

## St. Gaspar's Letters

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August 6, 1823  
Fr. Giovanni Rossi, Oratorian  
Montefiore

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovanni

While I was preparing to write to you, you anticipated by sending your letter of July 23rd, in reply to which I inform you as follows.

I see no difficulty in having one of our foundations in that locality, after first verifying the release of the Conventual Fathers, and taking into account their assignment, as seems already to have been attested for those Fathers, in Acquaviva. I do not, however, know what may arise. Work things out well with Monsignor Ugolini and those Conventual Fathers in Rome, along with a memorandum of approval from the most reverend Vicar Apostolic, and then the most reverend Treasurer will be the mediator. Adhering to these fundamental principles, continue also to follow God's inspirations and you can be assured of a good result. In the meantime, prayers. One cannot ask the most reverend Treasurer to intervene unless the reactions of those Religious is known beforehand. You are wise enough to realize that this is a necessary premise for the entire matter that is being discussed.

I am very happy to learn that you will be going to Pievetorina to make the eight day retreat according to regulations. But, before you send word to them there, I would like to have another letter from you in which you will indicate whether there could be a variation in the time. Afterwards, you will come to Rome and you will have the advantage that in the meanwhile the discussion of the matter has begun. As for the hardships in your Institute, govern yourself very well, for each one experiences limitations *secundum mensuram donationis Christi*.<sup>1</sup> I approve the idea, however, that you should, *pro interim*,<sup>2</sup> keep all in secret from the Fathers there. Your prudent judgment is necessary in discovering and being convinced of the will of God.

In November, the study of philosophy will be initiated in S. Felice in Giano of Umbria. Anyone who wishes to enter there should send in his request and then the pertinent instructions will be given him. Perhaps, your young man will be able to take advantage of this. The study of theology has already begun, along with insistence on sacred eloquence. However, it is understood that these young men will be considered as boarders until they achieve the goal of being Missionaries.

I rejoice in learning of your concern in promoting our devotion. Booklets are available in

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<sup>1</sup> According to the measure of the gift of Christ.

<sup>2</sup> For the time being.

Fuligno, in Ascoli etc. For the time being, activate their recital in public; afterwards, depute some priests, whom you will list for me, and I will give them the authority in the various places. Gradually, I will send them the necessary instructions and pertinent certification in doing the work of enrolment.

So, I now authorize you for Montefiore; keep a record of the men and women enrolled, which you should later send to me. Make known to them the indulgences available, as printed, if I remember correctly, in the booklets from Ascoli and perhaps also in those from Fuligno. The requirement is to recite the Glory be to the Father etc. seven times. Nothing obliges under pain of sin. You can also enrol in Montefiore any outsider, but the enrolment must be made in that locality. In your absence, you could depute another priest of your holy Congregation and he will later receive certification.

Finally, as you continue to participate in this work, I shall be able to communicate to you, at its proper time, the plans that I have in mind for you. Pray for me and with esteem and respect, consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Rome, August 6, 1823

752

August 8, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Within a short time I will be sending you the booklet for our month. I am delighted to learn of the good work that is being promoted there. I said nothing more to Monsignor Falconieri except that the members were gathering alms. Pray for me, who, though in a hurry, remain and will constantly be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap .

Rome, August 8<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Without doubt, the year is 1823, as can be deduced by making a comparison with another letter written to this same person on May 30, 1823. This letter seems to resolve the question of "the mistake that occurred with regard to the money for the decree" which is mentioned in the letter of July 16, 1823. The month, however, would probably be August. We use the conditional form since the abbreviations for April and August in the letters of St. Gaspar can be easily confused.

753

August 8, 1823  
 Msgr. Nicola Mattei  
 Archbishop of Camerino  
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Monsignor

Since the Mission and Retreat House in Piavetorina was in need of help from another of our men, I asked the most reverend Vicar General to grant him the faculties necessary for the fulfillment of the ministry, and I assured him that I would inform your most reverend excellency. The Vicar General was kind enough to agree to this, so now I am fulfilling my part of the agreement, while reserving for myself the pleasure of seeing you in person within a few days. I hope that you will not be departing, because of the heat, *et os ad os loquemur*.<sup>4</sup>

The priest who is temporarily substituting is Fr. Emidio Bellini from Ascoli, wellknown to the newly elected bishop of Montalto since he was a student of his. You can be quite certain about the fitness of this man to the highest degree, otherwise I would not have hazarded this appointment. The men who come to our Institute must be well prepared *saltem*<sup>5</sup> for hearing confessions. Presently plans are being made for Missions in Valsantangelo according to their written requests. In Piavetorina, I conducted a shift of retreats for the priests, also as a sign of my attachment to your sheep. Pray a lot for me, especially during this Novena. I kiss your hands and remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

August 8, 1823

754

August 9, 1823  
 Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli  
 Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giovannelli

I thank you for your efforts in behalf of my affairs in Teramo, and Canon Palma recently wrote to me about that, informing me that they are in the process of arranging an allotment.

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<sup>4</sup> And let us speak mouth to mouth.

<sup>5</sup> At least.

Therefore, discontinue your urgings for the time being. We shall see. The reflections of the bishop with respect to our Bellini are justified. I told him that he should be calm in harmony with the will of the bishop.

I shall recommend your Congregation, and I would truly like to be effective. God knows what my desires are. I shall not forget S. Agostino, but the bishop should keep insisting. As for the Collegio for the two young men that you mentioned to me, I would advise one of the schools opened by the Jesuit Fathers. One is in Viterbo, another in Urbino, I believe, another in Modena etc. I shall investigate Rome also. But in this sort of thing, I am really not very practical. More in a later letter from me. I give thanks to God for your physical recovery. May the Lord preserve you *usque ad extremam senectutem*,<sup>6</sup> just as was the case with S. Philip.

Father Michele Boni has expressed to me his sentiments as well as those of Monsignor Strambi concerning his vocation. I recall that I already answered another letter of his which he probably showed you. Now he is signifying this very same thing that I referred to and he asks that I should recommend him to your spiritual direction and for him to have a conference with you concerning this most important matter. So, do me the favor of telling him that I did write to you, and that I am not going to write directly to him, since I really do not know what to tell him, and that I shall not fail to recommend him to God. In the confusion in which he apparently finds himself, I would not approve of his taking the vows, *saltem*<sup>7</sup> at the present time. The devil works on people who are disturbed. Have him first seek peace, equilibrium and repose, under your direction, and then he will be able to offer his vows to God. Pray to the Lord for this matter. *Agitur enim de re gravissima*.<sup>8</sup> I shall not dare to say anything further other than manifesting the status of my soul and that I submit myself to the inspirations that you will implore from the Almighty. In the meantime, while recommending that you look after the pious organizations even in the Kingdom and establishing them wherever you can, I remain, with esteem and respect

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap .

Rome, August 9, 1823

P. S. I would like you to send to the Vicar Capitular of Teramo a set of regulations adapted for the Conservatory in Teramo. There, in Ascoli, there are various institutes. Make an extract of the best for the teachers as well as the young girls. I urge you to do this as soon as you can and stress the devotion to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ, as well as the recitation of the Chaplet.

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<sup>6</sup> Until extreme old age.

<sup>7</sup> At least.

<sup>8</sup> There is activity about a very grave matter.

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August 20, 1823  
 Cardinal Luigi Ercolani  
 Rome  
 Your Eminence

On the evening of the feast of most holy Mary assumed into heaven. I shall hold a meeting in order to discuss the matters of the hospice. Let me know, please, with a line or so as a distinct favor, when you will be available between Saturday and Sunday immediately prior to the feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. I kiss the sacred purple, and, most reverend Eminence, while asking you for your prayers, I have the honor to repeat with particular esteem and obeisance that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

House, August 10, 1823

756

August 15, 1823  
 Fr. Francesco Pierantoni  
 Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of J. C.

Fr. Francesco

In reply to your letter, I must say to you that unless we discuss things together we shall not come to any conclusion, intent as we must be to have as our only purpose the glory of God, using sincerity, frankness and evangelical lovingkindness. Therefore, I shall do all I can to be there in that House in time for dinner next Saturday. So, send the House's mule and two others or mounts that can be obtained from people who can supply them without having to pay for them (otherwise, I shall come, as usual, on foot which will not be an inconvenience for me), and see that they arrive at the usual place around the 12th or 13th hour of the morning.<sup>9</sup> It would be better at the 12th hour. Have them wait there until midmorning, and, if they should not see me by then, they should return. It would be mean that I have been delayed. Pray for me, and, in a hurry, I remain,

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, August 15, 1823

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<sup>9</sup> 12 or 13 in the morning, that is, 7:30 or 8:30 a.m. Telling time: cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Time

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August 16, 1823  
Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli  
Ascoli

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovannelli

I sympathize with your situation. What I mean to say is that even though God is increasing your crosses, he will not fail to supply you with the necessary and proportionate helps. It is our faith that *cum ipso sum in tribulatione, eripiam eum et glorificabo eum*.<sup>10</sup>

With regard to your Congregation, I shall have a discussion next Wednesday. In the meantime, prayers.

I hope that your niece will be cured, if her mother will vow to wear a small, red ribbon that has been blessed, indicative of her devotion to the divine Blood, *ad annum*.<sup>11</sup>

As for that brother, perhaps the newlyelected bishop of Montalto could speak in his behalf, since he has acquaintances in that locality.

With regard to the education of the two young men, I will say more in another ordinary mail delivery. I am thinking about that matter, but I would like to have a day or so more.

In conclusion, let me say: *Voluntas Dei sanctificatio vestra*.<sup>12</sup>

I recommend Father Boni to you. Be concerned about his soul, as I have no doubt you will do. Pray for me, and with esteem, believe me to be

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, August 16 , 1823

758

August 22, 1823  
Msgr. Muccioli (Gregorio)  
Bishop of Agatopoli  
Rome

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Msgr.

I am enclosing the document for Teramo. Append to it the testimonial dealing with the authenticity of my handwriting, just to maintain good order. Msgr. Santelli will arrive in order to

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<sup>10</sup> With His help I will rescue him in tribulation, and glorify him.

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

<sup>12</sup> The will of God is you sanctification.

deal with you on the Bedoni matter, for after closer examination, it is not at all within our capacity to settle. In order that the Hospital of the Holy Spirit, most needful of help, should not lose this benefit, the aforementioned Santelli will try to work it out and conclude it according to his own abilities.

With esteem and most special attachment, I am, while begging you for prayer,  
your

Humble, devoted, obliged servant and loving brother

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

(Roma) August 22, 1823<sup>13</sup>

Give the aggregation as soon as possible to Cencio.

759

August 22, 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Bishop of Agatopoli

Rome

With this letter, I hereby attest that I have been authorized to procure the postulation for the aggregation of the Pious Union erected in Teramo under the title of the most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, with the faculty of being able to subdelegate. Therefore, I petition the most illustrious and reverend Monsignor Gregorio Muccioli, bishop of Agatopoli and President of the Archconfraternity in Rome to designate a person who will carry out what I myself would have been required to do. In faith etc.

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

this day, August 22, 1823

[Muccioli's testimony follows]

*Testor ego infrascriptus de identitate characteris R.mi D. Canonici Gasparis del Bufalo mihi cogniti, cunctaque desuper scripta sua propria manu esse exarata.*

*In quorum fide etc. Romae hac die 29 Augusti 1823.*

*Gregorius Muccioli Ep.us Agathopolitanus, Praeses perpetuus eiusdem Archiconfraternitatis, et Instituti Sacrarum Missionum Superior Deputatus.*<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> One can conclude that this letter was written from Rome itself because of the testimonial for the authenticity of his handwriting which the Saint mentions here; it was released by Muccioli on the same day.

<sup>14</sup> I, the undersigned, is witness to the identity of the signature of the Very Reverend Canon Gaspar del Bufalo, known to me, and that everything written below was written by his own hand. In testimony of this, etc. Rome. August 29, 1823.

Gregorio Muccioli, Bishop of Agatopoli, permanent President of the same Archconfraternity, and Delegated Superior of the Institute of Sacred Missions.

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August 24 , 1823  
Fr. Giovanni Rossi  
Montafiore

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father Giovanni

I think your trip to Rome would be most useful, since as soon as the new Pope is elected, you will present your petition. Furthermore, according to what your secular brother told me in a letter from the General, there was no indication of a release by the Conventual Fathers. In this regard I would not know what to say, since I would like to get along with all. So, I sympathize with your situation with respect also to family concerns, but since you are a priest, I do not know what other decision you could make outside of that of prayer. And how could your mother not be content to see one of her sons dedicated to the apostolate?

As regards the retreat called for by the rule, you are perfectly right in deferring that, and then making a retreat with the community in November in preparation for the feast of St. Xavier. I add that in Rome we have only one hospice, but that within a short while another locale will be arranged. It will be difficult for you to be able to live with me since I will be involved in the needs of the Society. However, since our house of studies will be opened in Albano instead of Giano, I could assign you to that community and there, if you wish, you could teach theology, as you told me that could be worked out. Still, it might be better to keep you free for work in the ministry, and I could appoint you to Frosinone, while the locale of Albano is going to be crowded because of the young men.

Realize, then, that with these things in view, you would become a member of the Society. However, do not urge your withdrawal from the Filippini Fathers for the time being. Be very prudent. Later on, the proper papers will be drawn up for your withdrawal. In the hospice in Rome, at the present time, there is lodging and each one works out for himself the matter of meals. You, however, will only be passing through, and since I hope that the new Pope will be elected within the week, everything should go along on a steady basis.

Give my best wishes to Monsignor Ugolini. Let me know whether your young man will be joining our students. With esteem, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Rome, August 24 , 1823

P. S. I. would like to have a decisive word with regard to teaching. I repeat: adhere to my advice.

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August 28, 1823  
 Cardinal Luigi Ercolani  
 Rome  
 Your Eminence

I am writing this letter from Sezze in order to assure you that I shall not fail, insofar as I can, to take care of the matters pertaining to the Monastery of the Holy Family. Presently, it has been arranged to have Curate Canovi to serve as confessor, since in hearing the confession of each individual religious, I have learned that he has been satisfactorily received by the community. As for other matters, we can discuss them in person after the Conclave. However, I am eager to remind you about the dowry for the young novice who has just terminated the period of probation. Your Eminence could have the money sent to the Archdeacon la Galla.

Finally, I assure your Eminence that, in general, things are proceeding with every possible bit of regularity, *in circumstantiis*,<sup>15</sup> as I will one day explain to you in person. During your holy retreat, do not forget to recommend me to the Lord, just as I, a miserable one, will not fail to do for you. So, most reverend Eminence, while kissing the sacred purple, I have the honor to declare with obeisance that I remain

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Sezze, August 23

762

August 31, 1823

... suffer together and comfort each other mutually.

Learn how to work wisely. Give assistance to Giosafat. Charity is the great sermon of Christianity.

Do not let thorns and tribulations distress you. That is how man exercises virtue and becomes a saint.

Pray for me and consider me as

Affectionately yours in Jesus Christ

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

<sup>16</sup> August 31, 1823

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AugustSeptember 1823

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<sup>15</sup> In circumstances.

<sup>16</sup> Probably this letter, too, was written from Frosinone. Cfr. note on Letter n. 124, August 12, 1823.

Luigia del Bufalo  
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece<sup>17</sup>

1. Tell your mother to invite Cencio's mother and niece for dinner on the feast of the holy Cross, the 14th.

2. Tell Cencio that once the aggregation for Teramo is completed in S. Nicola, he should write to Canon Giuseppe Piercecchi in Teramo for the payment of the six scudi. Furthermore, it will be necessary to address it: "Napoli per Teramo, province of Abruzzo" and he is to pay the postage since it will be going outside the State.

3. Tell him that he should see that the letters sent to me there are forwarded without delay, and, if he thinks it a good idea, he should regulate things as was done previously. I leave this to his good judgment.

4. Tell him that he should put the material on the death of the B. Liguori among the Minu accounts.

Become a saint. Give my greetings to all, in general and in particular, and pray for me, who remains

Your loving uncle  
*G. C. del Bufalo*

764

September 7, 1823  
Fr. Angelo Primavera  
Bolognola

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Angelo

In your association, I am billed for six *scudi* and no more. Figure out the amount. Whenever you wish to have the money, let me know. If you are not occupied in preaching an Advent series, go to Pievetorina for the retreat according to our rule. Pray for me very, very much. Send your letters to Rome. If I were to have need of your assistance at the beginning of November, would you be available? But, really, just when are you going to come to us *ad standum*?<sup>18</sup> I repeat, pray also for that intention, and believe me to be

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

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<sup>17</sup> This letter is not dated. From the letter to Muccioli on August 22, 1823, in which he speaks of the aggregation for Teramo, just as he does in this one, and from the reply, we deduce that this letter was written sometime between the end of August and the beginnings of September, 1823.

<sup>18</sup> To remain.

M. Ap.  
Frosinone, September 7, 1823

765

September 7, 1823  
Fr. Luigi Cocci  
Grutti

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

With regard to the retreat called for by our rule, held during the Novena in honor of St. Xavier in preparation for his feast on December 3rd, I now ask whether you would do me the favor of conducting the one in Giano following the directory which you can request from Fr. Luigi Achille, so that you can make a copy of it and then return it to him. It would also be useful for you when you make your own usual annual retreat.

Send your reply to Rome, and may the reply be a favorable one. In Jesus Christ Crucified, believe me to be

Your humble; devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, September 7, 1823

766

September 8, 1823  
Mr. Camillo Silvestri Celi  
Montalto

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Your memorandum has been tabled because of the death of the Holy Father. Nevertheless, I have given to the Treasurer those appointments which were available, and we shall await the results. If they are not favorable, you may have to ask the bishop to suspend the Lenten and Advent preaching for this year alone, and to use those funds for furnishings, unless you would have to give to the Conventuals what is due to their property. To supply for the void, we could manage to have one of our Missionaries, who would come from the nearest neighboring place, to give some catechetical instructions during Lent.

I cannot express to you how edified I have been with your zeal. Do not become discouraged; go forward despite any difficulties. Prayers and courage. Tell Agnelli, if I am not mistaken, that I was unable to do much in Rome about what he wrote to me because of the death of the Holy Father. With esteem and respect, I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*  
Miss. Ap.  
September 8, 1823

767

September 8, 1823  
Fr. Giovanni Rossi  
Montefiore

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Rossi

Thank you for your letter. You handle things as you see best. Send word beforehand about your arrival. I shall follow your directions: as regards the teaching position, prayers. In a hurry, Father, but with esteem. I remain

Your humble and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

September 8, 1823

768

September 9, 1823  
Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci  
Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

This letter is also intended for Micheli in the matters that apply to him, together with my feelings of humble respect and gratitude. Tell him that I received the treatise *de Deo*,<sup>19</sup> that I would like to have the one on Psychology, but first I prefer to have the ones on Logic and Ontology. I contacted your brotherinlaw, and Micheli's son; and I was delighted by his character. I offered him a few reminders and I advised him to make a retreat once a year and to firm up the plant now that it is still tender.

As regard the brief, I would say that you would work that out with the pastor. If there is need of anything, please write to me. Tell the pastor about the use made of any furnishing, and why you felt that it should be done etc., and in that way this, too, can be brought to a conclusion.

I am eager to have copies of the Ten Fridays of St. Xavier. From your correspondence with Quartaroli, let me know whether the printing has been completed. The Fridays will begin soon. In this, also, you will demonstrate clearly your zeal.

The printing of the Offerings is to be the one that I had you copy in the form of

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<sup>19</sup> About God.

meditations. See that you energetically watch out for any mistake.

If I could have the course prepared by Storchenau, amplified by Micheli, I would be very happy, just as I am with having the treatises of Vogli. It seems that I have not overlooked anything except to ask you for your prayers and the prayers of many others so that I will become a saint. With greetings to all of your family and to everyone else, in Jesus Crucified, *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,<sup>20</sup> I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, September 5, 1823

P. S. I did not understand what you said to me about the author of the pious exercise.

In behalf of a hospice for the poor, I would like to purchase from your area there some fabric or cloth for bed sheets, but very durable. Give me your advice and let me know quickly. You will gain great merit if you do this, as I have no doubt you will.

769

September 15, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giovannelli

With regard to your Congregation, and the same holds true with respect to the church of S. Agostino, be patient until the election of the new Pope.

Write directly to Bellini in Pievetorina because I, too, see the urgency for his return. However, ask Giobbi to go to that House. Presently he has nothing standing in the way. I give thanks to God for your niece. Let us continue to pray. With regards to the young men that you asked me to help, as I wrote to you before, I would have liked to have them enrol in some Collegio conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and I say this without wishing to show prejudice towards the merits of other communities. In Rome, I think that the Collegio Ghislieri would be appropriate and in that event you should contact directly, in my name, the Rector Capiglioni and he will give you all the details.

When necessary, always send your letters to me to Rome keeping me informed of the progress of things, since I do not want to see our correspondence interrupted. With respect to the Missions in the Kingdom, I can say nothing more than this, that if the bishops are desirous of them, they should write to the future Roman Pontiff. As far as I am concerned, I shall not fail to carry out immediately his commands. In Jesus Christ Crucified, believe me to be

Your humble servant

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<sup>20</sup> Who has redeemed us by his blood.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Pontecorvo, September 15, *in actu Missionis*<sup>21</sup>

Make no changes in the procession of the Crucifix at night. Courage. In Teramo, they have printed the Ten Fridays or Sundays in honor of Xavier. Address your letter to Donato Quartaroli in Teramo.

770

September 23, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Divine Blood

Most esteemed Canon

You will be receiving some certificates for enrolling in the Divine Blood and with regard to the expenses, we shall settle it like this, with my taking care of most of it ... you will celebrate for me, as soon as possible, five Masses, sending me then the notification of that.

As soon as I get a bit settled in Rome, I will write to you concerning your brother whom I will not forget to recommend to his Eminence Frasoni as soon as I arrive in Rome.

Address your letters to "Rome". In a hurry, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

September 23<sup>22</sup>

771

September 1823

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I have entrusted to Severini the task of coming to you, most reverend excellency, and bringing you two groups of petitions given to me during the Missions in Ancona. The first packet, wrapped in package form, pertains to those sentenced *in perpetuo*,<sup>23</sup> as is seen in my

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<sup>21</sup> In conducting a Mission.

<sup>22</sup> From other letters to this same person during this year, in which he also refers to his "brother", we deduce that the year must be 1823.

<sup>23</sup> Permanently.

explanatory note included therein. In the second packet is a collection of petitions for those sentenced *ad tempus*<sup>24</sup> as is likewise evident from the note that I have enclosed there. However, I point out the following:

1. I could do no more than separate the petitions concerning those sentenced *ad tempus* from those that are *in perpetuo*, and to assign them a number.

2. In some cases, I may have commented in some way, and in others I may have said nothing. That is due either to the fact that the presentation of the memorandum was more exact in its wording, based, for example, on the reason for the sentencing, or, because I simply did not have the time, or finally, because certain ones of the petitions truly deserve to be read by the person who is responsible for granting the favor asked.

3. Among the witnesses who support the petitions, some present a much broader explanation, others are more concise.

4. There are some whose term is about to come to an end and, computing from the time of the Mission, the time is even shorter since I did not present their requests immediately.

5. I would like to be more helpful in behalf of those who have had recourse to me, but I really do not have the time available. I recommend them to your charity.

6. Some are noted to have been ill. It appears that I have nothing more to add. However, I would only point out that with the imminent election of the Supreme Pontiff,<sup>25</sup> the prisoners could be consoled *ad vitam*,<sup>26</sup> and on that occasion, everyone, in general, could feel the lovingkindness of his sovereign clemency, not excluding the political prisoners who made the retreat in the fortress of Ancona. They recommended their cases urgently and I regarded them as most deserving of every kindness on the part of the government. Most reverend excellency, with esteem and respect, believe me, in the meanwhile, to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

772

October 1, 1823

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Mr. Camillo Possenti  
Fabriano

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<sup>24</sup> For the time.

<sup>25</sup> From the reference to "the imminent election of the Supreme Pontiff", that is, Leo XII, which occurred on September 28, 1823, we deduce that this letter, which bears no written date in the original, is to be assigned to September of 1823.

<sup>26</sup> For life.

Thank you for your very dear letter. *Absentes sumus corpore, presentes autem spiritu: oremus ad invicem, etc.*<sup>27</sup> Through the mails I am sending 18 *scudi* which cover the expenses also for the pamphlets against dancing. Let us be content with that. More than that, one cannot do. I ask, however, for the greatest possible haste, and you will thus increase your merits.

With regard to the pious organizations, I would like you to read the life of the Venerable Vitelli of Fuligno, or, to put it better, to be mindful of it and you will go forward as you are presently doing in being zealous for the glory of God.

Oh what a good thing it would be to have a deputation come to Rome in behalf of establishing our Society there. Prayers. Note, the saints never gave up on their intentions etc. At the present time, we are on the verge of opening the boarding school for young priests, so as to form them into ministers etc. and, even though not all of them will stay on in the Society, at any rate they will be influential, as I hope, in their work for the interests of religion and of the church. *Sum tuus ex corde, in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.*<sup>28</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 1, 1823

773

October 1, 1823

Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci

Offida

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Giovanni Francesco

I thank you for your efforts. When you are able, little by little, I would like to have the writings of Micheli and also all of the writings of Doctor Vogli. If charitable copyists cannot be found, I will have them copied in Rome and quickly send back the originals. And, since Micheli has connections in Bologna, tell him to procure for me a copy of the letters of Xavier in Italian, since they are available there, and then let me know what the cost is.

As for the printing of the Seven Offerings, I will take care of that in Rome. So, send back to me the copy that I gave for Mr. Quartaroli.

See if you can get me a bit of information about buying economically some fabric or cloth for bed sheets in behalf of a poor hospice. Write first, sending me an estimate. The name of the author of the Ten Sundays or Fridays is the Jesuit Father Mattei. I am happy about Pierantozzi's ordination, but I would like it to be done according to regulations. Since he is

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<sup>27</sup> We are absent in body, but present in spirit; let us pray for one another, etc.

<sup>28</sup> I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

teaching grammar school, how can he study on his own? And if he does not study, what will he be good for? I have no idea of what he has studied. I did not examine him. Perhaps I am mistaken. Let this be between us. The Lord knows how much I love him etc.

With regard to the printing, tell Quartaroli that he should look for helpers in Campi or elsewhere. I am expecting 100 copies and no more, since I simply cannot afford more. At that same time, tell him to inform Mr. Berardo Lupi that I still must have my reimbursement for the Missions that he knows about, and I ask that same Berardo to take care of this for me, since I am very much in need of it.

Tell the President in Albano that I do not fail to pray, and that he should do the same for me. I say the same to Fr. Ignazio and Brother Luigi. It is impossible for Fr. Biagio Valentini to go to Pievevitorina, but others can supply for him. Look after the pious organizations with zeal. God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*;<sup>29</sup> and also, *ubi sunt duo vel tres congregati, etc.*<sup>30</sup>

In regard to, Canon Tarulli, I do not know what will come about. I pray, and I am content. If you would like to have my advice, I would not want him to know about our meetings. If God offers you the opportunity, handle the matter with holy indifference, or, in other words allow him to speak on his own and then listen to his directions. A thousand greetings to everyone etc. but in particular to your family. *Ora pro me. Sum tuus ex corde in Corda Jesu Christi.*<sup>31</sup>

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 1

774

October 1, 1823  
Luigia del Bufalo  
Rome

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest niece

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. I agree with your visit to the seven churches, and during that trip, pray for me a lot. I return my greetings to everyone, and in particular to Fr. Giuseppe Mugnai. When a holy, religious Capuchin, an acquaintance of Cencio, whose name is Father Serafino from Alatri, happens to drop by, give him some chocolate or coffee, depending on whether he comes in the morning or after dinner. On Rosary Sunday, you will invite Cencio's

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<sup>29</sup> According to the work and not according to the fruit.

<sup>30</sup> Where there are two or three gathered, etc.

<sup>31</sup> Pray for me. I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ.

mother with her niece, and that will do. Prepare a bit more, but economically. The bishop of Teramo will need to have a letter of recommendation for Tomasso.

With respect to the nuns of S. Rufina, I am no longer in time to send a response. Nevertheless, it will not be necessary to have them pay for the carriage. I already said yes, in another letter of mine, with regard to my mother's mattresses. Become a saint, and, in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I am

Your loving uncle

*G. C. del Buf.*

M. Ap.

October 1, 1823

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October 4, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli

Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Father Giovannelli

Here I am sending a reply to your letter. Please do the favor of sending me a brief and clear petition signed by all of the Fathers of your Congregation to be given to the most reverend Treasurer concerning your affairs, and let us hope for the best. With regard to the church of S. Agostino, the bishop on his own should send the petition directly to the Treasurer. I wrote to Rector Giobbi, and I hope that he has received that letter.

From Teramo, I was expecting to receive the money; up to now, nothing. See whether you can write to them effectively. To tell the truth, I am needful of it, otherwise, I would not have mentioned it at all. If they wish to have other Missions, they are to write to the Holy Father. In regard to the three *paoli*, you should do as follows: offer a Mass for me on St. Francis Xavier's day so that I will be converted to God. In the meanwhile, consider me to be, *in osculo sancto*<sup>32</sup>

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 4, 1823

P. S. In November, the house of studies for the clergy will be opened; also, our conferences will be opened to the older clergy.

Have your niece promise to wear a sign of the most Precious Blood for one year. This consists in a black dress with a red ribbon appended.

776

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<sup>32</sup> With a holy kiss.

October 8, 1823  
 Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli  
 Bishop of Agatopoli  
 Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most venerable Monsignor and dearest brother

Now is the time for compiling the brief synopsis of the life of the deceased Monsignor Albertini. I know that it is difficult for you, with all of your duties in the ministry, to be occupied in this work, so, I have assigned this to another one of our men to put together this important piece of history. However, it is necessary for you to give him the materials. Consequently, I ask you to outline for him: 1. the day of his birth; 2. the offices that he held; 3. the names of his father and mother, and similar details, and since all is to be properly documented, it will be necessary to have the various authentic documents of the witnesses, so that once the biography is made available, these documents must then be preserved in the Archives. In Rome, he was known by the Paolotte nuns of S. Rufino, etc., in particular by Curate Cocchi of S. Giovanni in Laterano, Gasparri, Visconti etc. Therefore, may you occupy yourself effectively in this matter, just as I, too, do not fail to do whatever I can. Try to obtain an original document from his Eminence Falsacappa and let us work together.

Presently, I am working on the house of studies for the clergy, and I am hopeful of great results from it. It makes no difference whether many of the young priests do not subsequently join the Society. We are content to contribute to the good work to be done in the Church. Our study conferences, now that the Society is demonstrating its maturity, will be open for any of the clergy. *Laus Deo in omnibus*.<sup>33</sup> I hope that you do not lose sight of getting an oval portrait of St. Xavier to be set up in S. Nicola in Carcere, and do not forget about the Novena, etc. One cannot describe how prodigious is our apostle of the Indies. In a special way, God is given glory through him. Do not stop supplying Cencio with whatever you have that is useful for the Missions, observing the necessary separation in the Archives. We are not eternal. The Archives of the Archconfraternity are in your charge, both for the preservation of the enrolments as well as the book listing the aggregators, including also the book indicating the devotees who have selected their hours of adoration.

The Lovatti matter should be an object of your insistence, since I have already had to anticipate that amount because of the extreme needs of the House in Giano. Likewise, it is urgent for my use, since the expense that I sustained for *Buon Consiglio* has given me quite a worry. With regard to the deceased Bedoni matter, work it out with Santelli, for I have already made plans for it to be used in the good work of assisting S. Spirito. In regard to the Lovatti matter, until you have made the demand as a distinct favor, please send me an authentic copy for our Archives. If you can, make an effort to increase the number of contributors. Make clear both our attributes and our projects which we continue to do each day to obtain divine blessings; this is

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<sup>33</sup> Praise to God in all things.

the only goal of our desires, leading ultimately to the joyful fulfillment in holy Paradise. Pray a lot for me who find myself in a sea of projects. Nevertheless, there is a good helmsman who is guiding the ship. Surely, you must be receiving letters that speak of Missions or foundations. Please send them on to me so that we can take care of them according to our rule. In the meantime, kissing your hands, and with esteem and a very particular affection, I wholeheartedly remain

Your affectionate friend

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 8, 1823

P. S. Do not forget the suffrages for the contributors etc. As for the hospice, if possible set up a provisional arrangement, and nothing more. If you can, see that you straighten out the ideas of the painter who is doing the image or portrait of Albertini. Make an inventory for the hospice and whatever was undertaken in behalf of the Society. Supply me with a copy of the resolutions of the Congregation with respect to the month of the Precious Blood, so that I can settle my accounts on time. *Ora pro me.*<sup>34</sup> Send me quickly the documents for the biography etc. And as you gradually get them, send them on to me. Perhaps even the Bentivoglio lady will be able to assist in the way that you find best. In the meantime, let us gather together whatever we can. This does not prevent us from adding an appendix later.

777

October 8, 1823

Fr. Giuseppe Ottaviani

Ancona

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Thank you for your recent letter, and I hope that now you will preach to the prisoners. As for the matter of the benefice, both you and Fr. Giuseppe Perini, if I remember correctly, should send, around November when the tribunals are reopened, two distinct and concise memoranda to the Cardinal Bishop, whom I have already contacted, and then we shall see what he can do. I hope for the best. As for the rest, in general, I have not ceased describing for the bishop the status of that city. Prayers. Up to now we do not know if or when he will come. I am surprised about Bedetti. You, however, should not yield and precisely because the rosary is being opposed in that way, there is no other good work that could be dearer to God than to give it full support.

At the same time it is certain that in order to achieve a radical and fullfledged reform, it will not be just a matter of a few days, and only God knows whether we will see the outcome. At

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<sup>34</sup> Pray for me.

any rate, let us do whatever we can. God rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.<sup>35</sup> Fr. Rosa has great connections and is established in Rome. You should cherish him. With respect to your relative, I have asked Fr. Storace to serve as mediator, and you should write to him. If I were permanently here, I would probably have applied some other means. But, you know what my life is like, and I do appreciate sincerity and doing whatever good work I can and as well as I can. Urge Silvestri to send in the petition for the beds. Pray for me, and with distinct esteem and very special affection *in Corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi*,<sup>36</sup> consider me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo, Albano October 8, 1823  
(address your letters to Rome)

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October 10, 1823

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

I am enclosing for your most reverend Eminence a petition in behalf of the Monastery in Sezze, pertaining to the construction of a parlor that is so necessary in order to maintain exact observance of the rule, and especially since it is a place of education. For some time now, I had completed the task of the visitation, and the Archdeacon la Galla assumed the task of submitting to your Eminence the pertinent decrees, and, in this ordinary mail delivery he informed me that the circumstance of the Conclave had delayed his execution of that matter, but that within a few days he would send them on to you. I ask that you do not forget me in your prayers. Most reverend Eminence, while kissing the sacred purple, with complete esteem and obeisance, I repeat that I am

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Canonico del Bufalo*

Mis Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in S. Paolo, Albano October 10

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October 11, 1823

Mr. Camillo Possenti

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<sup>35</sup> According to work and not according to fruit.

<sup>36</sup> In the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

Fabriano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Camillo

In reply to your letter, I must tell you to send, as usual, to Severini the printings that are finished as well as those that will be done later. You must have received the money already. Let me know whether I owe you anything else. I am obliged to you a thousand times over etc.

You are perfectly correct in offering prayers with regard to your condition. I had no idea that the management of your house was causing you so much anguish. So, while balancing and calculating the weights of justice and those of charity, if you should come to notice that study and a holy career do not produce the effect of giving greater glory to God, then you should still continue to pursue your holy career; your good intentions will not go without a reward. Listen to the advice of your spiritual director.

Your education is very close to my heart, and recognizing the blessing of God upon you in this regard, as well as the perplexity that accompanies it you should proceed to cultivate your studies during your free time, and, in the meantime not be negligent in vigilance over your children, which is your primary responsibility. Perhaps God is deferring the granting of this favor, but he will not take it away altogether. Let us conclude the Fridays, and let us pray together. With esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 11, 1823

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October 12, 1823

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

Sermoneta

Hail to the Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Fr. Francesco

Here I am sending an answer to your letter. I hear regretfully of the death of Canon Ajuti<sup>37</sup> for whom I have already applied the Holy Mass. Since the deceased had already made his decision, as he had assured me he would, to give himself to the Society and there remained the usual details with regard to his Canonry, I believe that the deceased should have all the suffrages that the rule allows for those who are regular members in our Houses. You are to inscribe the usual memoranda in the Archives. Now, it is up to us to prepare ourselves for that great passage. Canon Ajuti will be a protector for our Society in heaven. For the services you shall call on the

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<sup>37</sup> Alongside the Saint's writing, with a reference mark placed at the deceased's name, the date is given: "Oct. 4, 1823". The handwriting seems to be that of Fr. Giovanni Merlini. Cf. Fr. Francesco Aiuti: cf. biographical section: Aiuti.

priests around there to assist. On this matter let us have that understanding.

I am told that some people of Sermoneta passed through Albano and have remarked, quoting you, that you no longer have any funds. Really, a couple of lines would have been a more orderly way to handle the situation. Write to me with more precise information on this problem. Furthermore, let me know if the receipt that I have been holding on to should or should not be put with the others. I shall be nothing but obedient to every one of your directions. I beg you, therefore, not to forget to give me a reply on this matter.

With regard to your trip to Rome, I said only that the absence of around 15 days could not alter your responsibilities, and even more so now, I add, since it is vacation time. However, I was not aware that you were involved in special obligations, more precisely, in directing a young girl hoping to become a nun. I do not deny that I knew, in a general way only, that you had been assisting some girl aspiring to be a nun in Giano, but I supposed that everything had been taken care of. I repeat, I did not know or I do not remember the particulars mentioned to me in your letter. At any rate, you be the judge and decide whether in these days of autumn I will be able to persuade someone to come there ahead of time. I give thanks to God that the weather this year promises us an unusually early clearing up of that ugly climate.

Now, in respect to those works of charity, if I were to express my feelings, I should think that it would be to the greater glory of God to do whatever temporal good is possible for the Society, at least, until it is well-established everywhere. Then, we can think of other charities. For example, how many needs the House at Giano presents! At any rate, the inspirations that God will give you can change those ideas, as well as can the special circumstances there that I do not know about. They, too, can influence a difference in your way of operating. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>38</sup>

I add only that what is beyond any doubt is that in the promotion of a particular good work, one must use that shrewdness which will avoid impeding the other aims that will bring glory to God, and sometimes, they are proportionately much greater. Therefore, I conclude that, if you are unable to postpone your trip until the first part of November, you can take a few days off from Sermoneta, and the people will be understandingly patient, because of the special nature of the circumstances.

Continuing on with your letter, you remind me of the situation of the widow from Camerino, and you mention to me that I did not settle anything, but that, on the contrary, your trip would bring it to a successful conclusion. On this question, I shall say nothing further except that God wishes to make use of you and not me in accomplishing this good deed, and I join you in rendering due gratitude. I shall pray likewise that he bless your efforts with regard to the nunto. One would have to have a different kind of heart and mind to think or desire otherwise: *quod absit a nobis*.<sup>39</sup>

Coming now to the question of the House at Terracina, here is what I think. After I have

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<sup>38</sup> Enough about this.

<sup>39</sup> Let it be from us.

exhausted all of the means, and I do not have any more left, it will be a sign that through the exalted, inscrutable designs of God, which we, miserable ones, must love, the Lord is suspending or delaying the attainment of our purpose. The fact is that at very great expense to the Institute, every means has been employed to bring about the accomplishment of our intent, and it has all been fruitless in Terracina: so, etc. Nevertheless, on December 3rd the House will be reopened. Working along with the Bishop, we are now trying to get a House in a better location so that it can stay open, even in the autumn. Also, it would provide us with a wellfounded hope for a place of Retreats, erected under the inspiration of the Ven. P. Paolo della Croce (what a beautiful name!). We are hoping for the best. In the meantime, the people of Terracina will have an even greater reason to pray. For, even if all of them there do not work along with this effort, I take consolation in the thought that God, our most loving Father, rewards *secundum laborem et non secundum fructum*.<sup>40</sup> The type of climate there also makes that people a bit sluggish. It is up to us to pray. *Oremus ante Dominum*.<sup>41</sup>

As for Sermoneta, God knows the affection that I have for that foundation, and I am at ease *coram Domino*<sup>42</sup> for never having omitted any effort to do whatever I could to make it more glorious. The good dispositions of the people, however, will bring about the desired end, ultimately, *et ita fiet*.<sup>43</sup> I do not put much stock in the thoughts that you expressed to me about those who have lived there. I make no judgment about internal matters. *Ipsi videant*.<sup>44</sup> They must know that one is called upon to do good with suffering, as well as with purity of intention and in accordance with the wellknown rules of evangelical simplicity. I must depend on their pledges, unless the contrary becomes clearly evident. When it is required of me, I shall pray, insist, etc., but not oblige. We are *ad instar*<sup>45</sup> with the Filippini Fathers. Happy, nevertheless, I add, is the one who lets himself be governed with holy indifference.

Now we come to you. At one time, you conducted yourself with a virtuous indifference. With respect to Sermoneta, you yourself have demonstrated both to me and to other members the desire you nurtured for having a change of preachers. So, in view of the fact that I see your work there as most useful, plus the discussions we had together, plus the opinions that I heard as I moved around, etc., the Lord inspires me to offer the following proposal to you, which, when pondered over at

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<sup>40</sup> According to work and not according to fruit.

<sup>41</sup> Let us pray before the Lord.

<sup>42</sup> Before the Lord.

<sup>43</sup> And so it will be.

<sup>44</sup> Let him see for himself.

<sup>45</sup> After the fashion of.

the foot of the Cross, has as its object solely the pure glory of God, and nothing more. Besides, if you stay on there, I would not think it reasonable to relieve you of temporal responsibilities, especially since I cannot entrust them to the new members of the Society, nor can I bring together all of the so-called older men in one place. Hence, let us coordinate our forces and let us serve with peace and tranquility the progress of our Society, which is a great avenue leading us to Paradise.

On all Souls Day, the one whom I have selected will be coming there as superior and economist, in keeping with the discussion with you on those matters. The president in charge of the observance will be Fr. Gio. Merlini, who will divide his time of residence between Sermoneta and Sonnino. You shall remain with the job of Director of the Missions in Sermoneta, since our Houses are ongoing Mission places, etc. On the 3rd of December, with Merlini's approval, you shall go to open the House at Terracina. There, you will find many problems with the management of things. You shall take up your residence there, and that will not prevent you from going back to Sermoneta whenever you wish. I, too, will be grateful for the good work of that foundation as well as for the merits that you will acquire in the sight of God. The office of director of the Missions will enable you to realize such decisions which are not unreasonable but based on principles already explained.

I hope that all of this will meet with your approval and I wholeheartedly beg you, as forcefully as I can, to conform yourself to these established moves. Your voice in Terracina will be a new voice for them. In time, we shall discuss further your responsibilities there. The thought of our founder's remains being there, the closeness of Bishop Manassi and the virtue of docility, which unites your desires to mine, all of these things give me an assurance of success in this undertaking.

You shall give a report of your management to Merlini alone, at the time of the Retreat called for by the rule, for he is the one who is going to come there to give it. Let me know how many Retreatants can be handled. In the meantime you should prepare the inventory of the other matters for the 2nd of November, except the financial report. At that time, you will be able to go to Rome, if you find it necessary; but, you must return as soon as you can, and sure, by the time of the Retreat.

I would be doing your virtue an injustice if I were to remind you that zeal for the Society and your personal satisfaction should be on a par. All the more so, since according to this plan Sermoneta will have more support, etc.

Pray for me, and with esteem and the most constant, partial attachment, consider me as

Your devoted servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

(Albano, October 12, 1823)<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> The date is obtained from the postal markings (Albano 12 ottobre) and from the context of the letter itself (1823).

When you go to Rome, make use of the Hospice. Take care of your sustenance on your own, if you can, according to our rule, when one travels on his own. If you cannot do this, I shall handle it, especially in view of the good work that you have done and are doing for the Society. Consider me, etc.

On the 2nd, Fr. Sessa<sup>47</sup> will be passing through, perhaps also with a Companion, etc., etc.. On the 2nd of November, two other members will probably be coming, etc. Pacifico is still ill; I hope that by the 2nd he will be recovered. Send your letters to Rome.

(Near the address we read:)

Answer to Albano

781

October 20, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon<sup>48</sup>

I need an act of kindness from you. Please see to sending me quickly, to Frosinone, 13 and a half handbreadths of black cloth of good quality from Alatri in order to make clothing for one of the brothers in service, and it should be five and a half handbreadths high in width. When you send it to me, also indicate the cost and how much I should pay for the delivery. However, if you can spare me that cost, it would be a favor to the Society, since the opportunities are there. I repeat, let me know to whom I am to consign the money. The cloth must be the type that falls into the 24, 25 or 26 *paoli* per yard range, and not more. I leave this all to your good judgment. I ask you to take care of this very soon since the brother in service is truly needful of clothing. Pray a lot to God for me, and, with esteem and affection in Jesus Christ, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone

October 20, 1823

782

October 20, 1823

Fr. Luigi Locatelli

Rome

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<sup>47</sup> *Sessa*. Cfr. biographical section: Sessa

<sup>48</sup> This letter does not have an addressee, but without doubt it must be Fr. Pietro Butti. (Cfr. the letter to the same person on October 22, 1823).

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

It is quite true that I retracted my word concerning Frosinone, so that by treating our men in Terracina equally well, I would not inconvenience you with traveling. But everything was based on the supposition that the climate would have given us a reason for not closing the hospice at that time. However, since the circumstances have changed, we must go back to our first plan; first ideas are always the best, so you will conduct the retreat in Frosinone. As for the opening of your Collegio, I would set the date for December 3rd, skipping over November, a month to be used in making the necessary preparations. I, too, am making arrangements for the Mission House in Terracina. Furthermore, once a year, following our prescribed method, we are to consider our own welfare as an important matter. With regard to the first difficulty that you referred to, I respond *omitto*;<sup>49</sup> as for the second, concerning the bishop, I reply that not only will he approve but he will praise you for that.

Nevertheless, in the meanwhile, it would be a good thing for you to return to Terracina. You should be back in Frosinone for November 21st, for on the 22nd, a Saturday, there will be the beginning of the retreat, but with its conclusion occurring in time to allow you to get back to Terracina for December 3rd. The last difficulty had reference to the directory; this too will be taken care of. I shall send it to you immediately with the understanding that you will return it promptly, after you have read it or have written that you have a copy of it. Send your reply to Frosinone. But give the directory to Cencio.

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, October 20, 1823

You will be reimbursed for your travel expenses. You can go to Piperno and from Piperno to Frosinone. For the sake of peace and quiet, pray that the few brigands who are still extant will be given pardon, etc., etc..

783

October 22, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Buy it at the price that you indicated to me. I shall be staying in Frosinone for another

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<sup>49</sup> I let go.

day or so. *Laus Deo*<sup>50</sup> for the good work that is being promoted there, and you should be consoled since you have every just reason to be. Recommend me frequently to God, and let us take shelter in the Sacred Hearts. Meanwhile, I renew myself as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, October 22, 1823

784

October 24, 1823

Msgr. Bellisario Cristaldi

Rome

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

I thank you for your most appreciated letter which I delighted in more than any other consoling thing that could happen to me. The fevers that still remain will soon pass away. The Lord wishes you well, but, in order for you to draw ever closer to him, he shares with you the bitter chalice of suffering, which, however, produces the sweetness of virtue which ennobles us etc., etc., etc.. Therefore, lovingly *mortificat et vivificat*.<sup>51</sup> I repeat that I hope that he will soon restore you to the status of perfect health. In addition to our monthly Masses, we never cease offering our prayers for you. I, in particular, must do so because of so many reasons. This is nothing more than the language of the heart, just as I have been directed by the saintly Albertini in the de Sales simple way of life. However, you should not forget to do the same for me. Let us help each other mutually so that one day we can be inseparably united with the saints in heaven. Whichever one of us is first to happily become possessor of that, should not cease praying for the one who is still left behind. *Ita fiat. Amen*.<sup>52</sup>

Let us now go on to something else. I thank you for your concern about the repl [...] <sup>53</sup> in the distribution of the proceeds from the Cicerchia, and for the 1.80 *scudo*, the total sum to be applied *fabricae ecclesiae*.<sup>54</sup> Now, however, I add that the most reverend bishop Manassi informs me that the residual money amounts, not to 1.80 *scudi*, but to *centotanta scudi*, which, because of

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<sup>50</sup> Praise to the Lord.

<sup>51</sup> He puts to death and brings to life.

<sup>52</sup> So let it be. Amen.

<sup>53</sup> At this point, the page is torn and a part is missing.

<sup>54</sup> The building of the church.

the various needs in the diocese, were deposited with the administrators and the deputies. So, this sum, if you will, should be applied to the repairing of the church and Mission House, with your permission, since those buildings are most needful, indeed, of restoration. The reason for the poor condition that exists is that the Passionists began the work in their own fashion, and, when the job remained unfinished, nothing more was done to improve the building, and, as a result, notable damage has ensued. When we were installed in that suppressed monastery, we could not express the deep feelings of anguish that we experienced in facing repairs of the greatest urgency just to keep the building functional.

At the present time, work is being done and the church is being restored. It is not necessary to bother the commune; I foresee a prodigy of Providence in [...],<sup>55</sup> and I am hopeful of achieving good results [...] <sup>56</sup> with charitable efforts. Furthermore, the principal part and the most important of the sacred furnishings of the church of the Canne have been lost, since they were distributed to other monasteries in Piperno and Sezze, and we have been carrying out the services the best we can. Finally, the Passionists, in designing their construction, have destroyed in the area a certain number of olive plants and this too must be taken into consideration. I am putting together here as many reasons as possible so that your most reverend excellency, in your pertinent argumentation, will promptly have on hand the reasons that militate in favor of this suppressed monastery as well as for the people of Sonnino. The bishop, likewise, would like to have a favorable response to this request, as I have indicated before.

It is a good idea to have a change of climate so as to refresh the powers of our weak human nature. One favor that I would ask you to grant immediately is to give me news of yourself and of the time when you will return. As a special favor, send your most appreciated letters to my house there, and I will be deeply consoled. However, before your departure, I would like you to send me the schedule for November since the Society is spreading [...] <sup>57</sup> as well as the temporal expenses, and especially with winter so imminent. In Frosinone, trusting in the promised subsidy and wellfounded hopes, progress is being made in the repair work. Presently the entire locale is free and the Institute is ever more successful for the glory of the Lord, *cui honor et gloria*.<sup>58</sup> I have succeeded in working out a method relative to the circumstances.

It would be my desire to learn where you would be going for a change of climate, in case I would need to write to you before receiving your most appreciated letters. Most reverend excellency, with particular esteem and respect, consider me as

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>55</sup> *Idem*.

<sup>56</sup> *Idem*.

<sup>57</sup> *Idem*.

<sup>58</sup> To whom be honor and glory.

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*  
 Mis. Ap.  
 Mission and Retreat House in Frosinone  
 October 24, 1823

785

Fr. Francesco Pierantoni  
 Sermoneta

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Francesco

I regret to learn of the fever that has assailed you, but you might have taken the time to write a line or so, indicating that it was not a serious matter. I would have liked that. But, either you did not think of doing that or you probably did not have the time. Patience. In that situation, too, may the will of God be done. You need not, now, inconvenience yourself further. Address your letters to me to Rome.

Here is my response to your ideas: I would not encourage *contendendi, sed exponendi*.<sup>59</sup> I begin by expressing to you a great truth, and that is, that I would like you to show less cunning in your writing and more of the de Sales simplicity. Perhaps I am wrong in making this observation, but even Don Biagio, on several occasions, has pointed this out to me. The sincere love that exists between us, furthermore, calls us to assume that spirit of de Sales.

I shall make an effort to provide the House with those items that you specified to me with regard to the observance, for that is something close to my heart. As for the pious legacies, I will take care of the petition and do whatever I can, following your suggestions and advice. With respect to your stay in Sermoneta, as far as I am concerned, I adhere firmly to the principles that I manifested to you in my last letter, and *coram Deo*<sup>60</sup> I cannot think otherwise. At any rate, you are the boss, and I am equally content, that you remain in Sermoneta carrying out the two offices that up to now I have assigned to you, namely, director of the Missions and Retreats in that House, which I heartily recommend to your attention. I need not repeat to you that you should continue to exert yourself in behalf of that foundation. I need not go on length on that point. With regard to the grain, it is a good idea not to send it to Terracina. Your reasoning is correct. As for the history of the positions which you have held in the Society, I make no reply. Likewise, with regard to the other things you included, I add nothing further except to recommend all of us to God, so that invested with the spirit of the Lord, we might imitate more and more our great Exemplar, Christ the Divine Savior. Consider me to be ever at your beck and call.

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

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<sup>59</sup> Of striving, but of explaining.

<sup>60</sup> In the presence of God.

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, October 24, 1823

P. S. You say in your letter that the economist in the Society is represented etc. I am not overly concerned about words, but, for the sake of truth, know that in reality it is deserving of our total energy to do that work, but also, in all sincerity, I am pleased by the position which you have taken, etc.

Submit your report to Merlini who is the President of that House, and split your residence with Sonnino. That will be taken up during the Retreat called for by the rule, which he will be conducting. The Superior there, as well as economist, is Fr. Pietro Pellegrini. You are the Director of Missions and Retreats. Without naming a Vicesuperior, Fr. Giovanni Merlini will take charge of the Archives.

786

October 24, 1823

Mr. Domenico Antonio Gugliemi

Most illustrious sir

I am contacting you because Mr. Appollonj is pressing for satisfaction of the 23 *scudi* which is due in payment to him. It is only just, in anticipation of the imminent November order, to pay the aforementioned sum, as a noteworthy and distinct favor, which will increase in us our obligations toward you. You can use the sheet<sup>61</sup> that I am enclosing to make out the receipt for the money which, in time, you will submit in cash. With distinct esteem and respect, sir, believe me to be

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

October 24, 1823

787

October 25, 1823

Fr. Vincenzo Bonacci

Piglio

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Canon

The reason for your letter would require me to be personally present in Rome, and perhaps I would not be able to manage that; indeed, without the perhaps. There is no other resort

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<sup>61</sup> The receipt, on the other hand, was written on that same letter paper: "I have received the aforementioned sum from the most illustrious Cavalier Dom.co Ant.o Guglielmi. Cristoforo Appollonj"

than the bishop (if he is acquainted with the case) with Cardinal Galeffi. But be assured that if I were able to see myself available to help you in this deplorable situation, I would be very happy to be able to please you. It will be necessary to find a remedy in the diocese in some sort of campaign and with the most prudent means. I shall not fail to pray for good results. With esteem and respect, though in a hurry, I remain

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, October 25, 1823

## 788

October 27, 1823

Cardinal Luigi Ercolani

Rome

Your Eminence

I have received your most appreciated letter in Frosinone and with the greatest regret I must tell you that I have given my word to be in Anagni for the beginnings of November. This appointment has been made since last summer. Oh how I would have liked to be able to write otherwise, but in the circumstances, interpreting your intentions, I thought it best not to disturb the administrator of the church in Anagni, Monsignor Lais.

I give thanks to God for the interest that you have shown in regard to the parlor for the Monastery in Sezze, nor could I ever have doubted that, basing it on your Eminence's special piety and zeal. I hope that you have received from the nuns a copy of the visitation entrusted to me; feel free to correct and emend whatever you judge opportune.

Finally, I seize this opportunity, most reverend Eminence, while kissing the sacred purple, to renew myself with esteem and respect, as

Your most humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare Can. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, October 27, 1823

## 789

October 30, 1823

Fr. Giacomo Giorgi

Bassiano

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Father

I ask whether you will be able to be in Frosinone on the evening of November 6th, in order to go for the Mission in Morollo, which will begin on the 7th. I would appreciate a prompt

reply, and with esteem, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Frosinone, October 30, 1823

I ask that no misunderstandings arise.

790

October 31, 1823

Msgr. Gregorio Muccioli

Vescovo de Agatopoli

Roma

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My venerable Msgr. and beloved brother

Please send two certificates as aggregators: one to Fr. Lucenzio Marcozzi, Pastor of Guardiaumana, Diocese of Teramo; the other to Fr. Benedetto Taraschi, Pastor of Cereto, which it seems to me is also in the Diocese of Teramo. It will be necessary to append to them a list of the Indulgences. Send the respective folder for the two, with another outer envelope to the Archdeacon of Teramo, Fr. Nicola Tamburrini, and perchance to Fr. Giovannelli, an Oratorian at Ascoli. Cencio will try to arrange an opportunity for the delivery.

Now that the first month has passed since the election of the Roman Pontiff<sup>62</sup> it will be necessary for you, in the name of our entire Society to pay a visit to the Holy Father, asking his blessing on it. Do not be surprised if some cross (let this be between us) might perhaps be presented to you. Develop an outline the best you can, and when you do, at most restrict yourself to giving answers with the help of a paper of clarification, depending on what is requested of you. Keep all of this between us. It is possible that what I mention may never happen, but perhaps it may.

The works of God are the fruit of tears and of patience. Jesus accomplished good through suffering. Enough of this now. But there may be certain individuals who are not altogether favorable toward us. However, you must go; and even though you may go as a Bishop, you must go as the President of the Archconfraternity.<sup>63</sup> I will not delay in coming to Rome, but do not be surprised if I have delayed up to now. Better to talk further in person and in good time. If, however, you have fulfilled this assignment, you must tell me, what kind of a meeting you had.

Send your letter to Anagni.

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<sup>62</sup> After the death of Pius VII, which occurred on August 20, 1823, Leo XII was elected on September 29 of that same year.

<sup>63</sup> Here the Saint had added the words: "to explain its ramifications"; but then he scratched them out.

Begging your prayers, I am with esteem, affection and attachment, *in Xti Sanguine*<sup>64</sup>  
Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Frosinone, October 31, 1823

P. S. I recommend everything as in my preceding letters.

What news or expectations do we have of Cardinal Falzacappa? Remember the Lovatti affair and the Bedoni Legacy with Msgr. Santelli. The Hospital of the Holy Spirit is in extreme need. Also keep in mind the information about Msgr. Albertini.<sup>65</sup>

I am supplying you with the following. In Forlimpopoli, from the time of Msgr. Albertini, a Pious Legacy for Missions was accepted, as you will recall, to be fulfilled there every seven to eight years. Last year for the first time it was carried out. Now, a gentleman has added another 100 *scudi*, petitioning for every six years, as it seems to me; and the document has been processed there in Forlimpopoli. Our Society can surely agree to that. Msgr. Albertini, in those times when the Houses were just in the process of beginning their existence, as far as I can recall, did not make any formal agreement at all. I do not know whether I am expressing myself clearly or not. Contact Card. Falzacappa for information, so that this benefit will not be revoked; if you need further clarification, let me know. In case my presence in Rome is required, wait awhile. As far as I am concerned, I find no difficulties. The administration of the Legacy is in the Curia of Forlimpopoli. Since we have Houses both in Umbria and in Marca, it is altogether certain that the aforementioned Missions will be carried out. This is sufficient for now. Pray for me.

I recommend the Novena of Xavier, which I hope will be prodigiously fruitful. If there is any printed matter for the Missions in your archives, as a help to the ministry, please send them on to Cencio. Give me a copy of the article expressing the resolution of the Officials of the Archconfraternity with regard to the Month of the Precious Blood. It would be most appropriate in S. Nicola to set up a permanent image of Xavier, since he is our Protector. It seems I have nothing more to say that is urgent.

Is there nothing new regarding yourself?

You probably have received notification of the death of one of our Missionaries, someone whom you did not know. Merlini has probably sent you the information. I would not want him to forget that, because of the suffrages.

791

October 1823

Fr. Francesco M. Pierantoni

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<sup>64</sup> In the blood of Christ.

<sup>65</sup> The data on Msgr. Albertini. This is one of the themes that frequently appears in the letters of the Saint, and especially in those addressed to Muccioli.

Sermoneta

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dearest Father Francesco<sup>66</sup>

I am extremely sorry to learn of your sickness and very soon you will have a companion there to give you some relief. I, too, hope to come there in person. In the meantime, I am purposely writing to you quickly in order to get more news about you, and I hope that it will be in accordance with what I desire. See that the man gets something to eat and take care of his beast. Though in a hurry, I remain in Jesus Crucified

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Write and let me know whatever you need, even though you may not be able to await patiently my arrival from here within a few days.

792

November 4, 1823

Fr. Pietro Butti

Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

The sickness of one of our companions requires me to go to Sermoneta after Anagni, and then on to Albano by the evening of the Presentation of most holy Mary. It is not right that you should wear yourself out so much, so I would advise you to go to Valmontone by coach. In Valmontone, ask for Canon Bellini to whom, if you wish, you can show this letter of mine, and thus work out with him to obtain a mount and a courier capable of leading you to Albano by way of the Frascati gate. Be sure about the roads, otherwise I would not suggest this route for you. I will meet you there as I come in by way of Velletri. Let us agree on this appointment. Recommend me frequently to God, and, in Jesus Christ Crucified, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, November 4, 1823

793

November 7, 1823

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<sup>66</sup> This letter does not bear a date. From a comparison with the letter written to the same parson on October 24, 1823, it seems that we should conclude that this letter was written around the end of October 1823. Cfr. also the letter to Butti, dated November 4, 1823.

Fr. Vincenzo Giovannelli  
Ascoli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Father Giovannelli

In behalf of your Congregation which is so very dear to me, I will have to have the memorandum in the name of the city as well as the bishop, since we are quite sure of having good results. Send it to me immediately.

Secondly, with regard to those people who wish to have Missions in the Kingdom, they should submit their requests to the Holy Father, etc. If God so inspires you, and they so wish etc. etc.

Thirdly, Father Gregario Giobbi would like to have your blessing on his decision. Try to console him, for he too in his career will do a great deal of good work. Encourage him, for that will spur him on a bit. *Ora pro me. Sum tuus ex corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.*<sup>67</sup>

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Anagni, November 7, 1823

I have already written to Monsignor Ambrosi, and later I will speak to him etc.

794

November 10, 1823

Sante Angelini

S. Felice di Giano

I recommend, last of all, the observance of the Rule, the House, the Society. We are in this world to become saints, and only good works form a beautiful Crown for us. Have great charity for Giosafat. I recommend him more than myself to you; tell him to pray for me; and, when he goes to heaven, ask him to kiss Mary's hand for me. I call to your attention our little Chapel of the Madonna.

Pray for me. Work hard in the gardens. When the new brother shows up, get along well with him, and train him patiently.

Consider me in Jesus Christ as

Affectionately yours

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

(Anagni) November 10, 1823<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Pray for me. I am yours from the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

<sup>68</sup> Cfr. note on Letter n. 124, August 12, 1823.

795

November 11, 1823  
Fr. Pietro Butti  
Alatri

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

Why should we wish to miss out on this beautiful meeting? Do as follows: Next Sunday evening, you should come to Anagni and on Monday morning you will go wherever I go. You will come with me until we get to Albano. *Ora pro me.*<sup>69</sup> So that I can know what to do, send me your reply. The painter is withdrawing. So, you do whatever will be for the greater glory of God.

Dear Canon, asking you for your prayers, with esteem I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*Gaspare C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, November 11, 1823

I reopened this letter in order to tell you to prepare a package of ten handbreadths of cloth for Canon Gonnelli in Frosinone, to be delivered to him as soon as he arrives in that city. I, then, will reimburse you. Do this before you leave Alatri. Write a couple of lines to Canon Gonnelli and tell him that the cloth is to be used for a coat for Giovanni Battista, as well as a vest etc.

Tell the companions to hold on to everything until Gonnelli arrives. Now, there is a third man there whose name is Father Gaspare Carboneri. Write to this man.<sup>70</sup>

796

November 11, 1823  
Can. Palma (Nicola)  
Teramo

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Canon

I thank you for your kind letter. As to the faculties sent there, nothing more is required.

I received the money from Mr. Berardo Lupi. I thank all for their kindness: if the ministry did not require endless expenses, so to speak, I would not have had the heart to ask for this payment.

*Laus Deo*<sup>71</sup> because of the Oratory. How blessed you are who are enriching yourself with merits

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<sup>69</sup> Pray for me.

<sup>70</sup> These postscripts are found on the outer covering.

<sup>71</sup> Praise to God.

along with your good Brethren whom you will greet for me *in Domino*.<sup>72</sup>

Have no doubts about my efforts with the new Bishop. At the same time, do not cease to be of assistance. It would be very helpful, in my opinion, if a memorandum from the clergy of that Cathedral were sent to the Most Reverend Nunzio in Naples, as well as to the King. I may perhaps be mistaken; I am not acquainted entirely with the procedures there. Furthermore, I assure you that I will not fail to contact the Msgr. Nunzio, whom I know well. Meanwhile, prayers. The Archdeacon could dispose the Superintendent also to get involved in these efforts, as well as the Mayor, etc. In short, do not leave any means untried.

As for your spirit of recollection, do not be disturbed. Weigh your good intentions, and you will observe the workings of grace. St. Teresa says of herself that while she was in prayer, her mind always wandered off to the condition of her foundations. But then, she would straighten herself out quietly, saying: "the Lord is reminding me of them so that I will keep them in my prayers."

The copy of the regulations is for the new Bishop when he comes, and I will contact him beforehand. It will be necessary, however, to preserve them.

We are drawing near to the commemoration of Xavier. Prayers for me, miserable one.

I would like to know whether Mr. Donato Quartaroli has had the Ten Sundays or Fridays of Xavier printed as yet, for I am enrolled in them too.<sup>73</sup> I am sincerely interested. Give my greetings to him: *est enim vir Dei*.<sup>74</sup>

Do not cease urging the Holy Missions with the Bishops, and a memorandum to the Holy Father will be sufficient. Oh, how much good will be done!

*Sum tuus ex corde in Corde J.X. Crucifixi qui suo nos redemit Sanguine.*<sup>75</sup>

Humble devoted, obliged, servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Anagni<sup>76</sup>

November 11, 1823

*Enixe*,<sup>77</sup> insist on the Pious Works in other places, even making a trip or so; and procure prayers for me.

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<sup>72</sup> In the Lord.

<sup>73</sup> Cf. Gasparian History and Trivia: Francis Xavier, Ten Fridays preparing for the Feast of

<sup>74</sup> For he is a man of God.

<sup>75</sup> I am yours from the heart in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified who redeemed us in his blood.

<sup>76</sup> *Anagni*: cf. Geographical Data

<sup>77</sup> Eagerly.

797

November 12, 1823  
 Mr. Giovanni Francesco Palmucci  
 Offida

Hail to the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ

Most illustrious sir

Let this letter apply likewise to the most worthy Mr. Micheli, to whom you will give a thousand heavenly greetings. Thank him for me for the trouble he has gone through to obtain the writings in Bologna, and even more so for the letters in Italian of my and our Saint Xavier. Tell Mr. Micheli that when he has some leisure time I would be thankful to receive his course of philosophy just as he has it, and for this, too, I send him beforehand my infinite thanks. You, however, are to serve as the effective mediator. However, you should not go out of your way to send me Storchenau. I appreciate your good intentions. You will send the copy of the Seven Offerings whenever you can.

Furthermore, in the Kingdom, arouse the desire for Missions as though you were the General procurator of those Missions. It would be a more glorious and pleasing thing for the Holy Father to have a written statement from the bishops etc., etc.. If it is the will of God to make use of my insufficiency, at least one would be in peace, without the anguish of having to provide reference letters. So, it is necessary first to see whether it will please God to make use of my miserable being. Prayers. What did Mr. Quartaroli say to you? Oh how I long to see the printing completed. *Laus Deo*<sup>78</sup> with regard to Montalto. Go there often, but not when the torrent of water puts your life in danger. Did I not put it correctly when I said that God would like you as a general procurator? Courage: establish oratories, promote good works, and everywhere procure prayers for me.

What a beautiful thing is the charitable offering of prayers. During the novena in honor of St. Xavier, all of the Missionaries will be making a retreat. So, have many souls undertake the task of praying etc. You should not cease animating the pious organizations during the Saint's novena, as well as the association for the men. As far as you are concerned, fear not. Your spirit is not deadened, you can be sure of that.

With regard to the cloth to be used for bed sheets for the poor, a matter that you will be taking care of, use the sum of 15 *scudi*, and an equal sum of 15 *scudi* is to be used for our Mission Houses. With your good judgment, select the quality of cloth that is serviceable for the respective needs etc. Let me know where I should send the 30 *scudi*. I will take care of the postage. Advise me as to the manner of transportation, that you will arrange, and also that this will be included under the 30 *scudi*. I do not know whether there will be customs charges, from which I could request a rescript of exemption, unless it would be a question of a very small

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<sup>78</sup> Praise to God.

charge and in that case, it would not be proportionately useful to go through all the red tape.

With respect to the memorandum concerning burial in S. Agostino, have no doubt, I will look into it. But, give me a bit more time. Canon Tarulli, up to now, continues to be wavering. In this ordinary mail delivery, I am inviting him to participate in the projects of the ministry. We shall see. God knows how much I love this man and how I hope that he will not leave the Institute.

I ask for prayers for Fr. Ignazio. He is in need of a very good director. Without fail, he will have one, and with that, all that will be needed is for him to obey. It is absolutely unacceptable for him to remain in this state. If he were deranged, it would call for patience, but he is quite sane. Therefore, it is either the devil who is confusing him, which is something that must be conquered by the authority of our ministry, or it is stubbornness of will, and that, too, must be shaken loose following the rules elaborated by the masters of spiritual life. God has given him the priesthood to be put into operation, and everyone can see the Church's needs. To go to Pievetorina, he is waiting for spring. Why allow so much time to go by, time that will never return? Eagerness for the glory of God calls us to adopt other attitudes. At any rate, when he indicates that he will go, I shall write, with his permission, to the superior in Pievetorina, capable of handling such things. In that House, too, there is an economist who, though just a young man, still I find him quite fit. After getting well, Fr. Ignazio should make a decision, I do not say a promise, to devote himself to the Society. He should discuss it with the bishop, assisted by Father Giovannelli, but in the meantime, should remain a boarder.

Send the cloth to me quickly, indeed as quickly as possible, using that spirit of activity that is proper to a young procurator. Pray for me, in a special way, a lot, and with your whole heart in that small chapel where I still live in spirit. Give my best wishes to your holy spouse, your excellent children and the superior in Albano. While awaiting a prompt reply from you, believe me to be, in Jesus Christ *qui suo nos redemit Sanguine*,<sup>79</sup>

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, November 12, 1823

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November 12, 1823

Fr. Adriano M. Tarulli

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Dear Canon

I had written to Fr. Vitale that, for the upcoming Lent, he should ask you to help in the projects of the ministry. Now I am writing directly to you with this letter, expressing to you my

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<sup>79</sup> Who redeemed us in his blood.

desire that you come to preach the Lenten series in Frosinone, a pulpit which we have by way of agreements to which I now am giving full acknowledgment. At the same time, around Passion week, you will give private exercises at night for the members of the Delegation; but more about this when we meet in person. Please make the decision to do this, as I ask you, and, while requesting your remembrance in prayers, I remain

Your humble servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis. Ap.

Anagni, November 12, 1823

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November 12, 1823

Msgr. Antonio Santelli

Rome

#### Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

Venerable Monsignor

This letter has two purposes. First, to ask you to visit the new bishop of Teramo who is an Augustinian by the name of Monsignor Pezzella, in order to encourage him to take action in Teramo, where they have no idea of our retreat houses, and to establish there one of our foundations. I gave Missions there last winter, and I cannot tell you how many letters and requests I have received for a pious foundation. Even recently the clergy have written to me. There in Teramo, the bishop will find our regulations in the possession of the Archdeacon. You will gain great merit by using your influence for so great a work.

Secondly, see about concluding the Bedoni legacy, concerning which I also wrote to Monsignor Muccioli, in behalf of the poor hospital of S. Spirito. Finally, I recommend to your charity the oratory in Vincis. I will leave matters just as they are and I will not worry about the conditions and changes. Try to find a bit of time to visit S. Galla and to look into things there. *Ora pro me assidue, mi dulcissime in Domino. Sum tuus ex corde, in corde Jesu Christi Crucifixi.*<sup>80</sup>

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

Mis.

P. S. A locale in Teramo is not lacking, as well as income. All that is needed is that the bishop, a close friend of the Nunzio in Naples, should speak with Canon Palma in the Cathedral of Teramo, and he will direct him etc.

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<sup>80</sup> Pray for me continuously, my most sweet one in the Lord. I am yours from the heart, in the heart of Jesus Christ crucified.

November 16, 1823  
Fr. Pietro Torsani  
Pievetorina

Hail to the Blood of Jesus Christ

My dearest Fr. Pietro *quem diligo in visceribus Jesu Christi*<sup>81</sup>

I have already forwarded your petition through the only channel that I have at the present time. Prayers. Prayers. We shall see.

Tell Rector Giobbi that he will be going to Albano and thus will not have to bear the inconvenience of going to Benevento. I would like to have his clear decision on this, so that I, then, can adjust to the circumstances in the Society. In Albano, he will be a worker. Thus, together we will make the retreat. Tell him that. *Satis de hoc*.<sup>82</sup> Everything is prepared in Buon Consiglio. He will be reimbursed for the trip. I ask you for your full cooperation so that the retreat results in the greatest glory to God, and all of us will become truly apostolic men.

In place of the candlesticks, I am sending, for the feast of Xavier, a vestment along with the accessories. I thought that this would be more useful. It will be sent to Tomassini. You check to see that it gets there on time. At the postoffice, you will receive Fr. Biagio's one *scudo* with 15 *baiocchi* as a reimbursement to you. Let us pray to God that he will cure our Mariotti. My dearest, what an example of humility. Also, let us all prepare ourselves for the eternal years. Please recommend me frequently to God and have others do likewise. Let us love each other in Jesus Christ. *Si me quaeris, invenies in vulneribus Jesu Christi*,<sup>83</sup> where I now leave you, as I say again that I am

Your humble, devoted and obliged servant

*G. C. del Bufalo*

M. Ap.

Anagni, November 16, 1823

P. S. A thousand greetings to all. I have invited Tarulli to give the Lenten series. We shall see.

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<sup>81</sup> Whom I love in the heart of Jesus Christ.

<sup>82</sup> Enough about this.

<sup>83</sup> If you look for me, you will find me in the wounds of Jesus Christ.