

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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3851

May 1, 1823  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The Mother Vicar of the Monastery of the *Sagra Famiglia*, during these recent days elected the Superior of that Monastery, urgently recommends the enclosed matter to you. I cannot describe the dejection of spirit in which she finds herself. I have tried and I keep trying to comfort her, but certainly after the eight months since the case has been awaiting a solution and brought to a conclusion with benignity, this would be the source of great comfort for her. I have no doubt that you will not fail to make use of those means which could bring things to a tranquil solution which is something so necessary even to put a stop to all the remarks that continue to be made as a defense, etc.. I will not be able to be of assistance in this situation, except by recommending it sincerely to the Lord. I kiss your hands and, most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, May 1, 1823

P. S. If, for the next ordination time, there are ordinands for the Retreat in Sermoneta, or elsewhere, please give me that information. Also, I would like to take the liberty of advising you, yourself, to conduct the Retreat in your seminary in Sezze, during the novena of S. Luigi. The young students there are your spiritual children. Try to go along with this sentiment of mine which I feel stimulated to express.

3852

May 5, 1823  
 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 I am sending a reply to your letter, and I begin by assuring you that it is the greatest pleasure to see your handwriting often.

I understand what you tell me concerning the transferral of the remains of our Holy Founder, and I am very content to learn that you, once the work is totally completed, will conduct a funeral service which I would like to see done with the greatest decorum possible. If it is possible, I, myself would like to participate by providing six appropriate candles which (as a particular favor to me) you will have made at my expense; inform Fr. Biagio<sup>1</sup> of the cost so that he can reimburse you. Also, I would like you, yourself, to deliver the eulogy; you will be able to get quite a bit of information from Canon Locatelli. I would set this pious service on the anniversary, may it please God. I say this, not to contradict your desires which I respect and even consider as commands, but only because I have commitments and appointments throughout all the days of June. I would have scruples, I might even say, if you were to refuse me under other circumstances or situations. If this undertaking should turn out to be too much for you, then encourage Canon Locatelli himself, for he will quickly acquiesce.

Since there is still time yet, the aforementioned Canon could learn even more particular details, contacting Monsignor Muccioli by letter. I repeat, however, that the more interesting facts are already known to the aforementioned Canon. You should see that word about the funeral service is spread throughout the city. The Commune could honor him and also show him a sign of its admiration on this occasion by making an offering of a bit of wax. Not to be lacking is the appropriate tolling of the bells and, at the new monument, on that occasion of the public function, lights should illuminate it. I expect great good to flow from this service.

Thank you for your interest in Canon Valentini.<sup>2</sup> I am sure that you will do all you can to help him, since already for several months now he has been suffering a number of disturbances to his health. A bishop who is also a father will do a merciful work; he will recommend him to anyone who can be helpful.

It appears that the Lord is inspiring me to draw up a listing of some of the matters to be looked into for the greater good of these dioceses; this will also be something to be pondered over by you in prayer.

Finally, how delighted I would be if I were able to accomplish there the foundation as it has been done in Albano. If only there could be a plan for examining whether the entire habitation, *olim*<sup>3</sup> the convent of the other religious Institutes near the church of the Annunziata, could be made available. The place would then become a Retreat house used during the summertime. See whether God is giving you some particular inspiration. If this were to occur,

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<sup>1</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

<sup>2</sup> Father Lorenzo Valentini, a priest in Sezze.

<sup>3</sup> Formerly.

our number would increase and even the material benefits to this location would do so too. I kiss your hands. The rest you can read in the depths of my heart. Be happy in the Lord for your soul is dear to God and the desires that you cherish are distinct attestations of the greater good that you will promote in these dioceses. Please let me know whether you will do the favor of giving the conferences to the seminarians for the novena in honor of S. Luigi. Most illustrious and reverend lord, I remain constantly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Sezze, May 5, 1823

3853

May 13, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

I thank you very sincerely for the kindness that you show toward me *et Dominus retribuet pro me et in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.<sup>4</sup>

Canon Bertini in Sermoneta will train the seminarian for ordination and I pray to God that he will be endowed with a special zeal for our most beloved Lord.

It was, in truth, my idea that you should conduct the Retreat in the seminary and I am consoled to see that your spirit is inclined to do this good work. However, if, as you read this letter, you might have changed your mind, which I feel would not be so, please let me know, for in that case I would send one of our men, capable of this work, around the end of the month. I shall be awaiting your reply. Otherwise, I, myself, will take care of it.

With reference to the Retreat in Sermoneta, if you are absolutely unable to handle it, another of our men will supply. But, first, I would like to have another, more decisive letter from you, after you have invoked, just a bit more, the Divine, Holy Spirit.

Thank you for your interest in Canon Valentini.<sup>5</sup> The Lord wishes that we also take care of this sort of work, namely, to console the afflicted. When we see each other in person, I can tell you many things about this situation, but not in a letter. Substantially, there is much reason for concluding that Valentini merits a benign consideration. Still, I note in him a need for greater

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<sup>4</sup> And the Lord will repay on my behalf in sweet blessings.

<sup>5</sup> Father Lorenzo Valentini, a priest in Sezze.

learning, etc., etc.. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>6</sup> Continue to help him.

As much as I can, I, too, recommend Roberti of the Mission and I am impressed with his edifying conduct in that religious community.

I have already had a statement of gratitude sent to architect Concioli, wishing to avoid, as far as possible, taking on any further obligations. As for the other things that you wrote to me, I must say that Locatelli has written nothing about them; he altogether sets aside your pious wishes. I do not care to correspond by mail with him about this. Please remain aloof from him and, as for me, do whatever the Lord inspires you to do. I think that you know that temporalities do not distress me, and, in this regard, I must do nothing more than to admire your very singular goodness and kindness, observing precise order and system in whatever pertains to you. At a time when I have a bit more liberty, I shall write about other things.

What is presently urgent is indeed to keep you informed, just as the Vicar did, when in S. Chiara<sup>7</sup> they gave life to a greater exactitude in observing the rule of Monsignor Argelati,<sup>8</sup> at least for a while. Inevitable was the election of officers and the emphasis on exactitude in the observance of the *clausura*. After receiving novices who were preparing themselves for solemn vows in an Institute of perpetual *clausura*, it was likewise indispensable to have a preceding investigation. But the flood of permissions that were being granted was not in the least an acceptable procedure. However, everything has been done in holy harmony and contentment of the nuns themselves. So, I am hopeful that the Lord will be pleased with that perfection of rule to which one must aspire.

I suggested, further, that black drapes should be hung over the grates just as is stated in the very rule of benign reform itself drawn up by the aforementioned Monsignor Argelati. In every case, the approval of your Vicar, Ricelli, was invoked, in addition to what the rule clearly directs. I, as extraordinary minister, was not called upon to make a spiritual review of those regulations, but I could not, in good conscience, remain silent. I refused to be present for any of the elective processes. I simply enjoined them to pray and everything turned out very well. A certain M. Celeste de Angelis won the election and, without my being prejudicial about any of the others, she is a person of singular humility. I have prepared the paths to a perfect community living. *Si optio dabitur*,<sup>9</sup> we will say more in person. Pray a lot for me *ut Dominus det mihi*

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<sup>6</sup> Enough of this.

<sup>7</sup> Monastery of S. Chiara in Sezze where St. Gaspar was the extraordinary minister from the end of April to the first part of May, 1823, linking with it also the Monastery of the Sacra Famiglia (cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, II, letter n. 708).

<sup>8</sup> Msgr. Michele Argelati (Firenze, November 15, 1743 – Terracina, March 21, 1805) of the Order of the Servants of Mary, was bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno from August 11, 1800 until the time of his death in 1805.

<sup>9</sup> If the option will be given.

*divitias sui amoris, in quo spes gaudium et quies adinvenitur.*<sup>10</sup> Take good care of your health, and with the fullness of esteem, respect and most cordial affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Prossedi, May 13, 1823

3854

May 15, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Canon Bernardini, who also would like to have a meeting with me in the convent in Sezze, is disposed to renounce his curacy as long as he is provided with another means of livelihood. He is not keeping his things in Sonnino and the political situation there does not permit him to return. He has written to me that he would like to be given the presently vacant canonry, promising to live with the Missionaries, as long as is deemed expedient. I say "as long as is deemed expedient" because our Society cannot assume that burden for a long time. I would say *ad annum*<sup>11</sup> or *ad biennium*.<sup>12</sup> In making this provision, the room and board will be determined and his conduct will render him acceptable in that same city where so much has been said about him. He asserts many things in his favor; however, in our meeting, I cut the discussion short. It is not up to me to delve into this matter nor to make the decision.

Another plan that has been suggested is that he quite voluntarily renounce his curacy, as long as something else is provided for his livelihood, but retire permanently to some ecclesiastical place of residence. These are the two plans. You will probably say to me what I think you will. I would be of the opinion to embrace one or the other for as much as I favor the vigor of ecclesiastical discipline, on the other hand I hold to the policy that when one sees signs of docility (may I express myself thus) and, in general, of good disposition, they should be cultivated. Furthermore, what is to be done with regard to matters already completed? Take all of these items into consideration and make a decision. Most illustrious and reverend lord, pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>10</sup> In order that the Lord give me the riches of his love, in which are found hope, happiness and rest.

<sup>11</sup> For a year.

<sup>12</sup> For two years.

G. C. del Bufalo  
M. Ap.  
Prossedi, May 15. 1823

3855

May 16, 1823  
Canon Giovanni Giusti  
Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

It is necessary that you extend your zeal in favor of the people here. So, tomorrow, during the day, please come to the Papi house in order to assist with the ministry of hearing confession during the days that still remain. I hope that you will do me this favor. My obligations to you are endless. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*<sup>13</sup> Encourage the idea for a foundation, an oratory etc. Please note that for the third feastday, at 21 hours, Merlini will be there. I am and will constantly be, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Prossedi, May 16, 1823

Alessandro would like to have you because at home etc.

As for the faculties, check with me.

3856

May 31, 1823  
Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I begin this letter by reminding you about the Retreat in the seminary for the novena in honor of S. Luigi. God, however, wants me to be away for a short while, but soon we shall see each other again. The sheet that I promised you will be submitted to you at the first opportunity, *Deo dante.*<sup>14</sup> His Eminence Ercolani, short of confessors in his monastery, suggests, if it meets with your approval, that a religious from the Carmelites should go to S. Chiara as confessor and that Canon Aiuti go to the *Sagra Famiglia*. If you, in order not to start new procedures and make

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<sup>13</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>14</sup> God being the giver.

changes, do not favor this move at this time, which perhaps I also do not find feasible, then in that case you could indicate some other capable person for the project. You should write directly to his Eminence in regard to this, but first check with Canon La Galla, the director of the monastery of *Sagra Famiglia*. I do not know whether Canon Sari is qualified or the archpriest of the collegiate church, or, finally, the Canon Penitentiary, at least temporarily and without depriving his office in church. Archpriest de Angelis or Canon Carchitto ultimately could be kept in view. Because of the shortage of time, for the moment, let us try to make some sort of provision. I have nothing more to say about this question.

Then, too, they will be requesting you for a vesture ceremony in the church of the *Sagra Famiglia* and you should make yourself available for this, for the glory of God. With your good advice, try to bring consolation to the Superior, Valentini's <sup>15</sup> sister, who was recommended by me, This, too, is just another work of charity. The Economist in that monastery of the *Sagra Famiglia* needs to speak to you about a matter that is bothering her and asks that you hear her out.

What I said to you, in a previous letter, about Bernardini was not because I wanted to have him as one of our Missionaries, something which at least for now cannot be, *donec, etc., etc.*,<sup>16</sup> but because I saw in him an indication of docility upon his renunciation of his curacy. In our discussion, I got the feeling that with correct handling of things, it would be within possibility to work out some opportune method to solve the problem in keeping with the circumstances. Albertini's principle of action was the following: "Upon noting a beginning of docility, resulting from an act of correction, that is something to be cultivated". The bishop is to be a judge, but he is also to be a father and have a strong feeling of love for his sheep. Furthermore, Bernardini is a talented person, he is young etc. It seems to me that, by his undergoing penance by living in a holy place of residence, *ad mentem*,<sup>17</sup> our religion and his association with good people will be very beneficial for him. Still, in virtue of your office, you surely are given those illuminations which I do not have. *Satis ergo de hoc*.<sup>18</sup> It appears that I have nothing more to say to you except that you should, on one or the other night, encourage the use of the Oratory by your very presence. St. Francis Xavier will remind you of this. To the newlyordained priest, Carnebianca, whom I found to be, externally, a bit short of talent etc., I said that you might entrust to him the congregation for young people to be handled at some hour or other of the day. Both Vicar Ricelli and Canon Sari were in agreement with this move. *Ora pro me miserrimo*.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Fr. Lorenzo Valentini, a priest of Sezze.

<sup>16</sup> Until, etc.

<sup>17</sup> To mind.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, enough of this.

<sup>19</sup> Pray for me, a most miserable one.

In addition to what I have already said, I would appreciate your making known to the Director of the Missions in Bologna our method of activity, our Society and anything else. I would be pleased having a union of spirit and agreement of principles with regard to the question of extending the practice of making Retreats. There, in Bologna, this is something that is lacking. I kiss your hands. With particular esteem and veneration, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Terni, May 31, 1823

P. S. Address your letters to me to Rome.

The rules governing the *clausura* for the monastery of S. Chiara are expressed in the book which the nuns have. I am hopeful of stable fruit as a result of the recent Retreat. *Oremus ad invicem*.<sup>20</sup> During your pastoral visitation, check to see whether everything is in accordance with the rule. *Hoc enim bonum pro animabus*.<sup>21</sup>

Father Antonio Caccia will conduct the month in Sermoneta.

Until the month is observed, once and for all, in Sezze, give a spiritual conference to the nuns of S. Chiara; the same thing in Piperno, etc.

What was the result of the situations in Comacchio? I am thinking already about Lenten preachers etc.

Let us observe, with great fervor, our month etc.

3857

June 4, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In Rome, the architect told me that it is necessary to draw up the deed for the transferral of our holy Albertini. His name is Secondo Concioli and the forwarding is to be to my house addressed to Vincenzo Severini. I ask you not to forget about this matter. He will draw up the document etc. at your request. Also, set down basic things in such a way that in Sezze and elsewhere the servers, even as young people, get accustomed to the Oratory so as to develop them into workers. I am speaking of when they reach a certain age. In Sezze, I have noticed many who are inclined to take care of some pep talks just as the Jesuits used to do. You select those whom you believe to be most apt for consideration and, in private, listen to their preaching. Then, direct them to be vigilant and promote this good work. As for other matters, we will speak,

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<sup>20</sup> Let us pray for each other.

<sup>21</sup> For this is good for souls.

one day, in person. Pray for me. With all of my affection, most illustrious and reverend lord, and kissing your hands, consider me to be, in Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Grotte a mare, while traveling, June 4, 1823

P. S. Our month will be observed in Sezze. Stimulate it with your presence. Wherever possible, let us propagate our devotion. Remind the Penitentiary about the canonical erection there of the Pious Union. Give my greetings to the Vicar, etc., etc., to the Rector of the seminary, etc.

### 3858

June 18, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sezze

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Thank you for your recent letter. With regard to the problem of the treasurer of the Monastery of *Sagra Famiglia*, I agree with your observations since I am so inexperienced in matters such as these. I do not know whether a supplementary oath will be useful.

Certainly, Bernardini will renounce his curacy. Let us recommend to God this lengthy series of things, *et quod Domino placet fiat*.<sup>22</sup>

I give thanks to God for the interest that you show for the pious organizations, all in correspondence with the zeal that the Lord infuses into your soul. *Laus Deo in omnibus, et Divo Xaverio*.<sup>23</sup>

Stick to giving spiritual conferences and you will be doing great work. You can be assured that also pleased will be his Eminence Ercolani, in whose name I, too, ask you to do this, *etiam atque etiam*,<sup>24</sup> pleadingly.

With reference to the black drapery over the grates, what shall I say? I guess I would say: *non est discipulus supra magistrum*.<sup>25</sup> God will give you the inspiration that is needed. With regard to rules, I certainly adhere to the policy of either setting up new ones, observing all of

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<sup>22</sup> Let there be what pleases the Lord.

<sup>23</sup> Praise to God in all things, and to the divine Xavier.

<sup>24</sup> Also and also.

<sup>25</sup> The disciple is not above his master.

them to the letter or holding on to the old ones, maintaining them with perfection. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto.*<sup>26</sup> As for the other nuns in Piperno, I do not know, at the moment, what to say precisely. I shall try to return as soon as possible and continue working things out with the greatest speed that I can.

I ask you to send 15 *scudi* to a certain Colomba, a nuntobe, in *Sagra Famiglia*. The vicesuperior, to whom I write, knows about this. I am writing to Severini, to whom you also should write, in regard to your reimbursement of this, promptly and safely. Try to convince her to agree to becoming a nun. The devil is disturbing her more than ever. She loves silence, withdrawal, prayer and learning and she is supplied with a dowry.

*Ora pro me miserrimo.*<sup>27</sup> Give my greetings to anyone who remembers me, but in particular, to Vicar Ricelli. I kiss your hands. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Montalto, June 18<sup>28</sup>

P. S. I point out that if Bernardini were to become a boarder in one of our Mission Houses, I would think that the one in Benevento, under Canon Betti, would be best, etc.. However, it probably would be better for him to select Montecitorio in Rome with Roberti. Advise him of this etc.

Give my greetings to the president of the brethren of St. Xavier and encourage him etc.

Send your reply to Ancona.

3859

July 29, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Terracina, July 29<sup>29</sup>

(on the 31st I was ordained a priest. *Ora pro me*<sup>30</sup>)

Venerable Monsignor

I had to profit from your episcopal position because of a true urgency and I presumed

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<sup>26</sup> I submit to those who are wiser.

<sup>27</sup> Pray for me, a most miserable one.

<sup>28</sup> The year is not written, but from many indications, we conclude, with certainty, that it is 1823.

<sup>29</sup> The year is not mentioned, but it is certainly 1823.

<sup>30</sup> Pray for me.

your condescension because of the singular warmheartedness that has been given to you by the Lord. I paid a visit to the grave of our common father, *et utinam vita mea concors sit vitae suae. Ipse jam gloriam adeptus est aeternam, nos autem sumus certantes in militia Dei. Ora idcirco pro me assidue etc.*<sup>31</sup>

Now, let us come to our Father Biagio<sup>32</sup> whom I discover has improved in his health. God has been visiting our Society this year with several sicknesses, *et etiam in hoc suavissima sua voluntas adimpleatur.*<sup>33</sup> It will be necessary for him, *ad tempus,*<sup>34</sup> to go to our House in Albano. The excellent Father Gaspare Carboneri will stay on in Terracina. I am hoping that he will be given assistance by the Lord *ad laborandum in hac vinea.*<sup>35</sup> Join to this your own good wishes. In order to maintain a more vigorous observance of our rule and because Canon Locatelli has been relieved of his work in the school during these months, I have directed him to take up residence with Canon Father Gaspare; I am at ease about this temperament. As time goes on, more will be accomplished. The works of the Lord are begotten through tears, difficulties and sacrifices. However, divine grace is our mystical staff and our supportive cane.

For the sake of forwarding, always address your very kind letters to Rome. As for other matters, *ad alias.*<sup>36</sup> Take good care of yourself. While kissing your hands, I remain, with the fullness of esteem<sup>37</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

P. S. In Sermoneta, where I visited, they are insisting on having as their archpriest your Vicar General and they are seeking your charitable approval. Pray over it. I was supposed to come in person to Sezze, but I simply did not have the time available.

3860

August 9, 1823

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<sup>31</sup> And would that my life were conformed to his life. He has already attained eternal glory, but we are battling in God's army. Therefore, pray constantly for me.

<sup>32</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

<sup>33</sup> And also in this way may his most sweet will be fulfilled.

<sup>34</sup> For the time.

<sup>35</sup> To work in this vineyard.

<sup>36</sup> For another time.

<sup>37</sup> On the second page, we find the following notation made by Manassi: "I must ask him for his advice concerning the Decastris lady, since the Monastery in Terracina is in an embryonic state".

Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Sezze

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I thank you wholeheartedly for the most cordial sentiments expressed in your recent letter, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.<sup>38</sup> I would also like you to afford me the opportunity of demonstrating my very sincere gratitude. As you probably know, the light carriage is no longer needed since God, unexpectedly, has provided us with a coach coming from Naples.

Father Biagio<sup>39</sup> presently is feeling better. His illness was brought about more by subjecting himself to inconveniences rather than from the climate.

I am happy to hear that Sermoneta is satisfied. It would not be difficult for you to supply someone in Sezze and also in Sermoneta, and you might consult with Vicar Ricelli. Thus, this good work can be effected *meliori modo quo fieri potest*.<sup>40</sup> If I were to counsel Ricelli, in order to keep the good work active, I would advise him to give his consent to care for his orphanage, a grand piece of work, but to ask for someone to govern it. You, indeed, by the grace of the Lord, have little or no need for Vicars. Tell the nun de Castris that, since I have been asked, I am of the opinion that the conclusion to be drawn as the will of God is that she should remain in Sezze, but as a nun who is completely observant of the rule without *epikeia* and without being allowed permissions contrary to their rule, insofar as it pertains to her. So, for the time being, she must think about always remaining in S. Chiara. Meanwhile, Terracina should show maturity and this is probably not the first case that a nun would go from one monastery to another, if God, who matures things in time, should so dispose. So very often, there are situations that need time even to the end of our lives. At least, *in circumstantiis*<sup>41</sup> this is my opinion. So, let us pray.

Furthermore, I beg you, please, do not forget what I said to you about Bologna; presently there is the matter of Cesena. In Malta, a House, in conformity with our Institute, has been opened and has already been aggregated. In Sardinia and Corsica, things are actually underway for this same purpose. In Aversa, in the Kingdom of Naples, there has likewise been a House opened which I have placed under the supervision of Benevento. Prayers, for I am engulfed in a sea of things ... prayers ... prayers. In November, the full program of study will be begun in S. Felice in Giano. Thus, the young men, when they are at the required age to make a decision, will be admitted as boarding students, since at the present time, the Society is not able to support

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<sup>38</sup> And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>39</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

<sup>40</sup> In a better manner in which it can be done.

<sup>41</sup> In the circumstances.

them on its own. The courses to be taught are: eloquence, philosophy, theology. If you have on hand some useful written matter for the House of study, I would be grateful to have that, at least, to make a copy of it. Furthermore, Canon Carboneri, who is in Terracina, would like to have the faculty of the 13 cases of the Penitentiary, *per modum habitus*,<sup>42</sup> and so I say that he will need to have a testimonial from you with regard to the fitness of this member. I ask you to please send it to me. It has to be a special and individual one. The Penitentiary then will make the grant *ad biennium*<sup>43</sup> or *ad annum*.<sup>44</sup> Then it can be confirmed, etc..

Finally, during this year, since no one will be moving from their place of hospice during the time of the Retreat called for by our rule, I would like to ask you to offer your services in your own episcopal area for the companions who are located, at that time, in Terracina. This will fulfill the particular circumstances that are in keeping with our *direttorio*, a copy of which you have on hand. But make sure that this will not be a source of aggravation for you with regard to the method that you follow in doing this. I am already taking into consideration the three pulpits that are to be staffed, so that you will have three new and capable workers. I imagine that this will be to your pleasure. If you would not be able to find someone to go to those small towns such as Roccasecca, etc., in that case, if you so direct, we will send someone, at least for Retreats. Necessary, however, is to have this information on time. Last year, one or the other small town had no one and the inhabitants were thirsting for something, the need was there, etc.. In Maenza, they keep insisting that they wish to have me conduct a Retreat. I shall see when God wills that, but it must be outside the period of Lent. That is a town that deserves a worker for every one of the 40 days. Perhaps it would be possible to assign Archpriest Volpi who, I understand, is not averse to preaching. Whenever the opportunity arises, do not cease encouraging the Commune of Terracina in behalf of our Society. The Lord recognizes the urgency for this. Indeed, in order to cut down on expenses, I am thinking about asking the Secretary of State to provide us, as a hospice, S. Francesco, formerly property of the Conventuals. I mentioned something already to Canon Locatelli and he was happy to give us his support, always, of course, with your approval. Now I would like to know what you think. Pray a lot for me especially on the upcoming solemnity. Stimulate the pious organizations in Piperno. While kissing your hands, I remain, in Jesus Christ crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 9, 1823

P. S. Perhaps, in the not too distant future, I will be able to come to Sezze, for a day or so,

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<sup>42</sup> After the manner of a habit.

<sup>43</sup> For two years.

<sup>44</sup> For one year.

in order to conclude the matter dealing with the nuns of the Sagra Famiglia and to bring a close to my visitation there. Would I be able to have lodging in your episcopal quarters? I am not fond of staying in private houses. There are no other places available. So, I ask you for this singular favor. Really, I am afraid that I am imposing, but your spirit of kindness gives me courage. Canon Carboneri will voluntarily stay on in Terracina. Try to encourage him with one of your letters.

3861

August 20, 1823  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The death of the Holy Father occurred this morning at the 10 3/4 hour; he died a true saint. *Oremus nunc*.<sup>45</sup>

I am enclosing the petition for Canon Ajuti which I recommend to your attention. Venerable Monsignor, while asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 20, 1823

3862

September 3, 1823  
 Fr. Sisto Rinaldi  
 Archpriest of Maenza  
 Maenza

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Archpriest<sup>46</sup>

Father Giovanni Merlini sent me some papers dealing with the plan for the foundation of a Mission House there. In reply, I must tell you that in everything you are to work along with the

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<sup>45</sup> Let us pray now.

<sup>46</sup> This letter was found in the AVT among the letters to Monsignor Manassi, as is explained in the following footnote.

most reverend bishop,<sup>47</sup> getting his advice; I like to show respect and harmony toward the Regulars. Let me know what time you would like for the Retreat that you asked for; or, if you think it is a better idea, to have me assign a Lenten preacher of your choice. In the meantime, while asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap

Frosinone, September 3, 1823

3863

September 5, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am with a reply to your letter. I would have liked to see you again in Piperno, but God will save that consolation for another time. With regard to Archpriest Volpi, I know nothing with precision. It was a thought of mine without having made any agreement with him. You handle things as you deem best with the Lord's help. I am distressed to see left unattended some things related to the rather serious needs of the dioceses. Prayers.

There is no further need for discussion about the hospice for the Missionaries in the convent of S. Francesco; things will proceed as usual and your observations are clear. I paid no attention to what was expressed.

To tell the truth, in Piperno there is a grouping of priests who, with each one taking turns one night in the Oratory, could quite handily accomplish the same thing that is being done in Bassiano, for example, even though there are no Missionaries there. You, yourself, can look into this with the complete outpouring of your enthusiasm. Why doesn't Canon Giusti take charge and be of assistance to the others? In reference to the nun Bonacci, I can never agree to her secularization. She might be made to undergo a testing in Sezze; I am convinced that with a bit of kindness showed by the one charged to direct her the whole situation could be brought to a successful outcome. With the understanding that this would be a testing, the nuns in Sezze would

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<sup>47</sup> Archpriest Rinaldi sent this letter to Monsignor Manassi together with one of his dated September 6, 1823: "The very reverend Father Canon del Bufalo has sent to me the enclosed information which I humbly submit to you. I would not know how to decide this matter, so I submit it to the wise consideration of your most illustrious and reverend excellency ...". Later, on September 9, 1823, the archpriest took up the subject again: "On the occasion when the cleric, Eleuterio Nardoni comes to take the exams before being ordained to minor orders, I ask that you make known to me through him what decision your most illustrious and reverend excellency has made with regard to the letter from the very reverend Canon del Bufalo which I humbly submitted to you, last Sunday. I would like to give a response to that highlyregarded Canon before he leaves Frosinone ...".

not refuse this.

What you arranged with respect to the faculties for Canon Carboneri is very good. He will have recourse to you whenever the need arises. It seems that I have nothing more to say to you right now except to say that I am hopeful of discussing, in time, other things with you when we meet in person. I have already taken care of appointing the usual Lenten preachers. If there is need for a change, please advise me of that. I share with you the heavy weight of your many burdens. But, it is our belief that *cum ipso sum in tribulatione, etc.*<sup>48</sup> I kiss your hands, and in the Heart of Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, September 5, 1823

Here is a reply to another of your very dear letters. I will be delighted if Canon Ajuti is consoled in his desires.

If you agree, we could send two members to Roccasecca to conduct a Mission of 15 days and I am hopeful that they will do good work. After your next letter, which you should address "Frosinone per Pontecorvo" where I will be going for a Mission, or address it to Rome, I will be assigning the members so that they will be informed about the upcoming Lenten season. If possible, I, myself, will go. We shall see what the will of God is. I would be pleased to have the information about these matters supplied in time. For this, too, I give you my thanks.

With regard to the nun Bonacci, I give you my assurance that I have no responsibility with regard to their monastery in Frosinone; that is truly a mistaken notion. I add that even though I have esteem and affection for every work of the Lord, still, my vocation does not lead me along those lines. I adhere to what I have said previously. But, in dire need, why does she not continue for a bit longer working with the *Maestre Pie*?

In short, I note that with the *Maestre Pie* she enjoys a bit of peace. In the monastery, no. The difficulty is not a physical one but actually a moral one. We will excuse the intention, but to be frank with you, the Houses for nuns and brothers would be filled only if virtue controls the balance of things and those very families also would be even more dispersed. With you saying a word or so both to them and to her, perhaps the situation can be settled, strengthening it, indeed, by many prayers, and, considering it as a new testing. S. Filippo needed to have a special order from Clement VIII in order to leave S. Girolamo della Carita, where he was a companion with a natural inconstancy, so that he could move on then to S. Maria in Vallicella. The nuns will say that these are extraordinary examples, but in this procedure there is the solid basis of virtue. I would judge it to be opportune to anticipate the Retreat for these religious and, if you would like to have my advice, it should be you, yourself, while you are in Piperno, to conduct it. You would be very contented after doing that. I would surely like to have other bishops go along with this

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<sup>48</sup> I am with you in tribulation, etc.

very practical advice of mine. With very special affection, consider me to be, once again, etc.

In the meanwhile, if it is too much of a burden for the nuns to give this nun some money, they ought to provide for her room and board. The monastery surely will do some kind of charitable act, etc.. I am of the opinion that Canon Cestrilli is just a bit too old to take care of the monastery and I do not know just how efficaciously he can carry out his responsibilities. This in no way subtracts my esteem for his merits and his virtuous life. Furthermore, spiritual masters for the nuns are sorely needed. Prayers. God will provide and supply etc.

3864

September 18, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I thank you for your very much appreciated letter to which I am sending a reply *in actu Missionis*,<sup>49</sup> blessed by God in a special way. I thank God, also, for the good progress made in the Oratory there. It is not necessary for Canon Giusti to preach in the Oratory, but to read a selection from the book of meditations, to make a visit of the Via Crucis, to preside over it, to encourage it with his good example, to stimulate the companions and to activate every type of pious exercise and good work; this does not require him to preach.

From what you have given me by way of information about Roccasecca, I would say with Suarez some things *potius non curando, quam refutando respuuntur*.<sup>50</sup> However, for a bishop, an inquiry is proper. In finding that the Mission is not feasible, since you reminded me also of the last one conducted by Pellegrini, I ask you to appoint a Lenten preacher, and I would suppose that you could select one of your own diocesan men, perhaps Volpi from Bassiano. You are the boss in selecting a preacher for Terracina, so, let us stand on this agreement. I will restrict myself to supplying for Sonnino and Sermoneta, as long as this is agreeable with you. For Piperno, however, the only possibility would be for a Missionary *in subsidium*<sup>51</sup> to come. The men in our Houses do not cover the Lenten preaching except where we have Mission Houses established. But I do not see in my mind right now who that man *in subsidium*<sup>52</sup> will be. They might look to the Capuchin Fathers. It is useless to name Canon Ferretti.

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<sup>49</sup> In conducting a Mission.

<sup>50</sup> They are rejected more by not caring than by opposition.

<sup>51</sup> For support.

<sup>52</sup> For support.

Our House in Terracina will be closed during the two months of October and November, a practice which I find inevitable; this, until we go into Retreat. In December, it will be reopened. I would like to see a bit more gratitude shown by the leaders in Terracina. The matter dealing with the beds, as usual, is getting nowhere. Still, let us continue working for God, for he is the generous rewarder for everything. Of course, I see very well the huge thorns that surround us. What are we to do? Only meditate on that citation: *fasciculus myrrhae dilectus meus mihi*<sup>53</sup> ... You will be doing a great piece of work, finally, if you look after that monastery. Even as a bishop, de Sales did directive work, and bishops, indeed, have a greater maturity in spiritual matters. Most illustrious and reverend lord, pray incessantly for me *ut cursum compleam in osculo sancto. Sum tuus ex corde in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi, qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*<sup>54</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Pontecorvo, September 18, 1823

Your very much appreciated letters should be sent to Rome as the future address. Also capable to take care of the Lenten preaching in Piperno would be Mancini.

3865

October 3, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am unable to express to you the great consolation that I derive from your very kind letters. In reference to Roccasecca, I hope that the Lord will provide a fit individual and I shall not fail to pray for this very important purpose. As for the Lenten series in Sonnino and Terracina, make arrangements as the Lord directs you. All that I need to have is the information on time so that we do not get into narrow straits. You should not forget about Roccagorga where, if you think it a good idea, you could assign Canon de Bonis, a theologian there. I would appreciate getting your response addressed to Rome.

Presently, I am activating the ecclesiastical House of Studies in Albano. I add that our studyconferences will be open publicly to the clergy who would like to profit from this. As for Terracina, I have placed the entire matter into the hands of our holy Merlini. I see that during this autumn our companions will be undergoing long periods of hardship. We must look to the future.

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<sup>53</sup> A bundle of myrrh is my beloved to me.

<sup>54</sup> That I may complete the course with a holy kiss. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who has redeemed us by his blood.

... But, with matters as tight as they are, I do not know what other conclusion can be drawn. Let us offer prayers. Certainly, by wintertime, the House will reopen.

But I would like to see the people of Terracina show a bit more concern now. All I see is stupidity. God knows what expenses we face: payment of rent, sicknesses and maintenance, all relating in general to moneymatters, besides the concern about the changing of the members etc. Terracina is very close to my heart and that for very many reasons. But, still, I see nothing more than a cold, northernwind treatment. Prayers. Prayers. That question dealing with the beds is still unsettled and nothing has been concluded. Jesus Christ said that they should shake the dust off where there is no welcome. So, we shall see.

I was almost overtaken with the idea of transferring this foundation elsewhere, but then God inspired me to stick with it. I would be sending more Missionaries there during the pleasant season, but how can that be done with a lack of beds, coverlets, etc.? You would be doing a great work if, with very clear directives, you would speak to those who should be contacted, or, write to the *Buon Governo*. Up to now, we have managed to pay the rent, something which, perhaps, in history, they will find as something not easily done. Hospitality is the primary consideration that the people must show when they welcome the holy ministers. Indeed, I cannot demand heroic sacrifices from my companions; all I can do is wish for them to make them.

Our foundation in Sonnino is continuing to make progress very vigorously and within a few days I shall be sending others there. And the gratitude of the people cannot be denied. Let us pray fervently to God during these miserable times in which we are living and let us become strengthened through our devotion to the Divine Blood.

If you would like to have a bit of advice from me, it would be that priests, once a year, should withdraw to make a Retreat and that you should require them to make that promise. Furthermore, I would instruct the Lenten preachers not to omit catechetical instructions in preparation for Easter and there should be a Retreat for the leaders. Also, for clerics, when outside the seminary, I would assign a priest *ut oculus episcopi*.<sup>55</sup> I would get them accustomed to wearing the cassock, a practice which I would like to see exercised *ubique*.<sup>56</sup> Most illustrious and reverend lord, *ora pro me. Sum tuus ex corde, in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi, qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*<sup>57</sup>

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

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<sup>55</sup> As the eye of the bishop.

<sup>56</sup> Wherever.

<sup>57</sup> Pray for me. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who has redeemed us by his blood.

October 3, 1923<sup>58</sup>

Make it known to Donati that I will not be passing through Terracina right now.<sup>59</sup>

3866

Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I recommend the enclosed matter to you. Pray a lot for me. 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.

Frosinone, October 20, 1823

3867

November 9, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I cannot express to you the concern that I have with respect to our House in Terracina. In this matter, I have given complete instructions to our holy Merlini so that he can work things out with you. I would like things to take on a certain stability and that the Commune would become involved in covering the expenses for this initial establishment. Time is beginning to run short and the urgency for giving glory to God pressed us to be active. So, *enixe et strenue*,<sup>60</sup> as you indeed have already been doing for the greater glory of God, move things along toward a conclusion. Oh how dear to me are the memories of our Albertini! Also, how grateful I am for the intimate correspondence I have with you who are so loving toward your flock there.

Father Biagio<sup>61</sup> is in Sermoneta where, during the wintertime, he will be involved in the

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<sup>58</sup> From the content and from the postal markings it is evident that this letter was sent from Albano.

<sup>59</sup> This postscript is found near the address.

<sup>60</sup> Eagerly and strenuously.

<sup>61</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

House of Studies for the priests who, with the approval of their bishops, must equip themselves for the sacred ministry. I also wanted him there so that I could see him grow under the shadow, so to speak, of your protection. Pray a lot for me.

Within a short while, I shall take time out for my own Retreat with the other members of our Society. Write to me from time to time and, starting from now, count on conducting a Retreat for the nuns in S. Chiara in Sezze since this is so necessary for establishing good harmony between the two monasteries. As for the seminary, I would advise you always to have the Retreat arranged for the beginning of the scholastic year so that things can then proceed with greater fervor. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto.*<sup>62</sup> While kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem and very special affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Anagni, November 9, 1823

P. S. I ask also that you reserve a room or so for the retreatants.

### 3868

November 11, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I asked Canon Locatelli to conduct our Retreat in Frosinone. Getting a reply from him is altogether too doubtful. Because of this uncertainty, I do not care to risk a matter of this magnitude. I simply do not know whether the Canon is there or not. Wherever he may be, in your charity please deign to do me the favor of thanking him for his good desires, but, at the same time, inform him that I have already made other arrangements for this aforementioned assignment. Offer a lot of prayers for me. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Anagni, November 11, 1823

### 3869

November 28, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

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<sup>62</sup> I submit to those who are wiser.

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non fiata, in visceribus Jesu Christi etc.*<sup>63</sup>

Oh how your very kind letter has pleased me and through it, I am so delighted to receive favorable information about your health. I pray wholeheartedly to the Lord to preserve you *ad multos annos*<sup>64</sup> for his greater divine glory and for the welfare of the flock entrusted to your most ardent zeal. In all things, may praise be given to God, *a quo omnia*.<sup>65</sup> I am unable to express the deep affection in Jesus Christ that I nourish for you, along with that definitive desire for an everlasting union in paradise. Oh that beloved fatherland ... oh sweet source of comfort in our misery ... oh most blessed end toward which our hearts aspire. *Oremus ergo incessanter ut gloriam adipiscamur aeternam. Quod si dulce est et suave laborare pro amantissimo Salvatore nostro Jesu, quid erit gaudere de ipso, etc. in perpetuas aeternitates. Satis in praesenti*,<sup>66</sup> and let us only draw evermore closely to each other in the divine Heart *in spiritu dilectionis*,<sup>67</sup> on the feastday of the great Xavier. Give him thanks for me for the assistance he gives me in conducting Retreats.

Now we shall take up some other matters which God wishes we to handle. I shall not hesitate for a moment in writing to Lawver Angeli in regard to the matters dealing with Terracina. *In communicatione spiritus*,<sup>68</sup> I say to you, in regard to the leaders there that, for the sake of religious decorum as well as for encouragement to our companions, they should show toward our Society some indication of their willingness to share the present burdens, supplying necessary things, etc. and thus demonstrating that religious joy to be shown in welcoming the ministers of the Lord. I (to be frank with you) tell you that our companions are not looking for this, but still I would like to see some emulation of charity. I think it is necessary that this be made clear to the leaders and to the clergy in that city. Of course, I always excuse their lack of reflection, but still the laws of charity must be safeguarded. If, tomorrow, for example, some great prince were to be passing through, I would see that magistrature putting itself out etc. A foundation of ours must be activated there, etc. and all that I see is languor, indifference and an

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<sup>63</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ, etc.

<sup>64</sup> For many years.

<sup>65</sup> To whom all things ...

<sup>66</sup> Let us, therefore, pray ceaselessly in order that we may attain eternal glory. But if it is sweet and delightful to work for our most loving Savior Jesus, what will it be to rejoice over him, etc. for perpetual eternities. Enough for the present.

<sup>67</sup> In the spirit of happiness

<sup>68</sup> In the communication of the spirit.

Idon't care attitude. As far as you yourself are concerned, you cannot do anything more, but, because of the sincere affection that I have for the people of Terracina, I would like to see them be a bit more zealous.

At any rate, God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.<sup>69</sup> Merlini will be arriving there soon and after having a meeting with you, he will inform me (possibly with expressmail to Albano) in a most appreciated letter from you, just what decisions you have made so that the companions can be immediately assigned to both Sonnino and Terracina. We shall take things step by step in accordance with what is feasible and I will do nothing other than show blind obedience to your suggestions and advice. They will be like commands to me and, with the grace of God, will be put to the test. If it were not that this ministry, in its entirety, is a veritable sea of activity, I would not be searching for certain helps from the people for this foundation. But, we have to keep expenses in mind. Sicknesses that occur, daily food and lodging, clothes for the Brothers, ceremonies and expenses for the ministry which we carry out with the spirit of St. Ignatius. In your good judgment, you can see very well that we are called upon to consider many different angles. There are, furthermore, expenses involved with the care for the buildings etc. Despite all of this, I am not in the least discouraged. There simply must be a House of ours in Terracina. The fond memories of our Founder<sup>70</sup> beckons us to do this etc. I would like you, with your fine abilities, to select two deputies there who would be of assistance to our companions. I have already made arrangements for the Lenten preacher, just as you told me, for Terracina and Sermoneta. I understand that one is not needed for Sonnino. I am sending a piece of paper on which I would like you to express your sentiments. I am now being summoned for the sermon in the chapel: I am sorry that I have to stop now. I kiss your hands. *Ora pro me assidue. Sum tuus ex corde, in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi*<sup>71</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Albano, November 28, 1823

What reply did you get from his Eminence, the Secretary of State, etc., etc.?

3870

Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

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<sup>69</sup> According to the work and not according to the fruit.

<sup>70</sup> Monsignor Francesco Albertini.

<sup>71</sup> Pray for me assiduously. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Instead of your fearing that I will stand in the way of the holy idea of having the Capuchins return there, you will find in me, through the mercy of God, rather one who will cooperate in these holy desires. Indeed, I have even tried to contact his Eminence Rivarola, the protector of the Capuchin Fathers. If you will see that I get a memorandum from you, it will be presented and with good results. In this matter, I agree with you in giving praise to God. With regard to the designation of the locale, I must say to you loud and clear that I do not press the point at all for the simple reason that we are only travelers passing through this world. I would like to receive the usual paper dealing with the matter, signed in due form by the interested parties. The reminder of our holy Founder<sup>72</sup> and his expressed will that we take up residence in the Passionists' place leads me to be opposed, as far as I am concerned, to any renunciation. Likewise I have also been enabled by the Holy Father to inhabit that place with our companions, with no reason to be fearful about it and especially under the conditions enunciated to me. More about this when we see each other in person, I hope, within a short while.

However, if the greater glory of God calls us to reside in S. Francesco, you should make known your ideas about this and you will be obeyed. To be clearly understood is that upon being required to stay in S. Francesco, I would like to have, and I ask you to grant, free use thereof. In asking that things be arranged in a systematic way, it seems to me, is not an unreasonable position. Nobody's respective rights will be taken away. But, to hear someone say: I reserve this or that other thing I will hold on to those other rooms, while we are trying to work out, without limitations, the placement of the Capuchins in the locale where there is indeed a good deal of room. You can see very well that this is not right. In dealing with matters such as these, as the holy Albertini trained me, I pay close attention to basic principles because I love peace and tranquility and I have no desire for bitterness. If I had to deal only and always with Monsignor Manassi, I would not say a single word, but with others, I must exercise caution. I love open sincerity; and by doing so, it does not take away the respect that I owe to all. If you find that I am wrong in these sentiments, please correct me, advise me, etc. I will be most obliged to you. Give a thousand heavenly greetings to Merlini. Along with you, I will learn the duties that I must fulfill through hardships etc.

Now, all of this does not stand in the way of going forward with the installation of our Society as best as we can, as long as everything is prepared well, etc.. I shall be awaiting your reply. Tell Merlini to write. I shall continue following through with your suggestions along with our Father Giovanni.<sup>73</sup> While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lord, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*G. G. del Bufalo*

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<sup>72</sup> Monsignor Francesco Albertini.

<sup>73</sup> Father Giovanni Merlini.

Mis. Ap.

Rome, Dcemebr 12, 1823

As for the magistrature, at least as private individuals, they should show their concern; the same holds for others, etc. so that preparations, etc..

In another ordinary maildelivery, I shall write to Father Giovanni.

3871

December 16, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

In reply to your letter, I must say to you that with Merlini's arrival, you should have a definite meeting with him, despite the fact that I hope to be there in the not too distant future. As far as I am concerned, if there is a necessity for it, I shall send workers. But, to bring to a conclusion the matters pending, it is necessary to put someone in charge. I know your heart, but still what is urgent with regard to the House is inevitable. I do not know whether I am making myself sufficiently clear. I repeat, I will be sending workers immediately, but, as soon as they arrive, it is necessary that they have whatever is needed.

As to the locale, it is now definitely set by policy to be S. Francesco. This does not insure in any way the rights of anyone who has *jus*<sup>74</sup> to that locale, being used for the glory of God. I can take care of the supply of food, as has been done in the past. If, in the meantime, a bed for one Missionary and one Brother are to be found, I will send them; anything more will be taken care of later. Yet, if a certain spurt of energy were aroused in the people there, everything could be handled. I just do not care to have rented things because: 1. they are replaced more often; 2. they wear out fast. I do not care to hear miserable remarks. Is it possible that, among so many, many inhabitants, one cannot find someone who will promote this good work! I realize that the lackadaisical spirit is due to the type of climate and not to the heart. But, indeed, it is still a good thing to arouse those who are asleep!

Finally, I cannot repeat to you my gratitude For the many favors you have done, and of these I retain a most vivid remembrance. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*<sup>75</sup> Pray for me. With the desire of seeing you again within a short while, most venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

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<sup>74</sup> Right [by law].

<sup>75</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

M. Ap.

Rome, December 16, 1823

P. S. I need to have a listing of the enrolments in the Divine Blood in Ferrara. Do not forget to write to Bologna.

P. S. Do something about the Capuchins, for I, too, hope that they come. I have a way of doing something about this if I am supplied with a memorandum.

P. S. During this year, I must find whatever is needed to impress the Catholic people there to take note of what is lacking and is urgently needed and that the convenience of the inhabitants should be of secondary interest. We will try to bend things a bit. For the moment, it would be enough for me to see, as the first consideration, that at least beds be made available, etc.

3872

December 27, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze aud Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I must beg you not to forget about the required memorandum dealing with the transferral of the remains of the deceased Albertini. The architect is ready to sign any document at all as long as it is sent to him detailed.

I have possibly found a Lenten preacher for Roccagorga in the person of Canon Vittori and so those people will be taken care of. He is a priest of rather advanced age, but he is quite experienced in the ministry and has sufficient strength to do a very good job. If you agree to this, please enclose the certification of appointment so that I can stand by my word. Let me know, also, what is to be decided about Roccasecca and Maenza. I point out that de Bonis could be one to go to Roccasecca. I will abide by whatever you direct.

Your brotherinlaw<sup>76</sup> has put himself out with the usual gift and I do not know how to reciprocate. You, too, should express for me my thanks to him. Pray a lot to God for me. While kissing your hands, most reverend lord, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Supino, December 27, 1823 (For forwarding, send your letters to Rome)

P. S. It would be a good idea also to send at least a catechist to the people on the beach of S. Felice; if one can be had from the Treasurer,<sup>77</sup> he will be gotten.

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<sup>76</sup> Lorenzo Colognesi.

<sup>77</sup> Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

3873

January 8, 1824  
Fr. Pietro Pellegrini  
Terracina

Hail to t.he Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pietro

In response to your letter, I say to you that you should contact the bishop and tell him that I, along with Bartolomeo,<sup>78</sup> will be there, within a few days, to make use of the episcopal quarters for one night. Also, prepare a place of lodging for one night with Canon Trento etc. for the other Missionaries. The Brother has probably already arrived. Anything else, *ad alias*<sup>79</sup> and even better, when we meet in person. You probably have learned about the death of Monsignor Strambi.<sup>80</sup> In Jesus Christ, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Supino, 8th of 1824

3874

Middle of January, 1824  
Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Monticelli<sup>81</sup>

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>82</sup>

An unexpected oversight concerning what was sent has delayed my letter. So, here I am to tell you what I feel is important to indicate. The method that you use in conducting the Mission should be as follows. In the morning: the first Mass, during which the Chaplet is recited

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<sup>78</sup> His helper, Bartolomeo Panzini.

<sup>79</sup> For another time.

<sup>80</sup> St. Vincent Maria Strambi, Passionist and bishop of Macerata, died in Rome on January 1, 1824. He was born in Civitavecchia (Roma) on January 1, 1745.

<sup>81</sup> Nowadays, this is Monte San Biagio.

<sup>82</sup> This letter is not dated, but from the text one easily deduces that it was written around the middle of January, 1824, when Monsignor Manassi went to conduct the Mission in Monticelli. Cfr. the letter (n. 3881) of January 29, 1824, where, under n. 5 in the First part, mention is made of the norms already communicated to Manassi about the Mission in Monticelli, just as is done here in this letter.

along with the Seven Offerings to the Divine Blood, and, at the beginning, the offering of B. Leonardo. For this purpose, I am sending you the booklets of the Chaplet which contain these exercises. After the first Mass, a hymn of praise is sung for the Mission and here, too, I am sending along the necessary books. After that, an instruction is given to the people on the Ten Commandments. After the Mass, the relic of the most holy Mary is exposed. From the preacher's platform, at the beginning, the acts of faith etc. are proclaimed aloud. After the Gospel, an example is presented. Then comes the Rosary; the service then concludes with a blessing with the relic of most holy Mary.

At around the 17th hour, at least for three days, speak to the clergy. At that same time of the day, at least once, speak to the leading lay people. In order to eradicate the weeds etc. your delivery must vibrate with the situations of the times. After the noon meal, the priests of the locality, at the 20th hour, are to handle the Christian Doctrine. Your other companion in the ministry can be of assistance in this function, so as to prepare those who are to make their first communion. The great sermon is to conclude at the *Ave Maria* hour in order to allow time in the evening for the work of the Oratory and for hearing the confessions of men.

I am sending a certification so that you can select an aggregator for the Blood of Jesus Christ. The women who are enrolled are to promote the rule of charity which I am sending. Select 12 from among those married and those who are widows. The men, together with the women during the daytime, are to promote the work of the Oratory. I say "during the daytime" because of the political circumstances in existence there. Also, select a family that has wood available for the building of a Cross which will be erected etc. The names of those who are enrolled in the Divine Blood will later be entered into the archives in Vallecorsa and they will have their meeting there.

Whoever delivers the grand sermon should not forget to speak of peacemaking. For the services honoring most holy Mary, there is nothing more needed than a welladorned image which some family there possesses, etc.. I do not know whether they have or do not have the disciplinefunction, etc., etc.. If they do, let me know. The mayor is in charge of covering expenses. Within a few days, I shall be writing to him. Keep the Mission open as you see necessary. You decide. I am presently thinking about arrangements for the Mission in Sperlonga for which I will provide another companion of ours. Locatelli will be returning to his position. Let me know when the entrance to Sperlonga should take place. Then, I will handle everything from that point. In emergencies, communicate. Courage, prayer, zeal, energy, fearlessness. *Det Dominus voci nostrae vocem virtutis etc.*<sup>83</sup>

The confessors who are to help out should be assigned one to a family, etc.. You have the power to extend to them the list of faculties for confession in accordance with the year in the respective towns as well as to include the cases indicated by the synod, so that those qualified to hear the confessions of men, will have them etc. Get these helpers from any diocese as long as

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<sup>83</sup> May the Lord give to our voice a voice of virtue., etc.

they have been approved, etc.. On the doorways of the houses, if it is not possible to place the names of Jesus and Mary, have them set up a wooden cross, etc. at their own expense, etc.. I shall be sending whatever materials are needed for the setting up of the pious organizations, etc.. Write immediately about those things that you see will be needed. In person, give to the confessors their instructions so that all will be carried out in order, since we are the ones who are responsible for exactness along with the spirit of benignity. I give you the faculties so that you can communicate them *toties quoties*<sup>84</sup> to the others, with the exception of those indicated by the synod which are to be granted *per modum habitus*.<sup>85</sup>

#### Faculties

1. Dispensation from the Office (not, however, while traveling or on the occasion of giving a visitation sermon) only to the two Missionaries as long as time is spent, *humano modo*,<sup>86</sup> in doing good for those souls.

2. To you, the faculty of giving the Papal benediction *taxative*.<sup>87</sup>

3. The faculty of blessing rosaries, crucifixes, medals *in articulo mortis* etc.<sup>88</sup> to you and to your companion.

4. The thirteen cases of the Penitentiary to be communicated to both your companion and the others *toties quoties*.<sup>89</sup>

5. The faculty of receiving denunciations *in actu sacramentalis confessionis ante absolutionem*,<sup>90</sup> to you, but communicable *toties quoties*. Also, to you, the faculty of dispensing from these, in cases that are of minor import and which do not bear consequences, as long as *recipiscat etc. onerata conscientia in dispensatione ut debito modo procedatur*.<sup>91</sup>

It is understood that the use of the faculties is *in foro interno dummodo casus non sit deductus in foro externo, nec de facili deducibilis*.<sup>92</sup> More than this, I cannot communicate, even though I have other faculties also dealing with the Carbonari etc. to be communicated *toties*

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<sup>84</sup> As often as.

<sup>85</sup> After the manner of a habit.

<sup>86</sup> In human fashion.

<sup>87</sup> Taxatively.

<sup>88</sup> At the moment of death, etc.

<sup>89</sup> As often as.

<sup>90</sup> In the act of sacramental confession, before the absolution.

<sup>91</sup> Let him come to his senses, etc. with his conscience burdened in the dispensation in order to proceed in due fashion.

<sup>92</sup> In the internal forum as long as the case has not settled in the external forum and is not easily brought there.

*quoties* by me when the case is made known, with a distinction made between the clergy and the laity. So, we will do as follows. You hear confessions and then let me have a listing of the matters that still need further consideration and I will then communicate to you, in writing, the pertinent responses etc.

Let me know, likewise, whether after Monticelli and Sperlonga, something can be done also for Campodimele, as I now ask you. *Ora pro me assidue*.<sup>93</sup> At the Mass, see that the Collect, *pro petitione lacrymarum, etc.*<sup>94</sup> is added. In the meantime, with full esteem and gratitude, I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

I repeat, there is no lack of faculties, be sure of that, but what I have written above is in keeping with the instructions that have been given to me. This is not dependent on me, etc.

Set an entrance time for me in Sperlonga. I will see that one of our companions joins up with you, etc..

If, in the enclosed, there is something for me, kindly inform me.

3875

Middle of January, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi.

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Monticelli

Dear Monsignor<sup>95</sup>

Read, item by item, under the titles, the devotions that I am sending. Check to see what is not urgent so that it can be sent back and be delivered to where it could be used. I will be sending to you whatever more is needed, that is, as many as I can, when I can, keeping in mind the needs of other towns. The reminders against blasphemy will be affixed to them. Keep a close watch over the new ones making their first communion; for them I am sending Chaplets. You will have to get them strung. I am short on medals. For Monticelli, they are to be requested.

The mayor is responsible for having a ringshaped cake prepared as a gift for the communicant etc. The paper with the Passion is for the penitential service in the Oratory. Do not

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<sup>93</sup> Pray for me assiduously.

<sup>94</sup> For a request of tears, etc.

<sup>95</sup> This letter does not have a date, but it is without doubt to be assigned to the middle of January 1824 when Monsignor Manassi was preaching the Mission in Monticelli (around January 1528). The letter, devoid of all the usual formalities, was written on a paper that was wrapped around the "devotional materials" sent to the bishop, as is clearly evident from the address placed on the outer side, at the center of the whole piece of paper. Probably it is in reference to the material which is mentioned in letter n. 3874.

work *ultra vires, etc.*<sup>96</sup> Go easy with regard to the discipline, etc.. *Ora pro me, etc.*<sup>97</sup>

3876

Middle of January, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>98</sup>

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I must tell you the following things:

1. Send the letter also to your brotherinlaw.<sup>99</sup>
2. I am obliged to you for the collection taken up for the foundation in Vallecorsa; you, yourself, can hold on to it for me, and, if necessary, make an exchange of the money that is issued by the Kingdom. Do it that way.
3. With regard to the pious organizations, try to work out whatever you can, *ut fructus maneat*,<sup>100</sup> also, let me know whether you would like to have, from time to time, a bit of encouragement for them, and I will send a worker to do that.
4. I need not remind you to promote our devotion.
5. I shall send instructions to Sperlonga for you. So, you can be very much at ease about that. I do not know whether it will be possible to have a coach chartered for Terracina. But, for the sake of good order, write to Father Luigi<sup>101</sup> to keep in touch with you as closely as possible so that by the 30th of this month the coach will be available. With this in mind, I shall be writing to Sperlonga. You send them a letter. Once Father Luigi's work is completed in Monticelli, his new appointment will be to Sperlonga.
6. From Sperlonga, then, the next move will be to Ponza, the last of these current Missions for you. I will begin making arrangements.
7. Let me know when the work in Sperlonga will be completed, for then I will see that a third companion from Gaeta will join up with you as the one you will be expecting for that island. Until the Lenten preacher arrives for Terracina, I do not see that it is to the glory of God

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<sup>96</sup> Beyond one's strength, etc.

<sup>97</sup> Pray for me, etc.

<sup>98</sup> This letter is not dated, but from the text one can easily deduce that it was written in the second half of January, 1824 when Monsignor Manassi and Fr. Luigi Locatelli were preaching the Mission in Monticelli.

<sup>99</sup> Lorenzo Colognesi.

<sup>100</sup> In order that the fruit remain.

<sup>101</sup> Father Luigi Locatelli.

to take Pellegrini back. God gives to some the desire, to others the execution. Xavier loved China but still that area was cultivated *per alios*.<sup>102</sup> It is not for us to alter the pattern of the greater glory of God.

In the course of your conducting these Missions, please see that there is always a collection taken up for the building project in Vallecorsa. You may retain a small deposit.

Stimulate the leaders to take care of the beds that are needed etc. All is left to your good judgment etc. *Ora pro me*.<sup>103</sup> Ever obliged to you, I remain, with esteem and affection

Humbly yours

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

3877

January 21, 1824

Munsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Monticelli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your letter, here is what I find necessary to indicate to you. I have already made arrangements for the small boat so that from Monticelli you will be able to get to Sperlonga. The pastor will check into it since he, too, wishes to assist with this act of accommodation. By the evening of the 28th, I shall be sending to Monticelli the companion whom God is supplying for you. Presently, I am working on the arrangements for Ponza, the last place for your Missions. From Sperlonga, you can contact me for whatever may be needed, since I am heading for Castellone and Mola in the direction of Itri. Let us be in agreement.

Please collect or have someone collect alms at the end of the preaching, including the day of the final papal blessing, for the benefit of the building project in Vallecorsa here in this diocese of Gaeta. The bishop is earnestly interested in seeing this foundation established. This, as you know, does not stand in the way of our regulations, since it is a case of a special purpose. You are to hold on to that and then we will come to a decision. I have already contacted the Vicar Forane. Check with him to find out whether there are collections taken up there for the purpose mentioned above. In the Missions, you, too, are to recommend this good work which will be the source of benefit for the diocese of Gaeta. If I have overlooked anything, please let me know. Take care of having some visitation sermons given in that area. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>102</sup> Through others.

<sup>103</sup> Pray for me.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Itri, 21st of 1824

P. S. The expense for the *carrettella* from Terracina, agreed upon for 2 *scudi*, will be reimbursed to you by the mayor there, for the coachman.

P. S. Try to get something done about the beds etc. so that good work can be promoted there.

Orally, give to the confessors our *direttorio*.

It is understood that the plenary indulgences can be gained also by the sick who receive communion.

Encourage our devotion and the Oratory, etc.

"Turn"<sup>104</sup>

In keeping with one of your preceding letters, I have set up things in such a way that the Mission in Monticelli should last for 15 days. The bishop of Gaeta<sup>105</sup> expressed to me his great concern that good work be done; he wants the papal benediction to be given on a weekday. In this matter, I beg you for your condescension so that the people, who have also submitted this request to me, will not be disappointed. I would like to make the acquaintance of that young priest who is interested in our ministry. If you think he is a fit candidate, encourage him to go to our House in Terracina. We must continue to form new workers and to increase their number, etc., etc.. You handle this case. He might also go to Vallecorsa, if he prefers to remain within the diocese. *Ora pro me.*<sup>106</sup>

Thank you wholeheartedly for the two coverlets donated for the House in Terracina; Father Pietro<sup>107</sup> has written to me about this. I would like to take along with me that priest who as shown interest in our Institute.

3878

January 22, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Monticelli

Hail etc.

Venerable Monsignor

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<sup>104</sup> The usual invitation to continue reading the letter on the following page.

<sup>105</sup> Monsignor Francesco Buonomo.

<sup>106</sup> Pray for me.

<sup>107</sup> Father Pietro Pellegrini.

Thank you for the interest shown with regard to the shipment. I would like to know whether Canon Locatelli will be continuing with you since, from a letter I got from him, I noticed a certain mood. Inform me quickly. If it is possible to work things out, I would like to please him, and I will give thanks to God. Asking you to extend my gratitude also to Canon Locatelli etc., I remain, with esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Itri, 22nd of 1824

3879

End of January, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezzn and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Monsignor

I give thanks to God for the abundant harvest. I point out that the bishop of Gaeta, having come many times to Mola, can very well by himself conduct confirmations in the towns lying in the flat country such as Mola etc. I thought that you should have no other worry about that, considering your many, many occupations. Rather, I would like you to give a sermon or so in Fondi and there also set up the pious organizations, since I will not be able to do this good work, *et scit Deus quod non meritor.*<sup>108</sup> I hope that you will favor me with your charity.

In regard to the theological case involving Primicerio Nanni, I reply that since it is a question of a simple vow of chastity, in the internal forum he is dispensed *in actu Sacramentalis Confessionis donec vivit coniugem praesentem [sic]. In posterum in casu mortis recurrat. Interim ante absolutionem renouent consensum circa matrimonium ut Ecclesiae praestetur obsequium, etc.*<sup>109</sup>

I shall be sending some other devotional materials that have been requested by Canon Locatelli. I am referring to Chaplets. Your helper wanted to have a hymnal. Have Sperlonga worry about your returns.

Pray for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Give my greetings to Canon Locatelli etc. etc.

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<sup>108</sup> And God knows that I do not lie.

<sup>109</sup> In the act of Sacramental Confession as long as the present spouse is alive. In the future let it recur in the case of death. Meanwhile before absolution let them renew their consent concerning matrimony in order that obedience may be shown to the Church.

3880

End of January, 1824

Monsignor

Encourage Canon Locatelli to join up with you for Fondi, etc.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

3881

January 29, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your very kind letter, I must tell you the following.

1. I give thanks to God for the good work that you are promoting. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*<sup>110</sup>

2. In regard to the Oratory, please try to be a bit more insistent. In short, in Teramano where I conducted Missions last year, an Oratory was established as usual and it is continuing to function. This practice is also being observed in Naples. It will be set up also in Itri etc. and, when an opportunity is available, viewing things prudently, there will be room for anticipation, for *ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati in nomine meo etc.*<sup>111</sup> Neither will Fondi be overlooked in reference to our organizations. *Pertransiit benefaciendo,*<sup>112</sup> as we read in the life of Jesus Christ, just as you indicated to me. I have no doubts at all about your zeal for our most lovable God *cui omnia etc.*<sup>113</sup>

3. Do not forget to mention, in Sperlonga and Ponza, our building project in Vallecorsa (from this area the good work will spread throughout the region there etc.) which is direly in need of support etc.

4. I am sending you some devotional materials for Sperlonga. In the meantime, make use of these. For Ponza, we will take care of that later. From there, I would like to get news about you, sent to Castellone or to Mola, where joint Missions will be conducted etc.

5. In reference to the Carbonari, I have reread my pages and in addition to what was

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<sup>110</sup> The Lord will repay for me.

<sup>111</sup> Where two or three are gathered in my name, etc.

<sup>112</sup> He went about doing good.

<sup>113</sup> Because all things. etc.

written by me in dealing with Monticelli concerning the use of the faculties granted, I add that as long as they have fulfilled *in faciem Ecclesiae* <sup>114</sup> what the bull enjoins and the sanation is in the external forum, you are to absolve them *quatenus onus sit etc.*<sup>115</sup> Also, if the fulfillment is considered in the external forum and the case can be handled in the internal forum, the same holds true, *adhibita professione fidei, retractione, etc. verbaliter prolata in Confessione etc. et absolvatur servatis servandis, etc. circa damna temporalia si adsunt proximo illata etc.*<sup>116</sup> As for any denunciations connected *ad hos Sectarios*, you can receive them *in actu Sacramentalis Confessionis ante absolutionem adhibito juramento de veritate dicenda, et secreto servando transcribendo Confessarius ipse pro poenitente omnia necessaria quoad fieri poterit juxta regulas consuetas. Id omne sigillo munitum mihi erit consignandum, citando in expositione facultate specialiter concessa pro exercitio Missioni [sic] in Diocesi Cajetana etc.*<sup>117</sup>

#### Observations

1. In reference to priests: it is necessary that you write to me *toties quoties*.<sup>118</sup>
2. You alone are to receive the denunciations; therefore, the other confessors, once the confessions are completed, are to refer them to you and you, *in actu reconciliationis* will carry out that duty *ante absolutionem*.<sup>119</sup>
3. *Servatis exceptionibus ut supra*, you will be able to communicate these faculties to absolve *toties quoties in actu Missionis*.<sup>120</sup>
4. *Consultum erit remittere denunciationes quoad fieri poterit Episcopo Dioecetano ut nostrae meliori libertati in ministerio serviamus. Si autem commode id fieri non poterit tunc regulae assignatae locum habeant.*<sup>121</sup>

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<sup>114</sup> In the presence of the Church

<sup>115</sup> To the extent that it is necessary

<sup>116</sup> The profession of faith being had, the retraction, etc. having been offered verbally in confession, etc. and with the necessary provisions let him be absolved with respect to temporal damages, if any, brought against a neighbor, etc.

<sup>117</sup> To these Sectarians ... in the act of sacramental confession before absolution, the oath about telling the truth having been taken and by transcribing the secret to be observed, the confessor himself can provide everything necessary for the penitent to the extent possible according to customary rules. All this protected by seal will have to be authenticated for me, by citing it in the exposition with the faculty specially granted for the conduct of the mission in the Cajetan Diocese.

<sup>118</sup> As often as.

<sup>119</sup> In the act of reconciliation ... before absolution

<sup>120</sup> While preserving the exceptions as above ... as often as in the conduct of the mission

<sup>121</sup> There will be consultation to the extent possible, about sending the denunciations to the diocesan bishop in order that we may have greater freedom in the ministry. But if this can not be done conveniently, then let the assigned rules prevail.

5. *Denunciationes recipiendae sunt quando post bullae emanationem Titius verbigratia pertinaciter, aut quocumque modo sectae adhesit vel interum confirmavit errorem, aut verba protulit tendentia etc. Quod certum est pro certo exhibeatur, quod dubium pro notitia dubia pariter habeatur in ipsa denunciatione. Ille autem qui post bullam nil aliud peregit sub quocumque respectu, et se poenituit denunciationi non erit subjicendus.*<sup>122</sup>

6. Pray and have many prayers said for me so that I will become a saint. I beg you for this act of charity.

7. Once again, I am indebted to you in thousands of ways. While kissing your hands, I remain, in Jesus Christ Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*<sup>123</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Itri, 29th of 1824.

P.S. I recommend the Sacred League for the confessors so that the good work will be done well.

I judge as expedient the encouragement of a monthly meeting for the association of S. Luigi on a free day. The same holds true for the women on a Friday, reciting the Chaplet etc. I am sending you the devotional materials that I can. I have only very few hymnals. We shall see later on.

3882

January 30, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Fondi

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I must inform you that in Ponza the temporal means have not as yet been put in order nor the necessary authorizations that are to be arranged. So, the most reverend bishop, out of sheer necessity, is considering the deferral of this good work until the more pleasant season of the year. In the meantime, he would like you to help with confirmations and that you go to Campodimele along with another companion, whom I will assign to you. I consider it expedient, keeping in mind the glory of God, that Canon Locatelli, after Sperlonga, should return to his regular

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<sup>122</sup> The denunciations must be received when, after the publication of the Bull, Titius, for the sake of a name, obstinately or in some way adhered to a sect or again confirmed his error or used contentious words. What is certain should be exhibited as certain. What is doubtful should be equally considered in the denunciation as doubtful knowledge. But anyone who after the Bull has done nothing else in any regard and repents should not be subjected to denunciation.

<sup>123</sup> Who redeemed us in his blood.

assignment.

I submit myself, of course, to your good judgment and advice. With these assumptions in mind, let me know when you will be getting to Sperlonga; do not be too concerned about the time but let me know, more or less, the approximate day, so that I can work out my scheduling of things. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mola, 30th of 1824

3883

February 2, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your letter of February 2, I say to you that I cannot adequately express my gratitude to you for the good that you are doing. I am deeply edified by the zeal with which you are so thoroughly animated. May the Lord increase that zeal ever more and more. I am informed that in Roccasecca the people have been prepared up to now for the good work, etc.. Mention was also made in regard to Roccagorga, etc..

I sent you a couple of letters, one containing an extension of the more important faculties which I was able to communicate after having reread my papers. I was mistaken about not being able to grant more. Along with those letters, I also sent a package of devotional materials. As for the travel, the *Uffizio* probably has said something, etc.. I also wrote another letter dealing with Ponza and Campodimele; I would like to have a response about them. I hope that they did not send them to Terracina. I would like to make good use of time and not have to repeat things, if possible, etc..

I have kept in touch with the archpriest in Sperlonga in regard to the collection for the foundation being made in Vallecorsa in keeping with the wishes of the bishop of Gaeta; check to see whether it might be better for the town, etc.. When you have the opportunity, write to me just as a consolation to me, etc.. *Ora pro me*.<sup>124</sup> I kiss your hands, and I remain etc.

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Castellone, February 2<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>124</sup> Pray for me.

<sup>125</sup> The year is not written, but it is 1824.

## 3884

February 2, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Sperlonga

I add.<sup>126</sup> The island of Ponza does not have time available presently. Let me know whether you will be able to handle Campodimele just as I have requested of you. Also, the bishop of Gaeta would like to have you help with the confirmations.

I think that it would be fit for Canon Locatelli to return after Sperlonga. I will supply you with another companion. *Ad cautelam*,<sup>127</sup> I have written this etc.

I would like to know whether you will take care of getting confessors for Fondi.

## 3885

February 4, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Sperlonga

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

St. Francis de Sales used to preach the Lenten series. Now, I am asking you, on your own, to do a bit of this work during Lent in Roccasecca. Please give me an affirmative answer. I kiss your hands, and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mola, February 4, 1824

## 3886

February 6, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Not only do I approve but I laud your zeal in showing the good disposition that you

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<sup>126</sup> "I add" but what? The halfsheet upon which these "additions" are written was found with the letter of February 2, 1824. Hence, we give it the same date.

<sup>127</sup> As a precaution.

nurture in writing to the bishop of Gaeta in reference to fishing. In this way, everyone is convinced to read well your book, and superiors thus will easily remain on hand with their net.

Your first letter demonstrates God's initial enlightenment which we must pay attention to, as our holy Albertini used to say. Furthermore, it is something evermore pleasing to God that bishops imitate de Sales by preaching to their flocks. Lent is not the time to think about making the *ad limina*<sup>128</sup> visit. That season is the autumntime of gathering in the harvest of souls whose thirst must be quenched by the *vino compunctionis*. *Praedica Verbum,. instas. ... Exalta vocem tuam sicut tuba, etc.*<sup>129</sup>

When it becomes necessary to supply others, I, in keeping with our understanding, will send another Missionary. But I am looking at the good itself that you will be doing personally, the good example that you are giving to the bishops, the conferences that you will promote for the clergy, the closer affection for their shepherd that will be shown by the sheep. God will provide you with agility. When you are in Roccasecca, you will carry out your duties in the finest way. The stipend for your assignment as Lenten preacher will be used if not for your maintenance then certainly for your almsgiving. Then, when you make your *ad limina* visit, you might request an increase in your income for the greater good of your flocks as well as for your successors. You can be absolutely certain about the will of God. I foresee great blessings issuing from this area of the apostolate. It would likewise be a prudent outlook to install the various functions in your diverse dioceses. The beginnings, although just, are of easier deduction.

Let me know whether, after you finish in Sperlonga, it would be an inconvenience to you to come to Mola and Castellone, and to Itri for confirmations. However, I advise that Canon Locatelli return immediately to his work so as not to deprive the reckoning of the greater glory of the Lord. I would appreciate getting your most amiable responses. I am hopeful for great results from this Mission. Check with Canon Giorgio and anyone else that you think might be concerned to find out whether in Lent someone might be able to come for the Mission in the Province of Campagna. I kiss your hands. With very special affection, esteem and attachment, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mola, February 6, 1824

Urge Canon Giorgio to join our Society. Fondi will be compensated with encouragement from our men.

The visitation sermons, during a Mission, are made when certain areas are not able to have a central Mission or where Missions were already held.

Work out a sermon for Fondi and set up a nightly Oratory.

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<sup>128</sup> At the door.

<sup>129</sup> The wine of compunction. Preach the word, you are standing ... Raise your voice like a trumpet, etc.

3887

February 18, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You surely must have gotten my other letters! With this present one, I wish to thank you for the great work that you have done in the diocese of Gaeta. *Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis.*<sup>130</sup> I add nothing more.

However, I must once again inconvenience you with the following. In Albano, the Lenten preacher for Sermoneta has become ill. I now find myself in straits because of my full schedule and that of my companions for Lent, not to overlook Roccagorga. I had asked Father Pellegrini but he begged me to exempt him. Would you be able to send there the archpriest of Sezze or Pastor Giuliani, while having the parish covered in this tight situation by someone from the Penitentiary? This would be a very big favor if you could relieve me of this concern. Perhaps Canon di Bonis, assigned to Maenza, could substitute and in Maenza I would arrange for the exercises that I might succeed in working out. You would be doing me such a big favor if you would send a quick, decisive reply through the kind services of the Vicar of Fondi, to whom you will send a letter. I kiss your hands and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Lenola, February 18, 1824

3888

February 18, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Dear Monsignor<sup>131</sup>

Hail etc.

Two people living in concubinage, in order to avoid the civil laws of the Kingdom, would like to arrange a marriage in Terracina. The man has all the necessary papers, etc.. Let me know

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<sup>130</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf with sweet blessings.

<sup>131</sup> This letter has no date, but it was enclosed in the envelope of the episcopal archives of Terracina along with the letter (n. 3887) of February 18, 1824. Hence, we assign to it that same date. Furthermore, in the letter of February 24, 1824, St. Gaspar refers to the purpose of this letter which shows that it was previous to that one.

whether you can influence, etc.. Removed would be a great evil concerning which, *pro interim*,<sup>132</sup> some temporary action has been provided, etc.

*G. C. d. B.*

## 3889

February 24, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reference to the marriage concerning which I transmitted your thoughts to the confessor, you should be receiving a reply directly from him.

The information from Roccagorga alludes to the renunciation of a Lenten preacher. I suggested, in my recent letter, a compensation by having religious exercises. Now, I would appreciate getting the final decision and I beg you to send a prompt and decisive response.

Please give to Father Pietro Pellegrini up to 15 *scudi*, computing therein any amount which, I know, has already been given to him. I will reimburse you for this either in Piperno or there, or in Rome, through the services of Vizzeri.

Pray to God a great deal for me. With regard to Sermoneta, do not become worried. If you do, let me know and I will find a remedy. Alert the places where the Retreats will be conducted so that they can begin making preparations etc.

I know that Canon Mancini has requested the favor of going out on Mission work. I want him to know and wish that he have no other attitude than giving glory to God. With esteem and respect, though in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Lenola, February 24, 1824<sup>133</sup>

## 3890

February 25, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

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<sup>132</sup> For the time being.

<sup>133</sup> Among the letters of St. Gaspar to Manassi, discovered in the archives of Terracina and bearing this date, there is also a letter from Merlini to Manassi in which he speaks about the Maestra Pia in Sonnino for whom he is the spiritual director. He says that he is very hopeful of a successful outcome.

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

At my own expense, I am writing and mailing this letter to your most illustrious and reverend lordship, so that the good work will be arranged and directed in an orderly fashion to the glory of the Lord. Its purpose is to inform you that on the 1st Friday in Lent, immediately after Ash Wednesday, two of my companions will be on hand for the holy Retreat, in place of the Lenten preaching, in Roccagorga, with the assumption that Canon de Bonis will be going to Maenza. These men will be there in Terracina on the evening of Ash Wednesday. Ask Father Pellegrini to contact Canon Trento for lodging if there are no accommodations in S. Francesco, for that surely must be the case.

On Thursday morning, they will set out for Roccagorga. The manner that they are to use in getting there must be the responsibility of Roccagorga. You reflect whether that is by way of Sandalo or not. In my present situation, I am unable to handle this matter. I have already fixed the time indicated since no other time periods were able to be considered by me. All that I will be concerned with now is Roccasecca, at the earliest possible time. Generally speaking, they, too, are prepared to receive two Missionaries who will be conducting the Retreat. Kissing your hands and asking you for your prayers, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Lenola, February 25, 1824

3891

Beginning of March, 1824  
Fr. Marcellino Brandimarte  
Sonnino

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Marcellino <sup>134</sup>

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<sup>134</sup> This letter, without a date, was discovered in the episcopal archives of Terracina, along with the letters to Monsignor Manassi. From the postal markings, it is evident that the letter was sent from Frosinone. In this letter, it says that Brandimarte is to assume the position of temporary economist in Terracina. From the volume, Archivio delle Case di Velletri Terracina e Sonnino, among the documents pertaining to the House in Terracina, in the folder: "Economato del Signor D. Marcellino Brandimarte", it is obvious that this man was the economist in Terracina from April 21st to June 26, 1824. In St. Gaspar's letter, he is told to be in Terracina on the Monday immediately after Easter, which in 1824 fell on April 19th. According to the postal markings, the letter was sent from Frosinone where St. Gaspar returned at the beginning of March 1824 and stayed there almost uninterruptedly for several months. On the other hand, in the letter, recommendations are given to Brandimarte with regard to preaching which was probably in regard to preaching for Lent which in 1824 began on March 3<sup>rd</sup>, Ash Wednesday. Hence, this letter is placed at the beginning days of the month of March, 1824.

In regard to your things, keep in touch with Father Biagio.<sup>135</sup> This letter has no other objective than for you to carry out there the very best work that you can do. Above all, prepare well everything that you preach, since the most lovable God merits being served with fidelity and exactitude. Give there an edifying example, as I have no doubt you will do. Do not allow chitchat in the House. Be a lover of withdrawal, seriousness, and prayer. Pray for me and our Institute.

I must inform you that on the Monday, immediately after Easter, after the noon meal, you are to depart for Terracina where you will arrive by nightfall. You are to take up residence in S. Francesco where the two Sessi brothers are staying because of the usual fear of the brigands. So, you will be away from anything that is to be feared and also because the Pope has given his approval to our being there. I shall see to sending you a Brother for your period of time there in Sonnino and you can take him along with you later.

Starting from now, I appoint you as the temporary economist for that foundation, taking charge of the consignments etc. You will then consult with the one who is in charge and from him you will learn more and more about the apostolic work in all of its aspects. I rely in everything on your activity and zeal. Whatever is yours, you will have delivered from Sermoneta, but try to arrange the most economical plans. Have them ship your clothing to Terracina and let me know the expense involved, always, I repeat, using thriftiness. Do not be jolted if you should hear criticism against the Institute. Let the lives of the saints be our schooling. I add nothing more. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

3892

March 4, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I hear that, at this point when I am writing, there is no preaching in Sermoneta since nothing has been done because of the sickness of the Lenten preacher. If this is so, send me a quick reply to Frosinone and I will set up a Retreat for around the middle of Lent. With presenting the regulations, the reform material and meditations, this would be equivalent to giving a Lenten series. However, you are to write that the entire fund is to be used for that purpose, thus covering the expenses of travel, etc. and whatever is left over is for the Mission House. Pray to God for me. While kissing your hands, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>135</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 4, 1824

P. S. See that those in Roccasecca are prepared for every directive.

3893

March 9, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracirua, Sezza and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Have no doubts about Sermoneta and Roccasecca. In regard to Roccagorga, with regret did I learn of the delay in that good work. Patience. However, it is still a good idea for you to give them there the most decisive instructions. I am consoled in learning that there will be someone to direct the people there. I shall not cease praying for a copious harvest. In confidence, let me know how Father Ferdinando is doing. I hope, well. Pray a lot to God for me. With esteem, respect and very special affection, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, March 9, 1824

P. S. See that the folio coming from Ferrara and dealing with indulgences gets to me in Rome.

3894

March 10, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezza and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In regard to Roccasecca, I inform you that the good work of the Retreat will begin on the Wednesday after Passion Sunday. If the workers assigned to it have not as yet completed their other appointment in the ministry, then I, myself, will be there on Holy Saturday and I will remain there for whatever time will be needed. Asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Guarcino, March 10, 1824

P. S. If you need to write, send it to Frosinone. I have also given thought to Sermoneta and around Passion Sunday, the Retreat will begin there. As for Roccasecca, if there is need, write to me. I am hopeful, however, that you have provided for that.

"Turn".<sup>136</sup>

I have just received another of your letters. So, I shall take care of clearing up matters in regard to the Retreat in Sermoneta and I will not make a move without you. I understand all about Roccasecca.

With reference to arrangements for Lenten series, it would be a bad idea to leave the arrangements in the hands of the Commune. This is a matter of sacred things and it is the duty of bishops to make this advantage available to the people. As for your reflections in regard to the House in Sermoneta and the manner of dealing with the people of the Commune, I omit comment. One might say that the interest shown there has never been a mainspring of activity. What you, as one legitimately authorized, will dispose will work out well. I suggest only that the fund provided should be used for repairwork of the locale of S. Francesco in Sermoneta where we have our residence. It is in such bad shape in so many, many parts so as to cause great inconvenience to anyone who lives there. You, as a virtuous man, will not be aggravated if I speak in this openhearted language. You can do the same to me and I will be most obliged to you. God knows how much I love you and esteem you for his greater glory.

With regard to the selected Vicar General, Father Pietro Pellegrini, I answer: 1. that I cannot deny the deep feeling that I have on the loss of any one of our individuals. Still, I see that God is intervening and, since our Society is his, he will continue to take care of it. I am fully aligned to his divine will, *et quod Domino placet fiat*.<sup>137</sup> 2. but, whether he is one fit for being a Vicar General, I say not at all; that selection is not according to God. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto*.<sup>138</sup> You handle things as you see fit. Our Institute is only *ad instar*<sup>139</sup> the Filippini Fathers. One presides only by praying and that presiding is only another school for learning how difficult it is to rule and how easy to be obedient. However, I do not complain about anyone. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>140</sup> While kissing your hands, I remain etc.

Please send, enclosed to Frosinone, the printed material of Ferrara. Let me know if there are any expenses involved.

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<sup>136</sup> A invitation to continue reading by "turning" to the following page.

<sup>137</sup> And let there be what pleases the Lord.

<sup>138</sup> I submit to those who are wiser.

<sup>139</sup> After the fashion of.

<sup>140</sup> Enough of this.

3895

March 18, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Between Monday and Tuesday, the Lenten preacher for Sermoneta will be coming. I am referring to the Monday or Tuesday after the third Sunday; thus, this good work has been taken care of.

So, on Tuesday, or at the latest Wednesday after Passion Sunday, Father Biagio Valentini, along with another companion, will be coming to Roccasecca. I have already written to Archpriest Giuliani. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.<sup>141</sup>

With regard to Roccagorga, if there should be some urgency, I would advise you to ask Canon Mancini. Otherwise, write to me about this.

I would be pleased if you would direct Father Ferdinando in reference to our method of preaching, and, you would be doing me a favor by informing me and the others in our Society, whenever you have the opportunity.

Thank you for the wonderful spiritual thoughts that you communicated to me in your most appreciated letter *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.<sup>142</sup> My obligations concerning the printed material from Ferrara are increasing. Let me know whether I am to make any kind of contribution. In regard to the blank certificate, Father Biagio Valentini can give his signature; he is *vere homo Dei*.<sup>143</sup>

Do not cease praying for me *et sine intermissione*.<sup>144</sup> Your prayers are always most dear to me. I do not cease praying for whatever needs may be yours. While kissing your hands, I remain, with very special affection, attachment and esteem, in Jesus Christ

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Guarcino, March 18, 1824

P. S. If necessary, write, addressing it: Frosinone. After Easter, I hope to be in Terracina.

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<sup>141</sup> Praise to God in all things.

<sup>142</sup> And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>143</sup> Truly a man of God.

<sup>144</sup> Without intermission.

You have probably already placed in the archives the memoranda concerning the translation of the remains of Monsignor Albertini. *Ora pro me assidue*.<sup>145</sup>

## 3896

April 4, 1824  
Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Priverno<sup>146</sup>

## Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Within a few days, our very dear Father Giovanni Merlini will be coming there, along with one of our students, to take care of the Society's affairs. It will be a matter of only a day or so. I ask you to provide hospitality in your episcopal quarters, if you can. I hope, with the help of the Lord, that little by little the work of setting the locale of S. Francesco in order will be completed, thus relieving you of so many inconveniences that you endure; I keep in full consideration all of the feelings of gratitude and sincere acknowledgment.

In Sermoneta, as you might realize, it has been quite some time since Father Gregorio Giobbi went there to cultivate that vineyard by preaching the good news. In Roccasecca, during these days, the care of those souls will begin. Two workers will be going there and remain until the entirety of Easter day, that is to say, for around 12 days. I have learned nothing more about Roccasecca. I presume that provisions have been made.

I would like to know whether the canonical erection of our devotion has been done *ubique*<sup>147</sup> in your dioceses. If not, then I beg you not to cease giving the most convincing words of encouragement. I ask, likewise, that the deed be compiled for the transferral, I imagine at least privately, of the remains of Monsignor Albertini. You probably have written also to Bologna. Pray a lot for me, a wretched one. Give my warm greetings to Father Ferdinando etc. While kissing your hands, most illustrious and reverend lordship, I remain, with the usual respectful affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 4, 1824

## 3897

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<sup>145</sup> Pray for me assiduously.

<sup>146</sup> St. Gaspar had written "Terracina"; someone else's hand canceled that and added "Priverno".

<sup>147</sup> Wherever.

April 12, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Priverno<sup>148</sup>

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I ask you, please, to provide hospitality, a simple place of shelter, in your episcopal quarters for Fr. Biagio<sup>149</sup> and myself who will be there in Terracina for a few days to take care of our Society's affairs. I have kept this matter secret since it is better to travel that way. If you should be unable to extend this favor to me, then, please contact Canon Trento. While asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and affection

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 12, 1824

3898

April 24, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Since I was passing through Piperno at a late hour, I was impeded from coming to visit you as I would have liked; furthermore, it was not a prudent thing to go to the Capuchins at nighttime. I thought that I should not inconvenience you in your episcopal quarters, both because I was not alone and because I did not wish to upset you with concern about beds. I left word with Canon Giusti to extend to you my distinctly sincere greetings.

When I got to Piperno, I found awaiting me one of your most appreciated letters, a reply to one of mine, dealing with the trip to Terracina. In response to this, I say *Dominus retribuet pro*

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<sup>148</sup>Alongside the address, Manassi had written the following notation: "To write to Terracina so that they will send me the first rescript of the absence from the church in behalf of Canon Pacifici".

In a handwriting other than that of Manassi, someone wrote: "Letters of Canon del Bufalo".

Along with this letter, there is a small sheet on which notations, made in the handwriting of Manassi, give the following information: "Departure for Rome: The evening mailcoach on Mondays and Wednesdays of each week at the 24th hour. Arrival: It arrives on Wednesdays and Fridays in the evening. For the Province: It departs on both Tuesdays and Saturdays before noon etc."

<sup>149</sup> Father Biagio Valentini.

*me*<sup>150</sup> because of the many, many obligations I have to you. Once the season has settled down, Father Merlini will be going to Terracina.

In regard to Roccagorga, I tell you that if the people will accept the Retreat for the time of the Pentecost Novena, then quite willingly will I send two workers there. In Frosinone, our central location here for forwarding purposes, (besides the address in Rome), I shall be awaiting your favorable reply to this. Let us be in agreement on this appointment. I shall make no move, I repeat, until I receive another of your letters.

In my opinion, you ought not write off your trip to the Kingdom, but I would hold off just a bit longer. The present moment is a bit critical; and, it would be better for you to look after your flock. Likewise, the weather itself will be more gentle and through prayer you will receive greater enlightenment. From the Capuchins, I learned about your health troubles. May the series of crosses which Xavier endured be a comfort to us so that, in some way or other, we might imitate his example. We may not use his words: *plura Domine*,<sup>151</sup> but we might say "*adauge virtutem et fortitudinem*."<sup>152</sup>

Make a bit of an effort to animate the Oratory there. Maenza offers a good example. The members themselves, in that locale, can also make the *Via Crucis* etc. just as they do on feastdays. Indeed, what difficulty would it be for the priests to cover just one evening? *Oremus coram Domino ut omnes alacri animo voluntatem Dei adimpleant: hilarem enim datorem diligit Deus*.<sup>153</sup>

I have given no more thought to the 180 *scudi* of the Monastero delle Canne because Father Merlini told me that you had written to wait for Canon Locatelli and that he might make a claim. Desirous as I am, insofar as it is possible, of maintaining harmonious relationships, I thought that I should make no further petitions. May this serve for you as a matter of record to be communicated to whomever you think it should be given. Finally, do not cease recommending me a lot to God, *et sine intermissione*.<sup>154</sup> I do not forget you in my scanty and poor prayers. While kissing your hands, I repeat that with respectful esteem and very special affection, I am always

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 24, 1824

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<sup>150</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>151</sup> More, O Lord.

<sup>152</sup> Increase virtue and fortitude.

<sup>153</sup> Let us pray before the Lord in order that all may do the will of God with a willing spirit: for God loves a cheerful giver.

<sup>154</sup> And without intermission.

P. S. Pray to God for me since, within a short time, I shall be going to Alatri for a Mission.

3899

May 13, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Pririverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You, indeed, have no need of my encouragement, but still I ask you again, in your charity, to be concerned about the Oratory there in keeping with the basic principles set up by our Father Merlini; these are wellknown by the parishpriest. Also stimulate the one in Roccagorga. We cannot describe just how greatly, *de die in diem*,<sup>155</sup> the Xavier devotion is growing. I am writing in a hurry. I kiss your hands and with the usual esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, May 13, 1824

P. S. Within days, another worker will be going to Terracina help out etc. *Ora pro me assidue etc.*<sup>156</sup>

In regard to the 180 *scudi* relating to Sonnino, I have ready stated that I have set aside any consideration since I not wish to distress anyone who would like to have them etc.

3900

May 16, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Priverno<sup>157</sup>

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Have no doubts about Roccagorga, but rather think about something else: keep in mind the 20th of June, in preparation for the feast of the Divine Blood on the 1st Sunday of July. I would like to have, through the mails, your approval of that date. Pray to Jesus for me. I kiss

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<sup>155</sup> From day to day.

<sup>156</sup> Pray for me assiduously, etc.

<sup>157</sup> The address is in another person's handwriting.

your hands and I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, May 16, 1824

P. S. Have no doubts that the Missionaries will be on hand when needed. I, too, am pleased to adhere to basics, but sometimes economical problems interfere, etc.. Father Giacomo Giorgi will not be, etc..