

St. Gaspar's Letters

3351-3400

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3351

March 9, 1837
 Mother Teresa Cherubina
 Monastero di Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio
 Cori

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Mother Abbess

Thousands and thousands of thanks for the gift sent to Sermoneta. You should not have any worry about us; the obligations which we have to you are not few and our Institute is ready to be of service to your community whenever God gives you that inspiration.

Inexpressible has been my affliction upon the loss of one of our companions who was so highlygifted; but the will of God is the center of peace and comfort. I add nothing more. Pray for me and our Institute and have others do so too. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, March 9, 1837

3352

March 9, 1837
 Mother Lilia Maria di S. Luigi
 Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Reverend Mother

The loss of the good de Victoriis has been a great shock for me; he was getting everything ready for his coming there after Easter. Oh the adorable dispositions of God! Let us do the divine will. As soon as I can obtain something belonging to the deceased, I will send it on to you. In the meantime, pray for me for three graces:

1. That the Lord will help me prepare well for death; who knows how close it may be for me. Offer a bit of prayer for this intention.

2. That God will send, as a compensation for the death of de Victoriis, another valiant

worker.

3. That, if it please him, may the Institute spread; and, may he be merciful toward me. In the Heart of Jesus Christ, I remain, with esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 9, 1837

3253

March 9, 1837

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Rimini¹

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

In reference to the Liceo, I would be of the opinion that the conferences should be given by Mosconi and the usual Meditations by Fr. Vrigili, who you are to ask in my name. Inform the Most Reverend Bishop that Mosconi will give the Retreat at the seminary. In that way, he will not be overworked in the Liceo. We are agreed. I repeat, it would be good to inform the Bishop. Except for those things that are permitted by our rule and things pertaining to the city of Rimini, you can tell the Bishop, if necessary, to write directly to me about anything else. That is the correct way of doing things; or, he could have someone else write.

The two Brothers must have received the money from Lipparelli belonging to me. You will please inform me about this, for you have mentioned nothing about it.

I have already directed that Viola is to come to Rimini and should have the cook's room (tell me which one it is). Antonio is to return to supply for the time being in Macerata Feltria and in his free time he is to take care of the garden. Later, the cook for Macerata will arrive, but only after Easter, when, because of the death of our beloved Fr. De Victoriis,² I shall have to make some changes in the Houses, and also appointments for the Missions.

Tell me in confidence: if ever I should need your help in the position as Economist in Pievetorina, would there be any difficulty? Let this be for my records, for, in such a case,

¹ The place from which this present letter was sent is derived from the Libro dei Congressi of the House in Macerata Feltria. Under the date February 8, 1837, it says: "Silvestri ... leaving for the House in Rimini where he is going to handle the Lenten series", etc. As a matter of fact, he was supposed to preach in S. Martino in Riparotta (cfr. Letter 3327 of January 26, 1837, the fourth paragraph), a little town about five Km from Rimini. So, he was able to go each time from the Mission House and return in one day. In Silvestri's absence, the Missionary Fr. Alessandro Pontoni supplied for him as Economist in Macerata Feltria, and Fr. Nicola Santarelli, who was preaching the Lenten series there, assumed the position of President.

² In regard to the Missionary, Fr. Pietro De Victoriis, who died at S. Felice in Giano on February 14, 1837, cfr. biographical section: De Victoriis.

Santarelli would go to Macerata. Keep this matter to yourself. Perhaps you will return to Macerata. I repeat, the death of De Victoriis requires us to make new arrangements. For you, either Macerata or Pievetorina. However, you would certainly return first to Macerata.

I am in a hurry, etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 9, 1837³

3354

March 15 1837

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Rome, March 15, 1837

Esteemed Fr. Domenico

I have already taken care of the matter of the six *Sc.* with another letter of mine to which I refer you. We are agreed.

In another letter, I sent a response to Mosconi. I hope that he has already arrived or that he will be there soon. It seems a good idea to me that you should arrange and divide the work of the ministry.

I have taken care of getting the worker who was needed. I hope to be hearing from you concerning the suggestion made by your sisters the Nuns. I ask you to recommend me to their prayers.

Return my very best wishes to the Marquis Diotallevi.

Your remarks about the stagnant water are correct, most correct. But what am I to do, if God disposes so many things that I am not aware of? I thank you for the information. I shall see what I can do after Easter. *Deo dante*,⁴ I would like to come in person to Romagna.

Oh, my beloved, pray a lot for me. In J.C. Crucified, I am, with all my affection and esteem

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del. Bufalo

M. Ap.

³ There is no doubt that the year is 1837 since Fr. Silvestri went to Rimini during the Lenten period, when De Victoriis died, etc. The place of origin is certainly Rome, where the Saint was located during Lent of 1837 to preach "the Catechism, to his greatest delight, in the church of S. Lorenzo e Damaso, for it was there that S. Francis Xavier preached, he used to say". Furthermore, it turns out that on that same day, March 9, 1837, he wrote other letters from Rome.

⁴ God being the giver.

3355

March, 1837

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

to the attention of D. Pietro Spina

Nepi, so that in case it is necessary it be immediately forwarded *ibi ubi*.⁵

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

You stay on at Torrita too. However, as soon as you have finished, send me Brother Giuseppe here in Rome, for I need him. Make sure that he has his traveling papers.

Then, you are to go on to Orte and, since this will be work in a Seminary, you will not have need of a Brother. See that you work things out in such a way that you can be back for Palm Sunday, for the days of precept require your presence in Nepi. May God bless your apostolic labors. I do not know whether in Torrita you are closer to the route to Orte or not. At any rate, you handle the matter.

When you arrive in Nepi, look around and ask to see whether there is anything available, either in the House or in the library, on the deceased De Victoriis.

With esteem, I am in Jesus Christ

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 1837⁶

P. S. Merlini has written to me that you do not wish to remain in Nepi. So, it is necessary for the one who is going to replace you to be there immediately after Easter. Tell me: where do you want to go? I cannot send you with Canon Paradisi in Pievetorina. Giano does not work out for you because of your age. I would suggest Macerata Feltria, a delightful climate, as you will learn from Spina. Try to give me peace of mind with your agreement to this, and you will be doing a great good. You will not go out on the Missions.

3356

March 18, 1837

Canon Fratellini

Rome

⁵ There ... where.

⁶ This letter, certainly sent out from Rome, is to be placed, as the context indicates, after the one sent on March 9, 1837 and a few days before the one sent on the 21st of that same month. If one keeps in mind that Palm Sunday occurred on the 19th of March, this letter can be assigned only to the days between the 12th and 15th of that month.

Most esteemed Canon

For my own peace of mind, I am enclosing the rescript⁷ which you will then return to me. It appears that the faculty granted to me may extend beyond the time of the Missions or Retreats, as I would hope that it does, not requiring an additional contact with the Ordinary, since it is a question of the internal forum. By way of communication, therefore, the usual conditions are attached even though it deals with the internal forum. If what I write here is accurate, then send back the enclosed, stating that all is well.⁸ In other words, just a line or so, please. Excuse this inconvenience. Say an *Ave Maria* for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

March 18⁹

To be confirmed in December, 1837.¹⁰

3357

March 19, 1837

Mother Prioress

Rome

House, March 19, 1837

Canon del Bufalo sends his regards to the Mother Prioress and recommends himself to her prayers and those of the entire community. He is not acquainted with the Martinelli family; but he could write to Alatri and get information. If this is agreeable, all that need be done is to send him a brief word by letter. If nothing arrives, that will be a sign that nothing further need be done. The person writing this letter renews his most humble, devoted and obliged sentiments.

3358

March 21, 1837

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

⁷ Cfr. X. 532/4-5. It deals with the faculty of "being able to absolve anyone who took part in the recent revolts, and applicable, at least, during the time when the Missions and Retreats were conducted, either privately or publicly".

⁸ As a matter of fact, the addressee had written at the bottom: "All is well".

⁹ The year has to be 1837 since the rescript, granted for the first time on December 31, 1835 and validated for one year, was renewed in 1836 and scheduled for confirmation in 1837.

¹⁰ This postscript is on the fourth siding, near the address.

In reference to the delicate case that you wrote to me about, my advice, if NN. does not encounter difficulty, would be that he should go to confession to Msgr. Piatti and work it out with him. I have nothing else concerning this matter in mind.

Merlini told me that you do not wish to remain in Nepi. Well, tell me where you do want to stay. Remember that in Pievetorina I was obliged, because of your age, to put Fr. Paradisi there at the end of last autumn. Send me a reply, for by going to Orte, both matters can be taken care of. As far as I am concerned, I would replace you in Cesena, where Msgr. Cadolini is, or in Macerata Feltria or Rimini. Think, too, about Giano. We are presently out in the country, but as for the winter, I do not know. I shall do whatever you tell me. Answer me quickly, because whoever is to go to Nepi should not delay in getting there. Of course, if you remain there, nothing more has to be said.

Your observations with regard to the expenses for the Mission, I want you to know, have been taken into consideration by me. But, sometimes, unforeseen cases arise. You were not supposed to go with Merlini, but rather with another of our men who, having been taken ill, it was necessary to find a substitute *meliori modo*.¹¹ When the House in Nepi, for example, will have a full compliment, then the situation will be different. For the time being, *meliori modo*:¹² and I thank God.

In Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 21, 1837

3359

March 21, 1837

Pietro Barcaroli

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Pietro

My heart is like a small boat being pushed here and there. What am I to say? God sees how interested I am in Chiaravalle. I would like to arrange for the good work there, the economy etc. So, listen to me, Pietro. For the feast of the Ascension I have a Retreat to conduct in Rome from which I am not, in anyway at all, able to unburden myself. Let us see whether we can set the entrance for the Mission in Chiaravalle for the 21st of May, the feast of the most Holy Trinity. Just a line or so in response. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

¹¹ In a better way.

¹² In a better way.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 M. Ap.
 Rome, March 21, 1837

3360

March 22, 1837
 Fr. Pietro Butti
 Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I am inconveniencing you with this letter of mine in order that, after having read the enclosed material with reserve, you would please inform me in detail at the earliest possible time. You will not be forgotten by me since I assure you that I always have you in mind, especially in my poor prayers.

Let us be enthusiastic more and more for the pious institutions and let us maintain that holy union of charity in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ where I, with all my affection and esteem, remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Rome, March 22, 1837

3361

March 1837
 To a Mother Prioress
 Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Reverend Mother¹³

Due to the information that I have gotten (I would not, however, wish to have this matter made known for several good and prudent reasons), God is not calling the young girl, Rosalinda Martinelli, to the religious state, even though she demonstrates the best conduct. This is the judgment on the matter made by a good priest of Alatri. With esteem and respect [...] ¹⁴

¹³ This letter does not have a date. It is related to, but comes after, the letter (n. 3357) to this same person, dated March 19, 1837 as well as the letter (n. 3360) to Butti, dated March 22, 1837. Therefore, tentatively we assign it to March 1837.

¹⁴ The sheet is torn here.

3362

March 25, 1837
Fr. Angelo Santangeli
Bassiano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Archpriest

I am hoping to begin the Mission around April 16th. As for the day, approximately, I will let you know. The 16th is a feastday. That would be a good time. Please let me know whether I should bring along one or two Missionaries in addition to Bartolomeo ¹⁵ who is my helper. Also, please indicate to me how the kitchen will be handled, that is, whether there will be freedom of choice for our dwelling and for the use of a kitchen, and whether the road is level ground or raised. If it is level ground, it will be necessary for Bartolomeo to bring along as a helper a Brotherinservice from Sermoneta. His health does not allow him to be bent over. You are already acquainted with our regulations. In Jesus Christ, with esteem and affection, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, March 25, 1837

P. S. Tell me where the bishop is.

3363

March 25, 1837
Fr. Francesco Palmieri
Cesena

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I received one of your letters that was most pleasing to me. In it, I notice the firmness of your vocation and I give thanks to the Lord. I have given several instructions to Lipparelli with reference to you. I would like you to be informed by him with respect to our regulations, and that he investigate your canonry which obliges you, as you know, to residence. In the meantime, prayers. Appropriate letters to your people can bring matters to the desired tranquility.

Pray for me. With esteem, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, March 25, 1837

3364

¹⁵ Bartolomeo Panzini.

March 27, 1837
Fr. Tomasso Meloni
Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I notice in your letter either that you have not understood me or that I have not explained myself clearly. No one is obliging you to leave Nepi or to move, and no one has ever demanded that you work *ultra vires*.¹⁶

You mentioned Fr. De Victoriis¹⁷ to me, as though the Institute had been unfair toward him, etc. Now, I tell you that the greatest concern was shown toward him. He was given a change in climate: that was done to carry out what the doctors prescribed. For a long time, almost never did he go out on Missions, and if he did go out on one or the other, it was to satisfy him. Rather, I kept him busy inside with easy tasks.

Now with respect to you, I have come to this conclusion: tell me which House you select, and you shall be satisfied. It surely could not have been a failing on my part to have written to you in connection with a request of yours which Merlini brought to my attention. As far as I am concerned, it is sufficient that God be my Judge.

With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

for your mail: Rome, March 27, 1837¹⁸

P. S. I am having them prepare a room for you in S. Felice of Giano where you can go after you have finished in Orte. Pay for the trip by instalments, whereas Orte must look to, etc. This is what I have decided. You shall conduct the Marian month in S. Felice. Get there on time. So, I am writing etc. I shall send you the letter for the Archbishop in Orte. Let me know when you depart.

3365

March 28, 1837
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

¹⁶ Beyond one's strength.

¹⁷ Cfr. biographical section: De Victoriis.

¹⁸ This letter was mailed from Albano, as the postal markings indicate: the Saint, however, wanted the reply sent to Rome.

Reverend Mother

Unless I am mistaken, I believe that our accounts are all even.

The horns of plenty are already being worked on. You will soon be receiving them. Recommend Piperno to the zeal of Father Biagio¹⁹ to whom I would have also entrusted the Retreat to the community there if I had gotten the request. But God must have willed to be served by the Father Capuchin. With regard to the exposition of the most Blessed Sacrament, the bishop will provide the appropriate directions. When you have the time, you will be able to interrogate him. In the meantime, your wishes will not go by without a reward.

Is the Retreat and the extraordinary visit finished?

As you say very correctly, Gentili has a delicate temperament. In our Institute, he is not a raging torrent, but a placid stream.

I do not fail to pray for the nun, Mother Teresa. But *preces meae non sunt dignae*.²⁰

Be tranquil in God and may his will be the center of your peace.

With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, March 28, 1837

Address your letters to "Rome".

3366

March 29, 1837

Fr. Nicola Crescenzi

Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

I would like to know, as I suspect, whether I am to take care of the usual Retreat in Veroli. Please inform me when you will be sending the mounts to Frosinone, and also whether you wish to have two Missionaries or just one. If only one is to come and he is to reside in a convent, a Brother can be spared. Otherwise, he cannot be spared. Give my best regards to the most reverend bishop. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

¹⁹ Father Biagio Valentini.

²⁰ My prayers and not worthy.

House in Albano, March 19,²¹ 1837

3367

March 30, 1837

Msgr. Guglielmo Aretini Sillani
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Terracina

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundat nos ab omni peccato*²²

Venerable Monsignor

Definite is the decision for the Mission in Terracina on the feast of the Ascension. This is the message which I find necessary to communicate to you. After Terracina, the two Missionaries, along with a laybrother, will proceed to S. Felice and, at the same time, other workers will be proceeding to Sezze, just as our Father Biagio²³ has written to me that immediately after Terracina, it would be necessary to think about Sezze. Furthermore, in a spirit of holy freedom, I would like to know whether or not, in both Terracina as well as Sezze, you would like to participate in the ministry, that is, either with catechetical instructions or with preaching, or in the Retreat for the clergy. After you let me know your decision, I will take care of the rest.

Pray unceasingly for me and I, in my wretchedness, will not fail to do likewise for you. I feel that it would be good that I add the following *in communicatione spiritus*.²⁴ Ever since the pontificate of Leo XII, the number of Missionaries *in subsidium*²⁵ has no longer increased since that most worthy Pontiff preferred instead to have boarding schools for young men. Therefore, presently all those who are engaged in the ministry are firmly established in our Houses. Finally, your response can be addressed to me, for this time, to Albano; on other occasions, always send your letters to "Rome". Note one more thing. If, in Piperno, I did not take part in the ministry, that was so because you, at the beginning, were not there in that city. Ultimately, you are always the boss and you do me a favor when you direct and indicate precisely what you determine is best with God's help.

Are the affairs in Piperno peaceful? I pray a lot for this to the Lord. A certain gentleman, Count Leonardi, wrote to me, if I am not mistaken, about a foundation in Urbania. However,

²¹ This is how it appears in the copy, but it must surely be a mistake on the part of the copyist. St. Gaspar, on March 19, 1837, was in Rome and not in Albano.

²² The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from every sin.

²³ Father Biagio Valentini.

²⁴ In the communication of the spirit.

²⁵ For support.

Monsignor Parigini, to whom I beg you to extend my best wishes, has written nothing to me. I am telling you this since that gentleman in his letter made mention of your most worthy person. I have written to him several times. I kiss your hands, With total esteem, respect and affection, most venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, March 30, 1837

3368

March 31, 1837

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Domenico

Prepare a room, in the section facing the garden on the upper floor of that House where the boardingstudent was, for Father Orazio²⁶ who will be going there from Cesena as proEconomist and also because he will be preaching the Marian month. Then, it will be necessary for you hurriedly to go to Macerata for the visitation which will be conducted by Santarelli. He, then, will be returning to Penna. Since Father Brandimarte will be arriving there in order to go on Mission work, as I have written to Mosconi, you will be able to make use of this convenience provided by Brandimarte. Santarelli is informed about everything. With concern, await him. Address your letters to me to "Rome". Also, with distinct writing, Father Orazio might supply provisionally for the church.

Pray for me. You will be handling the Marian month in Macerata. Though in a hurry, I remain, in Jesus Christ

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap .

Rome (for forwarding), March 31, 1837

3369

March 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

²⁶ Father Orazio Bracaglia.

With the enclosed matter send Giovanni²⁷ to Lawyer Angelini. If the lawyer indicates some expense, take care of it.

Also, you will also order for the house a *piombino* from Ballanti, one hour before noon along with the enclosed and await a reply, or, as soon as Giovanni has had his noon meal.

The most reverend Treasurer has written a letter in which he urges that we take care of a good work which must be done in behalf of the incarcerated so that they can fulfill their Easter duty. Because of a request from the Vicar General, I have had to come to the decision that ...

Next Tuesday, immediately before the feast of the Annunciation,²⁸ I will be going to Porto d'Anzo, then on to Rome to take care of the many tasks that we are dealing with at the present time. After that, I shall leave for the Mission in Bassiano. Next, I shall return for the Retreat requested by Monsignor Piatti. This is the will of God. I shall be in Rome before the middle of April. Later I can give you a more precise date. Send here all the mail that came in on Saturday. I will let you know where you are to forward the letters since, perhaps, I will not have to change my itinerary. I will let you know. It appears that Lawyer Montanari may not, as yet, have sent the appraisal. Continue writing about this. One day, more or less, will not affect things.

For my trip to Porto d'Anzo, I will be needing some devotional materials, namely:

1. 500, or at least, 400 wooden rosaries. The strings separate, those to be strung together with the required string. (Try to string some others which I will take along to Bassiano).
 2. 24 leaflets of the reminders against blasphemies.
 3. 12 leaflets of the reminder: God sees us.
 4. Necessary forms and booklets for the Oratories and associations, a duplicate of each item.
 5. Four copies of the images from Ancona and four of the Divine Shepherdess, the smaller variety for both items.
 6. 12 images of B. Giacomo, 12 of S. Maria Maddalena, and Jesus under the winepress.
 7. 24 Chaplets. One copy of the Month, by Father Amici.
 8. Two linked rosaries of the less expensive type, two of the Chaplet of the Divine Blood.
 9. 12 images of St. Xavier; 12 of the Madonna with chalice.
 10. 6 booklets dealing with confession and communion, or six copies.
 11. Two copies of the *Massime Eterne* of Liguori and, at your choice, 12 more copies of booklets that can be read or used for meditation.
 12. Two copies of the Marian Month for lay people. Wrap all of this carefully. Eight hymnals from Benevento, or copies of them.
- Put all of this in a single bundle and see that I get it, at the latest for the feast of the Annunciation. Let us be in agreement. Pray for me. I am

²⁷ Giovanni Minicucci.

²⁸ The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1837 was celebrated on April 3. Hence, this letter belongs to the end of March 1837, and, surely before the letter (n. 3371) written to this same person on March 31st.

Your affectionate uncle
 The package arrived in Perugia.
 Along with the stationery from Fabriano, did the bill and the other samples of toweling arrive? Put the stationary, as you mentioned, in a place to keep it quite dry.
 Keep an eye on the library; thus, when I come, things can be handled quickly.
 Because I have no more time, I must now stop.

3370

MarchApril 1837
 Luigia del Bufalo
 Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece²⁹

1. I shall send my reply to Montanari through the services of Bartolomeo along with a note of mine since we must plan for an appointment date which I will handle.

2. You have done very well in quickly sending the Brothers to Albano.

3. As for the other things, they are simply annoyances produced by the devil and no consideration is to be given to them. I repeat, they are the extravagant works of the enemy of every good. By focusing attention on the Crucified Lord, all will be kept in good order, whereas working from a human standpoint, all will end up in confusion. Crosses are inevitable. I shall not spend a lot of time at home and in Rome. I shall look into the matter of the hospice, so it will not be necessary for you to seek room and board in a monastery. God wishes from you several degrees of suffering and when he has achieved what he wishes from you, the storm will cease. Be happy in God. Maintain peace and make a sacrificial offering of all this to the Lord. The expressions that you chose to use toward me with regard to Bartolomeo were not at all acceptable since they were not what God would want. This is all that I can say to you, reminding you that in the month of March, some greater flowering of virtue will be needed. May God fill you with blessings. I remain

Your affectionate uncle

3371

March 31, 1837
 Luigia del Bufalo
 Rome

²⁹ Mention is made of Lawyer Montanari in this letter, in the previous one and in the one addressed to this same person on the 2nd and 10th of April. It seems that this letter, then, ought to be kept within that context. Likewise, the expression used by the Saint: "month of March" confirms this. Therefore, we place this letter in March of 1837.

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

I would be pleased if you would tell me the cost, and always a degree less, for the devotional materials for Porto d' Anzo.

Palombi has given 90 *bajocchi* to me to be given to Pedini. Handle it with regularity. We will speak of this upon my return. Sign it down in the list of reminders so that we will not forget about it.

Three or four pairs of stockingsoles are needed for a Brother. Indicate the cost. It would be good to have them sent at the earliest possible time and they should be of a rather large size.

I have presently received the letterpatent from Lawyer Angelini. Consequently, the letter that I sent for this purpose is no longer needed. All that is needed is that Giovanni ³⁰ should go to the lawyer and thank him for me and to find out whether there are any expenses, for proper reimbursement.

With reference to my letterwriting, believe me that despite the crowds for confessions, I have not failed to write. Perhaps the delivery has been delayed.

You can give the enclosed to Canon Gonnelli.

I shall be writing for Sunday's maildelivery and on Monday, the feast of the Annunciation, you will be getting another of my letters.

I understand everything else that you mentioned to me. Pray for me. I send my greetings to everyone and I remain

Your affectionate uncle

House in Albano, March 31, 1837

3372

March 31, 1837

Msgr. Nicola Mattei

Bishop of Camerino

Camerino

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*³¹

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how many things I would like to say to you as a reply for the continual remembrance that I have of you, not disjoined from my sentiments of esteem, respect and most special affection for you. Therefore, let us confirm our holy union of charity in the Heart of Jesus Christ with a most ardent desire for that everlasting union in heaven.

The purpose of this most humble letter of mine is to enclose for you the letter from the

³⁰ Giovanni Minicucci.

³¹ Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Council, since Lawyer Angelini tells me that your new information is needed. Therefore, I ask you, in your customary charity and patience, to send it back to me enclosed so that we can have the resolution of a situation that merits, and may it be definite, a decision from the Sacred Congregation because of the responsibilities of Masses which, it seems to me, may be involved. May God bless whatever is done for the sake of his pure glory. I am speaking of the matter of moral cases.

I will say nothing about the death of the good de Victoriis whom God has willed to call back to himself. Oh how greatly this has grieved me! But *ita Domino placuit. "Nolite contristari de dormientibus"*.³²

I kiss your hands and more and more I recommend myself to your prayers. I am on my way to Porto d'Anzo to help the incarcerated to fulfill their Easter duty. Your letters to me should be addressed to "Rome".

Most venerable Monsignor, with all my obeisance, I am ready to carry out anything that you wish.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, March 31, 1837

3373

End of March, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³³

Send my letters to Porto d'Anzo: "Albano per Porto d'Anzo". I am writing in a hurry. The book in the library. I am

Your affectionate uncle

G. C. d. B.

3374

MarchApril 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

³² Thus it pleased the Lord. Do not be sad about those who sleep.

³³ We date this letter also the end of March 1837. In it, St. Gaspar communicates to his niece the address of Porto d'Anzio where he went to preach the spiritual Retreat for eight days and then to leave on April 4, 1837.

Dearest niece³⁴

Send the enclosed samples to Possenti, paying the postage for the letter. His name is Camillo. In a line or so, tell him about the sample for eight *canne*. As for the other, he will be getting a letter later. Without indicating to him whether it is for the house or the Institute; only send him the samples telling him that we want eight *canne* of the one sample and that he will be getting another letter about the other. You have already understood. As for the mailing of it, I will write to him.

I received the package with the shirt, etc., etc.. All is well. See that the lamp is repaired and send it back to Albano telling Father Verili to hold on to it for my return. The stockingsoles will be for the upcoming winter. I am

Your affectionate uncle

P. S. Upon my return, I will check with Lawyer Angelini. I will write him a letter etc.

The enclosed notification of Masses is for Canon Galli.

Let me know the cost for the lamp.

3375

April 1, 1837

Fr. Angelo Santangeli

Bassiano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Archpriest

I wrote to you about the Mission and I have been waiting for further clarifications. Three Missionaries, including myself, may be necessary. I do not know to what to attribute the delay in the response. If the time scheduled for the Mission, as approximately indicated, is not satisfactory, please let me know. In May, however, it cannot be done since there are other commitments made. In Rome, I shall be awaiting a prompt and detailed reply. By completing the Mission in Sermoneta on Sunday, the 16th, we will be able to make our entrance on the 17th of this month in Bassiano. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 1, 1837

P. S. If you should run into some difficulty, write to me. Let us communicate our ideas.

3376

April 1, 1837

³⁴This letter has no date. Because of several references present in this letter (Lawyer Angelini, the woolen stockingsoles, the mention of Possenti cfr. the letter (n. 3387) of April 14, 1837, etc.) it seems that this letter can be assigned to the end of March/beginning of April 1837.

Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Camillo

I received the bill for the stationery. With regard to the samples sent in another ordinary mail delivery, I will give you a decision. I am speaking about the toweling.

I shall make a plea for a good outcome of the petition for the dowry.

If the cloth for making sheets and shirts is available, please send it to me. I will be waiting, in the meantime, for the bill.

I am sorry to learn about the weakening in your legs. I will not fail to pray and have others remember you in prayer. May God preserve you *ad multos annos*.³⁵

I recently lost a marvelous Missionary whose name was de Victoriis. Recommend him to God. Also, pray for me. With esteem and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 1, 1837

3377

April 2, 1837
Fr. Tomasso Meloni
Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

At your disposal, I am sending on to my niece the offerings for the listing of ten Masses which I have received. At present, I am sending you 30 more Masses to be celebrated as soon as possible.

I hope that with the pleasant weather you are getting back in good health. I was thinking about putting you in a more elevated section, in a room that has more breeze. Would that help you? If you should want to go to Pievetorina, just drop me a note. We shall not consider Giano any more.

Do not ever say again "that you are a burden". I forbid you to do so. Please be kind enough to help me. You know very well that the blessings of your abilities are for the benefit of the Institute, and you should keep thinking about this *usque ad extremum vitae*.³⁶ Recall what

³⁵ For many years.

³⁶ Until the end of live.

Xavier used to say: "*Oblivioni detur dextera mea, si obliviscar tui, etc.*"³⁷

Please, take care of the month of the Divine Blood in Nepi, for which you should prepare yourself. Spina will handle the Marian month.

In order to arrange mutual agreements, I am writing to the Bishop of Civita. Because of the state of your health, I shall have him relieve you of the trip to Orte and, with the Bishop's good will, I shall substitute another of our men.

In Jesus Christ Crucified, I am
Rome, For all mail, April 2 (1837)³⁸

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3378

April 2, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

If a certain Fuschi from Norma should come and should ask about me, tell him that, around the middle of April, I will be in Rome, earlier rather than later, and this I will indicate to you from Porto d'Anzo.

With reference to the letters mailed Tuesday, send them to Porto d'Anzo using the address: "Albano per Porto d'Anzo". Do the same to Porto d'Anzo for Thursday's mail as well as for Saturday, since I will be there for eight days conducting a Retreat. From there, I shall write to you.

I received the box and the sack with the rosaries. All is in good shape. I know that another packet for me has been delayed because of the lack of coaches. Patience. It seems that I have received all your letters and packets.

I tell you that I will wait another day or so with regard to Montanari. Then I shall write to him again. In each mail delivery, you are to write to me about this also.

Be assured that when I am away from Rome, it is because that is what God wills and nothing more. My life in the ministry is parceled out.

I note your great diligence in stringing all of those rosaries. In everything, there is merit.

The crowds here are indescribable. Let us give thanks to God.

³⁷ May my right hand be given to oblivion if I forget you.

³⁸ This letter left from Albano, as is evident from the postal markings. However, the Saint wanted the reply sent to Rome. So likewise for many other letters from this period.

I am pleased that you paid a visit to the Bonarelli lady.

I understand about the woolen stockingsoles and the thread.

In the 500 Masses, is there not to be a privileged altar? Let me know. I will include the thankyou note.

I am enclosing the sheet of the notification for the Masses from Mugnaj. Let me know whether he supplied the offerings or is going to do so.

The de Marchis Masses will be, as usual, for 15 *bajocchi*.

Absolutely go ahead and eat the pizza.

I already gave you directions with respect to Angelini.

The mail from Porto d'Anzo is always just a bit late, just a bit.

I believe that Cardinal Galeffi is feeling better.

Have I forgotten anything? Business matters never are lacking.

In our Savior, Jesus Christ, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

Albano, April 2, 1837

3379

April 3, 1837

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

For forwarding, Rome,³⁹ April 3⁴⁰

Dearest Father Orazio

You will be fully instructed by Father Lipparelli; let us in all things, most willingly, do the will of God.

I add here a few things:

1. Brandimarte and Mosconi are going to Fossombrone for the Missions. If either of them is unable, then Vergilj will go. After some solid reflection, I am unable to move you; as soon as I can assess the success of things, I will quickly make arrangements for you. In the meantime, Silvestri can be on hand. At any rate, in order that you will not be alone, if Silvestri were to leave, then in my name write to Santarelli to send Pontoni for just a short while. In sending word today, I do not know, as I say, whether this will be in time.

2. I enclosed to Mosconi Brandimarte's letter. Tell him that in the places for the three Missions, if there should be nuns to whom conferences are to be given, then either Brandimarte or Mosconi should handle that.

³⁹ The letter was sent from Albano as is evident from the postal markings.

⁴⁰ The year is 1837 as is noted in the listing of Missions for the diocese of Fossombrone.

3. Also, nothing outside of the three Missions in the diocese of Fossombrone is to be accepted. Then, they are to return immediately to Romagna. Tell him that they should write to me in Rome.

4. I understand about the good work being done in Cesena. May praise be given to the Lord.

5. For the first part of May, Ranchio will be having a Mission and Lipparelli already is in lettercommunication. I was unable to send Father Antonio to Fossombrone (I am speaking of Lipparelli) for the shift of retreats for seculars in Cesena.

Write to me. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

See that the Missionaries are in the episcopal quarters of Fossombrone by April 12th.

3380

First part of April, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴¹

Missions are being given in Fossombrone, and there will be three of them in the diocese. There are not many people in town but the surrounding area is inhabited. Devotional material is needed. Send a sufficient amount in a package, the less expensive printings and materials. You already know how to do it. Find a coachman who will be going in that direction and have the materials forwarded to the bishop in his episcopal quarters. Have the coachman deliver them with diligence. I am enclosing here the letter to the bishop. Read it and seal it. This letter is to be appended to the package and the package is to be addressed as follows:

all ' III. mo Sig. Sig. P. ne Col. mo

Il Sig. D. Rafaele Brandimarte

Miss. Direttore delle S. Miss.

in Diocesi di Fossombrone

o a chi per esso

Do not forget, in any case, to put those words *a chi per esso*. The package is to be in the episcopal quarters by April 11th or at the latest, the 12th. Between April 11th and 12th. Give an evaluation of the devotional materials and write to me about the transportation cost that you pay to any wellknown coachman. If the package is sent by way of the stagecoach, in that event

⁴¹ The year is 1837 as is evident from the Missions given in the diocese of Fossombrone (cfr. the letter (n. 3379) to Fr. Bracaglia on April 3, 1837). It was written around the first part of April as can be derived from the text of the letter.

before sealing the letter, write to the bishop: "The package is at the stagecoach office".

In the package, write a line or so to the Missionaries, placing it inside: "These things are to be used for the three Missions in the diocese of Fossombrone. If anything is left over, take it back to Romagna and give it to Lipparelli to be used in some other Mission". Be careful to see that nothing is lacking, as I have no doubt you will, since you are so well acquainted with the procedures of our Institute. Let us be in agreement. I write as often as I can and as best I can.

For those Missions, the less expensive materials. You take care of it.

3381

April 6, 1837

Fr. Innocenzo Betti

Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Canon

With regard to the Brother of whom you wrote, here is what I have to point out.

1) He was sent to me, it is true, by our men in Romagna. I learned, unless I am mistaken, that Fr. Bellini advised and directed him.

2) It is not true that I sent him immediately to Benevento. I kept him in Frosinone, where he gave a good account of himself. That was the situation to such an extent that I wanted to send you a person who was mature and also rather refined. Also, accepting the advice of our Companions, I considered him capable and deserving to be in Benevento, with no offense intended to any of the other members.

3) Send me Br. Domenico: but inform him that he will have to go through cordons, so as not to expose himself to be quarantined.⁴² Be welladvised of this. His destination is to be Rome, without any stopover in the Province. I expressly enjoin this upon you. When he gets to Rome, he is to come to my house. His passport should be for Nepi, where he will be going as the cook.

4) You provide for his means of transportation to Rome, following our usual rules, that is, at the expense of the House of Benevento. I have spent quite a bit, including *de proprio*,⁴³ for the several trips I have needed to make. I do not think that I have to go into details. I will see that he gets from Rome to Nepi, trying to work things out *meliori modo*.⁴⁴

5) As far as I am concerned, I would have given him a warning. I would have used him in the kitchen, a job on the inside. I would have watched him carefully, and finally with a gratuity *ex charitate*, I would have dismissed him prudently, after having diligently verified everything. At any rate, I shall do as you suggest, giving no sign of knowing what the situation is, just as you

⁴² Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Cholera (quarantine)

⁴³ About one's own.

⁴⁴ In a better way.

have indicated. Give him those items of remembrance that you think will be useful. In the Heart of J.C., the only center of comfort, I am

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, April 6, 1837

P. S. Let me know whether you would want a third Brother, when you would want him, and whom you would prefer.

3382

April 617, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴⁵

Send three *scudi* to Father Gentili in Sonnino and tell him that they are the offerings for his Masses, the ones for which he has already sent notification. In regard to this, let me know when, using the services of the nun, you will be able to send them along with Father Biagio's ⁴⁶ painting, pointing out that with reference to that painting if a responsible coachman can be located who is acquainted with Sermoneta, you could send it there, requesting that they return the container. I have already written for that container sent along with the painting of St. Ignatius. Write to Sonnino that if they have available some sacks or other similar things, they should send back all of that. The image of Mary most holy will be coming to Rome from Sonnino. I shall see it when I return.

Giuseppe here is in need of a shirt, a couple of pairs of stockingsoles, in addition to those that I referred to in another letter of mine, or even three pairs.

Father Verili needs a skullcap. I would say that you should supply him with that new, small one and send it along in the package that I am awaiting.

Pay attention to the enclosed directions. Coming from Benevento to Rome is the Brother, native of Romagna, by the name of Domenico.⁴⁷ He is going to be the cook in Nepi. In the usual way and as soon as possible, direct him to Spina, whom I shall inform beforehand, While using the greatest thriftiness in getting a coach, indicate to me the cost involved, supplying Domenico

⁴⁵ This letter is placed between the letter (n. 3381) to Betti, dated April 6, 1837 (cfr. mention of Brother Domenico) and April 17, 1837, the day on which the meeting, referred to by Fr. Filippo Gonnelli (cfr. the letter(n. 3383) to Luigia, dated April 1014, 1837) was supposed to be held. The letter was written from Albano.

⁴⁶ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁴⁷ Domenico Vagnozzi.

with only the amount sufficient for getting to Nepi, presuming, of course, that he has not already been funded by Betti. You could ask him about that. If he paid out of his own money, do not give him any reimbursement, but rather write and let me know that so I can work things out with Betti. Let us be in agreement. This Brother is the one who came to visit me unexpectedly in Sonnino. See that he travels with his passport having the required signature. So, that settles the situation of the cook for Nepi.

Tell Father Filippo⁴⁸ that if he has scheduled the meeting, he can hold it in my house, if he wishes. What am I to do? The treasurer is not right, but it is not proper that he be displeased. It will be a matter of a few days. One must be patient.

I have twice gotten the packet of papers for the Carretella and it appears that all is well.

Place postage on the letter to Possenti.

A thousand thanks for the red handkerchief that was enclosed for me.

Other things, tomorrow.

3383

April 10, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

Emidio is in need of a pair of stockings and another pair, in black thread, is required for another Brother. You can send them to me in Albano, informing Verili that the package should be held until my imminent return to the Mission House. It is necessary, however, that you send them immediately, indicating the cost.

I received your letter. Though in a hurry, I understand what you say and everything is all right. I shall keep you informed also about that meeting.

I regret that Ponziano⁴⁹ has not been feeling too well. I would like him to settle the legacy.

The 1,50 *scudi* from Mugnaj is to be placed on deposit for Father Tomasso Meloni. Let us be in agreement.

I will check the package from Todi, upon my return. As for Fossombrone, all is well.

With regard to the Contedini papers, all is O.K. Hold on to Verili's trunk until my return.

Enclosed is the letter for Lawyer Montanari. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

⁴⁸ Father Filippo Gonnelli.

⁴⁹ Ponziano Morichelli.

Porto d'Anzo ⁵⁰

Send the Tuesday mail to me to Albano, wrapped in an outer covering, in care of Verili so that the Director will not send it to Porto d'Anzo. Tell Verili to hold on to it.

Montanari resides opposite Cavalier Salvi's place.

There must be, on deposit for the Institute, a pair of trousers. Send them along to Albano in a package with the stockings.

3384

April 11, 1837

Fr. Domenico Silvestri

Macerata Feltria ^{51 52}

Any sermon that has yet to be given where Fr. Virgili has been preaching is to be supplied, according to the rules, by someone in that House.

You handle things until the time for departure. Thereafter, Fr. Orazio will do so, according to the instructions which he will receive when he comes to Rimini. If Mosconi goes on the Missions, everything that was established with my preceding letters will be in force, *in omnibus et per omnia*.⁵³ I conclude: blessed is he who abides by the rules and is obedient.

My purpose in writing to you is that, with a respectful spiritual freedom, you present and defend our proper methods of doing things.⁵⁴

Instead of giving those morning ferverinos, which is something that we do not do any

⁵⁰ From the postal markings, it is evident that the letter sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on April 10, 1837.

⁵¹ As the place of destination, the Saint had written on this address: "Rimini"; but, someone else canceled that word and substituted: "Macerata Feltria". It is an indication that when the letter arrived in Rimini, Fr. Silvestri had already returned to his own residence, where this same letter was then forwarded to him. He must have left a few days earlier.

⁵² The following is that last part of a letter addressed by the Saint to Fr. Domenico Silvestri. It is contained in the posterior halfsheet of the same letter, whose first part has been lost. It is a fragment which perhaps was not destroyed in order to preserve the decision made by the Founder concerning the so-called "*Fervorini*". (Cfr. the fourth paragraph).

⁵³ In all things and through all things.

⁵⁴ This sentence, like the preceding one, leads one to suspect that in the first part of the letter there was a treatment of the hardheadedness of the Missionary Fr. Luigi Mosconi. He was setting himself in opposition to the Founder and it almost brought him to the point of leaving the Institute. This is treated in the biographical section: Mosconi. As a matter of fact, in a letter (n. 3396) dated April 28, 1837 (only two weeks after this one) the Saint wrote to Fr. Orazio Bragaglia in Rimini: Moscone "is returning to his home town: May God bless him" etc.. Hence, we think that our good Silvestri, affected precisely for that reason, removed the first halfsheet from this letter and also cut off the last line of this present fragment (as will be noted in its place). We think he did so because of his personal liking for Fr. Luigi Mosconi who, at times, had showed himself somewhat independent of the Superior General in accepting and fulfilling the ministry assigned to him, even though he was an excellent Missionary, upright in his intentions and acknowledged by the Institute as a man of learning and virtue (cfr. biographical data).

longer, you ought to give your attention immediately to a triduum. For example, you could have two short talks on the first two days for those who are going to make their First Communion and then on the morning of the third day, you could give those *ferverinos*. For goodness sake, let us be in agreement. The reason for this policy is that otherwise our churches would not be giving the service that they should. Nor can we say yes to one church and no to another. Notify the others and be of help to me in this matter.

Fr. Orazio has been welladvised about the Missions of which I wrote to you. With Mosconi going, Fr. Virgili is to remain in Rimini with Fr. Orazio, *iuxta dicta*.⁵⁵

Santarelli is eager to have you go to Macerata. I hope that God will bless everything. If Lipparelli has written about Mosconi to the Bishop of Rimini, it was surely with the understanding: *servato modo*.^{56 57}
Albano, April 11, 1837⁵⁸

3385

April 13, 1837

Fr. Angelo Santangeli

Bassiano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Archpriest

1. Noting that the Mission in Sermoneta will terminate next Sunday, the entrance for the Mission in Bassiano will take place on Wednesday, April 19th.

2. So, in the meantime, see that near Sermoneta, precisely at the Scatafasci Casino, there should be available four saddlehorses and one burro for luggage. Those mounts should be good ones and safe. For the sake of economizing, perhaps the leading people of Bassiano could provide them *gratis*. Only one footman will be needed. Please see that those saddles are equipped with stirrups and that the mounts themselves are safe and controlled. The mounts are to be ready at the 20th hour. Whoever gets there first should wait.

3. See that someone gets to the Mission House in Sermoneta in order to load the

⁵⁵ According to what was said.

⁵⁶ Keeping the manner.

⁵⁷ At this point, exactly at the bottom of the page, a piece of the text was cut away (one or two lines) together with the very brief closing of the letter. The reason for it must have been the same as the one in the preceding note.

⁵⁸ The place of origin, the day and the month are found in the postal markings. Without any doubt, the year is 1837 to which all the circumstances emerging in the text are pertinent.

containers for the Crucifix and most holy Mary. All they need do is to contact Fr. Biagio⁵⁹ who has already been informed about the matter. Those containers are to be delivered to the location where we will reside and they will be sent for before the entrance ceremony. One burro will be sufficient for transporting them.

4. You should have a lookout person who will check our approach to Bassiano so that no one will be inconvenienced. Then, the ringing of the bells will occur and the meeting with the confraternities and the clergy will take place. Whoever is able should be on hand. Thereafter, the consignment of the souls will be made when you present to me, from the pulpit, a crucifix. The procession to the church follows and there the introductory ceremony is held. The relic of most holy Mary should be exposed and the altar prepared for the giving of the blessing with the most Blessed Sacrament.

5. I shall say nothing about the preaching platform. You are acquainted with our needs. The standard will not be needed, and the brethren will provide the crucifix.

6. More, when we see each other. On the morning of the 20th, at a convenient time, the ecclesiastical conferences will begin.

7. I understand about the arrangements for our living quarters. Unless Bartolomeo⁶⁰ should need them, women are not to be admitted into the kitchen. Father Vicar Giorgi is aware of our regulations. Since our rules apply, not only to Bassiano but in general to anywhere God should direct us, they must be carried out with exactitude.

8. We have our noonmeal alone and no one is to be allowed in. More, when we see each other in person. You are informed of this procedure beforehand so as to avoid anyone attributing this to a lack of proper manners. It is simply a correct method to be observed in the ministry, averting several situations which might occur.

9. For the ecclesiastical conferences to be given, a suitable location is to be determined and a fixed time in the morning is to be arranged as you judge best.

This is all that I wanted to call to your attention for now. Prayers. Give my best wishes to Vicar Giorgi. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House in Albano, April 13, 1837

3386

April 1014, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

⁵⁹ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁶⁰ Bartolomeo Panzini.

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁶¹

I already wrote to you about the 1,50 *scudi* to be deposited for Father Meloni. It seemed to me that Mugnaj might have made a payment earlier; but now I see that it was not so.

Enclosed is the bill from Possenti; hold on to the letter. It will be necessary, however, to mail him 50 *scudi* in recognized money (not *gigliati*) and I will write to him that, after deducting the bill sent, he use the rest of the 50 *scudi* for the purchase of the material for napkins, following the sample indicated by us. The remainder is for the depiction of our Institute.

Take this money from the de Marchis money, that is, the offerings sent recently. I will, then, work things out.

Next Friday, in the morning or before the noonmeal, I shall be in Rome. Let us be in agreement. Fr. Filippo is arranging to have that meeting for S. Galla next Monday after the noonmeal, the upcoming 17th of April, or, possibly next Saturday after the noonmeal. You find out when. I will not be able to attend on other days because of the Mission to be conducted in Bassiano. Therefore, either Saturday after the noonmeal or Monday, after the noonmeal. You find out when.

Send the enclosed certification, along with one or the other Chaplet and printed matter, as usual, to Canon Valentini. Have him informed that, in case of any doubts, the Capuchin Father will write.

Hold on to the notification of Masses from Sebastianelli until my return.

Though in a hurry, I remain, in Jesus Christ, our Savior

Your affectionate uncle

3387

April 14, 1837
Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Camillo

You have probably already received or will be receiving the sample of the material for napkins and toweling. So please look after this matter according to that. Get the quantity indicated in one of the samplings. There will be something left over from the 50 *scudi* which you can use for mailingcosts, having also deducted what is due to you for 38,95 1/2 *scudi*, covering the cost of the material ordered in accordance with one of the samples. Use, up to the 50 *scudi*, whatever is left for the other sample which does not have any specified quantity. Let me say more clearly:

⁶¹ This letter is placed in between the 10th and the 14th of April, 1837, that is, between the letter (n. 3383) to this same person from Porto d'Anzio on April 10th (cfr. the mention of the 1,50 *scudi* to Mugnaj) and the letter (n. 3387) to Possenti on April 14th, 1837 in which he gives him orders for purchasing, as in this one.

Having received (or soon will receive) 50 scudi:

Expenses: 38,95 1/2 *scudi*. also, the *canne* indicated in one of the samples; the remainder of the 50 *scudi* for balancing out the cost of the other sample.

At the present time, I am unable to spend more. So, let us remain with this understanding. Take care of yourself. Pray for me. I am always more and more obliged to you, and so I remain and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome,⁶² for forwarding, April 16,⁶³ 1837

3388

April 15, 1837

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

Just a couple of lines, since I am continually thinking about your health, as is only right. I have decided to assign you to Pievetorina, where I hope that you will improve. As for the month of June, I have already made provisions there. Send me a reply, for I shall have the opportunity to move you there within a few days.

In a hurry, I am

Rome, April 15, 1837

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Greetings to Fr. Palombi etc. You will be helpful with your advice for the problems that they have there, etc.

3389

April 18, 1837

Fr. Francesco Paradisi

Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

In speaking to you about residence I meant to prevent some reproof from the Sacred

⁶² The letter was sent from Albano as can be seen in the postal markings.

⁶³ The postal marking indicates the 14th and not the 16th.

Congregation, since even if one is retired, it is always necessary to have the dispensation from residence. Not sufficient is the assent of the Chapter or the bishop; for you to be habitually derogated, one must turn to Rome in accordance with the canonical regulations. Get the information from Father Beniamino.⁶⁴ So, look into this matter energetically; seek advice from Father Giovanelli and make every effort to do so quickly. Indeed, I am happy, very, very happy that you will be remaining with us. With reference to the missal, I do not have the faculty of giving that to you, since it belongs to the church.

Have I forgotten anything? Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, April 18, 1837

3390

April 18, 1837

Fr. Tomasso Meloni

Nepi

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Fr. Tomasso

In reply to your very kind letter, I ask you to make preparations for your departure to Pievetorina, where God is calling you, so that you will be ready for the encounter, just as I have been writing to you.

With esteem, I am

Rome, April 18, 1837

Your humble, devoted, obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. Do not even think about your being a burden; and do not consider at all leaving the Institute. *Manete in vocatione.*⁶⁵

(On the fourth facing, along side the address, one reads:)

Offer and have others offer suffrages for the deceased Bishop Muccioli.

3391

April 18, 1837

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

⁶⁴ Father Beniamino Romani.

⁶⁵ Remain in [your] vocation.

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest Father Orazio

Father Mosconi is the cause for the many changes in the external order of things with reference to the personnel for Fossombrone. Let us excuse his intentions; but, not every good plant is adaptable to every kind of soil. You will preach the Marian month there; place your trust in most holy Mary.

I have written to Santarelli that he send Pontoni with you, *ad tempus*.⁶⁶ I point out, however, (and let this be with reservation) that Pontoni is not to preach from the platform; have him conduct the month in the Oratory at night, but with the use of the book. You handle everything *donec etc.*⁶⁷

With regard to the disturbances that you mention, I recognize them as a storm produced by the devil. From such things, God brings us more and more to a recognition of how beautiful our regulations are. Caution, vigilance, slowness in reference to the ministry to women. Let that be understood in keeping with the basic policies that I have communicated to you.

We are to place our trust in God. Say nothing about exclusion from the church etc. Speak of it only with God and nothing more. When you are asked, your answer is: "They are diabolical stratagems", and that will be that. As for other things, *ad alias*.⁶⁸ Very soon, everything in Romagna will be in good order. This year, I hope to get there in person. Offer suffrages, and have others do so too, for the nowdeceased Monsignor Muccioli. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, April 18⁶⁹

3392

April 19, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

⁶⁶ At the time.

⁶⁷ Until, etc.

⁶⁸ At another time.

⁶⁹ The year is 1837, as is evident from the reference to the death of Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli which occurred on April 16, 1837.

Today we shall be beginning the Mission in Bassiano.⁷⁰ Address letters: "Velletri per Bassiano".

I am in a hurry and just about ready to leave.
Your affectionate uncle

3393

April 24, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

1. I urge you to give the enclosed matter immediately to the most reverend Vicegerent. There will be no reply. All that needs to be done is to deliver the letter.

2. It will be sufficient that, through the services of Canon Gonnelli, he inform Monsignor Vespignani that I have received the letter from the Pious Union of de Sales, and, that he will be obeyed.

3. Everything is fine with respect to Father Palombi's accounts relative to Father Cristoforo.⁷¹ Have you had it sent as usual? Who has paid for the carrettella?

4. I give thanks to God that the hat fits well, otherwise a repair job was all set.

5. All is well in regard to the Chaplets sent to Pallotti.

6. Send to Spina 100 copies of the certifications that he asked for and do so *gratis*. Nothing more. Later, we will consider it.

7. I learned of the death of the Mattei lady.

8. If I have overlooked anything, please remind me.

In Jesus Christ, our Savior, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

Bassiano, April 24, 1837

P. S. I have heard about Fransoni's sermon.

What has arrived for Verili, send on to him in Albano. All of this, *gratis*, only for this occasion, recording it as having been given for the economy of Albano. See that Father Filippo's books are kept on deposit.

3394

April 26, 1837

⁷⁰ From the postal markings it is evident that this letter, sent from Velletri, arrived in Rome on April 22, 1837. However, since the Mission in Bassiano began on April 19, 1837 (cfr. the letter (n. 3385) to Father Santangeli of April 13th) we assign the date: April 19, 1837.

⁷¹ Father Cristoforo Frioli.

Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

Buffoni will be arriving. Direct him immediately to Nepi. Father Tomasso⁷² has already been instructed for what is to follow. We must look after Nepi alone. Be solicitous that he does not get ill in Rome. He is scheduled to go to Giano to give instructions; however, I am concerned more about his getting to Nepi. If there is any money for Father Tomasso, send it to him. Indeed, 4,50 *scudi*, the offerings for 30 Masses, are awaited by Father Tomasso. He keeps referring to them, so write to him in detail. Whatever may be needed by way of reimbursement to Buffoni, as far as Rome, or from Rome to Nepi, take care of that from what has been received from him in his accounts. Let us be in agreement. I trust in your very, very diligent watchfulness.

Send Saturday's mail, using an outer covering, and address it: "Velletri per Sermoneta" to Father Rocco.⁷³ Inform him that he is to hold on to it until my arrival on Monday. Tuesday's mail, wrapped with an outer covering, is to be sent to Merlini in Albano; he, too, is to hold on to it. I am writing in a hurry since they are summoning me for the sermon. Pray for me, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

Bassiano, April 26, 1837

3395

April 28, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

I read Monsignor Piatti's note. The situation is strange. In substance, he says that on May 5th, the day immediately before the feast of the Ascension, the Retreat will begin. Have Piatti's man Checco provide the carriage which I shall be awaiting at the 23rd hour sharp, and that he is not to forget that; also, not before that time. On the morning of the 5th, I shall be there in Rome for the noon meal. Hence, you are to hold on to Thursday's mail, the feast of the Ascension.

Tell Father Filippo⁷⁴ to read the enclosed; in person, he can tell me what I am to say in reply. Hang on to that letter. I would say that Father Camillo's⁷⁵ package should be on hand for

⁷² Father Tomasso Meloni.

⁷³ Father Rocco Sebastianelli

⁷⁴ Father Filippo Gonnelli.

⁷⁵ Father Camillo Rossi.

me in Albano.

I knew nothing about the death of the good Giardoni. I learned a bit from you. I understand about Paciucchetti. Have I forgotten anything? In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

April 28, 1837

3396

April 28, 1837

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Your correspondence is late. May God bless the Marian month.

Prepare one of the vacant rooms, facing the garden in the branch where the boardingstudent was staying, for the new Missionary, Father Francesco Gargari who will be coming there in residence. Upon his arrival, Pontoni, to whom you will deliver in my behalf my best wishes, will be returning immediately to Macerata Feltria without any further notice. All you have to do is write to me: "Father Aalessandro has left"; if Santarelli should be in Penna, he is to be informed.

I would like to know whether one of our men will be needed for those to be ordained and also when the Retreat is to begin. Accordingly, check with the bishop, to whom you will extend in my behalf my best regards, and all will be handled with regularity. I believe that Brandimarte will be returning; in that event, after I get a reply to my interrogation, I will look into it. Answer quickly. At your convenience and also at length. Once Gargari has arrived, if one or the other visitation sermon is to be given after the noon meal, you could go and return along with a Brother; if he would be required to go out on the ministry, he could do so using the materials provided as a boardingstudent. I will keep in mind the month of June etc. Prayers. In the meanwhile, I urge you to maintain strict observance of our regulations.

Three things, in reference to Gargari: 1. He was trained in the boardingschool; however, I recommend him to your care as strongly as I can. 2. He has the certification *pro utroque*⁷⁶ and is confirmed *pro utroque*.⁷⁷ However, until further notice from me, I would like to have him hear the confession of men only, burdening his conscience. The bishops will be contacting me; that is certainly what will happen. In the meantime, carefully prepare him for hearing confessions. For now, only of men. Tell him to be cautious when handling sailors. He is not to hurry. ... 3. If he should encounter reserved cases, inform him well about them. In that area, there is the fine in

⁷⁶ For each [sex].

⁷⁷ For each [sex].

reference to the pious place etc. etc. He should be wellacquainted with the synodal directions. Train him well in regard to our rule, including matters dealing with the ministry. In the course of the training, see that he does not become engulfed, at least for now, in matters of importance, but only to cover the preaching of the examples on Saturdays. In this way, little by little, he will be wellprepared and will be encouraged in his vocation with the help of his brethren and his discourses, as I have no doubt, will be nothing less than enthusiastic for the accomplishment of good work.

If Mosconi should ever show up there, I point out that his intentions are excusable; some day, you will learn the story about him. He will be returning to his home town. May God bless him. God, for sure, does not need us. If he might have had a change of heart, write and let me know and with your encouragement, direct him to write to me whenever it is convenient for him. Only God knows the anxiety that he has caused for me with his trip to Mondaino. Once he has gone through the portals, and this is the second time, he will no longer reenter. Either observe the rule or go home, without bickerings, dissertations or laments. A most urgent piece of advice: read the letters of Xavier. *Satis*.⁷⁸ I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 28, 1837

Address your letters to "Rome".

3397

April 28, 1837

Pietro Barcaroli

Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Pietro

Just a couple of lines since I am occupied with the ministry. I understand what you tell me. Prayers.

Address your letters to me to "Rome".

Around May 10th I shall resume the lettercorrespondence.

Give my respects to Father AbatePastor and to the other religious, etc.. I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While occupied in the ministry, April 28, 1837

⁷⁸ Enough.

3398

April 29, 1837
 Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris
 Piperno

Hail to the Divine Blood

Very reverend Mother

Thank you for your letter. Not now, but a bit later, I shall try to pass through Piperno on my visitation of our Houses. Prayers.

The Mission in Terracina begins on the feast of the Ascension. Father Biagio⁷⁹ will be able to make some agreement with regard to S. Filomena. Since I was supposed to come, he will go later. With Father Biagio going to Terracina, he will not be able.

Because of a shortness of time, this is all that I can tell you. Pray for me, and have others do so too. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

April 29⁸⁰

Address your letters to me to "Rome". God has blessed and continues to bless the holy Mission. It seems that he may still wish to make use of my services etc. Give my greetings to Canon Setucci. See that they take care of the pious organizations.

3399

April 30, 1837
 Michele Di Mattia

Vallecorsa

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Michele

Please excuse, because of the ministry, my delay in sending a reply.

To properly develop the case which you speak about to me, it will be necessary that the synod of Cardinal Mattei make provision for a loan, made out to Velletri where the situation is being treated more diffusely. In a general way and without getting involved in internal matters or showing support for involuntary misunderstandings, I would say that usurious practices, these days, are immeasurable, may I thus express myself. In a hurry, but with esteem, I remain

⁷⁹ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁸⁰ The year is 1837 as can be deduced from the mention of the Mission which Father Biagio Valentini preached in Terracina. Cfr. also the letter to Msgr. Guglielmo Sillani of February 28, 1837.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While occupied in the ministry, April 30, 1837

Address your letters to me to "Rome".

3400

April 1837

Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli

Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Rocco⁸¹

I am sending a reply to your letter.

1. I have learned about the removal of the stain, in accordance with canonical laws.
2. I understand about the other things.
3. Do not take on expenses without first checking with me, except for those things of daily need, and the poultrypen.
4. The bishop's certification is always *cum dependentia*⁸² on me, just as he explains.
5. Other things, on my next trip. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

⁸¹ In the registers of administration for the House in Sermoneta, Father Rocco Sebastianelli is seen as the one responsible for its economy from November 23, 1836 to November 12, 1837. In the outgo for April 16, 1837, there is recorded: "Given to two men who have gotten rid of the stain: 1,25 *scudi*". Hence we assign April, 1837 as the date for this letter, since there is mention in it of the "removal of the stain".

⁸² With dependence.