

St. Gaspar's Letters

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February 28, 1822
Fr. Giacomo Giorgi
Maenza

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giacomo

If in the past I was unable to comply with the concerns of the good people of Bassiano, it was always with my regrets. You are aware of everything. Now, however, I can assure you that your wishes and those of the people will be satisfied. Pray, and have others do so too from this moment, that it will be successful. Finally, I would like to have you join us as a companion. You know what the saintly bishop Albertini desired. So, dear Father Giacomo, pray for me who am and will always be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, February 28, 1822

I have already sent a reply to the Magistrate of Bassiano.

552

March 3, 1822
Fr. Luigi Gonnelli
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

The Lenten preaching in the new houses is underway and everything is according to our rules. The gentlemen in Pievetorina do not intend to yield their rights, and I do not intend to alter those of the Society. My motives for firmness are in keeping with God's will, and it is quite sufficient to have said that. In this same ordinary maildelivery, I am writing a letter to the chief magistrate, declaring an absolute renunciation of the Lenten series, saying to him openly that in the future any letter or direct approach to an individual in the Society will be useless, while the Society itself, even with the magistrate writing for an appointment, would have the opportunity to serve the greater glory of God in other occupations, not overlooking the preaching to be done in those places where we have Mission Houses. In this situation, you have tended to temporize. But the matter had been decided ever since my last visit there, and even more so, as a precautionary measure, by my decisive reply concerning the Lenten preaching.

At any rate, I do not have to repeat that your merits are such that you stand behind the

renunciation for this year. If the failure to erect a platform is due to the economy of cutting down expenses, then, upon receiving this letter, go ahead with it and charge it to me. If it is due to some other policies, I repeat let us be in agreement. This year we shall move forward, but moving ahead while declaring clearly that if I were to come there, they should not utter a word to me about Lenten preaching until they refrain from their uncivil manner of acting, and their disregarding the fact that I will not carelessly manage the works of God. So, with St. Ignatius, we say: *Si non potes excusare opus excusa intentionem*.¹

If the applicant from Romagna would not care to go to Albano, at least have him go to Giano under the tutelage of Betti. But, he would acquire more experience in Albano. I have observed that whoever dedicates himself to the Society and allows himself to be trained, he is blessed in a particular way by God; whereas, he who acts otherwise, with difficulty does he find peace of mind. Finally, I am so happy that you are there; but in that House, it is necessary also to include Tarulli. Those of the Province, where I am at present, will not be able to make room. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.² Ultimately, I have no worry about this matter. The Society is God's. God will take care of it. Pray to God for me, and with particular esteem and sincere affection in Jesus Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit sanguine*,³ believe me to be always

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 3, 1822

Do me the favor of informing Mr. Bernabei in Caldarola that I have recommended his matter to Monsignor Odescalchi. More than that I am not able to do.

553

March 4, 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Oh how consoled I was with your recent letter. I do not know how to tell you how blessed you are by the Almighty. May he increase in you evermore your spirit and your courage, for his greater glory, and make you an even more effective instrument of his glory.

I have written efficaciously to the most reverend Treasurer concerning the Filippini. So, my advice would be that Father Sciamanna should now write a letter to the aforementioned prelate in the manner that God will inspire that holy and truly religious man.

¹ If you cannot excuse the work, excuse the intention.

² Let there be what pleases the Lord.

³ Who redeemed us in his blood.

Not long ago, I wrote to our very amiable Palmucci. Give him my greetings, assuring him of my warmest affection in Jesus Christ.

(In secret) I beg you not to cease making known the spirit of our Society to the brothers in service, and to speak frequently of our regulations, so that *etiam in circumstantiis quoad fieri potest observentur*.⁴ We shall see each other again soon. Dear Canon, begging you for your prayers, I am and will constantly remain, with fullest esteem, etc.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, March 4, 1822

554

March 8, 1822

Monsignor Giuseppe Lais

Anagni

Jesus Mary Joseph

Venerable Monsignor

The chief Magistrate of Morollo has informed me of their desire to defer the Mission since they absolutely wish that I go there, which is certainly not possible for me during Lent. After Frosinone, I have Vallecorsa, where they do not have a Lenten series; then on to Norma, since I promised that to Cardinal della Somaglia. In Norma, they likewise do not have a Lenten series. With regard to Gorga, in truth there has been no date set except, in general terms, for sometime in spring. God knows how much I would like to go along with your concerns for Piglio, but realize that during Lent it is practically impossible. I cannot tell you how weighed down all of our Mission Houses are with demands for the ministry.

Furthermore, through the admirable order of Providence in which the Lord makes known his will, we are now in the process of installing the Society here in Frosinone. With that, the six foundations for the greater glory of God will be completed. I could likewise add that I am not always free to arrange things for myself, and many unforeseen things relating to the Society come frequently from Rome. I must apply myself to those matters. For Easter, and not before that, I should be able to send to Piglio three of my companions. Otherwise, you have no other recourse than to approach the Passionists or provide in some other way you judge best.

With respect to the monasteries, I note that I shall not be able to handle that job. Most illustrious and reverend lord, pray a great deal for me who with the most particular esteem and singular affection in Jesus Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit sanguine*,⁵ remain

⁴ They should be observed under the circumstances as much as possible.

⁵ Who redeemed us in his blood.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
G. C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.
 Frosinone, March 6, 1822

555

March 7, 1822
 Monsignor Francesco Maria Cipriani
 Bishop of Veroli
 Veroli
 Most illustrious and reverend Monsignor

The clergy and the people of Frosinone make their petition for the erection of the Pious Union under the title of the most Precious Blood and the patronage of St. Francis Xavier, thus promoting devotion to the mysteries of the Redemption. This Pious Union is requesting that it be erected in the church of S. Agostino with the necessary and opportune faculties, so that it may be aggregated to the Archconfraternity in Rome; thereafter, its President in Rome may select a fitting individual to postulate the requested aggregation according to the regulations; that etc.⁶

The clergy and people of Frosinone

556

March 13, 1822
 Cardinal Ercole Consalvi
 Secretary of State
 Rome
 Your Eminence

While I was in Frosinone, the most reverend Delegate there communicated to me what was submitted to your most reverend Eminence with regard to Father Pietro Pellegrini, a priest of Rome who, having renounced his benefice in Santa Maria Maggiore, has, for quite some time now been living in the Mission House in Pievetorina. He is a priest who has conducted himself altogether in a way that one seeks in those who are looking after the welfare of souls and has gathered copious merits in our behalf for our heavenly paradise. Upon the occasion of our new foundations, he was summoned to give his assistance in this great work. When I saw that he was received well in Sonnino, I believed it proper to leave him there for the continuing care of those souls, and from that time I received many consoling reports.

From what I have said, you can appreciate the disturbance that I felt in learning of anonymous petitions and reports opposing him. In view of the fact that those reports, being

⁶ On the fourth page is the bishop's rescript: "*Pro gratia, et juxta petita. Verulis hac die 7 Martii 1822*".
 ["As a favor, and according to the request. Veroli, 7 March 1822"]

anonymous, give room for repercussions, once I completed the Mission in Frosinone, I felt that it would be good for me to go personally to Sonnino; and, that is precisely what I did. I spoke to the chief Magistrate, to the pastors and to others, and all, as one, assured me that Father Pietro had been wrongly reproached. I was even more surprised at the agitation of the people who were afraid that I wanted to take away with me on the missions the subject concerning whom we are speaking. That, indeed, was what I had actually been planning to do, but then I, in fact, did not carry out my ideas. The most reverend bishop, with whom I met, informed me that in Sonnino they were accustomed to have anonymous memoranda passed around, and that he himself had been subjected to those maneuvers.

The crimes, so to speak, attributed to Father Pietro were: for having conducted the Sanctified Carnival to the Sorrowful Mother according to the Roman practice; for having reconciled a few families, thus being considered a meddler; finally, for having promoted the taking of a single collection this being done to effect a certain balancing of economy, whereas, on the contrary, he ceded the Lenten preaching income to the benefit of the Commune, and he himself did not take a red cent.

When a few people, who at first did not understand the situation in the true sense, came to me and told me that now they realized the motives for Father Pietro's actions, namely, that they were aimed at the firm establishment of the Mission and Retreat House and its economics. For even if the government provided for their trips and food, it was necessary too that the people should cooperate, according to the policies, in the initial installation of beds and in whatever else may be needed. And, in order that no one should be inconvenienced momentarily, that was the attitude assumed, both with regard to the giving of Missions as well as many other projects, and indeed no one was inconvenienced.

I have not tried, nor do I try now, to discover the names of the individuals who have stood in opposition, or that they should come to declare themselves personally before me. I left all of them in the greatest peace. I related all to Father Pietro, and I told him that, even with things as they are, he should proceed with the Lenten preaching, being most docile to go anywhere.

From Sonnino I went to Vallecorsa for the holy Mission there. That is where I received your most appreciated letter which I shall obey blindly. The desires of your Eminence, for whom I have professed my particular veneration ever since the specific time when the outstanding parish priest del Sole from S. Lucia (*cuius memoria in benedictione*⁷) and I were in exile and spoke to each other, are for me very precise commands. I thought, however, that it would be good to inform you of what I myself have witnessed, *et scit Deus quod non mentior*.⁸ It might appear to you that affection for my companions has blinded me, but that is not so. I am a lover of truth, I sympathize with anyone who stands in opposition, and I am also aware of how great

⁷ Whose memory will forever be in blessing.

⁸ And God knows that I do no lie.

human misery can be. As S. Philip Neri used to say: "Lord, keep your hands holding on to my head".

May the Lord fill your most reverend Eminence with every blessing of sweetness; and, while kissing the sacred purple, most reverend Eminence, I humbly request a remembrance in your prayers; with profound esteem and respect, I remain

Your most humble, most devoted, most obliged servant

Gaspere Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Vallecorsa, March 13, 1822

557

March 15, 1822

Mr. Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Luigi

This letter is directed to the Archpriest and to anyone else who may have to be involved. On the feast of the Annunciation, the Mission in Vallecorsa will be terminated. I shall give the final blessing in the morning so that by that night I can stay over in S. Lorenzo and then from there to transfer to Piperno so as to be in Sezze by nightfall. On the following morning, I shall make my entrance in Norma for the holy Mission.

With respect to this data, it will be necessary to send here to Vallecorsa, and to arrive right after the noon meal, three packanimals; or, at the latest, for the evening of the feast of the Annunciation. Thus, departing on the very next morning and taking the shortest route, they can get to Norma with the baggage by evening. Likewise, two saddlehorses should be readied in S. Lorenzo on the evening of the feast of the Annunciation, with the Archpriest looking for our arrival. I say that we will need two saddlehorses, namely, one for me and the other for the gentleman who is assisting me. Our second companion will figure out his own way of getting to Norma; the third one will show up around halfway through the Mission, and we will continue to regulate things as needed.

Dearest Luigi, I do not know how to express to you the anguish that I have experienced in trying to carry out the wishes of both the Treasurer and the good people of Norma, while having to look after our most recent foundation in Frosinone. More about this in person. So I am making the arrangements for this trip, since it is more comfortable, and also because I am unable to go on horseback for a long period of time without a certain amount of rest. Offer prayers for me. I hope that I have made myself clear; if not, write to me quickly. In the meantime, I beg you to see to the mounts because it would not be easy for me to arrange that here. Once again I say that I am

Your humble servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.
Vallecorsa, March 15, 1822

558

March 16, 1822
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

The third Companion will come from the upper provinces, and I am awaiting him with holy impatience. I have already written to Norma with regard to the Missionaries. I do not know how to describe for you the many things that have me buried. Yet, we are not worthy of working for God, and he surely does not have need of us. It is his grace that raises us above our own misery.

In temporal matters, you know quite well that God has never failed to assist us. The Treasurer is not setting any particular sum for the time being, not until I have had a meeting with him in Rome; and this cannot take place that promptly. Pay the expenses according to the suggestions I have given you. It is true, however, that one cannot do everything needed for the decorum of the Society.

Nevertheless, we will not be lacking in those things that are necessary. When things are in the beginning stages, it is nothing more than holy and industrious zeal to make every prudent effort to get the people to assist, just as the people there in Sermoneta are doing at present, and their very concern about the locale as well as the concern for providing beds, is clear proof of that spirit. I believe that the Treasurer will make a proper allotment of funds for the Houses, and he is putting all things in order in the meantime. When I get there, we shall come to a clearer understanding of things, and all will be worked out in good order. Surely, what is needed for daily living will not be wanting.

I understand everything that you tell me about the young man who is helping Fr. Giacomo. I suppose that he is not just a young boy. If Betti should not send Br. Sante, stick to the one that Cencio proposes. I notice from your letter that Sante eventually will come. In this whole matter dealing with Sante, you know very well that I cannot take sides.

Your absence from Sermoneta at the present time cannot be considered feasible. But, we shall talk more when we see each other, in such a way that you will be able to have your way and the Society will not experience any harm at all. You will soon hear about the plan that I have.

I was not pleased with the postponement of the Retreat, which was something contrary to our rules. If I had known about it in time, I could have arranged things otherwise. I do not see what would have stood in the way of anticipating the time for holding that Retreat, as a matter of fact, which would have provided days enriched indeed by the fervor that is inspired by our Saint and Protector and allow us to reap the fruits of the Retreat. Still, you are a man of prudence, and

you considered it necessary to do what you did, *pro hoc anno tantum*,⁹ so, I have no more to add. Recall to mind that great Saint, and recommend me to him with all the enthusiasm of your heart.

With respect to Fr. Luigi, whom you will greet for me, I shall remain passive. Keep in mind my other letters. I am trusting in your prudent secrecy. Directing things is quite a heavy burden; whereas, those who live in obedience, rest on a flowery bed, just as mentioned in the Sacred Canticle: *Lectulus meus floridus*.¹⁰

Pray a lot for me, and as I renew my most partial attachment and esteem for you, consider me as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Vallecorsa,¹¹ March 16, 1822

P. S. I am enclosing Msgr Muccioli's letter as well as that of the Father Provincial. The Vicar General spoke to Sig. Franceschi, who will be able to inform, etc. Tell him that he should write to the Deputy Collector¹² and inform him of the Rescript which the Most Rev. Bishop has received from the Holy Father concerning the granting of the Convent of S. Francesco to us.

559

March 16, 1822

Fr. Pietro Pellegrini

Sonnino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Pietro

I thank God who has restored calm to the people.¹³ I did not know that there was a meeting of the Capitulars in Roccasecca which imposes upon me the obligation of making arrangements for Fr. Torribio. See that he gets the enclosed matter, so that he will conduct the Retreat for the priests. At the same time, you will be in charge of the instructions on the Creed. It is a matter of only a few days, but please do me this favor.

⁹ For this year only.

¹⁰ My bed of flowers.

¹¹ *Vallecorsa*. Cf. Geographical Data.

¹² *DeputyCollector*. The man who filled in for the Collector and who functioned dependently on him. In the organization of the Papal States, the Collectors and DeputyCollectors had the duties of administering the benefices and the other ecclesiastical properties at the time vacant, of gathering the fruits and income (ecclesiastical spoils) and of exacting other rights and taxes pertaining to the apostolic Camera, the Datary, etc.

¹³ Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Sonnino (Opening of House)

I am enclosing a letter for Piperno in which I direct that the Canon who was supposed to come with you should go to substitute in Terracina until Fr. Torribio returns. Your uncle, after going to Piperno from Terracina, will rejoin you on Monday. Leave the mount for the aforementioned. Meanwhile, do not neglect the entrance. This is what God is inspiring me to do.

I am sending you some devotional materials. I urge you to set up a Cross, make preparations for the Oratory as well as for the catechetical instruction of the young people; spread our tender devotion.

The people of Roccasecca will reimburse you for all the expenses of the trip. I am, asking you for prayers,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Vallecorsa, March 16, (1822)¹⁴

560

March 17, 1822

Monsignor Francesco Bonomo

Bishop of Gaeta

Gaeta

Venerable Monsignor

I have this opportunity of addressing this letter to you in which I reassure your most reverend excellency of my sentiments of esteem and veneration.

Our Mission work is being particularly blessed by God. Pray a lot for me, most reverend excellency, and though in a hurry, I kiss your hands and remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Apost.

Vallecorsa, March 17, 1822

561

Middle of March, 1822

Mr. Luigi Fuschi

Norma

¹⁴ On the original manuscript, on the outside, one reads the following annotation in a strange handwriting (not however of Merlini): "Can. del Bufalo, Dirett. Gener. Intimo della Missione di Roccasecca. 16 Marzo 1822". The Saint was in Vallecorsa at that time preaching that wellknown Mission during which he met B. Maria de Mattias and, in agreement with the request of the people, decided to open a House of Missions there.

Dear Luigi¹⁵

In order to shorten the days as much as possible, on the morning of the feast of the Annunciation I shall give the papal blessing. By evening, I intend to sleep at the Passionists' place of retreat in Ceccano, so that I can gradually get closer. In that way, the two saddle mounts can be sent there from Norma, while the other companions are getting together in Sermoneta. After our entrance, I will look after things. However, the packanimals should be sent to Vallecorsa for the evening of the feast of the Annuciation.

There is no change from what I mentioned in this regard in my previous letter. I cannot tell you how much I have put myself out to be of help to those people that I love so very much. Therefore, I will be heading for Ceccano so that I will not have so far to ride on horseback. The other route by way of S. Lorenzo is too long, and that is why I am writing so that everything goes according to the plan. You keep me informed, for I am not too wellacquainted with the routes. Please realize that, in no way, do I want to force anything. But beyond Ceccano, I think, it would not be possible to leave by the evening of the Annunciation. I do not know whether it would be faster to go by way of Palliano or Acuto. The footman will guide us. I am, etc

G. C. del Bufalo

You handle everything, but let us be agreed beyond any doubts. Send word to the superior in Sermoneta concerning the route that I will be taking.

562

March 21, 1822
Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli
Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

You will have the merit for founding the House in Terracina along with Father Torribio, now absent, and with whom you will keep in touch.

Read the enclosed matter and have a meeting with the chief magistrate. Inform him that, in the meantime, the government wishes to have work done on the roofs in order to preserve the locale and to prevent deterioration by the rains which would be the cause of increased expenses. Then, too, everything that is necessary for the House should be provided so that we can return what was loaned, namely, in one word, what was there in the episcopal quarters.

According to the papal rescripts, there are to be in residence there five Missionaries and three Brothers. Consequently, at least eight beds will be required, as well as one more for any Missionary who may be passing through. Get all the furniture that is needed as well as other urgent furnishings. I place my trust in your efficient, prudent and zealous abilities.

¹⁵ This letter does not have a date. But from the context, without doubt, it was sent from Vallecorsa a day or so after the letter of the 15th of March addressed to the same person and referred to in this letter.

In one of your letters sent to me in Norma, where I shall be after this present Mission, keep me informed. Let me know how many Masses remain, according to your calculations, to my account, and whether I have sent you the offerings. Please take care of this. Within a few days, the third companion will be arriving. Pray for me. I will send a letter of gratitude to his Eminence. Tell the leaders in the Commune that since beds have to be provided, our Cencio is very capable of making them and economically too. Wholeheartedly, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Vallecorsa, March 21, 1822

Preserve in the Archives the enclosed letter from his Eminence.

563

March 22, 1822

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Gianfrancesco

It was most pleasing to see your handwriting again. I can assure you that I always see you *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.¹⁶

Oh how willingly would I offer my services to handle the request in behalf of the Superioress, but I am still trying to get my feet loose from two other assignments given to me by the bishop, and consequently I cannot assume anything else now that deals with temporalities. I admit that our Society is always at hand for such requests. But still, you are discerning enough to realize that taking on this responsibility now is not possible for me, and that I would surely have scruples to be lacking in the sincerity of things.

Furthermore, continue to pray for what I have been hoping for, namely, for one of our foundations in Offida. The precious relic that they have there calls out to our Society, without causing any disturbance to the Augustinian priests. So many pious places have fallen into ruins; new foundations, as a compensation, would delight Almighty God.

If it can be worked out, a pious Mission legacy should be executed as follows. The testator, Mr. Soandso, should declare: "I, desirous of providing for the common good, bequeath, for example, 200 *scudi*, whether that be in annuities or in land from which the fruits are to be used to increase the capital, and that these be used to endow suchandsuch a Society", whichever one God inspires him to select, and it is hoped that he has made up his mind to choose ours. Perhaps another one can be joined to this one. The Commune or the bishop could grant the revenue from the Lenten preaching, as is done with our group, but that should be encouraged from the podium and only in those places where our Mission House is in existence. The deputies

¹⁶ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who redeemed us in his blood.

can make arrangements for collections to cover the cost of building. In the meantime, if a church is available and if some generous benefactor would provide temporarily a place of residence, the Society could get under way there and the collections could be better managed. I do not know whether I have made my position clear. If not, write to me again.

In case you must write to me, address your letters to Rome. Our foundations in this province are going along very well. As for the Jewish fellow, direct him, in my absence, to the marchese Fr. Filippo Filonardi, a priest who is *omni exceptione maior*.¹⁷ You yourself should write to him in my name, and everything will be all right. In regard to the regulations for the Xavier group, write in my name to Mr. Camillo Possenti in Fabriano. I am consoled to learn of your holy reactions in reference to De Sales. Ah yes, let us become saints! Pray a lot for me, a miserable one. May the Lord reunite us one day in his most blessed kingdom. Amen.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Vallecorsa, March 22, 1822

P. S. Continue insisting for the collegiate church. One must never grow weary.

564

March 23, 1822

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop-elect of Agatopoli
S. Nicola in Carcere
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My most beloved Msgr.

I am almost certain that I gave you an answer to your letter from Frosinone. I understood everything that you told me with regard to the Capuchin Fathers; after their Chapter it would be appropriate to get a confirmation of it in order to seek possession of the Hospice. Then also, do not forget the Duchess of Sermoneta.

The individual best adapted for preaching the Via Crucis would be Canon Mastai of S. Maria in Via Lata. Ask him, in my name, to handle this tender ceremony. In case he cannot do it, you could turn to Canon La Monaca who is the confessor at S. Michele a Ripa; lastly, Fr. Mattioli, the Sacristan in S. Ignazio, who lately is getting more renowned as a preacher. I would not know anyone else to mention in particular. The expenses do not warrant having our Missionaries come.¹⁸ Finally, there is Father Gianfrancesco of the Polveriera section who could

¹⁷ Greater by every exception.

¹⁸ *Comple*: this word comes from *complire*: a word that is not in use today. In its intransitive form it means: to turn out well, to be of advantage, to render useful; in its intransitive form: to fulfill (cfr. Petrocchi, *Diz.*)

lodge at the home of the Notarangeli, one of their benefactors, just as he did when he gave the Exercises in Vincis. I hope that out of so many, somebody will accept.

The orders that I have from Rome concerning that Province are such that I do not know at the moment what to say. If Msgr. Pinchetti would give us freedom as to the scheduling, all could be worked out. The difficulty of the trip can also be overcome by giving Amelia what would have been given to bring the Missionaries from Giano, even at the cost of hiring mounts. It would also be all right with me if Msgr. would have them come from Giano; in that case I would assume the burden. There would be question in that instance of arranging the schedule. It would be helpful if you would suggest more than one possibility in case my Companions were to have other commitments.

Begging you for prayers and recommending to you the Lovatti Legacy,¹⁹ with fullness of affection and most particular attachment in Jesus Christ, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,²⁰ I am

Your humble servant and loving brother

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Vallecorsa, March 23, 1822

Aggregators for Vallecorsa

Fr. Michele Giuliani Vic. For.

Ab. Tomasso Lucarj

Fr. Filippo Cozzo

The aggregation will take place at harvest time.

How have the others gone, of which I wrote to you? I will insist that the enrolling be done.

Aggregator for S. Lorenzo, Diocese of Ferentino: Fr. Lorenzo Bonomo

565

March 24, 1822

Fr. Nicola Canielleri

Malta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious Father

I am really late in sending a reply to your most appreciated letter of the first part of January, but the founding of five Mission Houses has deprived me of the pleasure of sending you an answer sooner. I thank God for the good work that is being done there for the glory of the Lord, and I wholeheartedly wish that there will be an even greater increase *ad bonum*

¹⁹ *Legato Lovatti* (or *affare lovatti*) cf. Gasparian History and Trivia

²⁰ Who redeemed us in his blood.

animarum.²¹ And oh how the devotion to the most Precious Blood and the remembrance of the great Xavier brings fervor to that ministry!

In regard to your foundation there, you could point out that the Holy Father is in favor of such foundations, and in some way the means should be provided. I do not understand on what basis the refusal is made. But do not be surprised if there are opposing forces, which usually arise from those who *putant obsequium praestare Deo*.²² They will never be lacking, but, without doubt, in such situations one discovers mental confusion.

So, if all means with the bishop have been exhausted and approval from Rome would be desired, then send me a detailed petition for the Holy Father, and you will receive it in the mails. I am always very delighted to receive news from you and your excellent companions, to whom you will give my best wishes. Pray a lot for me, very dear Father, and have others also pray for me, a miserable one, as well as for our Society. With esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Vallecorsa, during the Mission, March 22, 1822

P. S. Send your reply to Rome.

566

April 8, 1822

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

I was very pleased to receive your letter and in reply I assure you that in addition to my efforts with the most reverend Treasurer, I spoke directly with the bishop in Sezze concerning the project of the Collegio. I hope for good results in everything.

Tell Fr. Gianfrancesco that in Vallecorsa there is a monastery of Viennese monks which is presently being restored, and the church is in good condition without having removed from it the remembrance of Blessed Leonard of his holy institute.

Where am I able to find a place close to Rome? You are acquainted with the dioceses, and once it is found, who would there be to look after the restorations? As far as I am concerned, I will not assume responsibility since I see great difficulties in the fulfillment. Besides that, in my work, I think that I should not become involved in such changes. *Intelligenti pauca*.²³ A thousand

²¹ For the good of souls.

²² They consider giving deference to God.

²³ A few times for one who understands.

greetings to all in that community, *signatim*²⁴ to the good Fr. Andrea. *Ora pro me miserrimo. Gratia Dei nobiscum.*²⁵ In the meantime, *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit sanguine,*²⁶ I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piglio, April 9, 1822

567

April 9, 1822

Cardinal Ercole Consalvi

Secretary of State

Rome

Your Eminence

In keeping with the other letters I sent to your most reverend Eminence, I assure you, in reply to your letter of the 6th of the current month, that I have already summoned Fr. Pietro, once he has completed his preaching assignment for holy Lent, with the intention of occupying him in the ministry elsewhere. The last of our companions has already gone; today, Fr. Pietro will give the final blessing, and then he will leave. I hope that everything will be done to achieve the ends which your Eminence wishes. While kissing the sacred purple, most reverend Eminence, and with profound respect and esteem, I remain

Your most humble, most devoted and most obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Piglio, April 9, 1822

568

April 10, 1822

Cardinal Ercole Consalvi

Secretary of State

Rome

Your Eminence

Fr. Pietro Pellegrini is no longer in Sonnino. And by divine mercy, everything has gone along with tranquility.

²⁴ Clearly.

²⁵ Pray for me a most miserable person. The grace of God be with you.

²⁶ In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who redeemed us in his blood.

Your Eminence will be receiving another letter from me. But in order to get this news to you quickly, I thought it advisable to send this present one, while seizing at the same time another opportunity, while kissing the sacred purple, of renewing fully, most reverend Eminence, my feelings of esteem.

Your most humble, most devoted and most obliged servant

Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo

Missionario Apostolico

Piglio, Diocese of Anagni, April 10, 1822

569

April 11, 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I thank you for your letter of the 3rd of the current month, and I pray that God will bless the common efforts being made for the establishment of that House which is so dear to my heart in a particular way since it is close to the remains of our father in common.

*Laus Deo*²⁷ for supplying the urgent needs of the place entrusted to us. We are not to allow greater damages to occur by overlooking small matters as long as there is some opportunity for us to look after them.

The women of advanced age will be able to enrol in the organization, the sisters of charity, provided that the Archpriest will supply whatever is within his capability. The men of the Oratory will assist them according to their means. *Intelligenti pauca*.²⁸ Furthermore, I am consoled to learn of the good progress of the pious organizations in Gavignano, by divine mercy, the fruit of your zeal. Whoever exercises the ministry must never be forgetful that *fructus vester maneat*,²⁹ and that will be done *verbo, oratione et opere*³⁰ following the example of St. Paul who, with the most fervent letters, encouraged his newly acquired children to walk in the ways of justice.

Within a short while I shall send you the regulations for the organizations. The ones for the Xavier group have already come out in printed form. For the Marian month, one of our new men, whom I find to be very brave, will be coming to Terracina. I did not want to ask anyone

²⁷ Praise to God.

²⁸ A few times for one who understands.

²⁹ May your fruit remain.

³⁰ By prayer, word and deed.

else since I felt that the spirit of discretion was directing me to do so. Therefore, *sub hoc titulo*,³¹ he will be coming for the Marian month, thus reserving to Fr. Torribio the preaching of the month of June which requires more maturity. Once he has arrived, we will be applying the final touches to the firm establishment of this new man, whom, from this moment on, I recommend to your zeal and that of Fr. Torribio.

Let us not fail to cultivate the spirit of our Brothers so that they will be one with us in the pursuit of virtue. I hope to be seeing you in short time. May Jesus and Mary be with us. Encourage Canon Dossi to come to a decision. He would be quite content in the choice of this career, which all of us are most unworthy to exercise; and oh how indebted we are to our good God! Pray a lot for me; be happy in the Lord, and believe me to be at your beck and call.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piglio, April 11, 1822

570

April 12, 1822

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Bassiano

Jesus Mary Joseph

I have not had the pleasure of meeting that Vicar Forane, but I am enclosing for you this letter for your entry. More when we see each other. I pray that they have prepared a podium of considerable size and also that you are prepared to give benediction of the Blessed Sacrament at the conclusion. With esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Piglio, April 12, 1822

P. S. The entrance will take place on Sunday the 21st around the 22nd hour. They will have someone on the lookout for when we draw near.

571

April 15, 1822

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovannelli

Oh how I was consoled to learn from your letter of the good accomplished by the novena

³¹ Under this title.

in honor of our saint. How many blessings upon you! How many reasons for true consolations from God! Wholeheartedly I pray that the Lord will multiply his blessings upon those pious organizations and upon the ones who direct them.

With regard to the matter you mentioned, I would like to have in my hands information from the most reverend bishop, if possible, and thus I would hope to bring the matter to a conclusion. Continue to send information concerning the conservatory and the home for penitents. May they not be doubtful of the providence of God, and may they rely on the words of the Treasurer as they would on an instrument. To raise difficulties would be doing him a wrong. Have them continue to keep him informed and the bishop should maintain a strict lettercorrespondence with him. He should also be consulted for the good progress of the organizations, and I ask you to see to this with promptness.

You can be certain that I shall renew my efforts for the church of S. Agostino. Pray a lot for me. A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop *et ad omnes nominatim*,³² especially to Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi, Fr. Emilio Ventura and Fr. Bellini, whom I beg for a special memento in his first Mass. *Ora pro me miserimo*.³³ I shall also write in behalf of the endowments for the Filippini.

Oh how much good work is being done by the foundations in this province. Pray, however, that the Lord will bless both the Society and its members. I kiss your hands, and, oh how much I love you in Jesus. In his most Sacred Heart, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Piglio, April 15, 1822

Always send your letters to Rome.

572

April 16, 1822

To a Priest

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious and dear Father

With this letter I am letting you know that after a discussion with the excellent Fr. Giovanni Battista Tucci, I learned of your holy desire, along with that of your brother Father Luigi with whom you can share this letter, of joining our Society for giving Missions and Retreats under the title of the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ and the patronage of St.

³² And to all by name.

³³ Pray for me, a most miserable person.

Francis Xavier. I cannot express the joy that I experienced upon receiving this news. Since both of you are in good standing, all you have to do is advise me of your intentions, and that can be done sufficiently by way of a letter. To be sure that it will get to me, address it to Rome.

Since requests for our foundations are so numerous, I beg that both, or at least one of you, promptly respond to this divine call. I presume that you both are wellinformed concerning the spirit of our Society. If not, all you have to do is write to me. In the meanwhile, your reply to this letter could also be addressed "Sezze per Bassiano". Keep me in your prayers and may the Lord unite us one day in holy Paradise. With particular esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obligsd servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Piglio, April 16, 1822

P. S. To belong to our Society, it is sufficient to be a confessor; even though you may not have exercised the office of preaching, that is no hindrance. *In domo patris mei mansiones multae sunt.*³⁴

573

April 16, 1822

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Dearly beloved Camillo *quem diligo in charitate non ficta in visceribus Jesu Christi*³⁵

Thank you for your efforts. Let me know whether you have received money in the postal delivery, and let me know how much is lacking in the balance of what I owe. I am grateful to the men of the organization for the regulations. *Dominus retribuet pro me.*³⁶ If there is to be a reprinting of the Month, I will send it along with a brief, necessary observation for the second edition. Do not be upset about the mistake in the Chaplets. I certainly like them as much as the others because they are handy for spreading the devotion.

I would be happy if the celebration of the Mass were to be set for the holy feast of Christmas. At that time, you should try to promote your ideas. Do not ever doubt that I would be forgetful of you in my poor prayers, just as I am certain of your return in kind. The new foundations retard for a bit my coming to the province, but I hope that I shall not fail to do so. You should pray that his most loving will be done. Still, if the time is occupied for God, *hoc erit ad solatium.*³⁷ Presently, I am going to have a casting made of Xavier, for my own use, similar to

³⁴ In the house of my Father there are man mansions.

³⁵ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, in the heart of Jesus Christ.

³⁶ The Lord will repay you in my behalf.

³⁷ This will contribute to companionship.

the ones that you favored me with. Let me know what the cost is. Ledi, from Sanseverino, is determined to join the Society. Encourage him a bit by one of your letters. *Ora, jube, vale. Sum tuus ex corde.*³⁸

G. C. d. B.

M. Ap.

Piglio, April 16, 1822

Send a print to Father Giovannalli. Give my greetings to the most reverend bishop and to Governor Irlandiari.

How is the organization of the women? And the blessing in S. Onofrio?

574

April 20, 1822

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco³⁹

Since the hour is late, I am prevented from continuing my trip, but we shall see each other tomorrow morning at the earliest that I can make it, and that will not retard our appointments. Inform Canon Mancini to be ready for our departure after the noon meal, around the 20th hour. I would like to take Romagnolo along for the reasons that you can imagine. The third man will be getting there within days, and when I heard that Bertini had produced some beautiful writings, I consequently asked him to take care of the month of Mary. If he will have to stay put, we will come to an agreement. Whatever may be distressing you, you can be certain that I will do whatever you wish; in all, there is a reward even with respect to the present etc. I am etc.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

My best wishes to Monsignor.

575

April 24, 1822

³⁸ Pray, entreat, be steadfast. I am your from the heart.

³⁹ This letter does not bear a date. From the other letters to Pierantoni written in 1822, one can deduce clearly that this letter belongs to the year 1822. From the context, it appears that the letter may have been written somewhat near the month of Mary. It is probable that the letter was written on April 20 when the Saint was on "my trip" moving toward the mission to be held in Bassiano which began on Sunday, April 21 (cfr. the letter n. 570 to Fr. Giorgi on April 12, 1822).

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantini
Sermoneta

Hail to the Most Precious Blood of J.C.

My dearest in the Lord

Here I am sending you a reply to your most appreciated letter. I am delighted that Canon Calleri or the Curate Taddei at least will come here on Monday to help with the confessions. Speak to the Most Reverend Bishop about it, and give him my most particular best wishes.

I recommend to you Fr. Pietro Bertini. As though on your own, discover whether he has been approved *pro utroque sexu*⁴⁰ in Rome or in any other diocese. Being approved in any diocese whatsoever, *satis pro me*.⁴¹ The Most Reverend Bishop grants both the faculties and the reserved cases, etc. This new member was recommended to me by Fr. Andrea Butirroni. He is a new man in the Society. I beg you, in charity, to show affection toward him, *et signatim in directione ministerii confessionum, iuxta regulas, etc.*⁴² I trust in your good judgment. Tell him that during the Visitation, one should do what he can in the matter of the observance of the rule; and, should the occasion arise to go to Bassiano, send him to me so that I can return to you the missionary staffs, which I shall send by means of the bearer of this present letter, if possible.

Please do not forget that this Society of ours is from God. *Jesus Christus, clamat ad nos tot oris quot sunt vulnera eius*.⁴³ Our Fr. Pietro is turning out very excellently.⁴⁴ But, it is necessary, I understand, that you form him *usque ad complementum*.⁴⁵ One day, he shall be a great light *in sanctitate et administratione verbi Dei*.⁴⁶ He possesses a marvelous insight. That, to everyone's consolation.

With regard to everything that you mention to me, I shall not delay at all in complying. But how? upsetting the Bishop there who is pleased with you, the people who love you, and, to cover everything, the glory of God which you are promoting there. You have no need of encouragement from me. Nevertheless, I say to you that if you were to prevent a single mortal sin, or even a venial sin, you still would be doing a great work. You are wellacquainted with the

⁴⁰ For either sex.

⁴¹ It is enough for me.

⁴² And clearly in directing the ministry of confession, according to the regulations, etc.

⁴³ Jesus Christ calls us to his wounds, which are as numerous as his extremities.

⁴⁴ Our Fr. Pietro. This refers to Fr. Pietro Pellegrini (cf. biographical section) in whom the Saint had great hopes. He is not to be confused with the other Fr. Pietro, that is, Bertini, who is mentioned above.

⁴⁵ Until it is finished.

⁴⁶ In sanctity and the administration of the Word of God.

maxims of St. Leonard. Add to that the fact that the good people are becoming more fervent and public prayers will overcome the hardness of heart of the obstinate ones. Keep the Bishop informed of all things.

Using the gifts that God has given to you, speak to the people and have no fears. Invite the Bishop to preach in the Oratory; and, please, do not give in to sadness. Take consolation from the life of Xavier. Tribulations and thorns *ubique abundant*;⁴⁷ so, if *cum ipso sum in tribulatione*,⁴⁸ how can one be fearful?.. and, *omnia possum in eo qui me confortat*⁴⁹ ... likewise, *cum infirmior tunc potens sum*⁵⁰ ... also, *si consistant adversum me castra non timebit cor meum* ... *Viriliter age, confortetur cor tuum, etc.*⁵¹ The earth is so sterile: so, it is therefore to the greater glory of God not to abandon it. You name the two champions for me, Mosconi and Taulli: do you not know that *infirma mundi eligit Deus*,⁵² and *bonorum meorum non indiges, etc.*?⁵³ Ah, my dearest in the Lord, courage. The devil tempts one with these words: *descende de cruce, etc.*;⁵⁴ but, clinging to the cross, you will accomplish prodigious things.

*Gratia Dei nobiscum.*⁵⁵ With esteem, I am wholeheartedly

Fr. Francesco, your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Bassiano,⁵⁶ April 24, 1822

If Fr. Pietro's belongings have come, send the bundle to Bassiano by means of a special

⁴⁷ Wherever they abound.

⁴⁸ I am with him in tribulation.

⁴⁹ I can do all things in him who strengthens me.

⁵⁰ When I am rather weak then I am strong.

⁵¹ I the camp stands firmly against me my heart will not fear. ... Act manfully and my your heart be strngthened.

⁵² God chooses the weak things of this world.

⁵³ You do not want for my good things, etc.

⁵⁴ Come down from the cross.

⁵⁵ The grace of God be with you.

⁵⁶ *Bassiano*. Cf. Geographical Data.

delivery,⁵⁷ because it is needed. Within a few days, I shall write in regard to the gardner. Pray for Cencio, for he is ill. If the Confraternities would decide to come, let me know about it so that we can arrange to go out to meet them.

I am making an effort to evaluate Fr. Pietro in his preaching, for I would truly like very much to be of assistance to him. The obstacle, however, lies in the climate which is harmful for him. I have written about using the fortress to the Treasurer. See whether you can gently persuade Fr. Bertini to stay on; but do it as though of yourself, etc. etc. Have Calleri come on Monday for sure, etc., etc., etc.

When are the Ordinands coming? I am thinking about sending one, etc. I shall pray tomorrow at the foot of the Crucifix, and I shall decide many things. We are still awaiting Ledi. How many Ordinands will there be? Greetings to Fr. Pietro Bertini.

576

April 28, 1822
Fr. Andrea Butirroni
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Andrea⁵⁸

My Cencio has fallen ill. *Patientia in omnibus*. When a certain Ledi from Sanseverino arrives, have him take up his post and go to Frosinone. You give him directions. Later, we will discuss things, etc. I am etc.

G. C. del Bufalo

Let me know whether Locatelli is in Rome, and when he will be returning.

577

April of 1822
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

⁵⁷ *Spedito*. In the language of that time, this meant a messenger, a special courier, sent out by either private or public businesses, to forward in a very prompt fashion, letters, merchandise and the like, outside of the ordinary postal service.

⁵⁸ This letter does not have a date, but it is derived from the postal markings (Velletri Sezze April 28) and from the reference to Ledi from Sanseverino who is mentioned also in other letters (cfr., e.g., the letters No. 573 and 575 of the 16th and 24th of April, 1822; also, No. 578 May 10th of 1822 etc.) Hence, this letter was written around April 28, 1822.

I have spoken to Giacomo,⁵⁹ and you will learn everything when I see you in person. He tells me that he loves the Society and that he will be diligent. He is asking for an overcoat, which I have no difficulty in having it provided for him, of course, in black, according to the regulations. Nothing more for now. We shall learn the total cost. Please observe the greatest possible economy. Then, it will be your responsibility to see to his amendment. Otherwise, I shall willingly pay for his trip and he will return to Serrasanquirico. I certainly shall not send him to any other of our Houses.

I shall send Fr. Pietro (in order not to lose him as well as to keep him happy, and let this be kept between us) to Sonnino for the month of Mary. He says that the climate around Sermoneta does not suit him. We shall see. In May, we will recognize the will of God better. A new man is coming there at the beginning of June. I would like you to show warmth toward Bertini, who I hope will turn out successfully. Please, I recommend for the aforementioned the observance of our rules dealing with hearing confessions. When we show love for the Society, we show love for God.

You may go quite freely to *Buon Consiglio* for ten days, as you mentioned to me, and I shall take care of things in the meantime. Write, in my name, to Fr. Andrea Butirroni. In addition, I would ask you to line up your trip with the time that Fr. Giovanni Merlini will be coming there for the Retreat and assistance to the Ordinands. He will supply for you in all your duties. So, set up as many Ordinands as you can. You, however, must be back by the time the Ordinands complete their Retreat. I hope that this small variation in your schedule will not alter your spirit or your health. After all, one must have regard also for the good of the Society: that is, we must never leave the new men all alone.

At this point, you could send me your balance sheet, and I shall send you what you ask for. At the same time, I shall put my signature covering the Visitation for the months completed up to now. You could also tell me in person what you wish, for I am truly desirous of seeing you at ease. In your prudent method of encouragement of the people's piety, do not stop urging them to support the Society, always in keeping with our principles, however. In particular, the people of Sermoneta must provide more beds, etc.

Although in a hurry, and begging you to read all the rest that is hidden in my heart, I am with distinct esteem

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

(Bassiano, end of April, 1822)⁶⁰

P. S. I have arranged to have Mancini take care of the Oratory on Sundays, as a

⁵⁹ This is a reference to Brother Giacomo Velletrani, who in 1826 accompanied Fr. Gaspare Carboneri for a short distance on his voyage to the Ionian Islands.

⁶⁰ One can see from the context that this letter, too, although sent by hand, was written, just like the one of April 24th, from Bassiano at the end of April.

Missionary *in subsidium*.⁶¹ Civetta can take care of it some other evening, etc.

Fr. Giovanni will be there only for the time specified. Greet Fr. Bertini for me, as well as the Bishop, etc.

(on the first facing, at the top left, written on a slant:)

Do not speak with Bertini about Fr. Pietro, concerning the climate. I have already written for the lodgings. God has given us these people and he wants them to remain healthy. In desiring that result, he will bless the means that are used. Remember that he rewards *secundum laborem, non secundum fructum*.⁶²

578

May 10, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Camillo

There is a prisoner in Rome who came from Fabriano and his name is Luigi Giammarianti. He is seeking to obtain absolution from his residual punishment. However, what is needed is the consent of a certain Vincenzo Rosati, which, when it is obtained will provide some hope.⁶³ In the event that the consent is obtained, send it quickly to Vincenzo Semerini in Rome.

I would hope that the package has arrived in Rome in accordance with what you wrote in your letter. Let me know how we stand with regard to debts, and just how much I still owe you.

Once again I shall be looking into the endowments for Firenze. Let us pray to God that the petitions that were made have not been disregarded. We shall see. Certainly, if I were in Rome, I would be able to do a lot more in this regard. At any rate, I shall try to be of help.

Give my thanks to Fr. Alessio for his kindness in making the corrections of the matters to be printed; I am content to a point that is beyond my ability to express.

Let me know what the approximate cost will be for the picture, so that I can regulate my expense accounts.

Now we come to the matter of the Mission House. I would like the Filippini Fathers still there, and I suppose still pensioned, to be altogether in favor of our policies. Or, at least, that they may draw up a new petition addressed to the most reverend Treasurer for this whole affair, and then send that to me. I shall do all I can. Have them request that locale which, it seems to me, was that of S. Catarina, a place, I believe, that is still altogether available in the Cammera. Let us support all of this with our prayers. Who knows, perhaps by the month of the Blood of Jesus

⁶¹ For support.

⁶² According to work, not according to fruit.

⁶³ In the margin, one reads: "I am from Fabriano". The handwriting does not appear to be that of the Saint.

Christ, we might just obtain something. Also, I would like you, through your efficacious mediation, to ask Fr. Bufera to go to the Mission House in Pievetorina to help out with the good work of that House, until Canon Tarulli returns, or, at least, as long as he can spare. But, he should go there immediately and be dressed in the Missionary's habit.

With regard to the faculties for hearing confessions, he should contact Canon Gonnelli. I beg you to do this favor, even though it is not possible to state what the appointments will be for which he will have to substitute. Furthermore, it is necessary to maintain the observance of the rules in a vigorous manner. He should count on a bit of a rest for himself too. I ask this favor through the merits of the Blood of Jesus Christ. As for the Oratory there, Fr. Alessio could substitute, as well as the Filippini Father who is now a Canon and formerly the secretary to the most reverend bishop. It is a question of *ad breve tempus*.⁶⁴ The month into which we shall soon be entering does not offer any special preoccupation there. Keep in contact with the most reverend bishop, who is so favorable toward our Society. Please, see that this is done quickly. Once Canon Tarulli is back, or even Canon Piersanti who is likewise returning, Fr. Bufera will then be able to go back. If you have the opportunity, write to Curate Ledi from Sanseverino, and tell him that they are awaiting him in Rome, and encourage him. Camillo, there are so many things that I would like to say to you, but the time is running short. With distinct esteem and very partial affection, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 10, 1822

P. S. The expenses for Fr. Bufera's trip will be reimbursed in Pievetorina.

579

May 11, 1822

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Dear Canon

I have arranged my travel plans so that I will be there on the Monday following the Sunday *infra Octavam Ascensionis*⁶⁵ and at the 22nd hour we will begin the Retreat. They will all excuse this variation of a day. Pray for me and believe me to be, with esteem,

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

⁶⁴ For a brief time.

⁶⁵ Within the Octave of the Ascension.

Sonnino, May 11, 1822

I shall be in Alatri before noon; in that way, everything will go according to schedule. We shall arrange the horarium quickly etc. etc.

580

May 12, 1822

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Jesus Mary Joseph

Most illustrious Father

With this letter, I am requesting that you please see that two safe mounts will be ready for me for next Friday when I will be there in the morning on my way to Vallecorsa. Also, have a burro available to carry the baggage. Likewise, inform the footmen who will be going with me, and let them know that by the *Ave Maria* hour, they will be back there. As soon as I arrive, let me know what the costs are, and for these favors, I am most obliged to you. I would not want this trip of mine to become known because of the dangers of the times and also because I would not want the people of Vallecorsa to come out to meet me. I am trusting in your good judgment. Pray for me, most illustrious Father, and believe me to be, with the fullness of esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 12, 1822

581

May 1822

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Terracina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon⁶⁶

I am sending you a couple of papers for the Archives. Do not return the bed that is on loan since it will be necessary at the end of this present month. If you can, at least hold on to it. How is the new brother in service doing with regard to the climate? I shall think about Antonino in accordance with your other letter. I am quite surprised at his stature which is not proportionate to ours. At any rate, we shall seek to place him *pro hoc vite tantum*,⁶⁷ and I will look after matters

⁶⁶ This letter does not have a date nor an addressee. From the context we deduce that it belongs to 1822 and was written from Sonnino where St. Gaspar was after his mission in Bassiano, which ended on Sunday, May 5th, up to the feast of the Ascension which fell on May 16th that year. So the letter belongs to the first part of May. It is sent to Terracina, in all probability, to Missionary Fr. Adriano Tarulli (Cfr. the letter No. 569 to him on April 11, 1822).

⁶⁷ For this time only.

to arrange for when the peasant will arrive there. The cleric told me that he was sorely in need of trousers which I have granted to him, as is right. However, with regard to other things, I told him that he will have to await Fr. Torribio. Send here, immediately upon the receipt of this letter, Giovannino Giorgi who was the cook for the opening of the House in the episcopal quarters. The cleric is acquainted with him. He is slated for this House in Sonnino.

Briefly, here is the thought that was discussed:

The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ is the price by which we have been freed not only from the pains of hell, but from purgatory.⁶⁸

1. About this there should be admiration for the goodness of God in the preparation and multitude of means flowing from the redemption.⁶⁹

2. About this the goodness of God should be admired in the acceptance of these same means in the practice of the faithful.⁷⁰

1. It is proved, nothing written is defiled, etc. But if souls, even though weighed down ever slightly with guilt, have any defilement, how will they be able to possess the glory of God? Even if they undergo satisfactory suffering in fire, nevertheless the good of purgation from venial fault always has a connection with redemption and the blood of the immaculate Lamb. For He is the propitiation for the sins of the whole world, and is the Lamb who was able to open the book and seals and to delete lamentations, and to write in it a song of happiness and exultation.⁷¹

If, however, there is question of making satisfaction for temporal punishment, the good of satisfactory suffering receives its value from Jesus the Redeemer. But O how great the love of God in its sweetness. You brought to souls detained in purgatory the means of religion to more swiftly depart further from the fire. Behold the merits of the saints, behold prayers, behold indulgences, behold the Sacrifice of the Mass which is a summary of all good things ... for whom is the goodness of God not worthy of admiration both in preparation and in the multitude of means in the preparation itself? For generally also the treasures of the Church are applied as

⁶⁸ The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ *est pretium per quod non solum liberamur a poenis inferni, sed etiam a Purgatorio.* (The rest of this letter was not in Italian, but Latin.)

⁶⁹ *Admiretur circa hoc bonitas Dei in praeparatione et multitudine mediorm manantium a Redentione.*

⁷⁰ *Admiretur circa hoc bonitas Dei in acceptatione eorumdem quoad praxim fidelium*

⁷¹ *Probat, Scriptum est nihil coinquinatum etc. At si animae etiamsi leviter a culpa gravatae sint habent aliquid coinquinatum, quomodo poterunt gloriam Dei possidere? Etiamsi ipsae satisfaciantur in igne attamen bonum purgationis a noxa levi semper adnexione habet ad Redemptionem, et sanguinem agni immaculati. Ipse enim est semper propitiatio pro peccatis totius mundi, et est agnus qui potuit aperire librum et signacula et delere lamentationes, et scribere in illo canticum laetitiae et exultationis.*

much as possible to Purgatory. How good God is to listeners etc..⁷²

2. He promised, however, through these means to free more swiftly the captive souls etc. ... and I ask that the very wise order of providence be considered. For each soul the time of merit is the present. When this very miserable life is over, through this fact time will be no longer. But the soul weighed down with venial fault does not merit the pains of hell, for it has not lost the state of grace, but God requires satisfaction for another reason. How, therefore, will these viewpoints be reconciled? Behold how God gives to pilgrim man the key of Paradise for the benefit of souls in order that they might rather suffer satisfaction to the last penny for the love of God than be freed more swiftly. and a counterpromise of my will speaks to the faithful, and just as I did penance for all so you also are to exercise love for one another. Make satisfaction in yourselves for what is owed to justice. Is grace, and other things of this kind, necessary? It is present in you; but if ingratitude concerning his own is present in the individual, still the Church, the spouse of Christ, will not cease to admonish us with tears and to cast out from us the weight of human sloth; but that it may be filled with a great heart and a willing spirit God instills a personal good in us. For if the same measure ... and salutary devotion is necessary in the application of means, let it be strengthened even by acts of sloth. Therefore, O fountain of salvation, it is necessary that I thus disentangle myself! Blood sets forth what is on the altar, what is in indulgences...balsam and the mystical oil of mercy etc..⁷³

I think that this outline is sufficient. Be happy but in the Lord, *a quo omne bonum*,⁷⁴ with Father Luzi for his month. May the Lord strengthen him, and may His help be at hand in all his ways. How is your spirit? As to knowledge may you be as the beast of burden next to the prophet

⁷² *Si autem agatur de poena temporali satisfacienda, bonum satisfactionis valorem accipit a Jesu Redemptore. Proh autem amor Dei quam magnus in suavitate sua? Attulis animabus in purgatorio detentis media religionis ad celerius ab igne longius abire. En merita Sanctorum, en orationes, en Indulgentiae, en Sacrificium Missae quod est compendium omnium bonorum ... quis non miretur suavitas Dei in praeparatione, et in ipsa praeparatione in multitudine mediorum. Generaliter enim et ut plurimum thesauri Ecclesiae Purgatorio applicantur. Quam bonus Deus auditores ecc*

⁷³ *Promisit autem per haec media celerius liberare captivos filios etc. et quaeso consideratur sapientissimus ordo providentiae. Pro quacumque anima tempus meriti est praesens. Peracta hac vita miserima meam per hoc tempus non erit amplius. Caeterum anima culpa levi gravata non meretur poena inferni, non enim amisit statum gratiae, at justitia Dei aliunde satisfactionem exigit. Quomodo igitur ista conciliabuntur? En quomodo dat Deus homini viatori clavem Paradisi pro animabus, ut ipsae potius quam satisfaciantur usque ad ultimum quadrantem pro amore suo celerius liberentur. En ait fidelibus repromissio voluntatis meae, et sicut ego pro omnibus poenitentiam egi, ita et vos charitatem exerceatis ad invicem. In vobis satisfacite quod justitiae debetur. Necessaria est vobis gratia, at caetera hujusmodi? adest id vobis; quod si in individuo aderit ingratitude circa suos Ecclesia autem sponsa Christi non cessabit cum lacrymis commonere nos et excutere a nobis pondus humanae pigritiae; quod ut adimpleatur corde magno et animo volenti personale bonum alligat in nobis Deus. Eadem enim mensura... et devotio salubris in applicatione mediorum si opus est, etiam prodigiis confirmetur. O fons salutis ergo, opus est, ut ita me explicem! O Sanguis quod in altari, quod in Indulgentiis... balsamum et oleum mysticum misericordiae praesefert etc*

⁷⁴ From whom is all good.

just as I have become a beast of burden with you. Time deprives me of the opportunity to add much more in explanations of this sentence. But may the Spirit of the Lord over you grant you to savor himself. Pray for me the most wretched, and I will always be in the Bond of Charity in the heart of Jesus Christ who redeemed us in his blood.⁷⁵

*Tuus ex corde etc.*⁷⁶

Be sure to thank Mr. Mercorelli who is the head of the Sandali group, etc. When Giovannino comes, he should bring along a bit of fish which he will be able to buy for a few *paoli* of his own and then be reimbursed here. I shall remain here until the feast of the Ascension. Send him along with the peasant man that I have sent, to whom you should provide something to eat. A thousand greetings to Father Luigi and to the brothers in service; may they all become saints. Were all of the reminders written down? In particular, the procession of the Crucifix for the Annunciation on Sunday so that the country folk can go along with the rosary. The first ranks to the Sacconi, then those of the Marine Officials. *Instans etc.*⁷⁷ Take care of yourself, put on a bit of weight, and do not preach with so much effort.⁷⁸

582

May 15, 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

I would like to know just how much I still owe you and the approximate price for the painting. I pray that Xavier's face will be suggestive of piety. With impatience, I am awaiting the Chaplets which I need very badly.

A thousand greetings to the most reverend bishop and to Governor Irlandieri.

Try to arrange to have the month of the Precious Blood there so that it will be observed beginning on the 5th of June and completed on the first Sunday in July, thus carrying out the good work that is being achieved in S. Onofrio. A couple of the brothers could take up a small collection; it would be good, too, to have some people who might contribute six or five to the month. See to it that the organization of the women takes part as best as possible; and, let us hold on to these threads so that one day, with the grace of God, I will be able to bring everything back

⁷⁵*Dominus eum confirmet, et praesto sit auxilium suum in omnibus viis suis. How is your spirit? Quod intellectum sis ut jumentum juxta Profetae ut jumentum factus sum apud te. Tempus adimit mihi opportunitatem plurima addere in explicatione huius sententiae. Spiritus autem Domini super te det tibi idipsum sapere. Ora pro me miserrimo, et in Corde Jesus Christi qui suo nos redemit sanguine in vinculo caritatis ero semper.*

⁷⁶ Yours from the heart, etc.

⁷⁷ Stand firm.

⁷⁸ These last three words were underlined nine times with each line getting shorter

to full activity.

At the foot of the Crucifix, I have praised exceedingly the zeal that you showed in the petition to the Treasurer. I immediately added to it my own warmest recommendations concerning which I shall send a reply as the circumstances permit. Oh how truly close to my heart I hold Fabriano! One day, I hope that God will hear our plea, and, who knows, it may even become the place of my permanent stay, where, uniting myself to God, and assisted by Camillo, at that time a priest, I may rest as I hope in the peace of the just. *Si ita Domino placet fiat.*⁷⁹ I have not as yet seen Ledi. If God is calling him, he will come. Pray for me, and I mean a lot: we must really become saints. One day, we shall speak more. For now, let us do so *in Corde Jesu qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*⁸⁰ In the meantime, I remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sonnino, May 15, 1822

In good fashion I was able to convince Fr. Pietro Pellegrini that the good work is well regulated.

I ask you to get the consent that I mentioned in a previous letter. I have written for the subsidies. We shall see. I would like to show you my sincere love and esteem.

583

May 15, 1822

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

I have learned of the relationship that you have with Mr. Fusco, whose letter I am enclosing and recommending to you as strongly as I can. I would like to see the young man consoled, and even more so because he tells me that he has already received a certain word. I am sure that you will take into consideration the matter that I am presenting to you. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem and affection, I remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sonnino, May 15, 1822

⁷⁹ If it so pleases the Lord, it will be.

⁸⁰ In the heart of Jesus Christ who redeemed us in his blood.

584

May 15, 1822
Fr. Andrea Butirroni
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Andrea

Thank you for your letter. I wrote to Monsignor Muccioli, urging him to have a meeting with you concerning economic matters. Believe me, quite quickly I am getting gray hair in trying to get things advancing, but I nevertheless do not lose courage. I say this so that you will realize that I am unable to help out with the matters in Rome in any way whatsoever. I only keep insisting with the Treasurer to provide a place where we can economize with rentpaying, since this is a heavy burden for the Society. I am hopeful for a successful solution. Let us offer many prayers during the month that we are about to enter. Pray a lot for me; let us renew our pacts; and believe me to be

Most affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 15, 1822

P. S. When you see Storace, recommend to him the farm people in the Campo Vaccino. I do not know whether Muccioli has collected the Lovatti legacy, which, it seems to me, involves 20 *scudi* which is to go to the *Buon Consiglio*. I simply do not have a clear recollection. Speak to him about the Bedoni legacy to find out whether, with an apostolic faculty, it might be easier to settle it, etc., otherwise, I do not know how the affair can be concluded. One might reduce the project of the hospital at some discreet time, etc.

585

May 15 1822
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Sir *quem diligo in charitate non ficta etc.*⁸¹

Your letters are always most pleasing, but, even more consoling is to learn that you are mindful of me in prayer. Oh see that you continue to do so and have other good souls etc. do likewise. Do not forget this. If I develop a greater love of God, I will better be able to communicate it to others. So let that fall within the responsibility of your zeal.

As for the Mission House, without mentioning my name so that the matter can follow a natural course, send a petition to the Treasurer and ask for whatever God inspires you to do. In

⁸¹ Whom I love with unfeigned affection, etc.

order to encourage him, mention the Legacy to him, and anything else that you listed for me, etc. We shall await the outcome. But the most important stress must be that of the Relic. Oh what a dear pledge that is! In this regard, the month will begin on June 6th so as to be concluded on the 1st Sunday in July. If you do not have the booklet, get it from Mr. Possenti in Fabriano. If that should fail, recite the Chaplet and have the singing of the "*Viva, viva Gesu, etc. etc.*" See that this is arranged for the daytime in order to accommodate everyone. Propagate it also in Ascoli, and wherever else you can. Oh! that all would come to love Jesus *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*.⁸²

With respect to the maintenance of the House, I would think that by activating the collections, one could expect to meet the sum of 400 *scudi*. But then, in temporal matters, I understand very little if anything. Pray to Jesus for me. I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sonnino, May 15, 1822

586

May 1822

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Canon⁸³

I thank you wholeheartedly for your kindness. I am pleased with the silence you observed because, otherwise, the people of Vallecorsa would have become disturbed, which is something that I would not like.

Do not bother to prepare a meal. I advise this by way of caution. With esteem, but in a hurry, I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis.

587

May 17, 1822

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

⁸² Who redeemed us in his blood.

⁸³ This letter does not have a date, but, without doubt, it has a connection with the other letter, No. 580, written to the same man on May 12, 1822.

Venerable Monsignor

As soon as I learn with greater clarity, from another of your letters, the intention of His Holiness concerning the establishment of a Mission and Retreat House in Benevento, then I figure I will be able, in more precise terms, to present petitions for faculties that are to be requested from our Holy Father. I beg you, therefore, as a distinct favor, for another letter to be sent to Alatri, where you might also send the passport containing the broadest terms; likewise, the permit for entry of the baggage through the customs station in the Kingdom; and, finally, your own personal instructions with regard to the handling of the temporalities of the aforementioned Mission House etc. etc., so that I can regulate my own actions. And, when you set up the arrangement with the Government, I would ask that you see that the one in charge be instructed by me concerning the matters of economy. In the passport, please have them include permission for a brother in service; and, if the House is established, I shall take along another brother who will remain there permanently etc.

I will discuss other things with you *ad alias*,⁸⁴ since right now the outgoing mail delivery obliges me to bring this letter to a close. Asking you for your prayers, I, with distinct esteem and particular affection in Jesus Christ, remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Vallecorsa, May 17, 1822

P. S. For my own peace of mind, I inform you that, according to a letter from his Eminence Consalvi, it is to be noted that the House there must be stable. The program alone of giving Retreats will be a source of etc.

588

May 20, 1822

Fr. Francesco De Luca
S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Having the desire to take you along with me to the Mission in Benevento, with this letter I am setting the date for an appointment to meet in the Episcopal quarters in Terracina on May 31st. I shall bring along a cincture and a crucifix for you. You bring along your baggage, and, in case you would not come, please send word immediately to Alatri, at my expense, so that I can regulate my procedure; otherwise, we would regret some day of having ignored the divine call. Be courageous, and, by all means, come. All I can do is beg you to do so; hence, listen to God's voice at the foot of the crucifix. Extending my warmest greetings to all in your house, with

⁸⁴ For another time.

esteem and respect, Canon, I remain
 Your humble, devoted and obliged servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

Alatri, May 20, 1822

You might also get the cincture and the crucifix from someone else in Frosinone, for example, Fr. Giuseppe Marchetti, in order to go there with that distinctive attire. Otherwise, we can do what I have suggested before. If I do not get a reply, it is understood that our appointment will be maintained. By all means, come.

589

May 22, 1822
 Fr. Francesco De Luca
 S. Lorenzo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

During the Mission, you will not be assigned special work that might require particular preparation; *juxta vires*,⁸⁵ you will take care of the confessional and give one or the other pep talks. Later, you can begin preparing yourself for preaching. I shall excuse you from any work which would require special effort and would not be adaptable to your present condition; of that, you can be certain.

The status of the air will not cause you any harm, for it is healthy, and furthermore God sees the reason for your going there. St. Francis Xavier, in one of his letters, says that it is an amazing thing in this world that when there is a question of traveling because of family interests, nobody worries about the condition of the air etc. etc., but when it is a question of traveling about for the salvation of souls for Jesus Christ, then, suddenly, all kinds of thoughts are set in motion, and because of that so many priests allow themselves to be deceived. I can do no more than beg you, as I surely do, and as well as I can.

So, I am counting on your coming for our appointment; however, if you prefer to follow the suggestions of men rather than the will of God, I have nothing more to add. I say simply that if everyone were to think in that manner, there would never have been a single institute established in the world. So that I can regulate my moves, please send a reply quickly to the House in Frosinone and it will be forwarded to me. Dear Canon, asking you for your prayers, I remain, with particular esteem

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

⁸⁵ According to one's strength.

Alatri, May 22, 1822

I will take care of handling the messenger. Please indicate to me what will be agreeable as a reimbursement.

590

May 24, 1822

Monsignor Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have received two of your most appreciated letters. In the first, I note that, after a delay, you got my report concerning the Mission in Benevento; in the second, I note that you have understood well that on June 1st, or perhaps on May 31st, I shall be on my way to that Mission. I am awaiting your directions as well as the papers that you promised me; so, in sending your reply to this letter, I ask that you address it to Terracina. However, before leaving Alatri, I hope to get another of your letters, as you promised.

Also, in your letters, I saw the expense account for the House in Albano of which I was unaware. However, I can tell you that the Lord will bless you bountifully for your most edifying concern. I add that God knows how hard I try not to add further problems for you, making every possible effort to help reduce them for you. I shall not go into detail. God is with us, and he is a good Father. Thus, in Albano, the terrain is being cultivated, and so it is necessary to provide for their subsistence, clothing for the brothers in service, etc. There are no words to describe how you are the instrument of God's providence in hastening his divine blessings. Following this plan will bring a quick end to the pains.

I am enclosing the memorandum for the Duchess of Sermoneta⁸⁶ and, as a special favor, I would like you to read the enclosed letters received from a Filippini Father whom I regard very highly; he is doing apostolic work in Ascoli; perhaps you will be able to be helpful in what he requests.

Then, too, there is a man from Calderola by the name of Bernabei, whose troubles I listened to, who would like to have a position with the Reverenda Camera at the Sinigaglia fair.

Vallecorsa is experiencing a very great fervor. You can be sure that anything you can do will offer great encouragement to the Society. You would like me to specify the quantity, but, to be honest with you, I would not be able to tell you that. In general, whatever God inspires you to give will be helpful for the program, for example, if the 50 *scudi* were to be consigned to them even in small instalments. God knows how much I would like to facilitate matters.

In the granting of benefits to the nuns in Sonnino, it will be necessary to have recourse to the Passionists' rescripts dealing with the monastery building to be restored, so that one can

⁸⁶ See the following entry.

provide one benefit without interfering with another. I know, too, that there is a fund, bound with obligations of Masses, as well as having a procession. The bishop will have more precise information on that. I mention this for the record. Asking you for your prayers, with esteem I am

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Alatri, May 24, 1821

There will be six Missionaries for Benevento. More about this *ad alias*.⁸⁷ I shall send you the memorandum for the Holy Father, which will then be returned to me in Benevento; for this trip, I have set aside everything else. I give thanks to God that all has gone along well.

591

May 24, 1822

Duchess of Sermoneta

Your Excellency

For quite some time now, a pious House for Missions and Retreats has been erected in Sermoneta in S. Francesco Church of that city; but since the local situation in the aforementioned convent because of the activities of brigandry has not permitted the missionaries to continue living in that place, they have been forced to seek refuge in the hospice run by the Capuchin Fathers which is quite restricted in space, as your excellency might know so well, and during the high season of summer, could lead to no little degree of suffering. It might be added that, according to reports, the Capuchin Fathers will soon be returning and our Society would be left with no place of asylum, resulting in spiritual harm to the people of that area as well as the neighboring places that share in their good work.

Therefore, the Missionaries are requesting that you deign, for the upcoming summer season, to grant permission to them to live in the palace that is your property and a very excellent house, while assuring you that they will use every precaution in guarding jealously any furnishing there. Likewise, they will pray continuously for anyone who supports this, as is to be expected, because of the kindness of your excellency and your most notable family, contributing to the life of this pious Institute; which etc.

In behalf of the undersigned petitioners etc.

592

May 26, 1822

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

⁸⁷ For another time.

Dearest Canon

I am enclosing this letter which you should bring to the attention of the most reverend Treasurer, recommending the postulant to him, for she is doing very good work in Asculano, and, I would be pleased, at least *in parte*,⁸⁸ to see that she is content. Even though every effort may be futile, do me the favor of passing this petition on, and once it is endorsed by the bishop of Ascoli, send it back to me through Cencio, so that it will not be lost and ultimately be put into the possession of the bishop who is urging me to take care of this matter. The fear of losing the endorsement has prompted me to inconvenience you; and even if no results ensue, still I am consoled that God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.⁸⁹ In Jesus Christ, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁹⁰ I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Alatri, May 26, 1822

593

May 26, 1822

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

Courage in doing God's work. Of the just, it is written that *multae tribulationes iustorum*;⁹¹ so, continue to read what follows.

Taking everything into consideration, the bishop of Terracina is a good Pastor, and he is learned. Furthermore, he is docile in listening to suggestions, which is quite a lot. I know nothing about transfers, but if I am questioned, I will be able to suggest the one God inspires me to name. If I am not asked, I will recommend the matter to God.

He has always indicated to me that the Collegio is close to his heart. When the occasions arise, I shall not fail to remind him of that. The same is true concerning the Monastery *sub nostro praeclarissimo titulo*,⁹² and consequently it would be a good idea for him to give it his same

⁸⁸ In part.

⁸⁹ According to work, not according to fruit.

⁹⁰ Who redeemed us in his blood.

⁹¹ Many tribulations of the just.

⁹² Under our most illustrious title.

approval. In regard to this matter, God indicates to me that it is his will that the Countess should be present there on the occasion of the solemnity of the first Sunday in July. Speak of this to Falzacappa. She has means for a livelihood on her own; believe me, things will take on more vigor, and we would be drawing closer to the ideas expressed by our common father. In keeping with prudent judgments, under whatever title, she should betake herself there, and *satis pro nobis*.⁹³ For my own peace of mind, it is enough that I have made this known to the one whom God raised up for the establishment of the Society. The Mission in Sezze has been deferred. May Jesus and Mary be with us; let us become saints; *in imagine enim pertransit homo*.⁹⁴ I am and shall constantly be

Your affectionate friend

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

Alatri, May 26 *in festo Pentecostes*⁹⁵

Tell Monsignor Santelli that he should not fail to assiduously help the niece of the saintly Albertini, and that we are still anxiously awaiting the sketch for the portrait that is to be made of the deceased.

594

June 2, 1822

Fr. Francesco De Luca

S. Lorenzo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The only response I can give to your recent letter is *fiat voluntas Domini*.⁹⁶ You will pardon my excessive insistence. However, God sees the purpose and also rewards good intentions. Read often the life of Xavier, propagate devotion to the Precious Blood, and keep in touch with Father Biagio Valentini who is in Frosinone with regard to what may be needed to do that. Have many prayers recited for the Mission in Benevento, and, dear Canon, pray for me who with esteem and respect am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 2, 1822

⁹³ Enough for us.

⁹⁴ For man passes through in a shadow.

⁹⁵ On the feast of Pentecost.

⁹⁶ May the will of the Lord be done.

595

June 2, 1822
Mr Luigi Fuschi
Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

Your letters are always so pleasing to me; besides bringing me the favorable news of your good health, they also confirm evermore in my mind how the Lord continues to communicate to you his Holy Spirit, so that you will become a great saint. What a beautiful lot will be for us to find ourselves one day in the dear fatherland of saints! Yes, every day we draw closer, and blessed, indeed, is the one who seeks after God wholeheartedly and loves him tirelessly.

I am consoled by the good news concerning the pious organizations; may the Lord bless them and bring them to perfection. A thousand heavenly greetings to the very dear Mr. Lanni and all the others who have a remembrance of me. Luigi, with all of my affection in Jesus Christ I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Terracina, June 2, 1822

596

June 3, 1822
Fr. Pietro Torsani
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

You have not ever written to me, but I am writing to you. I want to assure you that continuously I make remembrance of you before the Lord; you will repay me with the holy usury of prayer which I humbly desire from your charity. I see your soul greatly agitated, unless I am mistaken; yet who does not know that God thus tests the virtue of the lover who suffers for the lover? Indeed put your hope most lovingly in the Lord and he will support you. Now, however, with the most dear Merlini, whose praise resonates from us in the mouth of all, instruct the brethren. act manfully and let your heart be strengthened. But it is clear to me that the first fruits of your preaching of the word of God is the conversion of your listeners to God. Thanks be to God in everything; and He who has called us by his holy vocation, will unite us in the beatific

vision. Amen. The grace of God be with us.⁹⁷

*Sum tuus ex corde*⁹⁸

G. C. d. B.

Terracina, June 3

597

June 1822

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Camillo⁹⁹

Truly I had given no thought to the brass object which I ordered to be made. I shall see that it is corrected, and that will be taken care of. Furthermore, I have no difficulty in dispensing indifferently to good people etc. the ones that I have.

Please order the picture that we have discussed, and I will arrange my time accordingly. Circumstances really press us to receive it with devotion.

Also, please ask the bishop of Nocera, with my most humble respects, whether he will have any need for our Society, and to what extent. Then, too, ask him whether he has any information concerning a good priest by the name of Fr. Secondo Guidi, since I must send him a reply to a letter he wrote me, but without giving the name of his town. I have learned nothing new about Ledi except for the efforts you have made, which is adequate for the timebeing. In the printing of our rule, we left a line or so which was handwritten in the margin; it is also quite possible that it was omitted in our letterexchange. I will have other matters to be handled by that printer but at the most economical costs, and when I learn that he has free time. Now let us come to something of greater interest.

The most reverend Treasurer came to Terracina for a visit to the Pontine Marshes. We met accidentally and I spoke to him quite enthusiastically of the city that is so dear to me, Fabriano; also, the letter that I had already written to Monsignor Buttaoni in Rome, and another one to the

⁹⁷ *Memoriam tui facio coram Domino; tu mihi retribuas cum santa usura orationis quam humillime exopto a tua charitate. Video animam tuam hucusque agitatam ni fallor attamen quis ignorat ita Deum probare virtutem amantis qui pro amante patitur? Eja dilectissime spera in Domino, et ipse te enutriet. Nunc autem cum charissimo Merlinio cujus laus in ore omnium ex nostris resonat collatiunculas institue. Viriliter age et confortetur cor tuum. Constat autem mihi quod primitiae tuae predicationis Verbi Dei auditores ad Deum convertunt. Gratias Deo in omnibus: et ipse qui nos vocavit vocatione sua sancta, nos conjunget in beatifica visione. Amen. Gratia Dei nobiscum.*

⁹⁸ I am yours from the heart.

⁹⁹ This letter bears no date. However, from the context and from a comparison with the letter No. 604, written to the same man on June 12, 1822, we deduce that the letter was written from Terracina during the first ten days of June.

same most reverend bishop. The outcome of this meeting was the following: that the bishop should send in the petition for the locale and forward it also to me by addressing it to Rome; along with that will be the petition from the Filippini Fathers, signed by them, indicating their wishes to cooperate, plus a separate petition in which the bishop requests the subsidy of 200 *scudi*. As for this last detail, I have no idea what will come of it. We shall see, and in the meantime, prayers. I shall do all that I can.

During this combination of projects, we will also send a little stimulating note to the Diocese to cover the expenses for the initial establishment. Later, if they should arrange for a Lenten series given by the Society, with the platform of course and following our program with which you are acquainted, that too will be another help. God will take care of everything else. By the end of July, I expect to be in the Province; there I shall be taking care of the usual retreat in Pievetorina, and then I would like to proceed with the installation of the Society. Presently we are in our prodigious month. Courage.

*Ora, iube, vale insta etc. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Amen.*¹⁰⁰

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

I would like you to send me a ream or two of the letterwriting paper that you use in your correspondence. Let me know what I still owe you, including the cost for this stationery.

In the petition for the locale, they could also ask for S. Filippo for the establishment of the Oratory, pointing out that the building itself is a small one. I shall be conducting the Mission in Forlimpopoli according to what I have learned from Rome etc.

598

June 1822
Mr. Camillo Possenti
Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo¹⁰¹

The Marquis del Bufalo tells me that the young women: Amalia Bellichi, Marianna Bellichi, Francesca Bellichi are already listed. Let me know if there is any error, whether anyone is omitted, since Father Bufera recommended still another to me. If so, you yourself could write to the Marquis or send everything on to me.

I received Father Bufera's petition. I shall act with all haste. Likewise, I repeat that at the present time, after the meeting with the Treasurer, I note that it is truly necessary to have the bishop's request which I am expecting to get from you. I am hopeful of the best .

¹⁰⁰ Pray, entreat, be steadfast insistently. The grace of God be with you. Amen.

¹⁰¹ Cfr. the footnote in the preceding letter.

Generally speaking, I hope that we will see each other again in July *et os ad os loquemur*.¹⁰² If ever you find newly ordained priests who have completed their courses of study and would like to be renters, at a discreet cost, until they are certified as confessors, please let me know. Indeed, our conferences will be quite adequate for them. It is understood, however, that they would want to join the Society.

I am enclosing a schema to be printed immediately in the large form of certificates. I would like to have them sent to me at my Rome address quickly since they have to be distributed for the feast of the most Precious Blood. Be careful about the spelling, since in the printing of our Rule, one or the other mistake was noted. I realize that it is difficult when things happen contrarily. In the Rule, there is a line missing which I placed in the margin; but, perhaps, I did not include that in my correspondence to you. I wish to point out that it is necessary that the certificates be dated from Rome, otherwise let no date be placed on them. I am not acquainted with such practices. If you should have any doubts, write to me. Have them print 100 copies for the present time, using the clear and regal style of paper. No more than the number I have stated, but rather fewer.

G. C. d. B.

P. S. Compute also the cost for mailing.

599

June 5, 1822

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli
Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Monsignor

I need to have a verification of your efforts with the Duchess concerning the House in Sermoneta.

1. Because it is rumored that the Capuchins might be returning.
2. Because the Missionaries really need a place to stay where the climate is better, and, even though God wants those men to have good health and I am convinced that he will give his evangelical ministers strength and health, still one must not overlook using human means. So, I beg you to use the greatest solicitude and the most decisive insistence. Have the Duchess realize that this act will win for her the affection of the people and will, furthermore, contribute to the firmer establishment of the Society, far beyond anything she could imagine.

Also, in another letter of mine, there was one or the other paragraph for which I am still awaiting a response. Among other things, I wished to have a listing of the Aggregations that have not as yet been completed. However, I am hopeful that we will be seeing each other soon, at least

¹⁰² And we will speak face to face.

for a short while. One cannot describe in words the work that is being asked of our Society at the present time. Pray for me and have others do so too, during this month that is *so particularly holy* for us. Let us love each other in Jesus Christ, in whose Sacred Side I leave you, while declaring that wholeheartedly I am

Affectionately and fraternally yours

G. C. D. B.

M. A.

Terracina, June 5, 1822

Let me know if the bishop of Sanseverino is in Rome and if I will have the time to write to him before he leaves.

Even if the Capuchins do not return, it is still necessary to assure our men of a better climate, etc., etc.

600

June 6, 1822

Mr. Luigi Fuschi

Norma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Luigi

Thank you for everything and for your recent letter that was forwarded to me in Bassiano. I recommend to you the pious organizations, the Xavier group, the extirpation of blasphemy, the uniforms, and, if possible, the observance of the month of June dedicated to the mysteries of the shedding of the Blood of Jesus Christ. I do not have the time to send you the book. But, those books can be obtained from Mr. Lino Contedini, the bookseller, in S. Giovanni della Pigna.

In Bassiano, God led me to establish an organization for the country people for the observance of feastdays, including a service to be conducted by a person able to read. I do not know whether in your town such a thing could be arranged for after the noon meal at the 20th hour because of the few churches there. Pray for me, Luigi, and believe me to be, with esteem,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Terracina 6