

## St. Gaspar's Letters

### 3901 - 3959

Letter Number	Date	Page
3901.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>7 June 1824</i>	3039
3902.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>15 June 1824</i>	3039
3903.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>7 July 1824</i>	3040
3904.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>July 1824</i>	3041
3905.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>1 September 1824</i>	3044
3906.	Fr. Nicola Palma, <i>1 November 1824</i>	3044
3907.	Mother M. Nazzarena De Castris, <i>29 November 1824</i>	3045
3908.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>30 November 1824</i>	3046
3909.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>7 December 1824</i>	3046
3910.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>12 December 1824</i>	3047
3911.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>20 December 1824</i>	3047
3912.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>24 December 1824</i>	3048
3913.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>1 January 1825</i>	3050
3914.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>10 January 1825</i>	3051
3915.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>14 January 1825</i>	3051
3916.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>15 January 1825</i>	3053
3917.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>18 January 1825</i>	3053
3918.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>19 January 1825</i>	3054
3919.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>20 January 1825</i>	3054
3920.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>21 January 1825</i>	3054
3921.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>18 February 1825</i>	3056
3922.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>21 February 1825</i>	3056
3923.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>26 February 1825</i>	3057
3924.	Fr. Pietro Spina, <i>28 February 1825</i>	3057
3925.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>7 March 1825</i>	3058
3926.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>18 March 1825</i>	3058
3927.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>24 March 1825</i>	3059
3928.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>27 March 1825</i>	3059
3929.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>14 April 1825</i>	3060
3930.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>24 April 1825</i>	3061
3931.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>5 June 1825</i>	3063
3932.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>9 June 1825</i>	3063
3933.	Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>10 June 1825</i>	3064

3934. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>17 June 1825</i>	3066
3935. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>8 July 1825</i>	3066
3936. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>25 September 1825</i>	3068
3937. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>8 October 1825</i>	3069
3938. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>17 October 1825</i>	3069
3939. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>29 November 1825</i>	3070
3940. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>22 December 1825</i>	3072
3941. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>28 December 1825</i>	3073
3942. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>4 January 1826</i>	3074
3943. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>15 January 1826</i>	3075
3944. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>23 January 1826</i>	3076
3945. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>12 February 1826</i>	3076
3946. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>14 February 1826</i>	3077
3947. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>16 February 1826</i>	3078
3948. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>23 March 1826</i>	3079
3949. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>9 April 1826</i>	3080
3950. Msgr. Carlo Manassi, <i>23 April 1826</i>	3080

3901

June 7, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter of mine I am recommending to you the cleric who is presenting it to you, so that in as far as you are able, you will please work along with him in the good deed of obtaining a place for him either in the school of Terracina or in the seminary of Sezze. As for the consideration of room and board, you will learn from him what is considered feasible.

Understood is that this is to cover all of the upcoming scholastic year.

The most reverend bishop of Gaeta thinks that you might have been burdened in some way or other by some pontifical pronouncements which, he tells me, you may have judged to be incapable of fulfillment because of the scarcity of clergy in some places or because the places themselves were not prepared. I know nothing about this story nor do I care to know anything about it. In general, he might have wanted confirmations to be had in Pastena etc. But the thing that is urgent is the Mission in Ponza and the adjacent island, if I remember correctly. That good work is inevitable since God wishes to have you take care of it along with the administration of confirmation etc; it should not be deferred. In regard to item one, I gave the reply that I am acquainted with your way of thinking, namely, not to pay attention to mere trifles. You need not make any reference to that, since the bishop spoke to me confidentially, etc..

In regard to item two, namely the Mission in Ponza, I gave the reply that you surely would set aside any other commitment and that it was urgently necessary to take care of this matter immediately, not to be deferred. I, of course, will supply you with companions etc. After S. Antonio, you will have to set out. Send me your response quickly. Your trip to Rome should be delayed. You can make your *ad limina* visit at any time at all, but, right now going seaward is the urgent matter. St. Francis Xavier gave up visiting his mother so that he could continue to wage war against sin. The pastor of Ponza, who is here, will be awaiting you with open arms. So, let us be in agreement. Get an extension of time from Rome and offer them this reason. Do not place obstacles to this action for that might bring about feelings of remorse. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.  
Gaeta, June 7, 1824

P. S. I shall be awaiting a consoling reply, as well as information on what you plan for local arrangements of the trip, the time etc.

3902

Middle of June, 1824  
Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Dear Monsignor<sup>1</sup>

Hail etc.

I ask that you try to get an arrangement of patrimony for the presenter of this letter.

Your servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

3903

July 7, 1824  
Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>2</sup>

Oh what delight I experienced in receiving your very dear letter. *Laus Deo in omnibus sive tribulamur sive consolamur pro vestra exhortatione et salute.*<sup>3</sup> This can be repeated to the people there. Surely, the devil just had to make every effort he could to offset the good work, but he just could not impede it. It is my belief that *cum ipso sum in tribulatione etc. ... et si Deus pro nobis quis contra nos.*<sup>4</sup>

Many heavenly greetings to our dear brethren to whom I say *si compatimur et*

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<sup>1</sup> This letter has no date. One of the notes written on this very same letterpage, which has nothing at all to do with the problem of patrimony but rather of matrimony, is dated "Gaeta, June 16, 1824", when Manassi went to conduct the Mission in Gaeta precisely during that month and year. From there, he went on to the island of Ponza, Ventotene and Santo Stefano for mission work and for the administration of confirmations. Therefore, tentatively we assign the letter's date to the middle of June, 1824.

<sup>2</sup> The original letter written by St. Gaspar is in a very bad status of preservation, with several parts of the letter quite faded. Nevertheless, the words can still be made out with certainty, although with some difficulty.

<sup>3</sup> Praise to God in everything, whether we are distressed or consoled for your encouragement and health.

<sup>4</sup> I am with him in tribulation, etc. ... and if God is for us who is against us?

*conglorificamur. Deus det omnibus vocem virtutis, concutientis cedros Libani, etc.*<sup>5</sup> Oh how lovable God is who, along with those sufferings, pours out a feeling of consolation that is simply incapable of description by mortal tongue!

Tell Father Pietro Fusari that the bishop has already been informed and that he is content about the delay. Tell Canon Fontana that I will be awaiting him in Frosinone. You, then, as soon as you have arrived, are to write to me, please, since I have things to settle with you. The shift of Retreats in Roccagorga has been deferred until after the harvest chores in the country. I went to the *Foro Appio* but I did not find the mounts there. I was out in the open countryside and as best I could I found my way and went along with my companions to Sermoneta where a beautiful foundation is underway just as the one in Frosinone. A House has also been opened in Rimini. *Laus Deo in omnibus*<sup>6</sup> and new workers are joining up. One just left for Benevento. The misunderstanding about Roccagorga was not the fault of the people of Roccagorga. As De Sales says, God, who brings the times to maturity, will reserve another period for this good work and he will not delay. I am already in contact with the archpriest.

I have closed the House in Terracina and until the Retreat is begun, when things have settled down a bit, I am not planning to return. I am quite aware of the annoyances (let this be between us) that I have experienced with this foundation and, after praying to God, I feel quite at peace about what has been done. When the Commune provides a fit hospice for us, our Society will return.

In the meantime, with regard to S. Francesco, we must set aside any consideration of it so as not to get involved with Canon Locatelli. Our Society has done enough. In order not to inconvenience anyone, I have had everything that pertains to this foundation stored in Sonnino and Canon Carboneri has a separate notification prepared by Merlini. He will also watch over the *Ritiro*.

Outside of providing the place of residence in the Province, no one in the entire Commune has made any move at all. Only Terracina has been a source of disturbance, and only for us. Your previous letter, dealing with a meeting in reference to two rooms in the episcopal quarters, has caused confusion since it got to me after my departure from Terracina. In it, the statement appears: "Here are the Missionaries who have not wished to stay on", etc. At any rate, I do not look for casual arrangements. To stay in the episcopal quarters along with the Collegio and with only two rooms, was not expedient. I do not care to set up a skeleton of our Institute.

Still more: we must have available a change in climate during the summer, and it was not good to go from S. Francesco to live in the lowland. I would not have allowed Father

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<sup>5</sup> If we suffer with him and are also glorified with him. May God give to a powerful voice to all who are shattering the cedars of Lebanon, etc.

<sup>6</sup> Praise be to God in all things.

Marcellino<sup>7</sup> to stay there alone since he is not experienced in governing things; I would supply another whom I have on hand. I would not have needed a room for a Brother. So, for the time being, let the people of Terracina pray for those merciful acts of God which, in a general way, they have valued very little up to now. I am careful about what I say since I know very well the bases for your reasoning. That is why, today, I have thought it a good idea to indicate all of this to you because I know that they are seeking to knock the project down, not wishing to be cooperative as they should. So, *juste haec patimur etc.*<sup>8</sup> This, in no way, takes away the desire that I have for getting the good work done; however, I see that this is incapable of fulfillment until they make the means available and give a helping hand to this holy undertaking. I now stop writing, and I recommend myself again to your prayers, while repeating that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, July 7, 1824

3904

July 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>9</sup>

*Dominus retribuet pro me in benedictionibus dulcedinis*<sup>10</sup> for the very good work that you have promoted to the greater glory of God and the benefit of souls.

I owe you a reply for two of your letters, and, in order to be orderly about it, let us proceed as follows ...

1. A certain chancellor in Sezze, the one prior to the present one, upon an occasion when I was making a visit<sup>11</sup> to the *Monastero della Sagra Famiglia*, requested that I recommend him to your most illustrious and reverend lordship. I got out of this awkward situation by saying that

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<sup>7</sup> Father Marcellino Brandimarte.

<sup>8</sup> We suffer justly, etc.

<sup>9</sup> This letter has no date. After comparing it with the letter (n. 3901) of July 7, 1824, in which the same topics are treated (the suspension of the House in Terracina, Father Marcellino, the Foro Appio etc.) it appears that it should be assigned to the same period of time, and, precisely immediately after that one, but always still in the month of July (in fact, mention is made to the upcoming months of August and September).

<sup>10</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf in sweet blessings.

<sup>11</sup> St. Gaspar made this visit to Sezze at the end of June.

though I maintain esteem for everyone, I was not in a position, except for the sake of the record, to make his desires known to you. He said various things vocally to me and presented to me a document from the other Vicar, etc.. I concluded that he was hoping to have your most illustrious and reverend lordship's consideration.

2. A certain Rigosa from Bassiano wrote to me asking that I recommend his petition for a separation, I think, from his wife. I do not know why he wrote to me. I sent him a reply using those words that I could and I assured him that I would write to you about this.

3. Canon Mancini wrote to me asking that I investigate what your position is and find out whether you would stand in the way of his getting information in regard to the renunciation which he would like to make of his canonry, and setting aside for him a pension of 20, or perhaps, 25 *scudi*. He tells me that his canonry is not capable of providing that pension. The reason that he adduces for this is that he feels that he is being called to join our Society and that he no longer wishes to stay on in Sermoneta which, up to now, has been his support. With the inspirations from God, you make the decision which you judge to be best *coram Deo*<sup>12</sup> and God will manifest to you his holy will.

4. God knows how deeply I am regretful of the suspension of our Society in Terracina *ubi requiescunt cineres S. Fundatoris*.<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, I say to you that, in the presence of God, I feel perfectly at ease. The first implantation in the *Ritiro* was quick, and the Missionaries had to withdraw because of the lack of room. The new installation in the *Annunziata* was made next and there the shelter which is due to the owner of a house was denied. We moved on to S. Francesco and then were excluded. The townsfolk have not faced their responsibility, or if they have, it has had no results in providing us with a fit place of residence, despite the voluntary expenses that we endured for the glory of God, not to mention the annoyances suffered patiently. We simply had to come to the conclusion: We will return when the *Ritiro* is habitable. I have neither plans nor means to offer. I have placed this whole situation in God's hands. The men appointed to be at the head of that foundation have always been the most experienced ones. Father Marcellino<sup>14</sup> was only custodian, so to speak, assigned temporarily because of the sudden departure of both Pellegrini and Sessa for allowing a bit more time to work things out and to conclude the Mission work of the springtime. But, *dum haec agebantur*,<sup>15</sup> all of a sudden there was a new confusion.

Presently, in the Province, we count five communities that are flourishing and I find them sufficiently manned with our members. It is not to the glory of God to sacrifice one individual in two rooms where there is space for only one Missionary and one Brother. Our men simply do not

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<sup>12</sup> In the presence of God.

<sup>13</sup> Where the ashes of our Founder rest.

<sup>14</sup> Father Marcellino Brandimarte.

<sup>15</sup> While these things were going on.

wish to stay and I do not have the authority to require them to do that much. We are ever more and more reliant upon your help. In the episcopal quarters, there is also another group, that is, the chancery alongside. There is public access there for business matters. So, tell me, what is to be done? I would like to have your counsel. If I am mistaken, then tell me, and I will consider that a favor. You can be sure that your wishes, your suggestions will be the same as commands. All I can do is pray *coram Domino*.<sup>16</sup> We need to have a church that is unencumbered, a place of residence that is free, otherwise we will always be in a startingout posture. During this period of time, when the climate is dubious, if you succeed in coming up with an opportune plan to settle this problem ... *utinam ita*

*fiet*.<sup>17</sup> Your zeal, even if no results are forthcoming, will not so unrewarded. So, what is needed is that you deliver a homily to the leaders who, out of ignorance have been lacking in support, pointing out to them that they should open their eyes and come to the realization that the mercies of God are only the fruit of prayers and tears. Indeed, I have heard that Father Marcellino gave an imprudent pep talk; still, even though I have a deep esteem of him, nevertheless, I say that he does not merit a reproof. I have not hesitated to recall him and issue a warning. You know with what concern I have always written to you, but he is a good young man, one not too experienced. In fact, I hope that he will find another area in ecclesiastical work, and I will be very happy for him. Also, you might, if need be, make known these basic principles of mine.

5. Father Giovanni Merlini, who handled everything correctly in Terracina, was ordered by me to return those things that had been loaned to us. You can freely interrogate the Canon of Trento and find out whether this is the truth or not. If there is any mistake, let me know about it.

6. The Superior in Sonnino is still the custodian of the *Ritiro* as I told you, we have on deposit there whatever pertains to the *Ritiro* itself and the reopening etc. Because of a certain order, I have had to regulate things in this way. I hope that this meets with your approval. If not, let me know.

7. As for Roccagorga, I went to the *Foro Appio* on the appointed day, but it was raining. I imagine that the fellow from that town thought that I would not be travelling and so they did not send anyone. As best as I could, with the dark of evening approaching, I made my way to Sermoneta. This new delay, not the fault of the people of Rocca, and the upcoming harvest has caused this delay in our apostolic work until the month of August. At that time, this good work will be arranged anew.

8. I would like to know whether you would like to go out on Mission work in September. I would take care of getting the faculties from Rome.

9. As I have wished, would you conduct the Retreat called for by our rule in anyone of our Houses?

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<sup>16</sup> In the presence of the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> Would that it were thus.

10. See that the pious organizations there keep functioning. In that way, the clergy will be evermore edifying.

11. I am very sorry to hear about the sickness of Canon Sessa, and wholeheartedly I recommend him to God. Give him my best regards.

12. Take care of yourself. Let us both remain united in the divine Heart and let us become saints.

13. Finally, (in secret) I do not advise you to leav[...]<sup>18</sup>

You already know that I am making plans about the Lenten series.<sup>19</sup>

3905

September 1, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Sezze<sup>20</sup>

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Canon Carboneri informs me that in Sonnino they are cutting down a forest concerning which there is some doubt as to whether it is part of our property or that of Canon Locatelli in whose name, it is said, that the cutting is being continued. I would appreciate your suspending this work until the question is cleared up and the true situation be made known. Recommend me often to God and with the usual esteem and respect, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

September 1, 1824<sup>21</sup>

P. S. The aforementioned Canon will be returning, within a few days, from conducting a Mission. In the meanwhile, he left another companion in charge in Sonnino.

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<sup>18</sup> At this point, the paper of this letter has been torn and the further reading of it is impossible. Also missing are the date and the signature. Probably Monsignor Manassi had asked for advice about whether he should or should not leave his pastoral care of the dioceses of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno and seek a transfer to another diocese. St. Gaspar is opposed to that as will be noted in several other letters that follow (cfr. for example, the letter (n. 3907) of November 26, 1824 and the letter (n. 3920) of January 21, 1825).

<sup>19</sup> This postscript is on the fourth side.

<sup>20</sup> This address was written by St. Gaspar. Then, it was canceled and, in someone else's handwriting, the word "Sezze" was added, where the letter was eventually sent.

<sup>21</sup> This letter bears the postal marking of Frosinone. Also, the following dates are derived from those postal markings: "September 7" and "September 10".

3906

Beginning of November, 1824  
Fr. Nicola Palma  
Teramo

"I ask you to be on hand for confessions ... *Charitas Christi urget nos.*"<sup>22</sup><sup>23</sup>

3907

November 26, 1824  
Mother Maria Nazzarena De Castris  
Priverno <sup>24</sup>  
Very reverend Mother

After reading your letter, I was surprised by what you said to me about what was going on with regard to the transferral of the excellent and holy shepherd, Monsignor Manassi. I confess to you that I know nothing about this and I would be very scrupulous about having any part in such proceedings. So, you can tell the most reverend bishop that it is up to him to zealously oppose these new ideas just as the bishop of Narni did as well as the Venerable Tenderini, bishop of Civitacastellana in his time. Also, if you detect some sort of movement in

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<sup>22</sup> The love of Christ urges us.

<sup>23</sup> This letter, without the customary expressions of introduction and conclusion, was found in Santelli A..This is the way that it appears in the *Vita* written by Santelli who reports the very words of Palma: "When that indefatigable worker [Canon del Bufalo] moved on to conduct the Mission in the city of Atri, I decided to take advantage of this and in November of 1824 to go there. After I presented myself to him, here is his note of reply: "I ask you to be on hand for confessions...*Charitas Christi urget nos.*" I obeyed, but I wanted to have the time before noon free for myself at the time when he would be conducting the Retreat for the clergy, as well as the time after the noon hour, while he was giving the main sermon". The Mission in Atri was held beginning on November 14, 1824.

<sup>24</sup> This letter of St. Gaspar to Sister Maria Nazzarena De Castris was found in the episcopal archives of Terracina among the letters to Monsignor Carlo Manassi. The reason for that is clearly evident from the letter that is attached to it from that very same De Castris. We reproduce it here:

"Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ. Most illustrious and reverend lordship: I know very well the particular esteem that you, most illustrious and reverend lordship, hold sincerely for that most worthy person. That is why I am writing this somewhat complicated letter. The same Spirit that led me to write my feelings to him now compels me to submit to you, most illustrious and reverend lordship, the original reply from that most enlightened individual. I would consider it a very serious mistake if I were to try to add the least suggestion to such great eloquence.

"If the Lord were to dispose things in such a way that this Canon del Bufalo were to be unburdened during the upcoming Lent and your lordship were to assign him to give a Retreat to this poor Monastery, that would be such a happy thing for me. I am sure that this would renew my vigor, under the heavy burden that oppresses me for many, many reasons and seeks to rob me of the beautiful treasure of peace of soul while trying to provide the needs for this community. A man no less holy than the one requested is what is needed. Poor Canon Loffredi handles things quite miraculously, by the grace of God, otherwise we would be without a confessor at all. The Superior tells me to offer to your lordship her most humble best wishes; and, along with me, kisses your sacred ring, while asking for your pastoral blessing etc. S. Chiara, December 4, 1824 etc.."

this regard, you should, by way of effective letterwriting, make this known to the most reverend auditor. Who is there that cannot see the very clear will of God with respect to his remaining in Terracina, Piperno and Sezze? I just do not know what more I can say. Recommend me a lot, a whole lot to God so that with all my heart I may love my Lord, the only center of every good thing. Pray for our Society and do not fail to nourish a very tender devotion to the Divine Blood, to most holy Mary Immaculate and to St. Francis Xavier. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, November 26, 1824

3908

November 30, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine and I also enclose a letter that came from Itri.<sup>25</sup> I seize this opportunity to renew my sentiments of esteem and respect for your most illustrious and reverend lordship, venerable Monsignor, and to repeat that *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,<sup>26</sup> I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, November 30, 1824

3909

December 7, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze, and Priverno

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<sup>25</sup> The letter, written by the Vicar Forane Placido Paparello, and dated: Itri, November 18, 1824, is the following: "My dear Canon: I have sent one of my fellowcountrymen whose name is Pasquale de Simone, a cleric, to the seminary in Terracina, knowing of the good manner in which that Monsignor governs that locale. I am concerned about the advancement of the aforementioned de Simone so that he might move on toward the priestly status. Hence, I ask you to offer your particular recommendation to Bishop Carlo. I am anxious to hear how your health is. I hold towards you those very same feelings of esteem. Likewise, whenever the opportunity arises for any service to you at all, please do me the honor of giving me your command. Pray to the Lord for me, and I remain ..."

<sup>26</sup> In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified who redeemed us by his blood.

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Father Pietro Spina will be coming to see you in order to settle whatever is pressing for his ordination. I ask that, in your kindness, you give him whatever assistance you can by facilitating his efforts in reaching the goal of his holy desires. If it is not too great an inconvenience for you, yet making allowances for any expense, I would like him to be lodged with you. He is a very exemplary young man. He has made his Retreat and I am hopeful that he will be doing great work in the vineyard of the Lord. In the meantime, while asking you for your prayers to the Lord, venerable Monsignor, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, December 7, 1824

3910

December 12, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I inconvenience you with this letter of mine in order to find out from you what the Lord is inspiring you to do relative to the good work that is to be promoted by the provision of extraordinary help to your flock which I see to be most needful, keeping in mind the continuous upheavals taking place in this poor Province. You, yourself, can determine very well where such encouragement is necessary and where it is not, especially for the upcoming Holy Year. As for Roccagorga, a longstanding concern, I have already written to the archpriest to select a time. Anything beyond that will be the fruit of your prayers. I hope that Terracina will not fail to set up a holy oratory;

Canon Sessa and Canon Locatelli could activate that project. This good work could also serve as a stimulant to outsiders who will be there during the Holy Year. In regard to the clergy wearing the cassock, that is what the notices from Rome are stressing, namely, that holy shepherds should be insistent about this and be very vigilant. Venerable Tenderini used to refer to it as the priest's Guardian Angel. Do not cease having continuous conferences for your priests as well as the layleaders in the places where you take up residence from time to time. Father Giovanni Merlini wrote something to me about Terracina, but it was not too clear. All that you have to do is drop me a line. Do not think of using Christmas time for that has already been fully occupied. It seems to me that the Novena of the Purification would be an opportune period.

Recommend me very often to God, as I remain  
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 M. Ap.  
 Ferentino, December 12, 1824  
 P. S. Send your reply to Frosinone.

3911

December 20, 1824  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am so fully obliged to you for the inconvenience you endured in your episcopal quarters by allowing Father Pietro Spina to lodge there; *et Dominus retribuet pro me.*<sup>27</sup> I just wish I had more opportunities for showing you my sincere gratitude.

Wholeheartedly I pray to God for the revival of the oratory and, in particular, for the edification of outsiders during the Holy Year. It is a good move to entrust this work to Canon Sessa.

As for other things, I shall regulate my scheduling in accordance with your wise directions. I have also arranged for the Retreat in Terracina for the Novena of the Purification. Please see that a preaching platform is set up and that informational flyers are sent out to the people. Above all, starting from now, let us encourage this good work with many prayers to the Almighty God. I likewise set a date for the Missions in S. Felice whose opening will follow on the day immediately following the Feast of the Purification. The Divine Blood will be victorious with the sanctification of souls. I will be sending another worker to your seminary in Sezze, just as I have been directed to do by Father Pietro Pellegrini, the Vicar General in that city. In everything, may praise be given to God, to most holy Mary and to our St. Francis Xavier. In regard to the selection of workers, that is, two or three of them, you need have no doubts. If I do not encounter some sort of impediment, I, myself, will be one of them. Fraternally, let us maintain ourselves in prayer during the upcoming solemnity; I wish that you receive particular blessings from God. While asking you to extend my sincere greetings to a certain Bongiovanni who is resident in your Collegio there, and kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

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

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<sup>27</sup> The Lord will repay on my behalf.

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone, December 20, 1824

P. S. In reference to the ordination of Father Pietro,<sup>28</sup> I have understood what you told me and we will keep in touch.

3912

December 24, 1824

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am now assuring you again that for the Novena of the Purification, the Holy Retreat will begin there. Please see that the preacher's platform is prepared and also alert your people by giving an effective homily. The method that will be used is as follows: in the morning, there will be the Mass with the recitation of the Christian acts etc., followed by an example from the life of most holy Mary. After the noon meal, the Reform material will be presented, followed by a meditation introduced by the *Veni Creator Spiritus*. On the preacher's platform there should be a small table with *strato*. In the evening, in order to provide opportunity for the hearing of men's confessions, there will be the Oratory. On the morning of the feast of the Purification, the general communion; after the noon meal on the feast of the Purification, the reminders and the solemn *Te Deum*. In the meantime, if necessary, the pastors can be preparing the young boys and girls for their first Holy Communion so that they will approach the altar with greater fervor. During the Retreat, the Masses should have the additional Collect *pro petitione lacrymarum*<sup>29</sup> and after the Retreat, for three days, the Collect *pro gratiarum actione*.<sup>30</sup>

The clergy will have three days of sacred conferences at a time convenient for them as also will the officers and leaders of the city government. I will be sending two capable, enthusiastic members, filled with the Spirit of the Lord, who, with divine help, will do great work for your flock. I, personally, will not be coming because I am involved *usque ad satietatem*<sup>31</sup> with Terracina. At some other time, I will be able to do some good work if God will preserve me. On the day following the feast of the Purification, they will be leaving for S. Felice to handle the holy Mission there. Also, they will be taking along a Brother in order to assist them

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<sup>28</sup> Father Pietro Spina.

<sup>29</sup> For a request of tears.

<sup>30</sup> In thanksgiving.

<sup>31</sup> Until satiety.

in this second phase of the ministry. I must presently ask you to please take care of the public Retreat in Lent, along with Canon Sessa and Canon Locatelli, for the entire military group, in accordance with the information that we have. You are to get in touch with their officials, and, since one or the other will be absent, perhaps you may get the instruction that the Retreat be conducted in a twofold shift, or even that they ought not be cut too short. With you and the two aforementioned Canons handling the Retreat in a twofold shift, together with calling on the help of the Vicar General in Sezze, you can carry out this great work to the greater glory of the Lord.

I hope that, in your wellknown spirit of zeal, you will not refuse what the Lord is offering you in behalf of the salvation of souls.

The Pope's insistence on the matter of the clergy wearing the cassock is even stronger as he encourages sacred shepherds to be even more greatly vigilant and persistent so that this will become a general practice. The Venerable Tenderini was wont to refer to it as the priest's Guardian Angel.

I will be sending to your most illustrious and reverend lordship Pietro Spina for ordination, *ad Cineres*.<sup>32</sup> Then, he will move on to the House in Sonnino where he will reside in order to prepare for his ordination to the priesthood,<sup>33</sup> one of the tenderest moments of Religion for us. Then, by *Sitientes*,<sup>34</sup> he will return for the sacred ordination, with everything being directed by you with your wellknown piety and tender love for God.

Finally, I simply do not know how to give proper recognition to Colognesi for the usual gift that you wrote about to me. Join with me in expressing to him my most deeply felt gratitude and repeat to him my previously offered dedication of service.

The document relative to our Founder, Monsignor Albertini, has probably been drawn up in the best possible way. It seems that I can remember nothing more to say except, with the full expression of my heart, to recommend myself to your prayers, and, while kissing your hands, to state once again that with esteem, respect and gratitude, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Turn<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>32</sup> On Ash Wednesday.

<sup>33</sup> Father Pietro Spina entered the Congregation of the Missionaries of the most Precious Blood on February 24, 1824. according to what is said by St. Gaspar here in this letter, he received ordination to the priesthood on *Sitientes* Saturday, that is, on March 19, 1825 and the Missionary Crucifix on March 21, 1825.

<sup>34</sup> *Sitientes* is the Saturday of the fourth week of Lent.

<sup>35</sup> Invitation to continue the letter on the following page.

House in Frosinone. December 24<sup>36</sup>

In Sonnino, I feel that there is an extreme need for Missions that are not to be delayed. Since we have a House set up there, there is no expense to be faced except for the loan of one bed or so and the provision by the leaders of the town of a mount to transport the Missionaries. You give this your mature consideration; I will go into action after I get your response. These are people who are in need of frequent words of encouragement to develop the habit of doing good. Even Blessed Liguori advised having Missions every three years. We are constantly changing our functions in order to make the ministry more pleasing.

At times, make efforts to promote the teaching of Christian Doctrine, which you are most probably doing.

I have spoken to Father Giovanni Merlini in reference to Sermoneta. Within a short time, I will be going to Roccagorga, and I am already in lettercontact. May Jesus be with us. *Oremus ad invicem, etc.*<sup>37</sup> At the beginning of Lent, you should try to do a bit of good work for the prisoners in Terracina as well as for the sailors.<sup>38</sup>

3913

January 1, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most precious Blood of Jesus Christ

1st of 1825

Venerable Monsignor

The Retreat in Terracina will begin on January 24th after the noon meal. I cannot say now whether the Missionaries, two in number, will be arriving on the evening of the 23rd or on the morning itself of the 24th; circumstances will decide that.

On the 8th of this month, may it please God, I shall be going to Roccagorga. Accompany me with your prayers which I especially implore *ut Dominus det voci meae vocem virtutis.*<sup>39</sup>

I have also assigned one of our members from the House in Albano to your seminary in Sezze.

In reference to Sermoneta, as you have written to me, I have put these things in the hands

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<sup>36</sup> This letter belongs to 1824 as can be deduced from many indications, among which is the reminder about the exercises in Terracina after the Novena of the Purification (cfr. the letter (n. 3911) to this person, dated December 20, 1824).

<sup>37</sup> Let us pray for one another, etc.

<sup>38</sup> These postscripts are found on the fourth siding, near the address.

<sup>39</sup> In order that the Lord give to my voice a voice of virtue.

of Father Giovanni Merlini. Then, in regard to Sonnino, with evangelical liberty, you decide what you feel is expedient. I say the same thing about whatever else has anything to do with the glory of the Lord. If I should communicate a thought of mine openly to your most illustrious and reverend lordship, I do that because of the holy system of communication which we use with each other. Furthermore, I must do nothing other than to cooperate and correspond to the regular needs. So, whomever God wills, let him go to Sonnino. All that I want is that the good work be done. You, who are the shepherd of those united dioceses, will receive from God opportune enlightenment. So, be encouraged always in your workings and pray for me. While kissing your hands, I confirm once again that, with esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

P. S. A hardworking sense of charity will allow you to be able to find the time to conduct the Retreat that I mentioned to you in another letter of mine as well as the power to overcome difficulties in every situation.

3914

January 10, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing a couple of lines in a hurry from Roccagorga to inform you that the church of S. Pietro, where there is a Confraternity of a happy death, is interdicted, so I am told, and thus it will be necessary to have authorization to bless it again. Asking you for your prayers, venerable Monsignor, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 10th of 1825

3915

January 14, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have examined the situation relative to the church of S. Pietro and tomorrow I will bless it in accordance with the usual regulations since there is no question of doubt. I shall be insistent

with the brethren that they restore the aforementioned sanctuary, even though I am convinced that the chapter must, in some form or other, be supportive; I will also mention this to the archpriest.

I am most delighted with this present Mission and for assistance with hearing confessions, I called in Canon Giusti to whom I send my best regards, etc.. I regret to hear that there is constant chatter about you changing dioceses. With your present jurisdiction it is certain that the de Sales saying must be fulfilled to the letter, namely: not to be desirous, not to be looking for, etc.. In another diocese, perhaps your human feelings may be more satisfied by dealing with a better civilized people, but your spirit will always remain in doubt or perplexity in its consideration of what is to the greater glory of God. Where the mystic terrain is more needful of cultivation, it is certain that to apply oneself there is to the greater glory of God, just as you are presently doing. These changes are the ruination of dioceses. I have not failed to write this very thing recently to the most reverend Treasurer.<sup>40</sup> Venerable Tenderini, with episcopal fortitude, always rejected changes. He loved his beloved spouse, Civitacastellana and that is where he wished to meet death. Likewise, in rustic places, the life of the spirit is developed better. I do not deny that surely elsewhere one can practice eminently the virtues proper to the episcopacy, but there, more wariness is required and the external circumstances more easily assail the spiritual life. Do not attribute to audacity what I am suggesting to you, but rather attribute it to the affection that I nourish for the greater glory of God and for the benefit of souls.

In Roccagorga, in order to revive the Confraternity of the most Blessed Sacrament and at the same time promote the devotion to the great Xavier, I have thought it a good idea to combine both purposes by having them add to the escutcheon of Xavier, a symbol of the most Blessed Sacrament so adored by the Saint. Needed, now, is your decree so that this institution, which will also cover the work of the Oratory and the extirpation of blasphemy, will be recognized and surrogated to the rights of the Confraternity of the most Blessed Sacrament which was previously in existence. Its few benefits will be made available to those who are aggregated to it so that both in its burdens and in its rights it will be acknowledged to be *ut erat antiquitus*.<sup>41</sup> You can see very well that the red sashes that they will wear, even more majestically, are quite proper to the eucharistic mysteries. The change in their uniform or special dress is only another good that is going to be added and appreciated. I believe that I have adequately explained my position on this. No one still has the former uniforms; the expense will be covered economically by the members. The President of this Confraternity should be Pecci, the trustee, the minister of Prince Doria etc. Everyone seems to be happy about this establishment. I would like to have you send your prompt reply to the archpriest, the director of that Confraternity. For the sake of safer forwarding, it would be better for you to send your response to me to Frosinone. I kiss your

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<sup>40</sup> Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

<sup>41</sup> And it was from antiquity.

hands. Venerable Monsignor, while asking you from the bottom of my heart for your incessant prayers in my behalf, I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspsre Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 14th of 1825

P. S. Here the poverty is immense. I do not know whether in the funds of fines in Piperno, to be distributed, I imagine, for pious purposes or pious places, there is anything disposable for beds, one reason for the loss of innocence, and for clothing the naked etc. etc. In the meantime, I am trying to do all that I can, encouraging also etc.

3916

January 15, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most beloved Monsignor

Oh what good results in this Mission! Your prayers have been helpful.

With special mailing, at my own expense, I am writing to your most illustrious and reverend lordship that the Mission in S. Felice will begin next Thursday. So, send instructions there by an express notice, overcoming, with all your strength, any difficulty. The two workers assigned for S. Felice will be in Terracina on Wednesday evening. The other two, for the Retreat in Terracina, will not fail to be present for the designated appointment; you can be certain about this. In all things, praise be to God.

Because of an unforeseen situation, things had to be handled in this way. The two Missionaries for S. Felice will have their Brother with them. At the present time, there is no expense involved for the coaches as far as Terracina. See that the crucifix, the Madonna etc. are on hand there. Canon Locatelli should have those articles, so the expense of shipping baggage is spared, etc., etc.. I kiss your hands. Though in a hurry, I am and will constantly be, with all cordiality, etc., most venerable Monsignor

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Roccagorga, 15th of 1825

3917

January 18, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

*Justificati in Sanguine ipsius salvi erimus ab ira per ipsum*<sup>42</sup>

Venerable and most beloved Monsignor

Here are the two workers for the Mission in S. Felice who will be able to take care of that part of the flock entrusted to your pastoral care until the needs are fulfilled that will provide the norms that will serve for that period of the Mission itself. You are to supply them with the necessary faculties, instructing them also with reference to the special faculties that you might be able to grant them. I take this opportunity to recommend myself warmly to your prayers, most venerable Monsignor, and renew my sentiments of special esteem, respect and very particular affection as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Roccagorga, 18th of 1825

P. S. In Vallecorsa, they would like to have you visit there after Easter. If you consent to this, I will see to contacting the bishop of Gaeta. On that occasion, you could administer Confirmation and conduct a few days of Retreat etc.

3918

January 19, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Tarracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In a hurry, I recommend to you the enclosed matter. With esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 19th of 1825

3919

January 20, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Here is the excellent Canon Betti who is coming to Terracina for the Retreat, along with another worker as his helper. You can be quite sure that he will do good work in that city for

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<sup>42</sup> Justified in blood, we will be saved from wrath through it.

which, in my wretchedness, I do not fail to pray always, since therein lie the remains of our Founder, *cuius memoria in benedictione*.<sup>43</sup> For the time that the aforementioned Canon Betti will be there, I have asked him to see to the immediate fulfillment of the Masses under the charge of Father Pietro Spina in the church of Maria SS. Addolorata. Likewise, I have asked him to sign the document for the triennial rental of the surrounding property with which maintenance of the roofs and the buildings in that locale is covered, and adjusting it, if necessary, in some way or other. I ask you again for your prayers and, while kissing your hands, with esteem and respect, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, 20th of 1825.

P. S. The Canon will also direct a triduum for the clergy.

3920

January 21, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, addressed to me in Frosinone, I, indeed, can assure you that Roccagorga has presented a copious fruit from the preaching of the divine word. *Gratias igitur agamus humili corde Deo nostro*.<sup>44</sup> I, too, would have come to Terracina, but I wanted to provide a change of preachers in order to obtain better results, repeating with the Prophet: "*Bonorum meorum non indiges*".<sup>45</sup> You can be absolutely certain that any desire that you express in regard to any good work to be done in your jurisdiction I consider to be an order. The dioceses, where my holy father *in spiritu*<sup>46</sup> was, are always my very special delight.

In reference to the wooden cross for the crucified one, since this image is not to be raised aloft each time, it could be made to be in a single piece. The crossbeam could be held in place using metal screws, and these can also be used in the upright piece, if it is a separate unit.

Thank you wholeheartedly for the care in providing Roccagorga with your decree relative

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<sup>43</sup> Whose memory will be in blessing.

<sup>44</sup> Let us, therefore, give thanks to our God with a humble heart.

<sup>45</sup> You do not need my poor things.

<sup>46</sup> In the spirit.

to the Confraternity and I am hopeful of a happy outcome.

I am thoroughly convinced that you are not remiss in your insistence on the provision of beds and that you are doing all that you can. In these two areas of concern, the funds could be better put to us: namely, for beds and for clothing the naked.

I have already addressed a memorandum to Princess Orsini Doria in regard to this holy undertaking. Let us pray for good results.

I likewise give thanks to God for the firmness you show to remain in your dioceses. Curate Gabrielli, whom I know well, has not provided all the activity that you have, etc., and, only with difficulty (let this be said for the glory of God) could one find at present another Monsignor Manassi. I fear that your transfer would be more truly a chastisement rather than an act of mercy. Furthermore, how much longer do you suppose that we will be down here! Along with these spiritual considerations, give no further thought of undergoing additional expenses for a transfer. Even though they may be only small expenses, nevertheless that money could always be better used in impeding vices and sins. Finally, just being the successor to Monsignor Albertini will help you to withstand things just like a boulder that is battered by the waves remains immobile in the sea. If God has offered you a field of work that is more extensive than that of other dioceses, he will also provide you with greater elasticity, heart and energy. I am not satisfied by the reply that you indicated would be sent to the Holy Father, expressed in these terms: "If the Holy Father commands me, I will go". To that, I would add the efficacious petition to be exempted from that command, just has been done with edification by so many, many other good shepherds. So, after that petition has been made known to the Holy Father and the will of God is for transferral, then we humbly bow our heads. I would want you to submit your petition entirely in keeping with your zeal, as I have no doubt you will do, acquainted as I am with your sincere love of God. The other two parts of the letter, intended for the most holy auditor, are worthy of total applause because of their pertinence to the glory of God and to holy humility. Here, *in Domino*,<sup>47</sup> are my own humble reflections on the question at hand.

I am not forgetting about the monastery in Piperno where I hope to go during Lent, after the halfway point, since the Mother Abbas has written to me upon your direction. My very dear Monsignore, let us join together evermore with Jesus Christ crucified for he *est fasciculus myrrhae*. His holy love will make us entirely his and, one day, he himself will be our reward in Paradise.

This thought occurs to me, namely, that I see it to be the will of God that Father Ricelli should become the Vicar General in Terracina, along with his occupying the chair of moral theology, educating whoever has need and I would make him a Canon in order to settle him firmly in Terracina, a city where one simply passes through and a city that is in extreme need. Pray over this idea. It seems to me that in Sermoneta he has fallen into a bit of melancholy. Because of his age and his abilities, I would like to see him occupied in a more useful career. I

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<sup>47</sup> In the Lord.

kiss your hands. Excuse me if, at times, I take the freedom of expressing one or the other of my feelings. I think that this does not displease you. With esteem, respect and very special affection, I say once again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, 21st of 1825

P. S. It would be a good idea to induce Ricelli etc.

3921

February 18, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

With all my heart, I thank you for everything. I recommend the enclosed matters. Keep an account of what you spend for me. May Jesus be with us. While kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. d. B.*

M. Ap.

Traetto, February 18<sup>48</sup>

3922

February 21, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

Thank you for your efforts. Upon my return, I shall settle the expenses incurred on my behalf. I will be in Terracina on the third Sunday in Lent, at some time or other, so that I can leave quickly on Monday morning. Pray a lot for me. In Jesus Christ crucified, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Traetto, February 21, 1825

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<sup>48</sup> The year is 1825 as is evident from the following letters sent from Traetto, which nowadays is Minturno.

I ask you to take care of the enclosed matters.

3923

February 26, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor

Thank you wholeheartedly for your recent letter *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.<sup>49</sup> See that an account of the expenses is kept. I urge you to look into the enclosed matters. I am in a hurry, but, while kissing your hands and asking you for your prayers, most illustrious and reverend lordship, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

February 26, 1825

3924

End of February, 1825

Fr. Pietro Spina

Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord<sup>50</sup>

With pleasure I read your very dear letter and I thank you with all my heart. I am most edified by your sentiments, and the virtue that you are developing assures me that you will be getting the fullest and most generous blessings from our most merciful God. With a deep acknowledgment in humility, prepare yourself for the priesthood. I am desirous of your accomplishing great things, with God's help, for it is he who bestows on the humble the most singular gifts of his love. I repeat, prepare yourself well through both learning and prayer. I shall not forget you and you will see that I will be able to keep the promise given to you. It will not be a difficult thing for me to pass through Sermoneta on the evening after the third Sunday; however, I do not give you an absolute assurance of this; I am simply giving you a general indication. I shall be speaking to your father next Saturday evening.<sup>51</sup> I will handle whatever is asked of me and all will go along well. I also note that for me Passion Sunday is not feasible for

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<sup>49</sup> And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

<sup>50</sup> This letter was discovered in the episcopal archives of Terracina along with the letters to Monsignor Manassi.

<sup>51</sup> Cf. Additional Biographical Data: Spina, Fr. Pietro from Castellone.

the holy Mass that you will apply for our Institute.

Within a few days, we will resume our lettercorrespondence in a more regular fashion and you can give this information to Father Domenico.<sup>52</sup> Address your letters to: Frosinone. Both of you should write to me about what may be needed.

In your solitude, please remember this most wretched of all ministers of the sanctuary so that the Lord will grant me salvation. Oh my beloved, how lovable is our God! *Ego dilecto meo*<sup>53</sup> ... how I love those words. I am entirely consecrated to my beloved. Indeed, may Jesus be our love. A thousand heavenly greetings to our most beloved Liparelli. I am and will constantly be

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

### 3925

March 7, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

With this letter of mine, I am asking you, if you so agree, to please authorize Father Pietro Spina to be able to hear confessions *pro utroque sexu*;<sup>54</sup> I consider him to be capable of exercising this ministry since he has now been in our Society for some time and I believe that he has at least that sufficient ability for being of assistance to souls. In your enlightened status, you will recognize this better than I. While kissing your hands, I remain, with esteem, respect and constant gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Sermoneta, March 7, 1825

### 3926

March 18, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

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<sup>52</sup> This is Fr. Domenico Silvestri who was still in residence in Sonnino (cfr. *Epistolario*, III, letter n. 1063) where Spina is to go to make a Retreat in preparation for priestly ordination, as St. Gaspar mentions in the letter (n. 3912) to Manassi on December 24, 1824.

<sup>53</sup> I to my beloved.

<sup>54</sup> For each sex.

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am always deeply obliged to you and I am writing this letter of mine to learn whether, after the Sunday *in Albis*, you would be able to immediately depart for the Missions in the Kingdom, passing through Naples, making use of the conciliar months; or, if you are not able because of the urgent chores of your episcopal care, at least make use of that time that you would have taken for your trip to and stay in Rome. I thought that you might inform the Holy Father that occupations with the ministry have caused you to arrange things so. Most of all, do not be giving in to any suggestion that the enemy of every good work might arouse in you, even at times under the aspect of good. Be certain and most assured that this is the will of God.

Send your reply to Frosinone, making it precise and detailed so that I can control the lettercorrespondence relating to the ministry as well as to prepare and provide whatever will be needed. It seems to me, according to my information, that you have the Missionary Crucifix; you can get the Madonna from your monastery in Terracina. As for the Retreat for our men, we can keep the Novena in honor of St. Xavier in mind. And eventually come to an agreement. Write to me in Frosinone. I am and will constantly be etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Anagni, March 18, 1825

Pray a lot for me particularly during these holy days and, you take good care of yourself.

3927

March 24, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter of the 18th of this month, I assure you that for the octave of Pentecost I will be sending Father Gregorio Giobbi to the seminary in Sezze. For the sake of cutting down in my lettercorrespondence, please give them this information when the opportunity arises.

The Missionary with whom you have made an acquaintance in passing, is already there in Roccasecca, having come from Benevento. Please support his good work there with your prayers. I directed him to remain through the entire Sunday *in Albis*; thus, at his convenience, he will accomplish good work.

I am awaiting a response to my other letter. During these recurring mysteries, let us join together in spirit more than ever. Pray and have others pray a lot for me; while kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor, wholeheartedly with esteem and intimate affection in Jesus Christ, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 24, 1825

3928

March 27, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

The holy illumination which you have received through prayers, I cannot help but love. Thus it is God's pleasure that you continue exercising your apostolate with the people in those towns. *Domini ergo voluntas adimpleatur in omnibus.*<sup>55</sup> Recommend me at lot, a whole lot to God so that I begin to love him as he should be loved. *Dies enim nostri velociter transeunt.*<sup>56</sup> Also pray especially for our very dear Father Luigi Achille who, in our House in Albano, has suffered a rather severe stroke of apoplexy, as they have informed me. I shall try to visit him as soon as possible. I regret this with every ounce of my human sentiment and this has been a sort of consolation for me. May Jesus be our only delight *in hac lacrymarum valle. In Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine,*<sup>57</sup> venerable Monsignor, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, March 27, 1825

P. S. When you get a certain amount of money, a reimbursement to me, addressed to you by Father Antonio Sarto, please forward it to Rome, addressing it to Vincenzo Severini, to my home; include a couple of lines of explanation. Any expense incurred in forwarding this money can be subtracted from that same sum of money. Please excuse the inconvenience etc.

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<sup>55</sup> Therefore, my the will of the Lord be carried out.

<sup>56</sup> For our days are quickly passing by.

<sup>57</sup> In this valley of tears. In the Heart of Jesus Christ Crucified, who redeemed us by his blood.

3929

April 14, 1825  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter, I tell you that in Sermoneta, according to what you wrote to me about the small number of confessions, that could not have happened; perhaps, it seems to me, such may have been true of Roccasecca because of the period of 17 days, that you mentioned, which may be the explanation of the misunderstanding. The Missionary that was sent there<sup>58</sup> has assured me that he followed the directions of Blessed Liguori and you can realize how dear to my heart the practice of kindness is. With regard to his preaching ability, I was thoroughly convinced of his fitness. Since the notice for this work in Roccasecca came to my knowledge after Lent had begun, I therefore was not able to arrange things otherwise basing my judgment on the situations as I explained to you.

At any rate, there are two considerations that I offer for your wise evaluation: 1. I have learned that this individual has been somewhat ill; 2. that he may not be, perhaps, strict about adhering to the basic principles, or maybe a bit short of experience about his duty a shortcoming which, up to now, I had not detected but something that I will continue to investigate. Since the people of Maenza, for the Novena of Pentecost, have asked for two workers to conduct the public Retreat, at that time I will arrange for a prudent visitationsermon to be given in Roccasecca to stimulate and invite anyone who did not have the opportunity to go to confession to come and take advantage of the Lord's mercies nearby. Canon Betti will be the Director of that Retreat in Maenza and I will send him for one day also in Roccagorga to revive the spirit of the recent Mission. God will bless and compensate for whatever was not accomplished up to now for those people there. Canon Betti is presently equipped with a fine voice. I hope that you approve of and bless whatever I have submitted to your consideration.

With typical De Sales freedom, I have also alerted Missionary de Nardis in reference to his scrupulosity. I am a bit regretful, though this does not disturb the peace of my heart, that I have not corresponded, as perhaps I would have liked to, to the responsibility undertaken. I can do nothing more than to pray in a particular way for those people.

Our Father Giovanni Merlini, who is doing very, very well in the ministry, will be going to the seminary in Sezze and hope that you will be content with his apostolate.

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<sup>58</sup> Father Pasquale De Nardis.

We come now to the question of the 180 *scudi* of Piperno<sup>59</sup> concerning which the aforementioned Father Merlini wrote that you have made some sort of disposition. I suppose that our Society might not have any claim to them; in which case, I would not have the faculty of ceding anything at all. The only thing I would have to say is that I did not wish to get involved with Canon Locatelli, presuming that they were concerned with him. I say all this for my own peace of mind.

Let me know whether it is true that Monsignor Mondelli<sup>60</sup> has died. I was very well acquainted with him.

I recommend to your kind assistance the presenter of this letter. Take care of yourself, eat, keep active and work *secundum mensuram donationis Christi*.<sup>61</sup> May Jesus be with us. With esteem, respect and very special and constant affection, my dearest *in Domino*,<sup>62</sup> I am and will always be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, April 14, 1825

3930

April 24, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how many obligations I have to you for the inconveniences that you endure so often in behalf of our men. Being aware only of your generous heart keeps me tranquil and I would like to have many occasions offered to me for proper reciprocation.

I am enclosing a notification of the 66 Masses that were given to me. I am awaiting another within a few days from one of our Houses; I will send it for its fulfillment.

Our very excellent Father Giovanni Merlini will be going to the seminary in Sezze for the Retreat.

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<sup>59</sup> This is how it appears in the original, but, according to the letters numbered 3898, 3899 and 3930, it should read Sonnino.

<sup>60</sup> Monsignor Francesco Mondelli (1756March 2, 1825). He was the bishop in Terracina, Sezze and Priverno (18051814) and in Citta di Castello (18141825).

<sup>61</sup> According to the measure of the gift of Christ.

<sup>62</sup> In the Lord.

I, myself, on the occasion when I will be going to the nuns in Piperno, shall also try to get to Maenza for the Retreat. I will do whatever good work I am able to do. Another energetic worker of ours, however, would do better than I ever could. At any rate, with divine grace and for the sake of condescension, which is the flower of charity, as De Sales would put it, I shall go, but reliant very much on your prayers.

With regret did I receive the confirmation of the death of the bishop of Citta di Castello, Monsignor Mondelli. Miserable thing that I am, I shall pray for him. Oh what a great meditation it is to think of passing from this miserable life into eternity! Indeed, the Divine Blood will be triumphant in our behalf. Blessed is the one who nourishes a tender devotion to this inestimable treasure!

With regard to the Locatelli money, relating to the matters dealing with Sonnino, you will recall well that I did not wish to submit a petition to the Treasurer<sup>63</sup> to make use of it for the building project in Sonnino, so as not to stand in the way of Canon Locatelli's claim. Now that you have made it clear that he has the right, I conclude, therefore, that there is no need for anything further. Still, the appended condition, namely, "provided that the Treasurer does not dispose of it" seems to indicate that there might be some doubt. The Treasurer will not give his opinion without full knowledge and study of the situation.

Furthermore, he might settle things, indicating something else to the highlyadmired prelate, especially after the fact, since we are desirous of having the simplest solution to operations such as these. *Sapientioribus autem me remitto.*<sup>64</sup>

In this matter, I must confidentially say to you that the aforementioned Locatelli kept on deposit the gifts to the most holy Madonna during the first Mission, while Father Giovanni Merlini has on deposit those of the second Mission which he will place on the altar of the Addolorata for our Retreat, as soon as it opens. Without mentioning my name, you might, *ut ex se*,<sup>65</sup> show the Canon that you are informed of this, urging him to consign them. If there are any other matters that you know of that relate to our foundations, then do not fail to settle them, just as I have no doubt you will, with the particular zeal that the Lord communicates to you. More and more let us be united in the divine Heart and therein let us repose as the ark of our salvation. Take good care of your health. Pray incessantly, venerable Monsignor, for the one who now, with esteem repeats that he is

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*Gaspere C. del Bufalo*  
 Mis. Ap.

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<sup>63</sup> Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

<sup>64</sup> I submit to those who are wiser.

<sup>65</sup> As from itself.

3931

June 5, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I recommend to you the enclosed matter to which you will give your full examination so as to determine just *quid in praxi expediat*.<sup>66</sup> I am writing on a halfsheet, in order not to overburden you, certain as I am that you know of my respect for you whom I love and esteem so much in the Lord.

Let me know what the situation is with regard to Monsignor Virgilj. Canon La Galla, in Sezze, just by accident, told me that a certain Monsignor Benedetti was the bishop in Comacchio.

When you get back to your dioceses, please let me know since I have several things to write to you. Inform me as to where you will be in residence.

I know that you will be withdrawing for a Retreat; this information I got from the aforementioned Canon. I beg you not to forget to pray for me, one truly in need of prayers.

You may have heard about the death of Agostino,<sup>67</sup> our Brother at *Buon Consiglio*. Recommend his soul to the Lord. Also add your prayers for a very, very dear companion of mine who has died in our House of S. Felice in Giano and one with whom you were acquainted. His name was Father Vincenzo di Nicola.<sup>68</sup>

Your health is in need of greater attention. Do not apply yourself after the noon meal; keep busy but be sure to set aside sufficient time for sleep. St. Teresa herself said that the loss of sleep impedes the effectiveness of the machine. Conserve yourself for the doing of greater good. I kiss your hands. Pray for me; with all my esteem and affection for you in the Lord, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 5, 1825

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<sup>66</sup> Which in practice is expedient.

<sup>67</sup> In some of his letters of May, 1825, St. Gaspar recommends that suffrages be offered "for one of our young men, a very excellent Brother" (*Epistolario*, III, no. 1123; cfr. also *ibid.*, no. 1124), but no name is given until this present letter, but the familyname is not indicated. In the register of deaths in the Congregation, there is no mention of a Brotherinservice with the name of Agostino who died in 1825.

<sup>68</sup> He died on May 25, 1825.

3932

June 9, 1825  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In Maenza I encountered a controversy in the Fasani family. Now, in order to avoid expenses, with the consent of both parties, they agreed that you should in charity hear both sides and then pronounce your judgment.

With particular esteem, kissing your hands, etc. and asking you for your prayers, venerable Monsignor, I remain, with distinct esteem and reverence

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M.. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 9, 1825

P. S. The other side will send you the folder, as I was told.<sup>69</sup> Because of the responsibilities entrusted to me by his Eminence Ercolani, I ask you to request from the Holy Father the faculty of gaining the jubilee indulgences, in accordance with that enjoyed by other monasteries, for the *Monastero della Sagra Famiglia* in Sezze. Send your response to the nuns who, even though they do not observe the strict *clausura*, still *expedit etc.*<sup>70</sup>

P. S. I have received, at this moment, another notification of Masses commissioned for you. I will be sending still another. Finally, check to see whether anything is missing.

3933

June 10, 1825  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your always very dear letter, I say that you will be doing a good thing by examining the matter dealing with the *Maestre pie*. I wish only that the Lord will settle things tranquilly so that in peace and without anguish they can dedicate themselves to the very, very important work of education. The Vicar Forane will give you additional information.

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<sup>69</sup> As a matter of fact, attached to this letter was a folder of four pages in which Canon Antonio Fasani explains the reason for the controversy in his family. At the end, he makes a reference to the mediation "of the most worthy Sig. Can. Del Bufalo, Apostolic Missionary, whom I esteem very highly".

<sup>70</sup> It is expedient, etc.

I understand about Monsignor Virgilj. If you should get to see him at some time, please, I ask that you extend to him my very sincere good wishes. I was afraid to say it but I thought he might have passed on to eternity. It is a good idea not to think about transferals.

At the time when you get back to your dioceses, I shall resume my letterwriting. I have no recollection of ever having submitted any complaint against not only a bishop but even anyone of lower status.<sup>71</sup> I am very strict about this matter of principle. All that I have in mind is preaching, hearing confessions and communicating respectfully and personally my ideas about doing good work to the sacred pastors who benignly have always shown to me that loving kindness which I do not at all deserve. So, I fear that here we have some sort of misunderstanding which the Lord will have to clarify. I love everyone equally and I respect each one as he deserves. If someone has taken upon himself to write something of which I know nothing, then I would say: "Let us excuse the intentions". When I embraced the ministry, which I am not worthy of exercising, I realized that I would have to face humiliations as my inheritance. They are simply inevitable. So pray to God that I learn, once and for all, to be a true follower of the Crucified Lord.

Could it be said that my companions submitted the complaint? Really, I know very well the people whom I place as directors of the Missions and they are very close to me. Better than I, they adhere to the basic principles that have been established. My oh my! How the devil really hates our Society! When you come to its defense in this situation, you are surely defending the truth. The Lord will reward you amply. I do not wish to debate the quality of the items of accusation. However, if the most reverend Monsignor, whom I know very, very well and whom I beseech, if he will, to speak up in my behalf, were to bring everything to a proper examination and seek out the proof, including documents as well as the testimonies of neighboring bishops, then the truth will have its day. I think that I need add nothing more.

I repeat, however, that I am afraid, but without saying "I am afraid" I recognize that there is certainly a decisive battle to be faced with the devil. By not depending on the sacred shepherds, it would be clear that there is a loss of conscience. The functions observed at the *Ave Maria* hour are the same as those that are practiced in Rome in the Oratories of St. Philip as well as in the *Caravita* etc. You are a witness of that. The rule that I would be able to produce for you is that of your own personal testimony that can be asserted, namely, for the glory of God. Furthermore, Monsignor could question the bishops where I have conducted Missions and note their responses. I am not sending him our rule because I do not have here the opportune occasion. I repeat, however, that it seems to me that I have provided him with it because of his authority. If not, write to me and I will do all I can to send it to him.

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<sup>71</sup> In this part of the letter, St. Gaspar alludes to a complaint made to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. In the following letter, it will clearly appear that it was a question of a complaint against the bishop of Teramo, Monsignor Giuseppe Maria Pezzella.

Then, how about women and in what way? What if the Retreat were preached publicly? In the morning, at an early hour, after the style of having Masses at dawn, and as far as it pertains to us in Missions only, the people make their way for catechetical instructions. This is a practice with all Institutes, and, all year long this is done in many churches even in Rome. Otherwise, the working people will not be instructed; yet all come reciting the rosary. A great point, my Monsignor ... if there is an uproar of the people where men and women intermingle no one speaks. All of what regards God is *cribato*. Are the catechists faulty? This is a question that would merit further examination and one would have to say that such and such a bishop should have been informed about each individual one. The book that I place in the hands of our catechists is that of Blessed Leonard as well as *Il Cristiano instruito* of Father Segneri, together with what is said orally and presented in writing. Pray a lot for me. Take good care of yourself. Let us adore the Cross and today, the feast of the Divine Heart, let us remain united in that most blessed place of asylum, as I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 10, 1825

P. S. His Eminence Pacca of the Congregation of Bishops and Regulars can even as far as Benevento, question, investigate etc. etc.

3934

June 17, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have finally been informed that all the upheaval comes from Teramo.<sup>72</sup> I can assure you that under the present bishop of Teramo, our Institute has not engaged in anything and I am not acquainted with him, not even by sight. Furthermore, I am stunned by the report that we have registered a complaint when he removed the Oratory; *et hoc falsum est*.<sup>73</sup> I repeat everything that I mentioned in my previous letter. It is true that I got his unacceptable printed statement, but all I could do was shed tears over it and to humble myself before God; nothing more.

So now I abandon myself and these matters concerning me to divine providence. With St.

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<sup>72</sup> Monsignor Giuseppe Maria Pezzella, bishop of Teramo, on August 30, 1824, suppressed with a decree the nocturnal Oratory of Teramo. This matter, besides causing enormous suffering for St. Gaspar, provided consequences for a complaint to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars [cfr. *Epistolario di San Gaspare*, III, letter no. 1199 of July 8, 1825, pp. 378379].

<sup>73</sup> And this is false.

Francis De Sales, I conclude as follows: "May God do with my life and my reputation and my honor as he pleases. If my abjection serves for his glory, I must do nothing other than to offer myself to be despised for that glory. As the apostle said: I will glory in my infirmity so that the power of Jesus Christ will dwell in me. What virtue of Jesus Christ? Humility, the delight of facing abjection".

I kiss your hands. Most illustrious and reverend lordship, I thank you for your loving kindness toward the Lord's Society and while asking you for your prayers, I am and will constantly be, with very special esteem

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Frosinone, June 17, 1825

3935

July 8, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>74</sup>

I received the ten *scudi* through the services of Father Pietro Pellegrini and I ask you to keep an account of the alms so that you will not have to remit them yourself. On these occasions, I have not kept a register. Then, too, it is certain that I will have to remit other notifications to you and I am expecting them momentarily. At that time you will make a computation and, for any mistake which I certainly hope does not occur, I will be ready to supply promptly upon receiving a word from you.

With reference to the Jubilee Indulgences for the *Monastero della Sagra Famiglia*, I will be in perfect agreement with whatever you decide on the matter. You would be doing a big favor if, with an exhortatory letter of yours, you would dispose those religious women to receive them, always being insistent about the full observances. I ask you, as strongly as I am able, to do this favor.

In regard to the petition of Father Marcellino,<sup>75</sup> what am I to say? You have total control over my heart, but if I were required to make a decision, I would undoubtedly be in favor of a NO. He is not one that fits into our Institute. So, I would judge plausible your handling of the situation by suggesting to him that he consider other institutes of which there is no lack.

Father Antonio Liparelli wrote to me also that in Sermoneta there was no canonical

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<sup>74</sup> This letter is in quite a bad state of preservation, even though, with difficulty, it can be safely deciphered.

<sup>75</sup> Father Marcellino Brandimarte.

erection of the Pious Union of the Divine Blood. You would be doing a most acceptable thing, for the interests of the greater divine glory, if you would be pleased to establish this Pious Union there, going along with the praiseworthy desires of the aforementioned Father Antonio.

Surely, I have no idea of how the bishop of Teramo ever came up with citing my name and those of my companions since I do not even know the man, not even if I saw him. Furthermore, nothing has been done for him under his regime, but we did, indeed, under his predecessor. The Oratory was founded there with full authorization. I excuse everybody's intentions and more and more am I learning what a great study the human creature is. I have personally been of service to the bishop of Ascoli;<sup>76</sup> in fact, *expedit*<sup>77</sup> to say this: he even had the report of that Mission put into print. Likewise I know that after our departure, false rumors about us were bandied around as an act of opposition (there is no shortage of freethinkers there). I placed all of these contradictions at the foot of the Cross of Jesus Christ. Oh how easily misunderstandings can happen. Dear Monsignor, this can also be said of those who ought to know better. The pious organizations were established in Ascoli with the plenary meetings of the priests *et coram episcopo*.<sup>78</sup> They still continue to function and fruitfully. The inheritance and the reward of exercising the apostolate are found in the accompanying difficulties and humiliations. But, *omne gaudium existimate fratres, etc.*<sup>79</sup> Courage. The Cross is the stairway to heaven. Once again, I thank you for your charity in defending so well in Rome the cause for truth.

In regard to your dioceses, and I wish to say this only because you give me the liberty to express my thoughts, may I suggest that it seems to me to be a useful idea for you to compose an encyclical in which you encourage your priests to make an annual Retreat. Since some of them may be a bit short of education, inculcate upon them the need for study. Perhaps you have already done this. At any rate, I have been stimulated to make this request to you. For example, I noticed a young priest in Roccagorga, by the name of Coja if I am not mistaken, who showed a need for study and, with prudence and respect, I recommended this to him. Concerning things to be studied, you yourself are more experienced.

Finally, do not cease praying and have others pray too for me a lot, a lot, so that I will be saved. I will do the same for you. May Jesus bring us together, one day, in his most blessed Kingdom. Amen. I kiss your hands, and, with respect and esteem, I am and will constantly be

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>80</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Monsignor Giovanni Francesco Cappelletti

<sup>77</sup> It is expedient.

<sup>78</sup> In the presence of the bishop.

<sup>79</sup> Count it all joy, brothers, etc..

<sup>80</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Frosinone, July 8, 1825

P. S. I hear that the Holy Father has increased the income for some bishoprics. It is only right that you also be insistent about this, so as to benefit the poor etc.

3936

September 25, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing this letter, while engaged in the ministry, in order to enclose another notification of Masses. Please do me the favor of computing the entire number of Masses committed to me, for my own peace of mind, since it seems to me that I do not have any other notifications to give you; at any rate, I could be mistaken about this very delicate matter.

For my own information, I would like to know whether I will have to think of providing a Lenten preacher for Sermoneta; the same applies for Sonnino or Terracina. It is quite true that we do not provide Lenten preachers unless we have a House established, but we could say that the Institute does have a House in Terracina, even though it has been suspended only because of the things happening there. You think it over and then decide, as the Lord directs you to do what you think is best. However, if you have other Lenten preachers in mind, go right ahead and engage them; in that way, we can have our men handle other projects. Also, let me know whether, in Roccasecca, during Lent, we are to send someone for the spiritual exercises or for Missions. Address your letters to me: "Camerino per Pievetorina".

I kiss your hands. Pray a lot for me to Jesus. Always with esteem, respect and veneration, I remain

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>81</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Visso, September 25, 1825

3937

October 8, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

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<sup>81</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

From everything that Canon Betti was kind enough to communicate to me, I note more than ever the very tender affection you hold in your heart for our Institute. I cannot help but express to you my own very deep and sincere gratitude. The most essential thing, however, is the great work that you are achieving in everything that you promote for the glory of the Lord.

I recommend urgently the enclosed petitions concerning which, as a very big favor, I ask you to please send your reply to Tuzi in Sermoneta. As for the one that regards the Mass for the feastdays, I do not know the locality involved. But, in your wise judgment, you will know what to decide in this matter. Indeed, the best thing is the giving of good example, thanks to public acts of religion. The other petition pertains to the obligations of the aforementioned family. If you think it a good idea, have the Vicar Forane read the testament and from what is expressed therein one could figure out just what the aforementioned Tuzi is obliged to do. In reference to the Masses: the testator has either stipulated the alms, in which case the obligation is very clear or has not stipulated that, in which case you are to give your advice as you judge expedient. With regard to the Masses in arrears, *titulo charitatis*,<sup>82</sup> I will have no difficulty in writing to my companions that they remit them without asking for dispensations. Tuzi will handle that situation in the future in order to be exact and to pray for our Institute.

I do not know whether you will approve the following: after the young men are ordained priests, they might spend at least one month withdrawn to the House of studies in Sermoneta so as to prepare themselves better for those aspects of the ministry to which God is calling them. In that way, too, they will develop more maturity for being either pastors or being engaged in other offices.

Pray to Jesus for me *sine intermissione*.<sup>83</sup> Most illustrious and reverend lordship, with esteem, respect and veneration, I am at your service at any word from you, and I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspere Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House in Pievetorina, October 8, 1825

3938

October 17, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

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<sup>82</sup> By the title of charity.

<sup>83</sup> Without intermission.

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In reply to your most appreciated letter which I read with particular consolation, I understand what you tell me in reference to the Mission in Sonnino which is to be held in spring so that the services will succeed in being more conducive to the glory of God and even more so since there will be no shortage of workers for the fulfillment of the Easter duty in Lent. Also, in Roccasecca things will be conducted, generally speaking, during Lent. I shall hold on to your letter so that at the proper time, I can exchange correspondence with you on the matter, while in the meantime keeping our basic agreement firm. In regard to a Lenten preacher for Sermoneta, I would be pleased if he were an outsider. May the grace of Jesus Christ always be abundant in our hearts. While kissing your hands, venerable Monsignor, and asking you for your prayers, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

House in Pievetorina (for forwarding), October 17, 1825

3939

November 29, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I am distant from you but I can tell you that I always have you in my mind and our intimate union in the Divine Heart holds us firmly united and conjoined *in vinculo charitatis*.<sup>84</sup> Also, I always keep in mind my very dear city of Terracina and now is the moment when the Commune must be concerned about arranging a fund for the initial foundation. Realize that the subsistence for Terracina, insofar as it is a subsidy provided by the government, has indeed been passed on to our House in Albano, not without informing the most reverend Treasurer<sup>85</sup> and made known likewise to the Holy Father. Presently, I have written to the most reverend Treasurer that he should endow Albano and allow me the opportunity of reopening Terracina. Pray that the Lord will bless this procedure. One simply cannot imagine what a serious consideration this temporal matter is when attempting new foundations for an apostolic Institute.

At any rate, I wrote that the locale there is in need of repair and that Canon Carboneri

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<sup>84</sup> In the bond of charity.

<sup>85</sup> Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi.

tells me that the expense will not be a small one. Here, then, is still another worry. Yet, I have courage from God and at the same time, I hunt for the means needed. You, as one of the most zealous promoters of the Lord's Society, should please contact a certain Asorati, asking him to cede the rent money for the year that has passed, which he has enjoyed from our property. That money would be for the bricklayer. In addition to this, I ask that you please have them seek out the most economical program and the strictest alignment of necessary jobs to be done, if only in regard to the roofs. Then, as I hope, I will be kept informed since I do not wish to take on unnecessary debts.

With Terracina aware of my love and my strong desire for the promotion of good work, which is the sheer grace of God, still I would like them to be cooperative and work along for this pious foundation. Everyone knows that at our own expense, we have, up to now, provided for several repairs in the locale, not to mention the money paid out because of illness and other pressing needs that arose, even paying the rent *propriis sumptibus*.<sup>86</sup> It would seem that gratitude and an interest in the good work itself leading to eternal salvation would stimulate them to suggest and propose whatever they might judge to be necessary for the fulfillment of the desired project. If they will supply what is most urgent for the founding of a work that is of such great importance, then you can be sure that I, myself, will not omit on my part any effort required to give a new and glorious beginning to the foundation in this place that is so very, very dear to me. It is understood that we will take up residence in our locale and, from that central location, spread our good work for the souls in that area, so lovingly entrusted by God to your pastoral vigilance. I add nothing more except always to express my gratitude for and recognition of all the kindness that you have shown in every circumstance.

I am already thinking about the Mission in Roccasecca and I am not forgetting the one for Sonnino. I do not recall any other commitments for your dioceses. If I have forgotten, please remind me.

When the Missionaries do come there, as I hope they will, I would like Assorati to peacefully rescind the rental lease for our property, while you add for this intention your own prayers.

I do not know whether it will be possible to arrange for the transferral of the remains of our deceased father in common, Monsignor Albertini, called by God to eternity on the feast of St. John of the Cross, either before the novena in honor of Xavier or on the date itself of St. John of the Cross; these are the thoughts that I have had throughout the year. When that event takes place, I would like the coffin to be opened for investigation etc. It is to be understood that this project should be carried out altogether quietly and that the expense involved should not exceed reasonable thrift. Perhaps, all of this cannot be done, but still God will be pleased with my good desires.

Finally, I am eager for the reopening of our House there in order to provide [the

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<sup>86</sup> With appropriate expenses.

opportunity]<sup>87</sup> for spiritual exercises for so many people who will be coming there from the Kingdom. Likewise, I would hope that, during the summer time, the men whom I will be sending there in time will be able to enjoy good health.

I kiss your hands. I am making my Retreat and I am meditating on the eternal years. May Jesus be our delight. With profound esteem and reverence, venerable Monsignor, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice in Giano, November 29<sup>88</sup>

P. S. Whatever was in Terracina is now in Sermoneta or Sonnino and it goes without saying that that will be returned etc.

3940

December 22, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

ishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*<sup>89</sup>

I read your letter several times and I wept. Thank you for your edifying words of encouragement and may praise be given to God for everything.

At the first opportunity, which I hope will be soon, I shall be sending the Superior, the one whom God inspires me to send after having prayed for the selection to be made, who will once again open the House, or better said, to prepare and dispose the things that will be necessary. I have considered seriously the qualities (and I do not wish to do injury to any of the other men of our group) that are required for handling Terracina. They are: extreme patience, a rigid need for giving good example, a mature knowledge of our Institute and especially the method that we follow so as to communicate spiritually with the retreatants who will be coming.

I find these prerogatives in our excellent Canon Fontana. He is endowed with sufficient knowledge for hearing confessions; he has a mature and practical judgment because of his experience, since I discovered him as the Vicar Forane in Prossedi at the time when he dedicated himself to our Institute. Finally, he has developed himself lately as a preacher who is more downtoearth and I do not cease seeking for ways of having him improve even more, *auxiliante*

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<sup>87</sup> Because of the poor condition of the paper, an illegible word occurs here. The word we suggest is probable.

<sup>88</sup> The year is not written, but it is 1825 as is evident from the letter of December 22, 1825.

<sup>89</sup> Whom I love with unfeigned affection in the heart of Jesus Christ

*Deo*.<sup>90</sup> He is a man of continual prayer and with the humility and simplicity of his heart he truly seeks God; "*cum simplicibus sermocinatio mea*".<sup>91</sup> He will be an apostle in Terracina. To his position as Superior, I also join that of Director of Retreats, a job that is compatible, and one that he has fruitfully carried out in our House in S. Felice.

Another worker will be coming from Frosinone with the assignment as Economist and Prefect of the church; the choice is to be made from two possibilities. Whichever one of the two who comes will succeed in carrying out the program since they are both imbued with the spirit of God. Later on, I will send a third worker as the Director of Missions, and, with the assistance of our other Houses, very good work will be accomplished. I will provide the aforementioned Canon Fontana with a written page indicating whatever will be needed to set up a solid foundation; the first one will be arriving in Terracina along with a Brother whom I am sending from this House.

Once he has arrived in Terracina along with a page of instructions from Merlini, who is knowledgeable about the needs of the Province, he will restore whatever has been kept on deposit in our other Houses. As for me, I assure you that if it were possible for me to shed my own blood to assure this great effort there ... Lord, I am ready. According to human calculations, I would have had to say that this task of reopening the House so soon was not at all possible; however, *levavi oculos meos in montem, etc.*<sup>92</sup> and that thought was more than sufficient. The works of God have their bases on wondrous religious principles.

Tell Assorati that I accept the consignment of the property annulling any writing known to the Canon of Trento. As for the yearly instalment, you, as one belonging entirely to us, should work things out, as you see best, with the aforementioned Assorati. Meanwhile, Merlini has received instructions from me to pass on to you 20 *scudi* on account, for the repairs already made. For anything further, Canon Fontana will be in charge following the instructions that I will be giving him continuously. However, I am asking to have suspended any work that is not of extreme urgency. Assure the artist that I am not at all comfortable about assuming debts and that I will make every effort to cover anything residual, as long as I know how much it might come to. Canon Betti wrote to me that, all in all, it should come to the sum of 35 *scudi*.

With your sense of concern, then, encourage whomever you judge available for this matter, to loan whatever might be necessary, principally in the matter of utensils. Then, I do not know whether you would want us to conduct a shift of spiritual exercises. The Lord will give you his enlightenment.

Along this line, I would like to know whether I am to take care of the Retreat and extraordinary visitation of S. Chiara in Sezze or any other assignment that you might indicate

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<sup>90</sup> With god's help.

<sup>91</sup> My preaching in simple things.

<sup>92</sup> I lift up my eyes to the mountain, etc.

that I should keep in mind. I am still very hopeful that I will not be long in visiting you again in person.

Are all the notifications of the Masses that you entrusted to me correct? I hope so. I am asking this *ad cautelam*.<sup>93</sup>

I add here that Canon Fontana is well known in the diocese of Gaeta, and, because of that, he will be able to make [trips]<sup>94</sup> there to activate shifts of Retreats. I surely [foresee]<sup>95</sup> great work being done.

Very, very much to the point are your thoughts about our deceased father in common and you can consider my request an effect of that tender feeling for him that my spirit of religion inspires.

Above all, recommend me to the Lord so that he give me the grace to be able to prepare myself well for that final extreme moment. Always have trust in the Divine Blood and say: Lord, it is you who have sent me here as the instrument of your glory. *Fortitudo mea Dominus etc.*<sup>96</sup> In short, we are entirely Jesus', and irrevocably his. I kiss your hands. While asking you to be ever mindful of our holy Institute, I am and will constantly be, with esteem, respect and a very special affection

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>97</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, December 22, 1825

3941

December 28, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

*Christus dilexit nos, et lavit nos in Sanguine Suo*<sup>98</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

I am writing these couple of lines, while sending there my most beloved companions, and to renew with you, most illustrious and reverend lordship, my sentiments of esteem and respect, with which I am and will constantly be, along with my feelings of particular affection, venerable

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<sup>93</sup> As a precaution.

<sup>94</sup> Because of the poor condition of the paper here, this word is illegible. Our suggested word is probable.

<sup>95</sup> Because of the poor condition of the paper here, this word is illegible. Our suggested word is probable.

<sup>96</sup> The Lord is my strength.

<sup>97</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

<sup>98</sup> Christ loved us and washed us in his blood.

Monsignor,  
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant  
*G. C. del Bufalo*  
 M. Ap.  
 S. Felice, December 28, 1825

3942

January 4, 1826  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

You have probably already met two of my most beloved companions since you have desired to increase the number of workers and have provided a bit of support for the new opening of our Mission House, etc.. I have said verbally and in writing many things to my oftenmentioned confreres. More will be added by letter and I hope, too, in person soon. Prayers.

I shall heed your resolutions with regard to the good work which, keeping generally in mind our basic principles, you refer to in your most appreciated letter of this past December 27th. It will be necessary, I imagine, to rule out the Lenten time since the usual preaching will be had and the good work itself still promoted in an orderly fashion. *Omnia honeste et secundum ordinem fiant.*<sup>99</sup>

The Mission in Sonnino, as we have already agreed, will be held during the pleasant weather. Going there soon to join that family is also a certain de Victoriis, one quite capable in preaching. I am already working out the method for housing him in our convent. Back me up with your prayers upon which I rely so very much. Generally speaking, the good work in Roccasecca will be done during Lent. Presently, I am keeping in contact with the archpriest.

I have recently sent the excellent Father Liparelli to the Monastery of S. Chiara. For the one in Piperno, prayers. I will be sending a worker to the seminary for the Pentecost novena. I hope that all this meets with your approval.

For the moment, it seems to me that I have nothing more to say except that on Epiphany night I will be completing 40 years of age and I am in need of a renewal of spirit. Please help me with your prayers.

I hope that the notifications concerning the Masses were all in order. If not, all you have to do is drop me a line. I kiss your hands. Wholeheartedly and with the fullness of affection, esteem and veneration, I remain

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<sup>99</sup> Let everything be done honorably and in order.

*Suo infimo in Christo servo*<sup>100</sup>

*G. Can. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice (for forwarding) 4th of 1826

P. S. Colognesi has put himself out as usual. Give him my thanks. Greetings to the companions etc.

3943

January 15, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I thank you as much as I can for all that you are doing in behalf of the reopening of our House in that city. May praise be given to the ever most lovable Lord.

I hear that Canon Locatelli may have leased his property in Sonnino and has thought (*si vera sunt exposita*<sup>101</sup>) to include also our properties, formerly belonging to the Passionists and later, being renounced by them, assigned to us with the approval of the nowdeceased Pope Pius VII. Were the Passionists able to renounce what they did not own? So, as of now, how is the Canon handling things? I beg you to persuade him and to leave us in peace. Also, inform him, indeed, about the Masses inherently associated with the funds that he has gotten, in addition to a certain procession, I think, from the *Capitolo* in Sonnino. Father Giovanni Merlini is thoroughly knowledgeable of the details. You can question him. As the bishop, it is true that it is up to you to investigate his activity and, as for me, I am simply to remind you, using that same loving kindness that you show toward me. Furthermore, I would appreciate seeing a bit more orderliness used in matters relating to the Lord. Perhaps I am wrong in thinking in this way.

Already assigned to our House there is Canon Aloysi as the ViceSuperior and a certain de Nardis, who is very effective for work with the clergy, will be the Economist. I have alerted him with regard to benignity in hearing confessions. He assures me that he is studying Liguori. Another Brother will be coming. So, for now, that is the composition of the family there. Presently, I am giving thought to Sonnino and our locale there.

Please support me with your prayers. Indeed, I request that you allow the foundation there of our Institute to be carried out just as was the wish of Monsignor Albertini. I have indicated this to Canon Fontana. If there is any objection, please write. Right now, I am sending

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<sup>100</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

<sup>101</sup> If the truth is set forth.

from Rome six straw mattresses, since those to be ordained will be going to the *Ritiro*; things are to be done in accordance with the basic rules for the exercises. If necessary, I will take on a debt. I will not be disheartened. St. Francis will look into this. I kiss your hands and, with all my esteem, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

S. Felice, 15th of 1825<sup>102</sup>

I have already sent a worker for the nuns in Sezze.

3944

January 23, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Most reverend bishop, please indicate to me how I am to handle things, and I ask that you please hurry your response.<sup>103</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

3945

February 12, 1825

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

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<sup>102</sup> St. Gaspar wrote 1825, but the year is 1826, because on January 15, 1825 St. Gaspar was preaching the Mission in Roccasecca, whereas in January of 1826 he was in S. Felice in Giano. The postal markings indicate "Spoleto".

<sup>103</sup> This postscript is found on a letter that the archpriest of Roccasecca, Luca Giuliani, wrote on January 17, 1826 to St. Gaspar in S. Felice in Giano. The latter then sent that letter to Manassi, adding to it only the abovementioned postscript and the address. Giuliani wrote the following to St. Gaspar: "I have shared what your most reverend paternity wrote in regard to the preaching to be done, at least for the final fifteen days of the upcoming Lenten season, with Vicar Ungaretti, so as to keep everything in good order; he has informed me that he prefers rather to have a Mission directed by the Passionist Fathers. I was unable to express opposition to his desire because I know that he is highly favored by the most reverend bishop and for that reason, I did not wish to cause any hard feelings.

Whatever the case may be, I still hope that some help from Divine Providence will be forthcoming so that the religious Superior will assign an evangelical worker to this church where I am all alone, and, help is needed for the Easter season ...". This letter, as is evident from the postal markings, arrived in Foligno on "January 23". We have assigned this same date to the postscript of St. Gaspar to Manassi, even though it may have come a day or so later.

Venerable Monsignor

Here I am in Rome in order to attend some meetings for the provision of workers for Missions, even foreign ones. There are settlements of people who have no priest at all. Indeed, I trust in God that everything can be worked out. However, there is a need for prayers, and copiously. Tell my companions there to write to me in Rome about everything and in detail since I am deeply interested in the welfare of that foundation. Father de Nardis has asked to be excused from coming to Terracina because of reasons of health. So, I am going to provide a third worker in addition to a second Brother whom I am waiting for from the Marche. Please inform Canon Fontana of this. I have already made provisions for the Mission in Roccasecca. I am waiting, however, until Easter draws nearer. Father Giovanni Merlini will be the Director since he has never preached in Roccasecca. In the meanwhile, you should please give notice of this there so that everything is prearranged. If I have forgotten anything, please remind me.

Today I celebrated and offered Mass for you,<sup>104</sup> with the assurance that you, too, will reciprocate on March 12th, a day of particular devotion for me.<sup>105</sup>

I am told that in Sonnino the Mission can be set up satisfactorily as soon as the weather makes it possible to preach outdoors. Let me know what you think about this.

I am planning, as long as it meets with your approval, to have the Retreats established in your three cocathedrals for the 10 days in preparation for Pentecost. I will see to providing capable members and I will see that they all arrive at a single point; then, immediately after Pentecost, I will reassign the three sent there as follows: the one in Sezze will conduct the Retreat in the seminary, the one in Piperno will go to the nuns, the one in Terracina I will send to conduct the Retreat in Sermoneta. Likewise, the one in Sezze, after completing his work in the seminary, I will send to Bassiano, and the one in Piperno, I will send to Roccagorga and Maenza. You make your decisions, you make any change, and you give your commands.

I inform you that I have been authorized to write to you, in the name of His Holiness, that sometime after the feast of the Resurrection, you are to conduct the Mission in the city of Aquila, so that much good work can be done there, as I have no doubt will be the case. Send them a notice of this beforehand. After the Mission in Aquila, you can resume your visitation. In the meantime, your flock will be sanctified a bit with the spiritual exercises conducted. I would like to know whether you will take along with you Canons Sessa and Locatelli. As far as I am concerned, that would be entirely to my delight, as long as they are considered *in subsidium*.<sup>106</sup> That is how I will regulate myself for anything further. While kissing your hands, in Jesus Christ crucified, I remain, with all my affection and esteem

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<sup>104</sup> A reference to the recurrence of Monsignor Manassi's birthday. He was born on February 12, 1770 in Comacchio.

<sup>105</sup> This is a reference to the reference of the feast of the patronage of St. Francis Xavier.

<sup>106</sup> For support.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, February 12, 1826

I ask you for the dimissorials for the cleric Teodoro Lampreda from Sonnino so that he can receive the four minor orders. He is doing very, very well.<sup>107</sup>

3946

Februsry 14, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

In the foreign Missions there are peoples completely deprived of a priest. The Holy Father has charged me to write to bishops of my acquaintance to have them encourage priests to take part in this great work. Any one of them that would be selected from the dioceses, while the seminaries continue to develop new plants, would be a big help *in circumstantiis*<sup>108</sup> to the benefit of religion. God will inspire you, who are familiar with the Lombardia region and elsewhere, to assist me by writing about this search in behalf of the Catholic faith. At least they can be replacements in our Houses if, as of now, they do not have the desire for foreign missions, and this would be most gratifying to the Holy Father, thus releasing some of our men who are ready to go. God is increasing the number of workers in our Society. Help me to give him thanks. I will have to have information from the respective bishops concerning anyone who accepts this offer.

To replace Father de Nardis, I have already assigned Father Giovanni Chiodi from Ascoli, a truly excellent priest, and before Easter, I will be sending him to our House in Terracina. Thus, with three workers on hand, now one now the other will assist with the Mission work while two remain in place. I do not cease recommending our Institute and my own soul to the charity of your prayers. I kiss your hands; wholeheartedly do I assert to you, with all my esteem, venerable Monsignor, that I am at your service whenever you say.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, February 14, 1826

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<sup>107</sup> This postscript is found near the address.

<sup>108</sup> In the circumstances.

3947

February 16, 1826  
 Monsignor Carlo Manassi  
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno  
 Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor<sup>109</sup>

Pardon me if I inconvenience you with another of my letters. Its purpose is to ask you to tell Luigi Rossi that after being ordained deacon he should take up residence in our House in Terracina until Father Santarelli has returned from the Mission in Vallecorsa. By Easter, a third worker, presently on a Mission, will be there. Tell me, is Rossi really prepared sufficiently in the entire field of Moral theology? If so, then, I will not oppose his ordination to the priesthood; rather I will give thanks to God. If he is not, I will oppose it, but wanting him to be in our Institute. I am not in favor of rushing things so much, for a priest can find himself in a moribund state. If he does not have sufficient learning, he is unable to help this or that soul and his own conscience is subject to anguish. In such a case, the church would not be served by a fit minister, notwithstanding personal holiness which I have no doubt about in regard to Rossi. You, dear Monsignor, are the one who can bring tranquility to me in this matter. Correct me if I am mistaken, for in this as in other questions, I put my trust in you.

In reference to the apostolate in Sezze etc., as I mentioned in another letter, I have already informed Father Giobbi and that he should also, at that time, include a Retreat for the clergy. As for those on the shores of S. Felice, perhaps you yourself can give that some thought, making a trip there so that the jubilee year will bear fruit. As for the other things, we are in agreement. I kiss your hands and I remain

*Suo infimo in Christ servo*<sup>110</sup>

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, February 16, 1826

P. S. For Piperno, Father Giovanni Merlini has been assigned etc.

P. S. For the Pentecost Novena in Terracina, Father Liparelli has been assigned. I hope that all of this meets with your approval.

It seems to me that the seminary in Sezze should recover some, I do not know what, temporalities, known by Ricelli. If so, then Vizzeri should work this out with the Treasurer.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>109</sup> In the upper part of this page, written by someone else with a pencil is: "Letters of Blessed Del Bufalo".

<sup>110</sup> Being his lowest servant in Christ.

<sup>111</sup> Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi..

Turn.<sup>112</sup>

P. S. Pardon me for writing so incoherently.

In reply to another of your letters which I have gotten, I will try to explain myself just a bit more: The Missions under the Propaganda are in extreme need of workers. One of our men who will be going is Canon Carboneri. Now, it is the wish of our Holy Father that bishops stimulate the clergy to the apostolic life. So, if someone is inspired to offer his services, namely, for Propaganda, make this known and some agreement will be made; also, if someone would wish to withdraw to one of our Houses. With others covering the places in the State, then, in our Mission Houses, more of our own men will move into the mission work of the Propaganda. Let me know if I have given a sufficiently clear picture. Pray for me etc.

3948

March 23, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Friverno Terracina

Hail to the Divine Blood

Dear Monsignor

Father Santarelli will be returning on Holy Saturday night. They have written to me from Sonnino for the Mission in August. Everything will be arranged.

As far as you are concerned, still remaining fixed is the first appointment in Frosinone for the evening of the Saturday before the third Sunday of Easter which, it seems to me, falls on the 15th<sup>113</sup> of April. Surely, bring along your two domestics, persuaded as I am that, generally speaking, both will be helpful to the Missionaries and their work will be adequate. You, yourself, will have to supply nothing at all. As a matter of fact, you should indicate what your expenses will be as far as Frosinone. By way of anticipation, drop me a line. I shall be sending some devotional materials to Frosinone, along with the trunks for the ministry, etc. I will try to handle things as best as I can.

Take along with you Canon Locatelli who will go, however, to the Mission in Pescina. There are two Missions arranged for the same period of time, one near the other. Everyone will depart from Frosinone at one and the same time since they will be traveling, for a stretch of the road, together. That is everything in a nutshell. Offer many prayers for me. I kiss your hands and I remain constantly

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<sup>112</sup> The three preceding postscripts are in the lefthand margin of the page. The last one is located in the lefthand margin, but at the top, written on a horizontal line on the page. For that reason, on the following page, he quickly asks to be excused for his "incoherence", that is, a certain lack of order that the page demonstrates.

<sup>113</sup> Rightly does he say "it seems to me" because actually the third Sunday of Easter in 1826 fell on the 16th of April.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, March 23, 1826

Meanwhile, Canon Locatelli (let this be between us) is one who is better fit for Pescara since he does not have a resounding voice which would be called for in Aquila etc.

Everything will be prepared in the hospice in Frosinone where you can adapt yourself and your people etc.

3949

April 9, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how sorry I felt about what happened to you! In all things, let us adore the divine dispositions! How are you doing now? Here in Rome, we are aching to have precise information. If you can and if it is not too much of an inconvenience for you, just a line or so would be sufficient.

I am arranging things in such a way that on Pentecost day the Retreats for the three cathedrals will begin. I add nothing further. Please, see that Canon Locatelli does not forget the appointment in Frosinone. Be very careful about this. In Jesus Christ crucified, venerable Monsignor, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, April 9, 1826

P. S. Let me know whatever you may need to get back on your feet again.

3950

April 23, 1826

Monsignor Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

*Sanguis Jesu Christi emundabit conscientias nostras*<sup>114</sup>

Venerable Monsignor

Oh how delighted I am to see your signature once again. Take good care of yourself. Let me know, and I would advise you were I able to give you a command, whether you will come to

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<sup>114</sup> The blood of Jesus Christ cleanses our consciences.

Albano for a change of air, since you are one of our Missionaries. Give me that information and I will do everything possible to prepare things for you and also for your two or three domestics. Let me know the approximate time. You can get about using a sedan chair. God so wishes this. Patience.

Now to something else. This is the excellent Father Gaetano Zapponi who is arriving for the Retreat to the people as well as for the nuns. I would prefer the nun's Retreat first, then that of the town.<sup>115</sup> By word of mouth, I have given him our method. I kiss your hands. Pray for me. Venerable Monsignor *quem diligo in charitate non ficta, etc., etc.*,<sup>116</sup> I am and will constantly be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. dal Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, April 23, 1826

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<sup>115</sup> This letter does not have an address. It was carried by hand by Father Gaetano Zapponi to Priverno where he was assigned to preach the Retreat to the nuns of S. Chiara and also to the people [cf. *Epistolario*, IV, letter n. 1388 of April 22, 1826 in which he insists, as he does in this letter, upon his conducting first the Retreat for the nuns and then that of the people].

<sup>116</sup> Who I love with unfeigned affection, etc..