

St. Gaspar's Letters

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3801

June 3, 1821
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priperno
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here for you are the new certifications upon which you will please place the names of the priests whose acquaintance I have made through your letter. With regard to the Missions in Romagna, *quod Domino placet fiat*.¹ They are desired so that proper actions can be taken for the foundation of a Mission House. With reference to the Missions in your dioceses, I say the same thing. It is God who regulates the doing of this work. On your own, you are to give stability to the pious organizations through the extension of your zeal. With respect to the Delegation of Ferrara, which is not interested in services etc., that is only a dream or a myth. If the situation were to be tested, I would surely try to find a way of applying a remedy. Everyone is aware of the Holy Father's principles. The source of the difficulty can be ascribed only to someone *in abscondito, ut aliud agens*,² spreading contrary notions to our holy religion. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, with particular esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Chiaravalle, June 3, 1821

P. S. After Chiaravalle, I will be traveling to Ascoli for the Mission there.

I will be sending you the papers dealing with the canonical erection; all you need do is work it out with Canon Father Gregorio Muccioli, the President of the Archconfraternity in Rome. There will be no other expense than the six *scudi* which are to be sent to the aforementioned person.

3802

August 29, 1821

¹ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

² In hiding, as doing something else.

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
 Comacchio³

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

When will you be returning? This year, I have had to shorten my trip for the Mission in Albano and I was expecting to see you in Rome. I hope that you are enjoying good health. Upon your arrival, we shall make plans for the good work that will be able to be done for your dioceses for which I do not cease having that concern which the glory of God inspires. Only Sezze has had Missions, but, I think, an Oratory etc. was not set up. Your sheep are looking for a shepherd. A longer absence, even because of permissible debts, is not, indeed, expedient and it produces, from what I am given to understand, some consternation. Please excuse this open manner of expressing myself, but God knows the reason I have for speaking so. If you feel uninspired with your episcopal position, a feeling which you are experiencing at the present time, even though in a general way, transferrals are not desirable, should you wish to obtain one. Your dioceses are in need of the greatest persistence and the most notable patience. It is through such means that you can become another St. Charles.

Most illustrious and reverend lord, pray for me and with esteem and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Albano, August 29, 1821

When necessary, address your letters to me to Rome.

3803

September 29, 1821

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

The cleric whom I am presenting to you is very fit for the school. He already has his patrimony for being ordained on time. I embrace you in *osculo sancto*.⁴ In the Heart of Jesus Christ crucified, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁵ I remain

[there is no signature]

September 29, 1821

³ St. Gaspar had first written: "Roma per" but then he crossed that out.

⁴ In a holy kiss.

⁵ Who redeemed us in his blood.

Francesco Gallaroli from Cori.⁶

3804

End of September, 1821
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor⁷

Six Mission Houses will be opened in the Province of Campagna. I have already prepared the memorandum for the bishops' peace of mind who, during this first year in accordance with their prudence and *bene perpensis omnibus*,⁸ would like to have us come to conduct a Mission. We will come to agreements. Certainly, you are one of them. A Retreat for the clergy will be available and catechetical instructions or main sermons, just as you wish. More when we see each other in person at the first opportunity. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

One House will surely be in the diocese and the school will be activated.

3805

October 8, 1821
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
 Rome⁹

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I received your letter to which I am sending a reply. From my experience in the the

⁶ This is the name of the cleric who is being recommended. This remark is not written in St. Gaspar's handwriting.

⁷ This letter does not have a date, but from its content one can assign it without doubt to the second half of September of 1821 when St. Gaspar learned about the "Program for the religious and moral education of the Delegation of Frosinone". Cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, II, letter No. 470, dated September 29, 1821, in which St. Gaspar communicates to Fr. Luigi Gonnelli that, along with other bishops, the one in Terracina will also be of assistance in the fulfillment of the Plan. Hence, this letter, which is lacking an address, must have been delivered by hand to Monsignor Manassi when he was in Rome at the Hospice of the *Buon Consiglio*, as mentioned in the letter of October 21st.

⁸ Everything being well consideredd.

⁹ The address is abbreviated because the letter was delivered by hand in Rome itself as noted in the indication "House". Very probably, Monsignor Manassi was in Rome as a guest in the hospice of *Buon Consiglio*, as can be seen in the letter of October 21st.

ministry and to the extent that information has been provided to me, I have remained firmly set on the policy that a confraternity that has already been aggregated to another Archconfraternity, must not take on another new aggregation, since there are briefs prohibiting such new aggregations. Nevertheless, with a rescript that is very easily obtained, the aggregation can be worked out. So, I would write as follows: that with the opening of the tribunals, every time this matter would arise, etc. etc. it would be obtained; and, that matters should move forward in regard to the policy of aggregations.

I give thanks to God for the feelings that you nurture for the glory of God and for your own sanctification, all blending together in perfect harmony with the virtues that you demonstrate. Along with de Sales, I will say: "Here I am, a reed upon which you are leaning. You are safe because that is how God is inspiring you, but the reed itself is worth nothing". At any rate, miserable thing that I am, I shall not cease praying; do not be fearful of my openness and I hope that you will be just as open to me whenever the situation calls for it. We will be of help to each other on the road toward heaven so that we will both reach that blessed goal. While kissing your hands and with special esteem and particular affection in Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,¹⁰ most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis Ap.

Over¹¹

House, October 8, 1821

Please make a special remembrance at Mass that in the Ferrara region or elsewhere there will be priests who will join up with us in the new foundations and give them those words of encouragement which Xavier used to give formerly. The more numerous we are, so much the more will our work spread abroad.

3806

October 21, 1821

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I do not know how to express the consolation that I feel in carrying out the commissions

¹⁰ Who redeemed us in his blood.

¹¹ The page ends here.

entrusted to me. I have already visited the locale in Sermoneta and I find it to be to my fullest satisfaction. In particular, there is an image of the most holy Crucified which fits in with the special joy that I have because of the very tender devotion that we are promoting. The Missions have already been arranged and the opening of the House at the same time, namely, the third of December. As for current expenses, they will be shared, presently, by the leading families, the Commune, the pious places. This will be explained to you in person by Vicar Ricelli. With all that being done, things will be set in order in keeping with the lovable designs of the providence of God. I repeat, you will be given the information by the Vicar. Urgent, however, is to have the renunciation of the religious and, after that has been done, the taking of possession of the locale and its environs should occur. This is necessary in order that everything is done with proper regularity.

Therefore, in our name, the most reverend Vicar General will be able to send out those announcements that are needed for this project. I recommend that the stand of trees contiguous to the convent be wellguarded and that those usual and not harmless cuttings be prohibited. In regard to this matter, you should declare this with the very clearest instructions. At the same time, you should see that everything that belongs to the sanctuary and is dispersed throughout the area, be brought back. I can assure you that the clergy and the people are happy and are very willing to be of help for this longedfor project.

Likewise, it is necessary to find out whether the Capuchins will ever be returning; in case they do not, their locales could be granted to our Society for the purpose of setting up spiritual Retreats as well as to take care of those buildings that are piously regarded by the faithful. In reference to what has to be communicated to the most holy auditor, let us pray over that and wait until I return. I hear a voice telling me that God wishes to have you for these dioceses. For now, let all be kept quiet so that no harm arises. In the event that you meet with the most holy auditor, you might, for the sake of the record, inform him of what has been done, following the Holy Father's wish, and then pray.

I point out to you that after Sermoneta, we will continue moving around in the entire area, including Sezze, at least conducting Retreats, giving talks or conducting Missions, to the best of our ability. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with all my esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

While traveling through Terracina, October 21, 1821

I beg you to extend your words of encouragement to the priest in Piperno whom I will not be able to visit; and, to any others; though we are receiving workers provided by other bishops, we also are to provide someone. A balance is to be formed with the Houses that are set up.

In some parts of the diocese, the number of clergy is not sparse. I have already discussed this with Ricelli and he, too, has this notion. Everywhere, Oratories etc. will be established. Oh!

All the good work that can be done! Continue making your preparations for conducting the Retreat for the clergy, and pray for me etc.

Enclosed for you¹² is the account of the meeting held in Terracina. One cannot describe the universal enthusiasm. As soon I descended from the stagecoach, I found myself surrounded by a multitude of people, which is something that touched me deeply, and in them I noticed a hungering for the divine word.

There, you are held in high esteem and everyone is waiting for you impatiently. I made a resolution to return. The introduction of the Mission is set for the vigil of the feast of the Presentation and at that time there will also be the opening of the House. In the meantime, you should make efforts to gather together the sacred utensils of the sanctuary. More, when we speak in person. When you wish to write to me, see that your letter has a forwarding to Albano where I shall be returning; in that way, I will be getting news from you. My heart is overjoyed in already seeing the mercy of God which shows itself precisely in the Precious Blood of the Lamb, extended now to the Province of Campagna, once shipwrecked in the sea. What a consolation it must be for a shepherd to see his flock wearing white stoles, etc., etc.. *Gratia Dei nobiscum.*¹³ Amen .

I give you my thanks for all of your very courteous letters and favors. Tell the Vicar General that the renting of the stand of trees by Mr. Impaccianti, held by him in keeping with regulations, I suppose, is to conclude at the end of October; this is information I have gotten from the archpriest; hence Ricelli should extend that information to him, etc., etc..

3807

October 26, 1821

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Infinite are the things that we must discuss, so, with the supposition that you may be passing through Albano next Saturday or Monday, please come to our Mission House, which is also your house, and I will do everything I can to get there; in this way we can have a meeting. If not that, then, we will supply for it through lettercorrespondence. In the meantime, what is urgent for me to tell you is to assign, if possible, a certain N. N. (I do not remember his name), a cleric and nephew of the Vicar Forane of Sonnino, to some position or other either in Sezze or in

¹² From this point and continuing to the end, this postscript is contained on another page that St. Gaspar had written not "while traveling through Terracina" but in Terracina itself from where the letter was mailed as indicated by the postal markings. However, there is no doubt that it is related to the letter of October 21st. Consequently, we have considered these lines as being part of a single postscript.

¹³ The grace of God be with us.

Terracina with the qualification of Prefect; his uncle told me that he would not be able, otherwise, to take care of the expenses. I, however, am not acquainted with the requisites. I am writing this to you simply to get the request in motion. May the grace of Jesus Christ always be abundant in our hearts.

Amen. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with the fullness of esteem, respect and particular affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Montefortino,¹⁴ October 26, 1821

Even though you may be passing through after Monday, it would always be a good idea to stop off at the Mission House.

3808

November 2, 1821

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am inconveniencing you with this letter of mine in order to relieve my mind of a worry, namely, that I would not want to have been the cause of that cleric of Vicar Terenzi losing out on what he was asking for, because of my lack of being more prompt in making the recommendation. However, I got that request only on the occasion of my trip to Sonnino. If you can provide him with a bit of help so that he can do his studies, I would be very delighted. If the Camera were to decide to relax the canon, half could be placad at the disposal of the Maestra and the other half for a young man from Sonnino in the school in Terracina. It is necessary to take care of this as a consolation to those people.

It seems to me that Locatelli, having to remain in Terracina, and because he has his organizations well underway, and also because he is a Canon, might at least be able to act as the Curate Economist in some Curia. He already hears confessions and works in Campo and it seems to me that it would add very little to his burdens. I ask you for letters to the priests in behalf of our Society: Valle, Giorgi and anyone else in Piperno to whom I have written.¹⁵ I do not know whether Mastrilli would assume and accept *ad tempus*¹⁶ another position as Economist. I urge you to exert the greatest activity possible for our foundations.

¹⁴ This is presently called Artena (Rome).

¹⁵ Perhaps, as a reference to what is said here, Monsignor Manassi makes a note of two names: Stefano Pizzi, a Sermonetan, and Canon Valli.

¹⁶ At the time.

Prepare for me the documents concerning the renounced locales; also, try to send me soon a letter of yours dealing with the preparations to be made in the three dioceses for Missions. Likewise, try to provide the Lenten preacher of Sonnino with another pulpit. If he is a capable preacher, why does he not become a Missionary? Check with him. Yesterday, I was not content with the thanks that I expressed, acknowledging the many acts of kindness you have shown toward me because of my sacred work of reconnaissance. I received a letter from Sermoneta which brought tears of consolation to my eyes in seeing the definite concern of the people there for our foundation. By November 15th, the locale by agreement, will be set in order since plans have already been made with the artists.

Ricelli told me that in Sermoneta there were also some books left behind by the religious. These, like any other objects, are to be carefully guarded under your order. Thereafter, they will be given to whomever they belong. The Passionists also had them in Terracina. Get the information from Locatelli for we will try to procure them for the Society. With regard to the libraries of the regulars, in particular, you realize what delicacy is called for in this procedure. *Tu vero vigila, in omnibus labora; instas etc.*¹⁷ I add: *agitur enim de opere maximo gloriae Dei.*¹⁸ Locatelli wrote to me and said that Ricelli should contact you for the benefit of Sonnino. Having a meeting with you, before the Treasurer¹⁹ makes out the rescript, would be helpful to Sonnino in reference to the canon, which, it seems to me, must have been due to the Passionists. So, why should it be taken back now from those people? Even at that time, there were basic reasons! Locatelli also recommends that the affair of the Conventuals be pressed. Here, I point out to you that, for the sake of harmony of sentiments, either the convent of the Franciscans remains as the school and we will no longer have any thought about that, or it remains free and will become a Retreat House. If anyone should ever write that we would, in the meantime, inhabit the S. Francesco locale, please answer with an absolute no. I will enter only where my dear Monsignor Albertini wished to have the Mission House and that is, precisely, the locale of the Passionists. It is not up to us to pound a single nail in places that do not belong to us. If needed, the Delegate could assign a company of soldiers in the vicinity. The entry, tinted with blood, if I may express myself thus using the image of the Hebrews in Egypt, will not be harmed. Such is my confidence in God. Arrange everything for the housing of three Missionaries in the episcopal quarters as we agreed; our room, then, will be in the parlor and that, only during the Mission. In the meantime, beds are to be obtained on loan.

It appears that I have nothing more to add except to confirm what was said yesterday in person. You will write to Canon Cella. May the grace of Jesus Christ be with us and lead us to the possession of that blessed Sion. Venerable Monsignor, while kissing your hands, I remain,

¹⁷ Indeed, be watchful, work in all things; be insistent, etc.

¹⁸ For there is a question about the greatest work for the glory of God.

¹⁹ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

with esteem and respect, in the Heart of Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

SS. Giovanni e Paolo, November 2, 1821

P. S. Remember that the Mission in Terracina will begin on the 20th after the noon meal. At the entrance, you will present the crucifix. Oh how much good we will do! With regard to the Capuchins, remember also the thoughts I had which must be taken into consideration. As a policy, I am against convents having just one brother or two. I am speaking in a general way: generally sneaking institutes lose credit; individuals suffer. I would go up above only if the house were *ad tempus*.²⁰ However, I intend always to go along in all things with your wise judgments which I value highly. Do not overwork and take good care of your health. You will make known to the clergy that they will all have Retreats and that you will make all the most providential decisions allowing all of them to attend, as I have no doubt you will do.

3809

November 12, 1821

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor²¹

Thank you for the rescript.²² With tomorrow's mail delivery, please give instructions, or to put it better, repeat what is to be done for the entrance ceremony, etc., etc.. The entrance will take place on the vigil of the feast of the Presentation. Offer prayers for me. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

²⁰ At the time.

²¹ In Manassi's handwriting, the following words are found: "*Omnis qui invocaverit*" [all who will call].

²² The rough draft of this rescript is found on a halfsheet of a letter written by St. Gaspar; one part has, in the handwriting of the Saint, only the address of Monsignor Manassi; the other part, in the handwriting of Manassi, has the text of the rescript: "Making use of the endorsed faculty granted to us by His Holiness Pope Pius VII, on November 7, 1821, we consign the monastery and the church of the Reformed Friars Minor, S. Francesco in Sermoneta in our diocese of Terracina, for the establishment of a pious Mission and Retreat House; for this purpose, we make this concession to the pious Society of Secular Missionary Priests who operate under the title and power of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ and under the patronage of St. Francis Xavier; granted to that Society and to the very reverend Canon, Father Gaspare del Bufalo of the city of Rome, Missionary Apostolic and Director of the aforementioned holy Missions; safeguarding the episcopal rights in every etc. Given in Rome, November 9, 1821"

Mis. Ap.
House, November 12, 1821²³

Do not forget about the Capuchins with regard to the hospice, the season being taken into consideration.

3810

November 15, 1821
Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

House, November 15, 1821²⁴

Venerable Monsignor

I wish you a very happy trip and be assured of the special divine blessings.

I ask you to order the saying of the Collect *pro petitione lacrymarum*.²⁵ The clergy Retreat will begin on the feast of the Presentation itself, immediately after the entranceday for the Mission.

With regard to the expenses for board, we will discuss that in person. Meanwhile, I think that we should communicate to you our usual costs for room and board so that you would not feel the least bit of inconvenience. Any other system, it seems to me, would be neither opportune nor decorous. I open my heart to you; you decide as you wish. The good Canon Locatelli will continue at his desk in the seminary, taking care of the economy. Be assured that the establishment of Houses is a big job and very, very expensive; hence, one must give this much prudent reflection. To put it in a way just between us, anyone who regulates things from a desk has very little experience in practical things. However, God wishes this Work to be done and nothing more than that is needed.

So, try as best you can to see to the readying of the locale for Retreats, obtaining as much material as you can gather together from as many people as possible. Half way through the Mission, other Missionaries will arrive and thus be assisting with confessions and will set the

²³ This letter bears the identification "House", a term usually employed when letters are sent in Rome to Rome. Hence Manassi must still have been in Rome at this time and probably was staying in the hospice of the *Buon Consiglio*, as referred to in the letter of October 21, 1821.

²⁴ This letter was delivered by hand in Rome itself, probably to the hospice of the *Buon Consiglio* where Manassi was staying.

²⁵ For a request of tears.

Retreat in motion. In the vicinity, we will erect a cross *ut fugantur daemones*.²⁶ The guard, next to S. Francesco, will have it placed just a bit higher, as was suggested. Kissing your hands, I remain

Yours, humbly and devotedly

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

P. S. If the roofs are not repaired, we will room on the first floor. If there is no one to loan things etc., we will do the best we can.

Tomorrow, a Friday, let us frequently make an offering of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

3811

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Terracina

J. M. J.

Venerable Monsignor

Please assign the Company of the Sacconi to be of assistance for the Holy Missions. Appoint the collectors and direct them that the collection is to be put into your hands. There is no mystery at all about saying this to you that with that money we must take care of the expenses involved in the ministry. So, we will come to our decisions. With regard to the *Luoghi di monte* in Sonnino, I suppose that you probably have already investigated or will soon investigate to see whether they have, up to now, been applied. Pray for me. Unchangeably, most venerable Monsignor, in the Heart of Jesus Christ Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,²⁷ I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Rome, November 16, 1821

P. S. I spoke to the most reverend Treasurer.²⁸ You can assure Canon Locatelli with regard to his concerns about the school.

I ask you not to assign anyone to the desk. We are accustomed to either stand alone, or with the bishop, or pastor *et nihil ultra*.²⁹

²⁶ That the demons be put to flight.

²⁷ Who redeemed us in his blood.

²⁸ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

²⁹ And nothing in addition.

3812

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Here are the three Missionaries for Sonnino. You will give them lodging for one night; if you are unable to take care of all of them, I have already contacted Canon Locatelli by whom they would be received. The Mission is to begin on Friday, a day memorable because of the sheddings of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. I am writing to Locatelli to make arrangements for the mounts in Terracina in order that things are not delayed. The only item that you should handle is to send a man ahead who will arrive just a bit before the Missionaries in order to alert them for the entrance, etc., etc.. The expense involved for the mounts is not for you to think about since I will work that out with Canon Locatelli. How is your health? Send your response to Albano.

Tell me which are the towns where the Lenten series have been suspended; it is a question concerning Roccasecca, Maenza, etc., etc.. Has the Lenten series been fixed for Sezze? I need this information and we will then come to agreements. I am eager to see all six Mission Houses opened; in that event, we will have six bulwarks set up against the powers of hell. Moreover, *absens corpore praesens autem spiritu*,³⁰ we should not cease recommending each other to God *enixe*,³¹ so that in being *socii passionum in hac lacrymarum valle, simus et consolationis*³² ... I am here kissing your hands Presently, I am leading the life of a bird. Send your letter here to Albano. My dearest Monsignor, with esteem and veneration, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant.

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission House in Albano, December 12, 1821

Please try to reach the force of companionship which will regulate Father Luigi Achille, the Superior. Arrange things so that at the 22nd hour the entrance will take place. Also, please tell Canon Father Luigi Rossi that he should pass on to the Superior in Terracina the copies of the rules.

3813

December 20, 1821

³⁰ Absent in body but present in spirit.

³¹ Eagerly.

³² Companions of the sufferings in this vale of tears, let us also be of its consolation.

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
 Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have already sent an order to Rome for the linens of the church and we will come to an agreement as things progress. When you write to Ferrara, give my thanks to Cavalier Ingoli for the kindness that he has shown in enrolling me as a brother of the most Precious Blood. This is something that I had forgotten to acknowledge; at the same time, I bless God for having given you the inspiration of making me a participant in that very good work. As for the Company of Ferrara, I have left that in the charge of Monsignor Muccioli.³³ The foundation in Veroli has kept me quite busy. Now the House is opened and until the locale is readied our headquarters will be in the summer seminary. The most reverend bishop of Norcia³⁴ will begin evangelization at Christmas time, a solemnity on which I extend to you my sincerest best wishes *et quoad animam et quoad corpus*.³⁵ Now the other foundations are the point of interest for me, so, address your letters to me in Segni where I shall be going to conduct a Mission.

Shortly after the feastdays we will see each other again since I will be going to visitate all of our established Houses, the new plants in the vineyard of Jesus Christ. And, even though my visits will be hasty one, I will still run the course of the ministry, *et os ad os loquemur*.³⁶ I have written to the most reverend Treasurer³⁷ with reference to the chapel in *Tor tre ponti*. In regard to S. Felice, the remainder is entirely in your charge. As for the expenses of the Missions in Terracina, you will be able to cover them with the income received in the Lenten series. When I return to Terracina, I will reimburse you for the two scudi that you paid out for the soldiers.

The monthly subsidies from the government in behalf of the Houses will begin in January. In the meanwhile, we will take care of things the best way that we can. Working with the government in respect to the cost for trips alone as well as so many other problems involved in having the Missionaries come from the other Provinces is what has been concerning me quite a bit. I cannot describe for you the delicacy that is called for in order to make progress and not bring harm to the works of God. However, I feel that the annual allotment will be somewhat less

³³ This sentence is written in the margin and there is no insertion mark; but, it appears that this is where it belongs.

³⁴ Monsignor Luigi Piervisani.

³⁵ And with regard to the soul and with regard to the body.

³⁶ And we will speak mouth to mouth.

³⁷ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

for the Houses. Still, that much will be adequate for sustaining life *et hoc satis*.³⁸

As far as I myself am concerned, whatever I have in my limited means, I use for the glory of God; but one simply cannot do all that one wishes. Certain, indeed, is the principle that the people are to be supportive of the initial foundation. Ask the man who is the gonfalonier in Terracina to carry out the repairs in the place for Retreats and that they become zealously active. Canon Francesco Saverio Mariotti will conduct the Lenten series in Terracina. He will have the preaching platform constructed and on Ash Wednesday, on Fridays, on feast days etc., at the usual hour or at some other time that you judge to be better, he can deliver his sermon and he will do great work. Presently, efforts are underway for having a beautiful crucifix, sent from Rome, which he will use at that time. With Easter drawing closer, he will conduct the Retreat and the Superior of the House will take care of the catechetical instructions. This is what has been planned for Terracina. In Sermoneta, things are getting along better. Also there it was decided that the money collected in Lent and Advent would be used for the Missions. Mancini wrote to me and said that nothing is known there. So, please inform him and drop me a line in Segni so that I can make the appointment of a Lenten preacher.

Now let us consider Sonnino. Everything was settled, basing the temporal needs on the Lenten collection and we can not prescind from that decision. You probably have written to Gnessi that provision be made; if not, at just a word from you, I myself will write to the bishop of Veroli, of Anagni etc. to set up a pulpit for you, or you can do this yourself. These were unforeseen circumstances. All was discussed with Vicar Terenzi in Terracina, so, why so many misunderstandings? Without placing blame on anyone, we can say, certainly, that the works of God are born amid thorns. Some welltodo person or people selected from that group, should put up the money for the pulpit beforehand and then they will get it back. Perhaps a small collection can be taken up; the Lord will provide. Today, I will be writing to the gonfalonier and to the Vicar and I shall spur them on to get things underway to the best of their ability so that the House will be opened. That is how our foundations are born. Why should we lose the allotment in January? Some rooms will be habitable; I, myself, have already seen them.

As soon as my companions arrived, instead of receiving courage, they receive rejection. Is it any wonder that they are astonished! However, the devil is not to be victorious. The Filippini Fathers of Sanseverino told me that their first priests there, during the first nights, had to sleep on bundles of twigs. This is what God wills. Give an order that a loan be taken out that is sufficient for furnishing the altar in the church. At this time, the House there must be opened. If some subsidy is needed, take out a loan to my account, I repeat, to my account, so that neither the House nor the Society is held responsible. The Lord will provide. *Non vidi justum derelictum, etc., etc., etc.*³⁹

³⁸ And this is enough.

³⁹ I have never seen a just man forsaken.

Another of my companions will be going to Sonnino; after Father Luigi Mosconi has conducted the Retreat for the clergy, he will return to his residence in Velletri. So, I must have precise information with regard to which other towns will not be having a Lenten series so that they can have the benefit of a Mission. In this way, we can see where my companions can first be sent; a company of them will be able to move about, keeping in mind the places of our foundations and those who must remain in the Houses. Thus, we can better sound abroad the glories of the Crucified Lord.

With regard to Sezze and Piperno, where I will be going, I myself will write from Segni after I receive your letter of clarification. For example, available is Father Bassotti, who, after Sonnino, would immediately like to have an open field, and I will draw up the company. He could be sent to Roccasecca in the meantime. The trips should be made with mounts which the welltodo should provide; collections are to be taken up in church; for the sake of economy, we will send only two Missionaries. The cook will be a man selected from the area. Let us do good work; let us become saints.

How is your health? It appears that I have not forgotten anything. *Absens corpore praesens autem spiritu semper memoriam tui facio in orationibus meis.*⁴⁰ I am certain, indeed, of your reciprocal action. Please send me your response to this letter of mine, *a minuto*,⁴¹ if I may express myself thus. I am anxious to see your dioceses taken care of; the Houses will be given names and then consideration will be given to internal matters, to visitationsermons, to internal Retreats, *ut fructus maneat. Sum tuus ex corde ad aram Crucis ubi pax, solatium, quies.*⁴² Pray for me and consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

December 20, 1821

Write to Sonnino in regard to the bed for Pellegrini.

I am mailing 12 *scudi* for you; two, a reimbursement for the soldiers; ten, you are to send to Father Luigi Achille, the Superior in Sonnino.

3814

January 5, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

⁴⁰ Absent in body but present in spirit I always make remembrance of you in my prayers.

⁴¹ For something small.

⁴² In order that the fruit remain. I am yours from the heart at the altar of the Cross where are peace, solace and rest.

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am still awaiting your letters which I hope to be receiving tomorrow. I ask that, after the noon meal, you do not exert yourself but rather that you occupy yourself in doing something that is not too aggravating. I am writing in a hurry. I would like to know whether you have received the 12 *scudi* in the mail; send your reply about this to Carpineto. The completion of the Mission Houses is delaying quite a bit the order for the sustenance of the Houses. However, that is a momentary thing and agreements will be made. I will not delay in making a visitation of the Houses to set everything in order in accordance with instructions from Rome, always in keeping with the plans, and these pious establishments will turn out to be victorious.

In the meantime, please supply 15 *scudi* to the Superior of the House, Father Giacomo Gabellini. I would reimburse you for them through the mail delivery, but, in order not to spend more, I will bring them to you myself with my own hands. Tell Father Camillo Rossi that he should not send his trunk. Direct the Superior to exercise the most exact vigilance over our locale, since all the rest is temporary. He should take good care of the surroundings and see that the garden is productive. More when we meet in person. With special feelings, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Segni, January 5, 1822

They have written to me from Rome that the surplices could cost 3,50 *scudi* each and the linen cloths around 1,50 *scudi*.

Let me know your ideas and how much you intend to spend etc.⁴³

3815

January 8, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am sorry to learn that you are still indisposed and I pray wholeheartedly to the Lord for you. However, if you would like to have a bit of advice from me, I would try to find a temporary dwelling near the sea; I am convinced that this would be helpful for you. When I was undergoing my studies, my doctor was accustomed to have me take some quinine before soup, assuring me that the heat of the soup would impede stoppage.

⁴³ This postscript is found on the fourth siding near the address.

I thank you for the kindness that you show me and our Society. I would suggest that you do not send a preacher to Roccasecca but rather to have a Mission there which would be equivalent and perhaps even more fruitful. I have already written to Piperno for I intend to have the entrance for the Mission on February 2nd since, after Carpineto, I would like to visitate the four Houses already erected amid thorny situations; *et os ad os loquemur*⁴⁴ in the short time of a few days that I will be spending there. I have already given instructions for the moves. They have preferred to come to that decision rather than to apply force. With regard to the housing in Sonnino, we will decide that *in faciem loci*.⁴⁵ These moves have been delaying, up to now, the ordering of allotments. I am expecting to get a definitive letter from the Treasurer⁴⁶ and I hope to be receiving it soon.

With the first ordinary mail delivery, I will manifest to the Treasurer your feelings about the locale and the school. However, after things have quieted down, the locale will still remain a Retreat House. I am in a hurry. With very special esteem, most illustrious and reverend lord, and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, January 8, 1822

The requests for foundations are incalculable. Pray for me and for the Society. Still, no priest from your diocese. We have gotten some from Segni.

3816

January 10, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I regret inconveniencing you with this letter of mine, but the glory of God demands it. They have written to me from Rome that two Missionaries and the cleric are at *Buon Consiglio*⁴⁷

⁴⁴ And we will speak mouth to mouth.

⁴⁵ After the fashion of the place.

⁴⁶ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

⁴⁷ According to Santelli, the Missionaries who left Terracina and went to Rome were Father Giacomo Gabellini, Father Francesco Saverio Mariotti and Father Camillo Rossi.

because of their fears etc. As I continue working things out with the Treasurer,⁴⁸ in order not to lose out on this good work, I am upset about this new development. Patience! Patience! Patience! However, I am not dismayed and, trusting in the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ and the intercession of Xavier, I am hopeful that the devil will not chalk up a victory. With two Missionaries having gone to Rome, that means that one is still there. So, tell him that he is not to depart. I want to know who has remained and who has departed and what the situation is with the Brothers. At the earliest possibility, I shall try to arrange for my arrival; in the meantime, *per viscera misericordiae Dei nostri*,⁴⁹ I beg you to see that everything is guarded well and that none of the things loaned be returned, for the time being, otherwise the poor efforts made etc. Keep me informed in detail, but have this written by others. You should not distress yourself. Let me know how your health is holding up. Pray for me. With very particular affection, in the Lord, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpinto, January 10⁵⁰

P. S. Perhaps we will get the dwelling of the Treasurer. Contact the pastor in charge of the naval people and tell him that in Rome the uniforms for the St. Xavier group are ready and that he should send someone to get them. Please do not forget this.

3817

January 12, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ⁵¹

Venerable Monsignor

Two Missionaries⁵² will be coming to the episcopal quarters and I will write to Assorati for their lodging so that you will not have to be disturbed so much. They will look after the Brothers, the pious organizations and other things. Within a few days, I shall be coming. May the

⁴⁸ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

⁴⁹ In the heart of mercy of our God.

⁵⁰ This date does not include the year but it certainly must be 1822 when St. Gaspar conducted the Mission in Carpineto.

⁵¹ This invocation is not too legible on the page nor is the expression "Monsignor etc."

⁵² According to Santelli, one of these two Missionaries was Father Turribio Lenta.

Cross of Jesus Christ, the standard of eternal life, be our support. In Sonnino, no one will be moved with the exception of Bassotti. As for Roccasecca, more when we see each other in person, for I was not delaying etc. With very special esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, January 12⁵³

I will be giving instructions concerning the Brothers to Locatelli.

Please inform the one who has donated grain to get in touch with me. He is known to Donati. If necessary, I shall also go begging alms for the Society, and God will work miracles. Temporal matters are for me the last of my worries. *Si Deus pro nobis, quis contra nos.*⁵⁴

3818

January 15, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I hope that on Monday two Missionaries will be arriving there; perhaps, a bit sooner. I have written to Giuseppe Assorati for their lodging in his house. At the latest, I will be coming on Wednesday or Thursday, *ad summum*⁵⁵ Friday morning of the upcoming week. We will discuss everything in person, including Roccasecca. Most illustrious and reverend lord, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Carpineto, January 15, 1822

I have recommended the oratory to Canon Locatelli. Tell the pastor of the naval people that he should be aware of my arrival. I want to handle the investiture of the members of our great patronal Father. Action, enthusiasm and zeal.

3819

⁵³ This date does not include the year but it certainly must be 1822 when St. Gaspar went to Carpineto for the Mission.

⁵⁴ If God is for us, who is against us?

⁵⁵ At the earliest.

February 17, 1822
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Enclosed is the exact account for the surplices etc. 27 *scudi* have already been computed. You will note that in this entire transaction, we have economically saved one or the other *paolo*. If it is not an inconvenience for you, please inform Vizzeri that he should pay the remaining small sum, it seems to me, of 5,06 *scudi* to Vincenzo Severini with whom the aforementioned Vizzeri is acquainted.

Despite my diligent efforts in getting a positive reply in regard to whether the pulpit in Sonnino was our responsibility, I have heard nothing more from the Vicar General. I will be writing to my companions that since I was unable to make provisions because of the uncertainty in the matter, one of them should handle it. Within a short while, I will send there a new Missionary and another one to Terracina because I realize what will be needed especially for Easter time. Presently I am very, very busy, but we can imagine what it will be like then. The new man who will be going to Sonnino will assist with the catechetical instructions or anything else that the companions work out in preparing the people for Easter, along with the Lenten services. In this way, there will be a variation in the voices heard, the training given, which is the pastureland for the greater glory of God. And oh, my most beloved Monsignor, if the clergy can be stimulated to activity, we will quickly see the longedfor reform. Faith is propagated through preaching and that preaching must be kept alive. *Rogate Dominum messis, etc.*,⁵⁶ In time, from this Society, help will be offered to the Missions in the East and the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ will sing a song of victory over the powers of hell.

As for Roccasecca, I am thinking about a Mission during Lent. If you wish to order it after Easter elsewhere, please write this to me. I shall be awaiting your most appreciated letter in Frosinone. My obligations to you are infinite in number because of the singular kindness that you have demonstrated and because of your assistance to our Society, especially for having given asylum to the ministers of the Lord, a thing that will redound to great merit for you. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*⁵⁷ During Lent, I will review our foundation there, then the one in Sonnino, followed by the one in Sermoneta. Tender plants are in need of much attention until they have set very deep roots. When you make your visitations encourage any of your priests who are not inclined to parochial work etc. to join our Society. The requests for our foundations are innumerable.

⁵⁶ Ask the Lord of the harvest, etc.

⁵⁷ The Lord will repay in my behalf.

Now let us move to something else. When the good Albertini was still living, he determined to erect the Pious Union of the most Precious Blood in S. Felice⁵⁸ I have, on deposit for this purpose, 2,06 and 1/2 *scudi*. So, either we find someone who can supply the rest for the aggregation or I can use this money for as many of the booklets of the Chaplet as possible, which I will then send to you so that you can see to their distribution in S. Felice. I will abide by your directives. *Ora pro me assidue*.⁵⁹ In places where there are no Missionaries set up a prefect or a spiritual father for the clerics who maintaining contact with the neighboring Mission House from where the rules can be obtained, he can then see to the training of the junior clergy.

During your visitations, if you should find some way of setting up, on a small scale, a place of recuperation for penitents, that would be a great piece of work. *Det nobis Dominus ut tandem simul in caelesti atria commoremur. Sum in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.⁶⁰

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 17⁶¹

Father Luigi Mosconi, a priest well experienced in preaching, will handle the Lenten series in Sermoneta.

3820

February 22, 1822

Msgr. Giuseppe Antonio Zacchia

Apostolic Delegate in Frosinone

Frosinone

Hail to Jesus and Mary

Venerable Monsignor

Already made public in Sonnino are the orders issued by you and communicated to our Father Pietro Pellegrini that he should appear before you. He has written a rather pitiful letter to me concerning this emergent situation; also, he would have immediately come to you if it were not that he faced the necessity of preaching the Lenten series, as I mentioned to you in person. In view of the fact that it was the governor of that area who issued that order, I would request that, for the sake of the decorum of the priestly ministry, you write today another of your letters to that

⁵⁸ S. Felice Circeo (Latina).

⁵⁹ Pray for me assiduously.

⁶⁰ May the Lord grant that we finally sojourn together in the heavenly motherland. I am in the Heart of Jesus Christ Crucified who redeemed us by his Blood.

⁶¹ The year is not mentioned but from a comparison with the letter of January 5, 1822 to this same person, in which a reference is made to surplices as is done in this letter, one can certainly deduce that the year was 1822.

governor in Sonnino, pointing out to him that his summoning of Father Pietro Pellegrini should no longer take place.

Today, I shall also be writing a couple of lines to our men. Indeed, I can assure you also, because of a bit of information sent to me in yesterday's maildelivery, that this whole matter has arisen out of illwill. If one were to tightly squeeze the situation, its substance would be reduced to nothing. Still, such publicity is regretful and is something to be sacrificed to the Lord. asking you for your prayers, most reverend excellency, I remain, with very special esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

February 22, 1822

I decided to write in order not to inconvenience you. It would be a good idea if, in holy simplicity, you were to tell his Eminence, the Secretary of State, that he should not consider as something valuable those petitions that are anonymous, otherwise opened up will be an opportunity for etc.

3821

February 28, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sezze

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Monsignor

Within days, the preacher will be in Sonnino and I, myself, shall be going there in person just as I will to Terracina and later to Sermoneta. We will be checking over the Houses of our members on the occasion of Easter. It will be necessary to limit them also in the area, managing at the same time the handling of Missions. In another letter of mine, I referred to the misunderstanding in Sonnino. Perhaps I have not fully understood etc. etc.

The most reverend Delegate has also recognized that the anonymous memorandum from Sonnino had its origin in some disturbed mind and on this occasion God gave me the opportunity of declaring several basic principles relating to his glory. Who knows, perhaps, that not ... ⁶²

Since I would like the people of Roccasecca to fulfill their Easter duty with the greatest fruitfulness, the Mission there will come immediately before Easter; already, I am corresponding with the archpriest.

I hope that you had a pleasant trip and an excellent stay. The gonfalonier of Bassiano wrote a most edifying letter to me in behalf of the Mission.

⁶² This is how this sentence ends, not having any dots of suspension or the characteristic sign that he uses and which we simply translate with etc. This paragraph deals with the facts in Sonnino pertinent to Father Pietro Pellegrini.

The archpriest of Piperno and others have submitted a request for a Mission House in a locale there that is vacant and I believe that the most reverend Treasurer⁶³ will condescend. Our Albertini would like to have a large number of his sons around his grave. *Dulcis sane memoria*.⁶⁴ So, that will be taken into consideration. There, too, they would like to have Missions. Note the number of blessings and points of support, if I may so express myself, in your dioceses. I do not know how to tell you how deeply appreciated your letters are for me. Let us renew of spiritual pacts. Give my greetings to your Vicar General. Asking for your prayers, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, February 28, 1822

If necessary, send your reply to Vallecorsa.

3822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Sezze

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I would like to know just how many retreatants there will be. Thought has been given to arranging this, following the Jesuits' practice, that is to say, with the greatest possible courtesy. I shall be awaiting an answer from you, Anagni for Piglio. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Norma, April 1⁶⁵

The third man for Sermoneta has arrived.

3823

April 23, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

⁶³ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

⁶⁴ Sweet indeed is the memory.

⁶⁵ The year is 1822 as is evident from the mention of the towns Norma, where St. Gaspar was preaching a Mission from March 27, 1822, and Piglio, where he asks Manassi to send his reply; he was expecting to be there in that town on April 6 for another Mission.

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Through the services of Father Francesco,⁶⁶ I asked you in my recent letter addressed to him⁶⁷ to please send me a confessor for next Saturday. It seems to me that Curate Taddei is the one who is most fit since Canon Calleri perhaps will be busy with the visitation as well as taking care of the school. In this instance, he could supply for pastor Taddei in S. Angelo.

With regard to Maenza, Roccagorga etc. I shall be waiting your response. This holds also for Piperno and Sezze. As for Piperno, however, pay no attention to my thoughts about the heat of June. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.⁶⁸ Having acknowledged the will of God, we will come to an agreement as to the time. In the meanwhile, I have to figure out what else is needed for the good government of our Society. Asking you for your prayers, I confirm once again that, with the usual esteem and veneration, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bassiano, April 23, 1822

P. S. With regard to Father Giorgi, whom our holy Albertini had counseled to join our Society, I have reminded him of this during these recent days. In order that he might better recognize the will of God, I advised him to observe the Marian month in one of our Houses and to have his work covered by the priest who handled the Lenten preaching, a young man of excellent character, etc. I do not know just what he desires etc. In this area, there is not a scarcity of clergy and the people can profit also from the presence of our House in Sermoneta.

The Mission in Bassiano was the fruitful result of the zeal of some people who shared in covering the slight expenses. This was edifying for me and I cannot tell you how many blessings I see for these people and what fruitful results they will be able to draw from this. In particular, there is a great devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Please encourage them to submit a petition for the erection of our Pious Union in the church of *S. Maria della Piazza* which is free and very accessible. Upon your dictation, the archpriest will be able to draw it up, authorizing the most reverend Muccioli to select in Rome a postulator⁶⁹ who will take action in accordance with the regulations.

⁶⁶ Father Francesco Pierantoni

⁶⁷ Cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, II, letter n. 575, p. 199.

⁶⁸ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

⁶⁹ The petition will be drawn up by St. Gaspar himself on April 27th [cfr. n. 3825]

3824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

If it is not an inconvenience for you, I would like you to please send to Rome to Monsignor Muccioli, the President of the Archconfraternity, 12 *scudi* which I will then give back to you through the services of Canon Mancini upon his return to Sermoneta. I shall write to him to contact Vizzeri. However, I shall first await your response.

Father Torribio⁷⁰ has in hand on deposit the 40 *scudi* of Terracina. Please write about this matter. Father Giorgi *adhuc fluctuat*.⁷¹ No decision has been made, as is also the case with Mancini. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.⁷² Asking you for your prayers, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bassiano, April 26⁷³

Pray for Vincenzo who is ill. Be insistent that your helper will have his family come out. Please, for Monday, at least Canon Calleri, since here we are besieged.

3825

April 27, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Sermoneta
Most illustrious and reverend lord⁷⁴

⁷⁰ Father Turribio Lenta.

⁷¹ Up till now he wavers.

⁷² Let there be what pleases the Lord.

⁷³ The year is not written here, but certainly it is 1822. In the open space remaining in the letter, Msgr. Manassi wrote a rough copy of the Decree for the erection of the Pious Union in Bassiano. Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Pious Union in Bassiano.

⁷⁴ This petition does not have a date. We have assigned to it the date of the following letter, April 27, 1822, with which this petition was sent.

The clergy and the people of Bassiano petition your most illustrious and reverend lordship for the canonical erection of the Pious Union under the title of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the church of *S. Maria della Piazza* and specifically at the altar of the most sorrowful Mary. Furthermore, they request that the President of the Archconfraternity in Rome be empowered to select a priest who will postulate the aggregation; that, etc.⁷⁵

In behalf of the clergy and people of Bassiano⁷⁶

3826

April 27, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terraqina, Sezze and Priverno

Sermoneta

Most illustrious and reverend lord

I add that there are two married women who would like to go to confession [...] ⁷⁷ and there is another aged lady in the area who would like to do so also. This is for your information. Believe me to be, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Bassiano, April 27, 1822⁷⁸

3827

April 27, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sermoneta⁷⁹

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I understand what you tell me in regard to the confessors and I have already sought to

⁷⁵ At the bottom of this page, Monsignor Manassi wrote in his own handwriting the authorization for the erection of the Pious Union: "*Carolus episcopus Tarracin Privern et Setin. Erigimus et instituimus piam Unionem sub titulo et veneratione pretiosissimi Sanguinis de qua supra in precibus et de hac institutione formale Decretum expediri mandamus. Dat Sermonetae 29 Aprilis 1822 Carolus episcopus Tarr. Priv. et Set.*"

⁷⁶ The petition and the address are in the handwriting of St. Gaspar.

⁷⁷ Several crossedout words follow. Legible only are the words "to C. " but not the name of the Canon.

⁷⁸ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Pious Union in Bassiano

⁷⁹ As is clear from the context of this letter, Monsignor Manassi was still in Sermoneta.

provide for them elsewhere. I would be pleased if Taddei could come; because of the crowds of people coming from other places, a good number of ministers of the Lord will be needed. However, if something there were to stand in the way of this greater good, then *quod Domino placet fiat*.⁸⁰ I foresee that the Missions in Sezze and Piperno will perhaps be delayed. I write to you about this because when it comes to a question of doing a good work, I do not want the responsibility.

With reference to Father Giorgi, have no doubts; he will not be giving himself to our Society. That is what I have noted. Vocations such as these are not easy for they are recognized to be due to very, very special acts of God's mercy. I wish, nevertheless, that all would, *oratione, verbo et opere*,⁸¹ cooperate with the designs of the Lord in regard to our holy establishments. *Fides enim ex auditu, auditus autem per verbum Christi*.⁸²

The archpriest in Sermoneta will talk to you about the aggregation there and I will speak to you about the erection in Bassiano. That is why I am enclosing the petition, to save others the trouble of drawing it up. In regard to the one there, it would be a good idea to have it preserved in the archives of the Missionaries in order to maintain a better order of things. *Id autem meliori iudicio*.⁸³ You will be getting the 12 *scudi* through Canon Mancini and I give you my thanks. You probably have written to Donati concerning the 40 *scudi*. I thank the Lord for the blessings that I note from your sacred visitation in Sermoneta. I am consoled to learn that Taddei is the priest assigned to S. Angelo. The priest that is to be energetically stimulated is Father Stefano Pizzi.

Since Vincenzo is ill, I do not have him with me; however, I do have that young, tall fellow in Rome, a young man *omni exceptioni maior*.⁸⁴ Furthermore, I would like you to offer special prayers that the climate of Sermoneta will be healthy for my companions. Let this be between us so that they do not become frightened.

Also, the glory of God demands that souls be educated; so, *praesto erit nobis auxilium suum*.⁸⁵ I have recently written to the Treasurer⁸⁶ to have available for the summertime the fortress of the Duchess; I am hoping that all will go well. As something being done on your own,

⁸⁰ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

⁸¹ By prayer, word and work.

⁸² Faith is from hearing, but hearing through the word of Christ.

⁸³ But let the better judgment prevail.

⁸⁴ Greater by every exception.

⁸⁵ His help will be at hand for us.

⁸⁶ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

animate Bertini to this apostolate in the vineyard of the Lord. Father Pietro⁸⁷ who is with me, is turning out well as a preacher and is very effective in arousing compunction. St. Francis Xavier has helped him get over his timidity. He tells me, however, that the climate in that area is simply not very kind to him. I will handle things as prudently as I can together with the help of God's illumination. In the meantime, so that no one will be totally exhausted, I will be sending him there to conduct the Marian month, a good reason for our making changes. As a help, I will be sending another of our men to conduct the Retreat for the ordinands. *Gratia Dei nobiscum*.⁸⁸ While kissing your hands, most venerable Monsignor, I remain, with esteem, respect and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bassiano, April 27, 1822

As for Father Pietro, who is with me, I will be sending him there so that he can become more and more familiar with the method of preaching. I would like the ordinands to be of a certain number. I am enclosing the 12 *scudi*. Anything left over, please send to me by letter before the Papal Benediction.

3828

April 30, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno⁸⁹

Venerable Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*⁹⁰

Here I am sending a reply to your recent letter, assuring you that I received the 85 *bajocchi*. I give thanks to God for the news that you offer in regard to my good companions in our House there. I never had a doubt about their virtues in promoting the glory of God. The third companion was to be Father Pietro,⁹¹ but, since he was not eager for this appointment, I did not want to press him. The reasons that he gave me I found to be in keeping with God's will; I could not help but be respectful of them. I have already given some thought to a replacement. As soon as he comes from the Marche, within a few days you will have the holy company of the

⁸⁷ Father Pietro Torsani (cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspere*, II, letters n. 574575).

⁸⁸ The grace of God with us.

⁸⁹ The place of destination is not given, but from the context it is clear that Monsignor Manassi was still in Sermoneta.

⁹⁰ Who I love in unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁹¹ Father Pietro Torsani.

President of our House in Albano⁹² who will conduct the Retreat for the ordinands; you will assign him to that. Without subtracting any credit from the others, he is a priest that I esteem as number one in our Society because of the special gifts that he has received from God.

Exhort Father Francesco Pierantoni not to get flustered, a thing that, on principle, I am inimical to. St. Ignatius had the job of sending people to the Indies as workers and he selected only Xavier and Simon Rodriguez. That is how the works of God are born and it is only proper to note that he *misit binos, etc.*⁹³ Whoever is at the head of a Society must be obedient to the orders coming from Rome; he must establish Houses and bring about a recognition of the Society through the promotion of the ministry. So, our companions should be happy to occupy the 24 hours of each day for God, *et hoc erit ad solatium.*⁹⁴ Note also that, up to now, I myself have abstained from staying overnight in Sermoneta since the rooms were occupied. There are only six beds. Three of them are taken by the Brothers, the other three by the Lord's workers. The Retreat House presently is beginning to be activated and gradually we shall arrive at perfection. You, in your wise judgments, should seize the opportunity of bringing them to delight in those things simply for the glory of God. You might also assure Father Francesco that I value his wishes and will do all that I can to fulfill them even beyond what anyone would imagine. In the meantime, special prayers.

To my great satisfaction, I read the letter of the gonfalonier. However, I have not given further thought, at the present time, about Piperno in reference to making new adjustments. Also, I came to realize that the Mission in Sezze is not that urgent. I came to this conclusion because of the hesitation that you expressed concerning matters economical at the time that we conversed in the garden about the Mission delay. Hence I adopted the principle of *tene certum, relinque incertum.*⁹⁵

Everything has already been fixed for my visitation of the two Houses of Terracina and Sonnino where I shall stay put for a short time. In these trips, I foresee much glory to the Lord. I am no longer in a timeposition of deferring these appointments and, what is more important, the Lord is inspiring me not to change my direction. If Sezze wishes to have its Mission in the first part of June, from the information that I have, you should be sure that we have plenty of time before the harvest. On these occasions, the sickle should not stand in the way of people gaining profit from the Mission, but neither is a good work to prevent another one which is of equivalent interest. On this matter, I will be awaiting another letter from you, at least in Sonnino. After that, I will take things further.

⁹² Father Giovanni Merlini.

⁹³ He sent them two by two, etc.

⁹⁴ And this will be a consolation.

⁹⁵ Hold on to what is certain, let go what is uncertain.

As for Maenza, the only thing is getting there. They will be having their Mission at the time that they have desired. With regard to Roccagorga, you will have to give me an answer since I would like to have everything settled with reference to the trip under your jurisdiction. Then, too, I see that continuous changes are being made in Piperno and I reply to the people there that it is necessary to accept the merciful gifts of God when God orders them. That was the reply that Monsignor Albertini gave to another group in a similar case; also, that at times, for the sake of conveniences that are not always manageable, the opportunity itself is set aside. The decision for the new time suggested by the people of Piperno is dependent upon a letter that I shall be awaiting from them. If this does not occur, they will have their Mission during the upcoming winter. Without objection they will adapt to this, otherwise the devil will laugh at the excessive condescension that is shown toward people who offer *tot capita tot sententiae*.⁹⁶

I am sending you the six *scudi* for the aggregation in Rome. Pray a lot for me and let us maintain our pacts *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit sanguine*.⁹⁷ With very special affection and esteem and while kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I am and will constantly be

Your humble devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bassiano, April 30, 1822

P. S. From all of the information that I have about him and even though I would have liked to have him join us, Father Pizzi, a holy, learned and exemplary man is not one for our Society. Perhaps it might have been something acquired during his seminary training.

Though you do not need to have any suggestions from me, still I would like that, on the occasion of your visitations, you restore the observance of feastdays and that in all locations there be vicars who will stress the need for the rigor of discipline. That lack is the reason why so many are becoming more and more evil. Before your departure, do not cease inculcating our devotion, the frequenting of the Oratory and for the clergy a Retreat every year. I am hopeful that God will soon grant to us the locale of S. Francesco. I do not know whether the place where the Conventuals used to be is manageable as a House for Retreats temporarily. *Ora pro me*.⁹⁸ Do not overlook a House for penitents. It is necessary that, where you can, you promote the observance of the month of the most Precious Blood and throughout the entire year the recitation of our Chaplet on feastdays, before the benediction of the most blessed Sacrament.

⁹⁶ As many chapters as opinions.

⁹⁷ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified who redeemed us by his blood.

⁹⁸ Pray for me.

May 12, 1822
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
 Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I reserve to myself writing to you with greater precision *ad alias*.⁹⁹ What is pressing at the present times is indeed that your most illustrious and reverend lordship should bring to the attention of the most reverend Delegate¹⁰⁰ what, in the handwriting of Vicar Terenzi, I made known¹⁰¹ to you.

Here, soldiers are continuously being changed and, as a result, disorders arise because of their lodging. On the other hand, the Commune has some excellent granaries that can be adapted for barracks and everyone would be glad to lend a hand in doing whatever would be needed for this. I myself, without difficulty, would have written to Monsignor Zacchia, but I point out that a request made by the diocese can be and is of greater weight. The mail is ready to leave. Pray for me. Most illustrious and reverend lord, while kissing your hands, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 12, 1822

P. S. When you have to write to me, address it to Rome.

The Marian month in Terracina, which will be conducted by one of our new men, will turn out to be very, very fruitful.

3830

May 15, 1822
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi

⁹⁹ For another time.

¹⁰⁰ Monsignor Giuseppe Zacchia, Delegate in Frosinone.

¹⁰¹ Attached to this letter is the request of Terenzi, even though it does not bear a signature: "A memorandum to the Reverend Canon Gaspere del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, to contact his Excellency the most reverend Monsignor Giuseppe Zacchia, Apostolic Delegate, to remove from the houses in Sonnino the pernicious lodging of soldiers, taking into consideration the unbecoming things that ordinarily occur bringing scandal to the families as I have been informed by trustworthy individuals, and, without exception, to order this procedure for the administrative authority there to find a place where these men can be located, and, to remain on hand as their director and keeping an eye on them. This is what is requested by a loyal servant of your most reverend lordship, who hereby, with esteem, declares that he is N. N..."

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno¹⁰²

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

1. I have understood what you said to me about the Missions in Roccagorga and Maenza. In time, we will come to agreements with the respective pastors.

2. I judge as advantageous the copy, without expense, of the episcopal decree with respect to the erection of our Pious Union that will be preserved in the Archives of the aforementioned Pious Union existing in Bassiano. Oh how dear to me has been that Mission!

3. In the next ordinary maildelivery, I shall be writing in regard to the Mission in Sezze. We have time. In the meanwhile, extend my greetings to the gonfalonier.

4. During your visitations, continue encouraging the public recitation of our Chaplet. The more this devotion is propagated so much more will the mercies of God be accelerated.

5. It would also be a good thing there to promote the observance of the month which will begin on June 6 so as to be completed on the first Sunday of July. If you do not have a booklet for the month, have Monsignor Muccioi supply you with one. What you mention about the recitation of the rosary after the noon meal, before benediction, is something that could well be maintained. The Chaplet can be said during either the first or the last Mass. Anything more with respect to this practice, I leave to your good judgement. Canon Mancini had promised to do the preaching for the month, but at the right moment, he has withdrawn. Here is a man who is successful in the ministry. Even though he is not offering himself to our Society to which, it seems to me, God is calling him, and furthermore since he is situated in Sermoneta at the present time, it would be a desirable thing, *satis provisum*,¹⁰³ that he should be assigned to the position of Penitentiary in Terracina. Pray over this. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.¹⁰⁴

6. As for Terracina, it is not possible to say how much energy is required to pray to the Lord that he provide opportunities of finding pastors. In particular, considering the navy people involved and so many foreigners, it is surely a notable oversight on the part of our State not to provide them with a confessor *pro utroque sexu*.¹⁰⁵ What I am greatly pleased with in that young priest, now the Economist, is the cleanliness that is maintained in the church and the concern that he shows for the confraternity of Xavier. The hearts of young men, handled properly, can be easily cultivated; more difficult is the care of those already matured.

In the cathedral of Terracina, at the altar of the Blessed Sacrament, there is only a very small crucifix (I pointed this out once before) which, as a result, is not easily visible; also, in

¹⁰² From the context of this letter, it is clear that Monsignor Manassi was in Sezze.

¹⁰³ Sufficient provision.

¹⁰⁴ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

¹⁰⁵ For each sex.

some churches, there is not that splendor which neatness in holy things calls for. I believe that they are not distributing tickets for Easter. Perhaps it is because the pastor is ill, but not gravely, or perhaps also because of the disturbance following the death of his brother that has caused him not to think about this. That is my opinion.

But then, too, I cannot fully describe the respect and the affection that all have shown in general toward our Society.

7. With regard to the aforementioned city, if I were to express my opinions, I would say that until some system is discovered for handling the three Vicars General, I would hold to the principle that as long as you are not resident there, Vicar Ricelli should be in residence. That city is a city through which foreigners pass, etc. Both for the sake of good work and for the decorum of the Holy See, it is urgent to have a leader there. The present Canon Vicar, who is almost always ill, should do as much as he is capable of, but should not be in a position of ruling or of commanding. Surely, you must have spoken quite a bit with the aforementioned Vicar General. You should, therefore, be able to divide things. Perhaps, *in insipientia loquor*.¹⁰⁶

Your Vicar General might be sent away for studies. Perhaps, you will do this; I do not know. Since he is still a young man, he could be welltrained. I do not know whether there is some way of preparing him for desk work under the direction, however, of a capable and upright person. However, I would not send him to Rome.

8. I understand about the more or less favorable news concerning the school and the monastery. Certainly, taking into consideration the question of education, these are works that must be of maximum interest.

9: With reference to Sonnino, I have written to the Delegate, recommending, in a general way, everyone. We shall await the outcome. In the meanwhile, prayers. The young priest, Milza, might also be placed under the direction of some prudent person. I realize that he is talented and with the passing of time, he could do some very progressive work.

10. During your visitations, try to beseech the owners of benefices to provide funds for the erection of a House for penitents etc. or for pious places, etc.. To the benefit of your diocese, please keep this good work in mind which might be initiated first on a small scale, as you suggested when we spoke in person. The priests about whom I spoke could be afforded room and board in one of our Mission Houses. I would be hopeful of good results, because, I repeat, young people can be led forward without causing any harm to the others.

11. With regard to the funds for the nuns in Sonnino, there is a legacy of Masses along with an obligation for a procession. I do not know for sure whether in Rome they have been informed of this particular requirement. Vicar Terenzi is handling this. You might investigate. Furthermore, since the Commune there is, may I say, insolvent, it will be necessary to keep an eye on the right that it has with respect to the 500 *scudi* included in the funds of the nuns for the restoration of the building of the Mission House. Otherwise, what is to be done? Among other

¹⁰⁶ I speak in foolishness.

things, there is a roof that is totally in disrepair which, if some provision is not made, further worse damages will ensue. One must be cautious in taking possession of the monastery in Terracina. Since money is not readily available for the expenses, *saltem*¹⁰⁷ an appropriate loan should be taken out so that one good work can be achieved without standing in the way of another. In all of this, the rescripts, concerning which Vicar Terenzi, etc. can inform you, are being adhered to. Then, too, in June there will be a shift of Retreats from which, I hope, there will be more results for reconciliations. I shall be leaving for Alatri where I will conduct a Retreat for the clergy. Here, in Sonnino, one finds people that have hearts that are easily directed, even though they may be just a bit fiery; but, with the application of a little kindness, they yield.

Please note that the bishop of Veroli, an intimate friend of mine, is also going along with us to form in the Province a House for penitents which we will put under the title of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. I will share with him your ideas. Be insistent about the return of the things that belong to the church of the nuns, now, our Mission House. This is a very, very poor people.

I have set up the association for clerics. Wherever there are clerics within the area of our Mission Houses, you should require them to make an attestation etc., since presently this association is being erected wherever our Society is established. I am very pleased with the practice observed by the Archbishop of Cammerino who appointed a capable priest in each place to watch over the clerics with particular care, bringing them together once each week, in addition to providing them with meditations and the directives concerning their vesture etc., stressing study, etc. as a preparation for major orders. And that, where we do not even have a Mission House. Oh how seriously we must consider that *nemini cito manus imposueris, etc. Sint pauci et sancti, etc.*¹⁰⁸ You are acting correctly in being hesitant rather than precipitous about ordaining. You have so much good work yet to be done in these dioceses. But, be courageous and *Dominus dabit benignitatem et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.*¹⁰⁹

I presume that Vincenzo¹¹⁰ has had his wife come; otherwise, you should set a limit for him. The clerics in Sonnino have still not adapted themselves; I am referring to the mode of vesture for some, etc.. However, I have found them to be docile; the rest will be handled by the association. I am hopeful because of the docility of their hearts. During your visitations, besides checking up on the temporalities of the confraternities, also try to encourage them to the fulfillment of some sort of good work. I have annoyed you sufficiently. I should not take advantage of your kindness. Kissing your

¹⁰⁷ At least.

¹⁰⁸ You will impose hands hastily on no one, etc.. May they be poor and holy, etc.

¹⁰⁹ The Lord will give kindness and our earth will give its fruit.

¹¹⁰ Vincenzo Menicucchi, helper first of Albertini and later of Manassi (cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, IV, letter n. 1478, p. 229).

hands, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Turn ¹¹¹

Sonnino, May 12, 1822

You will have to write, in good form, to Locatelli, urging him to work hard for God and to check in his belongings for the explanations of Sacred Scripture.

Be insistent about the study of moral cases, and, as much as you can, urge the wearing of the cassock. Now that the people of Sonnino have returned, send them a pastoral letter, to be read by the local pastors, in which you encourage them to maintain their enthusiasm and use it always for the things of God. Also, in writing that, you will be making known the affection that you have for your sheep. But, now, I must confess to you a thought on my mind, and it is that I am afraid that I have been, perhaps, entirely too bothersome or eager in writing to you about all these matters etc.

Finally, I inform you that the President of this House, Father Luigi Achille, will have to have a certain amount of lime removed from the courtyard of the nuns so that it does not go bad. I told him that, for the sake of economy, he should find some man who is free and see that this is done even on a festive day, presuming your permission that this can be done then, considering all of the circumstances and also because it is concerned with a pious project etc.

I do not see any reason why the Cistercian nuns who are here cannot be taken together with those in S. Susanna in Rome, giving them their pension; I myself would, if need be, take care of this matter. Pray a lot for me. While kissing your hands, most venerable Monsignor, with greetings in Comacchio at the first opportunity, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 15, 1822

I spoke also to Vicar Terenzi about the nuns.

Here in Sonnino, too, in the Pellegrini house, where there is a chapel, I see the possibility of arranging for the lodging of one or the other retreatant.

3831

May 24, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manasai

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sezze

¹¹¹ An invitation to "turn" the page in order to continue the letter on the following page.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Chris

Venerable Monsignor

Here, as far as I can remember, is the first case when I must disappoint a Mission. This is not, however due to me: and God knows the suffering it is for me to write this letter to you. His Eminence, the Secretary of State, has ordered me to go immediately to Benevento for the Mission and this is in accordance with the mind of the Holy Father. I let them know what my appointments were, but that was to no avail. Let us adore the divine dispositions. But this will not cause us to lose our good desires nor the basic principle of getting this good work done. In another ordinary maildelivery, I shall write to the gonfalonier, to whom you will give my greetings. In the meantime, try to figure out another time that might be opportune. For my own scheduling, I would like to know that, since I cannot say often enough how the occupations of the ministry keep piling up. I have other things to say to you, but *ad alias*.¹¹² Sezze is dear to my heart and I love it for the beautiful institutions that it has, probably from the Jesuits. Asking you for very, very many prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Alatri, May 24, 1822

I believe that I mentioned to you a fund for the nuns involving Masses and a procession in Sonnino. Check with the Vicar.

3832

July 13, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved and venerable Monsignor

I must thank you for your great kindness in providing me with a coach. Because of the unfortunate thing that happened, I am unable to describe the regret I experienced in sending it back to you, as you might suspect. They tell me, however, that the screw on the wheel had not been properly adjusted.

I would like to have a confirmatory letter from you in reference to the Missions in Roccagorga and Maenza which cannot be conducted during the winter. It is necessary to be definite about the date involved. When that is decided, I will assign companions. As for Sezze

¹¹² For another time.

and Piperno, we will come to decisions *ad alias*.¹¹³ Along with Father Giorgi, I am presently occupied with the hospice for the Missionaries during autumn in Bassiano this year. In another year, I am hopeful that we will be settled in our locale. From time to time, nevertheless, we will return to Sermoneta to maintain direction of the pious organizations. A trip, from morning to evening, will be fairly easy.

For various reasons that have been proposed, there is no possibility of using the fortress of the Duchess or Duke of Sermoneta. I have two Missionaries ready to be sent to Sermoneta, but I am waiting for the temporary hospice to be readied. If Father Francesco Pierantonj should not want to go along with the plan that I will present to him, I am content with having demonstrated, indifferently to all of the companions, my concern for their health. The fainting spell experienced by one of our companions in Sermoneta has brought about a certain feeling of fear even though the incident was probably not due to the conditions of the climate. At any rate, it seems to be a prudent move to set up the hospice in Bassiano and then make trips into Sermoneta until the climate is more assuring to those individuals. The priest, delli Franci, is making strong overtures to me about joining up with us. Because of his accent, which is a bit Neapolitan, I have considered him only *in subsidium*.¹¹⁴ But now, that we have Houses located in the area where people have an ear for the Neapolitan dialect, I am sort of inspired to accept him, placing him, however, under the tutelage of Father Biagio¹¹⁵ in Frosinone. Since I am not aware of any substantial flaw in his conduct, I would not want to deprive him of taking part in this great work. His minor acts of imprudence were probably due to a lack of direction. Still, I would appreciate having your advice.

In Sonnino, thought has been given to transferring the holy Father Achille because of the condition of the streets there which are a source of quite a bit of distress for this worthy priest and, at his declining age, there is always the danger of his slipping and falling down.

Lawyer Angeli informs me that it will be necessary to have a letter of recommendation from you to his Eminence, the Prefect of the *Buon Governo*, in order to settle the matters dealing with beds for Terracina. You are aware of the needs there are for things, not luxurious things, but those that are truly needed. If the Passionist Fathers were there, the Commune would assign to them 100 *scudi*; so, the proposal made at the initial founding would be no more than most discreet. I have even suggested to our companions in Terracina that, if necessary, they should make short trips to Sonnino, etc. I leave the whole situation to the free choice of the workers who will govern themselves in keeping with the spirit of the Lord. I simply had to decide on this position. There are no words to describe the immense fruits resulting from the work in Benevento. I have left in the hands of the excellent Father Betti the solid founding of the pious

¹¹³ For another time.

¹¹⁴ For support.

¹¹⁵ Father Biagio Valentini.

organizations etc. Pray for me. Let us love each other in Jesus Christ and he will lead us, one day, into his most blessed kingdom. In case I should overlook something, I would be pleased to have you remind me. Tell me something about the pulpit in Piperno for Father Antonio Caccia.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

3833

July 27, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Friverno

Sezze

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter I wish to inform you that, in accordance with the adjustments of circumstances, I see that it will be necessary to defer the two Missions of Sezze and Piperno, making time, therefore, for the other two in Roccagorga and Maenza, since these cannot be conducted during any other season. The companions have already been assigned and in regard to this matter, I shall be awaiting your further clarification. As soon as the climate has become just a bit more refreshed, several other companions will be coming to our Houses, respectively in the locations of Terracina and Sermoneta. Right now, in this season's highest point, they are simply not accustomed to that type of weather and I am afraid that it might even be harmful for them. I will keep regulating things just as God inspires me.

As soon as Canon Betti can get to Sonnino, he will go there as its Superior. In the meantime, however, I have permitted him to remain just a bit longer in Benevento so that he can set up the pious organizations. I would like you to fix a date for a Mission, the entrance day being the feast of all Saints, for either Piperno or Sezze, and immediately the second one; what I mean to say is one should come right after the other. If you should prefer to have these two at an earlier time, be assured that I will select the most capable members, one of them being an outstanding person who is now in Pievetorina, and, within moments, could be in the Province there. If God inspires you to wait for me, then on that day *Gaudeamus omnes in Domino*,¹¹⁶ a Mission could be initiated during St. Martin's summer, as they call it. Sezze could come first. I shall be awaiting your response in Ascoli. While asking you for your prayers and kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

¹¹⁶ Let us all rejoice in the Lord.

Porto di S. Elpidio, while traveling, July 27, 1822

3834

August 26, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Soon we will be seeing each other again. Thank you for your letter concerning which we will speak more in person. Monsignor Falzacappa probably has a feeling that presently the Madame Contessa¹¹⁷ and her companions will be spending time in Terracina during the good weather in order to begin the foundation in accordance with the principles laid down by the holy Albertini; I urge you to take care of the cornerstone. For the sake of good communication, I have written about this to Canon Locatelli; but, first of all, it is desirable to have a letter of approbation from you which could bring peace of mind to the Madame Countess.

I mentioned that we would soon be seeing each other again since I have completed the work at the abbey of Forlimpopoli and, while renouncing other Missions, all I have to do is the Mission in Teramo that had been deferred. It will be conducted before winter sets in. Before that, I shall make a review of our Houses in the Province and then, unless new complications arise, I shall keep moving forward. The reason why I say this is because certain political events delayed it from being conducted at the time that had been previously set. Pray for me, most illustrious and reverend lord, and while kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

S. Felice, August 26, 1822

If Teramo should be deferred again, then we will quickly take care of Sezze. You realize that this situation arising in Teramo is not of my choice.

In regard to Forlimpopoli, there was a pious legacy that would come due, but the trip could not be made in the wintertime; however, the people in Sezze, whom I love dearly, ought not to be making remarks.

3835

September 2, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

¹¹⁷ Caterino Bentivoglio Orsi.

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Perhaps you have not received my other letters. Within days, I shall be in Rome. I am anxious to reconsider the situation in Terracina so that the House can be reopened, once the bad weather has come to an end. In the meantime, I ask you also that *omnia sint in tuto*.¹¹⁸ I have given similar instructions to Sonnino. I hope that soon I will be dwelling in a place of retirement; in that way, during the summer, there will be no further interruption. Using mounts, the Missionaries will be able to be on hand to take care of the needs of the people and there, in my way of thinking, the presence of the guards would be sufficient, I will check with the Treasurer.¹¹⁹ In your charity, meanwhile, see that a place of asylum is not lacking. Pray for me.

I will be looking forward anxiously in Rome to see your handwriting again and perhaps, who knows, we may be able to settle things in regard to Piperno or Sezze. I shall see what I can do, but, meanwhile Teramo happens to be somewhat of an imbroglio. In Rome, I shall try to adjust things.

I kiss your hands. As I have no doubt that you will do so, try to procure as many acts of suffrage as you can for our deceased companion.¹²⁰ I shall not be sending any others of our men to Sermoneta until the weather settles down. That is not so with regard to Sonnino. Once again, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

S. Felice, September 2, 1822

I would like to have the response of the *Buon Governo* with respect to the beds for the House in Terracina, or at least, some news about it.

3836

September 6, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With pleasure did I receive one of your letters of the 19th of this past month. Because of

¹¹⁸ May everything be on the safe side.

¹¹⁹ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

¹²⁰ Father Turribio Lenta who died on August 17, 1822 in Sonnino (Latina).

the indescribable affection and esteem that I hold for your most illustrious and reverend lordship, I am sending an immediate reply. Everything is all right with respect to what you mentioned to me. Within a very short time, I shall be in Rome and then, if it pleases the Lord, quickly to check on our tender plants.

As for the Missions, things will be done as you say. In the meantime, in regard to the ones in Maenza and Roccagorga, I have given pertinent instructions to Father Biagio¹²¹ in Frosinone with whom you will get along in perfect agreement. Be assured that the three members who will be coming will do a great work. Father Luigi Mosconi will conduct the Retreat for the clergy. The ones in Sermoneta and in Sonnino turned out to be very successful and the same will follow in Maenza and Roccagorga. Souls will be offered to Jesus. Let us become saints. Oh! How much good work you are doing! The resurgence of your dioceses will be very noticeable. Where the need is greatest, so much the more is God glorified. Take good care of yourself and pray for the one who, while kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, remains wholeheartedly with esteem and particular affection as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3837

September 20, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Oh how truly pleased I always am to see your handwriting again and even more to note the remembrance you continue to have of me with the Lord. Oh may the fire of holy divine love make us all for Jesus and stimulate us to the accomplishment of great things, suffering for his glory!

I am happy to hear that you are enjoying good health and I desire that it continue to be ever prosperous for the benefit of the souls there whose cultivation will be productive of that greater merit that correlates with the greater needs.

I will set aside everything else in order to adhere to your concerns with reference to Sezze, a city that is very, very dear to my heart. On Sunday, October 6th, the solemnity of the Holy Rosary, if I am not mistaken, the opening can be held. This is the closest time that I can suggest; furthermore, at that time, the days selected are better and we come just a bit closer to the desires of the people of Sezze. If you approve of this decision, I beg you to please send me your response quickly for my own scheduling and then you can announce it to that city without any

¹²¹ Father Biagio Valentini.

further notice.

Within days, some new workers will be arriving. *Laus Deo in omnibus.*¹²²

With regard to the monastery in Terracina, once the climate has cleared up, what you consider prudent will be done. The Countess¹²³ is an obedient child of Monsignor Falzacappa as well as of your most illustrious and reverend lordship. This lady, because of the lengthy conferences she had with our common father, is fully knowledgeable of the regulations for the foundation; however, it will be necessary to bring every line to the center. I knew nothing about what you indicated to me. Oh how happy, indeed, I will be with the observance of the anniversary of our holy Albertini in November and see the inscription which you, in your goodness, will have affixed to his grave!

I sympathize with you in your anguish about Terracina. However, let us not become discouraged. It is our belief that God will not abandon us *in necessariis*;¹²⁴ hence, I am hopeful that as the fruit of our prayers, of our actions and of our zeal, the fulfillment of your holy desires will come about.

I would not want the installation delayed because of the new problem that has arisen concerning the school. With difficulty will the Chapter renounce its rights. Furthermore, since the Community has means available, why not apply them to this holy purpose? It will be necessary, furthermore, to make use of the services of your representative Vizzeri, exercising the most energetic activity. In that way, he could effect the good work of seeing the Franciscan community restored, thus providing more confessors, more help in behalf of souls. In everything, it is better to leave these things to your good judgment. Pray a lot for me. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, and with esteem and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, September 20, 1822

3838

September 25, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Vnerable Monsignor

For the novena in honor of Xavier, our communities have a Retreat in order not to be

¹²² Praise to God in all things.

¹²³ Caterina Bentivoglio Orsi.

¹²⁴ In necessary things.

forgetful of the sayings of St. Bernard, etc., etc.. I feel inspired that for our community Retreat in Albano, they would be favored by having your most illustrious and reverend lordship; this could also serve as our annual Retreat. Please do not deny me this favor because of the affection that you have for Xavier. I shall be awaiting a favorable reply. I shall, of course, send you our *direttorio*. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

September 25, 1822

P.S. Oh what a great benefit it would be if you were to be on hand for the Mission in Sezze. With the bishop present, the activities take on a greater vigor; then, too, ten days in Rome could be quite sufficient for you. Pray over this and you will hear the voice of Jesus.

3839

September 28, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The Mission in Sezze will begin on the 6th. Tomorrow, I shall send instructions to the Vicar General. In reference to your participation, *quod Domino placet fiat*.¹²⁵ With regard to Piperno, some agreement will be reached at the time when I will be in Sezze. I, myself, shall correspond with the Vicar in Maenza and Rocagorga and together with Vicar Ricelli to work something out so that in October the people there will also have a Mission.

As for the Retreat in Albano, where almost all of the Missionaries in the Province of Campagna will be coming together, I ask you very earnestly again not to deny me this favor. I know that you conducted one at the *Divino Amore* last year. With little change, those same doctrines can be adapted to our community. After I receive your next letter, the *direttorio*, that I will be sending to you, points out conveniently the topics to be touched upon, in keeping with the basic principles laid down by our common father. Have no doubts, everything will go along well and even you will draw profit from those few days of quiet, just as St. Charles did. St. Francis de Sales says that condescension is the flower of charity! So, please show this toward my humble pleas which I consider very precious, being mindful of our devotion to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ through whose love I make my earnest request, as best as I know how and to the extent that I am capable of, though not presuming any exclusive rights. Just the life of Xavier alone what an immense field for reform in our spirits! Things will be arranged so that you

¹²⁵ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

yourself will not be burdened with the least expense. For this most important project of the Retreat, please make this sacrifice; the Lord will reciprocate. Just a glance from you toward the image of Xavier will be sufficient to get you to yield to this. Our companions, in just hearing that you said no, were deeply saddened. You are a goodhearted person; please do not say no. In one of your letters, send your consoling response to my house.

It will be necessary for you to draw up a petition to the Treasurer¹²⁶ in behalf of your representative Donati who presently is acting as bookkeeper in the customhouse and the bookkeeper is serving as governor while that position is vacant; warmly recommend that he grant some sort of assistance or extraordinary act of recognition as a help to that man in his career. Try to use your influence in this good work.

A thousand greetings to Monsignor Virgilj. Tell him that, in order for him to have in Comacchio a Capuchin with those qualities etc., he will have to discuss it with the General in Rome. It seems to me that he was looking for a preacher. Through the kindness of that same bishop, he can extend my respects to those holy workers in Comacchio, to your brotherinlaw, urging all of them to look after the pious organizations. I kiss your hands, Venerable Monsignor, and with very special affection, I am and will be, in Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*¹²⁷

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Albano, September 28, 1822

3840

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Albano, September 29¹²⁸

I am supplying for an oversight of mine. Father Pietro Pellegrini asks that, when the school in Terracina opens, your most illustrious and reverend lordship lend your assistance as best as you can in behalf of one of his brothers concerning whom Canon Locatelli knows that because of the lack of space in the house, he would like to have him entered in the school. The loss of Father Turribio also makes this provision even more necessary for the petitioner. If ever you should find this assistance possible, you would gain much merit in the eyes of God. So, now,

¹²⁶ Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

¹²⁷ Who redeemed us by his blood.

¹²⁸ The year is missing, but it is certainly 1822.

I have taken care of that urgent duty; we can be certain that God will, in any case, reward us for our good desires.

The anticipation about the Mission in Sezze, which will begin on the 6th, will cause perhaps, who knows, a bit of variation with regard to the one in Piperno. I do not know. We will come to an agreement. Maenza¹²⁹ and Roccagorga will have theirs around the middle of October. But, as for the one in Piperno, we will discuss that more at the time when I will be in Sezze. However, the Retreat in Albano is certainly affirmative. In compensation for your kindness, I shall see that many prayers are offered for you. God wants you to conduct this Retreat. I kiss your hands. Constantly, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Tomorrow, I shall be leaving for Velletri.

3841

Middle of October, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Dear Monsignor

Hail etc.

I would like to know whether you will favor us by conducting the Retreat in Albano. Just send me a line or so here in Sezze so that I can make the arrangements.¹³⁰ Also, please write to Donati that I will be passing through Terracina. I would be seeking only lodging. On Saturday,

¹²⁹ Among the letters of St. Gaspar to Manassi, a letter from the gonfalonier of Maenza is found, dated September 19, 1822. In it, he asks the bishop, because of evident reasons of illness among the people and the workers for the wine harvest, to reschedule the Mission from September 22 to the first part of November of the same year. St. Gaspar agrees here to moving it to the middle of October.

¹³⁰ Here is Manassi's reply: "To Canon del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, October 16, 1822, Sezze. In your recent letter that I have received, you asked whether I would be coming to Albano to conduct the Retreat. In another letter, I already gave you an answer that I did not have the courage to refuse your gentle words that expressed for me the divine will. So, I will be coming to Albano at the time that you will indicate. For the trip, if possible, I will make arrangements with the mailcoach to Rome. After you give some thought to whether I, who only in a miserable way could carry out the aforementioned assignment, should face the danger of running into brigands, incur expenses involved for the trip which I would not be able to bear, especially expenses for food for me and a helper whom I would have to bring along with me, perhaps your reverence might judge it to be more prudent to excuse me this time. But, frankly, handle things as God inspires you and then write to me. *Secundum hominem*, I would prefer to remain at home than to take on this traveling etc".

the papal blessing will be given.¹³¹ I shall leave the indulgence available also for Sunday, since I would like to remove any occasion at all for those who are drunkards, I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

With regard to Piperno, *ad alias*.¹³²

3842

October 21, 1822

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am asking you to have on hand for me, through the services of your representative, four mounts at the place of the Capuchin Fathers in Piperno. I shall be there tomorrow morning at the earliest possible time so that, after a bit of refreshment with those Fathers, without any temporal cost to them, I shall continue my travel toward Veroli or Alatri, depending upon the information that I will get. It will be sufficient that the Capuchin Fathers, whom you will please inform beforehand, advise me as to what is generally spent for mounts. Of the four mounts, one will be used as a packhorse. Anything further, *ad alias*.¹³³ I shall not be coming to the episcopal headquarters, since, in time, I will be there to conduct the Mission, so now it is better simply to pass through *in abscondito*.¹³⁴ Asking you for your prayers, most illustrious and reverend lord, and kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, October 21, 1822

Tell the Capuchin Fathers to have a man available for me since I will have to send him etc. Excuse all the inconveniences I cause you.

¹³¹ This letter was written during the Mission in Sezze which was concluded on SaturdaySunday, the 19th20th of October, 1822. Monsignor Manassi sent his answer to St. Gaspar on October 16th. But, a day or so before that, St. Gaspar had written this letter which we, tentatively date around October 15th.

¹³² For another time.

¹³³ For another time.

¹³⁴ In hiding.

3843

March 7, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

A couple of lines in a hurry. In Maenza, they would like to have one of our members who would be able to handle the sermon on the Passion and conduct the Three Hours devotion. I will look into one for Piperno, but for Maenza, I would think that Canon Locatelli could substitute since it would be a day of freedom from his school duties and Canon Rossi or someone else in your judgment, could supply for him there. I would appreciate a line or so from you in reply.

The Missions in Piperno and Maenza will be conducted simultaneously and the Lord will bless them. Two workers are situated in Maenza and we are three in Piperno. It will all be considered as a single Mission and things will be worked out with the greatest possible triumph to the glory of the Lord. Fr. Biagio¹³⁵ will be of assistance to the nuns. We have a sufficient number of confessors; if necessary, we will get others. Even after the papal blessing is given, two Missionaries will stay on in Piperno and one in Maenza to handle anything else that may come up. Now that the diocese has been covered, later on the House in Sonnino as well as the others, will respectively continue giving visitation sermons *ut fructus maneat etc.*¹³⁶ Oh how famished the people are for the word of God! Venerable Monsignor, while asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno, March 7, 1823

P. S. I have already sent the stone to Rome. We will check, etc. Also, see that Canon Locatelli has the mounts ready on time.

3844

March 14, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In attestation of my perfect satisfaction with the assistance given by your men there, in

¹³⁵ Father Biagio Valentini.

¹³⁶ In order that the fruit remain.

particular, by Canon Giusti, I leave with you, before I depart, this short note so that you will recognize the great concern we are showing for your entire diocese, but presently here in Piperno, fulfilling your wishes. Venerable Monsignor, though in a hurry, I remain, in the meantime, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piperno, March 14, 1823

3845

March 15, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The opening of our House in Benevento and the designation of Father Luigi Mosconi to that very important foundation causes me to ask you to be content that I bring to a close there the final sermons of the Lenten series. I am writing to you: 1. out of a sense of duty; 2. in order that no negative interpretation be given to this situation, for I am ready to give an explanation for it from the preaching platform; 3. in order that no crossing come to the excellent Father Luigi Mosconi who, though a very virtuous person, I would not like to see him give a negative interpretation to this situation. If God had not endowed him with a mature sense of judgment, etc. he would not be one assigned to Benevento, a central foundation in the Kingdom of Naples, where God is offering a broad field of work to be done. This member will be going there with the position of Director of Missions, conductor of Retreats for the clergy and other things etc. This man, full of exemplary docility, has written to me that he is set to go there, but that first he has to go to Rome. So, now that things are moving along hurriedly, I will have to give him the opportunity of making that trip. He also will be able to spend the days of Holy Week in Albano and on Holy Saturday to be in Rome. If these suggestions, based on the reasons asserted, should not be acceptable, *quod Domino placet fiat*.¹³⁷

I add that other matters dealing with our Society are beckoning me there and everything should be able to be handled well. Share this letter of mine with Father Luigi, telling him that I have written it directly to you so that everything would proceed in accordance with pertinent regulations. Fr. Biagio¹³⁸ and I are expecting to be there around Palm Sunday so that Father Luigi then can depart on Monday morning, arranging for the carriage to Albano, where, I repeat, he

¹³⁷ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

¹³⁸ Father Biagio Valentini.

will remain until all of Holy Saturday morning, so that he can be in Rome that evening. Asking you for your prayers, venerable Monsignor, with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

March 15, 1823

P. S. In addition to what has been written above, I add, while I am traveling, the request that you do me the favor of informing the Mission House there that they should have two clean beds, with clean bed sheets and blankets ready. Indeed, it would be a good idea if you, yourself, most illustrious and reverend lord, were to look into this so that everything would be carefully carried out; that is to say, that the rooms be swept out with great exactitude and that the beds be remade from head to foot since the Canon is a holy stickler for the cleanliness of De Sales. I hope that I have explained myself clearly with regard to the beds, for I intend to see that, being wornout, they are immediately whitened and redone.

We chuckle to the glory of God.¹³⁹

3846

March 22, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor¹⁴⁰

¹³⁹ This entire postscript is written by Father Biagio Valentini.

¹⁴⁰ This letter is not dated. The postal markings are: "Frosinone" and "March 22". The first is the marking for the point of departure and the second for the time of arrival. We date the letter March 22nd. During the years of Manassi's episcopacy (1820-1826), the years during which St. Gaspar was in Frosinone or in the environs of that city are three: 1823, 1824 and 1825. The most probable year for this letter is 1823. In fact, in the middle of March of 1823, St. Gaspar went to preach the Retreat in the seminary of Veroli; that explains the postal marking: "Frosinone". Furthermore, at Eastertide in 1823, and we know this with certainty, (cfr. letter n. 3848), Father Camillo Rossi was located in Sonnino. Unfortunately, the books in the archives of the House in Sonnino cannot help us resolve the problem, because only with Merlini did they begin to keep a record of the House meetings. However, Merlini was in residence in Sonnino after Rossi. A confirmation of the previously mentioned date comes from a listing of the Missionaries who succeeded each other in the House in Sonnino, drawn up by the commissioner Giuseppe Alciati on August 21, 1825. Here is how he has listed them: "1. Fr. Luigi Achile. 2. Fr. Pietro Pellegrini. 3. Fr. Pietro Torsani. 4. Fr. Luigi Moscatelli. 5. Fr. Turrilio Lenta. 6. Fr. Francesco Traietti. 7. Fr. Camillo Rossi. 8. Fr. Marcellino Brandimarte. 9. Fr. Giovanni Merlini. 10. Fr. Filippo Galli. 11. Fr. Gaspare Carboneri. 12. Fr. Pasquale Aloysi. 13. Fr. Domenico Silvestri, who is still here in residence". (cfr. *ASF, Delegazione*, where reports generally hostile to the Missionaries to the Apostolic Delegate of Frosinone with reference to the Mission Houses in Sonnino, Terracina, Vallecorsa and Frosinone are located). If one keeps in mind that Fr. Turrilio Lenta died in Sonnino on August 17, 1822 and that Fr. Marcellino Brandimarte concluded his residence in Sonnino during Lent of 1824 (cfr. letter n. 3890) it is evident that the year of Rossi's residence in Sonnino, during the episcopacy of Manassi, in all probability was the year 1823.

As a particular favor, I ask you to send to Sonnino, to Missionary Superior Father Camillo Rossi, five *scudi* with a receipt delivered to Father Biagio¹⁴¹ who will reimburse you immediately. In the greatest hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

3847

March 26, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have spoken to Assorati. The singing called for in the Three Hours Devotion cannot be done. So, we will follow the practice followed in our Missions, namely, using devout invocations, etc.. Assisting with this will be Assorati. Please see that a small, layered table is placed on the preaching platform. It is to be used during the abovementioned service. On it, there is to be an erect candle supported by a small but rather sturdy candle holder so that it will stay in place. Likewise, the Calvary scene should be arranged on the main altar. The church is to remain in darkness, that is to say, the windows are to be draped and there is to be some sort of illumination lighting up the Calvary scene. The wood of the Cross is to be prepared for the closing function and everything should be lined up well in the sacristy. Thus, when I give the signal, before beginning the service, it can be brought out for the people to view.

Tomorrow, after the *Ave Maria* hour, when the time for preaching on the Passion is scheduled, the server is to come and tell me. After a short exordium, the bare Cross, with the customary accompaniment, is to appear before the altar. At the conclusion of the sermon, the Crucifix is to be unveiled on the preaching platform. I would like to know whether the two collections for the holy places in Jerusalem or for some other purpose, will be taken up; also, whether, after the noonmeal on Easter, there is to be a sermon; finally, *et quid agatur*¹⁴² on the other two festive days and whether a collection is taken up on them as usual. I ask you to be exact for the sake of the one who will have to handle things, since functions relating to the Lord must be done with perfection, *sine etc.*¹⁴³

¹⁴¹ Fr. Biagio Valentini.

¹⁴² And what should be.

¹⁴³ Without, etc..

March 26¹⁴⁴

3848

April 7, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

The Three Hours Agony devotion in Sonnino was held in the church where the Missionaries are functioning. Our letters did not arrive on time; the change in decision must have caused some disturbance; furthermore, it is not the obligation of the Lenten preacher to conduct the Three Hours, but rather that of the Institute. So, I do not see any disorder in the solution, especially since Father Camillo Rossi wrote to me that he first recommended himself to the Lord with lengthy prayer.

The offerings for the Holy Souls came to around 80 *scudi*. Laus Deo. I can assure you that, without meaning any harm to anyone else, Missionary Rossi's soul is a beautiful one and very much in union with God. The Lord supports this worker in a vary wonderful way; I have noted this for quite some time. Pray a lot for me. Canon Bertini is in Sermoneta. I am awaiting further clarification from the nuns in Sezze. I kiss your hands, and, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain in the adorable Heart of Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.¹⁴⁵

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 7, 1823

3849

April 24, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With indescribable pleasure I have received your letter of the current 21st and even though I recognize that I am incapable of giving advice, nevertheless, for the sake of the record, I

¹⁴⁴ The letter does not show the place of the sender and there is no address. Nevertheless, it is certain from the letter of March 15th that St. Gaspar was in Terracina for Holy Week (March 2330). (Cfr. also *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, II, letter n. 695). Hence, without doubt, this letter was written in Terracina and sent by hand to Manassi who was in that same city.

¹⁴⁵ Who redeemed us by his blood.

shall say what lies in the depths of my heart with regard to the two questions you proposed.

In reference to the first question, I would never agree to the secularization of the Bonacci nun; rather, I would occupy myself in praying a lot to God for the ways to be thoroughly cleared so that, with the passage of time, she might be able to return either to the monastery or to some other place conducted by that same Institute. In making a decision, it is a solid principle to follow, namely, to take note that being with one group of people, the soul gets a new hold on itself and does not lose its equilibrium, whereas, being with another community, it loses control, and both it and the community are upset. So, from the very beginning, and dealing mainly in the external order, a good balance, in the De Sales manner, is called for to restore order in everything. *Pro interim*,¹⁴⁶ I would suggest that she remain where she is; in the meanwhile, I would keep an eye on the situation to see whether, experimentally, it is workable *saltem ad tempus*.¹⁴⁷ If it does not work, then it will be necessary to take a second step; assign the person to a place where there is no *clausura*. Finally, once the situation seems to be lost, I would try to handle the matter in a still more orderly fashion by directing her to work with the Maestre Pie, *debitis modis*,¹⁴⁸ so that when the circumstances are tempered and improved, that soul *redeat ad locum*;¹⁴⁹ by that I mean to her rule, to its observance, even though she is moving about *extra clausura*! You point out to me that it will not be overlooked.

I have read in Rodriguez that at one time a single Prior was sufficient for 100 monks. But now, at times, 100 Priors are not sufficient for one monk. Let us make an application of this. The defect lies in us because (speaking in a general way) we do not have a proper understanding of perfection. You are the teacher. *Intelligenti pauca*.¹⁵⁰ The ones who have jaundice see everything as yellow, but the defect is not in the object but rather within the person who is ill. Prayer, time, counsel and the divine Word will improve things. In the meantime, may God pardon our ignorance and our wretchedness.

In reference to the second question, I praise you generously for your gentleness *in regimine animarum quas acquisivit Dominus Sanguine suo*.¹⁵¹ Oh! who is capable of telling in detail or describing in words the love of a good shepherd towards his sheep! May the Lord increase ever more and more your holy principles of action. Indeed, in being limited to around 15 days for a religious Retreat in a monastery, along with your other customary very religious

¹⁴⁶ For the time being.

¹⁴⁷ At least for another time.

¹⁴⁸ In the required manners.

¹⁴⁹ It shall return to the place.

¹⁵⁰ A few times for the one who understands.

¹⁵¹ In the direction of souls which the Lord acquired by his Blood.

prescriptions, I find in this no difficulty in my mind. Add, also, that this will be for you a brief respite for refreshing your strength so that you can carry out well the duties of your laborious office, and, in making this trip, God will afford you time to propagate our devotion and procure for yourself spiritual aids to handle better the responsibilities of your flock, etc., etc..

So, fortify yourself beforehand with our booklets and with a copy of the month of June so that with this supply of things you will then be given special assistance by God. You will be able to acquaint other bishops, whom you may run into, with our Institute, and, who knows, perhaps God will have you bring forth one or the other new worker.

Those programs for the glory of God which you might not have been able to conclude during your brief stay, you can develop later on *et Dominus erit tecum*.¹⁵² At the shrine of Monte Casino, you can pray for the pastoral visitation of your cocathedrals, which I have no doubt you will carry out quite soon. You will not fail to make an unexpected trip or so, *si optio dabitur*,¹⁵³ now to one place, now to another, to find out, wherever the visitation is made, whether the decrees are being observed, *et magnum fructum afferes*.¹⁵⁴ Finally, you will not be forgetful of my poor soul, *quam enixe tuis precibus commendo: unam enim petii a Domino, etc.*¹⁵⁵

Also, I am surprised about the architect's delay, to whom I shall write *fuso calamo*,¹⁵⁶ and I hope to reach some agreement. I sent your very kind letter to the reverend Delegate, along with my prayers, through the services of Ranaldi in Sonnino. When the opportunity is offered, please instruct the Archpriest of Maenza to be insistent, *totis viribus*,¹⁵⁷ about the success of the matter in behalf of the postulant.

On Saturday night, I expect to be in Sezze for the Retreat. Accompany me with your prayers and blessing.

In view of the fact that I would like to have the remains of the nowdeceased Father Turribio in our church, S. Maria delle Canne, I, therefore, request that you write about this to the Archpriest Ruggeri, who is very fond of us. I have no doubt that he will receive this request of ours with a spirit of condescension, especially since it is supported by your mediation. It is understood that the parish church will not bear any expense.

¹⁵² And the Lord will be with you.

¹⁵³ If the option will be given.

¹⁵⁴ And you will offer great fruit.

¹⁵⁵ Which I eagerly commend to your prayers: for one thing I have asked of the Lord, etc..

¹⁵⁶ With a free flowing pen.

¹⁵⁷ With all strengths.

Most illustrious and reverend lord, I kiss your hands. Pray for me *sine intermissione*.¹⁵⁸
 With esteem and very special affection, I remain
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. d. B.
 M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 24, 1823

P. S. I wrote to Monsignor Muccioli that you would send him the information about Albertini.

Turn.¹⁵⁹

P. S. In accordance with the present practice of the Penitentiary with regard to faculties, I am informing our companions of the added condition: *de consensu ordinarii*.¹⁶⁰ Now, I would like you to authorize me, in your name, to see that this condition is verified.

I have received a letter from Rome in which I am assured of the arrival of the architect. Please make out the entire account with him also with regard to the regalia that you need. In the meantime, I have had him draw up a bill for expenses so that this work is not delayed. Later, you can add the expense for the urn and anything else etc. Then, we can settle things in another letter. I am, once again, I urge you to be concerned about the matters involving our three Houses etc. *Ora pro me*.¹⁶¹ In the transferral, work it out with some sort of service. I will be helping you from a distance, but I must confess to you that it would have been too taxing on my sensibilities to be there assisting you, for I would not be able to keep from falling apart. Still, I realize that I will not be able to be present with you etc. because of other commitments made for the glory of God.

3850

April 29, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

Thank you for your letter. You are of the opinion that I have come here principally for the monastery of the Sagra Famiglia, but everything is to the contrary. The dioceses of the Holy Founder of our Institute are very, very dear to me furthermore, it is you yourself, who is

¹⁵⁸ Without intermission.

¹⁵⁹ The usual invitation to turn the page for a continuation of the letter.

¹⁶⁰ About the agreement of the Ordinary.

¹⁶¹ Pray for me.

deserving of every regard, that urges me to fulfill your wishes.

I recommend to you a certain priest Valentini¹⁶² who is experiencing some ups and downs. I shall not enter into the merits of the case with which I am not fully acquainted. Still, from what I have learned, there could be in all a mistaken understanding and not malice of heart. I am speaking of those who are the opponents. If I am in the wrong, still it would appear to be opportune to bring these matters to a conclusion and to a peaceful settlement.

Also, it would be a good idea for you to be ever insistent about the return of the Jesuits to Sezze. As you probably have already done, occupy yourself with this matter strenuously. With the delay of time, patience, *dummodo obtineatur finis*.¹⁶³

You are probably acquainted with the President of the association of Xavier here in Sezze, a precious young man. You might encourage him by appearing at times at the Oratory, just as Cardinal Mattei used to do in Velletri.

I shall be sending another worker for the Retreat in the seminary during the novena of S. Luigi. I kiss your hands and, while renewing the sentiments of my true esteem and special affection for you, I state once again that in the most lovable Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Sezze, April 29¹⁶⁴

¹⁶² This is a priest in Sezze whose name was Lorenzo.

¹⁶³ As long as the end is obtained.

¹⁶⁴ The year is 1823.