

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3551

October 7, 1837
Fr. Orazio Bracaglia
Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Orazio

Provided that no harm comes to the House in Rimini, send the help that Pontoni is requesting for the collection, but pointing out, in my name, that the other Missionaries write to me of their urgent needs, but he, never. Once again, taking care of things beforehand on time, I say: negative, unless there is direct communication. You understand. The devil would be delighted to destroy our unity; he is not to succeed in that. Our unity will always endure. In time, more faculties will be conceded to the congressi; but now is not the moment for that. I will be told: but the answer will not get here in time, so etc.; hence one refuses, if they do not wish to wait just a bit of time. If Pontoni can manage with only Alessandrino until Viola is free, you should write, in my name, that Antonio from Vallecorsa will be sent. More than this I cannot say.

The departure of Camillo has brought about this imbalance. Ultimately, one is not to worry; one can do only that which is possible. More trust in God is needed. Possibly, one or the other Brother will become available and then whatever can be done will be done. Indeed, my dear Father Orazio, I do praise you for your zealous concern, even though *est modus in rebus*.¹ Are you to write to Father Antonio Lipparelli: will you send me Carlino? More inconsistencies. The mail is leaving now. God does not wish me to write anything further. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 7²

3552

October 7, 1837

¹ There is method in things.

² The year is 1837 derived from that characteristic stamp used during the cholera epidemic: "Clean inside and outside".

Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Camillo

I have mailed the 25 *bajocchi* for the postage. You will be getting them soon. Your coachman did not come to me for his payment. I do not know what to say.

In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 7, 1837

I got the Chaplets from the customsoffice.

3553

October 7, 1837
Pietro Barcaroli
Chiaravalle

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed sir

Since I have already enclosed the letter of faculties from the bishop to Lipparelli and unable to tell the changes that might occur, it is necessary that you get in touch with Father Abate or the curate so as to be more precise about the situation.

Note that the director along with a companion will be arriving from Romagna on October 14th; the other Missionary together with a layBrother will be coming from the Marche; thus, heading for Iesi. You will have to assign someone to meet the one who is coming by way of Iesi to let him know where he will be meeting up with the other companions. These are three very fine members. I am praying for successful results.

With regard to the traveling expenses, I am not forgetful of the promises made to you and I ask you to tell me just what I am to do. I have already informed the director that if you say nothing to him, he should ask for nothing. I conclude that either you people have a plan made out and the trip will be managed carefully, or you do not have a plan and immediate recourse will have to be made to the Institute to supply. I am speaking to you with all the sincerity of my heart.

Here we are just about at the end of the cholera epidemic. Prayers.

They have postponed the Mission in Sogliano. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 7, 1837

3554

October 7, 1837
Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giovanni

I am sending 20 Masses that are to be celebrated by you personally; you are to send me the usual document. However, this must not be done beyond November.

I will investigate about the belongings of de Victoriis. It was better at Crescenzi.

I understand about the oil.

Do you wish material made of coarse silk or stockings already made of coarse silk? In my opinion, it would be better to get stockings already made. You decide. Right now, you may be considering coarse silk; later on, the diurnal. Look for the frontispiece and after making a copy of it, send that at your convenience. With regard to the selection of things to be eaten, you regulate yourself in the best way possible.

I will inform you when the quarantinations are removed. I would like to come for the visitation. However, the situation must be made perfectly clear and certain, so that no mistakes happen. Take good care of the rooms and the beds. [...].³

If Father Biagio⁴ should ever happen to show up, since he will perhaps have to speak to the Delegate, you are to situate him in the vaulted room or in the room opposite the chapel. No one is ever to be placed in rooms already assigned, or in my room or Bartolomeo's,⁵ or in Fontana's etc.; only in a room that is vacant. Let us be in agreement. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 7, 1837

3455

October 9, 1837
Mrs. Rachele Vanni
Vestignano

Hail to the Divine Blood

³ At this point, the lower part of the page is torn.

⁴ Father Biagio Valentini.

⁵ Bartolomeo Panzini.

Notification⁶ of the expenses incurred with the ordination of the boardingstudent Quirino Guerrieri:

Twopound candle		<i>scudi</i> 0,70
To the servants of the bishop	<i>scudi</i> 0,30	
To the religious of S. Martino for lodging		<i>scudi</i> 1,00
For the dimissorials		<u><i>scudi</i> 0,25</u>
	total	<i>scudi</i> 2,25
For the coach		<u><i>scudi</i> 2,00</u>
		<i>scudi</i> 4,25

Dear Rachele⁷

Here is the bill for the ordination. Note that by having the minor orders taken at one and the same time a second expense has been spared. To these 4,25 *scudi*, I am adding 1 *scudo* more, given to Quirino some time ago; I believe that he may have need for something else. So, for these few expenses, my credit comes to 5,25 *scudi*, if I am not mistaken. I am writing in a hurry. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

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

3556

October 12, 1837
Fr. Giuseppe Riccardi
Sonnino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most esteemed Father Giuseppe

Day by day my obligations to you increase, for which *tantum debeo, ut verbis satis exprimere non valeam. Nil igitur adjungam*.⁸

I received the notification for the recent Masses. Now, I am sending you an additional ten, with offerings of two *paoli* each, which have already been put to use as a help for our needy Institute. After personally celebrating them, you will, at your convenience, send me the customary notification.

The pressing circumstances of the times have delayed the pleasure of my seeing you once

⁶ This notification of the expenses was written in another's handwriting except for what is found after the "total". The letter which follows this notification is entirely in the Saint's handwriting.

⁷ The letter does not have a date. However, one is derived from the postal markings (Rome, October 9, 1837).

⁸ I owe so much that I cannot express it enough in words. Therefore, I shall add nothing.

again. But let us be with each other in spirit in the bond of charity in the Heart of Jesus Christ where I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 12, 1837

3557

October 12, 1837

Mother Teresa Cherubina

Monastero di Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio

Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Mother Abbess

For whatever need that may arise for your community, all you have to do is drop me a line. You can be assured of my efforts to be obedient. Because of the quarantine stations that are set up, it will be necessary for you to let me know which roads can be used to get there without difficulty. I think that the one to Sermoneta may be the only one. Please be kind enough to supply me with this information and then we will make arrangements for the mounts to be used at that time which you

will designate precisely, or at least as accurately as possible. I think that it is not possible to get there by way of Albano or of Frosinone. I shall be awaiting your most appreciated letter. Upon that, too, will depend the selection of the Missionary. Pray for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, October 12, 1837

3558

October 14, 1837

Bartolomeo Panzini

Subiaco⁹

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Bartolomeo

I truly have been in pain, not having received any letter from you. Finally, one arrived to

⁹ In the address, Subiaco was crossed out and replaced with Roma. It is probable, therefore, that Bartolomeo may have returned to Rome before the arrival of his letter, upon which St. Gaspar had written "*con premura*".

which I am sending a response. I give thanks to the Lord for your safe trip and I pray that he will be with you on your return trip. The climate of your place of birth has probably been beneficial to you. You will want to be present on Sunday for the procession; I do not wish to deprive you of that favor. Here, too, tomorrow we will be having the solemn *Te Deum*.

So, I will be expecting you next Monday in the evening, just as you mentioned to me. However, be careful during your travel.

I am faced with an extreme necessity to go to Albano for a bit of rest and the milk cure, before the season begins to change. I have consulted with the noted Doctor Belli and he told me to take a bit of milk cure in Albano since, in Rome, I do not digest it. God has surely blessed your trip to S. Benedetto and, indeed, I have no doubt about your prayers.

Many, many greetings to Canon Conrini. We all have our own crosses to bear. With humility, let us adore them. Believe me to be

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, October 14, 1837

The doctor told me to be happy and that the illness would go away. It goes without saying that there are the usual inconveniences, but I am already feeling better. Everybody, everybody at home sends you their greetings.¹⁰

3559

October 20, 1837

Fr. Vicar General

Observant Friars

Rome

Very reverend Father

The Missionaries, under the most august title of the Divine Blood, installed in S. Felice in Giano, Archdiocese of Spoleto, petition your most Reverend Paternity for the faculty of having Fourteen crosses erected and properly placed out in the open countryside, contiguous to the shrine of S. Felice, so as to be able to gain the indulgences of the *Via Crucis*; that etc.¹¹

In behalf of the undersigned petitioners

3560

October 22, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

¹⁰ This additional paragraph is found on the fourth siding, near the address.

¹¹ On October 20, 1837, the permission to erect the *Via Crucis* was granted (Cfr. nn. 3575 and 3587).

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece

Three things:

1. I am improving quite a bit; if I had stayed any longer in Rome, humanly speaking, I would not have been able to make progress. You say to me: Tell the truth; well, what do I have to lie about?

2. After Chiaravalle, Virgilj should be back in Rome. Quickly then to Albano. I will have to be sending a Missionary to Nepi because Spina has gotten ill and is confined to bed. Perhaps, it could be Ricciardi.¹² But he would be going there only provisionally since he has been assigned to another place. You take care of everything, keeping me informed of all expenses etc.

3. With reference to the promise, more in another letter. I am writing only a little because I have to. It should not surprise you if, not having anything that is immediately urgent, I do not write in every maildelivery. I am

Your affectionate uncle

Albano, October 22¹³

3561

October 22, 1837

Cardinal Giacomo Filippo Fransoni

Rome

[...]¹⁴

Here I am in Albano, undergoing the cure that was prescribed for me. A bit later on, I shall write with more details. Generally speaking, My strength is beginning to return.

Pray for me. With profound obeisance, I kiss the sacred purple. While recommending myself, more than ever, to your prayers, I am and will constantly be, most reverend Eminence,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, October 22, 1837

3562

October 23, 1837

¹² Fr. Francesco Saverio Ricciardi.

¹³ The year is 1837 (Cfr. the letter (n. 3564) to this same person, dated October 25, 1837, having reference to the promise etc.)

¹⁴ Half of the page is torn. Missing is the initial greeting, the heading and the address. A notation by Merlini says: "His Eminence Fransoni, from whom I got this".

Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece

1. Ricciardi is to be placed in the room with the statue and use the usual bed. See that by tomorrow night he is on his way to Nepi, since it is urgent that he arrive quickly.

2. Pay for a place on the *carretella* for him and enter it under the Nepi account; also, for the coach to Nepi.

3. If Nepi does not have any funds, I would say that you could supply him with ten *scudi* cash taken from the deposit of money that I left and then charge it to the account of the upcoming collection; inform Spina of this. Ricciardi should give you a receipt for having received those ten *scudi* and, from that amount, he could pay for the coachfare from Rome to Nepi, as well as for any other expense that may arise.

4. Give him the painting of Mary most holy, but see that it is covered for transportation; the de Victoriis painting which Spina will then send on to Giano at the first opportunity. Use the container with the covering and explain everything well to Ricciardi also, so that he will take good care of it. I am

Your affectionate uncle

October 23¹⁵

3563

End of October 1837

Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece¹⁶

Everything was opened as soon as it arrived; also, the package with the cloak, but there was nothing for Pedini. All the other things were in order. The package for Pedini was the one that we put together containing devotional materials and placed in the room with the statue. It was valued at 60 *bajocchi*. So, it will be necessary to locate that and send it to me. Write and let me know immediately the cost for the first and second order of wool. How much the first one

¹⁵ The year is 1837 (Cfr. the letter (n. 3560) to this same person, dated October 22, 1837).

¹⁶ In the letter (n. 3562) to this same person, dated October 23, 1837, St. Gaspar mentions that Father Francesco Saverio Ricciardi is supposed to be in Nepi by the evening of the 24th. As a matter of fact, in the books of the administration of the House in Nepi, Father Ricciardi's trip is registered on October 27, 1837. Fr. Ricciardi remained in Nepi until November 10, 1837. In this present letter, it is evident that Fr. Ricciardi has been in Nepi for several days. Hence, tentatively, we assign to it the date: end of October, 1837. Still, it must come before the letter (n. 3590) written to Luigia, dated October 25th, because he says to her: "I have already written to you about Pedini's package". Only in this letter is there a reference to Pedini's package.

cost and how much the second one, but separately, because the first one went to Ammirati and the second to the economist. When I wrote to you about the wool, if I am not mistaken, I also wrote to you about the expense involved. So, I have to wear myself out writing about it again.

Enclosed is Pedini's note; you will come to a figure of six *paoli*; but what benefit is it to Pedini to add: "*O piissima*"¹⁷ Send it at the earliest possibility. You probably remember about the stockings for Chiodi. Now, Chiodi wishes to have a diurnal as can be seen in the note that I am enclosing. Minu should take care of that. Whatever you spend for the diurnal you are to indicate to Chiodi, telling him to include it on deposit in their economy and that I have approved it.

Likewise, tell Minu to purchase two copies of the small treatise on Moral by Liguori; now it is being printed in four small volumes. Those two copies, wrapped into a package for me, are to be given to Ricciardi when he passes through; let this be understood. All Ricciardi has to do is deliver them to me. Let me know the cost.

The Brother from Benevento has already gotten to Nepi. That is what Ricciardi has written to me. That means that Betti worked out some agreements with the coachman.

Your heartfelt promise to the Crucified Lord is adequate; you are only to keep on praying.

Spina's recovery will not be a short one; at night, he does not fail to have a slight change in the small amount of fever.

Hold on to that receipt until the time when the order is collected; at that time, the give and take will be done.

Let me know whether the hospice of S. Galla will be reopened.

My betterment of health is proceeding in gradual steps toward an improvement. I am, etc.

Your affectionate uncle

Send me, in written form, the indulgences of the cross that is erected, etc.. And give me details about the cross.

3564

October 25, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

Let me know the cost for the skein of black wool which Merlini says has not been found.

I have already written to you about Pedini's package.

Needed are more skeins of black wool; let me know the expense involved. Send them to me, along with the cost.

With regard to your promise, I am offering prayers. Then, I will come to a decision. However, it may call for another promise.

¹⁷ O, most pious one.

As for those other things, they are simply the wiles of the devil.

In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

October 25, 1837

P. S. When there is question of miracles, God performs them wherever he wishes. But, he has not done so in Rome nor even here. He wishes us to make use of human means. For example: Was I able to digest milk in Rome? etc. Let us adore the will of God. I am continuing to feel better; but this takes its good old time.

With the ten *scudi* received from Nepi, you probably have paid for the *carretella* from Albano. Write to Ricciardi telling him that Spina should register that receipt.

3565

October 27, 1837

Fr. Aless. Pontoni

Urbino per Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Alessandro

You will apply 20 Masses and you must send me a notification of it not later than the end of November.

I am writing in a hurry; pray for me, who am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, October 27, 1837

3566

October 27, 1837

Fr. Orazio Bracaglia

Rimini

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Orazio

I am sending 16 Masses, and the notification will be needed by the end of November. If you have other obligations, then share these with Mosconi or one of our other members; but, by the end of November, the notification is to be sent as well as reference to the offerings.

The niece of Father Paolo¹⁸ will be receiving in the mail the money for the sashes which, I presume, you have been holding on to and will be sending to me at the first opportunity. I will be mailing the money to you.

¹⁸ Father Paolo Venerucci.

With regard to the Brother, it will be necessary for him to adapt himself to taking up the collection. You check with him. Furthermore, communicate his given and family name along with a listing of the things needed to Lipparelli who has obtained various things that have been supplied to him, and I would like him to take care of this. In the meantime, you are to contact his pastor; send me a reply and everything, I hope, will be brought to a conclusion. Make sure that he is not older than 32 which is the age for a Brother who applies a bit advanced in age. Think it over well. Note to see whether he has good eyesight, good hearing and strong enough to work, etc., etc.. You must have on hand all necessary documents. Speed things up. In that way, he will be able to make the Retreat called for by our rule.

I mentioned to you that if there is an Advent job in Cereto, you should take it. Contact Riparotta about the Lenten series as well as that other pastor where Virgilj used to go.

As regards the Brothers and the cooks, everything will be worked out within a short while. In the meantime, Viola should help out with the sacristy work.

As long as it is not *ultra vires*,¹⁹ you should accept the charity of Signora Lettimi. *Dominus retribuet.*²⁰

I reserve the handling of your spiritual matters for the time that we are gathered together in November for the Retreat called for by our rule.

In the mails, I will be sending you 5,50 *scudi* which you will then give immediately to Venerucci. I will be addressing them to you so that you can pick them up; send me the report.

In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, October 27, 1837

As for the method to be used with the Brothers, more after our Retreat.

3567

October 27, 1837

Fr. Francesco Palmieri

Macerata Feltria

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

Please celebrate 20 Masses; you will have to have the notification in my hands by the end of November. I will send you the offerings. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

¹⁹ Beyond one's strength.

²⁰ The Lord will repay.

M. Ap.
House in Albano, October 27, 1837

3568

October 29, 1837
Fr. Giuseppe Riccardi
Sonnino

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Giuseppe

I received your always appreciated letters and the notification for the Masses. I say: "*Retribuere dignare Domine etc.*"²¹ Now, please do the favor of celebrating 15 more. After they have been celebrated, send me the usual documentation. With the fullness of esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

House in Albano, October 29, 1837

3569

November 1, 1837
Fr. Tomasso Meloni
Pievetorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Tomasso

I am sending you an additional 20 Masses to be celebrated as soon as possible.

I am writing with a shortage of time. Pray for me who am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, November 1, 1837

3570

Beginning of November 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

²¹ To deign, O Lord, to repay, etc.

Dearest niece²²

I have received Pedini's package. However, it would be better if you would address the things to the person involved and to me the forwarding. When it is a matter of sending some smaller packages, then it is all right to send them to me with the larger outercovers.

I understand about the promise. Let us give thanks to God. You tell me that my silver chalice is being cleaned and is turning out well. You take care of it. The memorandum dealing with the excepted days I will draw up within a few days; rather, here it is.

Send me that package of books mailed from Sonnino.

It seems to me that you ought to make a copy for me of the things in the closet.

Did you send the relics for Nepi? Let me know who is delivering them so that Nepi can be informed in case the approval of the bishop is required, as I think it will be.

Send by mail the offerings for the Masses to Meloni along with a message, provided that he did not give you other instructions. That is what he wrote to me.

I do not remember whether I wrote to you that the bishop of Nepi would like some Chaplets. If I have already taken care of this, nothing more need be done; however, if I did not, since they can be purchased from Contedini, send him nevertheless 40 copies of the ones prepared by Contedini. Write: "Canon del Bufalo is sending these".

With reference to the collection in Nepi, you are to withdraw from it, so Spina says, 10,20 *scudi* to be deposited for the reimbursement of Brandimarte. I provide you with this information. You are to inform Brandimarte.

Chiodi would like to have some letterstationery which you can enter under their account; and, to me the receipt. Also, see that you have purchased for him five linked rosaries of the Divine Blood, those of lesser quality, for the sake of economy. Also, the Month of June, written by Strambi, the one having Strambi's picture. Whatever the expense, say that you are including this in their account and send the receipt to me. Enclosed is the notification from Mugnaj to whom you will send thanks.

I am also sending Moretti's memorandum.

I am sending a memorandum concerning my chapel that you have asked for. I would regret getting a no. In everything, may the will of God be done. I am not sure whether it is in order. If it is, have it copied.

I received the copy of Liguori.

I am sending a good chasuble concerning which I will write.

Only God knows whether I will always be staying in Rome during the winter. I would think so. Accept what Bartolomeo will leave for you and then we will come to some agreement.

Needed is some lining material which you are to buy and then write to me about it. Here,

²² This letter must come after the one (n 3564) written to the same person on October 25th because here he says that he has received "Pedini's package". It must be contemporary with the letter (n. 3569) to Meloni dated November 1, 1837 (cfr. the reference to the offerings for Masses).

I have a biretta that is too tightfitting; I will give it to someone else. Order another for me and hold on to it, but send me another one. Father Cristoforo²³ will be staying throughout the winter. That is what he wrote to me .

Have two candles, one pound each, kept burning, one at the crucifix in S. Nicola; take the money from the deposit. More than this, I cannot do.

Tell Mamma that when some transportation is needed, she should go ahead and take it. Accidentally, the inkwell toppled over.

3571

November 4, 1837
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Terracina per Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

(Albano) November 4 (1837)

My very dear Canon

I am here undergoing a bit of a cure, from which I am deriving a good deal of benefit, after having been hit quite severely by cholera. I say Mass, etc. It really isn't too bad.

I have understood what you said about Franchi.

Realize that the Brothers whom I sent were sent by me with the conviction that I had that they would be successful. Br. Luigi Falcioni went on his own free will; the other one had been sent by Fr. Bellini, who always writes to Valmontone that he was very happy about it. Viewing it from the externals, I could not wish for more.

With reference to Bellini, have him remain in Benevento. I would not want him to go near the Province, unless he were to go there *ex se*.²⁴ I will send the other two, and will do the best that I can. Willingly would I give you Br. Francesco from Lenola. However, his work in Lenola has not permitted him to absent himself as yet.

Kissing your hands, I am in J.C.

Yours

G. C. d. B.

3572

²³ Father Cristoforo Frioli.

²⁴ Of itself.

November 4, 1837²⁵

A Priest

Rome

Most esteemed Canon

I recommend the enclosed matter to your charity. For whatever expense is incurred, just drop me a line.

I am very obliged to you and, while asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

3573

Beginning of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

For the many expenses, take the money from where it is available. Later, we will adjust things.

1. I have been given Merlini's *grosso* and it is considered to be for the account here.

2. Thank you for the oranges and pears; but you should know that when I wrote to you the first time, we did not have any then; later a second supply came, now the third. Note that I will be bringing them back to Rome; I will not delay in coming. We also have pears here and now there are all the ones that you sent. So, you need have no further concern about that. Let us be in agreement. I do, however, acknowledge your concern; still, it is necessary to do what I say so that they are not wasted. If ever needed, but I do not think so, I will write.

3. Since you were not able to find the same kind of cloth, you have sought a remedy, and that is very fine.

4. It is necessary to send 35 *scudi* to Pisoni for the treasurer in Piperno. Send the order to me.

5. Enclosed is the letter of what Sante says. Check to see if it is all right. He is to be leaving Rome and is not to come here at all. For Antonio, purchase a seat. That expense is to be charged to Albano and make a note of that for me.

²⁵ The copy of this letter as well as the one (n. 3067) of January 30, 1836 to the same person was made by Merlini who adds the following notation: "I do not know who donated the originals. Signor ... asked for a testimony that these letters were written by the Venerable Servant of God. I gave that to him for the first and second letter and I returned them to him. G. Merlini, Mis. Ap. "

6. The plan of Ponziano²⁶ is not acceptable. No, for thousands and thousands of reasons. Rather, make a trot around Rome.

7. Give to Verili the two skullcaps, but later on he is not to ask me for them, for I will be using them.

8. Is there any money left?

9. I do not know whether tomatoes are used in the house. You probably have gotten some.

10. You and mamma must surely realize the reason for my denial with regard to Ponziano. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

I do not know why Ricciardi²⁷ has not shown up. Write to Nepi and tell them that they should arrange for a mount and that they should send him to me immediately.

There is no hurry for a letter to Maria Diomirra.

3574

November 7, 1837

Fr. Rocco Sebastianelli

Sermoneta

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Rocco

The illness of Father Spina calls for you to go to Nepi to assist him in the temporal matters and as economist. So, as soon as Pacifico returns to that House, since he also is to travel, you are to come immediately to Albano with all of your baggage, using also the small burros from Sonnino, and I will be awaiting both of you. Just how long you will remain in Nepi, I am not able to say now.

The vesture for Leoni will be provided, but tell him that he had some made last year and it appears that he takes little care of his clothing. The cloth for you will be purchased; but I would like you to balance out your share. As for the other things, I will see that they are provided. Tell Carpini that if he omits Gennaro, he will oblige me to have recourse to the bishop. With regard to the receipts, the one who gets the money is supposed to draw up the receipt; let us not get things confused. I shall try to relieve Alderisio from the position of economist and it will probably be Paoletti. Prepare a guestroom for Pacifico. Furthermore, since the cook from Sonnino will be coming to Sermoneta, the room of Giuseppino, now deceased, will be given to him. It is understood that the rooms for the Brothers are those in their section facing the atrium.

With due respect to all, I have determined that the spending in each House is not to be done by the cook. In Sermoneta, Emidio is to take care of it. After the new cook has arrived,

²⁶ Ponziano Morichelli.

²⁷ Father Francesco Saverio Ricciardi signed the congressus of the visitation in the House in Nepi on November 10, 1837 and then he left immediately. Hence, this letter is assigned to the period of the first ten days of November, 1837.

Luigi is to work in the garden, until a new assignment is made. To Emidio alone do I grant the faculty of going alone to Sermoneta. The others, when the Missionaries go, now one, now another. Nothing is to be done or decided until the return of Father Isidoro. I prohibit entry into any house; this applies for everywhere and not only pious places. I would like this letter of mine to be read by Father Alderisio. In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

November 7, 1837²⁸

3575

November 9, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece²⁹

You might send Giovanni³⁰ to Araceli to see whether the rescript for the *Via Crucis* for S. Felice in Giano, diocese of Spoleto, has been prepared. With regard to the money, get it exchanged and whatever is left over, send it.

Get rid of any fears that I may have been upset. They are just the wily maneuvers of the devil, and you need not even have written about it.

Have Spina's chalice repaired in whatever it needs. From the money that you have on hand, pay for that. The bishop of Nepi will be able to consecrate it; inform Spina about this so that everything is done in proper form.

If I have not already written to you about this, I am doing so now: Spina wishes to have a consecrated stone, one of those of S. Giovanni. The expense, from the money you have.

Pedini probably reminded you that he was supposed to get six *paoli* worth of devotional materials; and so, perhaps the package has already been sent to him. Send, postagefree, three *scudi* to Cesena to Father Lipparelli. I am etc.

[there is no signature]

Mail the enclosed to Perugia.

The other matters, in a future letter.

I have received everything.

²⁸ This letter was sent from Albano as is seen from the postal markings.

²⁹ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 9, 1837.

³⁰ Giovanni Minicucci.

3576

November 9, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³¹

Brandimarte says that you should hold on to his money, but in so many *colonnati* as well as in very wellknown money, for he will soon be needing it.

Since there are four Brothers in Nepi and only three are needed, one will be coming there. You are to send him here to Albano. His travel is to be charged to the account of Albano; in a letter, indicate to me everything, including the cost of his seat on the *carretella*. Let us be in agreement.

I have read your letter and everything is all right with regard to what you say about the wool etc.

Send the copy of Liguori along with your response so as to economize on tips; it is understood that this is to be to whatever degree possible.

With reference to indulgences, there must be one, for example, for anyone who adores an erected cross. So, with a couple lines or so, check this out with Galli. However, tell him that a quick response is urgent.

I am pleased that those in charge of S. Galla have relieved me of that Congregation. This is what I have been hoping for since I am no longer able to look after it.

I have had no doubts at all about your concern for me. However, learn from the life of Jesus Christ that even every upright affection is subalternate to the will of the Lord; in following this way, everything is kept in proper order. With regard to your vocation, I repeat, you have only to do the will of God. This is something that I have always mentioned to you. Furthermore, God wishes from you a wellordered spirit. Get rid of those disturbances and those ideas of changes. For example: I am coming to Rome; I will be leaving (but I do not think in the winter, however): that is the change. But these are discussions that are of longstanding.

The only thing left for me to do is to pray. Give my greetings to everyone and in the Heart of Jesus Christ, I remain

Your affectionate uncle

I believe that on Saturday, Bartolomeo³² will surely be coming to Rome. Here in Albano I keep making progress.

³¹ From the postal marking it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 9, 1837.

³² Bartolomeo Panzini.

3577

November 12, 1837
Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Father Giovanni³³

With regard to the Retreat called for by our rule, work things out as you see best. Include with your notification the note of Father Pallotta with reference to the Masses. Here, I must observe, for my own peace of mind, that Pallotta, by being very discreet, has shown favor to our Institute; however, you *gratis*, it is surely understood, must dispense them.

I am sending 30 Masses which you can divide with Gentili, Galli and yourself, if needed. Take care of them for me as soon as you can. You could also send some to Verili and Father Biagio³⁴ since they could also be of help. Make a notification about everything. Verili is free and can be helpful. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

3578

November 13, 1831
Fr. Nicola Crescenzi
Veroli

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

In my name, correspond directly with Father Gennaro³⁵ and then please send me the results. From this you will note that I am interested in being of service to you; however, I do not know whether I myself will be able to come. In any case, you will be getting another of our men. Pray for me. My best regards to Monsignor and with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano,³⁶ November 13, 1837

³³ This letter does not have a date, but one is derived from the postal markings (Albano, November 12). The year is 1837. Only in that year, in fact, is it evident that Father Giovanni Chiodi was, in the month of November, with Father Filippo Galli and Father Michele Gentili in Frosinone.

³⁴ Father Biagio Valentini.

³⁵ Father Gennaro Gamboa.

³⁶ In the copy, "Rome" is put here, but in the listing of the letters, it is clearly indicated that this letter was dated "Albano".

3579

November 13, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece³⁷

If ever it would occur that three of our men were to stay overnight, you should use the library or the reception room, arranging things as best as possible. Also, you could put two to a room, but two distinct beds.

Once the chalice for Nepi is cleaned, tell Spina: Send such and such an amount; the same applies for the consecrated stone.

I will write with greater convenience in my next letter.

Whenever there is any change in my physical condition, I will inform you, that is to say, as per usual. So, with regard to the condition of my stomach, I have managed to have a return of strength and there is an easing of my coughing spells. The coughing does not assail me in the morning hours. Just a bit in the afternoon and night; and, I do not have those fierce convulsions anymore. I do not suffer any burning sensation when celebrating Mass. The convulsive attack is quite a bit gentler. This season of the year is not the most favorable one. So, when I do not have a change in my condition, I will not write so as not to become exhausted, etc.. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3580

Middle of November, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece

There are three more³⁸ for Nepi. You already know about that, etc.. I am in a hurry, etc.

Your affectionate uncle

³⁷ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 13, 1837.

³⁸ This letter must be assigned to the middle of November, 1837. In fact, mention is made in it to the winter stockings which were to come from Subiaco (cfr. the letter (n. 3591) to this same person, dated November 26, 1837). Furthermore, mention is made of "three more" for Nepi who were supposed to be lodged in Rome (cfr. the letter (n. 3579) to this same person, dated November 13, 1837 and the one (n. 3574) to Father Rocco Sebastianelli, dated November 7, 1837, in addition to those who were lodged at the end of October (cfr. the letter (n. 3562) to Luigia, dated October 23, 1837).

Without others seeing this, give Sante³⁹ two pairs of winter stockings; and, if we have enough on hand, give him three pairs. But, if you see that we might run short of them until others come from Subiaco, then give him just two pairs. If it can be managed, give him three.

I am enclosing the letter for the police, if necessary. Read it. The paper is for Spoleto since Father Rocco⁴⁰ will be needing this. But, you are to see to nothing other than sending all of them to Nepi. Let us be in agreement.

3581

November 14. 1837
 Mother Teresa Cherubina
 Monasterio di Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio
 Cori

Hail to the Divine Blood

Venerable Mother abbess

I, too, would like to add a couple of lines of gratitude for the many favors that your monastery shows toward our Institute and to me personally in behalf of my health which is gradually improving; also, your prayers will bring our Society to its fulfillment. Ready to be of service at any indication from you, and extending my best wishes to your respective community, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. A.

Albano, November 14⁴¹

3582

November 16, 1837
 Mother Lilia Maria di S. Luigi
 Monastero di Maria SS. del Buon Consiglio
 Cori

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Very reverend Mother

Thank you for the image of your holy foundress which you were kind enough to give me. I shall recommend myself to her; but you should do the same in a very particular way. My health is gradually improving; but, I would like, if God so wills it, that my convulsive coughing would

³⁹ Sante Angelini.

⁴⁰ Father Rocco Sebastianelli.

⁴¹ The year is 1837 as is evident from the reference that St. Gaspar makes to his own health.

go away entirely.

My respects to your community and in particular to the Mother Abbess. While always beseeching your prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Albano, November 16⁴²

3583

November 16, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece ⁴³

Brother Antonio of Albano⁴⁴ will be arriving. The expenses from Nepi to Albano are to be taken care of by us; send me the bill, including the cost for the *carretella*. All in one word. This is a Brother who, as of today, has become useless.

Order a Madonna from Spalladoro with the measurements sent. Check to see whether he can do this work quickly since there is the greatest urgency for it. It should be done beautifully for it will be displayed publicly. Tell him the full story and urge him to be somewhat thrifty about it. I am sorry that our own is not available. Be sure that the *telaro* is exact.

What you have written to me is all right.

The expense for Ricciardi as far as Albano is to be charged to Nepi. Let this be for your information.

The offerings for Masses are for the house. How much is still on deposit? I am improving in my health; I no longer have those fierce convulsions nor any more of that burning, etc.. If what Spina is asking for, in the upcoming order, does not come to too much, go ahead with it. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

3584

November 17, 1837

⁴² As is apparent from the text, the year is 1837.

⁴³ From the postal markings it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 16, 1837.

⁴⁴ Antonio Mancini.

Fr. Giovanni Chiodi
Frosinone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Giovanni

You will be receiving an order from Rome, together with instructions. The expenses of Father Gennaro⁴⁵ are to be charged to that economy there *pro hac vice et casu*,⁴⁶ and not be cited as an example. We must have patience. I have very sound reasons for having done it in this way. It is not up to Albano, and even less to me, to make a reimbursement.

With regard to the Life of Vitelli, work that out with Giggia, to whom I will send whatever is necessary. I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

November 17⁴⁷

3585

Middle of November, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁴⁸

You will have to take care of the enclosed notification. To each individual, his own package. The one that is from Sonnino, send in an outercovering, addressed to the nun, for Fontana. Send the bill to Fontana. Tell him to enter it in his accountbook; to me, send the receipt. Then, send here the one for Sermoneta and Albano, but following the usual method in regard to costs; to me, in an outercovering.

⁴⁵ Father Gennaro Gamboa.

⁴⁶ For this time and case.

⁴⁷ This letter, as is seen from the postal markings, was sent from Albano. The year is 1837. In fact, Father Gennaro Gamboa, in November of 1836 and 1837, is located in Frosinone. But St. Gaspar was in Albano only in 1837 during the month of November. In 1836, from the 10th to the 20th of November, he was in Frosinone. The stationery used in this letter is very similar to that used to this same person on November 12, 1837.

⁴⁸ This letter does not have a date, but it must be assigned to November of 1837. In fact, in reference to the "two Brothers who were supposed to go to Benevento", mentioned in the letter (n. 3571) to Betti, dated November 4, 1837, St. Gaspar says that he will send "the other two"; in his letter (n. 3588) to that same person, dated November 21, 1837, he says that they are travelling". Furthermore, in this present letter he speaks of Father Vincenzo Fontana "President in Sonnino". In the congressus of September 26, 1837, Father Cristoforo Frioli is indicated as the President in Sonnino, whereas in the letter (n. 3602) that St. Gaspar writes to Fontana, dated December 9, 1837, he qualifies him as the President, an office which he probably had had before. Still, in comparing this letter to the letters (n. 3571 and n. 3588) to Betti, dated November 4th and 21st of 1837, we must conclude that this present letter is to be assigned to a time in between those two.

The cassock for Filippo Fabrini did not fit properly. It was given to another; a new one for Fabrini. As for the sash for Fabrini, write to Chiodi.

Fontana is the President in Sonnino.

Send instructions to Nepi in regard to the relic, just as I wrote to you.

Check over the entire account of income and outgo for Nepi, and balance out everything, so heavy a burden for me. And now, I am faced with the expense of sending two Brothers who are slated to go to Benevento.

Why did you remove the biscuits? In sending the box, put in it what was in it before.

Ask Cencio⁴⁹ whether I can have others celebrate *ubique*⁵⁰ the five Masses. I would say them, but, perhaps, for the sake of reckonings, he will grant me this liberty.

As for the other things, in another ordinary mail delivery.

3586

Middle of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece⁵¹

Needed is a shirt for the sacristan in Albano. Send it to me in the usual package along with the cost.

With regard to the chasuble that I sent, it will be necessary to repair it in part, trying, if possible, to match it with similar material. Where there are different, small adjustments to be made, at this time it will be necessary to make them. Likewise, if possible, try to preserve the coat of arms that is there.

The cost for the cloth that Bartolomeo⁵² brought came to 1,60 *scudi*. Is that right? Since the writing of the *scudi* was missing, I would like to ask this question.

I am enclosing the document for the Masses that Ponziano⁵³ left with Father Merlini; in general, to have them celebrated.

How much did you spend for Luigi from Sezze? All in one word, including the cost for the *carretella* and the tip.

The mail has just arrived. I have understood everything.

⁴⁹ Vincenzo Severini.

⁵⁰ Wherever.

⁵¹ This letter has no date. From the letter (n. 3588) to Betti, dated November 21, 1837, we deduce that this one comes just a bit before that one: middle of November, 1837.

⁵² Bartolomeo Panzini.

⁵³ Ponziano Morichelli.

The sack already has come along with the packages. Everything is in order with respect to the passports.

Send to Sonnino 12 images of S. Luigi Gonzaga which you will purchase. Send them to Fontana, but the receipt for the cost to me. Those images are to be selected from the ones that are smaller.

According to our rule, those two Brothers who are going to Benevento, are to be entered under my account. Betti, indeed, is quite aware of the economy. As soon as they arrive, they are to remain in our house; however, inform them immediately. Rather, as I think it over again, it would be better to say for the record: it is not necessary that they be informed; rather have Giovanni⁵⁴ act as follows, but with the greatest possible haste:

1. In the passports that they have, the government states: "Heading for Benevento". In addition, needed is the endorsement of the consul; this is to be provided. Giovanni must inquire from Father Antonio Mosti just what amount is to be paid for the seats and what contracts are best, as well as who will be the coachman. The contracts, which are to be in written form, are to indicate that the coachman himself is to take care of the so-called barrier where a payment is to be made. Furthermore, that women and undesirable persons are to be excluded, that separate beds are to be provided even though there are two to a room; that the coachman will handle any expenses, I repeat, any expenses, with the exception of the expense of meals. Cencio⁵⁵ is also experienced in this line. Draw up a paper; then, the coachman is to sign it in the presence of two witnesses. Likewise, there is to be no change of coaches etc.

Give to Filippo whatever you judge is necessary and if the coach should be late in arrival, Betti is to take care of that. I hope that I have explained myself clearly. They are not to take along things subject to customs, stamps, books etc. I hope I have made myself clear. With the help of God, you handle everything well. If, then, they prefer to go using the carriage to Terracina, there they could avail themselves of a coach for Fondi, moving on then to, etc.. However, I would rather have them make arrangements for Benevento in Rome without their having to make stopovers on the way; furthermore, that would be more costly.

Tell Father Pietro Spina that, having sent Chaplets to the bishop, *gratis*, I cannot do more than that. Tell him how many is wanted and how much they cost per hundred, and send the money.

Bartolomeo says that Giovanni should go to that watch repairman who has the best display. He has the alarm clock; he is to pick it up if it is ready or whenever it is ready, and then pay with the greatest possible thrift. He says that it will cost one *scudo* which you will give him from what is on deposit.

See that the Brothers going to Benevento have whatever is needed for their trip.

⁵⁴ Giovanni Minicucci

⁵⁵ Vincenzo Severini.

If that chasuble requires the work of a bannermaker or of nuns, you take care of it. Better, perhaps, is a bannermaker. I leave this all up to you. Anything that is left over, send here. I am etc.

Your affectionate uncle

3587

Middle of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁵⁶

In regard to the money, take it from where, etc. and give Mamma whatever is needed, but making a note of everything.

Read the enclosed from Merlini for your own instruction. This sum is then to come to Albano where Virgilj is. The entire expense is to be charged to Albano; send me an exact report.

Paoletti is the one who is to replace Spina; in spring I will have to assign the latter to a change of climate; so, Paoletti will be coming. It will be necessary to direct him immediately to Nepi, Ricciardi will be returning Ricciardi will return first then Cardillo. The latter is then quickly to proceed to Albano. We are undertaking many changes because of the people who have been ill and also for Betti's needs. We must be patient. In reference to Paoletti's travel, pay Spina in Nepi. That is what I suggest; otherwise, you might include it in a future order, but informing Spina; include the cost of the *carretella* for Albano. It would certainly be all right for either Spina or Paoletti to make the payment. Ricciardi probably has gotten money from Spina, and in that case, the cost for the *carretella* should be noted down. After that, you can send a copy of the expense to Spina and keep a copy for yourself; later, you can send a bill for any other expenses that may occur, all in keeping with our regulations.

I received the box containing the oranges. A thousand thanks. I also got the memorandum in reference to the *Via Crucis*; all is fine. The handkerchief for Nicodemo is one that is too fine. Get another one for him which is more fitting and hold on to the other one; as a reminder, enter it on the sheet of reminders so that we do not forget about it. If it has already been sent, well, then let it be. I understand about the beautiful deal for Benevento. Hold on to the papers in the closet. I am now closing this letter since there is no more time. Greetings to everyone. I am

Your affectionate uncle

If I have forgotten anything, remind me

3588

⁵⁶ This letter has no date. However, comparing it with the letter (n. 3588) to Betti, dated November 21, 1837, it should be assigned to the same period of time: the middle of November.

November 21, 1837
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Terracina per Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Canon

I have learned about Br. Luigi Falcioni. We have already made the inventory with respect to Br. Domenico, and he is quite well provided for. He said that he had himself purchased a few handkerchiefs, etc., *de proprio, etc.*⁵⁷

All the others are traveling. They are bringing either money or clothing in order to get ready for the winter, since some of the clothing was not made on time, as Fr. Beniamino tells me. I hope that they will fit in with both your wishes and mine. Br. Filippo Fasti is terrific in the kitchen. He also serves as the barber. He is a native of the Castelli in Giano. The other is a member of the Filippini group who was aggregated at the time when the present Pope granted us the Congregation of La Penna.⁵⁸

For today, I shall not go on any longer. Pray for me. I am getting better. Let me know what I am supposed to supply as far as clothing is concerned for the two who are coming. Also, send me the bill for the travelling costs as soon as they have arrived. Also, with regard to that, if there is anything that I have to look into yet, write and let me know. I am in the heart of J.C.
Albano, November 21, 1837

3589

November 25, 1837
Fr. Innocenzo Betti
Terracina per Benevento

Hail to the Divine Blood

Esteemed Canon

Two lines in a hurry. I would like to know whether you gave me an account of the sum that you were kind enough to leave for me at the last Visitation. I forgot to note that down, but it

⁵⁷ About one's own.

⁵⁸ Brother Domenico Farnetti. Cf. Geographical Data: Pennabilli.

seems certain to me that you had given 50 ducats.⁵⁹

I have already said, the kitchen is to be handled by Br. Filippo Fausti, if you agree. In doubt, I repeat it. Inform me about the expenses, etc.⁶⁰

I kiss your hands. Pray for me. Consider me with all affection, esteem and attachment as
Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

House at Albano, November 25 (1837)⁶¹

P. S. On the day after St. Xavier, I am returning to Rome. Pray for me.

3590

November 25, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail etc.

Dearest niece⁶²

That bedlinen that was sent, is it for the house or for the Institute? If it is for the Institute, then I will give it to Albano. Let me know the cost etc. I am speaking of the bedlinen sent with the cloth.

Your affectionate uncle

The Retreat called for by our rule is beginning. No one is being received, no one is hearing confession etc. etc.

⁵⁹ When the Saint, after five years of absence, returned to Benevento, Fr. Betti placed at his disposal a sum of money, making a notification of it in the Congressus of Visitation (May 25, 1834): "Treasurer's report. 1)... 2) During the entire period of his administration, Canon Betti has been a creditor of this House to the amount of 388.4 ducats. Of that amount, the aforementioned Canon Betti voluntarily grants fifty ducats to the House at Benevento plus another fifty ducats for the building projects. 3) Whichever Economist should succeed to the position of administration of this House will have to pay back the fifty ducats, either by separate instalments or in a lump sum, until the time that it is balanced out. 4) This amount of money, based on the terms and methods described above, will then be sent to the Director General, Ca. del Bufalo, with whom correspondence will be carried out in reference to the matter ...".

⁶⁰ In the manuscript, this last sentence is found in the margin, lacking the usual sign of reference. This seemed to be the most fitting place to insert it into the context.

⁶¹ In the Volume of the manuscripts, after this letter, there was appended a small piece of paper with the following note handwritten by the Saint: "Here is the listing of the Synods which I have received from Cardinal Bussi: 1825, 1826, 1828, 1829, 1835." The note was certainly included in a letter sent to Betti during the year of the cholera, because it displays characteristic slashings made because of postal disinfection procedures.

⁶² From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, sent from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 25, 1837. This date (November 25) is confirmed also by the mention of the Retreat which was begun eight days before the feast of St. Francis Xavier; hence, November 25th.

3591

1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁶³

Everything is okay with regard to Bartolomeo's⁶⁴ watch. Enter this as usual.

Urge Spalladoro in regard to the Madonna. Tell him that it should be similar to the one here in Albano.

I may be returning to Rome; however, if I turn out to be a chronically ill person but thoroughly cured, which is what I will probably be, then I would like to visitate the Houses in due time etc. Prayers.

The bill of exchange should be quite good.

A package, addressed to Bartolomeo, will be coming from Subiaco; but you should open it. In it are the stockings which you will immediately arrange to have dyed. Perhaps, there will also be an undershirt; that is to go to Bartolomeo. Let us be in agreement.

Mariani did not have us pay the government for the passports; I do not know how that is handled now.

If Pelzolet, with the measurements that he has of my roomclothing for summertime, could make me a roomvesture for winter, using dark *borsonzo*, I would be pleased. Otherwise when I return I will look into it. You might send me a sample of the material. It must be altogether and entirely closeknitted and made with exactitude. I do not know whether you agree with this thought of mine. Tell me.

It is necessary to send, postfree, eight *scudi* to Father Tomasso Meloni; that was a loan made for the travelexpenses for Filippo Fausti and a companion. Write and tell him that you have sent them.

You mention that the Superioress of the Barberine wishes to have the money which is on hand. But, where is the coppercasting? Read the enclosed; if everything is all right, then seal it. You will not have to send me the image of the most holy Mary, but I would like to send it to a wellrecognized person so that in writing he can point out the defects. Ponziano,⁶⁵ perhaps, can locate such a capable person, so that it can then be returned to the artisan for corrections. In the

⁶³ From the postal markings, it is evident that this letter, send from Albano, arrived in Rome on November 26, 1837.

⁶⁴ Bartolomeo Panzini.

⁶⁵ Ponziano Morichelli.

area, such individuals can be found by Ponziano; however, this must be done also with care. If some small expense should be encountered, I will pay for it. Whatever is sent to our house, is sent for the benefit of all, for example, the tomatoes.

Wishing you every blessing, I remain, in Jesus Christ
Your affectionate uncle

3592

End of November, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁶⁶

The job of making travel arrangements, the season of the year and the departure of Father Merlini for a Retreat in Vallecorsa have impeded my escape to Rome.

While there are some people on the move, you are to give to Antonio of Albano a shirt, or the cloth to have one made, and send it to him if it is not already made; also, a pair of winter stockings and a sash for a Brother.

I have understood what you told me; that is all right.

Bartolomeo will inform you about the travel arrangements for some of our men.

See that the stockings sent from Subiaco are dyed.

The *paoli* which Merlini owed to me are to be signed for Albano.

Send me a ream of stationery, the *onescudo* type; two pounds of chocolate for the feast of St. Xavier; a copy of the Fridays in honor of the Saint; the Latin speeches of Bishop De Vita. These are in the library! It seems to me that it is small volume. It is getting late. Other things in another letter of mine.

[there is no signature]

3593

End of November, 1837
Luigia del Bufalo
Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

⁶⁶ This letter does not have a date. However, from the reference to the Retreat conducted by Merlini in Vallecorsa as well as from the reference to the feast of St. Francis Xavier, it must be assigned to the end of November. From the reference to the "stockings from Subiaco", it is evident that the year is 1837 (cfr. the letter (n. 3591) of November 26, 1837 to this same person).

Dearest niece⁶⁷

From the white, woolen stockings coming from Subiaco, remove one pair, not to be dyed, for these will be used by Bartolomeo who wears white ones.

Needed are the following undershirts: expenses never seem to come to an end:

1. for the sacristan in Albano;
2. for the cook, Franco, in Albano; he is a tall person;
3. for Capotosto, the gardener in Albano;
4. for Leone of Sermoneta, but it is to be sent to Albano;

5. for Giovanni of Veroli⁶⁸ who is in Sonnino; it is to be sent to Fontana, indicating the price; tell him to send a receipt. Also tell him that it is for Giovanni of Veroli so that no mistake is made. On we go. Let me know the cost for each undershirt and make sure that they are woolen and that they are the full and ample type, not the short ones.

Enter under deposit for Father Gennaro⁶⁹ 4,50 *scudi*. Let us be in a agreement. You tell me that with an order to Iangiorgi or Minotti you would like to get all of your money. You take care of it.

Tell me: Is Cardinal Doria feeling well?

Furthermore, I am sending back to you the cassock which you sent to me because the other ones are heavier which is something that I would not have thought. Still, they are in very good shape and I will make use of them in Rome.

[there is no signature]

The laundryworker has lost one of my *rete*. I hope that it will be found. Send me another, as a precaution, and also a shirt.⁷⁰

3594

End of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁷¹

⁶⁷ This letter does not have a date. However, it should be assigned to a time after the one (n. 3591) written to this same person, dated November 26, 1837 (cfr. the reference to the stockings from Subiaco). Hence we date it: end of November, 1837.

⁶⁸ Giovanni Fontana.

⁶⁹ Father Gennaro Gamboa.

⁷⁰ This postscript is on the fourth siding.

⁷¹ This letter does not have a date, but, in comparing it with letter No. 3583 (note the reference to the burning sensation), it appears that this letter must be assigned to that same period of time.

1. The package for Perugia is to be stamped and sent with the letter that I am enclosing.
 2. For a few days now, I have been in need of a *rete* for the wintry nights since I have only two. I am discarding the underwear with the buttons on the inside because they irritate me. I said for a few days now, but I would suggest sending the new undershirts that would be very helpful to me along with the winter cassock. I will send back to you the one that I have now.
 3. With regard to my health, I no longer have very much burning and, ordinarily, by taking a couple of drinks per day, I manage to rid myself of it. That is somewhat of an improvement. My coughing is gentler and less frequent, but it is not altogether gone. Much depends upon the weather and how it changes etc.
 4. The other packets, on the desk. Sufficient that you read.
 5. Here in Albano, we need three pounds of *pastina*, different from the Genoese type, and a pound of ground *sembolella*. Have it sent in good shape.
- [there is no signature]

3595

End of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Prospectus ⁷²

To Gentili		3 <i>scudi</i>
To Verili		3 <i>scudi</i>
To Chiodi		3 <i>scudi</i>
To Father Tomasso ⁷³	3 <i>scudi</i>	
To Brandimarte		1,50 <i>scudi</i> on deposit
To Virgilj		4,50 <i>scudi</i> on deposit

This is a listing of the offerings for Masses that are to be satisfied. Take the money and look after the deposits; also of Father Tomasso.

In the order that you will be sending to Chiodi, inform him that you are sending three *scudi* to Verili, to Gentili and the three *scudi* to Chiodi; they are to be paid out; inform him that you are sending three *scudi* to Verili in Vallecorsa, telling him that they are for the twenty Masses, otherwise he will think that they are for the economy there. So include all of this to Chiodi. Gentili is in Frosinone; likewise, see that he is informed that they are offerings for the

⁷² This bit of writing has no date. In it, there is mention that Father Michele Gentili is in Frosinone. Up to the end of July 1837, it is evident that he was situated in Sonnino; in November of 1837, it is clear that he was situated in Frosinone. Hence, it appears that this letter should be assigned to November of 1837. Probably the "order to Chiodi" mentioned in this letter is the same as the one referred to in the letter (n. 3584) to Chiodi, dated November 17, 1837.

⁷³ Father Tomasso Meloni.

Masses that he is saying. Next, it will be necessary for you to make out an order to Iangiorgi for 30 *scudi*; tell him that, after the offerings for the Masses were withdrawn, the receipt is for the remainder.

[there is no signature]

3596

End of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest niece⁷⁴

1. The travel from Nepi to Rome is to be shared: Spina's part, to the Nepi account; Cardillo and Antonio⁷⁵ from Albano to the Sermoneta account. I shall be awaiting the report. The 1,50 *scudi* of Virgilj is already entered for Albano. Missing is the fare for the *carretella* along with the tip; I am speaking of Virgilj. Let me know how much that is. Oh! how many there are who are passing on to eternity; you are doing correctly in informing me because of the suffrages to be offered.

2. In regard to the brief, we will discuss that in person and we will come to a decision. Prayers. To me, Ramerini appears to be the better.

3. With reference to the ordering of the shoes from Mastro Pepe, you take care of that.

4. In regard to the matting for the desk, have Bartolomeo⁷⁶ get it or you yourself take care of it.

5. Here is a bit of news: my coughing is calming down and I give thanks to God. Prayers to the great Xavier. This is something that depends on the season; it is not a uniform thing. But, in general, it is better.

6. With regard to the sofa where I lie down, I would like to have a coverlet attached to the corners of the sofa. I would suggest dark blue material. You make it and if you think that you cannot, then have it done cheaply.

6. I am now reading another letter of yours. It is all right to keep the sofa in the library room. The opening and closing that the Zamboni family do is very wellknown. At any rate, we

⁷⁴ From the content of this letter, it is evident that St. Gaspar is making arrangements for his return to Rome which will take place on December 4, 1837 (cf. the reference to the disposition of the rooms). Furthermore, in the postscript mention is made of the departure of the Missionaries and of the boardingstudent Quirino who will be arriving in Rome "Friday morning". The departure was to take place at the second morning hour etc. This succession of events occurred in December of 1837: the 1st came on a Friday. Hence, this letter is assigned to the end of November, 1837. The date is confirmed by the news he gives concerning his health, just as he did in other letters.

⁷⁵ Antonio Mancini.

⁷⁶ Bartolomeo Panzini.

will do it this way. I, too, am aware that the parlor is chilly. It means that God will have to give us another dwelling place; but, we do not speak of that for prudent reasons. I would like to have a permanent companion situated in Rome. When I will be in the small room, prayers, rosaries, etc.etc., whereas discussions, instead of having them where meals are taken, they will be held in the room where I sleep; thus, the room beyond the loggia; at least, only the Zamboni stairway will be involved; we just have to be patient.

7. On Friday morning, Chiodi, Pedini, Alderisio, the boardingstudent Quirino and a Brother will be coming to Rome. It is most needful that you provide for Quirino; how, you will do it, I do not know; you look into it.

8. I will draw up the note for the police.

9. The boardingstudent will be going to the Marche since he has a chest ailment; likewise, his folks want him there.

10. You will have to arrange for a vacant carriage for the three Missionaries and the boardingstudent; that means four places. Near the driver's seat, the Brother; then, they are to pick up Sante.⁷⁷ That will fill it to capacity.

11. It will be necessary for the carriage to stop and spend the night in Nepi; and, as they have written, until after the Mass in Civita. The expense is to be charged to Missionwork. So, Chiodi, who must have the money, should handle the cost and then be reimbursed.

12. With regard to the boardingstudent and the Brother, I will give instructions to Paoletti. Now, it is time for the maildelivery. Keep happy. I am, etc., etc., etc..

Your affectionate uncle

The departure is set for the second hour of the morning. Tell the coachdriver that in Nepi, the baggage is to be picked up. Seal the enclosed. Store away the roomrobe just like the summer one.

3597

End of November, 1837

Luigia del Bufalo

Rome

Hail etc.

Dearest niece⁷⁸

Here in Albano, pears are no longer available in the square, at least not now; so, if you can get some in Rome, I would be a bit delighted, as long as the price is reasonable. The money should be taken from what is on deposit, not from housemoney.

In the morning, immediately after the Feast of St. Xavier, I will be coming to Rome in

⁷⁷ Sante Angelini.

⁷⁸ This letter belongs to the end of November as is evident from the reference to his return to Rome after the Feast of St. Francis Xavier.

time for the noonmeal. However, since I will not be leaving except at a discreet hour, I just may not get there until after noon; but, I am hoping to arrive before noontime. O. K.

Your affectionate uncle

Send me one or two colored handkerchiefs, the sturdy, winter type.

3598

November 1837

Fr. Beniamino Romani

Pievotorina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dearest Father Beniamino

- 1) Fr. Paoletti, who has never preached Lent there, is coming for the Lenten series.
- 2) Leave instructions as to when Fr. Tommaso is supposed to get Fr. Camillo with mounts from Pievetorina for the Retreat at the Seminary; inform Fr. Camillo in my name. I shall give it no further thought (I told him that you would leave instructions for whatever comes next).
- 3) Wait for the call from the Archbishop, according to what he has written to me. Try to settle cases by peaceful conciliation. We do not have the money to engage in litigations.
- 4) In reference to the two Missions, one could also be arranged for Pievetorina. This is my recommendation to you.
- 5) I am sending eight *Sc.* to Fr. Tommaso for postal expenses. Inform him.
- 6) As regards their clothing, I want the two Brothers who are leaving to be properly outfitted. You have probably taken care of that.
- 7) After the regular Retreat, you will have lay Brothers; have no doubts. Now pay close attention to what I am saying.

"Signa apostolatus in multa patientia".⁷⁹

Msgr. Gentilini of Rimini unexpectedly has requested a Mission for Sogliano, and that is why he has not sent a Preacher there. Because of the time for our Retreat, the busy status of our own men should cause me to refuse him; but then ...; this is not something that would be setting a precedent, so I had to give in. However, that Mission must be conducted in such a way that you will be able to get back for the Retreat to the Ordinands in Rimini, Cesena, etc.

When you consider the commitments of our men in Romagna, as well as those who are sick or unable, I am compelled to inconvenience you. You must be in Rimini on time for the morning of the 29th of this month. In fact, I suggest that you get there on the night of the 28th, since in the morning of the 29th, quite early, there is a departure of a coach for Sogliano. Make your own arrangements. Have Fr. Tommaso take care of the Retreat there, and this year it should be conducted as well as possible. You will make yours while traveling. Whatever your expenses may be, give a listing of them to Lipparelli. I do not have time to send you money which you

⁷⁹ Signs of the apostolate in much patience.

would be paying back to me.

I wish to mention here for the records that there are some from Giano who will be going to Rimini, namely Fr. Palombi, Brothers Coppola and Giovagnoli; they should fill one coach. I shall write nothing to Giano. However, I authorize you, if there is time, to send word to Giano and tell Father Camillo in my name that, without any delay, he should send Palombi, Coppola and Giovagnoli to you in Foligno. Also, that Father Rocco Sebastianelli is not to go to Romagna, but to substitute in Pievetorina where he will stay with Fr. Tommaso and help out with the management of the household, etc. When you see him in Foligno, give him these instructions. With regard to the confession faculties for him write to the Archbishop. I believe that his faculties are granted *pro utroque*;⁸⁰ but I do not want him hearing confessions of women as yet. Advise him well on this, until he has the faculty in general. If I am supposed to write to the Archbishop, let me know. If you are able to do this on your own, let me know that too.

Tell Fr. Camillo that, when those people come from there, he should send with them the money that he has on deposit, given to him by Brother Sante. However, if these men do not come, it is better to let the money alone. Itemize your expenses as well as those of the others. The Mission is to reimburse us, at least by means of the recent plea for help, gathering up every sort of commodity, if there is no other means (there is, however, a Legacy for the Mission: so ...).

Write to me in detail even when you are on the Mission, and let us come to a mutual understanding. Do nothing without consulting me.

O, how I am obliged to you: *Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁸¹

Fr. Rocco, I repeat, is to go to Pievetorina with Fr. Tommaso until your return.

Your return trip will also be at the expense of the Mission. Let me know your conclusions soon, what you have decided.

I pray for a good trip. Examine everything well so that nothing is overlooked.

Tell Fr. Camillo that he should handle the Retreat, and that very urgent reasons have called for this procedure. However, if you go alone, write and let me know that.

Be at Rimini on the eve of the 28th and if possible for dinner. Take care, etc.

G. C. d. B.

November 1837

3599

December 6, 1837

Fr. Beniamino Romani

Cesena Savignano per Solignano⁸²

⁸⁰ For each sex.

⁸¹ The Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁸² Cf. Geographical Data: Soliano al Rubicone

Hail to the Divine Blood

Fr. Beniamino

After Solignano, you will go to Rimini to give the Retreat to the Ordinands. You will get my letters there. While on the Missions, if there is no other way, take up a collection at the end, and do this whenever there is a need for it.

I am etc.

G. C. d. B.

Rome, December 6, 1837

3600

December 6, 1837

Fr. Alessandro Pontoni⁸³

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Father Alessandro

Your notification in regard to your chaplaincy, at the end of the year.

In the maildelivery, you will be getting the offerings for the Masses and I am addressing everything to Rimini.

As soon as I get some Masses, I will send them to you.

I urge you to see that the Brothers do not lack clothing, as well as the usual allowances.

Pray for me. I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, December 7, 1837

⁸³ In the address, St. Gaspar added: "intended for the Missionary Fathers, in case of their absence".