

St. Gaspar's Letters

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701

April 14, 1823
Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj
Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

Thank you for your letter. Canon Fantilli will receive the certification as an aggregator from Rome, since I do not have the materials with me. I have received the petitions intended for the Delegate and the Secretary of State. I am awaiting the Delegate who is traveling around the Province.

May the Lord shower you evermore with his Spirit, so as to bring success to that foundation. Do not omit anything that you know should be done. I shall see to it that at the beginning of May you have the listings of the Masses.

I appreciate very much the special circumstances of the visitant sermons. Moreover, remember that ordinarily one is to return the same day to the House. Nevertheless, another paragraph says that in a particular urgent situation, you can stay over night, with the previous knowledge of the Congressus and with a Brother companion along. Try to find lodging that is proper for a Missionary. I do not know whether any convents are available in the area. There is the Bishop's residence. I hope I have given an adequate response to your problem.

A thousand greetings to Canon Bertoni who, excited as he is (just between us), can very well return to Sermoneta after he finishes the Month of June in Rome. He can take care of his affairs *a longe*.¹ All the more so since he can make his renunciation of the Canonry in Rome. Make every effort to have him do that. At least try to get him to agree to as much as you can. I am entirely hopeful. This man has no relatives, etc. He can take care of his personal matters *a longe*. I repeat, work on him as energetically as possible and, in the meantime, prayers.

It seems that I have nothing more to say to you. With esteem and respect, I am your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis Ap.

Frosinone, April 14, 1823

702

April 14, 1823
Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

¹ From a distance.

Bishop of Agatopoli
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor and beloved brother

I am enclosing this material and I ask you to look into it and then send a reply to that person, otherwise, we shall lose a worker. Canon Father Gaetano Bertoni, the Canon of Castel Fidardo in the diocese of Loreto, would like a year *ad deliberandum a die discessus*.² I ask you to handle this matter also so that I do not get in wrong with the bishops, and in this situation, one is required to use the greatest energy, trying one thing or another so that the goal is achieved. If you are unable to handle it, please let me know.

It will be necessary to cancel *Buon Consiglio* because we are not able to meet the expenses. Do not renew the lease. Rather, until I return, which is dependent upon a letter, we shall pay the monthly rent, and in the meantime we shall not renew the lease. I would like, as a matter of courtesy, that you give word to our Father Andrea so that he will attribute these decisions to the necessity of things and not to something else. It will be easy to work things out for the hospice on more economical basis and without the expense of having hired help. Ever since January, Cardinal Falzacappa was supposed to give me the directions for education in Teramo. I repeat, I am regretful that in a recently born organization, one has to withdraw. At least it was helpful to give some sort of a reply. As usual, I remain

Your humble, servant and loving friend

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Frosinone, April 14

P. S. Tell Butirroni that if he is able later to find a locale, he will be able to stay there; but, for the time being, everyone has to adapt to the circumstances. God, who wishes to see the Society successful outside of Rome, will etc.

703

April 18, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most beloved and most venerable Father Giovannelli³

Your letter was very pleasing to me; and oh! how I give thanks to God for the good that

² To weigh carefully from the day of departure.

³ This letter does not have a date. We have derived it from the postal marking: (Macerata, April 18). The year is undoubtedly 1823.

resulted from the Novena to Xavier! For your consolation, the House in Benevento, whose foundation was discussed when we were in Teramo, has already been opened. Now we are working on the one in Cesena. Prayers.

Encourage priests to join our Society. Oh! how many blessings the Lord will shower upon you because of the pious institutions which you direct for the benefit of souls. There is no other more important objective than this. I shall not fail to send the two workers, first for Offida and then for Ascoli. The method that you will be able to follow would be: 1. the Chaplet; 2. the singing of *Viva Gesu, etc.*; 3. The sermon with an example, a homage; 4. the Blessing.

Give my best regards to Fr. Vincenzo Belenghi and our Bellini. May the Lord fill all with his Holy Spirit, so that after being united here below *in unitate vocationis, conjuncti simus in gloria sempiterna.*⁴ Just what will happen for me with regard to the Missions of Atri etc. I am not able to say at the present time. Prayers. Bellini would be able to conduct the month of the most Precious Blood in Pievetorina. Perhaps he may have studies to do; and it is better that he complete them so as to be a more mature worker. I shall try to use my influence concerning what you mention about the imprisoned. *Ora pro me miserrimo. Gratia Dei nobiscum. Sum tuus ex corde in corde Jesu Christi crucifixi.*⁵

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

704

April 18, 1823

Fr. Francesco Pierantonj

Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

The letters from Canon Bertoni are a consolation for me, noticing in them the holy union that exists between you. *Laus Deo.*⁶ But I would like to confirm it. Therefore, it would be fitting that all the leaders of the clergy and the people should approach him and strongly urge him to return after the Month in Rome, adding that a deputation will go to pick him up. I understand that the Canon is making his renunciation and that he is taking care of his affairs *a longe*,⁷ at least for

⁴ In the unity of calling we are joined together in everlasting glory.

⁵ Pray for me a most miserable person. The Grace of God be with you. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ.

⁶ Praise be to God.

⁷ From a distance.

the time being. As long as there is nothing offensive to God and as long as there is no other intent than his glory, no means should be left untried. Canon Bertoni is not lacking in the spirit of De Sales if, according to his physical makeup, he stands in need of such encouragement, and if it serves as a support for him. I know him. By using your prudent judgement and at the same time stressing the reputation of our Society, you should stimulate him and handle the situation in such a way that the results will be effectively brought about.

Nothing else occurs to me except that I would like to ask you for a favor, as a last resort; I hope, however, that it will not be necessary. Here it is: I would like you to supply for me for 15 days, or for Fr. Biagio or Fr. Merlini, since one of us, for the good name of the Institute, must go to the Sisters in Sezze. Whoever goes to Sezze can make a quick trip to Sermoneta, if it should be necessary. I ask you to give me a reply quickly. Once the 15 days have passed, each one will return to his own House.

Finally, maintain the most rigid observance of the rule, so that everything will be accompanied by special blessings. Study, for example, will save time in the confessional, etc. etc.

Fill Canon Bertoni's mind thoroughly with the spirit of the Society, so that in Rome, he will be a trumpet, etc. for the glory of God.

Asking for your prayers, I am with esteem and most partial attachment

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 18, 1823

705

April 18, 1823

Fr. Angelo Primavera

Bolognola

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

Since you are in doubt about the retreat to the community in Giano, speak no more about it, for it is not prudent to remain with uncertainties. If you will be free, you will be able to do this good work in Pievetorina for the benefit of your soul.

But you must compensate me and it is this: I must send two workers for the month of the most Precious Blood, half of the month to be spent in Offida and the other half in Ascoli. By means of the spiritual exercises, following the easy method that I will explain to you, the revival of the recent Missions and our most tender devotion are to be promoted. One of those men will be you, and you must not say no. I, too, am always ready to be obedient to your needs, so now, you should be of help to the institute. One can get there easily by way of Sarnano. But in regard

to the travel, more later *ad alias*.⁸ A quick and satisfactory reply. Hold nothing back with regard to the devotion to the Precious Blood. Have you understood? Too bad for you if you do not give yourself entirely to the Society. That is what God wishes; think about it. When dealing with vocations, authorities do not count etc. Prayers. Look at the examples of the saints. Not even bishops can stand in the way. I repeat: send a prompt and favorable reply. You probably already know about the opening of the House in Benevento.

Asking you to recommend me to God, I remain, with esteem and affection

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 18, 1823

P. S. Send your response to Rome.

706

April 19, 1823

Mr. Fabrizio Ceresani

Camerino

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Fabrizio

Read the enclosed papers. Settle it, making your own decision. Send your reply to Rome. Asking you for your prayers, Mr. Fabrizio Ceresani, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, April 19, 1823

Have the matter taken care of either by your brother or by Mr. Rettore.

707

April 27, 1823

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantonj

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of J.C.

Fr. Francesco

I am sending an answer to your letter. I am not opposed to the prospective member proposed by Fr. Biagio staying there as a boarder, in the hope that he would become a priest some day. After making this decision, we can give it more thought. In the meantime, only as a boarder. Let it be in such a way that the House does not gain by it (unless it is his desire), but

⁸ For another time.

neither should it lose. I leave this to you. I am not acquainted with him; I trust, however, in Fr. Biagio; and since as an ordinary thing I do not like having boarders, notwithstanding this, in the present circumstances, he can stay with us. Make clear agreements on such matters as sickness, letters, etc. etc. You understand. I am not so much concerned with the temporal arrangements. I am more worried about our strenuous observance of the rule. Anything beyond that will be done by God, to whom the Society belongs.

I am enclosing the letters you sent to me. You will get information from the Capuchins. It is quite easily done. With regard to all the rest, send a categorical answer to the Bishop.

Get for the Archives there a copy of the Bishop's rescript dealing with the installation of our Society in that location as well as the pertinent granting of the property. Do not forget this.

With respect to Sig. Impaccianti, I know his story, but I am not in a position to make any judgment.⁹ You look into it *pro iustitia*¹⁰ and with the knowledge of the Bishop: thus, every action of ours will be safeguarded.

With reference to other matters dealing with the chapels, the situations at S. Francesco, the notifications for the Archives, etc. etc., I shall say no more, since your letter does not remind me of anything else. Pray for me, and I am

I would like to take you with me on the Mission to Prossedi, around May 12th. It will be a short Mission: for just a brief time, Canon Bertoni can enjoy being alone. This variety would do you a lot of good, too, worthy of an apostle. In a hurry, I beg you for prayers.

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Sezze,¹¹ April 27, (1823)

P. S. With pleasure do I learn of Canon Bertoni's settlements. Your Liguori is not the most recent edition, it seems to me. I urge the observance of the rule.

⁹ Logic would require that in the first part of this sentence, in front of the "*ne so*", there should be a "*non*". It was probably left in the pen of the writer because of his haste; unless, one is to suppose that he did know "the story" through avenues of privileged information.

¹⁰ For justice.

¹¹ The Saint was conducting the Retreat for the Poor Clares in Sezze, a little town in the province of Latina. It should be pointed out that Cardinal Luigi Ercolani, protector of the local Monastery of S. Famiglia, had begged Del Bufalo to accept the delicate assignment of being the Visitator for those Religious, so that, in those difficult times of brigandry, every now and then, they would be taken care of in their spiritual and temporal needs. In the year 1825, when the danger arising from those ruffians was practically gone, the Saint declined the assignment which he had accepted in 1823.

April 29, 1823
 Cardinal Luigi Ercolani
 Rome
 Your Eminence

Here are the Lord's dispositions with regard to the Monastery of the Sacred Family. I had gone to Sezze for the Retreat and as extraordinary confessor to S. Chiara in accordance with the request of the Ordinary. When I arrived there, they showed me some letters that had come from your Eminence so that I balanced out the good done for one Monastery with that of the other, and for the period of 15 days, as is usual, I shall not fail to do whatever good I can, supported by your prayers. I trust in the divine mercy that all will turn out successfully in keeping with our desires in common, and I shall not fail to keep your Eminence informed.

Your most venerable letter, that you referred to, I have not as yet received. But it will surely be forwarded to me and what your most reverend Eminence prescribes will be carried out exactly. Kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor to declare to you that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Miss. Apostolico

Sezze, April 29

709

May 3, 1823
 Fr. Luigi La Penna
 Sezze

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

A certain Maria Alessandra, a poor, blind woman recommends herself to your charity for the Santissimo endowment. I hope that you understand. I would not want to be wrong in this matter. I would also like you to petition as soon as possible for the canonical erection of the Pious Union of the most Precious Blood which will embrace all those people who are promoting the pious works initiated during the recent Missions; the indulgences are available for everyone wherever the good work is practiced, in keeping with the listings of the indulgences. It seems to me that I have given you a certificate naming you as an aggregator; the canonical appointment will be carried out by the archivist in Rome. As a help to you, Canon Sari, the present Prefect or Director of the nocturnal oratory, will be writing to you, and I recommend him also to your zeal. You should likewise propagate the hours of prayer to the most Precious Blood, as a pure devotion, and the heavenly blessings will be great on whatever your needs may be.

Give my greetings to your brother and to all the others of the clergy; recommend me to their prayers in common. Since I have been exceedingly busy, I have not succeeded in coming to see you in person, so, I am supplying with this present letter. Dear Canon, while renewing my

sentiments of esteem, respect and veneration for you, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 3, 1823

710

May 6, 1823

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Bassiano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father

I must begin the Mission in Prossedi and I would like to have you as my companion. Try to do this favor for me, but in such a way that you give me your definite word. The town is not very far from us, and we shall have the mutual pleasure of being together for a short time *et os ad os loquamur*.¹² Therefore, it will be necessary for you to be here in Sezze next Saturday evening. I shall be awaiting your favorable reply. And, if you should not be able to do this, tell it to the Vicar Forane, but, I would say that you should come. At any rate, I would like to have a definite answer. Once again, I am

Your humble servant

C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Sezze, May 6

711

May 6, 1823

Fr. Gaetano Sulpizi

Ponzano di Civita del Tronto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Curate

I remember very well your holy achievements, and, indeed, the faculty of the Immacolata that I obtained for you in Rome; but, I did not get a reply from you, and, actually, I am very infrequently in Rome. At any rate, be assured of my renewed interest. The faculty for enrolling people in our devotion to the most Precious Blood is enclosed herein. Perhaps the cost of postage is a burden for you, but this is the way I thought it best to handle it. I would like to have a reply as soon as you receive this letter. Then, in order to get the booklets and anything else that is

¹² Let us speak mouth to mouth.

needed, contact Father Giovannelli, for in Ascoli all of the printed matter is available.

Try to promote the month of the most Precious Blood which begins on the feast of the Sacred Heart and ends on the first Sunday in July. On that Sunday, have the relic of the Cross exposed publicly and, if you wish, have a procession. You can contact Mr. de Bartolomeis in Campli for the booklet to be used during the month. Perhaps he will have that or, at least, will be able to direct you. Also promote there the oratory for men, and try to encourage perseverance in the good achieved in Civitella. Give them news of me and my greetings. Pray a lot for me and know that I am ready, at any request from you, to be of help.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, May 6, 1823

P. S. If you should need clarification concerning anything, send your letter to me in Rome. Encourage the public recitation of the Chaplet.

712

May 7, 1823

Fr. Germano Moscardelli

Montorio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

As far as I can remember this is the first letter that I have ever received from you, or, having received another I would have addressed the reply to Ascoli, since I am accustomed to maintain a certain order in my letter writing, or, as best as I can. I do not know how to express the delight that I experienced in receiving this letter from you, and with all my heart I thank you for the remembrance that you have of me. I would like the pious organizations there to continue and you should try to build them up. Miserable thing that I am, I do not cease to recommend to God the people of that region, and oh how many blessings I implore for them. The month of the most Precious Blood is approaching. I pray that it will be observed there with the greatest possible solemnity. The first Sunday in July is the feastday, and on that occasion, the Wood of the Cross is to be publicly exposed and also a procession could be held. The month will begin on June 6th.

Would that God would grant that I return to that area! But it appears, at least for the time being, that I cannot give you any assurance of that. I understand that it requires a letter to Rome from the Nunzio in Naples; otherwise, I would be able to send some workers there on occasion; but, I do not know just how I could manage to obtain such good fortune, always keeping in mind that it is only God who may will to make use of my miserable person.

Since I have received your letter, now being quite distant from Rome, I can do no more than to promise you again of my concern so as to learn about the rent and other matters. I assure

you that in another letter of mine, after having gotten the information, I will keep you informed. In the meantime, as I have stated, continue to direct the pious organizations there and let us do all the good work that we can. Promote the month of the most Precious Blood, which I recommend to you as strongly as I can. Pray a lot for me; I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, May 1, 1823

P. S. I would like to know whether you would wish to remain permanently in Rome, or, *ad tempus*.¹³

713

May 9, 1823

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

Mr. Balani of Ancona wrote the enclosed letter to me, which I now recommend to you. I thought it best to address it directly to you. You would honor me if you would please drop a line to me, using the address: Frosinone per Prossedi.

While kissing the sacred purple and asking you for your prayers, most reverend Eminence, I take this opportunity to renew my feelings of esteem and respect for you.

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare Can. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, May 9, 1823

714

May 13, 1823

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

I hope that you have received my recent letter and have sent your most appreciated reply to Sezze in order to confirm the newlyelected officials. I have sent the more important things in preparation for the sacred visitation which I have kept open up to now. After Prossedi, I shall return again to Sezze in order to take care of another Congregation, and afterwards, in person, I shall relate all to you in Rome. In general, we can be consoled since every effort is being made to restore everything to a better regulated system. The nuns are enthusiastic and completely eager

¹³ For a time.

for the pursuit of greater perfection. Very soon, they will have the investiture of an aspirant who was admitted already at the time of the preceding visitation, made by the excellent Monsignor Stracchini, as a novice of the sacred institute.

The commune of Sezze has donated ten measures of grain as a support of that religious family. They are awaiting approval by the *Buon Governo*, and if your Eminence considers it a good idea to send a word to his Eminence, the Cardinal Prefect, it would be helpful for the quick execution of the petition, as well as obtaining the approval, which is being forwarded to Rome by the council members of the city.

I do not know whether you deem it expedient to make known to the commune, by means of Director La Galla, your gratefulness for the donation, though small, yet quite respectfully valuable. I conclude this letter, your Eminence, by recommending myself to your prayers with the outpouring of my poor spirit. I kiss the sacred purple and, with sentiments of esteem and profound respect, I renew myself as

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Canonico del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Prossedi, May 13, 1821

715

May 13, 1823

Monsignor Nicola Mattei

Archbishop of Camerino

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Oh how I yearn to see you again, and I hope it will be soon. But the Treasurer's journey together would be futile. Be assured that *raucae factae sunt fauces meae*¹⁴ in behalf of the House in Pievetorina, but *inutiliter omnia*.¹⁵ I do not have the heart to speak of it any more. However, you should not cease on your own to continue to be insistent. The temporal needs of that foundation have demanded a reduction in the personnel for the time being. Ceccarelli asked me to do this. So, Missionary Father Vitale Corbucci, the superior (a man to take care of the clergy, etc.), Father Tarulli and Father Pietro Torsani have remained there along with two Brothers. These three Missionaries, because of their family relationships, have not been able to be moved; thus, it is not a question of choice but of pure necessity that I have asked Canon Gonnelli and one of the Brothers to adapt themselves for the time being to these circumstances. Canon Gonnelli, however, should have informed your reverend excellency of what I was unable to do because of

¹⁴ My throat has become hoarse.

¹⁵ Uselessly everything.

the brevity of lettercorrespondence. At any rate, I am certain that you will not be in the least doubtful of my sincere and most special affection for you and, together with my feeling of deference and esteem for you, I am and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Prossedi, May 13, 1823

716

May 14, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

I am sending my reply to your most appreciated letter somewhat tardily because time did not allow me to do so beforehand. The Missionaries will not be lacking. I hope that all goes well. I have already sent a letter of propriety to the bishop. Who knows, perhaps I may be one of them. I do not know for certain as yet. We shall see. I ask that the house be set up in accordance with our policies. The month begins on June 6th so that it will then conclude on the first Sunday in July, and that would make 30 days. Offida will be taken care of first, then Ascoli. When the Missionaries have arrived at the Grotte a mare, they will send word to you so that you can then proceed to get them. Do not arrange nor make any moves until you get information. Tell Canon Bravetti, the secretary of the pious organizations, that he is not to promote any organization unless it is approved by the Holy Father. Furthermore, all the oratories are to be in accordance with those of Rome. The printed matter has been done in Fabriano as a convenience to the Marche, and there is nothing more to advise about now. Tell him that I shall not reply directly for the sake of brevity, but that I nevertheless admire his zeal for the glory of God. He should be alerted, however, not to be fearful of difficulties.

In the meanwhile, you should prepare the podium for the good work that will be done there, and offer prayers. Continue with your copy of the meditations which God wants the public to use.

With regard to the request for advice made by Sister Domenica Pacifici, here, in brief, is what I have to say: "She is to continue where she is". God brings times to maturity, and everything will be given a better arrangement. When she has spent the 24 hours with God, she will have nothing to fear.

I have lost the information concerning the saintly brother Luigi, and I would not want to be remiss. Remind me of this matter in more detail.

Continue zealously to maintain your undertakings. Jesus Christ accomplished his good through suffering; we, too, must comfort each other in this same way. What is very definitely certain is that we want to be irrevocably and completely for Jesus. Let him be the King of our hearts and let us take up our repose with him. With all my affection, I remind you that I am

Prossedi, May 14, 1823

*Ora pro me una cum tuis.*¹⁶

717

May 16, 1823

Fr. Nicola Palma

Napoli per Teramo

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I sent you a reply to your previous letter. Now I have received a most welcome one with great pleasure, and to discharge my duty with regard to it, I must tell you the following.

1) I have not received the paper from the Sacred Penitentiary and so that letter must be lost.

2) With regard to the History of the Missions, I see the holy purpose in your intentions, and I point out that even at the Propaganda Fide they print reports about the Missions. I further point out that Xavier did not have difficulty in giving an account of the good which God deigned to promote through him. Indeed, one knows very well that all comes from God. Let that serve as a greater consolation to you. Nevertheless, I do not have any information as to whether those copies have arrived in Rome or not.

3) With respect to the Missions, I would adhere to the following arrangement. I would leave Canon Forcina for the apostolate *ad tempus*¹⁷ in Teramo, together with the others whom you mentioned in your previous letter; you should go on the Mission. Xavier, at first, went to India alone; later, God gave him companions. Courage. A great good is being accomplished. In addition, I would advise you to invite Fr. Bassotti of S. Elpidio, along with Fr. Giovannelli, Fr. Luigi Marini and Fr. Emidio Bellini who are from Ascoli. I do not mention Prior Orazi because I am convinced that pastors should take care of their parishes. Write directly to the Bishop of Ascoli. If it were not because of economical factors that stand in the way, I would handle the situation myself by sending him Companions from other places. At any rate, the clergy that you edify, the Oratories that you set up, etc. will bring you calm and serenity because of the good that will be promoted. *Signatim devotio Pretiosissimi Sanguinis alte defigatur in cordibus omnium.*¹⁸ I will make every effort to obtain for you those faculties that I can get. I do not know if that will include dispensation from Office. We shall see. I will urge the case of the penitent of Campli, and I hope that all goes well.

Pray a lot for me, and consider me at every command of yours with esteem and respect

¹⁶ Pray for me along with your own.

¹⁷ At the time.

¹⁸ Clearly the devotion of the most precious blood should be deeply imprinted on the hearts of all.

your
 Humble, devoted, obliged, servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

Prossedi,¹⁹ while on the Missions May 16, 1823

In case you need choir dispensations, I will obtain them for you. If you think of it, remind the Mayor that he should exert himself as much as possible to get the payment, etc., since I am in need of funds for the new Campaigns. However, if this should be a source of distress, patience. I urge you to look into this matter also.

718

May 23, 1823

Monsignor Carlo Manassi
 Bishop of Terracina, Sezze and Priverno

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I forgot to tell you that the President of the Oratory of St. Francis Xavier would like to fill the position of Montista,²⁰ if I remember correctly. You should not pay attention to my recommendation but to the fitness of the member, whom I indeed esteem highly and love in Jesus Christ; notwithstanding this, you will be able to come to your own conclusion. Kissing your hands, though I am in a hurry, I ask for your prayers and am

Your humble servant
Gaspere C. del Bufalo
 Mis. Ap.

From the Convent of the Capuchins, May 23, 1823

719

May 28, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

For the evening of the 4th of June, please have the mounts there at the Grotte al mare

¹⁹ *Prossedi*: cf. Geographical Data.

²⁰ On the fourth siding, near the address, there is this remark signed by Bishop Manassi: "On the holy Visitation. Mr. Francesco Tucci, President of the Congregation of St. Francis Xavier, is assigned to be the new Montista, on the condition that he must give it fitting security in accordance with the basic principles. From the Episcopal See, July 22, 1823".

since the carriage will not be going there to Offida, according to what I have heard. On the morning of the 5th, I shall be leaving from the Grotte al mare heading for Offida so as to begin our month that will close on the first Sunday in July, all in keeping with the agreements we have made. I shall be coming with a companion, as well as with the man that assists us. Therefore, three saddled mounts will be needed, along with a couple of strong burros to carry the baggage. I shall accept the hospitality of the Convent of Franciscans in the Grotte al mare. So, it would be an even better idea to have the mounts get there by midday of the 4th so that they will be well rested. You will contact a friend of yours who will be able to provide the mounts, for I do not know whether the religious have any available. Give my best regards to Father Vincenzo Belenghi, and, asking you for your prayers, consider me to be with esteem

Your humble servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Rome, May 28, 1823

I have already contacted the bishop, etc.

720

May 30, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

With regret have I learned of your decision to apply the gifts given to most holy Mary to other pious uses. If I, in person, were able to bring you to realize what a bad move this is and how difficult it would be to get the authorization of the Holy Father, you would agree with my feelings. Prayers.

With regard to the Mass of the most Precious Blood, you should prepare a petition in due form and send it to Rome to Monsignor Chiarissimo Falconieri. Be sure, however, to mention that this Mass has been celebrated at another time. Pray for me who, recommending to you the Oratory, remain with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

While traveling, May 30, 1823

Monsignor Falconieri lives near S. Marcello.

721

May 30, 1823

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

I am enclosing the memorandum in behalf of the poor laysister of the Monastery of the Holy Family. I take this opportunity to renew my profound respect for you, your Eminence, and kissing the sacred purple, I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere Canonico del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

May 30, 1823

722

June 6, 1823

Mr. Camillo Possenti

Fabriano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

From Offida, I am sending a reply to your letter; today, we begin the month dedicated to our devotion to the most Precious Blood. After carrying out several duties of our ministry, I shall then move on to Ancona where I will give Missions to the imprisoned. Those Missions will conclude after the middle of July. After Ancona, I shall be going by way of Monte Cassiano to stay over night in Sanseverino, and then from there on to Pievetorina where, perhaps, I shall remain for several days giving a series of retreats etc. So, starting around the 9th of July, you will be able to send your letters to me in Ancona. The printer's receipt was not necessary. With the remaining *scudo*, I will take it in Chaplets, etc.

You have done very well in writing to the most reverend Auditor, Monsignor Buttaoni, so that the deceased bishop's wishes would be carried out. I would like that prelate to summon me, but I cannot be both judge and participant, so to speak. It could be considered simply as a private interest of mine, and nothing more. If that Commune there were to write up a petition in the proper form, I am convinced that the matter would take a turn for the good. At any rate, prayers.

In order to obtain the books for the association that you mentioned, that is, books on spirituality as well as books on apologetics combating the errors of the times, you should contact Monsignor Muccioli and give him that task. I would not be able to help in this except upon my return to Rome, so you should use the method that I have indicated.

The leaders of the place have set up the foundation in Benevento. Prayers.

I am not acquainted with the bishop of Fabriano, not even by name. Take care of yourself. Look after the pious organizations, and consider me to be, with all my affection and gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Offida, June 6, 1823

723

June 8, 1823
Fr. Gregorio Lucarelli
Sarnano

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Gregorio²¹

The bearer of this letter is separated from his wife who is located in Sarnano. I beg you to put in motion the means that you deem opportune for bringing about a reunion. I shall help with my prayers. Pray for me, and recommending the pious institutions to your consideration, with esteem, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Offida, June 8, 1823

P. S. Try to be successful in your efforts.

724

June 10, 1823
Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have delayed writing since I know of your trip to Terracina. Now, with this letter, I want to inform you that I have already gotten in touch with both his Eminence the bishop and with the most reverend Delegate of Ancona with regard to the Mission to the imprisoned. It will begin the first part of July. I have also written to have lodging with a religious community and everything should go well. As far as current expenses are concerned, I would like, if you think it a good idea, for you to give the order in general to Ancona that they should provide whatever I may request; although I am trustful of everyone, at any rate, I would like to handle things myself. However, if your most reverend excellency should arrange things differently, I will be just as content.

With respect to the S. Clemente building, whenever it may be required for one of our group to be in charge, I would appoint Monsignor Santelli, and I would go along with every suggestion of his. I wrote to Guglielmi and asked him to send you a copy of the available funds and urged the granting of endowments to the Province of Campagna and Marittima and our

²¹ On the original, in a different handwriting, the following is written: "Reply June 12, 1823. G. Lucarelli".

Mission and Retreat Houses which I sincerely and urgently recommend evermore to your consideration. I hope that everything has been carried out.

With respect to this matter I would like to inform you (always with the deepest respect) that the declaration of the order from the reverend Camera does not speak of Missions and it never refers to the Mission Houses. To be frank, I indeed would like to have the endowments, but I always will submit myself to your reflections since your advice always carries a great deal of weight for me. I would like to see those foundations given a firm footing. If, by divine mercy, much good work is being accomplished, with God's society on the increase, it is therefore most needful of basic things. It would appear that the first rescript and the earlier ideas would be effected, but, up to now, we are faced with the burdens of looking after the buildings assigned to us as well as the adjoining churches; hospices, clothing for the brothers in service, food, services etc. In short, these are undertakings of such magnitude that they could never allow of lesser endowments.

Likewise to be added is that with us if perchance a single *paolo* were available, even this would be used either to admit the poor for a retreat, at no cost to them, or to give a Mission to poor towns with no charge to them, or, finally, to give assistance to the poorest of our Houses as, for example, Albano, etc., etc.. But with the increase in our families, and everything else that has been stated, keeping in mind also sicknesses that may arise, etc., etc., I believe that the first rescript is directly conformed to the will of the Lord. Five Houses have been set up in the Province, keeping in line with Rome, the center of Catholicism. Now, I am content that I have manifested everything, placing myself completely in line with the will of God. If your most reverend excellency were always to be the Treasurer, such a discourse would have been needless, motivated also in word in my passage from Rome. But keeping in mind the outlook for the future (trusting always in God) I judge that it is necessary to give our institute stability.

Finally, I give thanks to God for this trip. I do not know how to describe the many ways that the glory of the Lord has been promoted. I shall return to Rome with new workers. Pray a lot for me. I never forget you in my poor prayers as well as in the prayers offered publicly. Take care of your health, and, most reverend excellency, consider me to be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ascoli, by way of Offida, June 10

P. S. In our last meeting, Monsignor Zacchia effectively recommended Ponte Corvo to me. Now, I need to know whether that is under the Delegation of Benevento or Frosinone, and whether it is under the spiritual direction of some Neapolitan bishop. I request this information since Monsignor Zacchia told me that the need is extreme; so, I intend to investigate and schedule a Mission, possibly around the feast of the Assumption, or a bit later. He brought to my attention the need there would be for soliciting as soon as possible, but, because of the current collections, and other reasons too, it was decided to select the date indicated above etc. I am

closing this letter after having preached on the glories of the most Precious Blood. Oh God! would that the entire world were purged of the leprosy of sin! This is the objective toward which our devotion tends, our very title! This divine Blood is offered continuously in the holy Mass, it is applied in the sacraments, and it is the price of salvation; finally, it is the testimony of the love of a God made man. *Dilexit nos et lavit nos in Sanguine suo etc.*²²

725

June 10, 1823
Fr. Giovanni Caroni
Belforte

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Prior

I have received your letter, forwarded to me in Offida. I do not deny that there will be someone there to work in behalf of the new foundation, but, up to now, I cannot be entirely precise. Prayers. God brings the times to maturity. With special fervor, let us observe this present month of ours, and oh! how many graces I hope for. Ah yes ... the Blood of Jesus Christ must cleanse the world. Be insistent on the pious institutions in your area, and let us become saints. Continue to nourish a great confidence in God *a quo omne bonum.*²³

It is not difficult, but as yet I am not certain whether I shall be going this year to Pievetorina for the usual shift of retreats. If this should come about, you will indeed find that out from my companions there, and, in particular, from Fr. Pietro Torsani who will be able to give you the precise date which, at the present time, I am unable to indicate. However, he will inform you later on in accordance with the letters I send him.

Finally, pray incessantly for me, and believe me to be, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ascoli, by way of Offida, June 10, 1823

726

June 15, 1823
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Father Giovannelli

I give thanks to God for your recovery, at least to the extent that you are now able to say

²² He loved us and washes us in his blood, etc.

²³ From whom is every good.

Mass and be mindful at that time especially for my soul, just as I do not fail to do for you.

With regard to the letter of courtesy which you mention to me, I thank you for your suggestions; and, for your peace of mind, I can tell you that I have not failed to take care of that. I wrote from Rome concerning the good which is to be promoted and I have received no answer. While traveling, I wrote again suggesting how, in my opinion, it would be advantageous to have some sort of conference etc., and I did not receive a reply to that, unless the letter may have been lost. So, I have not done anything more beyond referring to the good to which the devotion that we promote calls for. I wrote even a third time to him in answer to a matter he had with Rome. You may judge what else must yet be done. Furthermore, I know that he wanted to make the sacred visitation and he probably has his reasons for that, and I know nothing about that; indeed, new rumors, though unjust, might be spread about. I know that what you desire for Ascoli will not be worked out at all, and, in my judgment, that thought can be put aside. I know that impious people are raising their voices. (Let this be between us).

In the mail from Ascoli, an anonymous letter came to me with a venom beyond every imagining. I recommended the entire situation to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ; I have not lost my courage; I destroyed the letter. Taking all of these things which I have indicated to you in secret confidence, I conclude that God will accept my good desires, but at the same time, I must not forget the *excutite pulverem*, etc.²⁴ That some irreligious person is shaking a bit, *transeat*;²⁵ but, that natural shyness should not be overcome by a person who should be in control of himself is for me a signal to review my reflections. He is a holy man, and learned too, and this whole matter is something physical. Nevertheless, *attentis circumstantiis*,²⁶ I conclude that his heart is not at peace. If it were a question of a Mission, I would have made²⁷ a decision concerning everything. Furthermore, I need not repeat what is already known by you. But I do repeat that *in circumstantiis*,²⁸ if we are unable to achieve our goal, it would be better to set aside the thought of my coming, and in its stead, encourage you with assiduous prayers to uphold the pious institutions. I judge that this procedure will be more useful. You might promote the septenary of the most Precious Blood, at least by a vigorous sermon, *et satis provisum*.²⁹

In the meantime, I shall be going to Montalto as I have decided to do: 1. because of their urgent requests; 2. after a reply from you, to have a solution. But, as a caution, I told them in

²⁴ Shake of the dust.

²⁵ Let it pass.

²⁶ Paying attention to the circumstances.

²⁷ A word is crossed out here, and is not legible.

²⁸ In circumstances.

²⁹ And provided enough.

Montalto that I have reserved ten days for Ascoli, if indeed God wills that I make that trip, but leaving confessors there etc., etc.. I repeat, I am not afraid of impious people, but, dear God, I do not like rumors to arise that undermine the good work being done by pious groups etc. Awaiting your favorable reply, which I hope will be in agreement with my thoughts that allow me to be perfectly calm, etc. , I am wholeheartedly

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Offida, June 15, 1823

Send your letter directly to me in Montalto, at my expense.

727

June 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I am writing this in order to get the image of most holy Mary and the Crucifix. Try to take care of this as best as possible.

With full esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

1823³⁰

728

June 17, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

[fragment] ³¹

rice [...]

You have [...]

We come now to another poin [...]

³⁰ This date, written on the page, is in someone else's handwriting. The letter, however, very probably was written in June of 1823, and precisely during the Mission in Montalto. In fact, in the letter (No. 728) of June 17, 1823, to that same person, St. Gaspar says that the members of the St. Francis Xavier group, in returning to Offida, could "take along the Madonna and the Crucifix".

³¹ The upper part of this letter has been torn, as well as the lower left corner.

and I have already sent word [...]
do not write in order to be brief. Friday morning [...]

with the mounts, so that they can reach Montalto in time for the noon meal. I would like to have: 1. Ciabbatoni; 2. Father Giovanni who has obtained the rules; 3. Braccetti. Please see that you inform them. Within a few days, the others will be supplying for me. If I have received any letters, please forward them to me quickly at my expense. Later, you will address them to me in Ancona. With regard to the papal benediction, I cannot tell you anything at the present time. You can be sure that I will see that the members of the St. Francis Xavier group will arrive and get here at a convenient hour so that on returning they could take along the Madonna and the Crucifix. I have indeed discovered that they would not have been able to have lodging in the seminary; furthermore, with difficulty, life was preserved because of the violence of the river. I am happy with the good that I am able to do here. May you, along with your wife and family, as well as others who remember me, pray and get others to pray for me a lot. If Braccetti is not able to come, as I could imagine because of the pious organizations, then send me a Capuchin or a religious of the Observants. With full esteem, respect and gratitude, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Montalto, June 17, 1823

729

June 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovannelli *quem*³² ...³³

I shall not be writing to you lengthily. But be assured that God does not want me to go to Ascoli. Tell Father Emidio to be present for the meeting on the evening of the 25th in Grotte. I shall not fail to show due courtesy to the bishop.

Right now they are summoning me for the penitential procession. I am very, very happy about this Mission. Praise be to God. Perhaps, Bellini might be able to go to Offida and then from Offida to Grotte. That would be an economically sound move. I presume that he has been

³² Whom I love ...

³³ This letter is undated. But, from what he says in the postscript of the letter to Giovannelli on June 15th, 1823, this letter was written from Montalto where St. Gaspar went after Offida. The letter is to be dated between the 16th and 24th of June, 1823.

approved for confessions *pro utroque sexu*³⁴ there in Ascoli. May Jesus make us saints. May his holy love bring us to be altogether his. *In osculo sancto, in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi*,³⁵ I remain

*Ex corde*³⁶

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

730

June 24, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dear Father Giovannelli

Along the Grotte a mare. I am sending you 70 *baiocchi* for the organization that you direct. In as clear language as possible: I do not wish to be reimbursed, even if the ministry were to impoverish me to the very last penny. Just say a little prayer for me. I kiss your hands and with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant,

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Montalto, June 24

731

June 26, 1823

Fr. Francesco Pierantonj

Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J. C.

Fr. Francesco

I was disappointed in not seeing your letters, for you know how much I love you in J.C. Now, I am thanking you for your letter, in which you give me new reasons for consolation because of the Mission given in Pistergio,³⁷ and praise be to God, *a quo omne bonum*.³⁸ Do not

³⁴ For each sex.

³⁵ In a holy kiss, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

³⁶ From the heart.

³⁷ *Pistergio*, or Pisterzo: cf. Geographical Data.

³⁸ From whom is every good.

cease to cultivate his vineyard, both with prayer and with that activity that your zeal, activated by prayers, suggests to you.

In reference to the Masses, Fr. Camillo writes to me that he has sent you the listings. The others that I was supposed to send you, you can be sure have been celebrated. I am writing immediately for the documents, which, according to my calculations, should have already been given to you.

Try to get yourself some visitant sermons to preach, if you can. Do not worry about my being too busy a man. Send me a list of the topics that you would like, and I shall supply you with them. The decision with regard to Vallecorsa is definite. It is a place where you can have a bit of relaxation and still do good work. Fr. Camillo Rossi will take your place at Sermoneta during Lent.

On October 4 I expect to sing the Mass at S. Francesco. However, I shall be in Rome for the first part of August, since I must then resume the ministry. Even in this vicinity, oh! what possibilities for the glory of God! Various reasons, for the glory of God, have compelled me to make the best use of my time. With today's mail, I have insisted to the authorities that our Missionaries should return to our place at S. Francesco.

Tell Bishop Manassi that since there is no chapel in the prison at Sezze, the Most Rev. Treasurer assured me that a portable altar could be erected there for the fulfillment of the precept. He can correspond himself with the aforementioned Msgr. Cristaldi to get more precise information with respect to future plans. In the meantime, in order that Mass can be heard, it is best to handle things in this way.

Above all, pray for me. May the observance of the rule be close to your heart, the conferences to the Brothers, and if you should have Masses, send them to me, for it seems to me that I am conscientious in these matters. Once things have been completed, give me an exact report of the accounts. Keep a record of them. Redouble your efforts in regard to the begging tours.

Salute the small community for me, and at the foot of the Cross, consider me
Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Grotta a mare, June 26, 1823³⁹

Answer me at: Ancona

732

June 26, 1823
Caterina Ranghiasi
Rome

³⁹ *Grotta a mare* (Grottammare): cf. Geographical Data

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious lady

Your letter was very pleasing to me. In reply, I say to you that I do not cease recommending you to God, and I hope that, without doubt, you will be a religious in that monastery. Courage. My occupations, which are becoming more numerous, do not permit me to take on other binding duties. I have even had to give up directing the niece of our founder, Monsignor Albertini. When I come to Rome, I shall stop off, one might say, for just a few moments and then move on. So, if any opportunity should arise to pay a visit to the monastery, I shall do so willingly. In the meantime, continue making progress under the direction of the man whom God has given to you, trust in prayer, and have great confidence in the Divine Blood. Give my best wishes to the entire community, and, with esteem, consider me to be, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Grotta a mare, while travelling, June 26, 1823

P. S. As far as I can remember, I have not had the good fortune of making the acquaintance of your director, Father Rafaele Falconi. The progress that you are making under his direction proves that God wishes to make use of his abilities. I ask him to pray for me.

733

June 29, 1823

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Your excellency

Here I am in Ancona and, by the grace of the Lord, everything is proceeding with regularity. In the morning I preach in the Ergastolo, as they call it here, or, in other words the fortress; after the noon meal, I preach on the docks, while dividing the instructions with the other companions, as well as in the prison to which we also extend our ministry.

Pray a great deal that God will bless his holy word whose first fruits are already being evidenced to our complete contentment. We had a meeting with the most reverend Delegate and other people in authority, and we came up with a schedule that met with common approval.

Since I found nothing opposed to it, I also took up the matter of economy, adhering to the instructions which your most reverend excellency communicated to me. Would it be possible to have some very small bit of help to be divided between the Houses of Giano and Pievetorina, when I have the chance to visit them? Even ten *scudi* for each House would be helpful, because in their restricted conditions, a little goes a long way. If you could find it feasible to do this, I would be forever obliged to you. If this is an inconvenience for you, patience.

Pray a lot for me, and if you think it is a good idea, inform the Secretary of State that in autumn, at least for precautionary reasons, it will be necessary for the Missionaries to occupy the places assigned to them in Sermoneta and Terracina, so as to be able to breathe more salutary air. Oh! How grateful I would be for this! My heart always is deeply concerned for the health of our companions. It is true that I trust in God, and if I am given a refusal, I nevertheless remain resigned to the will of God; in that case, doubly, so to speak, would we place our trust in him. Presently, I am making an effort to have four beds constructed in the Province of Campagna for the four new members whom I will be bringing there upon my return. I continue recommending my work to God, and I shall consider what decisions to make. I kiss your hands and with esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ancona, June 29, 1823

P. S. In passing through Amelia, I will have to give a conference or so to the clergy. As much as possible, I am hurrying along so as to be in Pontecorvo for the feast of the Assumption.

734

June 29, 1823

Mr. Donato Quartaroli

Teramo

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Donato

Thank you for your letter. Within a short time, you will be receiving the matters that are to be printed. Anything beyond that, you can read in my heart. You know how much I love you in Jesus Christ. Your letters are always most dear to me. Do me the kindness of keeping me in your prayers, and in Jesus Christ, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,⁴⁰ consider me as

Your humble, devoted, and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ancona, June 29, 1823

When necessary, send your letters to "Rome"

Be joyful during the month of the most Precious Blood. May all pray for me.

As for the blessing of the mater, you could get a copy from Corropoli, and they should have the Relic in Teramo. Then, too, if you wish me to send you everything through the mails, I shall do so.

735

⁴⁰ Who has redeemed us in his blood.

June 29, 1823
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

Mr. Donato Quartaroli is waiting for a copy that you know about. In order to save time, send him the Seven Offerings with the frontispiece that is according to my suggestions. Then, send me word that you have sent them, and inform Mr. Quartaroli in Taramo that, once the printing is done at the price set by the printer or others, he should send word to me for my own records. Pray for me. A thousand heavenly greetings to all in your house, etc. In Jesus Christ, I am

Your humble and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ancona, June 29, 1823

736

July 6, 1823
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
 Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

You deserve to receive a reply on the first Sunday in July. Oh blessed day on which the heavens pour out all sweetness. *Caeli distillaverunt etc.*⁴¹

See that I get the Sepulchre memorandum, with an outside covering, in Pievetorina, and I will make every effort to see what can be done in Rome. Prayers. In the beginning, it is a good idea to limit the requests; later, we can enlarge the petition.

I thank you for the information concerning the sacred functions there, and even more for the beautiful sentiments expressed by Father Novet.

I had already sent your forwarded letter to Rome, but I quickly wrote that they should do nothing until I had given them more precise directions. So, you will have to have patience and repeat the petition in a more detailed fashion, addressed to the Holy Father, and then forward it to me in Pievetorina.

I am quite content with the sentiments of the confessors who came to Montalto, but I would have liked to have them be more generous. Let us pray.

I am enclosing the certificate in accordance with your most holy desires.

When you are able, tell the most esteemed Marconi, from Grotta a mare, that his faculty is applicable only for Grotta. I say this, as a precaution, in case I may not have made myself

⁴¹ They have dropped down, etc.

clear.

Canon Moscatelli is the same as always, and he sends his regards to all. Keep insisting for a Mission House in Ascoli. *Utinam*.⁴² It seems that I have not overlooked anything, except to ask you to pray a lot for me; and, with my respects to the holy religious community, I renew myself as

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ancona, July 6, 1823

737

July 7, 1823

Fr. Filippo Ambrosi

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Thank you for your recent letter. I would have been more delighted with a De Salas type of condescension, since I have no other thing in view than the glory of God. Now I would like to know whether it will be easy to find Maschat on sale and whether *inoffenso pede*⁴³ you might follow it *in omnibus*.⁴⁴ I note that his principles would be helpful in keeping to the proper route. Let me put it that way. Pray and you will not be able to refuse me this. All I can do is beg, and in begging, to be insistent. Try to do this good work. In Rome, in matters canonical, one followed Davoti. I would like to have your opinion. Pray a lot for me and get others to offer their spiritual help so that I may serve God *in sanctitate et justitia*.⁴⁵ Please, send your favorable reply addressed: Camerino for Pievetorina; and I repeat, be condescending. Give my best wishes to the most reverend bishop. In Jesus crucified, and with the fulness of esteem and respect, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Ancona, July 7, 1823

P. S. I have written, in keeping with our terms, to Pierantozzi. Bellini has received the dimissorials. With regard to Pierantozzi, I wrote about the commission. So, the most reverend

⁴² Would that.

⁴³ With a sure foot.

⁴⁴ In all things.

⁴⁵ By holiness and justice.

bishop will be doing quite right in carrying out what he feels, under God's inspiration, is best and in being slow in ordaining.

738

July 7, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest in the Lord

I am inconveniencing you for two things: 1. to keep insisting in Teramo that they print immediately both the Seven Offerings and the Fridays in honor of Xavier. I would like to know what it will cost to provide a certain number of copies of them, and that either the benefactor or the printer will check the printing; 2. to ask Micheli to see that I get a copy of the philosophical writings of Doctor Vogli. I will pay the copyist. Ask him immediately. Keep urging the people in Montalto to make quickly the habits and vesture for the Xavier group. I have been receiving good news from them. Let us become saints. Pray for me. After the Fridays in honor of Xavier have been copied, we shall come to an agreement about the book etc. *Sum tuus ex corde, in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit sanguine.*⁴⁶

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ancona, July 7

For a short time, Camerino for Pievetorina. Later, "Rome". Regards to everyone and especially to your holy family. I shall be in Pievetorina on the 13th. I shall remain there five or six days.

739

July 7, 1823

Msgr. Carlo Manassi

Bishop of Priverno, Sezze and Terracina

Terracina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My most venerable and beloved Monsignor

Here I am sending a reply to your most dear letter. I thank God for the good that you are promoting in behalf of your seminarians. The voice of the shepherd makes a special impression in the hearts of his sheep, etc., etc..

⁴⁶ I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who has redeemed us in his blood.

I am deeply appreciative of your concern for the notary's deed with regard to the transferral of the remains of our holy founder, concerning whom I am hopeful that they will gather together information about his holy life and saintly death. In this, too, you will gain great merit in the eyes of God.

The oratory in Sezze is for me one of the most consoling objectives of the ministry as a fruit of the Mission. Continue to support this holy work that has been initiated *ut per ipsos glorificetur Pater misericordiarum*.⁴⁷

Please remind the Canon Penitenziere of the aggregation of that Pious Union in Rome. I already spoke to him about it during my sojourn there. I would like to have confirmation of the holy plans.

Likewise, I am sincerely obliged to you for the encouragement that you have given to Columba, the Holy Family nun. In my name and that of the cardinal, please remind her superior and the vicar superior that in the services for new nuns they should adhere to the praxis as contained in the directory which refers specifically to expenses, and not do otherwise. Every contrary abuse should be avoided. I am against any lack of observance. Those having the responsibility for sacred institutes should either change the rules or see that the rules are observed to the letter. Ordinarily, however, changing the rules is scarcely to be expected. *Qui regulae vivit, Deo vivit*.⁴⁸ I truly love the Institute of the Holy Family because it is entirely imbued with the spirit of St. Ignatius, and I seem to see in it, accordingly, a Mission House.

I like very much the spirit of Mother Melchiorre. Eventually, but not now, perhaps by this coming November, I would allow them the use of the Canevaccio chemise; after that experiment, they can move toward sleeping in their habits, but always *ad tempus*;⁴⁹ but, in the meantime, prayers, and see how it turns out, both physically and morally. Have no doubt that mitigations in the rule will not stand in the way of basic observance. In general, the establishment of sacred institutes, *in insipientia loquor*,⁵⁰ will not be pleasing to God unless observance to the letter is maintained, and not otherwise. From that, one then sets up the norm for whatever is to follow. The method should be handled with gentleness, and only gradually should the good be verified in accordance with prudence, etc. etc.. But, the fundamental principle must be as firm as a boulder in the sea. *Qui regulae vivit, Deo vivit*.

With regard to periods of fasting, this can be examined at a later time. In the meantime, their interior attitudes should be set deeply within, like mysterious roots of mystical plants.

⁴⁷ So that the Father of mercies may be glorified through them.

⁴⁸ He who lives for the rule lives for God.

⁴⁹ At the time.

⁵⁰ I speak in foolishness.

Allow them to grow to maturity, *et omnia cum tempore*.⁵¹ For the time being, therefore, they should adapt to a mitigated rule to rescue them from the sense of guilt. We shall climb Jacob's ladder very gradually, step by step.

As for going barefoot, no. It is a good idea not to adopt such a singular practice. It would not be in keeping with the De Sales method of interior life which so few people know about. Rather, they should insist on leading a life in common with the spirit of St. Ignatius, but truly a perfect life in common. St. Teresa says that because of the vow or poverty many nuns are lost. It is an act of charity to promote such a life in common in order to offset attacks. Recommend this very strongly to the nuns of the Holy Family. I am confident that they will be able to hold rigorously to the terms; for, otherwise, *qui spernit modica paulatim decidet*.⁵² Ah yes! Let us love God; indeed, let us love him perfectly and eagerly. He is deserving of this since he is a most loving father; likewise, it is to our own welfare to do so. In writing this, I am preaching to myself as well *ut Domini voluntas a me strenue adimpleatur. Orabimus ergo ad invicem ut salutem consequamur aeternam*.⁵³ Oh holy Paradise, the only goal of all our desires!

It is not true that I went to Ferrara. I do not know how such rumors get spread about. I love Ferrara because of the devotion to the Divine Blood. I love Bologna for its Xavier chapel. And, why don't we set up one of our establishments in Comacchio with the idea of extending our mission work to the Austrians? Encourage the pious organizations in that region also. Oh let us do the greatest possible good work. God rewards *secundum laborem*⁵⁴ as well as good intentions. Let us arm ourselves with zeal so as to impede vice and sin. *Optabam anathema esse pro fratribus*,⁵⁵ the apostle would say... *quis infirmatur et ego non infirmor?, etc. etc.*⁵⁶

Do not forget about the correspondence of the Mission House of Bologna. For our Archives, I will have to have you prepare the documents of the places, in copy form, etc. Be helpful as much as you can for our Society. I continue getting new companions, but I do not see the time when I will always be able to provide hospices in the various places in the Province. Most illustrious and most reverend lordship, *ora pro me miserrimo. Sum tuus ex corde in Corde*

⁵¹ And all things in due time.

⁵² He who spurns little things will gradually fall.

⁵³ As the will of God, let it be fulfilled by me. Let us pray therefore for each other that we may obtain eternal salvation.

⁵⁴ According to the work.

⁵⁵ I desire to be anathema for my brothers.

⁵⁶ Who is weak and I am not weak? Etc. etc.

*Jesu Christi Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*⁵⁷

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Buf.

M. Ap.

Send you reply "Rome". I kiss your hands.

Obtain prayers for me from everyone *ut intrem in Sanctuarium Dei, etc.*⁵⁸ Please remind Canon Canai about my notification of Masses etc.

740

July 8, 1823

Fr. Pietro Torsani

Pievotorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Pietro

Oh how dear to me are your letters. I am departing from Ancona next Saturday morning so that I can be there Sunday morning and in time for dinner. In the evening, the retreat for the priests will begin, since the days are limited. However, I do want to do this good work in order not to lose this very holy practice. With the zeal that inflames your heart, please make known the pertinent information. If someone were to arrive on the morning of the 14th, that will not matter. I would like to see the place filled with our Missionaries as well as other retreatants. Oh if everyone would love God! Be assured that our Society is a spring in the midst of the evangelical field. Let us be active and let us set deep roots for this mystical plant, so that it will spread *ad majorem Dei gloriam*.⁵⁹ Propagate the news of this good work, and you will be consoled for having promoted it. *Dominus retribuet in benedictionibus dulcedinis*.⁶⁰

I give thanks to God for the zeal that you show for our devotion. On Sunday, during the day, I note that it will be up to me to give the catechetical instruction in the church there. *Quod Domino placet fiat*.⁶¹ Oh what a grace of God it is, my dearest in the Lord, to render service to the glory of Jesus Crucified. He gave himself entirely for us, and we must give ourselves entirely

⁵⁷ Pray for me a most miserable person. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, who has redeemed us in his blood.

⁵⁸ In order that I may enter the sanctuary.

⁵⁹ For the greater glory of God.

⁶⁰ The Lord will repay you with sweet blessings.

⁶¹ Let there be what pleases the Lord.

to him. We are irrevocably his. But he is the *fasciculus myrrhae*.⁶² But, do we lose courage because of that? No. Read all the rest that lies in my heart.

It appears from your letter that you are somewhat upset. Courage, courage. I love you deeply in Jesus Christ. I hope that I can restore you to contentment. We shall discuss things together. United, we shall try to discover the will of God. You will listen to me, and I will listen to you. We shall work things out at the foot of the Crucifix. Indeed, for you and for me, what else do we yearn for if not Jesus, and Jesus crucified? So, I leave you now within the adorable wounds of our beloved. I now have other Masses for you, and we will talk about that in person. You are to consider me as a loving brother as well as a respectful servant. In all difficulties, consider me as

Affectionately yours

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Ancona, July 8, 1823

741

July 16, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I do not know what to say to you concerning the mistake that occurred with regard to the money for the decree etc. In the meantime, I have written to Rome that they should not be surprised about the delay. I realize that in order to complete the matter well, and as a mutual propriety, it will be necessary for you to write. To lessen the anguish, you might procure Masses and divide them among the priests and have them surrender the alms in behalf of the holy objective. If it were not that the ministry is calling me to a thousand different things, I would have supplied on my own, but I simply am not able to do so. The other possibility would be to get an allotment from the devotees. Pray for me who with esteem remain wholeheartedly

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, July 16, 1823

P. S. I give thanks to God for the good progress being made by the pious organizations. Oh how many merits for you!

742

July 16, 1823

⁶² A bundle of myrrh.

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Father Giovannelli

Thank you for your letter. How is your health now? I am happy that you were able to get to the church for the Sunday of the most Precious Blood. I hope that our prayers will achieve what is desired. I would like always to get the best news.

I beg you to renew efforts with the Lord Mayor of Teramo for the solicited reimbursement.

When I am in Rome before the feast of the Assumption, willingly shall I speak with convincing force about your holy Congregation toward which I feel such a deep affection, being enrolled also in Rome as a member of the Oratory. But, offer prayers that my words will be listened to. In spite of this, you people should not cease trying to obtain other mediators, and, in particular Sterlini. I am fully sympathetic with your situation.

Our Bellini is feeling very well and he sends his regards to you. May the Lord give you strength to direct the pious institutions to which you should seek to draw as many as you can, and hold meetings often. Oh blessed are we if we firmly establish so great a work!

Pray a great deal for me, and get as many others as you can to pray for me. Do not stop encouraging the bishop to have, each year, a retreat for the priests, for it is a practice which God wants in every locale. The same thing is true for the men. Pray for me. With esteem, I remain, in Jesus Crucified

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, July 16, 1823

For now, send your letters to "Fuligno for S. Felice in Giano".

743

July 26, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

With joy and exultation of my soul, I received your two petitions. I have no doubt about the exactness since it comes from you. As for the matter of burial in a church, I would like to handle that myself when, before the feast of the Assumption, I will be in Rome.

I would like to know what the charges would be for Quartaroli's printings, since I would like to get a number of copies. The same is true with respect to the composition that you are completing on the ten Fridays. Also, I urge you to find an opportunity of returning my book to

Rome, since it is the only copy that I have. Tell Micheli that I read with extreme delight the little work produced by Doctor Voggi. It seems to me that I wrote that I would like to have a copy of his philosophical writings and that I would pay the copyist. I am referring to the writings of Doctor Voggi.

I shall not fail to keep your very wonderful mother in my prayers, and you know how much more I am in need of prayers. I return everybody's greetings. Canon Tarulli is presently in the diocese of Norcia, but will soon depart for Romagna.

With pleasure, I always recall my stay there, your holy conversation, as well as that of your family. Recommend me to their prayers in common. Let us labor joyously for God. May Jesus fill us with his holy love. In him and for him, always with the desire for our final union with him in heaven, I remain

Your humble servant

G. C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Pievetorina, July 26, 1823

744

July 28, 1823

Pope Pius VII

Most blessed Father⁶³

The Missionaries of the Archconfraternity of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ humbly petition your Holiness to grant them the privilege of following the Roman Calendar in the recitation of the Divine Office, so that in the execution of their ministry they might be able to maintain a certain uniformity, and especially when, at times, the subjects of one House must help those in another House, but under a different jurisdiction; that etc.

*Ex audientia SS.mi die 28 Iulii 1823. SS.mus benigne annuit pro gratia iuxta petita in privata tantum Divini Officii recitatione, excepto tamen Dedicacionis Ecclesiae Cathedralis atque praecipui Patroni loci Officio, ad instar Regularium. Contrariis quibuscumque non obstantibus.*⁶⁴

F. Card. Galleffi

745

⁶³ On the back of this manuscript of the Saint, in a different handwriting, we read the following words: "Copy; privilege of reciting the Office according to the Roman Calendar".

⁶⁴ From an audience of His Holiness on July 28, 1823, His Holiness consented as a favor, in accordance with the petition, in the private recitation of the Divine Office only, except in the Office of the Dedication of a Cathedral Church and the principal patron of the place, after the manner of the Rule, anything to the contrary notwithstanding.

July 29, 1823
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My Monsignor

I am writing a couple of lines in a hurry. A very excellent priest of Ancona recommends the enclosed. I took it on since it is a matter of justice, concerning which he does not know what he is

to do. I shall await your letter in Frosinone. I ask you to send me a couple of lines for my own consolation, and also to try to provide me with the order for the upcoming month of August for which I am most needful. Asking you for your prayers, most reverend excellency, I remain, with esteem, respect and constant gratitude

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspare C. del Bufalo

Mis. Ap
 Terracina, July 29, 1823

746

July 29, 1823
 Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi
 Rome
 My venerable Monsignor

With urgency, I am sending you the enclosed. Most reverend excellency, asking you to recommend me to God, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.
 Terracina, July 29, 1823

747

August 6, 1823
 Fr. Pietro Torsani
 Pievetorina

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Fr. Pietro

I hope that you received my other letter. At any rate, I am sending an answer to the present one with which I assure you that I have written in behalf of Val S. Angelo, both to Canon Bertoni and Fr. Angelo Primavera. Otherwise, Bellini could supply and you might have Moscatelli come etc. You could also ask Stramazzi, if necessary. I feel sure that in one or the

other way, everything can be worked out. Tell the mayor that he should discuss things with the pastor, and you should see to getting for the ones sent there the faculties that are worthy of special mention.

Make arrangements in Lanciano for another legacy, and discuss things with the Vicar General to whom you will give my regards.

In November, the study of philosophy and theology will be initiated in Giano for the resident young men who are desirous of admittance, and I shall be concerned about these men in residence. Other things, *ad alias*.⁶⁵

I never wrote in such uncivil terms as to say that I did not care about seeing Fr. Vitale. That is simply foreign to my way of thinking. I wrote that he should not wear himself out, since the summer climate did not suit him. I was trying to show an act of politeness, and still it was interpreted in a sinistral way. Patience! You try to straighten his mind out on that. With regard to Tarulli, may God's will be done. Since he does not refuse me, I am counting on him to be in charge of that family there. You see that it all comes down to *posuit fines tuos pacem*.⁶⁶ For your information, Caccia is in Giano, and, if urgency requires it, you can call on him, since Moscatelli is to remain there. After the Mission, you will be there with only Bellini and Caccia, or whoever else may be sent. I saw your memorandum on the extinguished debts. I shall not keep it because you will have a record of it all in your books. You can be consoled in God that you have done a good job, which will continue to be perfected.

Stramazzi wrote to me that he has completed almost everything. Give him my thanks. He has accepted the appointment to give the retreat to the community in November. He is awaiting a copy of the directory which you will send immediately for attention to the basic observances etc.

Have no doubt that I will take care of the relics and everything else as well as I can. You are in a position to gain many merits. The Society will help you to a higher place in heaven. We read of a Capuchin who, being assigned to take care of temporal things, asked his superior to excuse him so that he could remain in choir. The superior granted it to him. But then what? There, in charge of temporal matters, was where God favored him to be. Later, while serving in the choir, he experienced indescribable suffering so that when he was advised about his mistake in following his own desires he placed himself in the hands of obedience and went back to showing a fondness for handling temporal things, etc., etc.. Prayers and courage. Desirous of receiving your reactions, believe me to be, in Jesus Christ,

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1823

⁶⁵ For another time.

⁶⁶ He has established peace in your territory.

Do not forget to promote the ten Fridays in preparation for the feast of Xavier. Take care of the accounts.

748

August 6, 1823
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli
Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Vincenzo

I thank you for your letter. I shall not cease recommending your Congregation.

I am most obliged to you for your efforts in Teramo, *et Dominus retribuet pro me*.⁶⁷

I did not express myself well when I asked for an account of the spirit of your sacred Institute. I would like to know how things could be reconciled with regard to the pastors in the event of death.

In November, the study of philosophy and theology will be initiated for the resident young men who are desirous of joining our Institute. Prayers. The House designated for this is S. Felice in Giano.

Pray a lot for me. This time I am writing in a hurry, but with esteem and very special affection,

I remain wholeheartedly
Your humble servant
G. C. del Bufalo
M. Ap.

Rome, August 6⁶⁸

749

August 6, 1823
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci
Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

Here is the brief which can be opened only by the confessor *in actu sacramentalis confessionis*.⁶⁹ If there is something that is not expressed clearly, the confessor himself,

⁶⁷ And the Lord will repay on my behalf.

⁶⁸ The year is certainly 1823 as can be deduced from his mention of the opening of the school of philosophy and theology in S. Felice in Giano, a thing referred to in other letters of this same year.

⁶⁹ In the act of sacramental confession.

according to regulations, is to write again and all will ultimately be taken care of.

This present letter of mine can serve also as a response to the excellent Micheli, whom you will greet effusively for me with your whole heart. However, inform him that he should have a copy of Doctor Vogli's metaphysics copied for me, except for the treatise *de Deo*⁷⁰ which he sent to me and which I suppose is developed philosophically. Micheli should supply, at least in synopsis or outline form, the five pages that are missing. In November, the study of philosophy will be initiated in S. Felice in Giano for our Institute, in addition to the one for theology which has already been started for the young men in residence who are desirous of dedicating themselves to our Institute. And even though they may not all persevere, they will always be excellent priests in their own dioceses and we will be happy for having been influential in this good deed. Tell the very dear Micheli that I shall be happy to see his son for whom I, a miserable one, will not fail to pray. I regret that I can stay in Rome only a short while, otherwise I would take care of him myself. Finally, ask everyone to keep me in their prayers, as well as the Society which is growing and spreading further. I will pay the copyist of the metaphysics.

Keep up your letter correspondence with Quartaroli, a holy and pious man, and work together. I have received the copy of the Seven Offerings. Be sure to inform me about the printing, and the same holds for the Fridays in honor of Xavier. Would it not be a good thing for the sisters of charity to be promoted in that area? You might give this apostolate to your wife.

After the feast of the Assumption, I will present the petition in regard to burials. In the meantime, prayers. I am hopeful of good results.

I am writing, in this ordinary mail delivery, to Filippo Vallerani.

I am told that the Passionists are very easily to be installed in Ascoli; this makes me completely happy. But, one of our Houses there would also be helpful. If only all the owners, and any others who are able, would get together etc. But in regard to the good work to be done, let us leave that all to divine inspirations. We have begun correspondence with respect to Acquaviva. Prayers. Continue to encourage the pious organizations and, in particular, in behalf of the least of the farm people. With esteem and respect (asking you also to save a Hail Mary for a very needful soul etc.), consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

G. C. del Bufalo

M. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1823

Tell Micheli that he should try to find some way of providing me with all of the writings of Doctor Vogli. He will be given merit in the eyes of God.

⁷⁰ About God.

Mr. Camillo Silvestri Celi
Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

I wish to assure you that at the first opportunity to meet with the most reverend Treasurer, I shall speak in behalf of the petition you enclosed for me. In the meantime, I am wholeheartedly content with the good work that is being promoted in your area and I pray to the Lord that *de die in diem fructus augeatur*.⁷¹ And oh what an extreme comfort it will be for us, at the time when God will call us to himself, to be consoled by the good that we have done for the benefit of our souls!

So, be courageous; do not cease to be insistent so that the plant will set deeper and deeper roots. You will receive merits in the eyes of God for a work that is offered to posterity who will in turn be blessed by so salutary an institution. Meanwhile, with esteem and respect, along with greetings to all the confreres, in particular to Agnelli and all the priests of the area, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

Gaspere C. del Bufalo

Miss. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1823

⁷¹ From day to day let the fruit increase.