sante⁵⁵ by the evening of St. Xavier at the latest, if you can manage that. Otherwise, patience.

⁵³ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁵⁴ Bartolomeo Panzini.

⁵⁵ Sante Angelini.

Check Virgilj's deposit and if it is not sufficient, add whatever is necessary, giving me an account of it as usual. Immediately, send 12 *scudi in francs* to Angelo Barnabei in Cammerino. Let us be in agreement. Now, we move on to other things.

With regard to the chalice, tell Borgognoni that he should take care of it for me and that he should do what he thinks is best. It will, of course, be necessary to have it consecrated. Patience also with this expense, but, I would like to have it wellmade, something durable and beautiful to see.

With respect to Genovese, I would like to have the bill for everything on a separate sheet and the same for Sante.

Likewise, put together only Bartolomeo's money along with the other money that I left for the Institute.

I said that you should write to Mamma's brother and tell him that he himself should look into the reinvestment, to be approved only by us and with open administration. The best one to contact for reinvestment is Canon Moretti, to whom you can write concerning the fruits of the death of Father Castellini. There is little time available, so, act now. In this way, there will be no difficulty in making a deposit with the Monte.

I understand about the Secretary of the most reverend bishop of Nepi. At first he had said that he wanted the Mission now; then, on the day after Christmas; he will be taken care of. Let us pray for the great work that there is to be done. When is the bishop leaving? Did the secretary say this? In the meantime, I shall write him a couple of lines. You probably know where he lives, that is, in some house on the Piazza di Spagna.

Order a couple of pairs of shoes for me since I would like to save the better ones, a bit wornout, for the summer. Tell the shoemaker that they should be good ones; the flaps even and the leather for the buckles correctly positioned.

On Monday, December 5th,⁵⁶ after the noon meal, I shall be coming to Rome and at night, de Marchis will be arriving.

Tuesday morning, around a quarter before noontime, Minu should be there to see me. In the evening, I shall be going to Monsignor Piatti's for the Retreat.

Send me Saturdays's mail. You probably have in mind the feast of St. Xavier. Have I forgotten anything? I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3290

November 1836
Luigia del Bufalo

⁵⁶ During the years of the missionary, apostolic life of St. Gaspar (1814-1837) the 5th of December landed on a Monday of 1814, 1825, 1831 and 1836. This letter belongs to 1836 as is evident from the reference to the Mission in Nepi which began on December 27, 1836. The letter was written in Albano, very probably along with the one (n. 3285) to Father Tomasso Meloni dated November 30, 1836.

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁵⁷

As soon as the opportunity arises, send to Frosinone two pairs of woolen stockings to Father Camillo Rossi, informing him that they are for Brother Vincenzo, from Norcia,⁵⁸ the present sacristan in Frosinone. Join with that a shirt, and send me the account of the expense.

Send immediately here to Albano, 50 pounds of sugar, I repeat fifty.

Send to me the notification of expenses for Albano; enter it for that account.

The waistcoat of cloth should be among the things that I have here. I have already disposed of that.

In addition to the cassock for the boardingstudent Ammirati, have them make, from the same material, a waistcoat for Brother Sante⁵⁹ who is direly in need of one.

You will be getting the notification of Mugnaj's Masses as soon as I get it.

What ream of stationery are you talking about? Perhaps about the one sent to Vallecorsa? Please write more clearly.

Give the customary gratuities. New gratuities, absolutely not. I shall be awaiting Ambrosini's package. Have I forgotten anything? I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3291

End of November 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁶⁰

All is fine and I have received everything. Likewise, supper for our men is all right. You take care of everything. Give Mamma, for house expenses, 20 *scudi* taken from the 180, when you judge necessary; give them for the house, I repeat, enter this on your sheet as given to Canon del Bufalo.

⁵⁷ This letter does not have a date. It was written from Albano, as is seen in the text, in the month of November 1836, as will be explained in the note to the following letter.

⁵⁸ Vincenzo Marchetti.

⁵⁹ Sante Angelini

⁶⁰ This letter has no date. It is certainly to be placed in relationship to the following letter addressed to her (cf. the mention in both of them of Father Bernardino Martini concerning whom the congressus of December 28, 1836 in the House of S. Felice in Giano, under no. 7, says: "Sent here by the Director General is boardingstudent Martini, subdeacon, destined for this House of studies".) Hence, we date this letter "end of November, 1836.

The rest by mail. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

You will give to Father Martini⁶¹ the payment for the coachman that was agreed upon for the trip. Also, one additional *scudo* for some refreshment. That comes to three; for the refreshment, six *paoli* should be enough; with what is left over, as long as the coachman has fully agreed, you might give Father Martini 30 *bajocchi* if necessary, thus there would be one for each one. I hope that I have expressed myself clearly But, then, you are experienced in this matter. Give the travelers the passport etc.⁶²

3292

First part of December, 1836

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁶³

If I have not already written to you about this, I am doing so now. Father Camillo⁶⁴ will be sending a cartdriver and you will have to send him a shirt for Brother Vincenzo⁶⁵ along with two pairs of winter stockings. If Father Camillo should write and ask for two shirts, send them to him. If he does not write, send only one. If he has already written to you about this matter and the package has been sent, then nothing more needs to be done. Let me know the cost for the stockings and the shirt etc.

I would like to have, on a separate sheet, one that says:

Picture of S. Filomena such and such a cost of S. Francesco di Paola such and such a cost frame for the other picture such and such a cost case for both, such and such a cost. I will be awaiting this anxiously, or, you might give me it at my notice.

⁶¹ Father Bernardino Martini.

⁶² This final paragraph is located on the outer covering.

⁶³ This letter has no date. It was written from Albano, as is mentioned in the text. It is closely allied to a preceding one, noticeable immediately at the beginning with a reference to Father Camillo Rossi. This letter must belong to the period of December 1836 and precisely the first part of December. In fact, St. Gaspar was in Albano until December 4 and in Rome on the 12th of December. In this letter he mentions that he will be in Rome "next Thursday for the noon meal". The Thursdays of December 1836 fell on the 1st, 8th, 15th etc. The only Thursday in question here in this letter is December 8th. So, the letter belongs to the first part of December 1836. This date is confirmed by the fact that Father Francesco Verili had charge of the House in Sonnino until December 7, 1836 and St. Gaspar knows from a Verili letter that he is "traveling" to Rome, then on to Albano. Verili is located in that House as noted in the congressus of January 22, 1837.

⁶⁴ Father Camillo Rossi.

⁶⁵ Brother Vincenzo Marchetti.

Verili is traveling. I believe that he will be going to his home. We shall see. At least, that is what I think.

I received the valises along with the letters and the shoes for Ravasio, as well as the letter, through the mails.

I advise you that I shall be in Rome next Thursday for the noon meal; this, because I must await Merlini who will be returning.

Verili wrote that perhaps he might be going to his home. It is better that way. If he comes to us, receive him but tell him to come to Albano immediately. Let us be in agreement. Spina writes that he will take care of the ten *scudi*. So, take 5,10 *scudi* and place them at the disposal of Spina, since that is as much as he has spent for Martini and the Brother who have undertaken the trip. I hope that I have made myself clear. If Spina should give at present some errands to do, you can carry them out. There is time to be able to do that.

I already spoke of the alms for Mugnaj's Masses which are to go to Santarelli, on deposit for him.

When I get there, let me know whether the shoes for Ravasio have been paid for. Otherwise, Bartolomeo will pay for them. It seems that nothing more needs to be added. I am, in Jesus Christ

Your affectionate uncle

I repeat, I shall be arriving Thursday for the noon meal.

3293

December 4, 1836
Fr. Angelo Santangeli
Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed archpriest

You are showing me your patience. Perhaps, because of some incident, the Mission may have to be delayed a bit from the 1st of the year. In another letter from me, I will be able to state precisely the time and anything else that will be needed. In the meantime, let us prepare ourselves through many prayers. I am hopeful that the holy Mission and the care for souls will preserve us from the scourge of the pestilence.

With this understanding, then, I add nothing more. I will ask you, however, for one favor and that is to send, to our place in Sermoneta, a piglet to be fattened for our community. One will be sufficient, since we already have one there. Let me know the cost and I will remit the money to someone in Rome, whom you indicate, or someone in Bassiano. Please send the pig to the Mission House at the earliest possible time. Your letters to me should be addressed to "Rome".

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, December 4, 1836

3294

December 10, 1836
Ponziano Morichelli
Rome

House, 10th⁶⁶

Dear Ponziano

Please, at this time, look after the only reinvestment of the dowry for my sisterinlaw. It is urgent to do so quickly. I am in a hurry.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3295

December 12, 1836
Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Canon

With regard to the young man that you proposed, it appears to me that, *hinc inde*,⁶⁷ he should remain at liberty; and I would not care to have him sell his land for there may be doubt about his success in the Institute, even though he is a good man. May the Lord grant you ample blessings for the work of the apostolate that you are doing, and may you be effective in that city, especially during the recurrence of the sacred mysteries to which the Church is approaching.

Extend my felicitous greetings to the most reverend bishop and to his brother, sparing you the inconvenience of another letter from me. Always keep alive in your mind a foundation of ours there. Pray for me, and have others do so too. I am, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 12, 1836

⁶⁶ This letter must belong to December of 1836. In fact, mention is made of the reinvestment of the dowry of the sisterinlaw, Paolina, in the letters of November 1836 (cfr., e.g., the letters n. 3280 and 3289 of November 21, 1836 and November 1836). On December 10, 1836, St. Gaspar was in Rome, whereas he was not there in January of 1837. However, the problem seemed to have a certain urgency about it.

⁶⁷ From here and there.

3296

December 12, 1836
 Madre Abbadessa
 Monastero della Purificazione
 (Roma)
 Mother Abbess

I am writing a couple of lines to you in regard to the new nunto, Maria Rosi; I would like you to give her the name of Maria Saveria del Preziosissimo Sangue.

I hope that I will not be denied this favor; with esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Rome), December 12, 1836

3297

December 17, 1836
 Fr Filippo Galli
 Cammerino per Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Filippo

I have already sent the Masses for the House to Fr. De Victoriis. You will have to consult him as to the distribution of them, which perhaps he has already done or will do.

You will receive the reimbursement for your trip from that same office. I believe that if you are a bit patient, it will not give you any distress. I shall write to De Victoriis about it.

In regard to the Pious Legacy, let this be your guide:

- 1) The Pastor should get the Rescripts that are needed.
- 2) Write up a rough draft of the document; then, after reading it over, close the contract and sign it.
- 3) In the text of the document, the Society must be named; after the reading, make out a declaration of acceptance in due form.

Be sure that the conditions are clearly stated, so that no questions arise later on. Be specific about the condition of residence and other necessary matters. Also keep in mind the devotions, etc.; and all will proceed with the blessings of God, and the good that will result from it will be notable.

I think that you and Fr. De Victoriis should draw up the rough draft⁶⁸ which is to be sent to the Pastor, if you agree, to speed up the affair. The fact that I have other ideas concerning the fruits of the investments, as you well know, does not alter matters. The Pastor will also consult

⁶⁸ *modula*: this word has passed into disuse. It means: module, example, model (Petrocchi).

the Bishop.

One more observation: namely, that instead of loaning out the money at interest, I would acquire a stable piece of property. Then, the Society could rent it out, or lease it on a sharecropping basis. In that way, we would get the just and proportionate return that we think we should. When one lends money out at interest, there is always the risk that the person who receives the money may give it back: and then, you have new expenses arising from the reinvestment. So, the Pastor and you might acquire a piece of property out in the country through the Legacy, and place it in the name of the Society. It would be a better procedure in so far as it would avoid future expenditures. Think about it.

In reference to our schedule, we must adhere to Palm Sunday at the latest for the General Communion and the completion of the Retreat, unless you would prefer to end them on Wednesday of Holy Week in the morning. Surely not beyond this date. See to it that everything is ready to begin next Lent, reminding the Pastor to inform the Bishop not to select the Preacher.

I have nothing more to say to you at present. Pray for me who am with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

P. S. Remember, charity requires that something be set aside for the Society from the Legacy; one can never be certain whether there will be some unforeseen government charges, or even that someone else may institute litigation. A bit of leeway is imperative.

Rome, December 17, 1836

3298

December 17, 1836

Fr. Michelangelo Di Rionero

Cesena

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*⁶⁹

Very Reverend Father, most observant patron

You have probably learned already of the safe reception of your letter, addressed to Father Cristoforo.⁷⁰ You can be certain that I, ready to be of service to you, will do whatever I can. I take advantage of this encounter to recommend myself to your prayers, especially during the upcoming sacred mysteries. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, December 17, 1836

⁶⁹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

⁷⁰ Father Cristoforo Frioli.

3299

December 20, 1836
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

December 20, 1836

I owe you a reply.

In regard to the Vicar of Roccasecca, it is necessary that he submit, in plenty of time, to his own bishop, a request for the good work that he intends to promote, so that the usually required request will be addressed to me.

I will be delighted to learn of the arrival of the pictures which probably have arrived already; the confessor, with the permission of the Vicar General, will be able to bless them. If they have not arrived, there will be a remedy. After your reply to this letter of mine, sent to Rome, I shall then send you the bill as well as the frames, gilded in good gold. If you wish to return the crate to me, I shall hold on to it for the Institute. If it is needed for the Monastery, do whatever you feel is right.

When will our Institute be set up in Piperno?

With respect to your soul, you can give me a report during the feastsdays. In the meanwhile, enjoy that tranquility and peace which the Lord will be announcing to us with the upcoming sacred mysteries. I wish for you, for your Monastery there in that city and for the whole world, ample and distinct blessings. Let your response be to pray for me, sincerely the one who is most needful of all, as well as for our Institute, so very dear to me, the great work of the Lord. Let us continue to propagate ever more and more the great devotion to Xavier and that very primary one of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, the fountain and mine of every good thing. May most holy Mary be our guide.

Remind our good workers to look after the pious organizations and the crosses erected outside the gates at various times during the Missions that were given.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3300

December 20, 1836
 Fr. Luigi Ambrosini
 Pennabilli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Canon

The occupations of the ministry have delayed my reply. I assure you of the reception of

the money through the mails; I understand that you are doing about the bed and the linens for the wonderful Father Ubaldo⁷¹ concerning whom I send you the most favorable report. I am firmly hopeful that he will become a true worker in the Lord's vineyard at a time that is so very urgent.

I am most grateful to you and your parents; I hope that you extend to them my sentiments of esteem and respect and at the same time recommend me to their prayers, not doubting at all your own charity.

Thousands and thousands of good wishes to all of you for the upcoming mysteries. Read everything that I hold in my heart. In the meantime, with all my respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome (for forwarding), December 20 , 1836

⁷¹ Father Ubaldo Ambrosini