

Saint Justin Russolillo, SDV

Works – Volume 14

Letters

To Vocationist Fathers

Part II

Translated and Published by
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INTRODUCTION

Friendship, Divine Gift and Human Response

The eternal theme of friendship enjoys a wide resonance in the literature of every time and of every country. Since ancient times, man has cultivated this dimension of his genetic code to give a deeper meaning to existence. Friendship existed at the time of Confucius and exists today. There is no reason that should disappear in the future.

The Bible exalts the value of friendship as the supreme good descending from the creative act of God, who wanted to insert man into the circulation of his triune love.

The duet of love between God-Trinity and the creature elevated to the dignity of a friend is interrupted by an abuse of freedom. Nonetheless, God, the merciful, takes up the thread of friendship again by entrusting Noah with the task of saving the rest of humanity not polluted by the accumulation of sins.

Abraham, in obedience, renews the covenant and becomes a friend of God¹. In the sacred books and in the Prophets, the song of friendship performed with several voices is a prelude to the

¹ Is. 41, 8-9: But you, Israel my servant, you Jacob, whom I have chosen, descendant of Abraham my friend, it is you whom I took from the ends of the earth and called from the most distant regions and I said to you: "You are my servant, I have chosen you, I have not rejected you."

indissoluble relationship between the divine spouse and the new humanity.

Exemplary is the story of the friendship between David and Jonathan described in the first book of Samuel². In the New Testament Jesus calls his apostles friends and not servants³ to whom he entrusts the mission of finding other friends to take to the wedding feast.

Even Judas, the traitor, in the very moment in which he prints his kiss on the master's face, is greeted as a friend⁴. On the two-thousand-year old tree of Christian holiness, where the divine sun of friendship never sets, couples of holy friends such as Francis and Claire of Assisi, John of the Cross and Teresa of Avila have matured, Ignatius of Loyola and Philip Neri, and among the couples closest to us over time, Agostino Gemelli and Armida Barelli, Chiara Lubich and Mother Teresa of Calcutta (an all-female friendship), St. John Paul II and Wanda Potawska, the miraculous doctor from St. Pio of Pietralcina.

St. Justin and the Sense of Friendship

Our Founding Father, tireless seeker of divine union, in his writings and in his life, lives friendship as an irrepressible need of the heart, certainly not as a straw fire⁵. The approach to the Justinian Letters is a real surprise because it reveals the figure of an unprecedented mystic, without veils, a profound lover of friendship in its highest expressions. Through his writings, St. Justin explores the territories of the soul to fill them with those spiritual treasures of holiness that he himself receives from divine bounty.

² 1 Sam. 18, 1-4.

³ Jn. 15, 15.

⁴ Mt. 26, 56.

⁵ Letter 835 to Fr. Giacci.

The letters written to Vocationist Fathers - we read in the introduction to the first volume of the correspondence, edited by Fr. Louis Caputo - are full of true and sincere affection for his children, disciples and custodians of his teachings. St. Justin wants each of his pupils to be truly a sincere and holy friend. In cultivating friendship, the main objective is holiness: the only goal to which Fr. Justin consecrates his life.

Regular diner at the Trinitarian table, he becomes a beggar for human love, goes in search of sincere friends, to have them as flight companions in the dizzying heights of union with the three adorable persons.

For Justin, perfect friendship finds space only in the heaven of divine intimacy, which is the point of no return to the seductions of the world and to the deceptions of the heart. I want you holy. I wanted your soul but you did not understand me⁶. I wanted to make you the perfect friend⁷. Only in God-Trinity does the search engine for friendship have as its estuary the daily commitment of personal and universal sanctification. In *Spirit of Prayer*, St. Justin enlivens and renews his personal relationship with the friend of whom everything is close to his heart every day: The texture of his daily life, the distance, the goals achieved in his studies or his responsibilities in organizing a religious community, the efforts and the hopes, the weaknesses and the impulses in the path of perfection.

Traveling through the correspondence intended for his spiritual children, we discover the grammar and syntax of the *Vocationist paideia*, which knows how to combine maternal and paternal tenderness with the firmness of the educator. The instrument and the place chosen by the Founder to initiate holiness is spiritual direction, considered, among other things, the highest form of friendship.

⁶ Letter 840.

⁷ Ibid.

It is enough to analyze the content of a letter to immediately grasp the lifestyle of a man, the sweet and rigorous character that merges with the breath of the soul never satiated with contemplative thoughts and yet always ready to take charge of the wounded humanity of every single recipient. In the Trinitarian inspiration, which marks the beginning of each letter, accents of intimate familiarity converge: my dear, my dearest, dear son (Fraccaccio), Giovannino (Galasso), my Fr. Giannone, my little brother (Castiglione).

Sometimes the delay of a letter is enough to provoke in the sender the fear of giving the addressee displeasure: Did I make you suffer a little (or a lot) with this delay in writing⁸? But at the same time the spiritual father notes his wickedness in not writing, and he earnestly begs him not to forget it.

Every occasion is good to show esteem and appreciation for those who are most willing with their talents to make the Congregation, its heavenly reality, grow.

St. Justin studies the times and ways to concretely enhance the intelligence and abilities of each one. Among the confreres of the first hour, Fr. Saggiomo occupies a prominent place. Fr. Justin considers him the most similar to him for his gifts of mind and heart. He surrounds him with concern, aiming to consolidate his spiritual formation. Here is what he wrote to him in July 1914: Higher then, higher the heart. Do not answer: it already belongs to God! Yes, it is of God, but it must be more and more. It is not a question of ascending to a green hill, or a snow-white peak, but to the mountains of God. To God we ascend! Be satisfied with heaven, spread yourself into heaven! And you know that our heaven is Jesus and his love. Fr. Palmieri is considered the ideal friend: My Fr. Palmieri. Fr. Anella is the "favorite typist." The Founding Father praises his painstaking effort in transcribing the rules, hoping that the Lord will reward him.

⁸ Letter 789 to Fr. Galasso.

For Fr. Justin, the golden rule of friendship is based on the principle adopted by St. Francis de Sales: *eadem velle, eadem nolle*, which translated means: to realize all the possible good together, to fight together against the possible evil, starting from imperfections.

Those who truly love want to be loved in return, they want the other to place his heart on the same wavelength, to look in the same direction as the friend: "It would be enough for me to know that another desires me or feels in the heart the need for me that immediately I am transported by the same paths of my heart to him ... but when I do not sense it⁹.

Fr. Justin, like the Apostle, feels a kind of divine jealousy for his children having engaged to the only spouse¹⁰.

Therefore, the reader should not be surprised if, writing to "his Giovannino," Fr. Justin expresses himself thus "What you tell me about other affections that harass you moves me to jealousy. How I would like to be the only particular friend of all our confreres. Only with Jesus can this take place mysteriously¹¹. As a true ascetic - educator he never gives space to romanticism or youthful sentimentality, extinguishing the first signs in the bud.

To the student Galasso, who feels the urge to preach, he prescribes the suitable recipe: a perpetual cure of silence of words to be physically capable of perpetual preaching. He then adds to the dose, quoting Nietzsche, the philosopher of God's death: Whoever announces much, is silent for a long time, in himself collected, whoever throws the thunderbolt, will remain a cloud for a long time. At the same time, having become a priest, he advises "to preach divine friendship everywhere by popularizing the treatise *De Gratia, De Charitate, De Trinitate*."

At the end of each letter, he renews his wish-program: Become a saint. On the trail of his future friend a passionate witness to the

⁹ Letter 876 to Fr. Mario Giannone.

¹⁰ 2Co. 11,1.

¹¹ Letter 794 to Fr. Galasso.

noble sentiment of friendship, Fr. Justin is convinced that everything that is ideal is not found down here; neither do others find it in me, nor do I find it in others. However, let us strive to be the ideal friend, the religious, the ideal teacher and above all to be one for Jesus, the ideal friend of Jesus¹².

The absence of a true friend torments him. And thus, friendship, celebrated as a true liturgical cult amidst disappointments and bitterness, is promptly transformed into a fearsome boomerang that forces him to often leave the meeting tent to bite the dust of the miseries of others.

Hence the certainty of not having an ideal companion on his earthly pilgrimage to the Trinitarian homeland, a clear friend, capable of fully satisfying his pangs of love. Betraying one's vocation, turning back and leaving the plow causes an earthquake of incalculable proportions in the heart of the Apostle of Vocations, like the death of a son: These days, I cried, dead, another religious of mine, Scandiffio. He was my friend as well as my son ... When my Fr. Palmieri died and it seemed to me that I could not confide to anyone how much I suffered from it, I began to turn my heart to you, as capable of receiving my confidences. I didn't, however find that this lingering in rest of the heart, along the way, is not useful for our purpose. Every sense of rest in the creature is to the detriment of the impulse of the spirit towards his God. Thinking differently is an adolescent's illusion¹³.

In the fundamental work *Spiritus Orationis*, which represents a milestone in Justinian production, we read a page where the solitude of the soul thirsty for love is filled only by the consolation of the first and only love, God-Trinity, whose likeness is within us: I forgot that similar to me and especially for me there could not be other than the one in whose likeness and especially for him I was made. Believing I had found my friend, I passionately

¹² Letter 794 to Fr. Galasso.

¹³ Letter 652 to Fr. Fraraccio.

conceded myself to him and you do not blame me as a fault, O first love. Then I felt that was not my ideal and since the present would always deny it to me, I have sought and greeted it even in the future friend¹⁴. In vain do all men pass me by, because I do not find in them whom to possess fully and to whom to give myself totally as I would like. And I am waiting for you, I am walking towards you, I am languishing for you, I will end up dying and I delay dying to come to you.

Spanning the Trinitarian heaven, Fr. Justin's integral and universal soul does not give up in the face of the bewilderment of others:

They are one more reason, a further grace to bend over the tiredness of a child, a brother, a friend who is unable or unwilling to keep up with his upward pace. He confides in the young Galasso, his first successor in the government of the Congregation. However many disappointments I have had so far, and they are many in kind, I persist in believing that there is someone, or rather who can find someone truly and deeply and highly good and sweet with God and with me, and to long for him as a perfect friend. And again: The heart? We leave it crying in a hidden corner, without consolation, until the one who did it will find it purified in pain and will have mercy on it and will take it totally within himself¹⁵.

The loneliness dug by a misplaced trust or an unrequited love gives us the icon of an ever more delirious humanity of love for divine possession, total and definitive, never negotiable, ever higher. *Inside the one who writes*¹⁶, *something calms up in your presence and makes me almost talkative*. Currently there is no other in the Congregation who is led to confide in what fills us inside, which is

¹⁴ Russolillo Works, Vol. 2 Spiritus Orationis: part I, chap. I, To the future friend.

¹⁵ Letter 786 to Fr. Galasso.

¹⁶ Russolillo, Works, vol. 14, Letter 794 and 819.

the word of the Lord. The interest you show and the capacity that the Lord has given you for his word makes you deserve someone who is an echo of that Word, and who finds life and the feast of life in it.

Our vocation is truly divine! Blessed is he who receives it and answers you. So, my dear, you will have endless spiritual confidences, I would say, if it pleases the Lord to let our hearts meet and keep united in his. As for drying tears etc. this the Lord has reserved to himself and we expect it from him. Those I have loved have made me pour it from inside and outside that I fear I will open up as I did to certain deep forms of friendship that is also good. And everyone who loves promises sea and mountains, and all eternity, and then inflicts thorns and torments like a butcher. I said it too bitterly in "Tears" in *Spiritus Orationis*¹⁷. How true it is that there is no love without thorns!

Justin, convinced that the intense desire of his future friend will never be satisfied over time, he will continue to look for it simply because in every person he feels the divine presence of the adorable Trinity. No person - he writes to Fr. Giorgio Saggiomo - is worthy of having our heart and our life! But there is one person, indeed the three adorable persons to whom we will rush, we will give ourselves, we will abandon ourselves, and we will be happy. Challenge all the beauties, the powers of the world to pass before God and see if there is beauty and power that can be compared with the beauty and power of our love!

The gaze of love ends up resting only on Jesus, the most beautiful, the sweetest, on the beautiful face dripping blood on the cross, the beautiful eyes, the hands pierced by nails, the feet that drag themselves through the courts, the heart pierced by the spear of the soldier.

All this Justin, the little just, with the heart of a child sees in the friend that he will never meet in this world. Only the man Jesus

¹⁷ Letter 667 to Fr. Fraraccio

possesses the characteristics of the friend he is looking for. And when in his heart and soul, St. Justin draws the identity of his future friend, he projects him into the person who, together with him, will reach the heights of divine union.

We are accompanied by the Justinian correspondence that we are lucky enough to have in our hands today. We can consider it a *vademecum* or rather a net cast to capture many friends, all to be delivered to the divine plural to make them live in the divine present.

Fr. Vincenzo Pelella, S.D.V.

CHAPTER I

Letters to Fr. Salvatore Di Fusco

Fr. Salvatore was born in Pianura on the same day as the birth of the Congregation, October 18 1920. He entered the Vocationary of Pianura in 1931 and was ordained a priest in 1945. He served the Congregation in the residences of Posillipo, Rome, Vibonati, Pianura, Altavilla Silentina, Grammichele, Anagni, Grottarossa and Fidene. He died in Pianura on September 10, 2006. A hieratic figure and a man of prayer and apostolate, he fascinated and inflamed with his example. Of a rather closed and shy character, he suffered a lot especially due to the magnetic attraction he exerted on the faithful. Saint Justin was his confirmation's godfather.

N. 529

Start the Vocationary, if you can; do it soon.

Pianura, November 7, 1947

My dear Di Fusco,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Do not fear for the dear house of Vibonati, as soon as possible a superior will come to decide the matter. However, you could have started by welcoming as many children as possible in the hospice!

If you can still do this, do it now; otherwise, wait a little longer. It is not forgetfulness that makes us postpone the arrangement of your house a little longer, but only other more urgent things. Be patient!

May Jesus bless you.

We have been called to pay attention to these points by preachers passing through Vibonati and by alarmist voices of villagers. What has happened to other confreres must make us open our eyes and take action.

Pianura, July 2, 1948

To our dearest brother in Jesus, Salvatore Di Fusco.

1. You can go back to your place, the month of June having ended.
2. I assign you as particular obedience:
 - a) Get in full agreement with the confreres of which you are the religious superior;
 - b) Absolutely refrain from speaking ill of the nuns, always, wherever and with whomever;
 - c) Never, absolutely never, go to private homes, except to take the holy sacraments;
 - d) Never discuss anything with women directly, but only in church, and at great distance and through nuns;
 - e) Never initiate greeting any woman, even if very distinguished and very high;
 - f) Establish the Vocationary at any cost;
 - g) Never take food and rest outside the community residence, therefore not even in the parish.
 - h) Be ready for any change, as the project of entrusting you with a more serious post has already been mooted, regardless of any items against you.

We have been called to pay attention to these points by passing preachers in Vibonati and by alarmist voices of villagers. What has happened to other confreres must make us open our eyes and take action.

But since we believe in your innocence, and we attribute the rumors against you, to the sole inexperience and frivolity of some-

one who does not foresee the possible bad effects of his easygoing conduct, we want you to return to your place, according to the intention we have expressed to you when you came to Pianura. Become a saint! Obey generously, dissolving, not creating difficulties.

N. 531

We are generally happy with your work. It is only a pity that, being able or owing the parish benefit to give a living to the parish priest and other family members, you do not find a way to help the Congregation, while you could and should have given at least the income of the holy masses of two fathers, especially since you have no Vocationary.

Pianura, August 17, 1950

Dear Fr. Salvatore,

May Jesus bless us.

I am writing to you by order of the Most Reverend Pontifical Assistant. By October 1st of the current year 1950, must function, or at least be inaugurated the male institute (orphanage-vocationary-college, whatever it is, or all together) of Vibonati. Even with only a dozen pupils; but I'm sure you can have about twenty.

I am sending you the report for you to make three copies of which one for the Most Reverend Assistant, another for the archives of the Mother House, and one or more for you.

We are generally happy with your work. It is only a pity that, being able or owing the parish benefit to provide a living for the parish priest and other family members, you do not find a way to help the Congregation, whereas you could and should have spent at least the income of the holy masses of two priests, especially since you have no Vocationary. It is therefore the duty of the religious to contribute to the needs of the houses of formation (novitiate, studentates, etc.) to the missions and other works. Only when there is a free Vocationary can one be excused. The

people must provide everything that is needed by the parish. The Congregation has already given a lot by giving the priest. I hope you will no longer need this request.

N. 532

At the bottom of the report of the community of Vibonati dated August 5, 1950, in the post scriptum "the nuns have at their disposal a very large room which they use only in part, but in part remains unused for their works. I am stating this only because, with a rational and religious division and arrangement of the premises, much good could be done in this area, which needs it so much, and more help could come to the community and also to the nuns themselves." Fr. Justin writes:

Of this I am very convinced and saddened, because they did not do the Vocationary (since two years ago) as I wanted.

N. 533

To a note of Fr. Salvatore's report "for them (nuns) we provide a complete assistance service in the morning, at noon and in the evening," St. Justin adds:

State what assistance you provide to the nuns at noon, in order not to misunderstand, or omit this middle term.

In reality, 8,000 lire a month for three fathers is a paltry offer! In institutes where one eats less and less well, 16,000 lire are required per month for each priest! I will tell you what these institutions are!

The assistance to the nuns, in their church, should not be counted since it is a public church and you also serve the other public churches of the parish.

If the questionnaire received from the Most Reverend Father Assistant does not ask anything about relations with the Sisters, do not touch this button. If you deem it necessary, make a separate complaint, and for justice, you should communicate a copy to the nuns so that they can justify themselves, otherwise, you

expose yourself and those who read or listen to you to a mortal sin of injustice when the offender is condemned by listening only to the accusers, and not allowing the accused to defend himself.

CHAPTER II

Letters to Fr. Luigi Diodato

Born in Pianura on January 17, 1905, Luigi entered the Vocationary in 1922, was ordained a priest in 1931. He was called "the barrel of tradition" and was the historical memory of the Congregation. He spent almost all of his life in Pianura as a collaborator of Fr. Justin in the service of the Parish of St. Giorgio. To us boys of the Vocationary he told with evident enthusiasm facts such as the ecstasy of Fr. Justin, the story of Mary's superiority and of the room of the Madonna, the healing of the boy who fell and he seemed dead in the halls above the parish church, the fact that Fr. Justin wrote the Constitutions in front of the open tabernacle and many other things. He was a very accurate man in the parish registers and wrote clearly with a beautiful handwriting, he gladdened the parish liturgies with his music and his melodious songs. He entered into eternal life on November 28, 1957.

N. 534

Severe warning on how to behave with Mr. Pirelli and how to prevent any contact between him and the boys.

Pianura, 7 - 19 - 33

Dear Fr. Luigino,

Coming Pirelli to Mercato or Perdifumo, make sure that he does not get close to your pupils. Do not send any of your pupils to Mercato, either for the day or for the night.

Some young boys from Pianura are coming there. You can take them with you, but always keeping them under your eyes. I impose it on you under a grave burden of conscience.

If Pirelli comes to Perdifumo, you must be vigilant and prevent

any relationship and contact of the youngsters with him. I highly recommend this!

Goodbye! Become a saint. Don't entertain any adults with you.

N. 535

With great mastery Fr. Justin corrects and exhorts his son to humility and reverence as well as to the observance of the Rules and Constitutions.

Pianura, 4 - 7 - 34

My dear Fr. Diodato,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thanks for the good wishes, condolences, prayers.

I recommend Tardi, keep him in fervor, well supervised and form him with frequent and appropriate reminders, even private exhortations, to religious life.

Why didn't you go to Serra Mezzana? And why didn't you even answer and justify your refusal? If you have good reasons, explain them humbly. If you don't have any, always humbly ask for forgiveness. From the Badia they sent me your letter... and they found it rather disrespectful. Please, whenever you think (yes, think), whenever you talk and whenever write about superiors, to superiors, etc. do it with all reverence, heartfelt humility, as if dealing with Jesus Christ in person. Not for fiction or politics, but for the truth of dutiful feelings.

Be very careful then for yourself, lest you fall into temptation. Fear, caution, prayer, mortification of the senses and especially of the heart, will preserve us from any surprise of falling.

Courage. Observe with utmost perfection the Rules in each of their articles, and have them observed. Therein lie the secret and the key to all our victory, progress and spiritual conquest.

Soon after his profession, I will send you Br. Nicola.

May Jesus bless you. Bless me and pray for me.

CHAPTER III

Letters to Fr. Luigi Fontana

Perhaps more than any other of the first Vocationists Fr. Luigi assimilated the love for vocations, the spirit of sacrifice and industriousness. Fr. Justin could really count on him; in all the General Chapters of the Congregation he always received the vote of Fr. Justin, as superior general. In addition to having been superior and teacher in almost all of our Vocationaries, after the death of the Founder he left as a missionary for Brazil and gave great impetus to this first Vocationist mission in the world. He was first General Councilor and then for twelve years Vicar General and Delegate for Brazil. While the confreres noted the external disorder of Fr. Luigi, caused by his industriousness and spirit of poverty, Fr. Justin never missed an opportunity to point him out to others as a model of spiritual progress. Born and died in Pianura, 1908 - 1992.

N. 536

I recommend that you preach to young people every day! Become a saint and pray for me!

Baia, 8 - 30 - 32

Dear Fr. Fontana,

I am sending you the biography of Blessed Theophane. After you have read it, send it to the novitiate.

Have all those in the house who ask for it for personal cleanliness take turns taking a tepid bath, always under proper supervision.

Tell Cajazza to have Pirelli prepare the document he requests regarding the pension or scholarship and I will sign it.

Write to Cernolo immediately to find out about the health of his father and his.

I recommend that you preach to aspirants every day!

Pray for me and become a saint!

I kiss Fr. Giovanni's hand and tell him that there is not one empty room here. So, be patient if I don't call him.

I hope to see you soon. Cultivate your mind and heart with holy reading.

Take great care of the sick. Make them heal. Jesus, Mary, Joseph.

N. 537

I periodically wait for the book of the soul. Watch over yourself and over the others.

Pianura, 12 - 19 - 32

Dear Fr. Fontana,

God be with us.

I am sending Notarnicola student of second year of philosophy. He himself will talk about himself to the Reverend Rector. The bishop of Gravina recommends him. For the Christmas holidays I'm waiting for the Vocationists of Fratte in Pianura to do penance!

I send them some candy. Don't eat them all by yourself!

To Notarnicola you will ask for the entrance fee and the usual monthly donation (lire 72). May Jesus bless us. Happy Christmas wishes. I look periodically for the book of the soul. Watch, watch, watch over yourself and over the others.

Solicit the payment for the cots.

N. 538

It is necessary that the principle of authority be strongly maintained, even by the smallest prefect. Inform Satriano that at the end of the year he will have the authorization for the tonsure, but that he will have to find a new home for the next year, because I find him neither humble nor mortified to still keep him with us. So is Ferreri.

Pianura, 5 - 19 - 33

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Please, without ado, investigate carefully the case of that young man who failed against the prefect De Fusco with threats etc. and he launched a principle of slander against our good religious De Fusco. It is necessary that the principle of authority be strongly maintained, even toward the smallest prefect. Sacredly keep the established times, without dispensations and without exceptions. Coming someone to Pianura is not a useless expense. We will do this: I will reimburse you each time for the trip you have anticipated.

It is not for my personal pleasure that I allow it, but it is because it seems to me that it is necessary, and that it is beneficial to see the Mother House again.

I expect De Fusco and Ruberti as soon as you can. Watch, watch, watch! Exclude every stranger from the house, even a child. People still smoke in the house and you don't take care of it!

Inform Satriano that at the end of the year he will have the authorization for the tonsure, but that he will have to find a new place next year, because I don't find him humble or mortified to still keep him with us. So is Ferreri.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 539

We trust in the Lord and in the Blessed Virgin Mary, expecting everything from above, but at the same time, let us work with all our strength and diligence as if everything depended on us. I very much recommend you and Fr. Michele to use a lot of firmness and also rigor with ours, but always with elevated, spiritual, I would say noble manners, without any vulgarity. Watch, watch!

Pianura, 5 - 28 - 33

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

We trust in the Lord and in the Blessed Virgin Mary, expecting everything from above, but at the same time, let us work with all our strength and diligence as if everything depended on us.

Don't hesitate to strip Scandiffio of all authority and office. And if he seems incorrigible, give him, for now, a fortnight's holiday at his home (extreme remedy preceding the maximum). Then keep this principle in mind: never admit in our houses any lay people! Neither for Catholic Action, nor for theaters, nor for hospitality, nor for anything. I mean in our houses. When we have premises for Catholic Action, for guests, etc. then gladly. Now that the houses are so narrow that ours can hardly move inside, we cannot even by exception welcome others.

I very much recommend you and Fr. Michele to use a lot of firmness and also rigor with ours, but always with elevated, spiritual, I would say noble manners, without any vulgarity. Watch, watch!

May Jesus bless us.

N. 540

Please, strictly place a faithful porter at the entrance door (not a cleric, a seminarian, or a Vocationist). This janitor must always, always be at the door.

Pianura, 5 - 31 - 33

Very Reverend and dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Please strictly place a faithful porter at the entrance door (not a cleric, a seminarian, or a Vocationist). This porter must always, always be at the door. Always lock. To everyone who knocks, after looking through a hole who he is and whether he can open it or not, whether he is a person who is permitted to enter, he opens and locks the door again, etc.

Absolute prohibition to communicate with external to ours. This I wrote to you on 5 - 31 - 33.

Today 6 - 21 - 33: Holy, happy, perennial wishes to you and to the community. Be well, become saints. Perhaps I will come to see you on my way back from Perdifumo. Good exams.

N. 541

I sympathize with your pain for the loss of four good young professed brothers. However, let us take advantage of this circumstance to humble ourselves before God, take lessons in greater prudence, gentleness, firmness, observance, etc. depending on whether the Lord makes us understand what our fault may have been in these events.

Pianura, 7 - 6 - 33

Very Reverend and Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I sympathize with your pain for the loss of four good young professed brothers. However, let us take advantage of this circumstance to humble ourselves before God, take lessons in greater prudence, gentleness, firmness, observance, etc. depending on

whether the Lord makes us understand what our fault may have been in these events.

In any case, that prayer is good: "Lord, let me derive the greatest profit of the soul from this accident, event, etc." Let us always and everywhere cultivate our students in a good spirit. We never neglect ours in anything, to look after others. Concerning the Vocationists then, Fr. Michele does not have the competence to judge them, to appreciate them, because he is not yet a perfect Vocationist, he does not understand them. Meanwhile, with prayer we try to remedy and save. Bless me.

N. 542

Pianura, 7 - 28 - 33

My Dear Fontana,

I kindly ask you to see Durante and ask him only if he has received two of my letters addressed to him in Salerno after July 20. I say this because the other two addressed to Castel S. Lorenzo did not arrive to him, and I suppose that the owner of the house in Salerno had the same duty to intercept my letters. Try to see him, and if he has received them, ask for an answer about my invitation, having to adjust.

His address in Salerno is: via Gianvincenzo Quaranta, n. 15.

Thanks. Goodbye.

N. 543

Fratte's house was the source of the main suffering that still lasts from last school year. From young people we want only services and virtues, and we don't dedicate ourselves to their profit, to safeguarding them from opportunities, to inflaming, encouraging, preserving them. We treasure past experiences.

Pianura, 10 - 4 - 33

Very Reverend and dear Fr. Luigino,

I hasten to answer you about Fratte's things.

I intend to absolutely maintain the strictest prohibition about women who should stay in the house for any purpose, of any age and kinship with ours.

I am very amazed that after all that has happened and been said and suffered, it is still starting all over again.

Make the most of the kitchen. I gave you Br. De Caprio not to serve you as a beggar, but as a brother cook. Make him always cleaner, more diligent, capable, but let him be the cook.

Even Catholic Action must be done outside the convent. Absolutely. No lay people in our house. You must not exhaust yourself in the labors of your choice. I have said and prayed to you several times: "Do the charity of accompanying the young men to the seminary and picking them up when they return." It's a heroic act... it's true to do it constantly, but I know you want to become a saint.

Likewise the youngsters you will send to Salerno. Who accompanies them? What guarantees can you offer me?

Dear Fr. Fontana, I admit that it was through no fault of yours, but the Fratte house was the source of the main suffering that still lasts from last school year. I have lost three professed brothers and I attribute to the special favor of blessed God, if others still, and you know them, have not reached this extreme.

The good Fr. Michele may be a good priest, a good parish priest and whatever you want, but he is not a good Vocationist.

From young people some of us only expect services and virtues, and we do not consecrate ourselves to their profit, to safeguard them from opportunities, to inspire them, encourage them, preserve them.

Let us treasure past experiences. May Jesus bless us.

N. 544

After one month you will give your opinions and listen to those of others.

Dear Fr. Fontana and Fr. Verde,

Will of God!

It seems good to me *in Domino* that Fr. Verde comes to Pianura with Galante and Lorino destined: Galante to Pianura, Lorino to St. Pietro di Cava, Fr. Verde to Fratte.

Fr. Fontana, you will stay in Gorga, as if you were going to stay there for a while. However, things will have their definitive order after a month of experience, so I don't now see it prudent to report it to the respective Diocesan Ordinaries.

May Jesus bless you.

Please carry out these provisions promptly. Bless me.

N. 545

In the meantime I trust that you will be able to multiply yourself by continuing to look after everything personally, which is always better. Being this Vocationary named "of the Most Holy Trinity," makes it appear as the first. Whether it is truly in reality the first for fervor, for study, for regularity, for religious vocations, for constancy in the holy resolutions.

12 - 30 - 33

Dear Fr. Luigino,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thank you for the good wishes, which I warmly reciprocate to you and to the whole community. I am very happy that the house is almost full and that you put it in better static conditions in order to reduce the discomfort. I wish I could send you some personal help and I have not yet understood your greater need whether it be for a teacher or a watchman or a lay brother. Perhaps all three would be needed, and with God's help I will send them to you, but not right away.

In the meantime I trust that you will be able to multiply yourself by continuing to look after everything personally, which is always better. Being this Vocationary named "of the Most Holy Trinity" makes it appear as the first. May it be the first in reality for fervor, for study, for regularity, for religious vocations, for constancy in the holy resolutions.

Write regularly, according to the circulars received. May Jesus bless us. Bless me.

N. 546

1 - 13 - 34

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I'm sending you a young teacher (not strictly religious, but with good intentions), so that you send Babino back to me. Both Oscar and this one (Le Foche) must observe our entire life.

Become a saint.

N. 547

Read a lot, please, I recommend it, read a lot.

Pianura, 1 - 31 - 34

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I am sorry, I could not come. The Capitular Vicar of Pozzuoli came with me and his hours were numbered. I will come without haste to see you with your good students, whom I hope will become ever better in the good spirit of faith, penance and prayer.

I noticed many Latin errors in the book of the soul. For a gym-

nasium teacher they are too many¹! Courage though! But you don't always register the good thoughts.

I am sending you some printed, forms, which you must fill in and periodically send to Pianura with great diligence. When I come, I will do a little examination of the boys. I cherish the memory of poems and prose, but of great value, not ordinary little things.

Read a lot, please, I recommend it, read a lot.

If a professed brother comes to act as professor and prefect, watch him very, very much, inside and out, with the internal and external boys.

If Pirelli comes, remember that he absolutely must not deal or hold back with the boys, especially with the internal ones. Absolute prohibition. Only with you can he deal. I'll make sure that he never comes.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless us.

N. 548

Take care to pay off all debts and not to contract new ones. I am really in serious need, but I don't want to aggravate others by taking away from them the necessary. The Lord will provide.

6 - 20 - 34

My dear Fr. Fontana,

Accept my wishes, also on behalf of the community of Pianura. I enjoy and thank God for the parish they have entrusted to us in Gorga. Take care to cancel all debts and not to contract new ones. I am really in serious need, but I don't want to aggravate others by depriving them of what is necessary. The Lord will provide.

¹ This sentence is crossed out, but readable. Whose erasure is it, Fr. Justin's or Fr. Fontana's?

I don't want you to go to bed late. The seven hours of sleep are necessary. Arrange and organize your things in such a way that they can be finished by nine in the evening.

You greatly promote the devotion and knowledge of St. Dominic, the titular of the Parish, if I am not mistaken. Even our pupils of the Vocationary will benefit greatly from the example of St. Dominic! Also set up some periodic devotions for him and some daily veneration in the parish for him.

I cannot yet specify when I will be able to come, as I must and I hope. If necessary, pay my religious respects to the nuns of Anagni where I did the exercises.

May Jesus bless us. I hope to see you soon,

N. 549

Even knowing that Archbishop Castaldo was the first and most ardent accuser of the Congregation, Fr. Justin humbles himself and the whole Congregation with him!

(Undated 1934)

Dear Confrere,

It seems good to me that every Vocationist priest should write to the Most Excellent Bishop of Pozzuoli Alfonso Castaldo, telling him with all humility and trust that, having learned of the danger that our Congregation is suffering, he recommends her to paternal charity and protection of the Most Excellent Ordinary of origin, so that he may draw her out of this danger with his prudence and power.

Be careful not to express anything other than this thought. Jesus bless you.

N. 550

If they don't satisfy you, you can, by yourself, with all charity, but also with all firmness, dismiss them to their respective families.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I am sending you as a teacher this good young man, Le Foche di Sezze. However, I would like Babino to return to Pianura shortly to prepare himself well for the entrance exam to the fifth year.

Both Oscar and Le Foche must live as perfect religious who are observant in all respects. If they don't satisfy you, you can, by yourself, with all charity, but also with all firmness, dismiss them, to their respective families, not to Pianura.

Speak to them very clearly, albeit in private.

May Jesus bless you. Pray much for the present tribulation.

N. 551

October 2, 1934

Very Reverend and Dear Fr. Luigino,

Professor Fr. Salvatore² (Cialino, I say Cia-li-no,) comes to the residence in Gorga, and you will want to use him as a teacher in that class that you believe, e.g. eighth grade.

And if he can, I would like him to repeat the fifth gymnasium subjects to the two prefects, which they had already studied.

Hope to see you soon. May Jesus bless us.

N. 552

They told me that you have put tile floors in some rooms. Put it, if you can, even in the one where I could stay for a few short day, another improvement to the house remains.

8 - 16 - 34

My dear Fr. Fontana,

² One of the many vocations in difficulty assisted and rehabilitated by Fr Giustino.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Soon I will send for you for the spiritual exercises (third shift!) and some confrere will replace you.

They told me that you have put tile floors in some rooms. Put it, if you can, even in the one where I could stay for a few short days, another improvement to the house.

As regards the questions, it is better to send all requests for admission to the central house and from there receive the new ones, indicating the places available and the classes. Dear Fontana, mental organization must be intangible!

I have to remove no part of any work, even of ministry. Mental prayer is irreplaceable! Everything can be done with prayer, but prayer cannot be done with everything else. Therefore it is also indispensable for you. How can you easily dispense with it? Martha doesn't bother Mary. No good work should presume to steal even a little time from prayer. Do you understand?

May Jesus bless you. Thanks and best wishes.

Affectionately in Jesus. Mary, Joseph.

N. 553

Systematically read the Rule for a period of 50 days, meditating on it in the morning, just as a regular daily meditation, to see how best to observe it, and to ever more esteem and love our holy vocation and Congregation.

Pianura, 6 - 20 - 35

My dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

First: Thank you very much for the nice welcome you gave, in fraternal charity, when I passed... at night. I will gladly come back to stay with you one day.

Second: Best wishes for St. Louis. Try to educate many saints Luigi among our Vocationary students!

Finally: Systematically read the Rule for a period of 50 days, meditating on it in the morning, just as a regular daily meditation, to see how best to observe it, and to ever more esteem and love our holy vocation and Congregation³

N. 554

You will send me the monthly quota that you believe to establish in order to satisfy your part.

1935

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless you.

For the debt with S. E. I. I have already paid for all our houses with 28 bills of 500 lire each, while the house in Pianura had already paid all its debt.

You will send me monthly that quota, which you will establish to satisfy your share. Furthermore, I have already promised Rome's income to Anagni for my debt to Leoniano Seminary, so you must send it to me immediately.

As for the aspirants, it was decided as follows: those who failed and must repeat the year will remain in Pianura, those promoted on the first exam go to Gorga, those who must take the exams again in October will go to Anagni.

But if many are promoted, and I hope so, it becomes burdensome for you to keep them with you, they too may come to Pianura.

May Jesus bless you.

³ Unfortunately the sheet is torn and the following lines cannot be read.

P. S. Fr. Baiano⁴ has no such permission. It is against all reverence and obedience to do that. You don't cooperate with him. Become a saint.

N. 555

Make your house a true garden of saints, a true cenacle.

6 - 20 - 1936

My dear Fr. Luigino,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

A list of wishes with a purpose that can be glimpsed:

1. That you arrive at a great sacred science;
2. That you are faithful to all our observances;
3. That you form your house, a true garden of saints, a real cenacle;
4. That you are more attached to the Mother House and our houses of formation, who are all in serious need, and need the dutiful contribution of all the houses. Therefore, do not withhold Rome's income, but transmit it in full to the center. Please, hurry to collect and send it. I recommend Caradonna. It seems to us that he is not successful in his studies. Wouldn't it be better to persuade him to stay with us, or elsewhere as a brother?

May Jesus bless us.

N. 556

As an uncle, welcome this little nephew of yours into the Gorga Vocationary. But feel good. Count your pupils. It goes up to twenty. All the others have to go to other Vocationaries, or go back to the family. This is obedience.

⁴ Fr. Gino Baiano, former Vocationist priest.

Pianura, 10 - 13 - 1936

Dear Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Welcome this little nephew of yours into the Gorga Vocationary. But feel good.

Count your pupils. It goes up to twenty. All others must go to other Vocationaries, or go back to the family. This is obedience.

If they can pay 70 lire a month to Cava or Perdifumo, if less (or nothing) to Bovino.

May Jesus bless you.

The monthly fee of this little nephew of yours, half goes to you, half to his aunt in Pianura. You understand. And if this monthly contribution is too small, let it go all to the aunt in Pianura. So you won't need to worry about her from Gorga. This permission is for one year.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 557

Be reasonable. What is the use of everything outside being well placed and provided for if there is no inside? And that you, superior and priest, act as a good worker and layman, if then the source and vein of spiritual doctrine, prayer and preaching dries up?

Pianura, 12 - 11 - 1937

Dear Fr. Fontana,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I received and read your reports. From them it seems that everything is fine. And so be it!

Yet I must recommend to you ever more generous and constant vigilance, over everything and everyone in honor and imitation of the immensity of the Lord. Strictly refrain from going yourself and from allowing and tolerating others to go to the Sisters' apartment.

And when necessary for work, think twice and three times to see how to remedy the need without going there even then.

When it is really not possible otherwise, you never go there alone, but always with another very serious person. Proportionately the same is said of talking to the nuns at the turn.

As for manual work, which is also necessary, limit your part a little; to be able to look after your intellectual and spiritual culture every day.

Be reasonable. What is the use of everything outside being well placed and provided for if there is no inside? And that you, superior and priest, act as a good worker and layman, if then the source and vein of spiritual doctrine, prayer and preaching dries up?

Less manual work and more study, more prayer, more preaching.

All this already says the conscience and the angel, and I wanted to tell you too, because I want to see you ascend to the illuminative life and then to the unitive life.

Ascension, ascension!

I also recommend the book *Ascension* in its theory and practice.

I am aware that it was used diligently in Pianura and Cava. I hope the same of Gorga. I refer especially to the eighth part of said book. But for you personally, as superior and parish priest that you are, I recommend part six.

And now intensify your prayer for the Congregation so that the Lord forgives us all the religious non-observances, the real cause of the tribulation in which we are pouring and signal its end.

Make yourself a saint. Visit the house in Anagni at least once a month in a paternal manner and help it if you can.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 558

Limit the number of pupils and classes if you really want to do religious education.

Pianura, 7 - 25 - 1939

Dear Fr. Fontana,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I received the six-month annuity and I am thankful for it.

For the S.E.I. I have instructed Fr. Saggiomo who has been busy for some time to clarify things with regard to you.

For Bellomo I defer to you. I don't see clearly his vocation as our religious, and for this reason I allow him to go home. If I were certain of his will to be our religious I would not allow him. May this also be your norm and criterion.

For those who have to make-up exams at the Leoniano, I recommend that you make them study hard and not employ them for whole days in manual work.

Iadeluca wanted me to send Garofalo to Gorga. I think that in Anagni there is someone really capable of helping them prepare for the second session and you could use them for these months. Because Garofalo has to prepare the philosophy exams always required for admission to the academic course. He has already done some teaching at Sezze and will certainly go to theology. I don't know yet, whom I will send as prefect.

Limit the number of pupils and classes if you really want to do religious education.

It is necessary to grant a month of rest to Fr. Vincenzo Romano both for the spiritual exercises and for some treatment, which he needs. Combine together with him the way to implement this holiday.

Similarly, I would like all those who remain in Anagni to take turns, for example. in two times they come to pass a twenty, thirty days in Gorga; and at that time these great ones that you keep in Gorga would move to Anagni, if it seemed to you an excessive burden on the house to keep them all.

In a few days you will receive the circular letter for the convocation of the Triennial Chapter. We will do it in September. See you soon. May Jesus bless you. Directly cultivate the love of the Lord in you and in souls.

N. 559

The first Friday of each month has been established for the monthly retreat in our houses, and every Thursday, after the holy community mass, a small Eucharistic procession (with the holy pyx) within the church, e.g. your parish church by singing the Pange Lingua. It can be done, if you think it better in the evening.

Pianura, 1 - 16 - 1940

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I will treasure the observations of the Most Excellent Ordinary of Anagni regarding *ours*.

Please have sister superior sew a cassock for Nardin and a cassock and a coat for Silimbri.

The sister from Pianura has sent the material.

I have obliged other Vocationaries to have their pupils associate with our work of vocations with the obligation of a prayer and a mortification and a penny every day. The pennies are sent to me every month; prayer and mortification is indicated by the local superior (unless I send it as a spiritual program from Pianura).

The first Friday of each month has been established for the monthly retreat in our houses, and every Thursday, after the holy

community mass, a small Eucharistic procession (with the holy pyx) within the church, e.g. your parish church while singing the *Pange Lingua*. It can be done, if you think it better, in the evening.

I expect that within the next six months the top floor of the vocationary building will be repaired and so prevent ruin on the flat roof.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 560

I allow you to come and bless your sister's wedding on the condition that your parents indicate the precise day so that you will be here on the eve.

Pianura of Naples, 4 - 16 - 1940

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I allow you to come and bless your sister's marriage provided that your parents indicate the precise day so that you will be here on the eve. Otherwise I do not intend in any way to allow the superior and parish priest to stay away from his field for unjust reasons.

For the moment it is not possible to come to Gorga, but there will be an opportunity when we can meet again.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 561

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Pianura, 11 - 3 - 1941

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Nardelli Domenico, who was in Altavilla some time ago is here.

He left the bale with the mattress in which there were clothes, 4 sheets, blankets, shirts, socks, etc. all of his kit, and likewise a chest. Now he is in Pianura and needs this stuff. Try to get it delivered to him as soon as possible, here at the Central Vocationary.

Thanks a lot. May Jesus bless us.

N. 562

I trust very much in your charity and prudence that you will be able to arrange things in such a way as to remain in full harmony with the local rector and the other confreres.

Dear Fontana,

I am not against Di Mascio being accepted with the obligation to act as prefect for the youngsters; I also told Fr. Sepe out of due regard. He is always Rector.

You are on the spot like a father... provincial in his office; and even there, there is always a local rector in function. You must be free to come and go, both because of the need for the work you have been mandated to carry out, and because of your condition as parish priest which has not yet been clearly resolved.

It is therefore necessary that there is always a fixed local rector. I trust very much in your charity and prudence that you will be able to arrange things in order to remain in full harmony with the local rector and the other confreres.

That aspirant to the Congregation can come to Pianura. As for the nuns, I will hasten that they come. You prepare their apartment well.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 563

In response to a plea dated 11 - 17 - 1941, by four boys from the Vocationary of the SS. Annunziata di Cava dei Tirreni, Fr. Justin writes to Fr. Fontana.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Please, answer for me, agreeing with Fr. Salvatore, if he ever really wants to give up the second year too and pass it on to you. Sciarrotta paid Cava 125 lire a month (according to your rule). He's a good boy.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 564

2 - 3 - 1942

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Please, welcome poor Fr. Guerriero on a trial basis. If he should cause concern, you will have him accompanied to Avella. However, we trust very much that the Lord through the intercession of St. Anthony will heal him.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 565

2 - 28 - 1942

Dear Fr. Fontana,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

I urgently need to know if among your present pupils, and among the past ones, who are currently in our other houses, e.g. in Pianura there are ex-seminarians or religious (in any way they have been in the houses of other religious) and if you keep the information received, write it down for me diligently; if you don't keep them, report the content as you remember it, summarily. It's urgent!

May Jesus bless us.

N. 566

Perhaps I abuse your kindness, but I trust to find in you a spirit of charity and servitude, which must be our animator.

Laetare Sunday - 1942

My Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Perhaps I abuse your kindness, but I trust to find in you a spirit of charity and servitude, which must be our animator.

The bearer is brother to our religious Cucciniello Arturo. He needs a change of air and environment to find the serenity that has been disturbed. However, he wants to be busy, and not a little, with work in the fields. I thought that you could do him this charity and that he could be useful to this house if you will host him and occupy him.

You will not have to detain him beyond his desire, so that he must be free to return to his home when he wants. Then during the time of his stay with you, kindly try to make him approach, with the due dispositions, to Holy Communion, even every day or very often without forcing him.

As for the work you wish to do for the church, for the organ, I would say this: what is urgent does not need permission to be done; and by urgent we mean that which, if neglected, would give rise to a greater evil. But if they are not urgent needs, then I beg you to apply your energies, means and industries to completing the work on the house, according to the plan you made for me, so that this one will soon be a truly excellent and great Vocationary; bring it to the capacity of seventy-two and more places as we would like for each vocationary and also begin, prudently, the procedures to have, in fact, this number of pupils for the new school year, but always from the first three middle classes.

I hope to see you again. Make yourself holy. May Jesus bless you.

If you can direct to the central house the congrua of Gorga, after having satisfied all your debts, you would do something very opportune.

Inculcate, albeit from afar, but effectively, to the brothers and sisters of Gorga (as far as you can) that soon, but I mean soon, they arrange things in such a way that Gorga provides for the linen and bread to the Anagni student residence, as well as for holidays; and that for the school year other rooms in our house be given to the sisters for use, transferable and separable from the students during the summer holidays: and that for these purposes they provide for some of their own means of transport, to facilitate communications between Anagni and Gorga.

Am I asking too much? *Omnia possum in eo qui me confortat!*

Germano behaves very badly. Write to him strongly. I don't really see all the benevolence and protection that Fr. Romano has for him. How do you explain? See you again. I will telegram you for the Council.

N. 567

During the autumn holidays, take a spiritual vacation and make the annual small novitiate: The one hundred days of the Blessed Trinity. According to the Observances.

Pianura, 7 - 6 - 1942

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I have assigned seven clerics to Altavilla for these holidays and I have them accompanied by a priest, the Rev. Fr. Antonio Di Pierno.

The idea is this. During the autumn holidays, take a spiritual vacation and make the annual small novitiate; the hundred days

of the Blessed Trinity. According to the Observances. For this purpose we have distributed the students to the various houses, in such a number that it is not burdensome to the houses, and they can be well supervised and taught by the spiritual prefect who accompanies them.

I entrust them to your charity, to provide them with more abundant and substantial food, and to facilitate the delicate task of the spiritual prefect.

As far as observance is concerned, it is desired to be perfect but nonetheless not pedantic. As for manual work, it must be left to them free, also because they have to study and meditate quite a bit.

So please do not rely on them for begging and work; but on the other hand I am sure of their good will and generosity, so I want that they freely offer themselves when needed. If possible, please keep the room free and ready for use by the Most Reverend Father Visitor and myself.

Dear Fr. Luigi, do your best to get the whole place ready so that it can accommodate at least fifty children for the next school year. Jesus bless us.

Write to Romano to ask Fr. Basilio to do what he does not feel like doing, for example the collection of parish credits and similar duties. They know how to do it themselves, however, your leaving is a serious disorder for Altavilla.

What is the story of the donkeys dragged from Gorga there by two boys and Brother Fortunato? Who were those two boys⁵? And does brother Fortunato deserve so much confidence to entrust him with two boys in such dangerous circumstances? As they told me I was scared!

Do you think maybe you do the same with goats? Remember the Rule about this point. Neither you nor any other of our religious can deal with quadrupeds, not even rabbits or donkeys, etc.

⁵ It concerns only one boy with the surname Giovazzini, coming from Calabria.

If you have apprentices, fine, otherwise not, definitely. Not even the lay brothers.

Do not send Fr. Di Pierno to Albanella or elsewhere unless he can take all the clerics with him. He is their pro tempore superior and must not be removed from them.

May Jesus bless us.

P. S. I don't know what that money was in the envelope. And will Gorga's income go to me, or will it go elsewhere?

N. 568

I recommend to you the professed brothers who spend their holidays at your place, make sure that they are well and happy and get ready to receive many more next year.

Pianura, August 2, 1942

My dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Brother Fortunato sent me the enclosed letter, I pass it on to you with a fervent prayer that you immediately provide at least the most necessary things, so as to allow the subject in question to go to Anagni, where he will be very useful for the work on the house. Furthermore, I would like Giovazzini to come to Pianura, if you can and you have nothing against it, please send him.

I take this opportunity to recommend to you the professed brothers who spend their holidays at your place, make sure they are well and happy and prepare to receive many more next year.

I greet you with affection and I implore your blessings⁶.

⁶ This letter was typed; it is easy to see that the style is not that of the founder. There is a pen correction by Fr. Justin over his signature.

N. 569

If you can leave, come immediately because there is work to be done on the council for professions and admissions.

9 - 23 - 1942

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Orally, through Fr. Di Pierno I have communicated you various things about the new year. Now I beg you to let Sciarrotta go, contented with the little that his mother was able to pay according to the agreements she made with me. May Jesus bless you.

If you can leave, come immediately that there is a council for professions and admissions to do.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 570

The cleric Pasquale Rocciolo comes, welcome him, make use of him, and put a little fire of fervor in him because they accuse him of indolence.

Pianura, 12 - 14 - 1942

Jesus, Mary, Joseph

Very Reverend Confrere,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The cleric Pasquale Rocciolo is coming to stay with you (provided you have nothing against it) for a while, who is still waiting for a pardon from the Very Rev. Fr. Visitor.

Welcome him, make use of him, and put a little fire of fervor in him because they accuse him of indolence.

Mat Jesus bless us.

Be careful, do not give in and do not compromise the Congregation with imprudent consents. So we must do everywhere and always. Our houses must remain available for the purposes of the Congregation.

Pianura, 12 - 19 - 1942

Jesus, Mary, Joseph

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

As for boys not from the Vocationary who would like to introduce themselves into the convent, be careful. Tell anyone who shows up truthfully that you depend on the Bishop of Vallo and on the Rev. Fr. Apostolic Visitor who lives in Rome, and that their permission is needed for everything.

Say that at most we can welcome into our house about ten youngsters, chosen from among the others, so that they can join the Vocationary. But in no way should these youngsters be allowed to remain in the care of external and lay personnel, staying in our house. Be careful, do not give in and do not compromise the Congregation with imprudent consents. So we must do everywhere and always. Our houses must remain available for the purposes of the Congregation.

Again: If Fr. Bergantino comes, send him away immediately, after having offered him the refreshment of food, and tell him clearly not to come again without my order. And anyone who shows up without a note from their superiors must not be detained for more than one day (the same day of arrival) and one night (the one immediately following) if they cannot leave immediately. Send Fr. Bergantino⁷ away, because he was ruinous to Fr. Baiano and to the house of Perdifumo.

⁷ Fr. Salvatore Bergantino, a former Vocationist priest, who passed to the clergy of the diocese of Vallo della Lucania.

As for the sum prepared for the factory, keep it safe, as you see fit, and give it to no one without my written order. Entrust the supplies to the nuns and order them not to use them except for the house in Altavilla. All of this I say it and prescribe it only for fear of that poor brother, not for anyone else.

When Fr. Baiano comes, stay with him until Fr. Rossi arrives too, or others sent by me, not being able to suffice just one for the parish and the convent. In two then, celebrate one at the convent every day without fail, the other at the parish likewise.

Merry Christmas. May Jesus bless you.

N. 572

I charge you to promptly dismiss Br. Fortunato Salzano. Keep me informed of what is being done for the convent, for the Vocationary, for a bit of parish apostolate, for community life.

Pianura, 7 - 23 - 1943

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

I am writing to you, as General Councilor, and I ask you to promptly dismiss Friar Fortunato Salzano. At all costs, get him a civilian dress and make him leave without religious habit.

If he is Army class, report his discharge to the District. Communicate the matter with Fr. Baiano. Keep me informed of what is being done for the convent, for the Vocationary, for a bit of parish apostolate, for common life.

Strongly prevent the nuns from using the boys for services. Provide them with some external people, even two and paying them well, to do the services.

Jesus bless you.

N. 573

If it seems urgent to you to provide in some way, do as you think best in the Lord. However, expressly saying that you act provisionally, and leave the decision to Fr. Giorgio, the Vicar.

Mercato Cilento, 4 - 15 - 1944

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Thank you very much for the letter from Archbishop Farina, from Fr. Alberto and from you.

For Massimino and Mrs. Candela, I also want to wait for Fr. Giorgio's opinion. In the meantime, if it seems urgent to provide them in some way, do as you think best in the Lord. However, expressly saying that you act provisionally, and leave the decision to Fr. Giorgio, the Vicar.

I hope to answer these good young men soon, but I can't now, as *Ciro* has to leave immediately.

I highly recommend religious discipline to you. Become a saint and make them saints. May Jesus bless you all.

N. 574

Mercato Cilento, 8 - 27 - 1944

J.M.J.

To Fr. Zoppo and Fr. Fontana,

Since *Cocco* and *Iovine* also have to take the mineral baths, one of you must go and ask His Excellency the Bishop of Pozzuoli and in his absence Mons. *Cerasuolo* Vicar General that you be granted the favor of hosting Fr. Zoppo, *Cocco* and *Iovine* in the seminary for the time of the baths.

It is the only way to be able to do them with decorum and without such an effort that would nullify their benefit.

May Jesus bless us.

Establish a Vocationist confessor and care very much that he comes regularly to listen to ours. Either you or Adinolfi, personally assist the young people entrusted to you without interruption.

Mercato Cilento, 10 -31 - 1944

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Greetings for All Saints. For a better organization of the house, have:

1. Fr. Tommaso Adinolfi is like your deputy, in terms of spiritual educator of this student residence;

2. All first year students stay together in one house, in a dormitory, with Di Fusco Salvatore prefect of general discipline. All the other candidates in maioribus are on the lower floor;

3. Be very careful that the nuns do not make any particular details with anyone, absolutely. You, each time with a note, will arrange for the sick and the convalescents, what you deem appropriate;

4. Strictly observe the cloister of the sisters and with the sisters, for yourself and for each and every one of the house. And if with the nuns, much more with other external people who may come or stay in our houses;

5. I recommend that everyone be provided with a vocationist mantle for going to school and for walks; but not when they go to Naples for commissions and the vocationist haircut on the 14th and 15th of each month. Have rigor on this external behavior of ours and incessantly inculcate liturgical modesty, silence and taciturnity, praying well and every other observance. All of this applies first to priests, of course.

6. Do not send anyone to his house without my permission, which I will signify to you in writing. I promised the confreres from Gorga a home visit, but I'll let you know how and when. You mean well. Don't be lenient on this point.

7. If Cocco doesn't hope to be promoted, don't worry. I am pleased that he repeats in Posillipo. If Cutino doesn't feel like taking the exam, don't worry. Let him wait for the ordination and then receive his destination. All those in the fifth year of theology must a) attend classes regularly, b) do their thesis at the same time, c) always be ready for any destination, even during the school year, d) if they are enrolled at the university, they will not have to attend it. But I don't think they will.

8 Establish a vocationist confessor and make sure that he comes regularly to listen to ours. Either you or Adinolfi, personally assist the young people entrusted to you without interruption. Do you understand?

9. So I repeat: try to make three categories: I) those to be ordained, that is, from the subdiaconate upwards, II) those in the first year only, III) all the others. Prefect of the first group and also prefect of general order: Di Fusco.

May Jesus bless you all.

N. 576

Never, never go to the nuns, observe it yourself and make everyone observe it. He also recommends the severity of the observance of the cloister to the nuns. There is no rigor that is sufficient for this purpose.

Mercato Cilento, 12 - 5 - 1944

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Try to free Di Fusco from teaching, so that he can know how to act as prefect of discipline with the student with greater serenity. I also wrote a letter to Fr. Adinolfi to be read together with him because it concerns precisely the common discipline.

If you send me Montoro and Caradonna for Christmas, it will

be fine. I wrote to Montoro but I intend it to be subordinated to your point of view.

Remind Fr. Giorgio if you see him to bring or send me that statue of Child Jesus he promised for Christmas.

Here we are very, very short of sacred furnishings and in the meantime, due to the need for discipline, I have to set up a private chapel for the scholasticate and another for the nuns. If Br. Giorgio can provide what is needed, I would be grateful to him and to you as servants of St. Joseph and I would send the money from here.

Expressly recommend in my name to Fr. Sepe never, ever to go to the nuns, and observe the same yourself and have everyone observe it. Also recommend the severity of the observance of the cloister to the nuns. There is no rigor that is sufficient for this purpose.

Note that none of the blankets must be used to make coats, but only vocationist mantles. Everyone must have and use the vocationist mantle in winter and in summer.

Read our religious code of Rules and Constitutions continuously, distributing some chapters a day. They can also be useful for meditated reading (but not always), but always in private until a word of approval or blessing comes from Rome.

I have written to some of the young confreres, I will write to the others soon. Tell them.

May Jesus bless you all. Become saints.

P. S. We need a lot of glasses here! If you could get some at my expense and send them to me it would be another great benefit.

Pray for me, really!

N. 577

Mercato Cilento, 12 - 23 - 1944

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

Best wishes for a holy Christmas, New Year and Epiphany to you and community. I beg you to dispense Cucciniello from all occupations even sacred as he is months behind in his schoolwork.

He may come and go from his home, some rare times, at your discretion.

Get us from everywhere lives of saints, old and new! May Jesus bless us.

N. 578

Have De Filippis and Adinolfi take their perpetual public vows, you receiving them in my name, or the Vicar if he were present. Don't wait any longer and keep me informed.

Mercato Cilento, 2 - 25 - 1945

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

Here's another confrere who needs your hospitality for blood work, and I hope he can get back with Eduardo right away.

I would also like you to send Palermo to his father in Montesano for Easter, because that good man is waiting for him to be accompanied to his family, so he should go during Holy Week, so that he can return to Naples for Easter.

As for Palermo, don't use him because, as you know, he needs to study a lot, continuously.

If they have not yet taken their perpetual public vows, have De Filippis and Adinolfi take immediately, you receiving them in my name, or the Vicar if he were present. Don't wait any longer and keep me informed.

As soon as the Sabatarium is ready, you will sent as many copies as may be sufficient for these communities in Cilento, by whatever means you deem most expedient and quick.

Happy Easter. Become a saint.

N. 579

Mercato Cilento, 3 - 13 - 1945

Dear Fr. Fontana,

I need you to send me a priest for Holy Week. If instead of one, two would come, it would be better, but I don't mean to disturb your local stuff too much. One is essential to me. If this were one who could confess the people it would be so much the better.

To go to Gorga you don't need to be replaced since you should go from a Monday (for example Easter Monday) to Saturday, no later.

Let me know the date so I can send you Santucci, on time. But if there is difficulty don't go there. We will talk about it later.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 580

Evidently they do not take into account any of the religious requirements of observance and the wishes of the superiors, but they only count the natural requirements of heart of flesh.

Mercato Cilento, 3 - 19 - 1945

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

On Wednesday (Mary's day) of Passion in the evening the major spiritual exercises begin, which will end on Holy Thursday (Host-day) with the Holy Mass in *Coena Domini*. Therefore, if someone could come, they would also take advantage of the course and thus, in the other courses, would stay at home to give the others the opportunity to do them comfortably. Therefore, in order to stay here throughout Holy Week, send me Lanzaro, and if other priests could come with him, e.g. Colaguori and Cocco, so much the better. I said Lanzaro because he has been a priest

for some time and I could also use him for confessions in nearby parishes.

Fr. Saggiomo in all probability will not come to Posillipo for the functions. So don't rely on him. Send me about ten Offices of Holy Week a *Liber Usualis Missae et Officii*, possibly with modern annotations (Gregorian chant with modern music). To this end, you can use Anella to whom I send some money, for these small purchases.

Vincenzo Mazzocchi is not satisfied with the days granted for a visit home, but wants more because of the misfortune suffered.

Evidently they do not take into account any of the religious requirements of observance and the wishes of the superiors, but they only count the natural requirements of the heart of flesh. I don't have time to write to him. My wish is that he would be satisfied with leaving on Easter Monday and returning on Saturday, and for him, I also grant the same days to his companions so that they can all go and return together, with you. That otherwise I would have given him five days and the others only three, for a visit, not for holidays. After all, I defer to you, because if it ever seems better to you otherwise, you can send him a few days before, and then he will come back with you. In Gorga talk clearly and firmly to Fr. Romano⁸: All the income from the house is to be donated to me, and all the income from the parish in Anagni is to be donated to Fr. Giorgio, without any exceptions. He wants to do it differently and we don't get along. And tell him to be ready to change location, because his talents must not remain buried there, now that there is no Vocationary.

Happy Easter. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Send me 15 meters of that fabric (any color as long as it is strong).

⁸ Fr. Vincenzo Romano of the Vocationists born and died in Mercato S. Severino (1910 - 2001).

N. 581

Mercato Cilento, 4 - 16 - 1945

Dear Fr. Luigino,

May Jesus bless you.

I thank you for the good wishes and for the arrival of the students. I reciprocate wishes and prayers.

1. Fr. Mele, present here, (he came from Anagni) he did not receive the sum you say that you sent him. Through whom did you send it?

2. I expect Fr. Antonio De Rosa in Mercato.

3. Send Di Fusco to Pianura if you have nothing against it.

4. Montoro goes to Scigliano with Fr. Mario De Rosa.

5. I asked Anella to do some services for me.

6. Carosiello has to go every Saturday afternoon to Fr. Vivenzio to be chaplain in Nazareth, and stay there until Monday morning, doing catechism and Sunday evening services in Nazareth.

You are right to wait (in terms of exceptional permission for students) for my writing.

Be more generous with all of ours, on every occasion. Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 582

Mercato Cilento, 4 - 20 - 1945

Dear Fontana,

J.M.J.

Send Fr. Carosiello to Pianura to make himself available to the Rector De Simone, in the Vocationary, and then go from Pianura to officiate in the church of Nazareth on holidays.

If Fr. Saggiomo obtains permission from the Fr. Apostolic Visitor for others as well, you will also send Di Fusco to Pianura so,

since there are two of them, they will each work less and will be able to concentrate more on their studies.

I am not writing to the two reverend mentioned above because I am sure of their obedience.

N. 583

You did not write the monthly letter, nor the daily one, wanted by my last circular, neither you nor any priest of the house. What do you do with religious obedience?

Mercato Cilento, 5 - 6 - 1945

J.M.J.

Dear Fr. Luigi,
Happy Ascension and Pentecost.

1. You didn't answer my question: to whom did you give the six thousand lire to pass on to Fr. Mele?

2. You have not written the monthly letter, nor the daily one, required by my last circular letter, neither you nor any priest of the house. What do you do with religious obedience?

3. I recommend the bearer, Frieri, who needs some document (from the Institute where his daughter is hospitalized) with which it can be proven that said young girl will never be abandoned, until she is completely cured or nearly so. He wants to become a true and proper religious, and he cannot be accepted unless he first insures his children in some way. Help him personally in this need or have a trusted priest help him.

4. We need three collars and at least 15 meters of fabric for cas-socks and corresponding dye. I do not have the corresponding money available. Please, ask Sister Concetta or Sister Amelia to get it and try to send me what I ask of you.

If De Lorenzis comes, or if you know where he is, urge him to come to Mercato immediately. Goodbye. Become a saint.

Commanding should be done in the form of prayer with the subject priests who understand and practice obedience even expressed in that form. Not with all the others. You command by imposing.

Nicastro⁹, 7 - 24 - 1947

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

It is necessary that the Father Master of the novices stays quite a long time in the office to experience what much more affects their ascetic formation. It is not enough to keep them occupied more or less in various spiritual things; but in those exercises that the experience of the saints and ours have found most effective in making them the vocationist ascetics they must be.

The life of St. Alphonsus by Berte has always been appropriate, as long as the reader vivifies it.

As for your personal note, I would like you to be more mortified in reading the newspaper. I would allow you only and exclusively the *Osservatore Romano* for the greater good of you and of your office, using it in recreation.

Similarly with regard to commanding, let it be done in the form of prayer with the priest subjects who understand and practice obedience even expressed in that form. Not with all the others. You command by giving orders.

Similarly about prayers. If you do all the common practices of piety, you don't commit yourself to the 15 decades of the rosary. Say a hundred when you have time and devotion, but necessarily only five, especially if prayed in community prayers.

⁹Fr. Justin preached a course of spiritual exercises to the clergy of the diocese of Nicastro. He visited Scigliano and both on the way there and on the way back he stopped at Viconati.

The feast of the first holy mass of others (even benefactors) is not a sufficient reason to violate our observance of not going home. Even our most pious Pennacchia, desired and asked to go to the village for the first holy mass of Fr. Giacci, his cousin, and was denied.

I'm leaving Nicastro tomorrow Friday 25 in the afternoon heading to Vibonati. I'll make a stop at Mercato.

May Jesus bless us.

P. S. I would have liked a line from the novices in these absences of mine.

N. 585

Do not tolerate that young confreres lack anything necessary or convenient. Teach them on every occasion and circumstance to humbly turn to divine providence and its prime minister and viceroy St. Joseph.

Posillipo 8 - 20 - 1947

Dearest Frs. Fontana, Montoro, Mele, Diodato, Lucio, and all the reverends of Pianura,

May Jesus bless us.

Do not tolerate that young confreres lack anything necessary or convenient. Teach them on every occasion and circumstance to humbly turn to divine providence and to its prime minister and viceroy St. Joseph. But make sure they really do. Because we are poor by choice, poor by profession, poor in reality and we must be so above all as a spirit of trust in the Lord. So very often ask, implore and then thank and draw spiritual profit.

Let us also pray that the Lord will increase virtue and merit in benefactors, nuns, our priests and superiors.

But when the need arises, everyone should do his best to provide, after having prayed about it. May the Lord free us from distrust and discouragement, from murmurings and hidden internal rebellions.

Meanwhile, Fr. Fontana, without leaving the sacred novitiate, provide for the various needs as the good Lord will inspire you, and do your best to bring the building to completion as soon as possible.

I gave six thousand lire for the pasta; fourteen thousand lire for water and electricity, and other improvements to the kitchen. The Lord has provided them. Deo Gratias! Now I'm sending four thousand lire for this or that thing, because it would be enough for very little, but as a sign and down payment of the financial help that the Lord will always give us, according to his promise.

He blesses us.

N. 586

Yesterday evening I sent you another ten thousand lire, solely for some help with the community meals, according to your criteria.

Posillipo, 8 - 21 - 1947

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May Jesus bless us.

Since Tisi as a novice cleric cannot go out frequently in search of benefactors, much less go habitually to the port on ships; the permission remains with Frieri and if it is not possible that he be granted the one for the ships, at least the one for the port remains.

Yesterday evening I sent you another ten thousand lire, solely for some help with the community meals, according to your criteria.

May Jesus bless us

N. 587

The holy will of God, through religious obedience, charges you with all the ap-

propriate offices, among the faithful people, ecclesiastical and civil authorities, etc. to the foundation and operation of the extraordinary mission in the great plain between Eboli-Battipaglia and Agropoli.

April 1948

My Dearest Confrere,

The holy will of God, through religious obedience, entrusts you with all the appropriate offices, among the faithful people, ecclesiastical and civil authorities, to the foundation and functioning of the extraordinary mission in the great plain between Eboli-Battipaglia and Agropoli, starting with Matinella district, where it is necessary to light such a fire of religious fervor as to consume every sprout and root of heresy, and instead make it flourish parish life, in the sense of spiritual ascents, desired by our ascetic-apostolic observances.

Go with full confidence under the protection of Saint Joseph and Saint Michael, and of the sacred hearts of Jesus and Mary, to whom you will gradually consecrate families and then every fraction.

Above all, men, children, young people, workers, peasants, etc. are recommended.

N. 588

If it seems appropriate to you to hire him in service, you can hire him on an experimental basis, however making very clear agreements, with Christian charity and in the form of an agreement, also legally valid, as you absolutely must do with everyone, individuals, lay people and even with our lay brothers themselves, to avoid trouble.

Pianura, 5 - 22 - 1948

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Brother Boschetti hasn't finished the paperwork for which you sent him to Naples.

Brother Raffaele does not come if we have not first supplied him with certain necessary clothing.

There is this good young Gennarino Maiorano, a person of M. Cecilia Matarazzo; and I also spoke of him to Fr. Egidio. He is able to teach in the elementary classes, to act as a tutor, etc. But he has no intention of being religious and needs a certain monthly payment. If it seems appropriate to hire him in service, you can hire him on an experimental basis, however making very clear pacts, with Christian charity and in the form of an agreement, also valid legally, as you absolutely must do with everyone lay people and even our lay brothers, to avoid trouble.

There is also free, for now, Don Attilio Cota in Posillipo. He too could render much service, if it seemed to you good for the general discipline of the *city of the child*, or for accounting and administration. Even with him, (if you want) clear and firm pacts, because he is not religious, nor can it be foreseen that he will become so again.

Concerning Matinella, make sure whether or not the direction has given a response to the Bishop of Vallo, and if you find that it was negative, don't worry any more of it. I have already spoken to Fr. Di Pierno, asking them to continue to provide from the convent as best they can. If, on the other hand, the answer is affirmative, then I will wait for communication from the Curia of Vallo, and then we will see what to do.

In the meantime, don't go there again until further notice.

For Bracigliano make it clear that we are waiting for something in writing (proposal, offer, agreement, etc.) that up to now everything has been done only in words.

Become a saint. Organize everything well. Watch over the brethren. Pray for me.

P. S. What I wrote to you about Maiorano and Cota has no obedience value. I defer to you.

N. 589

Either you train our lay brothers with daily lessons, exhortations, etc. or you have to resort to lay tutors, or give up the work. Think carefully and do not delude yourself.

Pianura, 8 - 6 - 1948

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May Jesus bless us.

Here is Longoni, another prefect. Marotta will come shortly; he needs a cassock and is waiting for it to come. Did Polito come yesterday? Just let me know.

I won't send you the lay brothers who have to study because I don't believe your promises to let them study. In fact, how many classes did Nuzzo go to?

I reluctantly send you these young people, because I fear they will receive bad edification, bad impressions, due to the freedom that I imagine reigns there, with regard to modesty. And then why after two months they have to go back to the motherhouse, and how will you do it? I can't give you any cleric prefect.

Either you train the lay brothers with daily lessons, exhortations, etc. or you have to resort to lay tutors, or give up the work.

Think carefully and do not delude yourself. If you had good judgment, all care would go towards educating, refining, forming the lay brothers who are the main auxiliaries of the work. Here is the secret of every work, training the auxiliaries. But you follow other criteria and distance yourself from obedience and wisdom.

Schettini also can come, but I still don't know when to do the vestition. Meditate on this sheet.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 590

Pianura, 8 - 6 - 1948

Dear Fr. Luigi,

We consider all the lay people who are with you as aggregates, as such they can make their novitiate with you, in Salerno. You will begin on the eve of the Assumption. They will end with the profession of semi-public vows. Later, if necessary, they will pass to the congregation. This is done with adult laymen and clerics.

I will send you a detailed program for them to carry out with your associate Fr. Egidio.

Become a saint.

N. 591

From Perdifumo on 8 - 22 - 1948, Fr. Justin wrote the following letter to Fr. Enzo.

Very Reverend and Dearest Parish Priest,

May Jesus bless us.

It is not possible for me to understand if you are alluding to particular inconveniences relating to a particular person, or to a general trend. I must also say that from the beginning I was asked for some priest and nothing else, because, it was said, there were already enough tutors on the spot. Now I find myself with a great shortage of subjects, and I don't know how to meet the needs of the work. I will change a priest for another more active one, but I can't do anything else. But since the flourishing of your local work must be of utmost importance to you and me, I myself ask you to replace us with other more capable and more numerous religious. There is no reason for us to feel bad about it. The greater good of souls requires it.

Please, dear parish priest, pray for your most devoted and most affectionate *in Domino*

N. 592

On the back of a typewritten copy of the above letter, Fr. Justin writes to Fontana. The Lord will let you find good subjects in another environment. But do not solicit any of our young brothers, because it would be a great evil to awaken in them the desire for posts and offices to which the superiors do not intend to assign them.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I am sending you a copy of a letter I wrote to the parish priest Fr. Enzo; so that you have knowledge of it and keep yourself ready for every obedience to other destinations. Because that's exactly how things are, as I wrote. I have no one to send: nor can I sacrifice other houses and other more vocationist works for this one of the boys "our less vocationist work."

I am here, very busy all day in the most necessary work for the religious life of the Congregation. Indeed I remind you and recommend that you pray for it.

If they cannot leave us free immediately, recommend the matter to the Lord and to the assistant and ministering angels at the divine throne and afterwards, provide yourself with the necessary personnel, without asking the Congregation for anything. Neither prefects nor priests besides you and two others. I repeat, take care of yourself.

The Lord will let you find good subjects in another environment. But do not solicit any of our young brothers, because it would be a great evil to awaken in them the desire for posts and offices to which the superiors do not intend to assign them.

May Jesus bless us. Become a saint. Pray for me.

N. 593

Vittorio will be good if he learns a trade. He cannot be in our Vocationaries because he has no vocation.

Perdifumo, 9 - 6 - 1948

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

I warmly ask you to welcome Vittorio Frieri among these boys. His brother will follow him in days, because he is now with a fever. It will be good for Vittorio to learn a trade. He cannot be in our Vocationaries because he has no vocation.

Tell me. Couldn't Fr. Egidio be put in charge of San Leonardo? At least for some time!

May Jesus bless us. Bye.

N. 594

Provide for De Luca and those who have helped you what is necessary and convenient for them and especially for De Luca because he must go more decorously to his office of tutor at the Badia.

Mercato Cilento, 10 - 10 - 1948

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

Provide for De Luca and those who helped you what is necessary and convenient for them and especially for De Luca because he must go more decorously to his office of tutor at the Badia.

If you can do this with other means at your disposal, do not reduce your contribution to the motherhouse. But if you don't have the possibility, subtract whatever is needed from that contribution. And then when handing over the difference (August - September) add the note of the expenses incurred.

I don't know what you did with that lay professor. Soon you will come to the Council in Pianura and a decision will also be made for the personnel of the *children's village* in Salerno.

You can allow Cortazzi to visit his parents (for a maximum of three days).

May Jesus bless us. Bye.

N. 595

I am really glad about the typography. Make sure that it is known by all that it belongs to the professor and that it is intended for the Vocationists, if he so wishes, and that it is not confused with the properties of the village.

Pianura, 11 - 15 - 1948

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

I am glad to send you another good person as tutor and student on his own in the third year of philosophy and he has already met with the professor. As soon as possible, he should wear a cassock that I don't remember his having been a Barnabite up to now. I think you can transform the very one that he has

I received that envelope... on account.

May the Lord always help you in spirit. I am really pleased about the typography. Make sure that it is known by all that it belongs to the professor and that it is intended for the Vocationists, if he so wishes, and that it is not confused with the properties of the village.

May Jesus bless us all.

N. 596

Intensify the spiritual care of the young Vocationists entrusted to you as far as depends on you, so as not to lose any of them and to prepare them well for holy profession.

Pianura, 11 - 15 - 1948

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

To Fr. Egidio for San Leonardo.

Fr. Perrino is coming and will stay with you until he has the

number of tables, etc. Make sure that he can carry out his mandate as soon as possible and in the best way.

Intensify the spiritual care of the young Vocationists entrusted to you as far as depends on you, so as not to lose any of them and to prepare them well for holy profession.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 597

I share with the joy of our Congregation for the first religious profession of the newly professed.

Pianura, 11 - 23 - 1948

Dear Brothers,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Giving thanks to the Lord, I share with you the joy of our Congregation for the first religious profession of the newly professed.

You too, join in our joy by thanking the Lord for it. For this purpose, as soon as you receive this letter, you will add a "Te Deum" to the evening prayers.

I remind you that on November 27 the Miraculous Medal will have to be imposed on the whole community.

I still remind everyone to wear the rosary around their neck according to our holy Rules.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 598

As for the work of Salerno, it is appropriate to think seriously about retiring; because thinned out in the way they tell me, it can be entrusted to others and we will start working elsewhere having so many proposals.

Undated - 1948

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

As for the prefects, evidently, you should first send those who are most determined to be Vocationist religious.

The former Barnabite cannot come to Pianura being bound by the impediment of the previous profession; so if he can't stay with you, he'll go home.

As for the work of Salerno, it is appropriate to think seriously about retiring; because thinned out in the way they tell me, it can be entrusted to others and we will start working elsewhere having so many proposals, one more important than the others.

Let us entrust ourselves more and more to the Lord that he disposes of us. May Jesus bless us.

Make sure that Saint Joseph is honored by both the young people and the parishioners of San Leonardo

N. 599

Consider the Congregation as a poor person from whom it is serious to take away, deny or defer what is due in justice.

Undated¹⁰

J.M.J.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

One of your tutors, "Bonichi" (I think) came, asking me to travel back to Rome, with his family. If you don't have other difficulties, you could put Abate in his place and get Professor De Crosta (?) to help him with his case.

¹⁰ It may have been written in January 1948.

Then let's do the math. Pay off the arrears early, otherwise the debt then accumulates and becomes excessively large. I recommend paying by installments, because if you wait for the satisfaction of giving the whole sum together, you will never get it. Consider the Congregation as a poor person from whom it is serious to take away, deny or defer what is due for justice. These are the terms of the question.

There is no equality between the work for the boys and the Vocationaries of the Congregation.

Make the novena of the Immaculate Conception of Lourdes, as a symbol of all the maternal visitations of Mary Most Holy to us, her faithful devotees.

I hope to see you soon.

P. S. Nuzzo should come to the novitiate or return to his family.

N. 600

The appointment of Fr. Giuseppe Manzo, S.J. as Pontifical Assistant for the Congregation is announced to all the confreres.

Pianura, May 23, 1949

J.M.J.

Dear Confrere,

The Sacred Congregation for Religious, following our request for the "Decretum Laudis" sends us an "Assistant" in the person of the Rev. Father Manzo of the Society of Jesus, former provincial of Naples.

Please, pray with the community that the Lord deign to grant us to receive the greatest possible spiritual profit from this other grace of his, in his glory, love and will.

May he bless us in the blessings of the Ascension and of Pentecost, which I wish you will be superabundant.

N. 601

If you wait now for one reason, tomorrow for another, you will never obey. Talk about it immediately to whomever represents the Archbishop, so prepare the way and the mentality.

Pianura, July 21, 1949

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

Go to the Vicar, go to Msgr. Di Girolamo, go to anyone else who knows about our business and decisively declare that you must leave your post and come to the motherhouse for immediate preparation for departure. You and Fr. Zoppo resign in hurry.

If you wait now for one reason, tomorrow for another, you will never obey. Talk about it immediately to whomever represents the Archbishop, so prepare the way and the mentality.

We absolutely cannot stay either in Bracigliano or in Salerno in the present conditions. I have committed myself to other places where we will be able to better do the work that the Constitutions want of us.

You understand the urgency of these measures. Be strong and resolute.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 602

I have arranged for you to leave for Brazil and have already communicated your name to that Most Excellent Apostolic Nuncio.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

As you well know, in due time, according to the agreement stipulated, through Fr. Enzo, with the Primate Archbishop of

Salerno, I officially signified that I would withdraw the religious from the *Child's Village*. So I have arranged for you to leave for Brazil and I have already communicated your name to that Most Excellent Apostolic Nuncio.

Therefore, please, go to the episcopate and ask for a delegate of the Archbishop to be sent to the place to make transfer of the administration.

Since I, the Vicar and the General Procurator are prevented, as you well know, I charge you, as First Assistant General, to make this official, both for Bracigliano and for Salerno, we cannot stay, for the very reasons of our vocation and our Rules. In Bracigliano, by virtue of the foundation's will and testament; in Salerno by higher wills, we cannot limit ourselves to being good employees. I am not speaking of the remuneration, because even if there were, as we have done elsewhere, in order to carry out our specific mission as Vocationists (we could do without it).

Now, as the Lord opens up to us other fields of work in which we can benefit a greater number of souls and freely carry out the program, imposed on us by our specific religious profession, we are obliged to beg the Most Excellent Archbishop to deign to provide the aforementioned two posts, with other personnel.

In union of prayers.

N. 603

Use a lot of vigilance and firmness with Frieri and Pizzirusso. Charity, but without weaknesses.

Pianura, 7 - 30 - 1949

Dear Fr. Luigi (or Fr. Perrino, in the absence of Fr. Luigi),

Professor Pizzirusso comes. He needs ten sea baths. He will therefore stay ten days and no longer with you. He must therefore return to Pianura directly by August, 10 no later.

Let no permission be given to him, or asked of me at this time.
All of this has the value of obedience. Thanks for the charity.
May Jesus bless us.

Use a lot of vigilance and firmness with Frieri and Pizzirusso.
Charity, but without weaknesses.

N. 604

Let me know immediately the outcome of the negotiation with the Most Excellent Archbishop.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

We have Arena, (already a first year student of theology in the academic course) who would like to take the baccalaureate. Could it help you in anything? And could you then keep him in the Village of the Child? For my part, not only do I have no difficulty with it, but also I would even like him to really make himself useful so as to truly deserve to be helped.

In the meantime, I recommend him because visually and on the spot both you and him will be able to decide better.

May Jesus bless us.

Let me know immediately the outcome of the negotiation with the Most Excellent Archbishop.

N. 605

Pack your bags immediately, come to Pianura for the blessing and you will leave with Fr. Cesare.

Pianura 11 - 8 - 1949

Dear Fr. Fontana,

It is necessary and obligatory for us to open the house in Acquaviva this week, according to agreements made with the Bish-

op. You go there, definitely. We'll see. You go prepare, start etc. No noise, no opening party. So it was decided with that Most Excellent Bishop. Then Fr. Cesare will be with you, but I would like him not to know that until the day before.

Therefore, pack your bags immediately, come to Pianura for the blessing and you will leave with Fr. Cesare. I'm sending Fr. Verde on purpose because the matter is urgent. Don't advertise.

Leave Fr. Perrino Antonio and Fr. Romano in Salerno for the next few days we are staying there. We'll see.

Become a saint!

N. 606

I am sending you the letter through the Sister Visitor for your information. Content her with what she asks about the rooms on the first floor if I understand correctly.

Pianura, June 5, 1950

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Fr. Giacomino comes to Mola, Acquaviva, Bari, for the practice that you know and he covers considerable expenses for travel and ... the inconvenience of various people, as is easily understood.

Our motherhouse is not rich, so don't be surprised if he keeps as compensation what should belong for the tuition of those boys from Pianura, etc.

I have written to you, Fontana, who are the parish priest and superior of Acquaviva. If Fr. Cesare makes difficulties you will persuade him not to make any.

I detained Fr. Zoppo because I don't think he is necessary in these parts. As soon as his presence is needed, you will let me know and he will come.

I am sending you the letter from the Sister Visitor for your information. Content her in what she asks about the rooms on the

first floor, if I have understood correctly. You will pass on to her the note that I enclose.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 607

The last word goes to the Assistant Most Reverend Fr. Manzo.

Pianura, June 17, 1950

Dear Fr. Luigi,

Rev. De Crosta is coming to join the community of Mola or Acquaviva as our religious associate (for now) where you think it would be better. This is not the final destination. He needs a rest, and for this reason, keep him free from confessional ministries.

Given the extreme need for personnel in which we now find ourselves, I would like you to tell me with all sincerity and generosity if, once he comes, we could do without Fr. Zoppo who would go elsewhere. I would say Fr. Cesare and Fr. De Crosta in Acquaviva and you and Fr. De Rosa in Mola or otherwise. This is a simple thought. The last word goes to the Assistant Most Reverend Fr. Manzo. May the Lord bless us.

N. 608

"I urgently need to know if Fr. De Crosta intends to leave for Brazil and, if so, if he is preparing the necessary documents for a passport. I would like him to tell me and confirm himself." Fr. Giuseppe De Crosta became a Vocationist religious and left for Brazil and spent the rest of his life there.

Pianura, 7 - 26 - 1950

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I am sending you a copy for the Reverend Curia of Bari, for the concession of the parish of Mola by the Sacred Congregation of Religious.

Fr. Zoppo, after the final scrutiny of our exams, will come to his place. I urgently need to know if Fr. De Crosta intends to leave for Brazil and, if so, if he is preparing the necessary documents for a passport. I would like him to tell me and confirm himself.

As for the Genoa firm for the purchase of those premises, I thought the committee was the buyer. And in that case, one of their delegates should go to Genoa to negotiate. If we then have to buy ourselves, evidently it is necessary first for others to see the place and examine the necessity or convenience of the purchase. Humanly speaking, it is not presumable that the company almost makes it a gift, and that the Congregation faces such a serious purchase. However we pray and trust! I would say that in any case, you and Fr. Bruno would go. Passing through Rome, you will report to Fr. Giorgio, if ever he could come too.

As for Mr. Pirelli, one should ask him first (and only) if he ever knew that company.

Become a saint.

N. 609

Your presence is urgently needed. Bring with you (if you have it nearby) the records of the Salerno administration.

Pianura, May 15, 1951

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Your presence is urgently needed. Bring with you (if you have it nearby) the registers of the Salerno administration, since difficulties have arisen regarding the accounts, now that we have to withdraw. Come to Pianura directly.

May Jesus bless us.

P.S. It is understood that if you have to assist Mr. Russo, our

lawyer for Acquaviva's practice, you will come immediately after his departure, if not exactly with him.

N. 610

Fr. Garofalo must leave immediately. If he has difficulty, he remains suspended from the celebration of the holy mass, until he reaches the residence and begins his role as Rector.

Pianura, 9 - 6 - 1951

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Communicate to Fr. Garofalo the obedience to go to the Mercato Cilento with the office of rector of the Vocationary to which is annexed that of parish priest of Casigliano (which however is practically entrusted to another confrere if the rector could not personally assume it, and now, for example, there is Fr. Ruizzo or Fr. Silimbri to do so) and perhaps also for Omignano as Fr. Valentino has done so far with the diocese's own means of transport.

Fr. Garofalo must leave immediately. If he has difficulty, he remains suspended from the celebration of the Mass, until he reaches the residence and begins his role as Rector.

Fr. Antonio De Rosa must go to Rome with the office of superior of theologians who will all go (both from the academic course and from the Gregorian seminary course) with our means (coach) and always accompanied by him (Fr. De Rosa) both going and coming. However, he will have to leave for Rome as soon as those who will replace him arrive in Mola.

You remain in Mola with the mission of the large orphanage, vocationary and parish, and immediately that of providing decent accommodation for our fathers, without disturbing the nuns.

I enclose the note of obedience. Fr. Garofalo has five days of time that you yourself will count from the arrival of this letter onwards. But if he wants to prove himself well, he will leave imme-

diately or at least after a day or two. Difficulties are not admitted. But the suspension would start after the fifth day.

Jesus bless us.

N. 611

Fr. Luigi is a bit like Fr. Justin's Delegate for Puglia. Act with prudence and gentleness to carry on this work from Mola.

Pianura, 10 - 22 - 1951

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

Fr. Perrino Antonio comes to help you in the parish (if necessary) and in the orphanage, above all.

Act with prudence and gentleness to carry on this work from Mola.

Fr. De Rosa, as soon as he can, should establish himself in Alesano - Montesardo. You visit him sometimes to encourage him to do well and to do a lot. It doesn't seem convenient for his brother to go with him. Tell him for me, before I'm asked for some permission I should deny.

Become saints.

N. 612

Profession of faith to be made by the new Rectors of the communities in Puglia.

Pianura, 12 - 9 - 1951

J.M.J.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

You are delegated to receive the profession of faith of the con-

freres Fr. Cesare Caradonna, elected superior of Acquaviva and Fr. Antonio De Rosa elected superior of Montesardo. You will issue yours in front of Fr. Perrino as my delegate. You yourself will communicate this admonition to the confreres to fulfill this duty according to canon 1406.9

You will send me a brief report of what I have written to you. May Jesus bless us.

N. 613

I am sorry that you put me in the duty to remind you that we absolutely cannot afford to receive visits from people of the opposite sex, especially in the dormitory and at our sickbed.

Pianura, January 20, 1952

To Fr. Luigi,
Reverend Brother,

J.M.J.

I am sorry that you put me in the duty to remind you that we absolutely cannot afford to receive visits from people of the opposite sex, especially in the dormitory and at our sickbed. This is forbidden to anyone: superiors, inferiors, etc. Furthermore, even if these visits seemed to us a duty by way of charity, convenience, utility, justice, etc. and were received in the parlors destined for this, they must always be very brief (remember the *sermo brevis sed rudis* of St. Alphonsus) and never spent in a way that may appear profane, as for example with the hearing of the radio etc.

So much for my grave duty of conscience!

*[This typed letter is followed by handwritten signature
Sac. G.M.R. and the following]:*

Fr. Perrino go to Montesardo and in full agreement with Fr. Ciro open the orphanage and the vocationary, without asking or

expecting anything from the Romasi benefactors, without selling anything.

But let him know that very likely he will go elsewhere.

N. 614

In the meantime, always consider yourself in charge of the smooth running of these three houses and immediately begin to build the house or houses of Mola.

Pianura, 1 - 26 - 1952

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

I approve of what you have done. The house of Acquaviva and Montesardo must undertake, to repay, in monthly installments to you and to others such as e.g. to the motherhouse all that has been anticipated to start them up.

Fr. Perrino received obedience for Marsiconuovo. Fr. De Rosa Antonio will stay with you until further notice and let him take care to recover for all... eventualities.

Another one will go to Montesardo in a few days to start the orphanage, Fr. Ciro having to lend his work elsewhere.

In the meantime, always consider yourselves in charge of the good running of these three houses and immediately begin to build the house or houses of Mola.

Now, for the moment, I don't have how to help Montesardo. I've taken on Marsiconuovo (previous debts) and Scigliano that needs graduates and without money we can't find any.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 615

Fr. Fontana presents to Fr. Justin the following personal note for Lent of 1952: To attract God's mercy and correspondence to my vocation, etc. 1) Awakening in

general in things of the spirit; 2) getting up in the morning with greater rigor; 3) fidelity especially to the holy meditation; 4) greater respect for the Lord, in his home, in the celebrations of the Holy Mass and Breviary; 5) respect for others by observing commitments and schedules.

Holy daily Confession. Watching over the tongue and internal benevolence of one's neighbor. Abstention from sweets and first fruits.

St. Justin replies:

Also do one hour of sacred study daily.

Ask De Rosa if he wants and feels like taking on the responsibility of the orphanage depending on the parish priest. I need this insurance urgently.

Likewise if you can hasten the transfer of the nuns to De Rosa's aunt or grandmother so that by coming to the orphanage only for cooking, you can have some room for the fathers.

This is very urgent. May Jesus bless us.

N. 616

We will gather to meditate on our religious duties and to receive from our Most Reverend Fr. Apostolic Visitor instructions and dispositions for the greater good of the Congregation and its works.

Pianura, March 11, 1952

Dear Confrere,

J.M.J.

On Easter Tuesday, April 15, I will be waiting in the Posillipo headquarters for all the superiors of the Vocationist houses and with them, possibly also all our other religious in care of souls.

We will gather to meditate on our religious duties and to receive from our Most Reverend Fr. Apostolic Visitor instructions and dispositions for the greater good of the Congregation and its works.

Everyone should assure Fr. Vicar of his adhesion as soon as possible. Bring amice and purifier with you.

I take advantage of the opportunity to remind you of the duty

of periodic reports, but instead of quarterly we return to the custom of monthly reports.

So start with this month to send a report of the most notable things that occurred in the month regarding subjects, works, house, relationships with the ecclesiastical and civil authorities.

I recommend maximum fidelity to the hour of meditation (especially in honor of the Holy Spirit), the hour of sacred study (in honor of God the Father), and the hour of ministry of the word, in any form, but especially with school, catechism, etc. (in honor of the divine Word).

I very much desire that, if you can, you recite the canonical hours coram *sanctissimo*, joining in choir among yourselves, in the hours of the Lord's agony, without prejudice to any other duty of external apostolate, and much domestic vigilance and discipline.

May Jesus bless us

N. 617

This letter paints the external portrait of Fr. Fontana. "The Reverend Father Visitor managed to tell me that he had seen you with broken shoes. We do not believe that an eternal scruffy man is virtuous. The rule speaks for itself: the etiquette speaks for itself and the poor superiors many and many times have recalled this point. But ... we talk to the wind."

Pianura, 3 - 19 - 1952 - St. Joseph

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

I am also writing to you by order of the Rev. Fr. Apostolic Visitor. You must hasten the stipulation of those legal deeds of donation to the Congregation "*Società Divine Vocazioni*" or to the S. A. M. I. of which you gave news to the same Father and of which we have already spoken on other occasions.

The superior of the nuns assures me that she would write about

it. However, you also request the matter by letter. One would really like one thing at a time and one done well.

I take advantage of the occasion to recommend a great personal cleaning, a great religious decorum, even in the exterior.

The Most Reverend Father Visitor managed to tell me that he had seen you with broken shoes. We do not believe that an eternal scruffy man is virtuous. The rule speaks for itself; the etiquette speaks clearly and the poor superiors have many and many times recalled on this point. But... we talk to the wind.

Make it a duty (which really is!) of the utmost cleanliness, courtesy, even external decorum, no less than the state of grace and internal fervor. Others then reason in this way: "If they are so neglected by themselves how can they keep well, in the modern way, an orphanage, a civil education institute, etc.?"

Become a saint. You will have the circular of convocation of our superiors of the houses for the Easter week in Posillipo, in conference, with the Fr. Visitor. Don't fail to answer and come.

I hope by then everything is done about the donations etc. Become a saint. In union of prayers.

N. 618

Fr. Fontana should be urged to conclude with the two donations and with legal aid, because this will have to decide the path to take.

Pianura, 5 - 7 - 1952

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless you.

From the last letter of the Reverend Fr. Visitor, I am transcribing a line that concerns you: "Fr. Fontana should be urged to conclude with the two donations and with a legal deed, because this will have to decide the path to take. Already in Posillipo I urged him to proceed expeditiously and to let us know something precise

about it, but so far I have not yet heard anything. We proceed too slowly in everything, often with the risk of compromising situations." So far these are the words of the Very Rev. Fr. Visitor. So be quick, and if you find impediments from the donors or from other parties, keep him informed so that he can establish what to do.

About your nephew (Ricciardi) I would first like to know where you put him and who will teach him. And furthermore you must induce him to come as a layperson, because the vesting is done to the novices, and instead he would come not as such but as a student of the Vocationary.

Neither you nor Fr. De Rosa sent the April report, I mean a monthly report of the most notable things that happened or were done, in the parish and in the orphanage.

I sent you one hundred copies of the Statute. See if you can get some donations from the individual subscribers to print them.

Goodbye. Become a saint! May Jesus bless us.

N. 619

I sent you more copies of the statute of Divine Union. But after having gathered adhesions, before coming to the official constitution of the groups, the permission of the Ordinary is needed.

Pianura, May 26, 1952

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

1. I wish you could overcome Fr. Antonio De Rosa's silence with your humility and charity.

2. I would like Brother Antonio to learn to read and write well, for his religious culture.

3. I sent you other copies of the statute of the Divine Union. But after gathering adhesions, before coming to the official constitution of the groups, the permission of the Ordinary is needed. Become saints. Pray for me.

N. 620

I recommend maximum pastoral activity. Without hesitation, without delay, and without getting lost in insignificant details, and above all trying to save time to study modern pastoral methods and the ecclesiastical disciplines necessary for this ministry.

Pianura, 6 - 28 - 1952

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May Jesus bless you.

Brother Giuseppe Scarpa has been sent by me for the tasks of cook and sacristan at the parish of Palombaio. Prepare for four seats (at least), because two fathers will come (at least) and him, Brother Scarpa. Prepare everything you need for the kitchen with a service of six, complete. I will refund everything right away. I expect to be in Bovino on July 4th to be in Bitonto on the morning of the 5th for an exhortation to the clergy and later, on the 6th, to accompany the new parish priest to Palombaio.

I recommend maximum pastoral activity. Without indecision, without delay, and without getting lost in insignificant details, and above all trying to save time to study modern pastoral methods and the ecclesiastical disciplines necessary for this ministry. Save the obedience, you will stay where you are. Others will go to Palombaio... others will come to Pianura.

N. 621

Acquaviva, August 3, 1952

J.M.J.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I would have liked to meet you in Mola. Instead I saw Ricciardi, your little nephew. I gave him one hundred and thirty thousand lire for you. I await receipt, with an indication of how much

else I owe you. With the hope of giving them to you I personally lingered.

Now you have to do one more urgent thing.

1. Brother Scarpa must leave Palombaio and go to his family.

2. I have no other brother who can cook for the Palombaio Fathers.

3. In Bari, Piazza Garibaldi, at the parish of S. Francesco di Paola there is the young ... adult Michele Rinaldi who is an aspiring lay brother Vocationist.

4. Track him down and if he knows how to cook even imperfectly, take him temporarily to Palombaio in Brother Scarpa's place.

5. If he doesn't know how to cook, examine him, and if it seems to you that he might be a good religious brother, send him to Pinura, at your expense, because he doesn't have money for a trip.

6. You will personally go to Palombaio to get Br. Scarpa to leave after having communicated it to Father Egidio.

7. If Michele Rinaldi were not capable and you knew some good man (a truly good Christian) who could act as a cook with a suitable compensation for our poverty, I authorize you and I ask you to commit him to Palombaio and bring him there immediately.

8. In the worst-case scenario, I think that in Palombaio or Bionto it is not impossible to find a good old lady who can cook for the two priests of Palombaio, while living at her house. So I defer to you.

Encourage Fr. Perrino by letter, if it seems opportune to you, to come quickly from Marsiconuovo to Mola. I confide to you that all of his difficulty... is your person. Tell him not to fear, because it has already been established that you will be the parish priest integral and he the rector integral, without hindering each other.

I would like to know by telephone that you have taken care of all that I have told you. Pray first and then act with all promptness, precision and firmness. Become a saint.

N. 622

Everything must be done in agreement and in very close relationship with the Rev. Fr. General Treasurer.

Rome 9 - 11 - 1952

Very Reverend and Dearest Confrere,

The General Council has given full assent to your proposal regarding the transfer of the land located near the parish of Mola and the beginning of the procedures for the erection of the parish house.

However, I warn you that everything must be done in agreement and in very close relationship with the Rev. Fr. General Treasurer.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 623

I urged Stefano to remain faithful to Fr. Isaiah. If they don't want him anymore, I'll open the doors for him. So every good Vocationist must do to every proposal of students from other institutes.

Pianura, 9 - 20 - 1952

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

We now want to avoid travel and related expenses wherever possible.

And that's right. But if it really seems necessary to come in person, please first make sure if and where I'm staying.

Let us pray for the new Ordinary of Bari.

I urged Stefano to remain faithful to Fr. Isaiah. If they don't want him anymore, I'll open the doors for him. So every good Vocationist must do to every proposal of students from other institutes. Everyone must be faithful as far as it is in him. If, regardless

of his will, he has to change institution, then we can also indicate ours.

Become a saint. Goodbye. Pray for me.

N. 624

Work hard to find another home, precisely for the parish community that you have to form, distinct and separate from that of the orphanage and thus you will be more concentrated and serene for pastoral care.

Pianura, 10 - 8 - 1952

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

I see from yours that you are under trial (a painful trial) and as usually happens for our greater good, you do not see your guilt, because there is no guilt that others can admit; but the test is ordered for the purification of other stains and for the acquisition of other goods ... and you must pass it victoriously.

As for the parish, no wonder our recently erected one cannot yet compete with the others. Patience! For now we do what we can best!

As for the help of some confrere who is totally at your disposal, for now there is no way to do it, and even if a possibility arose, it would not be destined for a house where he would not even find a room for himself alone. Therefore, work hard to find another home, precisely for the parish community that you have to form, distinct and separate from that of the orphanage and thus you will be more concentrated and serene for pastoral care.

As for the transfer of administration, I would like you to triumph over repugnance that makes you see this apparent humiliation of giving it before a member of the general council (which becomes an article of rule for the future, in every house when a superior is changed).

As an elder you must never lose interest in the conduct of your

confere and your other religious, even if only passing through, and therefore without regard to their pleasure or displeasure, but only to their good, "*argue, obsecra, increpa, opportune et importune*" then reporting to the undersigned what they would not like to correct, despite being a danger to their souls and to the good name of the Congregation.

How I wish you had kept Romeo and his family from betraying the Congregation and his vocation for health reasons! Reasons that are by no means sufficient or persuasive!

Become a saint.. Send Colaguori immediately to the post assigned to him by obedience.

N. 625

Have a residence soon ... passable at least to the parish or in a place nearby but for the religious community.

Pianura, 10 - 24 - 1952

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

I wrote to Fr. Michele Colaguori in Altavilla, (hoping that there is) that certificate you mentioned.

As for your (very correct) observations regarding Acquaviva, it would be good if you wrote extensively to the Very Reverend Father Visitor, and also attested to Colaguori's good conduct in Mola. Thus will each case be better provided for. Make a residence soon, passable at least to the parish or in a nearby place but for the religious community.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us. *Gaudium sit tibi semper* (says today's archangel).

N. 626

Don't be satisfied with the good words and verbal assurances that you could get either from the town hall, or from the parish priest of the matrix, or from the curia.

Pianura, 11 - 13 - 1952

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

As soon as you receive this form, make the procedure for the transfer by the town hall of the corner of the ground adjacent to your parish church *in cornu evangelii* (e.g. by asking for it in emphyteusis with a small annual fee) and the procedure with the Archpriest of the mother church and with the Archiepiscopal Curia of Bari for the transfer of the land owned by the same, depositing the sum necessary to return the income that Reverend Pastor now receives.

However, everything legally, with registered notarial documents, which you will immediately send to the Generalate informing me directly.

All of this must have already been done by now.

Do not be satisfied with the good words and verbal assurances that you could get either from the town hall, or from the parish priest of the matrix, or from the curia.

Leave other things that seem necessary to you to quickly do these two practices on which the beginning of construction for the religious house attached to your parish depends.

I expect great care and accuracy in this matter. May Jesus bless us.

N. 627

In Palombaio some people were disappointed that Fr. Egidio had admitted women to the rectory, sometimes after the Ave Maria in the evening.

Pianura, 2 - 12 - 1953

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

The Reverend Fr. Apostolic Visitor tells me that since the 10th of this month you are in Palombaio. However, I am writing to Mola so that if you have not yet gone, you may move there as soon as you receive this letter confirming obedience.

In Palombaio some people were disappointed that Fr. Egidio had admitted some women into the rectory, sometime after the Ave Maria in the evening. Even in Rome, some people did not like that some evenings he would stay to talk to women (even if they were saints and old!) after sunset; only for assistance to the dying, we are permitted to do this. In all the rest the rule of the religious must be observed, also and especially by our parish priests. No one dares to say the evil he thinks, on these occasions, but people whisper maliciously when we are not strict on this point. In Palombaio people frowned that Fr. Perrino went easily around the houses and received groceries in private and accepted invitations to lunch. Absolutely avoid all of this!

I wish you to put up a good vocationary and I hope that Fr. Saverio will be happy and become Mariotto's apostle.

Goodbye. *Sursum corda!*

N. 628

For my part, I sincerely desire to see the religious settle down in Mariotto, in Bitonto ... and everywhere.

Pianura, 3 - 13 - 1953

My dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

I spoke with His Excellency Bishop Morena. Please, see often the Bishop in Bitonto. Above all, never miss the moral case and

any other meeting or conference of parish priests or priests in Bitonto.

Be ready to give conferences to Catholic Action, especially for men and youth and, (I say this from myself) to seminarians, if you ever get the job done. But the most important thing is that you often go to visit His Excellency and receive his guidelines and instructions. He is happy to see you.

For my part, I sincerely desire to see the religious settle in Mariotto, in Bitonto ... and everywhere. The Vocationist nuns could also go to Mariotto, as there is not even a kindergarten. Work in complete silence to prepare the way for these foundations in the two dioceses of a Bishop who sees us well and loves us.

As for your nephew, it is better that he stays or goes to other houses, if he has a vocation, however, not with the uncle.

As for going to Mola, only if the superior or the parish priest calls you can you go sometimes or even periodically.

As for keeping some boys with you, do the day-external Vocationary with as many boys as you can gather, as long as they go to their homes at night and also for meals, except for some poorer ones.

For the others ... I really wish you could rent the rooms next to yours (behind). Apparently there are eight. Then you may have a good vocationary.

Study, really study! I hope to see you soon. Become a saint.

N. 629

On 10 - 20 - 1953 Fr. Luigi submitted the following report to Fr. Justin for spiritual direction:

Dearest Father, with the help of the Lord I resume my spiritual relationship with the intention of greater constancy for the direction of my soul.

How can I direct souls to holiness if I don't try to practice what I inculcate in other souls?

I became religious to become a saint and I feel that life without this ideal is lost.

Therefore you as spiritual father and superior treat me as a subject and as a student willing to obey, speak to me clearly, pray for me.

I have noticed in you at times, a very kind way of speaking about me, more of wishes than of commands, for me it is necessary to know clearly the holy will of God through you.

1. Daily prayers: Divine Office before the Most Holy Sacrament, Offertory of the Most Precious Blood, Holy Rosary of at least five posts, holy meditation a little sloppy, only general examination of conscience.

2. Predominant passion: I think it's spiritual sloth.

3. Temptations on beautiful virtue not consented, time wasters and negligent performance of my duties.

4. Virtue I cultivate: fidelity to my duties of piety and ministry.

5. My fixed penances: abstinence from fresh fruit on Saturday, always trying to do everything for a spiritual reason and not for my own pleasure.

6. Sacred study done without a fixed rule, but as it happens, although often.

7. My particular devotion: Visiting Jesus often, saying frequent ejaculatory prayer, almost daily confession, entire holy rosary, if I can.

My strongest desire: to sanctify myself and instill in other souls the same desire.

Please answer me by giving me the directives you think are appropriate for my soul.

Prostrate, I thank you for what you have done and will do for my soul.

Take into account my pride.

On the back of Fr. Fontana's report, St. Justin replies:

Strictly practice the three sacrosanct hours:

1. Hour of sacred study truly and precisely in honor of the first divine person.

2. Hour of meditation (possibly affective) in honor of third divine person.

3. Hour of catechetical preaching (ministry of the word) in honor of the second divine person.

Get used to reciting the Canonical Hours before the Blessed Sacrament in the sacred hours of the Lord's agony, that is, in one of the afternoon hours from 1:00 to 4:00 (so there is also time to rest) it is the hour when there is least to do, it is the hour most inconvenient and penitential, it is the hour in which there is least prayer in the world, it is the most suitable hour to keep Jesus company, and we offer it as an exercise of reparation and compassion to the crucifix and as the best preparation for our death.

This is for your personal sanctification.

For the neighbor you have the duty to propagate, zeal, direct the Society of the Divine Union with its spheres. Whoever does this fulfills all the duties of pastoral care eminently.

Go to Mola as extraordinary (confessor) of the Poor Clares.

Suggest to Fr. Azzi that he send you or me all the holy masses he can and we will help the house of Gorga.

Were there 450 masses to be applied for the money given to Fr. Vaccaro? They are being celebrated. If the number is not correct, you will tell me.

Exercise certain vigilance over the brothers of Mola. They are all young. But don't let them see it until it's officially communicated. Become a saint.

N. 630

I recommend that you work a lot in the two towns for children's catechisms and catechesis for adults and for all the organizations of all and individual branches of Catholic Action and for our spheres of the Divine Union.

Pianura, 10 - 31 - 1953

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

It has always been said that one of the Fathers of Palombaio could take on the care of Mariotto, waiting and preparing a reli-

gious house in Mariotto in order to be able to make two communities.

Meanwhile the father who goes to Mariotto would stay there overnight only in the case of serious illness in progress.

Try this for now. As for a third father, for now there is none. Di Gennaro has the obedience to go to Montesano Scalo.

I hope that with your zeal (you and Fr. Passariello) can satisfy the people, the Most Excellent Ordinary and much more our Lord. I recommend that you work hard in the two towns for children's catechisms and catechesis for adults and for all the organizations of all and individual branches of Catholic Action and for our spheres of Divine Union.

N. 631

We are obliged to Cav. Francesco Cavalletti of Montecalvo Irpino, who donated one hundred acres of land to our Congregation. This donation was later retracted by Cavalletti.

Pianura, 11 - 17 - 1953

Dear Fr. Fontana (Fr. Passariello),

J.M.J.

We are obliged to the Cav. Francesco Cavalletti of Montecalvo Irpino (who donated one hundred acres of land to our Congregation), to send him a lay brother for his company and help. He is alone and very advanced in age, and of no pretension.

Br. Giuseppe, who went there, must undergo an operation in a few days, which will keep him impeded for about ten days. Do the charity of sending Br. Renato. Since some food must also be made for him, one who knows how to cook is needed. And we have no other capable of this.

For you, I think, it will not be difficult for you to find some good people in the area, or even to get this charity from the nuns.

Tell Br. Renato to write to me as soon as he arrives in Montecalvo.

I will do everything possible to send there Brother Prisco, who is now occupied in Rome, and thus Brother Renato will be free. May Jesus bless us.

N. 632

Has Brother Renato come back? Please, take good care of him, because I'm afraid he won't hold up in the novitiate. Brother Renato made his novitiate and profession after the death of Fr. Justin and went as a missionary to Brazil.

Pianura, 2 - 23 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

Prudently nurture those two good sisters who want to be vocationist nuns; and let me understand the capacity of the building they would like to reduce to a religious house. In fact, you could have a nun there, who would guide them in our observance, rule, work and thus, at least as aggregates, they could begin to work.

Has Brother Renato come back?

Please take good care of him, because I'm afraid he won't last in the novitiate. And it would be better if he did some years of probation with you as an aggregate or an oblate and then he could tie himself with holy private vows and so he wouldn't get lost. You study.

N. 633

If you think you can keep him on trial, occupying him in what you think best for the purpose, you can try.

Pianura, March 31, 1954

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May Jesus bless us.

I am sending you the bearer, Lorenzo Marzano, from Puglia. Listen to his confidences. If it seems to you that you can keep him on trial, occupying him in what you believe best for the purpose, you can do the trial. But it is entirely your responsibility.

I immediately sent your offer (20,000) to the center in Rome and so you have to do it yourself.

Happy Easter. I warmly greet Fr. Saverio and Fr. Ciro. Goodbye.

N. 634

I send to you this good layman Virgilio Cordona. Take care of him in education and in spirit as best you can and know how.

Pianura, July 12, 1954

Dear Fr. Luigi,

J.M.J.

I send you this good layman Virgilio Cordona to be your community cook and hairdresser, being very capable in these two professions.

In the meantime he will complete his year of postulancy with you and we will see if he deserves admission to the novitiate. He is quite formed (as he seems to me), even though he has never been truly religious elsewhere, he was only with the Trinitarian Fathers for a few months.

Take care of him in education and in spirit as best you can and know how.

Become saints

N. 635

Msgr. Giovanni Lacidogna has created an institute that brings together about

fifty boys; he would intend, at his death, to leave the institute to us. See what it is about to report to the Council.

Pianura, 8 - 18 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

As soon as you receive this letter, go to Minervino Murge, in your quality of Assistant General of the Society. That Archpriest, Msgr. Giovanni Lacidogna has established an institute that brings together around fifty boys and would like some of our nuns and a priest, etc. He intends, upon his death, to leave the institute to us. See what it is about to report to the Council.

It would be better if everything were entrusted to us immediately, not upon the founder's death. If it seems prudent to you, you will make it clear.

I also communicated it to that Reverend Archpriest by answering his request.

N. 636

I am sending our lay religious teacher Nicola Sposato, but do not fail to give him the appropriate directives, as he is not familiar with our life, methods and systems.

Pianura, October 7, 1954

Dear Father Rector,

May Jesus bless us.

I send our religious lay teacher Nicola Sposato for a year of postulancy in Anagni. He, personally, must prepare himself through obedience to obtain a diploma; therefore, in addition to vigilance and the care of discipline, do not want to assign him other tasks.

I trust he will do well. However, do not fail to give him the appropriate directives, since he is not familiar with our life, methods and systems. May Jesus bless us.

N. 637

Finding these accusations true, provide, without revealing the names of those who informed me.

1955

Dear Fr. Luigi,

With prudence and firmness examine the individual complaints of this nun, especially regarding visits (of the fathers) to particular houses and the lack of zeal in the administration of the sacraments, and the offensive words addressed to the nuns. Finding true these allegations provide without revealing the names of those who informed me.

Watch and pray.

N. 638

Undated notes and letters follow

Dear Fr. Fontana,

I have instructed Pirelli to deal personally with regards to the insurance. Be kind enough to have an interview with and these good representatives. Let everything be done in Posillipo without inconveniencing them to come to Pianura. So in your case I defer completely to the procurator Pirelli, especially since it is the house where you are that has to provide he payments.

Bye. Send me the cot at the earliest opportunity. Let us pray to divine providence.

N. 639

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May Jesus bless us.

An almost extreme necessity induces me to withdraw from the permission given to use for the typography your contribution to the motherhouse.

You will take care of the typography with St. Joseph.

I am sending Fr. Giacomino to collect all that you can scrape together or that you keep in your possession.

I want to know if Fr. Ruizzo is staying in Scigliano.

Merry Christmas. Make yourself a saint. You didn't say anything about Nuzzo either. Stick to what was established. May Jesus bless us.

N. 640

Make special prayers to know if you yourself should ever change your conduct, in terms of vigilance, rigor of discipline, not to give confidence easily, etc.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I received that letter, opened. Bellomo cannot and must not stay any longer. Let him go back to his family.

Make special prayers to know if ever you yourself should change your conduct, in terms of vigilance, rigor of discipline, not to trust easily, etc. Because alongside some really good young men, several not equally good ones have come out of the house of Gorga. Could the case perhaps be attributed to a lack of vigilance and rigor of discipline on the part of the superior who is busy and preoccupied with so many other things?

Courage, but vigilance, firmness, sword and fire! May Jesus bless us.

N. 641

Immediately make a good plan for the religious house you intend to build, and so, in parts, you will put it up a little at a time. Urgently though, not slowly!

1. I had not provided for Santucci, because he had already provided for himself by leaving Montesardo and coming to Mola.

2. Coming Fr. Giacomo Vaccaro, a little money is needed to complete I don't know what work for Acquaviva. Have the goodness to anticipate.

3. In the absence of Fr. Santucci, send Fr. Perrino to Montesardo, so that the orphanage-vocational may begin small with prudence, loyalty and truth, remaining however as superior Fr. Antonio De Rosa, even if for health reasons he finds it necessary to linger in Mola. In short, you must not keep more than one other priest in Mola: I mean only one other besides you. Nor should Montesardo be left without a priest. Without taking Fr. Ciro into account, who is temporarily staying there and has to provide for Taburno.

4. Brother Cono, unless he prefers to stay in Mola, since it seems to me not suitable for Mola, should go and stay in Acquaviva and you send for, even if by telegram, Brother Domenico Bavarella who is still here in Pianura, is available.

5. Immediately draw up a nice project for the religious house you intend to build, and thus, in parts, you will put it up a little at a time. Urgently though, not slowly!

Thanks for the good wishes and the offering. I send you my best wishes. As soon as everything is ready, the nuns will also go to Montesardo.

Become saints.

N. 642

Dear Fr. Luigi,

With the orphans, I also send four children from the parish

vocational school. I think you have the place. May Jesus bless us. Thanks a lot.

N. 643

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May Jesus bless us.

The professor told us that Nuzzo doesn't do anything with studying to look after the Village. Thus he loses everything: vocation, years of school, year of novitiate.

I reciprocate best wishes to you and to all.

Brother Bavarella finishes the novitiate with you; brother Giuseppe is too much needed in Paestum. For the priest, we have to wait for the new ordinations. Why would Fr. Emmanuele be a danger or a benefit to you? Think about it.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 644

Mercato Cilento

J.M.J.

If Fr. Adinolfi or De Filippis is not really indispensable, send him for these months of vacation to Cava where it is necessary, as Fr. Giacci will explain verbally to you, with whom you can also combine how not to miss festive chaplaincies etc.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 645

Be patient! Even though you need it so much, I'm sure that for the greater common good you won't oppose it.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

I beg you to have Brother Fortunato ready to go to Anagni at the first notice you receive, this being the obedience received from the Very Rev. Fr. Visitor.

Be patient! Even though you need him so much, I'm sure that for the greater common good you won't oppose it.

This I needed to tell you. He doesn't have to leave now, but as soon as he gets the notice by telegram. I recommend the clerics.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 646

The principle that we must carry forward is this: "Just as without the novitiate one is not admitted to profession, so, without the small annual novitiate, none of our students will be admitted to the class they should attend in the following school year."

Feast of the Precious Blood

Dear Fr. Fontana,

J.M.J.

Let us write in the precious and adored blood of Jesus Christ the Savior.

1. Pray much for that confrere you know and the Lord hears us.

2. You must help me to keep the young brothers well, for a hundred days of exercises of the small novitiate and spiritual vacation, send me by means of the superior general, not only what they would consume if they were in Posillipo, but also as much as you can, more. My sister will give you that and how much you need, i.e. let her buy it for the little novitiate. Don't skimp! If you understood the need for this obedience, you would have no difficulty in sending everything!

3. Everyone must come except the priests you keep busy. I mean everyone, no one excepted. The principle that we must promote

is this: "Just as without the novitiate one is not admitted to profession, so, without the small annual novitiate, none of our students will be admitted to the class they should attend in the following school year; but if he is impeded to attend the small novitiate, he will then be sent to another year of teaching, after which, having always completed the small novitiate, he will be admitted to the higher class." Tell Iovine and all the companions. It cannot be tolerated that instead of the brain they have put the stomach, and that they count for nothing the much higher advantages of a spiritual order, in the face of apprehensions of a material order,

4. Do not welcome young people, even if they are aspiring Vocationists. Just think, as long as you remain in charge of the parish, of forming a small external clergy. Limit your interest in the nuns of Agnano to some periodic exhortations and to the care of their souls as much as you can, without neglecting in the slightest part yours and your duties in Posillipo. You will do the same for Baia's house, but no more than once or twice a month. I see and feel that I was not understood the other time I recommended Agnano to you.

5. Never, ever, never give anyone permission, not even for just one day, to go home especially to priests who must be the first to set an example of observance. Be very strict on this point. And this holds also in normal times, when they will normalize.

Be stronger in maintaining religious observance about relevant points. Courage and trust in the Lord.

May Jesus bless you all.

N. 647

This year I would like you to limit yourself only to the first and second year, sending third year students to Pianura, also because I have no prefect or teacher to send. I say the same to all Vocationaries.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Consider it your duty to send me written observations of which you began to say something on my last visit to Gorga. And write them, outside the letter, on a separate sheet, having to read it in the council. I answered Babino but I don't know if he's still with you. He certainly didn't come here as you told me in your letter.

The day before yesterday I received a telegram from Rome, signed Bianchi with these words: "Postpone your visit to Anagni, wait for the bishop's letter. Bianchi."

Did I think it was Fr. Amedeo, or is this Bianchi a person of the Most Excellent Bishop?

However, I would have liked to know if you were able to mention it in the audience with the bishop of the house of St. Augustine and if there is any hope.

Then inquire precisely about that truck which from Gorga, according to what you asserted, comes periodically to Naples, to then reserve it when the right day comes.

It will also be good if you either fix the price yourself or tell us approximately how to proceed.

Ciao. May Jesus bless you.

This year I would like you to limit yourself only to the first and second year, sending third year students to Pianura, also because I have no prefect or teacher to send. I say the same to all Vocationaries. But if you have to oppose real and good reasons, tell us and we will see whether to satisfy you or at least to reconcile things in a good way.

May Jesus bless you all. Keep Fr. Mario happy.

N. 648

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Coppola comes to Gorga to help you, but I ask you to take ex-

cellent spiritual care so that he can continue his progress in piety and study. Long live God!

N. 649

Fr. Luigi cannot say no to Fr. Justin, and he continues to ask!

Dear Fr. Luigi,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I have assigned this young boy from Pianura to the house of Gorga, who continues to study, but is destined to be a lay teacher, except for a promotion to cleric later, if he will deserve it. Send him, through me, the money for the trip, because I can't give it to him from Pianura.

Make the book of the soul more regularly and also send it regularly, in detached sheets.

May Jesus bless you

N. 650

If it is not possible and you have other ways of obtaining the sum, do it without fear, on my guarantee.

Dear Fr. Luigi,

You must go immediately to the Most Excellent Bishop of Acquaviva to ask him if we can collect the sum deposited for the parish for only one semester, which is necessary to complete the other that must be paid for the purchase of the "Gaslini."

If it is not possible and you have other ways of obtaining the sum, do it without fear, on my guarantee.

May Jesus bless you.

The sum should be immediately handed over to Fr. Perrino who takes it with him to Genoa, together with Fr. Vaccaro, leaving Rome on Thursday morning. Let's hope so.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 651

Inculcate perfect obedience to Fr. Di Fusco, to Fr. De Rosa. Obedience and full observance of the rules and especially of community life.

I.M.I.

Dear Fr. Fontana,

Let them immediately make the offer of the parish of the Holy Family in Monopoli by the Ordinary or whoever on his behalf. If they offer it *pleno iure*, I am very confident that it will be accepted.

Inculcate perfect obedience to Fr. Di Fusco, to Fr. De Rosa. Obedience and full observance of the rules and especially of community life. I was waiting for the note of the other expenses, so I didn't send you immediately what I was supposed to give you. Today I returned from Rome. Tomorrow I'll send you the money by registered mail. I wanted to bring it to you because in a few days I will be returning to Montesano.

Hasten the request of the Ordinary of Monopoli. Make yourself a saint. How beautiful Puglia is!

CHAPTER IV

Letters to Fr. Ugo Fraraccio

He was welcomed personally by St. Justin in the Pianura Vocationary; he saw in the newcomer an intelligent, devoted and enthusiastic son and soon in his esteem and affection he became his friend and confidant. Young Fraraccio took Fr. Palmieri's place in Fr. Justin's heart and soul. Born in 1918 in Frosolone, Campobasso, he made his first profession in 1934 and was ordained a priest in 1942. He transcribed almost stenographically many sermons of our saint, which then served for the publication of twelve volumes prepared by F. Anella. He was Rector and Parish Priest at Montesano and then Rector of the Pianura Vocationary while also serving as General Secretary. In 1950 he was sent to open the mission in Brazil and was its first superior. In the chapter of 1954 he was elected Vicar General and by decree of the Sacred Congregation for Religious he was given "all the rights and duties of Superior General." From 1957 to 1963 he continued his mission in Brazil and from there he went on to strengthen the first community opened in the United States, where he continued his ministry leaving everyone an exceptional example of industriousness, gentleness and humility. Rich in merit and virtue, he left this earth in Florham Park, N.J. on July 28, 2003.

N. 652

When my Fr. Palmieri died and it seemed to me that I would not be able to confide to anyone how much I suffered from it, I began to turn to you with my heart, as capable of receiving my confidences.

Termoli, 9 - 26 - 1934

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

These days, I mourned another religious of mine, Scandiffio, who died. He was my friend as well as my son.

When the death of my Fr. Palmieri took place and it seemed to me that I could not confide to anyone how much I was suffering from it, I began to turn to you with my heart, as capable of receiving my confidences. I didn't do it. I find that this lingering rest of the heart, along the way, is not useful for our ultimate goal. Every sense of rest in the creature is to the detriment of the momentum of the spirit towards its God. To think differently is the illusion of an adolescent.

Never slow down your application and inner tension to the soul's progress. During the time of the exercises you told me you wanted me as your personal director in the spiritual work. Then nothing has been done that could be called true and proper spiritual direction. On the contrary, it could seem and be that living together diminishes interest in the things of God, and soul confidence is no longer spontaneous. The friend kills the father. Could that ever be true?

The undersigned must be a father not a friend, when a friend would kill his father. In truth there is no incompatibility between the friend and the father and Larcordaire marvels why two priest friends find it difficult to confess to each other. But I'm not saying this to lead you into confidences that I can't in any way demand.

I care about your complete education. And it is just beginning. The journey is long but all beautiful.

Goodbye, my dear. Become a saint in humility, purity and charity. May Jesus bless you.

N. 653

There is something inside the writer that calms down in your presence and makes me almost talkative. Currently there is no one else in the Congregation to whom he is led to confide in what fills us within, which is the word of the Lord.

Pianura, 2 - 10 - 1936

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I am pleased that I have the opportunity to answer you on the fifth anniversary of your religious vestition.

You ask me for spiritual confidences. There is something inside the writer that calms down in your presence and makes me almost talkative. Currently there is no one else in the Congregation to whom he is led to confide in what fills us within, which is the word of the Lord. The interest you show and the capacity that the Lord has given you for his word makes you deserve whoever is an echo of that Word, and who finds life and the celebration of life in it¹.

Our vocation is truly divine! Blessed are those who receive it and respond to it. Therefore, my dear, you will have endless spiritual confidences, I would say, if it pleases the Lord to bring our hearts together and keep them united in his.

As for wiping away tears etc. the Lord has reserved this for himself and we expect it from him. Those I have loved have made me pour tears from within and without that I fear opening up as I did to certain profound forms of even good friendship. Everyone who loves promises sea and mountains, and all eternity, and then inflicts thorns and tears like a butcher. I said it all too bitterly in "Tears" in *Spiritus Orationis*².

As for what I want from you it is certainly not the interruption of your studies, but that you immediately become a great religious.

There is always a very intense desire for a future friend³. But I

¹ St. Justin defines himself as: an echo of that Word, one who finds life and the celebration of life in it.

² Russolillo, *Spiritus Orationis*, Works, vol. 2, p. 261-268.

³ The future friend is the one who collects his writings and makes them known, but ultimately his future friend in only Jesus!

think this future will not be of the present time. God, give it to me, or be it to me, for I cannot live without it.

The consecration to the sensitivity of the man God Jesus presented itself to me, in his heart, just as the consecration to the divine jealousy of the love of God presented itself to me.

They are made just for us, for me. Do you understand?
Jesus makes you worthy of himself.

N. 654

One would like (Oh how!) the ideal friend, the ideal student, the ideal religious. And if I want it so intensely, how much and how will the Lord want it? I don't just wish it to you, I command it to you and want to obtain it for you, if however you also make an effort, not as weakly as hitherto.

Pianura, 4 - 1 - 1937

My dear,

Don't wait for one of mine today or am I deceiving myself? It would have been nice for me, the ingenuity of someone who, knowing they were something to me, had said to me: Today is my name day! So I'm waiting for a word, and if ... ever a gift.

Instead, you had to feel the vehemence of indignation even for the shadow of evil. But if you had pure intuition, you would see in that vehemence of indignation, the vehemence of affection. I can't make mine St. Paul's "*Aemulor vos Dei aemulatione*" but it seems to me that I know and feel something about it, I suffer so much to see you in a moral defect or danger. One would like (O how!) the ideal friend, the ideal student, the ideal religious. And if I want it so intensely, how much and how will the Lord want it?

I don't just wish it to you, I command it and I want to obtain it, if however you also commit yourself to it, not as weakly as up to now.

Thank you for the Easter greetings and the good dispositions you show for the Congregation.

May Jesus confirm them and bless you.

Ascension is already in the hands of the Vocationists who want to ascend. The content is a wing for those who want to climb, or rather fly; it is a nightmare for those who just want to drag themselves on the ground.

Pianura, 7 - 13 - 1937

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thanks for the letters I was waiting for. I thought that, absorbed and preoccupied with your exams, you hadn't had this thought, like a flower does not blossom from parched ground. It usually happens like this. I would have found a way to load you with a supply of stamps, if I had foreseen it. All right, now think about coming back with good news of victory. And if you prefer to stay at the Annunziata⁴ we can even try to please you.

*Ascensione*⁵ is already in the hands of the religious who want to ascend. I would like to bring it personally to the individuals of the individual houses, and therefore it has not yet reached those of the Annunziata. It's a thick, squat book. The content is a wing for those who want to climb, or rather fly; it is a nightmare for those who just want to drag themselves on the ground. For you... I don't know what it will be, ignoring who passes through you, and seeming to see in it rather decadence than elevation. Don't be so.

I wish you for the future, as I wish you for the present, and forever, every good.

⁴ Annunziata is a section of Cava dei Tirreni and the name of the Vocationists' residence.

⁵ Seized by the fear of death, in 1936 Fr. Justin hastened to put together all those ascetic principles inspired by the Lord during his almost forty years of adult life. The *Ascension*, a private ascetic directory, was published on July 1, 1937.

Going to the Badia, do not fail to stop each time for a moment in prayer, in the cave of St. Alpherius, in the most hidden corner.

Your handwriting is bad. May ideas always be good and excellent, great and maximal sweet.

Make yourself a saint. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Your companions have not asked that I write them anything, and therefore I dispense with it. You asked me twice and I wrote. You could also have said to me: come... perhaps I would have come.

N. 656

I was waiting for your letter hoping to find something of the heart in it. What's all the rest worth? I have to say I miss you. But ... diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum.

Aversa, 10 - 6 - 1937

My dear friend,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I was waiting for your letter hoping to find something of the heart in it. What's all the rest worth?

I am preaching three days of spiritual exercises at this venerable seminary. There are one hundred and fifty seminarians, all of them from the gymnasium. The Rector is the Very Reverend La Greca, who since the first hour had the wish to become religious with us, but he was dissuaded by Fr. Arsenio. Now he is a vocationist for his diocese.

Yesterday evening in Pianura I found the response from the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries for ordinations. All good. I charge you to report it officially to D'Auria and Pietropaolo, without however showing this letter of mine.

They will be pleased, because they too will be able to receive minor orders.

Yesterday Fr. Giorgio the Vicar accompanied the first four prefects to Montecassino.

I held the first two lectures for the Congress of Parete. We have the latest on the divine Spirit⁶.

I await your promotion, yours and Silvestri's. I have to say I miss you. But... *diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum*.

I hope to see you soon. May the Lord grant you his Spirit. Amen.

P. S. Sorry to Mazzotta, no; to Br. Riccardo, yes. *Intelligenti pauca*.

N. 657

Read a saint's life every fortnight

12 - 26 - 1937

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Read a life of a saint every fortnight (of a 750 pages, so that you read 50 pages a day) bearing in mind all that "Ascension" suggests to you both about pious readings in general and about the lives of saints in particular.

N. 658

The first letter of this year to the first little friend of the time to thank him for the thousand kindnesses, to give him a sign of the heartfelt affection with which he is enveloped in my interior, to wish him a great science of the saints, for a great practice of holiness, the only thing that is worth.

⁶ It refers to the three lectures contained in Heaven of Heavens, cf. Works, Vol. 7 pages 139-217.

1 - 1 - 1938

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more with the Son to
the Father.

The first letter of this year to the first little friend of the time to thank him for the thousand kindnesses, to give him a sign of the heartfelt affection with which he is enveloped in my interior, to wish him a great science of the saints, for a great practice of holiness, the only thing that is worth.

May you be more docile and more generous with the holy inspirations and will be happy who blesses you and loves you also through me.

N. 659

Policastro, 7 -28 – 1938

My Dear Friend,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more with the Son to
the Father.

If you had said a word, I would have taken you with me.

I answer immediately.

The Lord wants this ministry of exercises to the clergy. The angels of many towns await us and the Sacrament solicits us because it does not find its consecrated people really attached to it.

Make people treat Jesus better: even this reflection alone would be enough to make us embrace this ministry.

Blessed be the Lord!

I will be back soon. I neither intend to replace you, nor dispense you, unless your replacement appears necessary for your greater personal good, to which I want to sacrifice every satisfaction of the heart. I wanted to tell you this when you momentarily eclipse yourself, due to the presence of others.

Become a saint in simplicity of heart. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. De Felice anticipated you in writing to me. I answered him with a long list of psalms to copy.

N. 660

In Policastro, in Anagni, many good things that seem almost original to me (unless you start to make me stupid...) come up, or rather come down, and are not fixed by anyone.

Anagni, 9 - 28 - 1938

My dear friend,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Yesterday I received the telegraphic money order. You could have been more generous!

Letter today. You could have been clearer! You were closed to me, and then more and more closed. Or should I think of you among the people who attribute introspection, the scrutiny of hearts to me?

Your beautiful dream I do not know, nor can I guess. I know that I would make an effort to implement it since you call it beautiful, and if beautiful it must also be holy, because there is no other beauty. As for sermons, I really would always like someone who would collect them. In Policastro, in Anagni, many good things that seem almost original to me (unless you start to make me stupid...) come up, or rather come down, and are not recorded by anyone.

As for what I think about every partial or total eclipse, you can figure it out from the reasoning I make about a heart of flesh.

“Come on, poor fellow, be satisfied with fractions! Expect unity and the whole only from the inventor of the wafer!” this reasoning will help you too, oh how many times in life!

As for everything else then, I also repeat it to you in turn. But... it tastes like a goodbye, and I don't intend to give it.

The Lord is eternal and we with him are immortal. We already said goodbye to things that end. Now everything must be spirit and life and therefore immortal. Jesus embraces you in his heart. I will see you again on the 8th, around the crib of Mary as a child.

N. 661

The little secretary also acts as a banker!

Anagni, 9 - 30 - 1938

Dear Fraraccio,

I need the other 500 lire left at the post office, plus another 200 from those already withdrawn. I owe to Leoniano over 550. I had to give Fr. Ribaudò 100 lire out of necessity. I don't know what I will have.

So... think about sending them to me in a way that they arrive soon.

May Jesus bless us.

P. S. If you need permission to sign, I'm enclosing it.

To the post office,

I authorize the cleric Fraraccio Ugo to sign the postal passbook for me and collect the sum I have requested from him.

Anagni, 8 - 30 - 1938

Sac. Justin M. Russolillo

N. 662

Blessed is the young Vocationist who assimilates his own spiritual doctrine of vocation, of Congregation, of our mission.

Pianura, 12 - 24 - 1938

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

May the word, echo of the Word, invest you and be invested
by you.

The word precedes an active and passive purification of the
senses and even higher faculties of the soul. The active one im-
plies penance. Let's make it fully.

The penance of assiduous contrition.

The penance of assiduous vigilance.

The penance of assiduous meditation.

The penance of full observance, and finally of the corporal, this
is largely the active purification.

After comes the passive purification and the soul is disposed
to the word.

Blessed is the young man who doesn't seek sensible satisfac-
tion, nor does he
linger if he ever had any.

Blessed is the young man who concentrates everything on as-
cetic progress and
despises everything else.

Blessed is the young Vocationist who assimilates his own spiri-
tual doctrine of vocation, of Congregation, of our mission.

May the Lord fill him *inenarrabilibus verbis suis, inerrabilibus gen-
tibus suis. Amen, alleluia*. This whole process of prior purification
can take place, so to speak, by the ordinary, long way, and by the
extraordinary short way, a shortcut, slowly or quickly in steps or
in flights.

We can choose.

Make yourself a saint in humility, purity, charity, in Mary, for
Mary, with

Mary. Amen.

N. 663

It seems that you are well accommodated on the school desk and nothing else; that you get along well with friends who don't seem to me... ascensionists, nor Vocationists, nor annunciationists... too bad! Youths not boldly ascetic, youths not at all heroic. And I wait for the future friend.

Pianura, St. Hugo 1939

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

May all the holy things that the good master, the divine incarnate Word passes through your mind, your word and your pen accumulate divine treasure in your life.

All the...reproaches of exhortations are aimed at you. And all the incitements of exhortations push, they would like to push you first.

But it seems that you are well accommodated on the desk of the school and

nothing else; that you get along well with friends who don't seem to me... ascensionists, nor vocationists, nor annunciationists, too bad! Youths not daringly ascetic, youths not at all heroic. And I wait for the future friend.

Best wishes for today, name day, and best wishes for the whole major week, of tears and recollection, for the resurrection, the ascension and Pentecost. Not to dispense with writing again, to whom I would write every day, from whom I would also like the same.

Sursum corda, I bless you effusively in *sacris Cordibus*.

N. 664

Now we begin to see or see something again, something of the frequency of the sacrament of hatred and pain of sin; something of the holy daily meditation...something of spiritual direction.

Pianura, 5 - 4 - 1939

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

May the Lord save me from illusions, but with regard to friends, brothers and students, I have always fused together personal affection and interest in their sanctification, and it has always seemed to me that on their part it simultaneously increased or decreased correspondence to affection with cooperation in grace.

And so it must be when the good that is wanted is the same spiritual good.

And in the meantime I can't get too deeply into wanting to know the intimate things of the soul, if they are not spontaneously confided (he confesses... he doesn't confess... he directs... he doesn't do it... he keeps himself blameless ... he does not maintain himself ... he divides his heart ... he does not divide it ... he is in fervor, he is in lukewarmness, etc.).

At the same time evidence after evidence of coldness, of alienation, certainly exaggerated by the enemy, and by subjective hypersensitivity accumulated.

Now we begin to see or revise something, something of the frequency of the sacrament of hatred and pain of sin; something of the holy daily meditation...something of spiritual direction.

Real spiritual progress is made and that is enough for me, whoever is the instrument and the minister of them. But what do they do. What strange anguish this desire and having to be interested in the progress of the confreres, pupils, friends, and the fear of even seeming to want to impose oneself as an instrument and minister of them. Lord, deliver me from illusions as on the rest, so on this point!

Piety absorbs study, school, friendship, and everything; and nothing on the other hand absorbs or attenuates pity.

Become a saint. Thank you, therefore, for the good wishes ex-

pressed in soul confidences promising better in the future, or in everyday life.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 665

When everything were missing, even when you didn't intuit anything of the other's heart, the zeal that the Lord has given you for the Divine Word is enough for me to hold dear to you. Of all the human stimuli that are most sensitive to me, what perseveres in that ministry, at least currently, is your eagerness to gather his word.

Pianura, 12 - 13 - 1939

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

We will eternally thank the Lord for each of the degrees of ascension to his priesthood.

They must be as much progress and stimuli, as they are means to unite ourselves more and more to him, and to help souls to be more united with him.

You must meditate on the thoughts mentioned in *Pietà del Seminario*⁷ about the minor orders, assimilate them, and value them, because they will be a good preparation for the Priesthood. I would like a report of this spiritual homework, at least in the book of the soul.

Even between us, normally, the relationship of friendship should grow in holiness and intimacy, to the extent that the relationship with our Lord grows, a trait of union between souls.

In every relationship I tend to find the ideal friend.

⁷ The *Pietà del Seminario* - Piety of the Seminary was first published in a small booklet and then in the 1938 Devotional. See: *Pathways of Perfection, Works*, vol. XXV, pages 175-217.

In the one with the disciple, with the subject, with the spiritual son, I don't find it. Every time I seem to have found him, I begin to address man more humanely; I bump into thorns (or claws?) that push me away in great pain. Providentially.

You can't imagine to what an extent I am just about nothing in the matter of affection, and in that field I am nothing.

But when everything were missing, even when you didn't intuit anything of the other's heart, the zeal that the Lord has given you for the Divine Word is enough for me to keep you very dear.

Of all the human stimuli that are most sensitive to me, what perseveres in that ministry, at least currently, is your eagerness to gather the word.

May the Spirit deign to purify ever more those who speak, those who listen, those who write that Word.

Persevere in asking for those three graces, at least until you are internally driven to unify intercession in a superior formula such as the Ignatian one: "amorem tui solum cum gratia tua mihi dones, nec aliud quidquam ultra posco – You give your love only with your grace and I ask nothing more than this." And I think he meant the perennial increase of grace and love. Of course, we are more concerned about this increase in grace and love than any other gift. And we purposely say love, not charity, meaning overflowing, outpouring charity, transforming all being and all doing into poetry of love.

God is God, and he is our friend to the last degree of human-divine friendship.

Possessing him as such is also the perennial wish of the perennial birth of the Word in us, just as the birth of the Word from the Father is perennial.

Through Mary we hope so and we will have it. May Jesus bless you.

N. 666

By following the Lord more faithfully, you will arrive at ever purer forms of

sensitivity and therefore of possibilities (in the human, natural, inferior part), and to ever higher forms of imitation and incorporation with the man God, in the higher part.

Christmas, 1939

Dear Fraraccio,

Jesus be with you.

Thanks, and I reciprocate.

It might be tiredness, I feel awkward.

The thorns can be man's. The claws are of the devil.

So I don't attribute the latter to you. And not even the first ones, I attribute them to myself. When you approach anyone with a wounded body, it seems that there are thorns everywhere. By following the Lord more faithfully, you will arrive at ever purer forms of sensitivity and therefore of possibility (in the human, natural, lower part) and ever higher forms of imitation and incorporation with the man God, in the upper part.

His mystery unfolds in his friends. Fiat lux. May Jesus bless you.

N. 667

For the celebration of the heart, a good letter from another heart is enough. The poem, it seems to me, de' Fiumi contains the saying: "man is the joy of man." This is more Christian than "homo hominis lupus."

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

For the needs of the house, an envelope full of providence is the best gift. But for the feast of the heart, a good letter from another heart is enough.

The poem, it seems to me, *De' Fiumi* contains the saying: "man is the joy of man." This is more Christian than "homo hominis lupus."

In my state, when the spirit keeps the heart in a tenor of feeling in which contentment with fractions is no longer so painful, your letter is all its celebration.

But for the higher celebration of the spirit, you are right, the Word of another is needed, that which alone is the word, the Word, the person.

To have it in the world to which you think and aspire, it is necessary to enter into another intimacy with the Father and the Mother. *Quis novit filium nisi Pater? (nisi Mater?) Et cui voluerit Pater revelare (et cui voluerit Mater revelare?)* - Who knows the Son if not the Father? (if not the Mother?) And the one to whom the Father wanted to reveal him (to whom the Mother wanted to reveal him).

You have the promise and the dawn in wishful thinking. May this year bring you at least one principle of contemplation and you will be satisfied.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 668

Let us hope that ours (and ours we mean all the clergy, all the religious, all those who belong most to Jesus of whom we are) in loving each other tend unanimously towards heaven and the heaven of heavens.

Pentecost, 1940

My Dear Brother,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

For the day of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, I wish all together the answers to the wishes of many holy days.

Don't we want to disappear (if it were possible, in our own eyes) to realize the life *abscondita cum Cristo in Deo* - hidden with Christ in God?

How many things are being elaborated in a more spiritual and more unitive form, as a result of the inflow of the grace of our divine vocation, mission, Congregation.

Even the forms of friendship that religious men know and practice are a poor thing, which will then become a weepy thing as one leans to the earth or rises to heaven.

Let us hope that ours (and ours we mean all the ecclesiastics, all the religious, all those who belong more to Jesus than we do) in loving each other tend unanimously towards heaven and the heaven of heavens.

If one inclines or declines to the earth and the other tends or rises to the sky, they would find themselves in an awkward position. We must hope that if the friendship lasts, the force of attraction will prevail in the one who has aimed higher, so that he can elevate his brother and not vice versa, to mutual ruin.

This isn't about you and me.

At most, it can affect you and others.

But let us pay ever more ardently and moving attention to our historical, evangelical, liturgical, Eucharistic, mystical Jesus Christ, "Absconde(s) eos in abscondito faciei tuae" we tell him, about us.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 669

Let us become saints and spend our whole life in the formation and functioning of this new organ of sanctification, which is the Congregation, for all souls.

1 - 1 - 1941

My dearest,

My first letter this year to my first yesterday, today, tomorrow!

Hope and best wishes to him and me. Prayer and promise his and mine.

Say and write the best and sweetest things your mind and heart can desire, I sign them all for you.

How many great things the Lord has told us, given us, done to us. And in the meantime: (if I remember the text correctly) muscae morientes perdunt suavitatem unguenti - when the flies are about to die they lose the sweetness of their perfume. Let's take them off!

I think that a more direct and intense culture of holy humility would increase all our good, purifying it, assuring it, after drawing it from the Lord, ever more greatly.

Let us become saints and spend our whole life in the formation and functioning of this new organ of sanctification, which is the Congregation, for all souls.

May Jesus bless you and keep you well closed in his heart.

N. 670

I have full confidence in everything except the commitment to promote one's personal sanctification. On this point we will never be perfectly in order, we will never deserve full confidence.

2 - 24 - 1941

J.M.J.

My dear,

I can't be hard, I mustn't be with those who don't need the strong way to do their duty and beyond their duty. And such are you my dear. I do not intend to test again your interest in the things of the Congregation, nor your benevolence for the confreres. It doesn't even occur to me that you could abuse a certain freedom of movement or don't know how to protect yourself from the opportunities of dangerous distractions. I have full confidence in everything except the commitment to promote one's personal sanctification. On this point we will never be perfectly in order, we will never deserve full confidence.

But it is necessary to apply oneself to establishing observance firmly; and the essence of observance is the actual dependence

of obedience and reverence. All of this should be a spontaneous effect of charity. In the absence of this efficacy of charity, it must be exercised and perfected with other good stimuli.

Help me with example, word, deeds to establish observance in this essential point. Let's do it *corde magno et animo volenti* - with a big heart and a well-disposed mind.

I was afraid to keep you in my room so as not to waste your time. I was afraid to entrust you with other things, so as not to waste your time. I had to resort to begging for a little help from others to get me to write letters so as not to waste your time. On many occasions I have had to be accompanied by others, so as not to waste your time. Think how he sees that you find enough to write so many letters, to render so many services, to do so many repetitions. But I would have liked to fill your time with things much more useful for the common good!

I have not done it, nor will I do it during the period of studies, without real need, because it is a fact that even if you do well in the exams, in order to take care of many things, you do not cultivate prayer and the spiritual lesson as it would be necessary for those who tend towards divine union.

You don't do bad, you do well, but you don't do good as if you ignored it.

The direction is index of this. I can only settle with the charitable supposition that you do it with others. But the inner life is poor!

As for the press, I entrusted it to Pirelli, to occupy him with something holy, completely detached, independently from the community. Now, however, the press becomes a means of communication between him and the community. This absolutely must not continue. Either him without us, or us without him, in everything. It is a matter of obedience to the will of the superiors. He therefore begins to practically study how to carry out each expedition, etc., completely independently of him and in Pianura. Requests from Fr. Giorgio the division of the current account etc.

May the Lord grant us the intuition and intuitions of his charity.

N. 671

4 - 1 - 1942

To the deacon Ugo Fraraccio for the name day - Casa Madre S.D.V.

Maria autem conserbavat omnia verba haec conferens in corde suo - Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.

Jam queritur inter dispensatores ut fidelis quis inueniatur - One does not look among the dispensers to find a faithful.

Omnis scriba doctus in regno caelorum... profert de thesauro suo nova et vetera...- Every expert scribe of the kingdom of heaven extracts new and old things from his treasury (from N.T. passim).

N. 672

For us, the work is always a soul to be formed religiously. All the others that are called "works" are means. First work: one's own soul to be sanctified; second work: the priest to be trained; third work: Forming God's religious in the world, the one-triune work of ours.

Pianura, 6 - 16 - 1942

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I admire your fidelity to the daily letter. I always look forward to it and enjoy it.

I, on the other hand, am the lazy one whom a thousand desires make unhappy and kill. Truly it seems to me that I am still far from this effect of desires. The still unfinished report of the catechetical year, and the forthcoming preparation for the catechetical exam of the children of Pianura take what little time I could give to correspondence.

Due to your absence, I have provisionally placed the postu-

lants in the student body, since their number has also dwindled due to the departure of some for the exams.

I have finished reading the life of the servant of God Rosmini, which you began. Read every line patiently, even if it seems boring to you, and write down something that seems more spiritually useful to you. For myself, I would very willingly immerse myself in his works if circumstances permitted it.

Our all-philosophical method and spirit in the same ascetic, mystical, pastoral would benefit greatly from it and we would greatly enjoy seeing many of our intuitions confirmed, not to say otherwise, and it would open the way for many spiritual discoveries (such at least for us).

Because we can really apply to reading that text which refers to another *venerunt mihi omnia bona pariter cum illa*, and since we are dealing with readings, sacred studies, also *innumerabilis honestas per manus illius*.

The Lord used spiritual reading to get us into relationship with his saints and to be our inner master. I think it will always be like this for Vocationists. The Lord will fill them with his ineffable words (as the canticle of *Ecclesiasticus* says) so that they can serve the daily banquet of the word to all souls, and as a hundredfold reward for this service of theirs... he will fill them more and more with his ineffable words.

We have understood that for us the work is always a soul to be formed religiously. All the others that are called "works" are means. First work: one's own soul to be sanctified; second work: the priest to be trained; third work: formation of God's religious in the world, our triune work.

We are doing, even with the daily exhortation, the novena to St. John the Baptist, wanting to begin the consecrations of the Congregation with him, those every seven years to the seven saints.

Have a good holiday.

I believe that the weekday Eucharistic benediction can be done even if there are few people. To ask what I had done, no one can tell me the minimum number required.

Become a saint in simplicity, humility, modesty and delicacy of conscience. May Jesus bless you all.

Religious greetings to the Duchess.

N. 673

I understood that I do not intuit those I love, just as they do not intuit who loves them and this is providential so that one does not go overboard on one side or the other and does not fall into naturalism so easy to take over and prevail over friendship.

Pianura, 6 - 22 - 42

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Your absence weighs me down. Come early. Not that there has been any order from above. After all, the month is drawing to a close.

We did the catechism exam. However, the report was deferred indefinitely. Had I known earlier... I would have given myself to preparing the articles for *Spiritus Domini*.

We are with the exams.

I am grateful to you for the daily letter, now almost daily, and for the pity of my almost monthly reply! But I didn't want to!

When I was in San Nicola, I didn't have the sad impression that you have given. Let's hope that all these works that you say started and suspended will soon be completed.

In one of your letters you express the fear, or almost, that my letter will bring you a string of reproaches.

And why? And for what?

Very often I express affection in the form of reproaches, but just recently I have decided to speak more... intelligibly. And every word is dark if it doesn't express the heart.

Even in real and harsh reproaches there was always, at least

when they touched you, a cry from the wounded heart, perhaps too natural in its need, but never bad.

I understood that I do not intuit those I love, just as they do not intuit who loves them and this is providential so that one does not go overboard on one side or the other and does not fall into naturalism so easy to take over and prevail over friendship.

I was fortunate to have found by chance, but on the day I needed, the book of visions, consolations and instructions of Blessed Angela of Foligno, in that great hidden treasure that we have, our library.

Fr. Mazzei sent me fifty copies of the enclosed pamphlet, precisely on the day of the Eucharistic Heart, and I sent a copy to each of our priests.

If you were on the high peaks, the holy vow would be enough for everything. But if you are not there, it is necessary in the light of that holy vow and with its stimulus, to make plans and resolutions for each new phase of life, for each new office entrusted to us. So for example:

1. For the priestly state,
2. For the mission of preaching *et quidem* to religious people,
3. For the care of postulants etc.

Even if you want to make all the suggestions of *Ascension* your own, you would need to write them down and adapt them. But this enters the field of management and today... it is willingly done without by certain presumptuous religious, without wanting it, without knowing it...

Does the list of reproaches begin? *In cauda venenum? Absit* - Poison in the tail! Never.

Religious regards to the Duchess and Br. Salvatore. May Jesus bless you. Become a saint. Come early.

Most affectionately

Find a way to make him the direct object of every look, word, smile and hug, but really direct and explicit, since the more or less habitual, virtual, interpretative intentions no longer satisfy the heart, and this is good sign.

6 - 25 - 42

My Dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I allow, willingly for the duchess, that you stay until her name day on July 2nd, and then come back without a doubt.

None of your letters, so far, saying: "I received one from you!" although they hint at it and so I'm sure they reached you.

I thank you in my father's name for your greeting card, which he has received and appreciated, but does not usually answer. A sign of atavism to excuse my sloth? I don't think so, because, in other times, I know that he wrote often. Now he has many reasons to be excused.

I write to congratulate the duchess, and at the same time send a telegram to assure her of the holy mass on that day. I don't have much faith that the letter will arrive in time. I write however.

I don't find much material in yours for mine. Now I remember. You are waiting for a gift for the first mass. Good boy! But it is such a great mass that there is no possibility of an adequate gift. I couldn't make it adequate even... on several other sides.

I have noticed great wisdom in you. You know how to adapt to the little, and perhaps even the mediocre (even further down?!) and you will suffer less in life. I don't envy you too much though! *Unicuique suum!* And then, I will satisfy you, and you will have a gift whatever it is. Or I will satisfy myself and you won't have anyone, since I couldn't, for many personal and common reasons, give you Rosmini's works as much as I would like! Perhaps by philosophizing more truly, you would understand yours truly better, who (for example) when he has to speak to you or write

to you is always held back by many brakes. "This is superfluous, that is not very useful; this other one does not help holiness, etc." so, while with others it will be more abundant in words, with you it is more abundant in silence, but this silence is... like the missing gift for the first Mass. But someone could hurt this gift of Rosmini made to you and the Kantian categorical imperative is a big problem for me too... see where it ends up when we don't talk directly about the one who must fill the whole heart. Here's the real deal. Finding a way to make him the direct object of every look, word, smile and hug, but really direct and explicit, since the more or less habitual, virtual, interpretative intentions no longer satisfy the heart, and this is a good sign.

But he himself found this way and taught us this secret and communicated this life.

Festinemus ingredi in illam requiem - let us hasten to enter that repose! Now think about coming back. Do you want a verse?

"Brother to meet you, the interminable paths of exile, the joyful spirit flies, guided by arcane love songs!" archaic barbarian! It was meant for another, a stripped Jesuit... and therefore for you it is doubly barbaric. And so let it go. You come in the meantime. May Jesus accompany you and wait for you and welcome you at the station, at the border of the parish and near me.

N. 675

I was waiting for you as the only possible joy for nature for these Easter holidays, but the Lord will want to reserve it for Pentecostal... holidays. Make sure you come quickly with the Constitutions.

Mercato, 4 - 14 - 1944

Dear Fraraccio,

Jesus Mary Joseph

I was waiting for you as the only possible joy to nature for

these Easter holidays. But the Lord will want to reserve it for Pentecostal... feasts. And Deo gratias!

I remembered, and I remembered several times Ugo, before and on his day.

Thank you and best wishes.

As soon as possible you will have the Rules and Constitutions bound in a single volume (albeit in cardboard, like the Devotional), in at least 40 copies, to give two to each of the eight Episcopal Curia to whom now we report, and one to those superiors of ours who have contributed most to the printing costs and keep the others for Rome (it would be better 50).

When binding them, make sure that the index of the Rules, which can be easily detached, is placed with that of the Constitutions, at the end of the volume, since the number of pages and paragraphs is progressive.

The correction you made to the formula of the vows is fine: temporary vows.

You must have the four pages of the Rules printed again bearing the page number. 147 and 148 and 157 and 158, and paragraphs 363, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, 70 (beginning), plus 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408. Do you understand?

Thus you will perhaps make the important correction to the habit, which you will find noted in my copy, which I left in the suitcase of books and which you already know. For the rest, for greater security, I'll copy it for you.

Of these four small pages, you will have as many copies made as the number of copies of the Rules, and they will be replaced in their place when they are bound; since we will give them bound to every perpetually professed. And you will make this substitution immediately for the 50 copies that you will now have bound.

Make sure you include the handwritten articles on the two pages 157-158, sacrificing only the first, already reluctantly canceled by me, because it would not have entered. This change was necessary, rather than improvement, due to another contradiction that I found in it.

Therefore, make sure you come quickly with the Constitutions. Make yourself a saint. Jesus bless you.

P. S. Lanzaro, Giacci and Garofalo are here, they have come for St. Justin. I am sending 4000 lire for printing.

N. 676

If I didn't know you were so busy, truly vocationally busy, and much more so if I could then repay what I ask, I would like you to write to me every day, like when you were at Adelfia di Bari.

Mercato, 5 - 26 - 1944

Dear Fraraccio,

Jesus Mary Joseph
May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

And this also and above all as a wish for ascension to the divine Trinity. Yesterday evening I received your entrusted to the mail.

If I didn't know you were so busy, truly vocationally busy, and much more so if I could repay what I ask, I would like you to write to me every day, like when you were at Adelfia of Bari.

But now I have to omit my hour of quasi-composition, in order to be able to write to you, as I too find myself, albeit in another field, somewhat vocationally occupied.

Don't be afraid, Fr. Giorgio will come back, because I forced him to and until proven otherwise, I must admit that he obeys. After the exams you will have a fellow priest, but it still doesn't seem clear to me who might be more appropriate, not according to our tastes, but according to God's will.

In the meantime, let us truly pray that the Lord will open this Vocationary of Montesano and make it a real cenacle. How shall we name it?

In the meantime you sent forth a cloud of asphyxiating gases with that apprehension you gave me of the very unwelcome smell of these little animals so as not to make me come and see all the optimistic exaggerations with which you and Saggiomo surround your Montesano business.

It will happen to me like Hiram the king of Tiro when he goes to take possession of the twenty towns given to him by Solomon with the pompous name of twenty cities *Haecinae sunt civitates quas dedisti mihi, Pater* - Father, are these the cities you gave me? And he did not like them, and called them "sorry land" Chabul.

So I will come, when you least expect it, and after having said "this is that Vocationary with 100 places you bragged about to me?" I will rather go and rebuild Crossa... with the hands of others.

Fr. Galasso cannot come as he has already made other commitments for that date. And from what Di Pierno wrote to me, I understood that he wouldn't come either. St. Anthony will provide. You will see.

As for the "divine union" I am very much afraid that these good people will stop at the exterior, and we will have made any association, with its external signs like any other and the ideal of the religious of God which should be incarnated in this sphere will fade into a small devotion and a small function, and any procession, small parade.

Not like this, not like this. It's not even like a Third Order! It is also little to present it as a Third Order. Be careful not to distort it.

For the voice, pray St. Bernardino may he obtain for you what he himself obtained, if this is how the Lord wants to be honored by you.

Goodbye. Become a saint.

As for the nuns, I believe they will arrive there before this one of mine.

Pray for me and pray for us. May the Lord bless us.

I highly recommend you "not to touch or punish with your hands" anyone for any reason. I'm not saying person, but creature, not even children, not even a cat or a sheep with very rigorous severity, whatever you have seen in others, whatever you know to the contrary, this is the best for you.

Mercato Cilento, 8 - 14 - 1944

Dear Fraraccio,

Happy Assumption to you, and to all those souls to whom you have been sent and above all to the excellent brother priests who have consented and responded to the invitation for frequent mutual spiritual help.

When you have another good opportunity like the one you told me about the assurance of goodwill from the owner of the convent, see if you can get something in writing, even privately, even if it cannot be registered; because it is always an argument on which to base.

As regards the confessions of the nuns, I believe that no greater good can be done to them than to induce them to do according to the precept or advice given by their superiors, and if the latter, for very commendable reasons of prudence, have forbidden them to go to confessors who are too young, (to whom their respective superiors very reluctantly grant the exercise of faculties, forced by local needs) they do very well to push them away even in strong ways, so as not to become accomplices in the ruin of their souls.

These reasons of prudence which induce superiors to give similar precepts, do not invalidate, of course, the sacred canons, for example 522, since they start from the supposition that not already "*ad suae conscientiae tranquillitatem*", but *ad sui cordis satisfactionem vel sensualitatem confessarium adeat*. You see for your prudence.

I strongly advise you not to "touch or hit with your hands" anyone for any reason, I am not saying a person, but a creature, not even children, not even a cat or a sheep with the most rigorous severity, whatever you may have seen in other, whatever you know to the contrary, this is the best for you.

Do not fear for these houses, the beginning of many others.
"Confortare et esto robustus, tu enim introduces filios Israel etc."

Fr. Giorgio invited me to come. I will come to inaugurate the Vocationary, but not for the ordinary inauguration, which coincides with the beginning, the extraordinary one for the beginning of higher life in the hundred students already well settled. I will come to this to thank together the Most Holy Trinity and bless them in the Trinity, including you, my dear.

May Jesus make you holy.

Fill everything with the holiness of external and internal flowers.

N. 678

When confreres and any other subject are entrusted to you, be careful not to let the tone and manner of friendship prevail over the tone and manner of religious authority. I'm not saying, of course, that you have to be authoritarian, harsh, etc. but I only say to truly represent the rights of God and enforce them, and strive all to spiritual progress and effectively lead all subjects to holiness.

Mercato Cilento, 2 - 1 - 1945

My dear Fr. Ugo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The Very Reverend Vicar is already with you and Reverend Fr. Ludovico. They have already given you all the news I would have given you; I very much hope that Fr. Cutino becomes a saint, in perfect observance, under your actual superior.

Do you understand? When confreres and any other subject are entrusted to you, be careful not to let the tone and manner of friendship prevail over the tone and manner of religious authority. I'm not saying, of course, that you have to be authoritarian, harsh, etc. but I'm just saying really represent God's rights and enforce them, and to compel everyone to spiritual progress and effectively lead all subjects to holiness.

Apply the same principle in the ministry of confessions. The confessor who listens in the disposition and I would say mentality wholly favorable to the penitent, wholly intended to facilitate, sweeten, mitigate, console, etc. as if to even remove the holy austerity of the gospel, he does not play the parts of the Lord of whom he is also the minister! And consequently it does not help souls either. Firmness and fortitude must be combined with mercy, goodness, and charity. I don't remind you of these things because I know that you need them, but only for the sake of writing to you.

And what about the nuns? I don't approve of them staying in a convent, even with two entrances. Maybe for the moment the need justifies you. But we must make it a point to eliminate them as soon as possible. How much better it would be if you found two or three good old women, *non-minus sexaginta annorum*, like the women mentioned by St. Paul, and entrust them with the cooking etc.

I understand that a burdensome task has been entrusted to you, and now we have the air of depriving you of a necessary help. But if you keep in mind the true purpose of all of us, in the Congregation as a whole and in the individual religious, you will also judge the closure of important houses in the eyes of man, when the true purpose requires it. Now according to what I also told Father Vicar, Fr. Angelo would be staying at the station. When I came, that beautiful little house owned by the kindergarten was empty, on that beautiful hill. If it were still free, I would like you to try to live there. This is a real wish, not a command in the form of a wish. But I think that the religious house will have to develop there in the very near future, and it also seems to me not very difficult to do, a religious house of modest proportions being enough there, the large one being in the convent. Thus the nuns would have the existing environments and the ones to be created all around the parish church.

Are you very cold? Are you and everyone in your community dressed *duplicibus*? We are in the novena of Lourdes: We ask

about fifty decades, a rosary of spiritual graces and a rosary of temporal graces to the Virgin, mother of wonders! And at each decade [we implore] peace in triumph of divine love! It no longer seems good to me that reports be on a printed form. The annual, administrative *transeat*, the personal ones no. And it's easy to understand why. Thank you because you have written often, you have been patient with my silence and you will have also justified it with charity and truth.

I will see you soon, as I hope, in Montesano, but not with decoration in bad, bad taste, at some party, instead to rest with a friend and for the center of the ascetic mission to be carried out in this region.

Become a saint! May Jesus bless you. I warmly greet the confreres; I bless the sisters, the vocationary and you.

N. 679

May the resurrection bring us the triumph of divine attractions and inspirations, the triumph of divine vocations and missions, the triumph of divine imitation and cooperation, the triumph of divine predilections and assumptions, the triumph over time and death, the triumph of pure Love.

Mercato Cilento, 4 - 2 - 1945

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

It seemed to me that I had written to you a few days before Easter, to send you, at least once, well-timed greetings for Holy Easter and your name day. But now it seems to me that I only strongly desired it but did not execute it. If I had really done it, you would have in this forgetfulness a proof of my present physical weakness. But ... Hosanna! May the resurrection bring us the triumph of divine attractions and inspirations, the triumph of divine vocations and missions, the triumph of divine imitation and cooperation, the triumph of divine predilections and assump-

tions, the triumph over time and death, the triumph of pure love by which the soul is enchanted to sing to him: "You, you, you!" Or in other words, to his taste, but always entirely vertex, like a ray pointing to God alone. Word all vertex, all in the center, all light and flame. So all my life. Amen, Alleluia!

Accompany Fr. Giorgio to Acquaviva, leaving the two confreres at the convent. And if Fr. Rossi were to leave, each of them would do the charity of assisting Scalo, but always making their way to the convent, until your return. However, do not come as far as Mercato, but hurry to your place. It is good that you or some other of the confreres who are with you for the minor retreats come here, as you wrote. Yes this is good.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 680

I very much want you to spend the month of May at St. Peter's to win many more souls for Holy Communion and daily mass!

Mercato Cilento, 4 - 23 - 1945

Dear Fr. Ugo,

Jesus - Mary - Joseph

See if starting from May you could go or send somebody every morning to celebrate the holy mass at St. Peter's, and thus keep the month of May there and win many other souls to Holy Communion and daily mass! I want it very much, but I defer to the zeal and abnegation of you others. Prevent inconveniences of all sorts from the vocationary, the confreres, the nuns, etc. but try to do it.

If Fr. Rossi should mention having his father come to the convent and you don't see any drawbacks, try to please him.

Happy Marian month. An Ave in common to the Holy Virgin for me. Become a saint. I warmly greet the confreres and students.

Remember my recommendation for Fr. Cutino. Always watch and pray.

Similarly, I would like you personally to give exhortations to the Scalo and Capuchin nuns gathered together at St. Peter's, and to all the good souls who wish to attend, on a fixed day every week, as well as any other time that seems good to you. And there, if there were local opportunities, the nuns would begin periodic retreat days for good souls ... and bad if there were any. Waiting for a response with facts. May Jesus bless us.

N. 681

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

1. As soon as you are able, see how to begin direct and intense pastoral care at St. Peter's, even occasionally.

2. For the nuns in the convent you must have the general superior come personally to the place, for a definitive practical judgment. If she does not deem it appropriate, you will arrange with Br. Renato, and the nuns will leave. Even our Br. Nicola Russo is now free (a former Franciscan). I think that he would gladly come back. He was a cook. He already wrote to me!

3. For the poor old patient you have to work to get him into some *ad hoc* house. Only for this purpose can we take an interest in him and also lodge such neighbors temporarily. Otherwise very serious and very bad inconveniences will come to us and to them, and to all outsiders. Later you might be able to make a small parish shelter, for example in St. Peter's and it will be a different thing!

4. I don't know about Sister Spinillo's case, absolutely nothing!

5. Happy Ascension and Pentecost. May Jesus bless you!

6. Before coming for the Ember Days exercises let Fr. Angelo send a telegram to inquire if they will take place. The obedience

of the Father Visitor to return to Pianura could come to me from one day to the next.

7. Insist with St. Anthony and St. Joseph for these premises, and for the proper accommodations for the nuns. Promise that you will do a great deal for the hamlet of San Pietro by putting them there as soon as possible. With regard to the nuns one cannot, one must never do things haphazardly, not even on principles alone. I mean about putting them too close to us. We used them in Pianura for the Vocationary after several years that the Vocationary worked with great difficulty in terms of cooking. And now you other youngsters immediately claim to have the nuns close by, and without them it seems to you that you cannot do or hold any work whatsoever!

You can't imagine, you won't be able to imagine how much my sister was upset by the way the nuns at the Scalo are doing, in terms of frequent contact with the male branch. And she's right. Besides, you're a boy and you think you can solve everything jokingly. And you don't think about consequences like you did at Romano!

Saint Alphonsus! Here is the guy we must absolutely imitate in this fact! Goodbye.

N. 682

I am happy with the work you have done in preparation for the sacred mission in the parish and in cooperation with the missionaries.

Pianura, 2-16-1946

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I found in the notebook of the holy masses the indications I asked you about those works of the Byzantine liturgy "*The Paracletica of the Blessed Virgin Mary* etc. "

I am happy with the work you have done in preparation for the sacred mission in the parish and in cooperation with the missionaries. I don't understand what statue it is.

Place forward [in the church the statues of] St. Anthony, the Blessed Virgin, and St. Joseph that are behind the altar. Cestari requests that heaven provide for keeping you there, while making all sorts of sacrifices, detachment and conformity to the divine pleasure with your soul.

Fr. Giovanni⁸ is now in Cava, with excellent dispositions of obedience and has applied for admission among us (but not accepted by the Most Reverend⁹). This is what he refers to me!

Happy Lent and Easter. Become a saint. Oremus.

N. 683

I do not doubt that you obeyed with simplicity of faith, and no one will be able to reproach you for obeying.

Pianura, 4 - 4 - 1946

My dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

I have no doubt that you obeyed with simplicity of faith, and no one will be able to reproach you for obeying. The Lord will make us eternally happy for having obeyed!

Let us rise, in grace to the pure love of the divine persons, one God, as if gazing into his face. Every best wish for Holy Easter, to you, confreres and students.

⁸ Fr. Giovanni La Rocca, pastor of the church in Montesano (Salerno), friend and benefactor of the Vocationist Fathers.

⁹ Fr. Serafino Cuomo, O.F.M. Superior General of the Society of Divine Vocations, appointed by the Congregation for the Religious.

N. 684

As long as you please the Lord as best you can and know how, don't worry about the judgment of men.

Pianura, 5 - 2 - 1946

My Dearest Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I thank you for the offering and for the good wishes, I exchange them for those of Pentecost and adorable Trinity.

Thank you for permission I didn't grant. I'm surprised if he lied, et quiden in writing, and to you. Only the preacher you invited directly can come, no other confrere with him. You yourself will kindly make sure that they know about my prohibition, since they haven't really told me about it, either directly or indirectly, and it shouldn't be allowed.

We need to get into a straighter, more religious line of spiritual correctness. You act as a good son and friend and ... charity straightens everything. There may be those who seem rather a stranger and an enemy and must be led by charity to the reverence and obedience indispensable to life!

Venial sins with attachment weaken, blind, divide and lead us to unhappiness in time and damnation in eternity. *Qui potest capere capiat.* I warmly greet the confreres. In union of prayer.

N. 686

You must, therefore, certainly come and meet with us for the remedial exams.

Pianura, 9 - 15 - 1946

D.E.O. G.A.U.D.I.U.M. I.M.I.

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

Exams are scheduled for September 22. You must be in Pianura for that day. Because while the written exams will be done, we will also do the oral exams for those who don't have to take the written test again, and they are precisely the exams you have to attend. If you manage to anticipate a few days, it would be a pleasure. I cannot authorize you to make this advance on my own, as much as I would enjoy it. You must come by the twenty-third (i.e. by the morning of the twenty-third and therefore to be there, you should already be with us at least by the evening of the twenty-second). I can appoint you as president and related commission. You must therefore certainly come and be with us on the morning of the twenty-third. More clear, explicit and dutiful or obligatory than this...

May Jesus bless you.

N. 687

May you find in grace the strength to correct (completely eliminating) some familiarity of trait that you still, although rarely, I think, use with the confreres as I have seen several times.

First Sunday of Advent, 1946

Dear Fraraccio,

Holy wishes for the new liturgical year and for the beautiful job of educator of our religious.

May you find in grace the strength to correct (completely eliminating) some familiarity of trait that you still use, although rarely, I think, with the confreres as I have seen several times. It benefits neither you nor them, and it can set a bad example for youngsters, if we want to maintain the prohibition, so useful ascetically, not to touch with your hands in any way, any person, for any purpose.

Help me with prayer not to fall into the same defects that I condemn in others.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 688

I see that you do more things without my knowing about, and it really seems that you don't tell me for fear that I don't want them.

1947

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I hasten to beg you not to rush into printing a Small Devotional¹⁰.

Don't worry, it must be done well even at the cost of delaying it. This is not how I need to be helped. I bless from my heart all the spirit of initiative in your office of local director of the small parish Vocationary. In the other offices, however, *nunc quaeritur... ut fidelis quis inveniatur*. I see that you do more things, without my knowing, and it really seems that you don't tell me for fear that I don't approve them. But this supposition, if true, is enough to put you outside the perfection of obedience. What about evangelical self-denial? I hope I am wrong, as I have been wrong on other occasions.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 689

When retreats are preached to the clergy (and this applies proportionately to every other category of souls) we are in full vocationist activity, to the spiritual advantage of the Congregation, no less than of other souls.

¹⁰ St. Justin was very disappointed, when, at the Regional Seminary of Salerno, where he was preaching a course of spiritual exercises, he learned that Fr. Ugo, without his knowledge, had prepared a "Minor Devotional." This was then published by Fr. Ugo himself in 1949 to place it in the hands of the boys of the Vocationaries and orphanages.

Nicastro, 7 - 15 - 1947

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I got yours, as you wanted, on the first day of these exercises. The trip was good. *Satis suaviter equitat quem gratia Dei portat* - Smoothly gallops, he whom the grace of God carries. Disseminated with much patience on the part of Fr. Ciro and Castiglione.

When retreats are preached to the clergy (and proportionally this applies to every other category of souls) we are in full vocationist activity, to the spiritual advantage of the Congregation, no less than of other souls... and all our communities should attract graces of spiritual transformations to the participants, and thus cooperate with the preachers and establish in hearts the empire of pure love.

I would like and hope that, in my absences, each of you will work with much greater commitment and a spirit of fervor as to provide arguments to demonstrate the usefulness of leaving you to work alone for the greatest benefit of the Congregation. Become saints.

In the mail you will find a postcard from the new priest Cozzolino asking to go on holiday in one of our houses that was at least a thousand meters above the sea. Answer him right away that we don't have any at this height and therefore he should go elsewhere.

I hope the Reverend Sisters thought of Cardinal Ascalesi's name day and went there for a tribute of good wishes and gifts.

Goodbye. Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 690

You are in the parish as a residence, not as an office. Limit your preaching to cat-

echetical meditation in the morning, and this one, for the boys. So much the better if other souls profit from it. But don't get carried away with other duties.

Scigliano, 7 - 18 - 1947

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Welcome your mother to Pianura! I greatly enjoyed reading the letter of the Bishop of Potenza that I was waiting for, and I don't know how it escaped me. The letters of the Ordinaries you had to send me! Now you will transcribe it for me, if it seems possible that it reaches Nicastro before the 25th of this month because then I will leave.

It would be better for you to write to that Excellency as Secretary General saying that I am absent and as soon as I return the council will decide on the proposal, which is actually very welcome, and for which we will always be grateful, whatever outcome it may have. To that of Cajazzo I wrote negatively twice already. To that of Acquaviva I write. Even Santa Lucia del Mela is not convenient for us.

Write to the lawyer Arminio Di Giorgio that he accesses the claim of the Marchesina Rossi's nephew, regarding the remaining furniture.

Please do not touch the money intended for the building of Camporotondo for other use. I hope that the cement was bought with the bonus procured by Fr. Impagliazzo and that Fr. Mele will find the two services in progress really beautiful and completed. Keep Fr. Innocenzi up to date with what concerns the house in Vico Carrozzeri so that he can take care of it: although, I think, one floor could be used for tenants, and the other for ours. But the instance, in my view, was badly set by the lawyer. And to say that it was paid! But it will be appealed. Thank you.

May Jesus bless you all.

I hope you are dealing more directly and continuously with the boys. You are in the parish as a residence, not as an office. Limit your preaching to catechetical meditation in the morning,

and this one, for the boys. So much the better if other souls profit from it. But don't get carried away with other duties. Study with Fr. Mele how to organize religious students in Pianura well. The transition of the students of the first two classes to Pianura-parish can also be a certain change... for holidays.

I charge you (this yes) of the celebration of the Sunday and public holiday mass (even if suppressed) for parish intentions. Before, De Simone did it. I'm afraid to appoint the treasurers.

Pray all for the success of the clergy retreats around the world.

N. 691

Those of Posillipo, so industrious due to exceptional circumstances, judging them from the reports, resolutions, etc. they have not borne any fruit.

Campagna, 8 - 29 - 1947

Dear Fr. Ugo,

J.M.J.

About the coming of the Most Excellent Bishop and his Pontifical and Confirmation

and about the building you don't say anything?

Tomorrow morning I plan to go to Altavilla, to then return to Campagna for Monday afternoon, and begin the second round of exercises.

Those of Posillipo, so industrious due to the exceptional circumstances, judging them from the reports, resolutions, etc. have not borne any fruit. In fact, nobody, none of the trainees told me anything about it. Actually the inference is not justified. Indeed now I remember that one, made me examine his intentions. I hope the rules work is nice and done.

How I would like that golden first paragraph to be repeated at least three times in the text, at the beginning, in the chapter on the

spirit, at the end of everything. But... be patient. In the meantime, let it be the formula of our whole life.

Remember that I put you in charge of the aspirantate, aluminate and religious discipleship so that you are ... the head. Never detach the head from the rest of the body.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless us.

N. 692

To meet the needs of orphanages Fr. Ugo had a very small "minor" Devotional printed - without Fr. Justin's permission.

Salerno, 9 - 20 - 1947

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Thanks so much for the good wishes. You were right to come right back like you promised. Don't worry about the incident of the *Minor Devotional*. We will distribute them to the people of our many parishes. For our Vocationaries we will immediately prepare a devotional minor which will almost repeat the first, very first, entitled: "For the Divine Union" only that the Offertories will be increased to fourteen chapters instead of seven and the additions of the litanies, etc. of the Communion preparation in use on Thursdays, etc. we'll see together later. Become a saint.

N. 693

On purpose, with the wisdom and power of charity, we bring every heart to correspond to the divine Heart.

1 - 1 - 1948

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

We are faithful to the love of God the Trinity who wants to triumph in souls through us. On purpose, with the wisdom and power of charity, we bring every heart to correspond to the divine Heart.

Here is the wish program, prayer, obedience, blessings, for this good principle of new series, era of years. Amen, Alleluia.

N. 694

Do the things of your office with prudence, prayer, advice, but also with full authority, subject to the approval of the undersigned.

Mercato Cilento, 8 - 22 - 1948

Dear Fraraccio,

Thank you for the last letter, which gave me some human relief.

I have written to Fr. Vicar, and Fr. Saggiomo will tell you as well, to send a list of teachers, subjects, timetables, etc. as soon as possible, for gymnasium, lyceum (two sections) and theology.

Do the things of your office with prudence, prayer, advice, but also with full authority, subject to the approval of the undersigned.

Ask Professor Borghese if he would have the pleasure of moving to Salerno with Fr. Fontana, to the Città del Ragazzo, and there continuing the school for adult vocations, as well as other duties that, if he wanted, he could assume. I don't mean to pressure him at all. It's not a real desire, much less a command. Be completely voluntary, spontaneous in the choice.

And will your mother come?

Inform me as soon as the full 72 places are ready (cots, mattresses, tables, classrooms, etc.) on each floor of the Vocationary, including the novitiate. Don't be dismayed. *Comfortare et esto robustus. Omnia possum in eo qui me confortat.*

Give my dearest regards to Fr. Giorgio Mele and tell him (jokingly) to be ready for Porcino. But don't make him suffer.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 695

Mercato Cilento, 9 - 17 - 1948

Dear Fraraccio,

In your place, provisionally, for now, put Fr. Cesare, and you generously take care of the Vocationary of Camporotondo, according to what I have written to Fr. Vicar, to whom you will go to find out about these arrangements. I really don't have time to dwell on it. Fr. Vicar told me that they are still uncertain about where to put the toilets. I said: detach all the spaces you want from the small dormitory, that is, from that of the concierge (1st floor), that of the former chapel (2nd floor), I think you understand.

Just make sure to place them in the first half, i.e. the one that has a wall in common with the staircase, so as to include two balconies, to which two access doors will correspond in the corridor, so that it is easy, if necessary (as for e.g. in the novitiate) to divide the room in two and each part would have its own independent entrance. Thus the entire novitiates would be given... the curia, etc. and they would be very well segregated without sacrificing an entire floor.

Become a saint.

N. 696

Reorganization of the Mother House.

Mercato Cilento, 9 - 29 - 1948

Dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Tomorrow I'm going to Vibonati, from there to Montesano, back to Altavilla and then back to Mercato for a course of exercises for about twenty of our priests. Don't leave Pianura Motherhouse so that I can be in Pianura for the council around mid-October.

By reorganizing the house, I mean that all the rooms on the second (or third?) floor, that is the one where I lived, are strictly house of formation. Therefore to the right of those who go up there is the entire novitiate, to the left (the two large dormitories) the postulancy (that is, fourth and fifth year high school).

The general Council room and some rooms for the Curia will be moved to the top floor.

I would like the professed to be distributed on the various floors, each having a specific office. If there were any left over, they would occupy a small room on the first floor, but they absolutely would no longer stay on the novices' floor.

When the youngsters return from the gymnasium, you will give the daily exhortation in the chapel below, and you will also notify the nuns of the Mother House so that, if they wish, they can profit.

The exams are done as you have established. Sciarrotta is to be submitted justly, without leniency, to the third year of philosophy exam. If he succeeds well, we will see what to do for him, otherwise he will attend the third year again.

La Fratte will come to Pianura, or perhaps has already come, as a teacher. I hope you stay there as a religion teacher. Entrust him and recommend him to Fr. Cesare, who will give him a room in the parish house.

If he then decides to stay, as a religious, he can be welcomed into the Mother House.

It will be necessary for the parish community to find another person (either a nun or an elderly external devotee) who will take charge of the bread in Sister Concetta's place who will only take

care of the male Mother House to avoid the frequent questions etc.

After the Council we will see the destination of the individual fathers and therefore also the position of Fr. Cesare. For now it's fine as you did. Jadeluca, since he is still a student, shouldn't be in charge, except as a deputy. But we'll see later.

Be, become a saint.

If Sister Concetta obeys you, don't refer to me for coupons; do not give the attached one to her without necessity.

N. 697

In response to a letter dated 10 - 10 - 1948 sent from the Vocationary S. M. degli Angeli of Perdifumo in which Fr. Galasso writes: "Dear Ugo, I am soon unable to comply with your latest letter. Sure, in fact, that the boys reported some time ago had all already been admitted, applications were accepted for how many places the house has. Now we are at the maximum; with a few more questions! Nor, on the other hand, can their departure be postponed since, as was communicated, they would come to Pianura on the 16th and new ones would replace them on the evening of the 18th. I explained the case to Fr. Justin and he said he can advise you on the matter. Be patient! Best regards to everyone. Pray for me. Most Devout Sac. Giovanni M. Galasso of the Most Holy Trinity," Fr. Justin writes:

Dear Fraraccio,

if there are no places, you can send home all the children from the elementary classes and put the first gymnasium with or without the second gymnasium in the parish.

In Camporotondo then, they can occupy all the places on the top floor, until the hundred orphans arrive.

As for the insufficiency of the toilets... patience that all the time of meditation, mass, etc. be it a continuous... procession. Gradually everything will settle down. These from Perdifumo have all applied for Vocationists, and it is not good to send them elsewhere. In the meantime, ask Bovino, Altavilla, Marsiconuovo from the office how many boys they could receive and in this way we will try not to refuse any application.

For those in the elementary classes, after having secured the others in the gymnasium, we will see if and how to provide for them. Become a saint.

The cooking by the nuns must be done in their large room, the new one that is, already used as their dormitory or the one on the old cistern, as long as it is a little away from the turns. The other new premises will serve as their dormitory.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 698

In this letter Fr. Justin reveals himself to be a subtle humorist: "After your elevation (and almost canonization) made by this young theologian to whom you appeared full of wisdom, grace and of the Holy Spirit (Amen!), I only expect from the press ... the noise of your miracles to introduce the cause of beatification ante-mortem."

Pianura, June 1, 1950

My dear Fr. Ugo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I am writing to you from your room (now tidier and cleaner!) as from the summer apartment... in the afternoon.

In Pianura we had a visit from His Excellency the Bishop of Amargosa, who remembers that he was the first to request us for parishes and immediately after from His Excellency the Bishop of Nazareth, not far from each other and the other from you... relatively.

Then in Rome, where I spent Pentecost, His Excellency the Bishop of Campinha Grande came to our house, and then that of Portmont in Chile. Everyone wants workers, workers, and with decision... *est est, non non*, like the Apostolic Nuncio.

However, the proposal, made to us through you, for that work in Campinha (if I have understood correctly) is really preferable, because it is an orphanage and a semi-vocational.

At first it was assumed that it was in Rio or very close. Then your mileage (!) chilled us. However if they waited a year for us, we would go. The Bishop of Riberrai has also learned of your arrival in Brazil and he too is soliciting at least three fathers for his Diocese.

Hurry up therefore to send me many vocations, with your prayer and your action as perfect Vocationists, so we can serve many souls!

After your elevation (and almost canonization) made by this young theologian to whom you appeared full of wisdom, grace and the Holy Spirit (Amen!), I am only waiting for the... noise of your miracles from the press to introduce the causes of beatification *ante mortem*.

I cannot afford to give you any spiritual thought, because it would be disproportionate, with its prosaic nature, to the lyricism of your holiness. I see that you and Fr. Franco, so talkative in all the rest, in terms of spiritual things you are cloaked in the splendor of holiness which is silence according to Fr. Faber, a silence to which I cannot be elevated or... reduced by others.

Goodbye. Communicate these mine among yourselves.

N. 699

From your correspondence the word has spread that you are ill. Tell me simply. Not that it is surprising: because you are not there to get better physically, but to do better in the life of the apostolate following the savior.

Pianura, June 25, 1950

My dear Fr. Ugo,

J.M.J.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Now the Most Excellent Archbishop will have returned to his

seat and will have given you a more or less definitive assignment and we are very eager to know about it.

I also wrote to the Most Excellent Nuncio Mons. Chiarlo about the proposal you mentioned to me about that orphanage in Campinha (if I understood it correctly) and I have not yet received a hint of an answer. Like other times it happened that I wrote and they tell me that I didn't write.

From your correspondence the word has spread that you are ill. Tell me simply. Not that it is surprising: because you are not there to get better physically, but to do better in the life of the apostolate following the savior. He instills in you the grace of charity to the point of heroism!

You can very well continue the spiritual direction of that soul of Pisani. Better from afar than up close. As for the other correspondences, make them a true, direct and explicit means of apostolate and that's fine.

I believe that others will send you news of the house and houses, and I abstain. I would like to make quite another chronicle for you, but you will read it in the reading rooms of heaven.

Although I cannot write to you very often, nevertheless I await yours, almost every week, I do not say every day, because that would be impossible for you.

Even to this good young man who wrote to me and sent his photograph, I didn't reply. I have to write to him. I will go to Narni (Terni) to preach the spiritual exercises for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, those of the Servant of God Fr. Giulio Chevalier d'Issoudum, to whom I was once associated. They are the ones who promote the devotion of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart.

You did well to make those observations on Amargosa. But don't do them to others. Nor do I believe that the same unhealthiness exists throughout the diocese. And therefore to be seen where, if necessary, they would need to work.

As soon as you will be in our residence, I recommend that you establish our observance well. All the good that the holy Church expects from us depends on it.

This paper has done you and me a bad service with its transparency!

Become saints. I warmly greet the two other confreres and that good young man.

N. 700

I am worried about observance, knowing and regretting how easily one dispenses with this and that article. But even at the cost of losing, over time, all human affection, even on your part and that of my dearest Torromacco, I will not cease to demand that you read, re-read, meditate one by one on all the articles of the rules in order to establish, in the best way, the full, harmonious observance as regards the spirit and the letter, both of what is preceptive and of what is directive.

Pianura, 7 - 24 - 1950

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

The Very Rev. Fr. Assistant consents and the fathers and students will come. Who? Lombardi alone is certain for now, and is preparing the documents. Arsenio seems to faint. However, if they don't all come together, they will follow each other at a short distance. In France too, Cardinal Saliège wanted our sisters (twelve!) for the major and minor seminaries. I have written to your Excellent Ordinary for the same in Itaparica in the Small Seminary. My wish was a group of theologians in S. Salvador parish and a group of philosophers in Itaparica or vice versa. You would be well helped and also well occupied.

For me I am worried about observance, knowing and regretting how easily one dispenses with this and that other article. But even at the cost of losing, over time, all human affection, even on your part and that of my dearest Torromacco, I will not cease to demand that you read, re-read, meditate one by one on all the articles of the rules in order to establish, in the best possible way the full, harmonious observance as regards the spirit and the let-

ter, both of what is preceptive and of what is directive. When they were printed by your care (the large ones) and you took them to Mercato, I wanted to write to you as a testimony to our future, with the solemnity of an almost oath that I could declare in conscience of them, as a whole and in detail: "*Haec dicit Dominus.*"

Only what can be attributed to rhythmic needs of the text and dispositions of paragraphs refers less directly to the Lord, in terms of his action.

Make holy communities!

N. 701

Now that such a heavy burden of a not indifferent community is placed upon you, which is this of about ten young scholastics, all in formation and who must then in turn establish the Congregation throughout Latin America, and therefore must be truly saints and learned, I beg you very much not to want to burden yourself of other weights and crosses unwanted by obedience.

Pianura, October 7, 1950

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

On November 11, three fathers will leave to join you, namely one congregant Fr. Mario Muccitelli and two aggregates namely: Fr. Nicola Guida (I think an excellent acquisition) and Fr. Giuseppe Rosa. With them comes almost the entire second year philosophy class: Longobardi, Mileo, Maccarone, Russo, Santillo, Nuzzo, Anguoni. The student residence will be in Itaparica and will have you, Muccitelli, De Crosta, Lombardi as teachers. The two aggregate fathers Rosa and Guida should be better occupied in the large parish with Fr. Franco. You will be able to come and go from one house to the other, but your residence will be on the island, because it is necessary to make it a fully formed house immediately (four fathers and other professed, etc.) in order to be able to establish the novitiate shortly thereafter. I will not tire of recommending to

you in everything the observance of our life of prayers, penance, study, with all our family traditions according to the big Rules.

To make the money for the journey of this third expedition (Rosa paid for himself) I still need two hundred and fifty thousand lire. If we want to provide them with all the baggage of books and other items needed we will need more than fifty thousand lire for each one of them. St. Joseph will provide.

Now that such a heavy burden is placed on you by a not indifferent community, such as this one of about ten young scholastics, all in formation and who must then in turn establish the Congregation throughout Latin America, and therefore must be truly holy and learned, I beg you very much not to want to burden yourself with other burdens and crosses unwanted by obedience. So for e.g. do not call people from Pianura. They will fall on you very easily!

I thank you very much for the tribute in *cruzeiros* that your letters bring me.

But I don't want you to worry about it.

De Crosta and the other two: Guida and Rosa will make the year of novitiate in the places assigned and in the tasks that you will assign them, as religious associates all the canonical conditions are not required as for congregants.

You will then tell me when the nuns can come and so they will come with another shipment. When does the school year start for you? What will you do for the proclamation of the Dogma of the Assumption? May the Blessed Virgin obtain for us divine union and the apostolate of divine union.

N. 702

Fr. Galasso reassured me by telling me your assurances about how much you are committed to the cultural and religious formation of the young people. I would like lots of news even on the local fauna and flora, ask Prisco for it!

Pianura, October 13, 1950

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

With this letter I continue the one of the seventh of this month. The group of ours did not find a ship that takes them directly to Bahia. Then they will land in Rio. Please, write to me immediately:

1. What money is needed for the journey from Rio to Bahia, at least approximately according to the means by land or air that you think best;
2. Where do you think they can stay for a few hours or days of hospitality they may need and how it is customary in Brazil to compensate for the inconvenience;
3. If you believe that they visit the Nuncio if he is in office;
4. What they should bring with them such as linen that is not strictly personal, e.g. sheets etc.

I am arranging for them to bring with them all the books they need for their school year (second year of philosophy).

I wanted to write to all and singles at the same time and I haven't been able to from the 7th to today 13th!

Yesterday evening Fr. Muccitelli displeased me by notifying me of your advice to have the young students leave in February. Now the advance money has already been paid and the seats have been filled. Instead, Fr. Galasso reassured me by referring to me your assurances about how much you are committed to the cultural and religious formation of the young people. I am also anxious that you will soon be at least in *Itaprica* "casa formata" domus religiosa formata, six professed with at least four Our Fathers. In this way I will be able to have permission to establish the canonical novitiate also among you and to welcome the aspirants who present themselves. What is doing that second-year theological seminarian, who showed he wanted to become a Vocationist? Does he persevere? And to say that I would like a lot of news even on the local fauna and flora, entrust Prisco with it!

Bye. Make yourself a saint.

N. 703

I never thought of asking for financial help from those who cannot, from those who will now be burdened to provide for a large community.

Pianura, November 3, 1950

To the Very Reverend Fr. Ugo Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

You are delegated to receive the perpetual profession of our confrere Imperatore on November, 27.

The same for the renewal ad triennium of the confrere Prisco, who will tell you the date.

Likewise, every permission, indeed command, is granted to go and receive the confreres who arrive in Rio for as long as you need. The departure is set for November 11 on the Conte Verde. But I will write again as soon as they leave.

From one of yours to Fr. Galasso I learn that they have asked you for money for the trip. I am sorry. I already have provided what they need. I never thought of asking from those who cannot, indeed from those who will now be burdened to provide for a large community. That is, I would be embarrassed if it weren't for faith in divine providence.

From Rio to Salvador try to think about it yourself. I will provide them with something like I did with you. But it won't be enough.

On November 1, all those who will come have professed their religious vows. Of the two aggregates, Guida seems to me... more ours. Rosa has his own ideas which however the Vocationists approve and second.

Goodbye.

N. 704

Today our six student clerics are leaving from Naples... If it seems opportune to you, manifest to the nuncio our plan to have a novitiate and studentate in Brazil

as soon as possible and a home in some theological faculty for the academic course. And above all talk about Vocationaries that have to open up in several regions successively.

Pianura, 11 - 11 - 1950

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Today our six cleric students are leaving from Naples. All with regular promotion to the second year of Philosophy. All newly professed except Nuzzo and Santillo who are in the second year of novitiate and privately professed.

With them Fr. Mario Muccitelli congregated and Fr. Giuseppe Rosa aggregated. Fr. Nicola Guida, joined at the last moment, had to postpone his visit until the next departure for very serious reasons. His ticket has already been paid. I hope he will come with Malta and ... perhaps Fr. Gino Baiano.

You are delegated to receive the holy vows of Br. Prisco at the end of his three-year period of temporary vows, i.e. on March 28, 1951 or the morning of the 29th, he himself will remember better than I. But first you will give your vote whether to admit him to the perpetual vows or renewal for another three years.

Without a doubt, go to Rio de Janeiro to receive these confreres. They come with the "Castel Verde" not "Conte Verde" as I erroneously wrote to you.

I gave Fr. Mario about one hundred and twenty thousand lire (more not less) for the journey from Rio to Baiha. But you do your best to bring all the money you need with you, just in case!

If it seems appropriate to you, convey to His Excellency our plan to have a novitiate and studentate in Brazil as soon as possible and a home in some theological faculty for the academic course. So for e.g. of these young people, at least five are capable of it and will have to attend it. And above all talk about Vocationaries that have to open up in several regions successively.

It does not seem appropriate to me to appoint Fr. Franco as

religious superior, because being a parish priest he could not pay much attention to full internal observance. For now, as parish priest he can exercise authority over those who assist him, without any ad hoc appointment, then we'll see.

Our aggregated priests would be better off with Fr. Franco, none of the young student clerics. After all, I defer to you.

"*The Cult of the Rule*" was released in Italian by the Liquorini fathers, I will send you copies. That's a divine gift. From that you will learn the estimation of observance.

Hold on to the rosary hanging visibly from the neck on the chest.

Merry Advent and Christmas. Make yourselves saints.

N. 705

I am pleased to write these things to you, because it is necessary to have these precise and clear norms also for all the others whom you will welcome (even as internal religious aggregates) or whom you have welcomed. Thus you will deal with anyone past, present, future who comes as an internal aggregate.

Pianura, December 6, 1950

Dear Fr. Ugo,

May Jesus bless us.

They reminded me that December 3rd is your birthday, I enjoyed thinking about St. Francis Xavier. Great omen! Holy greetings! And also and much more for the next holy Christmas, New Year's Eve and Epiphany.

Fr. Giuseppe Rosa sent me a telegram and then wrote me a letter from which I gather that he has put himself in serious embarrassments, and he must have put us in painful embarrassments. Now he does not give me the address to reply to him, and therefore I beg you to write to him in these terms.

"Dear Rosa, May Jesus bless you. The request you made after your stay in the Vocationary (as a student) and after a short stay in

our house in Posillipo (as a priest), request for admission among the Vocationists, albeit as an aggregate, having been received by us with that benevolence which you deserve, puts you under the obligation to live in our houses and to the obedience of the local superiors, with the bond of semi-public vows, that is, accepted in the name of the Congregation.

After a certain time of common religious observance, we are not against, indeed we want it, that you carry out missionary priestly activity in favor of Italian emigrants in Brazil. But this will be discussed and dealt with later and not immediately.

So you are our religious (as it is obvious) as long as you are bound to us; obey the religious superiors and observe what you can of our rules. If, on the other hand, you intend to do it yourself, then we cannot answer for you, before any authority.

Remember that I declared all this to you, even raising my voice a little, in Pianura, when you, after having received permission from your Ordinary to become a Vocationist, began to express your plans, very good and beautiful, but which must take place in obedience to the sacred canons which concern religious. If you are inspired by the good spirit, as I believe, you need not have difficulty in corresponding to your religious, apostolic vocation.

The only difficulty I took into consideration was that of your physical suffering from the heat. For this I proposed the headquarters of Itaparica, which is more mitigated. Then, by opening houses in the Diocese of Rio Preto, you could have been transferred to a temperate climate, or even to Chile, where we are also expected."

Dear Fr. Ugo, I am pleased to write these things through you, because it is necessary to have these precise and clear norms also for all the others whom we will welcome (even as internal religious associates) or whom we have welcomed. Thus you will deal with anyone past, present, future who comes as an internal aggregate. Truly, not by exaggeration, I allow and enjoy that some of our members do and continue what you charitably have begun to provide jobs for poor Italian peasants and workers. And if so, it is

good that an internal religious aggregate does it, and in Fr. Rosa's case, rather than the congregants who are more suitable for other major missions, such as for example the training of ours.

I would therefore like you to copy, if possible, my letter to Fr. Rosa and have it delivered to him. Would to heaven that he was already with you, as we had established with him.

That is, that (I repeat), he would stay with you, and then, after a few years, he would start the work for emigrants, a work that we make our own, by common understanding, agreement and help. The Ordinary of Potenza also wrote to me expressly thanking me for welcoming Fr. Rosa into our Congregation for this purpose, since for us the religious aggregated (art. 12 of the Constitutions) are true and proper Vocationist religious, although in a distinct category from congregate.

Goodbye. Become a saint. Greetings to all.

N. 706

Push Brother Prisco a lot towards another goal to be reached internally after another two years, and so on. We must give immense importance to these successive goals if we want to correspond to our vocation, which is to perpetual ascension (in the path of consecrations) to divine union!

Pianura, January 22, 1951

My dear Fraraccio,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

We suffered knowing you were in great economic hardship, infirm, without being able to help you humanly. I mean myself and all of us of the Mother House. I trust that you have made a great spiritual profit of increased trust and confidence in the Lord, and mistrust of yourself, and detachment from creation, thus the religious houses, the works and the apostolate are better founded.

I have already authorized you, and now I renew it, to receive

the perpetual profession of Brother Prisco on March 29, 1951, when the three-year period of temporary holy vows ends. But push him hard towards another goal to be reached internally after another two years, and so on. We must give immense importance to these successive goals if we want to correspond to our vocation, which is to perpetual ascension (in the path of consecrations) to divine union!

The same applies, evidently, to young clerics and priests.

I still authorize you to receive aspirants to the Congregation, lay brothers and clerics, children and adults, and after a trial you will talk to me again to see how and where to make a novitiate house for them. But if you come up with good ideas in this regard, you will confide them to me, also with the opinion of the confreres who are with you.

As for the agreement to be made with the Primate Archbishop, it must always be on the basis of the one he sent me with his signature and which was accepted and approved in consultation with the Most Reverend Pontifical Assistant.

I would like to urgently know the amount of my debt to the publisher Conte. Not to aggravate you, but in order not to make mistakes and defects myself. He charges me the sum of 1,504,460 minus 50,000 lire of 18 - 8 - 1950, 1,454,460 remain.

Now all the weight of *Spiritus Domini* has fallen on me, as De Rosa Mario is a teacher at Sezze seminary. If you come across... the star of beautiful... Brazilian articles, *send* them to me, with complete freedom to cut them. You will say the same to Fr. Torromacco, Muccitelli, Rosa, De Crosta etc.

Become a saint! May Jesus bless you.

N. 707

My mother was called into eternity on the noon of February 10th. I've been with what they call the "fire of St. Anthony" for a month." in half person and prevents me from moving. Always have the Constitutions in hand to observe all the articles, none excepted.

Pianura, 2-19-1951

My dearest Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

My mother was called to eternity on the noon of February 10th. Since my father died, I have wept in my heart for both of them foreseeing the imminence of parting. I fantasized about leaving before them and with the Lord's permission, being to receive them in our heavenly home.

I've been with what they call the "fire of St. Anthony for a month." in half person and prevents me from moving.

Fr. Saggiomo has paid Conte's debt. What amount should I offer the workers?

Do not allow our people to bathe unnecessarily (on the beach), nor perpetual recreation. *Scalpri salubris ictibus et tensione plurima* you must form them according to traditional asceticism.

Call another father to the island to be in charge of the discipline that must always be firm, strong and constant.

Always have the Constitutions in hand to observe all the articles, none excepted.

Two must be enough in Bahia. We have no other option for now. But young people must come up very well supervised, trained and educated. Draw up a regular copy of the agreement with the Archbishop regarding Itaparica and you will send it to me for consultation and for the Assistant.

I am against others going to S. Paulo or Rio unless we have expressly called each other first. This under current conditions.

I am very grateful to Maccarone who sent me his best wishes on January 18th.

Malta will not come because he is ill. The families of the young people (for example Mileo) complain about not having news (also Nuzzo). Become a saint. May Jesus bless you all. Pray for me.

Most devoted servant

A geographical map of Itaparica!

N. 708

With Frieri you were right to use the strong way. Obedience above all.

Pianura, 3-27-1951

Dear Fr. Ugo,

With Frieri you were right to use the strong way. He sent me your note. Now he lives in Montevideo.

You also had to do the same with Fr. Muccitelli who must come immediately, without delay to Itaparica.

Obedience above all. Even at the cost of heroism, such as displeasing those you don't want. I repeated this precept to both of them (Fr. Franco and Fr. Mario), I repeat it to you as well. One must not linger one day. And Imperatore is with you? Make yourselves saints.

N. 709

Letter incomplete, probably a second sheet has been lost, that's why there are neither greetings nor signature. We are always under pressure, and that's good, otherwise we would do very little. The purchase of the convent of Mercato and the house of Acquaviva delle Fonti.

Pianura, June 21, 1951

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

So that this long silence on my part is not repeated, I will write a line every day so that I can send one of mine every week. Amen!

We are always under pressure. And it's good, otherwise very little would be done.

The Reverend Assistant wanted to draft the Constitutions from scratch and then I too had to make a new draft from scratch. And now we are waiting for him to gather us in a small assembly (no

more than a dozen fathers) to agree on some points. But don't think of big differences. He, you know, is always deferential, and a good religious.

The convent of Mercato and the house of Acquaviva delle Fonti have been purchased.

I was very pleased with the map of your large island. And all those other smaller islands are inhabited? And on whom do they depend for pastoral care?

N. 710

I wanted to send you these details so that the same is done everywhere with diligence, and to give you an example of how everything can be observed and simplified, without sacrificing any inspiration and without weakening our spirit of penance and prayer.

Pianura, August 24, 1951

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

You are delegated to receive the three-year vows of the cleric *Ciro Nuzzo*, and at the time (without anticipating any day) of *Antonio Santillo*.

Professor Fr. *Carlo Zennaro* is preparing to come, he is like Professor *De Crosta*, very capable in teaching and in the ministry having served as parish priest and military chaplain for several years. Now he has private school commitments for October, after that he will be free. He's been with us for a year. It is aggregated, but faithful like *De Crosta*. He is ready to assume any moral commitment to guarantee us his fidelity. He will have to stay with you to help you teach and prepare the *Vocationalary*.

See if you can buy some large plots of land for the *Vocationalary* and for the boy's town and for all our works (*Novitiate*, *studentate*...) unless it would be better to establish each category in different dioceses. I receive invitations from *Uruguay* and kind-

ness from Chile (Port-Mont). Here we are complying better every article of the Constitutions. Now all wear rosary, sash, etc. inside and outside the house. With the Fathers we say the Office in choir during the hours of agony (the cross is solemnly exposed in the chapel from one to four and from half past two to four p.m. there is our choir around the altar, with the recitation of all hours of the current day and of Matins and Lauds of the following day). And in every house of at least two fathers the same can and will be done. We have chosen those hours because we want to honor in a special way the agony and death of our Jesus. Because in those hours it is more onerous to pray, because in those hours other institutes do not do it, etc.

Circular adoration, circular Marian veneration is also restricted to only those three hours, each taking turns weekly, three quarters of an hour in the company of the Lord in the afternoon. It is the time in which one generally does not study or work in the apostolate (except for your one-year catechisms!).

Similarly, we have placed the chapter of faults on Wednesday evening, and so with them, we come to do the hour of vigil prescribed for the betrayal of Judas and apostates. Thus also on Saturday evening the litany of saints and the homily for the following Sunday are added to the prayers, and thus the hour of vigil is passed without much boredom. We go to dinner at seven. From half past seven to eight recess. At eight o'clock the rigorous silence is struck with solemn peals (and it is observed! Note that some of your people begin to observe it only when ... sleep takes over them) and with it the evening prayers. So at half past eight we go to bed in order to guarantee seven hours of sleep and in such a way that by making our waking hours from eight to nine on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, we can always keep getting up at four in the morning.

I wanted to send you these details so that the same is done with diligence everywhere, and to give you an example of how everything can be observed and simplified, without sacrificing

any inspiration and without weakening our spirit of penance and prayer.

Become saints.

Tell Prisco to write to me.

N. 711

It seemed to me a good test of fidelity to propose to send our priests to other dioceses. The Most Reverend Father Assistant does not want houses to be opened unless all the previous ones are first equipped with at least three priests. We withdrew from Salerno, from Guantai and Nazareth and they insisted on withdrawing from Sezze, but we failed.

Pianura, 10 - 6 - 1951

My Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

It seemed to me a good test of fidelity your proposal to send our priests to other dioceses, while you in Bahia also need help. So it seems to me too. And so it is in fact more useful to souls and to the Congregation.

We say this, not because other departures were imminent, but because of our common criterion. I think (or am I wrong?) that in Itaparica, at most, there could one day be a novitiate house. Or even a great Vocationary? Because, for the Vocationary we came to South America. So it is worth setting foot in several dioceses at the same time (and they await us in Campinha Grande, Rio Preto, Nazareth and Amargosa) or better still in several states. Thus in Chile where we are committed to going, and in Venezuela, where the way is now being opened for us and a foundation is proposed to us with a certain insistence.

Tell me dispassionately how you think. The Reverend Father Assistant does not want houses to be opened unless all the previous ones are first provided with at least three priests. We withdrew from Salerno, from the Guantai and Nazareth and they insisted on withdrawing from Sezze, but we failed.

All the theologians are in Rome and with our bus, purchased for this purpose; they are taken to the Gregorian school and brought back home. All of both the major and minor courses (academic and seminary). From the calendar you will learn about personnel changes. May the Lord grant you the grace to pity your confreres and to help them with prudence, but above all with firmness (help, not please) to be observant. I say, first the priests, even the older ones, and then the young ones. Become a saint. Many thanks to Maccarone.

Begin to think about how to provide Bahia to replace the young Imperatore, who absolutely, as soon as possible, must come to the community of students in Itaparica; unless it seemed better to transfer them all to Bahia and thus take advantage of the regular schools of the archiepiscopal seminary. Think carefully and then report to us.

In Itaparica you could start a small novitiate, albeit with a few, even just lay aspirants.

The Most Reverend Father Assistant wants a small report of the houses in Brazil, responding to these entries:

1. Origin,
2. Opening,
3. Description of the building,
4. Works that are done,
5. Regular observance,
6. Financial conditions,
7. Difficulties,
8. Relations with the authorities (ecclesiastical and civil).

I have Br. Bonifacio with me. He is an acolyte and has done the theology already almost entirely. If you open the novitiate he could come and be useful to you as a priest. Do not you think? For me, I appreciate him. I'm sorry I don't have time to write to the individual young men and fathers of these parts. See to it that all and each individual are supernaturally united to you; because the union with the superior is a means of union with the Lord.

I'm preaching every evening in the parish from the novena of

the Ascension, always on the apostolate of universal sanctification that we have made our own.

All our men from Camporotondo come and it seems with a certain profit.

Become a saint! Corrado¹¹ came with his friends to greet his friends of Pianura before leaving for America. It's a nice family. May Jesus bless him.

N. 712.

Ultimately, you have the decision whether or not to sign the contract, which you will send me in double copy in Italian and Portuguese.

Pianura, 10 - 6 - 1951

My Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

I hereby delegate you to complete the practice of the agreement between the Most Excellent Archbishop Primate of Bahia and our Vocationist Congregation, regarding the usufruct of the summer seminary and adjoining land, dependent on the concession of the pastoral care of the entire island of Itaparica to our Congregation, *pleno iure*, meaning the three current parishes and others that might be erected, if the greater good of souls requires it.

You can certainly make use of this delegation, if the contract is based on the primitive scheme already signed by the Archbishop and myself. If, on the other hand, he insists on introducing the clauses of some reserves (such as 25% on the liquid and in kind income of the land annexed to the summer seminary) then you

¹¹ Dr. Corrado Fraraccio, brother of Fr. Ugo, leaving for the United States, where he continued to be a friend and benefactor of the Vocationist communities until his death.

can make use of this delegation after consulting with the other Vocationist Fathers, informed and authorized by you, this time, to give their advisory vote. Finally, you have the decision whether or not to sign the contract, which you will send me in double copy in Italian and Portuguese.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 713

The Apostolic Nuncio of Guatemala came, just as that of Brazil had already come, to get hold of Vocationist missionaries. But it is not possible to prepare shipments yet. But the flame is rekindling in many. Always recommend and inexorably demand ecclesiastical decorum from our confreres.

Pianura, 11-21-1951

My dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

I sent you back the contract with the Archbishop about Itaparica etc. I entrusted you with the conclusion and gave you instructions, in the same sense I wrote to the Archbishop of Bahia. You did not give me any news on this point. I am waiting to hear about it.

Concerning that young man who would come to the novitiate in Italy, give a little advice to the fathers who are with you, including the two from Bahia and if it seems to you that he deserves, go ahead (with the return journey as you say) because it is not yet possible to open the novitiate there.

The Apostolic Nuncio of Guatemala came, just as the one from Brazil had already come, to get hold of Vocationist missionaries. But it is not possible to prepare another mission yet. But the flame is rekindling in many.

Always recommend and inexorably demand ecclesiastical decorum from our confreres. A Brazilian student of the Gregorian spoke ... about Angiuoni. And what do you remember about him?

The song "Santa Lucia!" But does this seem decent to you for a Vocationist? And so many other little things that all together make you... secular. Please, I beg you! Give a very serious, very austere, very decorous, very distinct, constant direction, both externally and internally.

Some aggregates show up ready to come. But now if they don't make a regular novitiate year and don't commit themselves with the holy religious vows to the Congregation I do not accept them, nor can I make them come.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us. For theology, it is clear that it will have to be done there after the philosophical course. We'll talk again! Bye.

N. 714

We welcomed Pinto into the novitiate. I used the verb "to do" in this very short one of mine... already many times. It doesn't matter, does it? Verbum Christianorum est facere non dicere.

Pianura, 12 - 23 - 1951

My Dearest Friend and Son,

J. M. J.

Heartfelt, most beautiful and sweetest wishes for these days and for the New Year!

We accepted Pinto into the novitiate, conditionally (tacit condition) to your information. Write what you know and evaluate him. And then ask in my name for the ritual testimonials in accordance with the sacred canons 544.2 and 3 and 545.4. Do the same procedure for the other postulant and send him to Pianura, so that two will do better. You will do the same (until we have the permission of the novitiate with you) with any other postulants.

The bishop of Bon Fim wrote to me about two priests. How to do? I'll have the requested books sent to you and there's no need

to think about a refund. Ask for what you need and it will always be sent to you at the cost of any sacrifice, as you would and will also do.

Now I realize that I have used the verb "to do" in this very short one of mine many times already. It doesn't matter, does it? *Verbum Christianorum est facere non dicere*. I'm sorry that Lombardi is getting fat. And the gothic style? Make him meditate and study a lot and also fast if ever, so he will shrink to the right proportions. But they say you've lost weight... you weren't fat! So I guess!

And how is Muccitelli doing? And Fr. Franco? I enjoyed knowing that he hears many confessions and has many daily communicants. I hope it doesn't transcend into the direction of mystical souls! Become a saint! I warmly greet everyone.

N. 715

With the spirit of penance and prayer how are they going? Are they making progress? Pay attention to the spirit of penance, as abnegation of the independent will, as positive mortification of the senses, as tireless methodical industriousness, as affective poverty, and in general as regular observance.

Pianura, 2 - 22 - 1952

Dear Fr. Ugo,

J.M.J.

We have a new Apostolic Visitor whose circular I am sending separately. The request of His Excellency of Amargosa, that of Rio Preto, that of Bon Fin, that of Campinha Grande, are all very good, but how to do it? I charge you to keep in contact with these Ordinaries, but without commitments. If I don't first send you a couple of fathers to be able to form a house, and therefore to be able to establish a novitiate with you, it is not good to send fathers elsewhere. Fr. Ciro, Fr. Basilio, Fr. De Luca, Fr. Ottone Ferraro would gladly come after the ordination (perhaps in July). (But you are squeamish and you don't want this one and you

discard the other one). But now everything depends on the Most Reverend Apostolic Visitor. The ordinations, repeat it often also to your students, will not take place until after the fourth (I mean the fourth) year of theology has been completed with full approval.

I am glad that these young students passed the exam well, although I don't yet know the score reported in each subject. With the spirit of penance and prayer how are they doing? Are they making progress? Pay attention to the spirit of penance, as abnegation of the independent will, as positive mortification of the senses, as tireless methodical industriousness, as affective poverty, and in general as regular observance. Exhort Prisco to make and send me the diary of everything regularly, because it is very welcome and useful.

Become a saint! Pray for me every day.

N. 716

You write often and you do very well. Give your letter the tone and extension of regular monthly reports about the house, community, confreres, studies and works.

Pianura, 3 - 14 - 1952

My dear Fr. Ugo,

J.M.J.

Heartfelt, holy greetings for your name day and for the holy Easter. Let me know in detail, before making any commitments and before giving it any publicity, what you would like to do in Itaparica. Because the Most Excellent Ordinary mentions to me a college and gymnasium or similar institution.

You write often and you do very well. Give to each letter the tone and extension of a regular monthly report about the house, community, confreres, studies and works with the most notable and useful details to make known the real (not ideal) state of things and people. This also applies to the parishes you look after.

What to answer to the bishop of Amargosa? I would like to know, before deciding, if the parish presents the possibility of a Vocationary; if it is given to the Congregation *pleno iure*, in perpetuity. The *ad tempus* offers are all rejected. If you could be able to judge in loco about the possibility of the true and proper Vocationary, I beg you to do so and report back. Because now we are absolutely looking for:

1. Possibility of a Vocationary, to then be able to establish one, according to the rule, in each of our residences;

2. Possibility of a house for the novitiate, for a first attempt at the Brazilian novitiate. We are convinced that Itaparica will not be able to have a vocationary and novitiate due to lack of resources, at least currently, especially since you have these clerical students.

I would like you to persuade Fr. De Crosta to make a certain profession of semi-public vows. He declares and constitutes himself, as he is already in reality, our aggregate and oblate. If he had already done so, I would like a signed document.

We will have eight new priests, that is (please the Lord): 1) Cortazzi Antonio, 2) Scotto Giosuè, 3) Tisi Giuseppe, 4) Ottone Ferraro, 5) Viscusi Innocenzo, 6) Emilio Iannotta, 7) Giuseppe Eduardo, 8) Placido Nicotra.

Therefore I formally command 1) you, 2) Fr. Muccitelli, 3) Fr. Maurizio, 4) Fr. Franco to draw up a very precise report referring everything you know about the individuals as a general scrutiny of their suitability for the major orders. This obedience has an urgent nature. The answers should come to me by Easter. But everyone does and sends them on his own. Not all together. The Easter dead line is *ad urgendam*, not *ad finiendam* obligation. You are in charge of communicating this obedience and ensuring that it is religiously done. I'm sending the letters addressed to you from Naples, so that they reach you, by air, as soon as possible. To this I add another on the same date.

Make yourself a saint.

N. 717

Have asked me to come: 1) Fr. Ciro, 2) Fr. De Luca, 3) Fr. Ferraro, 4) Fr. Basilio, 5) Fr. Tisi, 6) Fr. Placido, 7) Fr. Eduardo. But I don't see any ardor in them; nor do they pressure me. These are the requests for foundations: 1) Amargosa, 2) Nazarè, 3) Campinha Grande, 4) Ilpens, 5) Bonfin, 6) Rio Preto, 7) Port-Mont (Chile), 8) Guatemala and 9) Bahia!

Pianura, 3 - 14 - 1952

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Let us now talk about the possibility of new departures for America. But everything is said and kept, as far as possible, in secrecy, as a consultation, because the last decisive word belongs to the Most Reverend Father Apostolic Visitor, not to me. And therefore it is useless and dangerous to advertise.

Have asked me to come: 1) Fr. Ciro, 2) Fr. De Luca, 3) Fr. Ferraro, 4) Fr. Basilio, 5) Fr. Tisi, 6) Fr. Placido, 7) Fr. Eduardo¹². But I don't see any ardor in them; nor do they pressure me. I'm almost afraid that, after all, they would withdraw the request if they weren't afraid of making a bad impression. However, there are so many pressures that we receive to put no less than three fathers in each house that it is almost impossible to get anyone to leave.

In any case, I'll give you the note of the requests for foundations, so that having this in mind, you pray about it, think about it well, and you begin to answer. Here are: 1) Amargosa, 2) Nazarè, 3) Campinha Grande, 4) Ilpens, 5) Bonfin, 6) Rio Preto, 7) Port-Mont (Chile), 8) Guatemala and 9) Bahia!

It seems fair to prefer Amargosa because it was the first to ask us, and 2) Campinha Grande, because with its bishop there was an almost commitment to assume the direction of the diocesan seminary, which however is still under construction. No concrete proposal from Guatemala but the Apostolic Nuncio came to Pi-

¹² Of these, only Fr. Ciro and Fr. Eduardo went to Brazil.

anura and there was a certain commitment to keep us ready for any requests.

However, of these Most Excellent Ordinaries that of Bonfin and Nazarè da Mata talk about offering us parishes *ad tempus*. As a principle, offers *in perpetuum and pleno iure* and in localities that offer the possibility of vocationary, formation houses and local vocations are to be preferred. To this end, I was told that southern Brazil is rich in religious vocations, while northern Brazil is very scarce.

Basically I would like you to write in my name and in response to their requests, to all the first seven Ordinaries mentioned (except therefore those of Guatemala and Bahia) saying that at the moment we regret not being able to join and satisfy their request.

And that later on, provided they had concrete proposals to give us parishes *pleno iure* and with the possibilities listed, we would take them into consideration, and you or others would go to ascertain them and everything possible would be done to serve them.

For Amargosa if we could wait months, I think that with the new school year someone could be sent (presumably *pleno iure* etc.) and the same for Campinha Grande, after the construction of the seminary is finished if they still want us. For you at least two or three other fathers are necessarily needed I know. And you would have precedence. All this is in my poor head. Therefore let us be good, and let us follow our Lord. Bye.

N. 718

You made me cry with the story of your fall and with the thought you had of me at that moment. Grant me to be able to help at the point of death the one I love, each and all of my confreres!

Sacred Heart of Jesus

My dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

Are you fully recovered now? You made me cry with the story of the your fall and with the thought you had of me at that moment. Grant me to be able to help at the point of death the one we love, each and all of my confreres!

You should have received the *Testimonials* for the first tonsure of our professed brothers. We remain with the understanding that whenever they receive such documents, you may withhold them, and defer them, and deny them altogether, if they do not seem worthy to you.

We have had a call from Guatemala, where they would entrust us with an entire district, but we would need six priests that I don't have available. Then they want the nuns almost more urgently than the priests themselves.

The Most Reverend Father Visitor transports the general house to Rome and the entire studentate, including the philosophical one, and would also like to bring the novitiate there, but for now the place is not ready for everyone.

Every month you must give me the report of the most notable things in the community and in the parishes. You will personally do it for Itaparica and if you cannot do it yourself for Bahia, entrust Fr. Maurizio and Fr. Muccitelli to do it very diligently and constantly. They have to send it by the first of every month. I commend your precision and diligence, utmost truthfulness, without either pessimism or exaggerated optimism. It is a duty that we must no longer fail.

However, continue to write to me on your behalf (as an older friend) with the frequency that your heart dictates. We had a visit from the Vicar General of Bahia. I was actually afraid that he had bothered me about other priests. Instead he was so discreet... not to touch this key. The fact remains that as soon as it is possible, they would be sent, especially for that parish of Amargosa, which I would not like to lose, and for the Seminary of Campinha Grande.

The new novice made us very happy. Is he taciturn by type, or out of shyness, or out of ignorance of the language? Send many of them every year, until a novitiate is opened in these parts. Cultivate personal friendship with Jesus and the other divine persons very directly and intensely, on your behalf, and form all of ours in this direct, intense relationship. Become a saint.

N. 719

Pianura, 7 - 8 - 1952

Dear Fr. Ugo,

Renew the profession of Angiuoni. And so you will do every time the vows expire: until a proxy has been sent to receive perpetual professions. I will write to you without haste during the week. Send (by type) the monthly report of the notable things and that of La Pinha you will have Fr. Maurizio or Muccitelli do it, or you will do it yourself. But it must be done! Become a saint!

I saw your (sister's) little nephew and your mother stays with us for a while. May Jesus bless us.

N. 720

Fr. Franco wrote to me that he had decided to leave the Congregation. Fr. Mario and Fr. Maurizio have offered to go to Guatemala and have two fathers destined there come to you in their place.

Pianura, 9 - 8 - 1952

Nativity of the Virgin Mary Mother of God

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Herewith you stand with all in full vigor and fervor. If what

I say is occult, remain secret. Fr. Franco wrote to me that he had decided to leave the Congregation. The only reason he gave was that he could not approve the current government of the major and minor superiors (!!!). This blow came to me while I had been ill for four days, so I had Father Vicar Fr. Saggiomo respond to it. I wish and pray that the good Lord will open his eyes to his inner state.

In any case, in the event that he puts this perverse decision into effect, which seems best to you: leave that parish altogether, or take care of it directly? I say leave completely, because you don't give me hope of opening a Vocationary for you. Now the Vocationary is indispensable to each of our houses, with very few exceptions. I await your opinion.

Fr. Mario and Fr. Maurizio have offered to go to Guatemala and have two fathers destined there come to you in their place. Have you been questioned about it? I have not yet replied, neither to them, nor to the Nuncio of Guatemala, because in reality the departure of other subjects is very problematic given the need in which we find ourselves. However, send your opinion on this too. And tell me what is the real reason for this proposal of theirs. It is well understood that in Fr. Mario's place another will have to come, equally if not more capable of teaching.

In order not to aggravate Rome's financial situation, the novitiate, the philosophy studentate and the first theological year remain in Pianura, but it has been decided that the undersigned will move to Rome, so that the General Curia is there not only in name, but at least in part also in fact.

Among the candidates for the novitiate there is also that good priest Fr. Mario Lepore who for two years had already been the strong arm of the Anagni house.

As for the cleric Angiuoni, doesn't it seem better to you that he still waits for his perpetual profession? Thus we will be able to be surer of his suitability for sacred orders, given his liveliness. Take great care of the study of the Constitutions, so that everyone has a certain competence regarding the knowledge of the letter and the

spirit of the individual articles; and their observance is ever more elevated, edifying, effective, to the mutual spiritual and religious influence.

Let everyone consider suspicious anything, any way of acting, any habit that they fear might come to my knowledge and are deliberately taking care not to let it be communicated to me.

This is very painful, because it gives me reason to fear habits of relaxation, which being in America cannot justify, and future disorders, which will make one cry.

We do not ignore the little things, nor do we believe the small infractions of the rule to be of little consequence, when they are voluntary and even worse if with attachment. Nature is always that and the gospel is always that. It is always necessary to do penance for the past, to do violence to oneself in the present, to use intransigence for the future.

Soaviter, but *prima fortiter*! Do not take these things as reproach. You cannot always be at home and with your presence and example prevent any form of relaxation.

If you succeed, send the reports on a large sheet and go into detail on certain points. Make sure every time that the prayer life goes on normally. Send the times that you strictly observe.

Now the main charge against us is that we are good ecclesiastics, but not true religious because one easily dispenses with the common life of prayers, poverty, obedience, or whatever. Let's make sure this doesn't respond to reality. Become a saint. We are always under pressure. May Jesus bless us.

N. 721

You finally start talking to me about Vocationary et quidem in Baiha. If it seemed good to you too, and it didn't require too much time and expense, I would like you to arrive to Maracas to find out if it was possible there, in the premises of the parish, to begin a small novitiate, even if only for lay brothers who would come from Italy, or even a small Vocationary for the natives.

Pianura 10 - 14 - 1952

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Following your reports, the Council gave the favorable consultative vote, regarding the perpetual profession of Angiuoni, you are delegated to receive it by November 1, or other date of your choice.

Pinto is gone, and I don't know where he intends to return, perhaps to his diocese.

It seems that Fr. Baiano and Fr. Reale will return shortly, and both are very determined to come to America. I would send them with Fr. Ciro my brother, and it seems to me good to satisfy the ordinary of Amargosa first, if the parish already offered *pleno iure* of Maracas is still free, if I remember correctly.

Find out if that parish is still available. But don't make commitments. I had directed them to Guatemala and then I had to cancel them, as there are no subjects.

We also receive invitations from Venezuela and Colombia. But also in Italy, a lot! For example, Sardinia etc.

You finally start talking to me about Vocationary et quidem in Bahia. If it seemed good to you too, and it didn't require too much time and expense, I would like you to arrive to Maracas to find out if it is possible there, in the premises of the parish, to begin a small novitiate, even if only for lay brothers who would come from Italy, or also a small Vocationary for the natives. Always, repeat, without making any commitments.

In Bahia, isn't there anything to fear from the seminary, from the Archbishop?

It is true that the Most Excellent Nuncio had envisaged this: a Vocationary in the main cities and headquarters of Brazil. But when he came to the place, he didn't mention it to me again.

He wrote to me lately to recommend that I please the Most Excellent Ordinary of Amargosa, without however making any mention of Vocationaries.

And in Baiha, both to build and to buy... what sum must we ask

to St. Joseph? As for calling back to Italy who he is, I really don't want to do it, without being induced by obedience or by really serious needs or by really... high authorities. Become a saint. Are you OK? Are you all well?

N. 722

The important thing seems to be to begin the Brazilian novitiate. When these fathers come, you will have the house formed necessary for the novitiate and it will not be (as I hope) difficult to obtain permission from Rome.

Pianura, February 1, 1953

My dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

Were destined to come with the Cardinal, Fr. Ciro and Fr. Placido (a new priest) Polito, Di Ciesco and Soverino. But each departure is postponed by order of the Sacred Congregation for Religious until after the election which is said to take place in the first ten days of June.

I haven't seen the Cardinal yet. As for Felice, you (and he) must deal with the Rev. Visitor. Having him come as the only one from his class and imposing a private school that is not indifferent for only one is the same as confirming something that shouldn't be done, and that you understand without being told.

May Jesus bless us. When, on the other hand, Placido, who can teach, has already come to the place and you can regularly hold a philosophy class and a theology class, then he can come with others and it will be normal.

With these fathers, you will have the *formed house* necessary for the novitiate and it will not be (as I hope) difficult to obtain permission from Rome.

The rumor was circulating that you would come with the Cardinal, also for this reason I delayed writing to you, and then to

give sure news. The new Bishop of Ribeirao Preto is also asking for our priests. You answer him in the name of the Congregation. I think you don't want to keep many with you, but disseminate them all over Latin America soon.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 723

What you have suffered is good purification, if it pushes you or better if you use it to establish yourself in the Lord's trust. Try to instill a spirit of self-mortification and compassion with Jesus crucified in every soul.

Pianura, 2-18-1953

Dear Fr. Ugo,

May Jesus bless you.

What you have suffered is good purification, if it pushes you or better if you use it to establish yourself in the Lord's trust. His virtue becomes ours. He gives himself entirely on his part (just think of the Eucharist!) but we appropriate it according to faith, trust and fidelity.

Poor us if he loved us for our merits! We want to be found in him, saints of his holiness, not of ours, all vain and insubstantial and nothing!

Happy Lent! Try to influence a spirit of self-mortification and compassion with Jesus crucified in every soul, especially youngsters aspiring to the priesthood. Make yourself a saint. Bless me.

N. 724

Do the best you know and can the duty of your status, day-by-day, hour-by-hour. I have never liked, nor have I ever approved of your habit of reflecting so much on your internal state, on what you feel within yourself.

Pianura, April 4, 1953

Dear Fr. Ugo,

You don't tell me about my letter, if received, if understood... do with simplicity what I say. Please pay attention:

1. To avoid all faults and willful defects,

2. To do the best you know and can the duty of your status.

Day-by-day, hour-by-hour. Leave all the rest to the Lord who leads you along the mysterious ways of his love, to your goal, which is union with him.

N. 726

Please, report above all on the observance of the Constitutions, holy vows, our austerities, spirit of piety and penance, obedience and docility. Be careful, always be careful not to be content with being good young men and good clerics, as ordinary Christians must be; but may they be good Vocationists in all that is special to us! I highly recommend!

Pianura, June 29, 1953

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless you.

Here are the other confreres: Fr. Ciro, Fr. Dario, Polito, Pizzirusso. Two priests, a subdeacon, a lector. As I have already written to you, two fathers should be sent immediately to Maracas, if that parish is still destined for the Vocationists. First, however, you should have the document of the Most Excellent Bishop of the place with which the said parish is entrusted to the Congregation *pleno iure* or *ad nutum Sanctae Sedis* with full freedom to establish the works of the Congregation there.

As for the ordinations of the young people of Itaparica, you need to have a council meeting among the fathers and send a fairly detailed report. Either the only report signed by the fathers, or each father his own, but always of each candidate, quite widely.

Please, report above all on the observance of the Constitutions, holy vows, our austerities, spirit of piety and penance, obedience

and docility. Be careful, always be careful not to be content with being good young men and good clerics, as ordinary Christians must be; but may they be good Vocationists in all that is special to us! I highly recommend! Following your reports, I will send the dimissorial letters.

Identical advice and report for perpetual professions, sending everything at least two months in advance.

The same council meeting and reports to be repeated for each major order.

You must have misunderstood the travel expenses or they misunderstood you! We don't want you to pay with your own means, but that for two you will pay in Bahia with the condos left to us by His Eminence and that Fr. Ciro brings with him, while for the other two I paid with Italian currency here.

I am sending three signed *dimissorials*, but you will complete them. One for the exorcist and acolyte of Pizzirusso who was ill when his companions were ordained as such, the other two for the diaconate and priesthood of Polito, as soon as he complete his studies and will be able to receive them. He has commendably completed the third year of theology and solely because he is not yet 26 (twenty-six) years old, he has not been ordained together with Di Ciesco. Both must therefore do the fourth year of theology with you. I hope they bring you the new breviary as I ordered. I send a book to each of the priests; I could not do anything else! I will then send you a copy of the latest draft of the Constitutions, part one, read it and meditate on it. Give to the year preceding the presbyterate the atmosphere of a novitiate... extra-canonical and to the last 50 days to the character of a Pentecost of spiritual retreat as stated in these Constitutions; the same for the year preceding the perpetual profession and for the last 40 days of the same.

Let us become saints in union with the saints, with the angels, with the Holy Family, with the Blessed Trinity. I also recommend to you the three hours according to the pamphlet of which Fr. Ciro will give you a copy. Become a saint!

N. 727

Remember this and preach it: to benefit, not to please. To please God alone, to benefit one's neighbor. The cross, abstinence, penance, mortification, bitterness benefit the neighbor, not leisure, relief, delight. These things only drop by drop and rarely. Substantive observances are found only under accidental observances.

Pianura, October 24, 1953
Holy Archangel Raphael

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I well remember that you vowed, and you also proposed it to other good confreres, to keep our observances contained in the two volumes you edited. In addition to this you have received my confidence on the origin of them, and several times you have promised and assured me that you will zealously observe the observances. Now what you tell me about abstinence from meat makes me fear a lot also for the other observances, such as for example, about the hour of meditation, about the morning rise at four o'clock, about the daily preaching especially to our confreres and then to the people. You who are on the spot must judge how and when it can be dispensed with, but not abrogate some observance. I cannot believe you are all so sick that no one can abstain from meat. Nor that it is not possible to have eggs, fresh or salted fish, etc. on site, dairy products ... to replace the meat.

And I say the same about the other observances. For getting up, Prisco told me, that there is no light. But there are candles! And oil, etc. we must keep these observances! And the sash? And the Marian rosary around our neck? What about tonsure of hair? And the silence? And the Vocationary? Is it possible that good children do not flock around you? I defer to you and I trust that you will want to help, not please our people. Remember this and preach it: to benefit, not to please. To please God alone, to benefit one's neighbor. The cross, abstinence, penance, mortification, bitterness benefit the neighbor, not leisure, relief, delight. These things only

drop by drop and rarely. Substantive observances are found only under accidental observances. There is no substance (in human affairs) without accidents.

I recommend about the perpetual vows of Mileo, Russo, Longobardi, if even these three are missing from our observances without serious reasons, I do not intend to admit them. I say the same of the Orders, (minor and major as they are). The observances, which seem to them useless and bulky, they are like the skin that protects and beautifies the body. Without the skin we are ugly, flayed, exposed to thousands of very dangerous infections. It cannot be enough for us to be good Christians, not even good ecclesiastics; we must be and become ever more good Vocationists. And the sign of the good Vocationist is the external observance of those articles relating to penance, modesty and ascetical practices of silence, mortification and common life.

As for the duty to strive towards divine union, it cannot be satisfied without an hour of constant meditation. It is impossible to reach contemplation without meditation. In our houses we are asking the fathers to sign the common notebook of meditation every day, noting the time and place where they did it, whether in the chapel (or when they are prevented) in the room. In the monthly report, and in the reports of the subjects, the external observances of penance, practices of piety, study, apostolate and the like must be explicitly mentioned... even of fellow priests. Don't hide anything from me... like e.g. you did about helping the Di Pierno family. Why? I have to know everything!

Continuing in the same letter made up of three sheets stapled and evidently sent together.

Dear Fraraccio,

I wrote in the two separate sheets of the observations of which in conscience and in force of obedience you must take in the greatest account.

As for the parish to be entrusted to Fr. Ciro, try to go and see it. Fr. Ciro then, he cannot be left alone. We need a brother. Who will

go? It is also necessary to inform the Father Visitor first, either you directly, or through the undersigned, by sending him a typed report as broad and detailed as possible of the parish and the convenience of accepting it.

The families of the young confreres, who are with you, are spreading the word that they will come to Italy after their priestly ordination. This will not be, even if others pay for their travel.

Likewise, they do not want me to be informed of their affairs, and they resent it if I am made aware of their conduct. This means that they do not intend to be good Vocationists, but only good Christians. None of them ever wrote me anything, except poor wishes and applications for vows and Orders. I hope they do spiritual direction with you. Often spur them to this direction, which is nourishment and fervor. At the beginning you had many reasonable excuses for not paying attention to certain things. Now everything must be well organized, established, observed. Become saints. Pray for me. May Jesus bless us.

N. 728

To Fr. Fraraccio in his role as Vicar General with all the rights and duties of the Superior General. Fr. Justin accepts the decisions of the Council and makes some timid suggestions.

Pianura, 9 - 18 - 1954

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

The Most Reverend Father Visitor writes me that you have some observations to communicate to me.

Finally, on the sheet received, I find some variations in the handwriting of Fr. Fontana. Assuming that they are the thoughts of the others on the Council, I gladly accept the changes. Thus to have Fr. Giuseppe rector at Pianura etc. I would only like that the communications to be made to the Most Reverend Archbishop

of Naples, and to that of Cava, were made by the Most Reverend Father Visitor so that they do not encounter difficulties.

In my poor opinion, the confrere De Simone would be better than Fr. Galasso as Rector of Posillipo alto. And Fr. Galasso would remain at the service of the Archdiocese of Naples (something very welcome to the Superiors of Naples) while residing in Pianura with Fr. Angelo Perrone, to help here too. See you soon. Make yourself a saint.

N. 729

Pianura, 9 - 18 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I await your letter, which the Most Rev. Fr. Visitor mentioned to me. See that you are satisfied with Don Pirelli, also because you have to see Mezzegra, and we must carry on the Apostolate of Charity, as our thing. Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 730

Judge yourselves from Rome according to the vocationist conscience.

Pianura, October 7, 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

That distinguished young Nicola Sposato I told you about applied for admission as a lay teacher. It seemed good to me to assign him as prefect in Anagni, with the obligation in the meantime to graduate as an elementary school teacher. So, I sent him there as a trial, and so it can be said that even that orphanage

was well provided for. I remind you of the cleric you sent to Cava (Mascolo). I would like a dispensation from the impediment of his previous profession to be requested for Mr. Antonio Corda who made his triennial vows at the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (Corso Rinascimento, 23 Rome) and left in 1939 due to family misfortunes. In the meantime he has been teaching and lately he has been with us as a teacher. The information is good and it seems like a good asset.

Similarly I would like to insist on the cleric Antonio Solfrizzo of whom I also told you. I am sure that when the same dispensation mentioned above was asked for him, it was not said that the young man had given good proof of himself for a good four years, two with the parish priest, and two with us. Had this been pointed out, one would not have had the answer: *Non expedire*. After all, you from Rome judge according to the vocationist conscience. It will be good to see each other in council as soon as possible to decide the admission of several other novices and that to the perpetual vows of others, and the temporary vows of one who is a bit late: Ettore Corona. I am sending you this letter from Scolaro! As I wrote in another letter, please remind Fr. Anella to meet with the Bishop of Santa Fe of the United States. Bishop of Casal Monferrato replied as follows: "I was able to take a look at the Constitutions of your Congregation and I had an excellent impression, especially as regards the help for vocations and parish ministry. Therefore, for my part, I would look forward to your coming to Pontestura." I would therefore like you to see the place well and the possibilities of life there so that things can take place well. Giuseppe Angrisani says he wrote to me because the address was missing in your letter from Rome.

Having seen Fr. Maretta, I mentioned Agrigento to him. He suffers a lot.

Even Fr. Lepore and Fr. Egidio suffer for the obedience received but are willing to sacrifice.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 731

Another offer of an opening in Mugnano del Cardinale and other donations from the Romasi of Montesardo.

Pianura, 10 -9 - 1954

May Jesus bless us.

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

I'm sending Fr. Egidio urgently for a... combination that doesn't seem to have to be missed.

They offer us the management of the "Alessandro Manzoni" high school-gymnasium-boarding school in Mugnano del Cardinale. The Gymnasium is recognized by the state, the Lyceum is licensed by the state. All teaching staff are provided and paid for by the Municipality. We should only, by accepting, present a Principal and a Priest who would take charge of the moral life of the boarding school which is very small in number due to the lack of trust in the bourgeois to whom it was entrusted up to now. Principal and Rector can be the same person. As principal it seems that Professor (Fr.) Grimaldi with a degree in philosophy could be.

As Rector or at least Spiritual Father of the boarding school, either De Simone, or Carosiello, or Giannone could be (I say for example). The place is very close to Avellino, and it receives (they say) the greatest number of students from Avellino. It would suit De Simone, I think. We had talked about it a year ago, and the Bishop of Nola consented to our presence in Mugnano.

Father Egidio who more than anyone else is aware of the proposal, due to his friendship with that Mayor, will explain the matter better to you. The boarding school is a former convent in a very similar place and very suitable for a house of study, even for our students who want to get passages and government licenses.

The financial profit seems, now, considerable, tomorrow, great. My opinion, especially in view of the benefit to the Church for having religious staffing these juvenile institutes and taking them away from the laity, is favorable.

We now have three newly professed young men who have failed the lyceum entrance exam. One with two four; two with more lower marks. What to do? Or use them as prefects and thus anticipate the so-called magisterium without them losing a year. Or make them repeat the fifth year in full rigor of schools etc. Or conditionally admit them to lyceum. I'm not commenting on the choice.

The Bishop of Bovino insisted very delicately, but also strongly on having help for the discipline (a prefect) by offering (besides the moral good and merit that he would have) even one hundred thousand lire a year.

Fr. Ruizzo had already gone to Gorga, when Perrino's proposal was made. See you. It will still take ... patience for obedience.

If you can foresee the day of the council, you will tell me so that I don't start three promised exercises courses, and still go to the Romasi ladies of Montesardo who have been waiting for me for a year for other donations as far as I am assured.

Become a saint.

N. 732

As you can see, all of this is hypothetical.

9 - 10 - 1954

Dear Fraraccio,

Back on the previous topic:

For Fr. Santucci: I wouldn't agree with what Perrino says. Fr. Carlo in truth would be much better placed in Mola and then Fr. Santucci could choose between: Gorga, Mariotto, Palombaio, Villammare. I therefore withhold the appointment of Fr. Mario Lepore for Villammare, should Fr. Santucci wish to go there. If Fr. Passariello went there, he could still stay with Fr. Rossi Guglielmo at Palombaio-Mariotto. As you can see, all of this is... hypothetical. May Jesus bless us.

I very much recommend carefully pondering the militant reasons for... Mugnano del Cardinale.

N. 733

At the bottom of a letter from Fr. Alfonso De Luca asking not to be removed from Mola di Bari

9 - 10 - 1954

Obedience must immediately be given to those who are destined for Mezzegra to go there. Fr. Mario Lepore, who is there provisionally, must immediately leave for the novitiate, do his exercises and profess, to be ready to take possession of the parish in November (Villamare). Fr. Jovine deludes himself that he can stay in Posillipo. The name of Lepore has already been mentioned to the Bishop of Policastro.

N. 734

If this charity is lawful for us, do it to him in visceribus Christi.

Pianura, 10 - 10 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

The Bishop of Potenza strongly recommends the bearer (his villager), who is an ex-Assumptionist. He has to meet with his new Fr. General and therefore asks for the charity to be hosted by us for a while. If this charity is lawful for us, do it to him in *visceribus Christi*. If it's not legal for us, let him go. Become a saint.

N. 735

It will take some time for them to persuade themselves not to waste time ad-

dressing two instead of one. A circular would be good (I'm not saying yours or mine, because it would be unwelcome) but from the Most Reverend Visitor who would safeguard us from even the slightest appearance of dangerous dualism (!!)

10 - 11 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

I am forwarding the annexes to you so that you may want to provide. It will take some time for them to persuade themselves not to lose time to address two instead of one. A circular would be good (I am not saying yours or mine, because it would be badly received) but from the Most Reverend Visitor who would safeguard us from even the slightest appearance of dangerous dualism (!!)

(!!) (How do they say in Portuguese this idea?)

I hope you will come to Pianura to preach the exercises for the Sisters in the novena for the dead, and then you could also preach this novena to the people, bringing back from those Holy Souls an envelope sufficient for all our needs.

N. 736

May the Lord give us and increase prudence and patience.

10 - 11 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Fr. Santucci came personally. He prefers Mola.

He says that he never felt so good as now. What do you think? That perhaps Fr. Perrino wants to get rid of him or some backstage reason? Fr. Fontana can shed a lot of light. What does Fr. Perrino do from morning to night? It will be good to ponder things and go to the bottom.

May the Lord give us and increase prudence and patience.

Let us not sacrifice Trifirò suddenly in parish work. We must

provide for the third priest in Mercato and Perdifumo, two houses with each two parishes and vocationary; therefore with the absolute need for a third priest who stays home for discipline and the good spirit of our students.

Become a saint.

N. 737

We have to be patient a little longer, with these daily missives, until we find a better organization of individual houses, works and people.

Pianura, 10 - 12 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I attach this letter of Fr. Garofalo. See if it's not better to send Fr. Garofalo up to Mezzegra who is older, more experienced, more... equitable. (I don't intend to affirm the opposite of the... second term of comparison) and keep the other with you in Rome, for greater prestige of the teaching staff, since he is already a graduate, and for his greater training in common life.

In the affirmative case, insist on taking Fr. Garofalo at his word about his own offers: a) to continue his university studies in Milan; b) to take good care of the souls eventually entrusted to him; c) and not only prepare the house but certainly keep it open with him, I think, Longoni could hold only internal role and be able to disengage it, unless otherwise ordered by superiors.

May Jesus bless us.

I sent Rota and Rocco to Rome, so that they could prove themselves and deserve the profession. Since nothing was decided against them other than the prolongation of the test, they must do it where they are not satisfied. But let them expressly understand how they must correct themselves. I tried to make them understand, but not having witnessed anything in the last year, I

was unable to go into details or prove what I charged them. Look into it.

We have to be patient a little longer, with these daily missives, until we find a better organization for individual houses, works and people.

Become a saint.

P. S. The Most Reverend Fr. Larraona communicates to me what you already know about the cleric Mascolo¹³, expressly replying (he says) to one of my direct messages to the Congregation dated 22 September. This surprised me very much. I have not written at all, neither for him nor for others. Who wrote in my name? Neither do you, I believe, because you said to wait (as required and customary) for the information. Go to the bottom in this thing.

I immediately communicated to Grimaldi that he had to leave. I am afraid that he might turn to the Protestants, not having a place to go. Pray for him.

N. 738

It is always the Superior General who writes to his vicar, plenipotentiary! "What about the... slowness and calmness of the Rev. Fr. Larraona, it edifies me. Haste and ultimatums, in those who have to govern souls, are almost always ruinous."

Pianura, 10 - 25 - 1954

J.M.J.

Now Fr. Sepe asks to spend some time in the Posillipo parish house. He wanted me to write it to you in his place.

Similarly, Fr. Caradonna from Acquaviva would like to keep Fr.

¹³ Evidently it is a matter of a scam by Mascolo himself, who then managed to go in Brazil with the Vocationists and there became head of the Brazilian Catholic Church!

Mario De Rosa with him, even though he knows ... everything, and he and Fr. Benedetto undertake to watch over and preserve him.

I attach the information obtained concerning professor Corda.

The Bishop of Vallo asked that I send a couple of priests to visit the Sanctuary of Granato (so called) in Capaccio for a possible work. Fr. Di Pierno and Fr. Vaccaro are going there, and will then report to us.

The slowness and calmness of the Rev. Fr. Larraona edifies me. Haste and *ultimatums*, in those who have to govern the souls, are almost always ruinous.

I would like the faculty to open the novitiate for lay bothers according to our first Constitutions, those approved by the Bishop of Pozzuoli (Part 1, article 42, page 25):

In the judgment of the Director (General), aspirant brothers (both workers and teachers) can complete their religious probation (not only in separate sections) but also in separate novitiates (from those of clerics) or in the individual formed houses, provided that there is a priest, suitable to the office of Father Master of novices, to whom they are totally entrusted.

I always want to be informed of everything related to religious observance, about which you know our criteria. All charity for the weak and infirm, but no alteration of the letter and spirit of the constitutions, at the discretion of the individual superiors.

From the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (Corso del Rinascimento, 25) obtain many copies of the "Novena to Our Lady of the Sacred Heart" and send copies to all the male and female houses with the prescription to make it and repeat it until the grace is obtained. That is... our release from debts and their consequences.

What souvenir of the Marian year will our Congregation have and offer?

Thank you very much for typing your letters to me, although I can't repay, not having time to train myself in it.

About the pupils of the Vocationary of Pianura, in terms of number and conditions, etc. I agreed with the previous Rector Fr.

Lanzaro, not yet knowing who would come. Now it is a question of justice rather than charity to welcome all those who had been admitted, within the limits of the capacity of the house.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

We allow Br. Frieri to return to America as a tourist. In this way we will ensure the maintenance of the houses of formation, if things turn out as they did the last time he went there.

N. 739

Concerning finances... may the Lord grant to Fr. Anella's and your humility and faith to find, to devise, to use all the means well to deal with the situation. The ordinary means that Providence offers us today are orphanages. Therefore it is necessary to open as many as possible, instead of reducing them.

Pianura, October 25, 1954

Jesus - Mary - Joseph

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

I was really hoping for something liquid from the benefactresses of Montesardo. Instead they assured me the donation of another property, a villa in S. Maria di Leuca, and it's actually a very nice thing, but... zero as for the rest. They are properties that can never be alienated.

The Bishop of Gravina, to whose diocese Mascolo belongs, asked me towards the middle of September what we had decided on the young man. I replied that without the due information first and without the due dispensations from the Sacred Congregation for Religious we would not have been able to accept him. Now... what is this Bishop doing to you? He wrote to the Sacred Congregation for Religious, which in turn wrote to me erroneously referring to the answer, as if it were my request which I had not forwarded at all or even thought about. This is how I now explain the letter of the Most Reverend Larraona. Holy patience!

As for finances... may the Lord grant to Fr. Anella's and your humility and faith to find, to devise, to use all the means to deal with the situation properly. For my personal account you know well that I have... what they give me; and since every house must rightly give to the General House, not to the Mother House, it follows as a consequence that generally I have nothing but alms from the holy masses that I gradually celebrate, forcing myself to pay debts of the holy masses received and not yet applied by other houses. I gladly take it on to help the boat at least in this way.

In Montesardo for example I had eleven offerings for masses (11) with a total almsgiving of fifteen thousand lire, with which I will be able to have around thirty celebrated.

The ordinary means that Providence offers us today are orphanages. Therefore we need to open as many as possible, instead of decreasing them. We are all suffering, as in a state of violence, from the prohibition to fill the house in Rome with orphans, and from the worsening of expenses necessary for houses of formation, precisely in these financially critical periods.

I have made a law for myself not to talk about it or think about it, to offer a sacrifice of obedience, while begging that the eyes of the presider be opened.

As for all the other things concerning the obedience given or to be given, I thank you for keeping me informed, and requested my opinion that for the moment seems to me to be right. But I abstain from anything that does not concern the spiritual field, so that the necessary unity of command in the Congregation is maintained. Therefore, for example, regarding Fr. Vaccaro, I had him read the disposition concerning him, but I leave the pressing of its execution to those responsible.

Patience that people continue to unload on me, from anyone of my subjects, what individuals don't understand.

(letter without signature)

N. 740

I enclose this from the Most Excellent Archbishop (of Pessinonte) Giannattasio who has the time and will to help us. Go talk to him and let's see if this is the way the Lord wants to help us. Unde veniet auxilium mihi?

Pianura, October 30, 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

All Saints' Day greetings to you all.

Let us expect from the sovereigns Jesus and Mary, on the feast of their Kingship, an act of clemency and munificence that frees us and the Sisters from present debts, and applies us more intensely to them.

I enclose this from the Most Excellent Archbishop (of Pessinonte) Giannattasio who has the time and will to help us. Go talk to him and let's see if this is the way the Lord wants to help us. *Unde veniet auxilium mihi?*

Br. Frieri is ready, for his part, to go to Fr. Ciro and then go further up with him, and there, once on the spot, to redo what he has done other times and it would be a great help. Fr. Ciro would pay a visit to his sister, and he could also pay a visit to De Cubellis' uncle who offers six acres of land for our house to be built, at our convenience, if it were convenient for us and the Ordinary would allow us.

See if it is not the case to unite Fr. Ciro with Di Ciesco because they cannot be alone and with other brothers, according to them, *non contuntur*, while the two seem animated by the same good spirit.

I would say the same, albeit with less knowledge of the cause for Mileo and Polito; that is, that they were placed side by side in the same place and removed from other influences. But you know the various situations well, and you will settle in Domino.

That since you returned I don't know anything about most of them, nor if, and how many, and when, and how, they have al-

ready been ordained priests, having just learned from the family that visited me that all are already priests, except, Russo and Santillo.

It is also necessary to immediately provide for the third father in Mercato, in Perdifumo. I enclose various letters from others.

Conserve properly the applications for holy vows. Greetings to everyone. May Jesus bless us.

N. 741

The young professed Carmelo Scolaro had been dismissed from the Congregation and Fr. Justin pleaded his cause with amiability and humility, while always deferring to whomever has the authority to decide. He then went to Brazil and became a priest.

Reminder about our professed brother Carmelo Scolaro

10 - 30 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

The dismissal of young Scolaro does not appear as easy as that of Grimaldi and Scanu. With Grimaldi and with Scanu there were only the ordinary reasons of charity and justice to be safeguarded.

With Scolaro there are the holy religious vows that require other treatment. You were certain that his temporary profession had expired and so he could definitely be dismissed.

The temporary profession had expired, but pending the perpetual had already been renewed ad annum for several days, and therefore he is a professed in temporary vows with whom the prescription of canon 647 par. 5 must be observed for the dismissal. Now when the dismissal was communicated to him, the very humble young man protested: 1) that he did not want to fail in his vocation; 2) of not wanting to leave the Congregation; 3) to completely ignore the causes of this dismissal; 4) I told him (as

I had been told) that he was preparing to go to America - Venezuela - and he absolutely denied it; 5) I mentioned to him of an inappropriate relation to a religious, and he replied that he had never (never really) been warned or corrected by Fr. Perrone, his last superior.

Meanwhile, here in Pianura (Fr. Rector) did not want to keep him any longer, because he has no specific office.

He adamantly refused to return to his home for fear of seriously harming his infirm mother.

He declared himself willing to do anything.

I had him re-examined by his Novitiate Master, Fr. Galasso who found him resolved equally well. I made him cut his hair, and he did.

So, provisionally, I sent him to Fr. Arsenio in Bovino, so that he could prepare for the secondary school leaving certificate and thus have a qualification for life, both as a layperson, if he were returned to the world, and for ecclesiastical life, if he were judged repentant.

This seemed to me the best solution.

Since it is provisional, one can always proceed against him, if it seems better *in Domino*, and then in his case, either in presence, or by letter, he should be communicated the causes of the provision and given full opportunity to respond and justify himself (if he can). His answers must be faithfully submitted to the evaluation of the issuing superior.

Please, note that the renewal of temporary vows was issued many days before that measure of rigor was taken, and this measure could not be taken, the causes that would have provoked it being completely ignored.

May the Lord, prayed by you, by me and by our confreres, transform this young student of ours for many years into a perfect religious. May the Lord bless us.

At the bottom of a letter from Fr. Zennaro dated 11 - 12 - 1954 from Mezzegra, Fr. Justin wrote:

I am sending it to Fr. Vicar. In case you want to content him, ask the opinion of the two confreres of Mola, as well as of Fr. Perrino. May Jesus bless us.

N. 742

Accepting the sanctuary of Granato at Carpazio could be for us the homage we offer to the Blessed Virgin Mother of God in this Marian year.

Pianura, November 17, 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

We are behind with the courses of spiritual exercises for our confreres, and the year is coming to an end. I held one during the past holidays in Posillipo, but only about twenty priests attended. The main difficulty is where to gather, since all the houses are full, except for the large building that is up for sale in Rome. However, let's see together how to overcome this difficulty. The confreres could also do the exercises in their individual houses, or grouping those of the houses closest to each other etc.

It is necessary that you with someone else visit the Carpazio House and Sanctuary in Capaccio: both out of respect for the Bishop who has repeatedly written to me about it, and for many reasons he must be satisfied; and to be able to examine in loco if it could ever become our retreat house, if it is convenient, and when we could manage to occupy it; and to have another Marian Shrine in the Congregation.

Could this be for us the tribute we offer to the Blessed Virgin Mother of God in this Marian year.

There was a fire in the carpentry last night, towards morning though. Without much damage immediately suppressed. There is insurance in order.

May Jesus bless us. Become all saints.

N. 743

Permission is kindly requested for Brother Frieri for the visit to the United States, and for the admission of Striano.

Pianura, November 18, 1954

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Frieri insists on leaving. It depends more on you than on me to grant this permission. I enclose lire two hundred thousand to serve for his journey if you let him, or for thirteen Gregorian months if you can start celebrating them immediately (three or four fathers together), in case Frieri doesn't go.

In the event that Frieri leaves, I would like to know if the Nuncio Msgr. Lombardi is already in Rio or not yet, in order to be able to write to him, being a seminary companion of several of ours.

I then send the Testimonials for Striano.

This is an excellent subject sent to me by a holy parish priest, a very good friend of ours. The young man took his secondary school leaving certificate (V) and was admitted to lyceum in the first session (first ballot) and comes almost every day from Resina to solicit his admission. You left the result of the vocational exam done in Pianura (not by me) in Fr. Castiglione's room.

The other documents are in Rome, in the folder I sent. Until we meet again. Become all saints.

N. 744

The Parish of the Holy Family functioned in the Vocationary, the current Crypt, that of the Holy Rosary in our chapel in via Grottole in Pianura.

Pianura, 11 - 22 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Of these conventions, nothing has been said to me, nor pro-

posed, nor asked before. So they took me by surprise. Since it is a major matter, they are submitted to the Council. I would like it to be noted: 1) that we are not of diocesan right but of pontifical right; 2) that in the event of future assignment to diocesan clergy, the parish offices of the Holy Family and of the Rosary should be transferred elsewhere, since the current churches are on our premises, part of our Institutes and owned by us.

Everything else seems acceptable. Become all saints.

In the case of acceptance, the request to the Sacred Congregation for Religious has always been made by the Most Reverend Father Apostolic Visitor.

N. 745

We always obey. But when we have violated no canon, we suffer with joy for vocations and for the charity of our neighbor.

Pianura, November 22, 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

You responded well to those complaints, about some young people accepted only as laymen, and not even (I don't say admitted but) proposed for the novitiate, wishing, as an experiment, that he first get a diploma and then see what to do.

We always obey. But when we have violated no canon, we suffer with joy for vocations and for the charity of neighbor. Our cooperation in the work of the Lord would not be much if we only had to work and struggle. But when we also have to suffer... then we begin to become disciples of the Lord as St. Ignatius Martyr.

I am sending you this large envelope, which, however, boils down to the first sheet. Enclosed is a letter from Fr. Maiolo in the name of the Bishop of Nicastro.

Courage!

May Jesus bless us.

N. 746

A copy of the statute of external and internal Cooperators, as approved by the Sacred Congregation for Religious, is sent to the general archive of the Congregation.

Pianura, November 29, 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

I am sending you for the General Archive the text of the Statute of our internal and external Cooperators, the one which, stamped page by page by the Sacred Congregation for Religious with an embossed stamp, is declared, revised or better, has been revised by the same Sacred Congregation of whose pro tempore General Secretary Msgr. Luca Ermenegildo Pasetto has affixed the authentic signature.

But before filing it, you must do me the pleasure of ex officio asking: 1) whether said Statute is also deposited with the Sacred Congregation, because I sent several copies of it; 2) what value does the revision of the Sacred Congregation has; 3) if therefore it can be printed for the cooperators to whom it concerns; 4) if it can certainly be implemented and applied to those who want to become and live and work as our Cooperators (of course, with the permission of the local Ordinaries as regards external ones).

Perhaps the Most Reverend Msgr. Sposetti will suffice to give these answers. Goodbye.

May Jesus bless us. Become all saints.

N. 747

It would seem good (and necessary) to transfer Nardin to Cava and Silimbri to Mercato.

Pianura, 12 - 24 - 1954

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

It would seem to me good (and necessary) to transfer Nardin to Cava and Silimbri to Mercato.

Both have to change environments and the mutual transfer seems the most obvious. Or otherwise as you three believe, consulting together. May Jesus bless us.

I remind Fr. Anella of meeting the Bishop of Santa Fé (U.S.A.) who is coming to Rome.

N. 748

Fr. Fraraccio had informed Fr. Justin of the fact that the Sacred Congregation for Religious had told him to put him aside! "You were right to confide those things to me. "The truth will set us free." This current truth frees me from many embarrassments for the other things that remain for me to do, before handing over my week to the Lord."

Pianura, 12 - 24 - 1954

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Merry Christmas! And thanks for the good wishes.

For the rest, you were right to confide those things to me. "The truth will set us free." This current truth frees me from many embarrassments for the other things I have to do before handing over my week to the Lord.

From you and from those who call themselves sons to me, I do not ask and do not want anything more than fortiter et suaviter to observe all our articles both relating to the ascetical, liturgical and apostolic life.

Remember what I wrote to you "under the accidents lies the substance¹⁴" if you remove or neglect the accidents, you remove and neglect the substance. It is a very useful principle for religious observances, which may seem accidental.

In each Council meeting re-read some chapters of the Consti-

¹⁴ Fr. Justin mentions the letter he sent on 24 October 1953 to Fr. Fraraccio himself. See letter 727 in this volume.

tutions to zealously observe them. Fr. Manzo let us read it, do you remember? And it was fine.

Goodbye. Make yourself a saint.

N. 749

It will be good to bear in mind, and, on occasion, to point out that from 1941 onwards (except for one year only, 1947) the so-called government of the Congregation has been able to do nothing other than carry out the orders and directives of the Most Reverend Apostolic Visitors who succeeded one another without interruption (except 1947). Everyone has done us good... but...

Pianura, January 2, 1955

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Happy Epiphany to you and to the confreres!

1. I have not been able to communicate your admission to Di Domenico from Catania, because I have forgotten his address. However, it is repeated in his documents, which I sent, let him know as soon as possible.

2. Fr. Palomba tells me that you communicated to him that he can do the holy vows. If he has been given a dispensation from the second year of novitiate, I would like to know officially.

3. I send the agreements for the parishes of Pianura. They should be sent to the Sacred Congregation for Religious. It points out well that we are not dealing with new assignments or new jobs, but with the dismemberment of a single parish that we have had for ... almost forty years.

4. It will be good to keep in mind, and, on occasion, to point out that from 1941 onwards (except for one year only, 1947) the so-called government of the Congregation has been able to do nothing but follow the orders and directives of the Most Reverend Apostolic Visitors followed without interruption (except 1947). Everyone has done us good... but ...

May Jesus bless us.

N. 750

The intervention of Fr. Ugo is requested so that the Sisters can go to Laureana.

Pianura, 3 - 2 - 1955

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

You see what to answer to Mons. Pintonello.

My sister the Sister tells me that their Most Reverend Fr. Visitor has forbidden them to accept the position of Laureana. I think that given our impossibility to immediately find other personnel and the urgency of opening that orphanage, we could obtain from the Most Reverend Visitor of the Sisters the revocation of his prohibition. I hope you have already gotten it.

Hoping to see you soon.

If you are free, would you like to preach the Forty-Hours sermons in Pianura?

N. 751

Try to conclude the spiritual alliance between us and the various female Religious Congregations that you serve spiritually. We already have it: 1) with that of the Most Precious Blood; 2) with the Crucified Adorers; 3) with the Daughters of the Visitation of Barra; 4) with the Sisters of Reparation of St. Prisco.

Pianura, 2 - 8 - 1955¹⁵

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I enclose a piece from the *Quotidiano* dated February 26, 1955. Make the act of humility to write a petition to this American

¹⁵ This letter is definitely misdated. It could be dated February, 28, 1955.

billionaire to get something, and thus free us from the current financial nightmare. The ways of the Lord are many! Who knows? You must be good at obtaining the address, perhaps through the author of the article traced through the newspaper. If it doesn't seem right to you, send me back the enclosed article.

Even with that other from Canada you have to make an attempt to ask for something, not you but for example Fr. Anella without making it clear that it is the same institution that asked him for that loan. Don't you think?

Then try to conclude the spiritual alliance between us and the various female Religious Congregations that you serve spiritually. We already have it: 1) with those of the Most Precious Blood; 2) with the Crucified Adorers; 3) with the Daughters of the Visitation of Barra; 4) with the Sisters of Reparation of St. Prisco.

We can talk about it next time.

For the Council, I enclose Morciano Alb's application. Become all saints, all of you.

N. 752

2 - 12 - 1955

For Fr. Vicar

1. A lay brother to assist Cav. Cavalietti of Montecalvo Irpino (Br. Demetrio refused for reasons of... age and hardships) 2. Letter from Fr. Ciro from Venezuela.

3. Fr. Master of Novices.

Caccavallo

N. 753

I would like the sale of the goods donated to us to be absolutely avoided while the donor is still alive, who would suffer greatly! In the near future I am alluding to the assets of Cavalietti di Montecalvo.

Pianura, 2 - 21 - 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

I send the circular for holy Lent 1955.

In choosing the master for the lay brothers, keep in mind also Fr. Lanzaro and Fr. Esposito. I would also say Fr. Castiglione if it does not seem imprudent to ask for dispensations. (The name mentioned ... doesn't fit).

I would like the sale of the goods donated to us to be absolutely avoided while the donor is still alive, who would suffer greatly! In the near future I am alluding to the assets of Cavalietti di Montecalvo.

It is necessary that two or three fathers go from house to house to all these Americans residing in Naples and elsewhere, and ask, and propose, and organize, etc. To this end I am praying to one of our people here in Pianura... but I am unable to overcome the common indolence.

Fr. Fontana told me that you had proposed the same thing to him for a wider range. But then start from here, which is easier, heading to Posillipo, near which the Allied Command is located.

This is your lent!

Fr. Torromacco came to see me one evening and also stayed overnight in Pianura.

We work for the Lord.

N. 754

Let me know something about your sermons in the churches of Rome and the religious houses you serve, it's what makes me enjoy the most among all the other news!

Pianura, 2 - 22 - 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I would reply to this letter from Very Rev. Fr. Corrado with the attached; if, on the other hand, you do not want to send it to him, you will reply as best you think *in Domino*.

Bearing in mind that in Fiume (di Palma Campania) we have a beautiful property with a large orphanage under construction and the obligation to look after that population; and that at a short distance, i.e. in Poggiomarino, there is another property, about 11 acres of very precious land, which we have not yet acquired due to our indolence. It would be worth establishing a person in Sarno who would take care of all these needs rather than sending him from Pianura. Sarno is a short distance from Poggiomarino, and Fiume and with beautiful streets.

Let me know something about your sermons in the churches of Rome and the religious houses you serve, it's what makes me enjoy the most among all the other news!

Become all saints.

Also ask your confreres in America for periodic information about religious life in the strictest sense.

Goodbye.

Fr. Corrado's address is:

Very Rev. Canon Fr. Michele Corrado - at the Seminary (Salerno)
SARNO

N. 755

Pianura, 2-24-1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

The bearer Rev. Fr. Agostino Pietro of the Diocese of Monreale has permission to reside in a religious community and celebrate in the same religious house. I've known him for several years.

Our communities (for example of orphans) need internal Chaplains: one could not host them in one of our houses Fr. e.g.

Posillipo or Pianura and thus give another father the opportunity to occupy another external chaplaincy? As far as I know, it presents no danger to our environments. Think about it, in Council.

May Jesus bless us.

P. S. This is more or less like Fr. Palomba who will now be doing the holy vows: with circumstances, however, that make him superior.

N. 756

Every good wish from Heaven, so that you may be able to put, preserve and increase the seraphic fervor in the society of Divine Vocations.

Pianura, March 5, 1955

Dear Fr. Ugo,

J.M.J.

Every good wish from Heaven, confirmed by the Most Precious Blood of Jesus and by the tears of the Sacred Heart of Our Lady of Sorrows, so that you (Help of Christians, Virgin Mary) may be able to maintain and increase the seraphic fervor in the society of Divine Vocations and at the same time see it soon freed from the nightmare of the crushing debt which prevents it from fully developing and carrying out its divine program.

N. 757

Request for spiritual assistance for two fractions of Montesano Scalo; again, solicit donations to solve the problems of the Congregation and preparations for Easter.

Pianura, March 12, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

As Fr. Cortazzi will have already written to you, Fr. Enrico Pepe from Montesano in the name of the Bishop asks for a priest who, residing with the confreres in Montesano Scalo, would spiritually look after those two fractions that you know, erected in *Vicaria Curata*. I told him that I would write to you about it and that he was waiting for an answer directly from you, from Rome.

I got it into my head that if a Monsignor of Rome (or even Msgr. Giannattasio) made Gagliardi understand verbally and in writing that he would really be doing the Church a great favor (and greatly appreciated by the Holy Father, or *aliis verbis* at the Holy See) if with his generosity, he would also be generous with us.

Judge for yourself on the topicality of the thing. I know he comes to Rome every week.

I would like the group of singers (who would come to Pianura for Holy Week) to also prepare the songs in the vernacular for the Three Hours of Agony, as there is no Sister who can practice them with the novices.

If they don't already know them, they should choose an easy author, and possibly in one voice, because the people are not helped in their fervor by complicated songs. After all, I defer to them and their master. For my part, the most I can wish for is that they scream so much that even the deaf can hear as well as wake the sleepers. So I'll take advantage of it too.

Which of you would then preach for me the Passion sermon? I'm afraid to ask the preacher of the Agony, because he could become horrified.

When will I get good news from Rome about our troubles?

I didn't call you. If I really need to, I will use the phone myself sometime.

All good from the one who loves us without end.

When writing to me, write the address by hand so that I can immediately understand the sender and not postpone reading.

N. 758

Suggestions on how to provide help for Fr. Santucci in Mola di Bari.

Pianura, 3 - 17 - 1955

Dear Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

As for help to Fr. Santucci, I could not immediately do anything other than assure him by telegram that he would soon have it.

Who?

D. Palomba here teaches more hours a day, at least three. Fr. Pietro D'Agostino it is imprudent to put him immediately in external ministries.

I would say: that is the place for Fr. Zennaro who suffers from the forced inaction of Mezzegra: or of Fr. Torromacco whose situation and intentions, however... I do not know. Nor did I take the liberty of inquiring or questioning him about it in his only brief (cordial) visit made to me on the evening of his arrival.

In the meantime, I'm trying to send you Di Gennaro, provisionally, but I don't know if I'll succeed. Now he is busy with the forty hours at his parish at Romani. I'll telegraph, if he ever leaves at once, to reassure you. But if someone from Pianura goes there, at least Fr. Vitale should come here to help us. I would also say Fr. Tisi could go there... but I think Mola needs a choiced personal.

The Lord enlighten you. Make yourself a saint.

N. 759

Students from Rome are asked to go to Pianura for the celebrations of Holy Week. The lawyer Pallottino was a member of the pontifical commission for the recovery of the economic situation.

Pianura, March 21, 1955 - St. Benedict

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I hope you were able to provide for Fr. Santucci's help. From here I didn't succeed, not even tentatively.

As for the number of young people you could send to Pianura for functions... and also for the Easter holidays... things are like this. Since the pupils of the lower gymnasium are being sent home, the whole floor of the former novitiate, capable of more than fifty people, remains empty. The local Bursar makes no difficulty; on the contrary he is pleased that everyone comes as well. Fr. Rector, provided that the young people are assisted by their Fr. Master Fr. Alberto, does not even seem to be against it.

Except that while the singers can come as early as Passion Saturday, the others (if you want to send them) should come on Holy Wednesday, that is, when these pupils finish school and leave for the holidays. So you order things, and you will inform (me or the Rector) of how you decide.

I have not yet sent those two documents requested by the lawyer Pallottino both because they didn't tell me they were urgent and because I would wait for some explanation about their destination. Even the lawyer Russo said to wait for some explanation and to also know the title's owner.

Fr. Palomba made his profession on St. Joseph's day. I will send the document at the first opportunity.

Goodbye. Make yourselves all saints.

P. S. The Administrator told me that he wanted to deliver the monthly collection to me and thus save postage; I then would have passed it on to the General Fund through people who... never fail to come to Rome often, such as for example, the Treasurer of the Mother House. And so I have a monthly amount from Torre del Greco that Miss Soprano sent me. Then I learned that the Administrator preferred to continue sending by mail as before. I will remit this monthly rental through the first one that comes.

I repeat what I have made your Secretary observe on other occasions: the real position of the undersigned must be communicated to the Bishops and superiors of the houses, so as not to embarrass the Ordinaries in relations with our Congregation, which then always ends up redounding to our detriment.

Pianura, March 24, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Yesterday His Exc. Archbishop Castaldo sent a priest from Pozzuoli with all the paperwork relating to the parishes and he wanted me to sign it. But the letter from the Most Reverend Father Apostolic Visitor was also enclosed and I had to read it. Now in it is explicitly said that you must sign as Vicar General with full powers, so I refused to affix my signature, fearing to do something against the will of the Rev. Fr. Visitor. I assured the priest-ambassador that you yourself would be in Pozzuoli shortly, to sign those agreements.

After the observations made to that erroneous formula (*ad nutum Sanctae Sedis et Ordinarii*), the Bishop only put *ad nutum Ordinarii*, so that the parishes are entrusted to the religious, however *more saecularium* and therefore *ad personam*, not to the Congregation, and for each parish is named a pastor.

Not having been previously questioned about the current names, the religious who had previously been in charge have been nominated for each one. So Fr. Egidio Porrino is among the parish priests.

We should (it seems to the undersigned) to obtain from the Bishop an explicit declaration regarding our freedom to replace individuals, when there is need for any reason, without however that every time we must come to a formal renunciation of the previous titular and the formal appointment of another, just as we explicitly asked for authorization for the individual parish priests

of this area to reside in the central religious house until there was a religious community in the individual parish churches or in the respective parishes.

I say this because some bishops (e.g. that of Vallo) easily concede that in place of Fr. Verde in S. Antonino of Altavilla, and in place of Fr. Galasso in Camella, we put another capable person, without however changing the real appointed priest, instead the Bishop of Nicastro when I promised him another one in Giacci's place, without even writing to me, announced the competition for the parish (of Giacci) as if it had remained vacant. If even in Pozzuoli they wanted to do this it would be very serious to accept, because we could no longer freely dispose of... seven priests.

I must also say that in drafting the Conventions, they once again mentioned my name as one of the two parties, while you have to sign it yourself. Therefore I repeat what I have made your Secretary observe on other occasions: it must be communicated to the Bishops and superiors of the houses the real position of the undersigned, in order not to embarrass the Ordinaries in relations with our Congregation, which then always ends up redounding to our detriment.

Happy Annunciation to you and to all of the Community of Rome. Goodbye.

N. 761

Information relating to Zullo and foundations. Even Cardinal Lercaro asks for help.

Pianura, May 3, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

I am sending you these correspondences concerning information (Zullo) and foundations.

As for foundations, although it is not possible to open new houses now, the individual proposals must be carefully considered, even with site inspections, and if there was no urgency on the part of the proponents, and it was seen as advantageous on our part, we could prudently mind defer, postpone etc. instead of giving a categorical refusal: always save any freedom on the part of the proponents to turn to other religious, and without assuming positive commitments for the rest of us.

Sounds like a good principle for a U.S. location the one Fr. Ciro talks about in his letter to which you will answer officially.

From the Prelate of S. Lucia del Mela I enclose the first letter of last year and the last of this year. De Filippis liked the proposal very much.

Even Cardinal Lercaro writes to me that he has forty empty parishes and would like ours for some place. If you want to visit him it will be good. He could be the Cardinal Protector. I replied that as soon as possible we would try to serve him.

We don't stop praying.

I had to give up and put myself back in the hands of the doctors but I hope that the Lord will free me.

Goodbye.

N. 762

Permanent hospitality for Fr. Costagliola in Anagni. Torre Piscicelli and Guantai.

Pianura, May 4, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

Yesterday our Most Excellent Bishop of Pozzuoli sent the parish priest of S. Maria to find out where we would welcome Rev. Costagliola. I said to him: "Anagni" having heard this, I don't remember whether I heard from you personally or from others.

If you have established this, keep the local Superior informed, so that he can prepare the room and some occupation for the brother who is capable of many things, and it will be good if you write to the Bishop about it, saying where the said Fr. Costagliola should go.

It seems that we want to return to Guantai. It would be better to take up that post which is gaining importance; and now that we have a parish in Torre Piscicelli and soon a large religious house, it could be like a section, such is the proximity and ease of access, being joined by an excellent, flat road. I would like to know something about it to regulate myself if I am asked by the Curia of Naples. However, the matter does not appear to be immediately resolved.

Become all saints.

Pray for the Novitiate! The devil takes away several of them, one by one.

N. 763

Fr. Justin has not yet given up on the economic collapse and is looking for glimmers of light and hope everywhere. He offers information about the establishment of the Opera of Religious Vocations.

Pianura, May 31, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

May Jesus bless us.

I can't come for June 2nd, other than my health conditions, also for an exhortation that I promised to the dear Camaldolese hermits for the first Friday of the month.

Having read in the newspaper that the Marquis of Santa Croce (now I don't remember his name, it seems Francesco Rule) one of the millionaires of Mexico, became a Franciscan and has destined all his wealth to finance religious works, I wrote to the Very Reverend Minister General of the Friars Minor Fr. Sepinski Agostino,

and to the Definitor General for Latin America Fr. Gueto Filippo, recommending our situation. I also said that if they wanted to find out in person the truth of my request they would be welcome to Viale Cortina d'Ampezzo. Who knows by which way the Lord will want to provide us for his mercy!

I have also read of the Work of Religious Vocations, founded on the initiative of the Sacred Congregation for Religious in imitation of that of Ecclesiastical Vocations of the Congregation for Seminaries. Make sure that all our people know it and send me a copy of the relative printed matter.

Goodbye. I reciprocate your wishes.

P. S. From 5 to 10 June Fr. Salvatore Di Fusco will have sermons in Palma Campania. I had forced myself to replace him in the Novitiate. If I could not go, could Fr. Verde be absent from Rome and stay with the novices for a few days? Bye!

N. 764

Fr. Carlo Zennaro's associative difficulties with Fr. Garofalo.

Pianura June 17, 1955

Dear Fr. Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

Following friction between Fr. Garofalo and Fr. Zennaro, the latter must have sought a post in the diocese of Comacchio, hence the enclosed request from that Vicar General. I defer it to you for the answer.

The Most Excellent Ordinary must be informed that he would accept him, as the aforementioned Fr. Zennaro was rehabilitated (through the Bishop of Cerreto Sannita, then Administrator of Piedimonte d'Alife) on condition that he remain entrusted to our Congregation in some of our religious houses. So you see.

Fr. Zennaro has many fine gifts and is capable of a lot and wants to work a lot. It was a real purgatory for him this year in Mezzegra in the impossibility of working properly. It is true that for his belongings he needs to keep the alms from the masses he celebrates, but with his personal work he makes a lot of money wherever he goes (teaching up to high school, preaching, pastoral care, music and singing) so I would like him to stay with us as an aggregate.

Goodbye.

N. 765

Fr. Justin never tires of knocking on various doors for financial aid. It seems that he would not really want to die leaving the Congregation in debts.

Pianura, June 27, 1955

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

See if a visit to the Minister General of the Friars Minor or at least to the Most Reverend Father Gueto Filippo Definitore General for Latin America (Via S. Maria Mediatrice, 25 - corner of Via Aurelia 211) does not seem good to you to ask if they have received my registered letter in which I asked at least for the address of the Marquis of Santa Croce Francesco Rule, their religious in Mexico.

Similarly, it would be necessary to approach the Knights of Columbus who are so generous (the newspaper said that they have allocated so many millions of dollars for charitable works) and to propose to them to help us in part, in everything, even if they wanted to, by buying for their works what is on sale.

Some influential person should be found to introduce us to them. Could it be Msgr. Pintonello, Archbishop for the army?

Some help could also be obtained from the Knights of Malta. Let's try.

Perhaps you need a precise order to the Rectors, who have sec-

ond year novices as prefects *quam primum* to the novitiate. Since they need them, they will not induce themselves to release them!
Goodbye.

May Jesus bless us. Become saints.

N. 766

He appoints someone to carry out the vocation exam of some aspirants and to search for Curia documents.

Pianura, 7 - 8 - 1955

Dear Fraraccio,

J.M.J.

From Comm. Sagliocco... nothing. I would have telegraphed you if I had anything!

Did you go to the General of the Friars Minor to ask at least the address of the Marquis Santa Croce of Mexico, who became a friar? I was hoping for it and I still hope for it. If the Fr. Minister General is not at his headquarters, one can ask the Rev. Fr. Filippo Cueto Definitore General for Latin America (Rome - Via S. Maria Mediatrix 25, Corner with Via Aurelia 211). Called Marquis of Santa Croce, his name is Francesco Rule.

I enclose a statement from the men of Gorga, brought here to Pianura by the postal officer of the place. Also the response from the Cardinal of Bahia about the Sisters and the request for information about Giagnacovo. Replying, on my behalf, apologize for my delay.

Appoint someone to carry out the vocational exam of some aspirants and to search for Curia documents.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 767

Renna would have died happy if he had known of Fr. Justin's continuous interest in his case and in his person. A few months before his death he had asked for the grace to be able to die in the Vocationary.

Pianura, 7 - 15 - 1955

Dear Fraraccio.

Came to Pianura Lauro. Some people told him about us and the present difficulties. He almost had some promises for which I explained things to him prudently.

Furthermore, the current Minister of the Interior is a villager of Monsignor Camela

to which I also write if he could help us.

I would like you (if you still have time) to postpone the sales.

Become saints.

P. S. What did you establish for Renna?

CHAPTER V

Letters to Br. Francesco Frieri

Br. Frieri used to call himself "Our Servant" and made servitude his second nature. As a widower with children, he heard the call and answered with admirable stubbornness, without hesitation or retreat. He was born in Caivano in the province of Avellino in 1899, entered the Congregation in 1945 and made his holy vows in 1948. He was tireless and industrious in helping the Congregation by traveling not only to Brazil, but also to the U.S.A., Mexico, and Venezuela, and according to the testimony of Fr. Justin himself, he became the channel of divine providence for the sustenance of our students during the years of the economic crisis. He fell asleep piously in the Lord on April 17, 1972 in Posillipo.

N. 768

As soon as you can, send news about yourself, where you are, what you do, and also some news of the religious conditions of the countries you visit and especially from the point of view of vocations.

Pianura of Naples, May 6, 1951

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless us.

I could not cash the check from the bank of Bahia because it was not written properly. At the bank I was told what you have to do. You must write to the bank of Bahia and have a cashier's check issued to you (this is how you must say: a cashier's check) made out to the Reverend Russolillo Giustino and as soon as you have it you will send it to me directly.

I think you don't have much free time and therefore you don't write. As soon as you can, send news of yourself, where you are, what you do, and also some news of the religious conditions of the countries you visit and especially from the point of view of vocations. I'm sure you never neglect all the practices of piety and the holy sacraments and that you also try to spread what good you can among your neighbor.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 769

Providence begins to arrive through Brother Friari. Saint Justin approves and encourages. We would like to be able to welcome many and many other youngsters, children and orphaned children, not counting all those we already have at home!

Pianura of Naples, July 14, 1951

Dear brother Francis,

May Jesus bless us.

We are celebrating all the holy masses that you have collected for us. I don't have the addresses of the donors and therefore I can't write to them. Send me their addresses and I will write.

I gave the Bahia and Montevideo checks to our Procurator in Rome, Fr. Giorgio Saggiomo, and just now I sent him this, which you had renewed.

We, as usual, have great need for many things! We would like to be able to welcome many and many other youngsters, children and orphaned children, without counting all those we already have at home! Therefore, as soon as you receive my letter, send the ten thousand (?). But you must make it clear to the Bank that they must send them to the Vatican and precisely: "To the Institute for Works of Religion, in the Vatican. Vatican City, Rome", so that they are credited to Sac. Giustino M. Russolillo, Pianura of Naples, Vocationist Fathers.

In Naples they don't know the value of the Uruguayan peso. How much is it worth in Italian lire?

Our fathers have not yet gone to Chile. Become a saint in charity, in humility, in patience. May Jesus bless you.

N. 770

Fr. Fraraccio says that it would be better if you came yourself to bring the sums you collect, never mind that money goes away, rather than letting others know so many things. But you do as you see fit since you have judgment and criterion.

Rome, August 9, 1951

Dear Brother Friari,

May Jesus bless us.

I received your letter. I wrote to the Bishop of Montevideo a few days before you sent me the telegram. Rest assured that I have written to him, thanking him for what he has done for us, giving you permission to collect throughout his Diocese. But if they don't want to anymore, patience!

I have not written to the Bishop of Florida. We do not have subjects available to send them, we will see later, if the Lord wants.

I'm here in Rome preaching spiritual exercises for the nuns. As soon as I get back to Pianura, I'll tell you exactly the number of Holy Masses you sent me. There are several hundred of them, and we are celebrating them. I don't yet know how much they will give me for the pesos, because not even the Vatican has been able to collect it yet. It will be better if you send in Italian lira through the Banco di Napoli or something else. Send me soon what you have collected. It's really needed. Saint Cono is the protector of Reggiano, if I manage to have his life I will send it to the Bishop you mention. Fr. Fraraccio says that it would be better if you came yourself to bring the sums you collect, never mind that money is spent, rather than letting others know so many things. But you do as you see fit since you have judgment and criterion.

We have received from the Bank of Italy the amount of Uruguayan pesos.
May Jesus bless you.

N. 771

Be careful wherever you go. Don't push yourself when you are not welcome.

November 10, 1951

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless us.

We have received from the Bank of Italy the money you sent in Uruguayan currency. Of the cruzeiros of Bahia... nothing has come down to us yet. I gave the checks to Fr. Giorgio and he passed it on to a bank in Rome, but he got nothing yet.

Be careful wherever you go. Don't push yourself when you are not welcome. If the ecclesiastical authority forbids you, leave immediately. I can't do anything to get you authorized by Rome.

We pray for you and St. Joseph accompanies you.

In the diocese and state of Bahia, do not to beg for money because the Archbishop forbade it.

N. 772

St. Justin had difficulty following the travels of Brother Frieri, who believed in his mission as a channel of providence for the Congregation and transmitted everything to the founder with the utmost scrupulousness.

Pianura of Naples, 1951

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless us.

I received your latest from Buenos Aires. Thanks to the divine

providence and to you. You write to me that, some time ago, the Apostolic Nuncio of Haiti – San Domingo had allowed you to go there. Make sure of this thing. Because I know that a friend of ours wrote to that Nuncio on your behalf and then I don't know anything more.

Staying in Buenos Aires, try to find Msgr. Roberto Wilkinson who must be one of the parish priests of Buenos Aires. He knew us and helped us greatly on many occasions when he was studying in Rome and has also benefited us in the past. However, he has not written for many years, because he is very busy. But he is always a friend, a benefactor, our protector. He will be able to advise and help you and perhaps have a way of getting you to go to the United States. Let's leave it to the Lord!

All you need to do is let him read this. Then you will send me his precise address and I will immediately write to him.

Become a saint in patience, with prayer and union with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and with the immaculate Heart of Mary Most Holy. But do not burden anyone.

May Jesus bless you.

P. S. I hope they send you from Montevideo the last letters I sent to that address.

N. 773

We find ourselves with our hands tied and we don't know what to do to obtain the permits you ask for and which you would need to be able to collect, without fear, donations for our orphans and hospitalized people. St. Joseph will lead the way and the souls in purgatory will open the doors for you. I trust in the Blessed Virgin and St. Michael.

Pianura, 1951

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless us.

Today I am writing to Fr. Roberto Wilkinson to thank him. The Capuchin Father went down to Genoa and having no way to pay, he sold the contents of those parcels and gave only two, and by mail... so that another thousand and hundreds of lire had to be paid. Patience, don't be sorry for this.

As for the cruzeiros of Bahia, nothing has yet been received with all the practices made up to now.

I handed over the Uruguayan pesos checks to the Bank of Italy and I haven't had anything yet. Patience.

We find ourselves with our hands tied and we don't know what to do to obtain the permits you ask for and which you would need to be able to collect, without fear, donations for our orphans and hospitalized people. St. Joseph will lead the way and the souls in purgatory will open the doors for you. I trust in the Blessed Virgin and St. Michael.

I hear that the Cairano property has been sold and it seems to me a great loss, if it concerns the land.

I don't want you to have to worry so much for us. If you do not succeed in what you want to do for the work of vocations, come back in peace, and you will be quiet in one of our houses.

Maybe we'll go to Venezuela, but we are not sure yet.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 774

I hope and wish that you are always well, and that, especially in this month, good St. Joseph will bless you and assist you with his bounty. Saint Joseph, father of providence, will continue to assist you in your work for the glory of God and for the good of divine vocations.

We had the honor of a visit from His Eminence the Cardinal of Bahia, Don Augusto Alvaro Da Silva; the enthusiasm of the people and of our students was great, and the joy of the eminent guest was visible, who would have liked to bring some of our priests with him.

Pianura of Naples, March 11, 1953

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless you.

I didn't answer you right away, because I was about a month sick. I assure you, however, that I have written to those three gentlemen whose addresses you sent me many days ago.

I hope and wish that you are always well, and that, especially in this month, good Saint Joseph will bless and assist you with his bounty. St. Joseph, father of providence, will continue to assist you in the work for the glory of God and for the good of divine vocations.

I inform you that last February we had the honor of a visit from His Eminence Cardinal of Bahia, Don Augusto Alvaro Da Silva; great was the enthusiasm of the people and of our students, and the joy of the eminent guest was visible. He would have liked to bring some of our priests with him, but it was not possible, given the prohibition of the Holy Father who does not allow emigrating before state elections. However, it was decided that as soon as these are completed we would send the requested priests, in order for them to spread to the other dioceses of America as well.

Again, a few days ago we received a visit from His Excellency Monsignor Cristoforo Carullo, Archbishop of Conza, Sant' Angelo dei Lombardi... who came to pressure us to take as soon as possible the house offered to us in Andretta¹ "Stella Mattutina."

We hope that the good Andreattani of America, as you write to me, will help us generously.

I entrust you to the good St. Joseph and I bless you.

¹In his Book of the Soul Saint Justin dated 16 January 1946 wrote: We have already accepted for a long time, but we expect the Municipality to give us the building. The Municipality, I don't know why, doesn't respond. We would like to bring our scholasticate to Conza and the Novitiate to Andretta.

N. 775.

After your visa in the United States expires, you travel to San Domingo. I wish you could do much good and work with ever-greater fruit for our Congregation... and then I would like you to go to Cuba as well.

Pianura, April 15, 1953

Dear Brother Frieri,

I fully approve and I am happy that, as you wrote to me, after the expiration of your stay in the United States, you will go to San Domingo. I wish you could do much good and work with ever-greater fruit for our Congregation, and then from there I would like you to go to Cuba as well. May you travel through all those areas with ever-greater luck and blessings. The Lord will continue to bless you.

When you go to San Domingo, I would like you to report, as indeed you always have, to a religious house.

Best wishes and greetings, and courage! May Jesus bless you!

N. 776

If Rev. Fr. Ruggiero is Sicilian, he will be pleased to know that we have opened a house in Agrigento and Canicattì. In Agrigento we have a parish and an orphanage in formation and in Canicattì another large orphanage.

Pianura of Naples, May 8, 1953

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless you.

I have already written twice to Reverend Fr. Ruggiero², from whom I had received two letters with the four thousand dollars. Now I am writing to him for the third time. But the wax scraps I have not received.

² Pastor of the parish of St. Lucy in Newark, New Jersey.

The chaplain of the Saturno ship gave us the three large parcels you sent us, with everything you had put in (paper, candy, waistcoat, fabric, lamps, pencils, etc.).

I have already written to you that on my own you can go to San Domingo, Haiti, Cuba, etc. I only recommend that you always contact religious houses and reverend parish priests.

About Fr. Montoro, I've never understood what you want. He is now superior of the house of Frosinone, contrada Polledrara, Kambo orphanage.

If Rev. Fr. Ruggiero is Sicilian, he will be pleased to know that we have opened a house in Agrigento and Canicattì. In Agrigento we have a parish and an orphanage in formation and in Canicattì another large orphanage.

I'll send you a cover letter separately. If it doesn't seem enough to you, you tell me in what terms it must be done and if I can I will do it.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 777

As to prolonging your stay in America, and going to Puerto Rico or Brazil, I give you every permission and blessing. You will arrange yourself as it will seem best to you before the Lord and as best you will succeed for the service of the Congregation.

1953

Dear confrere Francesco Frieri,

May Jesus bless you.

There was no need to go to Naples to collect the sum (3,250,000) that you collected for our orphanages, because the excellent Mr. Donato Colavita sent it to us by mail, as far as Pianura, by means of the Ambrosian bank. And divine providence ordered that this sum should arrive together with your letter, and precisely in the days when we had to make the first payment of five million for

the house-orphanage in Rome, where we will shortly begin our work. The total price is thirty-two million, because around the house, which is really excellent, there is a lot of building land, where it will be possible to develop other buildings over time if we want to set up a national orphanage on the “children’s village” type. I immediately had Fr. Vicar Fr. Giuseppe Di Fusco write to you, and I also instructed him to write to you how the thirty-two parcels sent by the... arrived in excellent condition and intact. The bread, even the fresh one, arrived in good condition. I was very pleased with the registers that Mr. D. Cairano gave you for us.

If you have the precise address of the Antoniano orphanage in Bari, Campobasso and Messina, send it to me to be sure of the delivery of what you wrote to send to them.

Don’t worry about the holy masses that you gradually wrote us to celebrate for the intentions of the benefactors.

Furthermore, you can also assure all those who benefit us, that two masses are applied every day, all year round, (by me and by Fr. Giorgio Saggiomo) for the benefactors.

We have sent a letter of thanks by ordinary mail to all the addresses you sent us.

As to prolonging your stay in America, and going to Puerto Rico or Brazil, I grant you every permission and blessing. You will arrange yourself as it will seem best to you before the Lord and as best you will succeed for the service of the Congregation.

To collect the stuff from the ships I have always sent a trusted person such as, for example, Fr. Fraraccio. What then if they are young, and may look like dolls as they told you, what can I do? Personally I can’t go.

N. 778

Pianura of Naples, 10 - 27 - 1954

J.M.J.

This is to certify that our religious Brother Francesco Frieri is sent to our religious houses in Brazil (Itambè and Bahia) for services of office.

Sac. Justin M. Russolillo Superior General

N. 779

As for asking us for a parish in Colombia, I think the time has not yet come. I am always waiting for your help to carry on the construction sites with which we are building three houses. Try not to be a burden to the religious communities that grant you hospitality. It seems that Fr. Ciro has already received permission from the Bishop of Providence to open a house in his diocese.

Pianura of Naples, June 8, 1955

Dear Brother Frieri,

May Jesus bless you.

Now, finally, you give me a safe address, and I immediately respond. You didn't get the answer about what you wrote to me and sent through those German Franciscan Fathers.

As for asking us for a parish in Colombia, I think the time has not yet come, but you are right to write also to Fr. Fraraccio, the Fr. Vicar General in Rome.

The Rev. Monsignor Rotoli, auditor of the Nuncio, knows us and honors us with his benevolence.

Try not to be a burden to the religious communities that grant you hospitality.

It seems that Fr. Ciro has already had the permission from the Bishop of Providence to open a house in his diocese, on the property of the uncle of Br. Enrico De Cubellis, and you write to him,

sending him your address, so that he can send you the invitation to go to the U.S.A. as soon as possible.

I wish and pray from the Lord to keep you in religious fervor and good health. I am always waiting for your help to carry on the construction sites with which we are building three houses. Become a saint. Write often. May Jesus bless you.

N. 780

Request for financial aid sent through Brother Frieri.

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Dear Sir,

I attribute to design of the Heavenly Father that the renown of the munificent goodness of Your Excellency has come down to us.

The Society of Divine Vocations, approved by the Holy See, is going through a painful ordeal due to a serious financial deficit, which endangers its works, in which thousands of children of the people, mostly orphans, find assistance.

May your good heart come to our aid with a great charity, which I implore in the holy name of the Lord, at least once only, or periodically, according as you deem best to do.

If Your Excellency welcomes this plea and wishes to send us your donation, you can address it directly to the undersigned, or to the Holy See (Vatican City, Rome) indicating "Pro Società Divine Vocazioni", Vocationists of Pianura of Naples.

With eternal gratitude to the good Lord, I remain Devoted and obliged to your Excellency

Sac. Giustino M. Russolillo Superior General of Vocationists

CHAPTER VI

Letters to Fr. Giovanni Galasso

Born in 1912 in Sant'Andrea sul Garigliano in province of Frosinone, young John entered the Congregation in 1929 and was ordained a priest in 1941. He distinguished himself for his intelligence and piety. Eloquent and fascinating with his word he was a true apostle of divine vocations, especially for the Vocationist Sisters. After having occupied various positions of responsibility such as Novice Master, parish priest, rector and assistant general, he was then superior general for good 18 years, contributing notably to the growth and expansion of the congregation. He organized the Vocationist Apostles of Universal Sanctification and accompanied their development. He died a holy death in Posillipo on November 22, 1986.

N. 781

You are always my son and my friend. Always write to me with an open heart!

Pianura of Naples, 11 - 5 - 1932

Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You are always my son and my friend. And you have been and will be in proportion to your love and therefore to your union with Jesus.

We are a bit of a "symbol": we reflect outside what we are inside, and in our relationship we glimpse something of the relationship with Jesus.

Let's cultivate love with Jesus. Love is the beginning, middle and end! *Diligamus opere et veritate!*

Always write to me with an open heart! May Jesus satisfy you.

N. 782

I loved you and desired you by making you come to the Congregation and bind you to him through me in holy profession. Therefore you must simply consider a temptation and then fight and reject any doubts about my warm affection.

Pianura, December 29, 1932

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

To John Mary of the Trinity Galasso

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I seem to understand what you are suffering, but if you confide it humbly, simply, candidly, opening your soul and heart, at least as we open ourselves to a doctor in physical suffering, there would certainly be an increase in intimacy, mutual trust, consolation and strength in you. This is even more necessary in the distance, which could cloud and weaken our good friendship, as has happened with so many others.

I loved you and desired you by having you come to the Congregation and be bound to him through me in holy profession. Therefore you must simply consider a temptation and then fight and reject all doubts about my warm affection. Because the enemy usually begins by dividing hearts when he wants to arrive at dividing lives; he divides hearts with the doubt about the friend. Do not measure affection by external affective signs, but by actual evidence.

When Jesus and his representatives entrust souls to us, they always give us indisputable proof of love. For a young religious this proof of love is having an office of vigilance and of a small spiritual paternity over the brothers. This care of souls, even if it is just a beginning, according to your present state, is the most beautiful sign of promise of divine union. And it seems to me that you, even with your personal sacrifice, have known how to exercise it. I believe that on the one hand you suffer from seeing others with me, on the other you see it necessary for them.

By sacrificing your heart, you yourself pushed me to take better care of those you saw as more spiritually needy. This pleases me very much in a Vocationist religious, this falls in love with the heart of God, and certainly God will unite you more intimately to himself for this fact.

Extend this thought and loving vigilance to everyone; beginning to do everything to everyone for everyone to win them for Jesus Christ. You have to win everyone's esteem and trust. Never say anything bad to me about anyone, except when you really cannot manage to take it away yourself with all the prayers, penance, good examples and good words, etc.

I never want to love you like a prodigal son! Don't worry about this, don't envy this. It doesn't matter that it seems that the prodigal son who has made us fear his perseverance or who has made us cry over his abandonment, seems to celebrate more. I don't wish it to you, I don't wish any of our people the feast of the prodigal son. Stay true. I count on you.

I was sorry, years ago, that you went home for health reasons. I expect an integral Vocationist, in piety and study now, in works tomorrow. Now the Congregation, myself, and in them the divine Trinity want a hundred (a thousand, a million) of integral Vocationists to raise the world to divine union! Begin to be and to inflame the brothers.

May Jesus bless you.

I too spent a discolored Christmas, with no one coming from other houses to bring me a sweet note. In truth, now I was waiting for you only for the feast of my human heart, which you stole from me. Console and encourage professor Caruso. Show him respect, show him esteem, have true esteem and you will do him good.

Pianura, Epiphany Eve 1933

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My dear,

I was expecting you at least today, and therefore I didn't write to you; otherwise I would have tried to send you a letter for the divine Epiphany.

I too spent a discolored Christmas, with no one coming from other houses to bring me a sweet note. In truth, now I was waiting for you only for the feast of my human heart, which you stole from me. But I didn't want to ask you authoritatively from the rector, so as not to do my will. It's up to you to make me come to you again soon, you know the condition, and on my own I wish it. And mind you, that if January passes, I will no longer be able to come before Easter, having agreed to preach in Pozzuoli for the whole Lent or almost.

I heard that they made you preach to the people, and I enjoyed it, but I wanted to know it from you. The two new bathrooms are finally done, thus, in a few more days, we will begin to call the new aspirants with God's help. *Spiritus Domini* has come out and is successful, and if it perseveres and progresses, it will do well. I recommend that you read and meditate (and also use it for seminarians) the Catechism of Holiness by Fr. Desurmont, which is a small masterpiece.

As for the poor friend, having nothing good to say, I tell you nothing, may the Lord grant me the greatest possible benefit from this trial, which now takes on another form. He is no longer the one he once was, or at least as I used to dream of him. Enough.

Prayer is always effective. Let us expect, my dear, always new Epiphanies. Those of men are so many bitter disillusionments, which nevertheless do us good, because they make us better open our eyes and regulate our lives. Those of God then how desirable, lovable, ineffable they are.

I know that in this mystery, and for the whole octave that it lasts, blessed God is generous with these manifestations of his to souls. If you have this desire for Epiphany, I sincerely wish it. I am not saying Epiphany in terms of star, magi and gifts... but, in its complete sense, of new divine manifestations to the soul in an unforgettable way, to an ineffable degree.

When you study theology, you will be more disposed to divine things, as long as you arrive at those studies pure and humble. All theology is an Epiphany. But then there are the private Epiphanies, all our own and almost incommunicable. Amen, Alleluia!

Remain faithful to your post, until you die on the breach, if necessary. Have much compassion and charity for those who, ignorant and errant, being ourselves in need of charity and mercy. Help Buonomo in what you can after doing your own study. Console and encourage Professor Caruso. Show him respect, show him esteem, have true esteem and you will do him good.

May Jesus bless you. See you when you want.

N. 784

Never did an earthly lover desire and appreciate so much to embrace, kiss and keep the portrait of his distant friend with such tenderness, as much as the Lord desires, appreciates, embraces, kisses and preserves that divine image and likeness which is the soul of each one in proportion of his degree of grace.

Pianura, 1 -30 - 1933

My dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

All hopes have now become bitter doubt! And doubt against me because I didn't write to you. You are right! And even now I write while having dinner, alone, putting your book of the soul back to another day. But send it anyway, periodically. And the portraits? Think about this and tell your friends too: never did an earthly lover desire and appreciate so much and with such tenderness embrace, kiss and keep the portrait of his distant friend, as does the Lord desire, appreciate, embrace, kiss and keep that divine image and likeness that is the soul of each one in proportion to his degree of grace. So the Father seeing in the soul the living portrait of his Son, so the Word finding in the soul the living portrait of the Father, and so the Holy Spirit. I leave you all in this divine embrace in which I participate in an unusual way now.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 785

I awaited your letter with deep desire. Speak clearly when you write to me; do not use innuendos or suspensive dots.

Pianura, 10 - 25 - 1933

My dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I awaited your letter with deep desire. I am glad that you are well and that you are happy. Strive every day for your religious perfection and that of your dear seminarians. I will come to see you soon, don't worry. Speak clearly when you write to me; do not use innuendos or suspensive dots. I suffered on my return not finding you at home. Blessed be Jesus. In all these trials and detachments there is to be seen above all and almost exclusively a sign and action of God's love. Everything will pass, then what is written will also come true in us ... *et absterget Deus omnem lacrimam ab oculis eorum et mors ultra non erit neque luctus neque clamor...*

Now there are many tears left to dry. And Jesus who can, is far away. I wait. May he bless you.

N. 786

Think carefully before asking superiors what they cannot grant! Why weigh down their cross and make their solitude more desolate?

Pianura, 11 - 16 - 1933

My dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I await your letters and receive them with heartfelt desire. I do not want to say you more.

You give me no news of your personal studies that are very important to me.

However, what I would like most is the report of the observance of the holy vow of perfection, according to all daily personal experiences. Thus our letters would remain more useful to our spiritual progress.

The heart? We leave it weeping in a hidden corner, without consolation, until the one who made it finds it purified in his pain and will have mercy on it and take it totally within himself. We don't talk about it.

I was preparing to come and with real pleasure, must I say? Especially for you. But now the rector has asked me for something that I cannot grant, and this coming to give a refusal is painful for me and takes away even this little contentment. But never mind, I'll come just the same, even if it's just a duty.

Think carefully before asking the superiors what they cannot grant! Why weigh down their cross and make their solitude more desolate?

Reassure those two youngsters from St. Ambrogio that they

will certainly be received, although others have presented themselves (without a call) earlier, and for heaven's sake they have not been postponed. Now, though we've squeezed and squeezed, there are nine without beds.

Have you ever written to him? I mean, to the one who does not return? We must have charity and do him good.

How gladly I would let him accompany me, even as a layperson, when I come to Sezze and Orte. Ask him if he likes it. So let's talk about our holy vow, let's talk about our divine friend. The rest is nothing.

Goodbye, become saints. May Jesus bless you.

Keep Fr. Guerriero happy, he is very close to my heart.

It is charity to write to me often even if I cannot always answer always.

N. 787

Please satisfy me by studying a lot, by generously responding to the commitment made to God, and it will be the greatest satisfaction and proof of friendship you will give me.

Pianura, 11-27-1933

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My dear,

I am writing to you first, tonight, shortly after arriving in Pianura. For I have left you, it seems to me, weeping. I thank you for the charity with which you have surrounded me in Sezze. By now we will suffer from such detachments and distances. Part of our cross.

I didn't want to tell you everything my heart would have wanted to tell you, these days that we've been together.

Please satisfy me by studying a lot, by generously responding to the commitment made to God, and it will be the greatest satisfaction and proof of friendship you will give me.

Have these little seminarians pray for me... my dear nephews in Domino.

I hope to see you soon. May Jesus bless you. We love him.

N. 788

I hasten to send you the poem of resigned sadness. But if you want to come to Pianura, how are you going to sing it in Sezze? I want you too.

Pianura, 12 - 20 - 1933

My dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I hasten to send you the poem of resigned sadness.

But if you want to come to Pianura, how are you going to sing it in Sezze? I too want you very much. But I defer completely to the Lord who will manifest himself through your current rector, to whom, however, I won't write a word about it. See for yourself if you succeed, without any insistence that could then make you doubt the will of God. If necessary, I would certainly call you. But it's only for mutual consolation and we have to get used to these sacrifices.

I anticipate best wishes and thanks for the wishes you will give me, or rather you will bring me in real forms... I hope... according to the munificence of the rector.

May Jesus bless you.

We held the Pentecostal council. It worked out well. There were Fr. Verde, Fr. Boccuti, Fr. Polverino, as well as the priests from Pianura. It's still raining?

I liked your letter.

Make yourself a saint. I am preaching and writing on the subject of divine inspirations, considered as an image of the incarnation of the Word in every soul and life of ours. But we miss many that I would like to be present, we miss you...

After all, make the psalm your own: "*Audiam quid loquatur in me Dominus Deus (quoniam loquetur pacem = divine union, in plebem suam = our Congregation, et super sanctos suos = consecrated persons in the 3rd degree of charity, et super eos qui convertuntur ad cor = those who honor the Trinity inhabiting them).*"

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

Prepare a good philosophy exam and I will come and stay with you for a while, and see these crowds of people, who you say, participate in the banquet of the Word and of the Host.

I kiss the hand of my Fr. Franco Torromacco *quem diligo in veritate* (our evangelist would say).

N. 789

We must bring whole regions and whole nations and the whole world to the Holy Spirit. Daily communion with the oral and sacramental Word of God! And let's do it quickly! The word of God is a sword and must also cut. A word that does not cut is not the word of God, but of man.

Pianura, 12 - 23 - 1933

My dear,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Did I make you suffer a little (or a lot?) with this delay in writing to you?

Be patient. I thank the Lord for the good news about the frequency of the people to the Word of God and to the Eucharist. We must bring whole regions and whole nations and the whole world to the Holy Spirit, daily communion with the oral and sacramental Word of God! And let's do it quickly!

Durante will come to study for his purposes (not ours) in one of our houses immediately after Christmas, he will dress as a Vocationist until he leaves again for the exams in July.

I would like to send him with you to Sezze to help you in school and so you could study more. But he needs a professor of

science and mathematics for himself and in Pianura there is now Fr. Salesio who is competent.

You have had, I believe, your philosophy books for a long time and I trust that you are finally doing at least a good hour, I mean a good hour, really full, of philosophy class every day and precisely from 7 to 8 a.m. or in any case, before breakfast. As soon as you have a treaty ready let me know and I will come and examine you?

For the other subjects I have not yet provided the books. I hope to do it soon.

I anticipate my best wishes for a Holy Christmas. Will we see each other these days? I want it, but I don't dare impose it on you, because I don't want the discipline of the seminary to suffer.

I stayed in Cava, Badia and Annunziata. I saw your brother who looks so much like you outwardly.

I am also preaching the exercises to the Sisters Crocifisse Adoratrici in Naples (there are fifty nuns plus another twenty people).

Among other things: the word of God is a sword and must also cut. A word that does not cut is not the word of God, but of man.

Goodbye. Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 790

No matter how many disappointments I have had so far, and they are many of the kind, I still persist in believing that there is someone, or rather that I can find someone who is truly and profoundly and highly good and sweet to God and to me, and to look forward to him as the perfect friend. The stars send each other the kiss of light from afar, and so it is also of us that the same will of God unites hearts, and distances one from the other with the rest.

Rome, 1 - 14 - 1934

To Don Giovanni M. Galasso of the Trinity

My dear,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

This is the most I can do to you externally, in the present circumstance: write to you just a few hours after the farewell, as soon as I arrived in Rome, at the sound of the evening Angelus.

I didn't have the heart to reproach you for your penultimate letter, which was bad in the true sense. Because you said that perhaps it was the last time you wrote to me from Sezze, making me understand that you would be capable either of not writing to me again, or of giving way on your own, to escape the cross of petty opposition, or even persecution of the poor confrere.

I thought of this second hypothesis, and it is more reprehensible than the first. In reality, I do not believe you capable of either one or the other, and therefore I have not reproached you for it. And now I am writing to you more to have useful material to talk to you than to reproach you. That no matter how many disappointments I have had so far, and they are many of the kind, I still persist in believing that there is someone, or rather that I can find someone who is truly and profoundly and highly good and sweet to God and to me, and to look forward to him as a perfect friend.

This is how the Lord thinks of each of us, and I began to think of you and I want to think it again until proven otherwise.

Let us not give these proofs to the contrary, neither to God, nor to the image of God, the man who esteems us, loves us, helps us. On the contrary, let us strive ever more to be the ideal friend for Jesus and for souls. And in our case, I don't think it costs us any effort as it responds to a need of the heart. Even this miserable heart can betray us and then the Heart of Jesus, who is most faithful, will make us a duty of what is now a need so that his creature does not have to suffer what he, God, suffers! Meanwhile... the stars send each other the kiss of light from afar, and so it is also of us that the same will of God unites hearts, and distances one from the other with the rest. We remain with the desire for complete union. But we will enjoy it only in heaven.

Goodbye.

N. 791

This is a very delicate thing, and one that cannot be taken lightly. Catechism yes, sermon no. Not even in the form of meditation, which would also be a sermon. And by catechism we mean doing Christian doctrine, with the text in hand, question and answer, according to the text. The principle that obedience does not seek to put difficulties forward, but instead seeks to resolve them, cannot be instilled enough. Without the discipline of obedience there is no religious, nor is there a Congregation.

Pianura, 2 - 2 - 1941¹

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My dear,

It's not good for you to wait each time for my reply to the previous one in order to write, but if it helps and pleases you to confide in me, do so every day; I desire it from my part and I take it easy. I recommend that you apply yourself with holy patience, and methodically, to completing your program for this school year in order to successfully pass the exam.

On February 10, I received your letter.

I am not at all reproaching you for not writing more often. When you are perpetually professed, you will have the duty of the fifteen-year report, and to make it easier for you there are even modules of canon law, and no superior can authorize you to do something contrary to their prescription.

This is a very delicate thing, and one that cannot be taken lightly. Catechism yes, sermon no. Not even in the form of meditation, which would also be preaching. And by catechism we mean doing Christian doctrine, with the text in hand, question and answer, according to the text.

Clearer I can't tell you.

¹ Letter was begun on this date, but then continued with additions, on various dates, before being sent to the addressee

I am in Cava, due to the serious illness of Canon Ragone (the young man). Your brother is fine. It's the first one I've come across in the corridors. Heraclitus' brother has come and is staying in Pianura.

Sanctify holy Lent well and make sure that even the little seminarians entrusted to you, even though they cannot fast, get used to always doing corporal and spiritual penance, but especially in time of Lent. It will be useful to make a rather abundant list and read it in the dormitory and so each seminarian will be able to choose the one that suits him and likes it. This would be the office of the spiritual father, but in the dormitory, even the prefect can and must frequently exhort the youngsters to the practices of fervor.

Goodbye, not when it pleases us, but when it pleases the Lord to give us this pleasure.

Fr. Palmieri occasionally sends me a spiritual book that tastes like my taste. Now he has procured for me: *The book of the friend and the beloved*, by Blessed Raymond Lull. I enjoyed it very much. Blessed Suso and blessed Lull are two beautiful types for the Vocationist.

Bye. May Jesus bless you.

Today I leave from Cava. Today we celebrate the Immaculate of the apparitions. In the meantime, write when the need of the soul or the desire of the heart will give you matter and impulse.

I didn't expect to find resistance from the house of Sezze, to my instructions (about brother Vilardi). Don't add your part into this sad and painful office of putting your superiors on the cross. The principle that obedience does not seek to put difficulties forward, but instead seeks to resolve them, cannot be instilled enough. Without the discipline of obedience there is no religious, nor is there a Congregation.

Regarding the sermons, I hope they have obtained the Bish-

op's permission, if not, ask for it, and in the meantime stop, because we are all obliged to observe the sacred canons.

N. 792

My thought rests in you and trusts that you want to become a perfect religious, a perfect worker, a perfect fighter, a perfect friend, a perfect and ideal Vocationist. We are far from this ideal, but it shines in our soul and prompts and draws us and we walk towards it.

Pianura, 2 - 21 - 1934

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My dear,

Do not think that I abandon you, for my part I believe that it cannot be. On your part in the current dispositions, I don't even expect betrayal. May you always remain faithful to the Lord in his representatives. You have never displeased me, and currently only your letters I keep as a small sunny knoll, emerging from a dark, cold valley. I would like to accompany one by one and side by side all our men and all men; and much more those who are not only a work field, much less a battle field, but a place to rest!

My thought rests in you and trusts that you want to become a perfect religious, a perfect worker, a perfect fighter, a perfect friend, a perfect and ideal Vocationist. We are far from this ideal, but it shines in our soul and prompts and draws us and we walk towards it.

For this Lent, my dear, apply yourself more to spiritual reading and in particular I assign you Tanquerey's Asceticism and Mysticism which you must read, re-read many times on your own to the point of assimilating it.

If I could, I would send you a book a month with relative obedience. How would I like for example that you fell in love with Faber! But I haven't gotten it yet. The ascetic indicated can be borrowed from father rector. And if he cannot, then rummage through the library and find some work of some saint, you will apply yourself to it, keeping me informed immediately.

I hope to see you soon, according to the common desire. Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 793

The Lord makes us think that the soul must be careful not to let herself be attracted, wrapped up and absorbed in the net of affections, of pains, of business, in short, of the things of this earth, even if they seemed important. But she must surpass them, always raise herself to take care of the great work of the world and then, higher up, to unite herself with her God.

Pianura of Naples, 6 - 12 - 1934

My dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I really don't want to make anyone suffer, much less you who have always tried to mitigate the pains of others. And I always thank you for it. Now the year is ending! But... *Deo gratias!*

Finally, Ruberti wrote to me. He was a soldier, he wants to come back. His letter came into my hands about a month after it arrived in Pianura, I replied to him. I await him.

The other, he, is staying in Lagonegro for his exams, he also writes to me.

We are waiting for the Pontifical Commissioner and therefore we are in full fervor with schools and studies. I think, or rather, the Lord makes us think that the soul must be careful not to let herself be attracted, wrapped up and absorbed in the net of affections, pains, affairs, in short, things of this earth, even if they seemed important. But she must surpass them, always raise herself to take care of the great work of the world and then, higher up, to unite with her God. Great tactic, skill and grace this coming out of them as through a secret door from the confusion of particular things to space in the universal ones. Is it easy for you?

Tomorrow is the name of my Fr. Palmieri.

The Bishop of Lucera came and I accepted the seminary. Fr. Guerriero goes from bad to worse. We suffer, but as long as there is the inner light of God's pleasure and pleasing God, we go well.

For the whole octave of the Trinity, after the three Angelus Domini of the day, the Holy, Holy, Holy was sung, according to the melody of the Gregorian mass of the angels. Now I will order the *Christus vincit* very often, against demons, because I'm sure they quiver against the Vocationist work.

I am sending you as a letter *Spiritus Domini* of June, read the meditations carefully and reply as if to a private letter.

Bye! Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

Let me know if you have recovered from the car ailments, which, of course, I will be careful not to cause you again, as your health is precious to me.

N. 794

You were dear to me until a minute ago, now you are very dear to me. Whoever confides in me what is most humble and humiliating in his poor life wins my heart, because humility generates sympathy in the heart of Jesus and his servants.

Purification of Mary

My dearest John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Why do you talk like that? You say forgotten, rejected, abandoned? Not from me.

I answer you, you see, immediately. You were dear to me up to a minute ago, now you are very dear to me. Whoever confides in me what is most humble and humiliating in his poor life wins my heart, because humility generates sympathy in the heart of Jesus and his servants. Perhaps in others sympathy is produced by other causes, but in the Lord and in his followers it is produced by humility.

What you tell me about other affections that harass you moves me to jealousy. How I would like to be the only special friend of all ours! And herein lies the difficulty. I would like individuals all for myself, and they too would like me exclusively for themselves, and it is impossible.

Only with Jesus can this mysteriously take place.

[I am offering and asking] Masses for a compilation I am doing, which is very important for the Congregation. I ask this of all our best young confreres and I begin with you.

You haven't written to me again and I too was waiting.

I'm totally alone. The philosophy students in Pozzuoli ... and then very busy with their studies. Almost every day my sister has to come, at least for a few hours, to keep me company. I'm better, but... I don't want to give you any more confidences if you don't first tell me what I still am for you.

You have been ill, you and your much esteemed brother too, Alberto De Fusco, have been ill at a time when I too was sick, and I was unable to do my utmost for you, and also that concern which you thought so insufficient, it cost me a lot, physically. But *diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum!* From what has happened you will derive great good for the soul and you will bless this past year more than any other. *Laetati sumus pro diebus, quibus nos humiliasti, annis quibus vidimus mala!*

Tell De Fusco to write to me. Dearest Zoppo has written to me several times and I haven't written to him once yet. Am I sorry that do you call him dear? Poor fellow! He didn't get from me what it seems to me you got, yet he's faithful, and he deserves more.

As for inspirations, fear not, there is no mortal sin, but you must be more generous. You no longer write the book of the soul with pleasure, since I humiliated you by saying that it was too... leafy. Loving you, I have sometimes treated you harshly.

I sent my best wishes to Fr. Mario and he didn't answer me. They might not have received them. I can't travel yet. I have already destroyed your letter for reasons of prudence.

Become a saint. Goodbye.

N. 795

Let us strive to be the ideal friend, the ideal religious, the ideal teacher... and above all to be so for Jesus, "the ideal friend of Jesus!" Work with all prudence and charity to remove any shadows that could arise by "acting as if not." As if you didn't notice it, as if you didn't suffer from it; as if there was absolutely nothing to complain about. Preventing, keeping silent, smiling, praying.

Pianura of Naples, 3 - 9 - 1937

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I have now written to the other two comrades, and can therefore write to you without fear of being cruel to them. This kept me from writing to you a couple of times earlier, as I would have liked. However, you too did not have intuition, or if you did you did not follow it out of sloth, to answer mine immediately. Patience, all that is ideal is not found down here; others find it in me, I do not find it in others. However, let us strive to be the ideal friend, the ideal religious, the ideal teacher... and above all to be so for Jesus, "the ideal friend of Jesus!"

I have found a friend for you and I will send him to you. He will keep you good company. He will take you as if in his arms and lift you up to the Lord. When I met him and experienced how good he was, I immediately thought of you. He will make you and tell you Alleluia. You will understand that this is a good book. You will see it coming. I would gladly take it to you, but I was physically weakened and dejected by the last molar and I can't decide on any journey. So I sent the vicar lately.

You will keep that book a secret until you have read it all. You will read slowly, recollected, alone, praying, reflecting and occasionally doing internal acts that will come spontaneously. Then I will force it on everyone.

Work with all prudence and charity to remove any shadows that could arise by "acting as if not." As if you didn't notice it, as if you didn't suffer from it; as if there was really nothing to complain about. Preventing, keeping silent, smiling, praying.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

N. 796

6 - 22 - 1937

Do penance because the kingdom of heaven is near. Vox clamantis: "in the desert prepare the way to the Lord."

N. 797

Only generous and trusting hearts attain divine union.

11 - 21 - 37 - Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary

To John Galasso

The proof of the subtraction of sensitive graces in Christians who are too weak and too friendly with themselves does not reach its providential purpose and leaves them fixed in a painful mediocrity.

Others, more fervent, have endured this crisis with greater success. However, both because their detachment was not sufficient and because their confidence was not total, they did not decisively enter the path that the Lord opened before them, and they stopped in an intermediate state between the illuminative and the unitive way.

Only generous and confident hearts attain divine union.

Such must be the addressee.

N. 798

Let us immediately comply with the observance of holy vows. Or do you not want to be a good religious either? Don't you love your vocation and the Congregation either?

Anagni, 9 - 2 - 1938

Dear Giovanni, (not Giovannino²!)

May God the Holy Spirit unite us more
and more with the Son to the Father.

You have done me a good service. You will continue.

Let us immediately comply with the observance of holy vows. Or you do not want to be a good religious? Don't you love your vocation and the Congregation?

You deserve a hundred lashes. And go straight! More trust in the Lord! More faith in the love that he brings us.

I understood one of the secrets of Virgin Mary is this: *Beata quae credidisti!* (With what comes). Blessed is the soul that despite her infamies believes in divine love! In her the great things revealed and promised by that divine love will be fulfilled, whatever the poor past and the poorest present.

I will see you again on the 8th, around the crib of Mary as a child.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 799

As soon as you are free, come to Pianura for a few days to work in the archive.

Vocationalary Deus Caritas,
Pianura of Naples, 6 -24 - 1940

² Giovannino is a diminutive, an endearing of Giovanni; literally it means "little John."

Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Best wishes for... prayer, spirit of prayer, life of prayer, and
apostolate of prayer according to St. Theresa!

As soon as you are free, come to Pianura for a few days to work
on the archive.

Goodbye.

N. 800

Pianura, 5 - 5 - 1941

Dear Galasso,

J.M.J.

A young man needs to be helped to take the college entrance
exam, but he has only done the fourth year of gymnasium and
should in a month complete the Greek and mathematics program.
See if you can do this charity without serious inconvenience.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 801

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Dear Galasso,

Do the religious vestition for Rodolfo.

The garbs are blessed already. A little prayer... and done.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 802

5 - 5 - 1941

Dear Galasso,

I send the boy Russo Ubaldo³ to Posillipo to be hosted (as a punishment he is removed from Pianura and out of consideration for the Reverend Canon Fr. Raphael Nicaastro is entertained in one of our houses until the exams are completed). If he causes any trouble or makes you suspect that he is not serious, certainly, even halfway through the exams, he will be sent home.

I think he will stay with you for only a few days, because I will send him to Cava as soon as Fr. Polverino wants him. I would expect Di Fusco in Pianura for a service like the last one rendered to the parish.

Jesus bless us.

N. 803

Pianura, 6 - 16 - 1941

Dear Galasso,
let the bearer take and bring me in Pianura a certain quantity of zinc that he knows.

I need it for the Vocationary. Jesus bless us. *Vigilate et orate.*

N. 804

You, once in charge of the house ought to have now and will always have to be more active, to bring the house to have as many places and inhabitants as possible.

Pianura, 6 - 16 - 1941

Dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

³Ubaldo Russo from Bovino always remained a faithful friend of the Vocationists and did his utmost for the good of the Congregation, especially in the United States. He died in Bovino in 2009.

For the holidays are intended for the house of Posillipo D. Melillo and De Rosa.

Coming, they must be fraternally welcomed and hosted. If beds are lacking, two of the theologians will come to Pianura, but they must be housed in Posillipo, subject to my instructions.

But I would like you, working miracles, to prepare more and more places in full (beds, sinks, tables and chairs). I am ready to help you, with divine providence.

But you, once in charge of the house, had to, must now and always will have to be more active, to bring the house to the greatest possible number of places and inhabitants.

Nor is it worth saying "I don't have the means" since the gospel exists!

May Jesus bless you and convert you to the perfect observance, so that you can stimulate zealously the entire body and spirit of laws.

Become a saint.

N. 805

6 - 24 - 1941

To Giovanni M. Galasso of the Blessed Trinity,
Precursor's wishes

N. 806

The prevalence of the contemplative life in our Congregation, if well understood and practiced, is the secret of great works at the service of souls and of our great ascensions to the Lord. The priesthood makes us more observant and more edifying, not less observant and less edifying.

Pianura, 12 - 29 - 1941

My dear Fr. Giovanni,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I thank you and reciprocate the best wishes that you truly succeed according to the vocationist ideal.

May the Holy Spirit perfect our human and religious relationship if it can be (as it seems) a stepping-stone to divine union.

The prevalence of the contemplative life in our Congregation, if well understood and practiced, is the secret of great works at the service of souls and of our great ascents to the Lord.

May the Lord grant us great and innumerable saints; and superior saints above all!

We have Romano, your ordination companion very seriously ill with pneumonia. Pray for him. May the Lord preserve him and make him a saint, but we are in serious trepidation.

I don't know if, before leaving, they told you that the permit for the family celebration does not last beyond 8 days. If the nun [Sr. Maria Galasso] could come back sooner it would be good; because the sister who interceded promised me that as soon as the preparations for which help was needed were completed, she herself (!) would accompany her; and I had to force myself to let her go. The priesthood makes us more observant and more edifying, not less observant and less edifying.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 807

5 - 10 - 1942

Dear Galasso,

I would like you to do the charity of going to Avella and to accompany Fr. Guerriero to Altavilla. If you are unable, ask Fr. Saggiomo to send another priest. Thank you.

May Jesus bless us.

The brother takes care of the expenses for the trip.

P. S. If he isn't calm and reasonable, leave him where he is for now.

N. 808

In the name of the Congregation, make the consecration to St. John the Baptist. You will write it by hand or type and all the priests will sign it.

Pianura, 6 - 24 - 1942

Dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Praecedit ante illum in spiritu et virtute Eliae et convertat corda patrum in filios... parare Domino plebem perfectam.

I would like to see all the content of this angelic prophecy come true in you.

In the name of the Congregation, make the consecration to St. John the Baptist, one of the seven to be renewed every seven years, see *Spiritus Domini* year 1935, month of June. You will write it by hand or type and all the priests will sign it. I am saying this to Fr. Mario De Rosa through you, but if I have time I will write to him separately.

The act will be read by the major superior among those present. Make yourself a saint.

N. 809

When it comes to your subjects it is good to act with confidence and security, but always within the scope of one's duties. But when it comes to yourself personally, keep strictly, rigorously to the principle of the most generous, ample dependence, otherwise you will fall into the illusions of pride and presumption and into the snares of the enemy.

Pianura, 7 - 23 - 1942 XX

Dear Fr. Giovannino,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The Most Reverend Father Visitor wrote to me that I can go to

the individual houses, etc. I don't come right away because we expect him in Pianura from one day to another.

He sent me Anella's letter, deferring to me.

Anella complains that he cannot have meat, eggs or milk in Mercato. I spoke to Fr. Polverino and he assured me that he could have what he needs in Cava. So let him choose whether to stay in Mercato or go to Cava (not home). Behave with him as a true religious superior, that is, obtain for him by dint of prayers that generosity and fervor of observance which he does not hold.

Keep me informed of everyone's conduct, and especially how they apply to the life of prayer and to improving their own conduct. Tell Fr. Ciro to send someone to Anagni who is capable of working as a bricklayer, because Brother Russo is now staying at his house and plans to stay away forever. They are waiting in Anagni and it seems that work has begun.

As for your soul, I believe that she will greatly benefit not to do anything external beyond the prescribed duty, without having first obtained permission. When it comes to your subjects it is good to act with ease and confidence, but always within the scope of one's duties. But when it comes to yourself personally, keep strictly, rigorously to the principle of the most generous, ample dependence, otherwise you will fall into the illusions of pride and presumption and into the snares of the enemy.

Nemo judex in causa propria. Then verbally, if you're happy, we'll make some applications.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you all.

N. 810

I would not like these young people to remain even one day without the priest in charge of their care. Never mind if the work of the thesis will have to slow down.

Pianura, 8 - 6 - 1942

Dear Fr. Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Please, inform the two interested parties of the outcome of the exams in Montecassino. I got it the day before yesterday, i.e. on 8 - 4 - 42. I wrote directly to your parish priest, negative, for that little preaching course, foreseeing that at that time you will have difficulty leaving for (the Chapter or similar) Congregational affairs. When you write, you do well to reiterate the refusal too, with all charity and firmness.

Ciro told me that he was making arrangements to get eggs for the confreres who need them. But, if financial aid is needed, let me know, simply and clearly asking for the sums needed every fortnight. If you really need to come to Naples, come as you please, but for the shortest time possible, during this delicate office you are carrying out. I do not like these young students to remain even one day without the priest in charge of their care. Never mind if the work of the thesis will have to slow down.

Mazzocchi asks me, also in the name of Murdocca, to go to Montecassino on August 16th. I will do my best to please them. But if I fail, I trust that they will religiously do their duty.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless us all.

Mazzocchi must repeat Latin (3)

Greek (4)

Mathematics (4) Murdocca was approved.

N. 811

Please fully establish with the example and with the word the observance, first among the priests. Confreres and then among the students, so as to offer Jesus in your Vocationary a small cenacle, from which the Congregation also expects many and holy children.

Pianura, 9 - 29 - 1942 XX

To Very Rev. Fr. Giovanni Galasso,

Holy obedience wants you to the vocationary of Mercato Cilento in the mission of father prefect with all the attributions established by the Constitutions. In the meantime, however, having had Fr. Ciro a special mandate for the convent of Perdifumo, he will have to take care of it personally for some time, and you will replace him in everything in Mercato. It is understood that also in teaching you will give part of your time, subject however to the drafting of your degree thesis, which you will necessarily have to obtain this year. To this end, I maintain the prohibition of accepting invitations to preach without my consent. Please fully establish with the example and with the word the observance, first among the priests and then among the pupils, so as to offer Jesus in your Vocationary a small cenacle, from which the Congregation also expects many and holy children.

May the Blessed Trinity bless you.

N. 812

Don't do imprudence that can make you lose what little health you have, and by prejudicial imprudence I mean too much talking. A perpetual cure of silence of useless words helps you even physically to be capable of a perpetual preaching and teaching.

Pianura, 11 - 23 - 1942

Dear Fr. Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You remain in charge of the house of Perdifumo and parish of Camella (assuming the consent of the Most Excellent Ordinary of Vallo) with Fr. Passariello as your help with the office of spiritual director of the students, while remaining you in charge of their spiritual formation.

I am also writing to Fr. Gino asking him to go immediately to Altavilla, since Fr. Fontana, in turn, hastens to come to his Posillipo residence.

I hold as a special grace this arrangement of this convent. Don't do imprudence that can make you lose what little health you have, and by prejudicial imprudence I mean too much talking. A perpetual cure of silence of useless words helps you to be even physically capable of a perpetual preaching and teaching.

Write me your personal, pastoral, didactic, pedagogical, program.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 813

Pianura, 1 - 3 - 1943

My dear Fr. Giovanni,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

What happened to the weekly letter? I'm happy to anticipate you. How are you? *Diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum!*

This I hope for you, as for everyone. Don't carelessly do things that can make you lose what little health you have, and by prejudicial imprudence I mean too much talking. A perpetual cure of silence of useless words helps you to be even physically capable of perpetual preaching and teaching.

Will it ever become good fuel for divine love? I think it can be. But when?

Tantum proficies quantum tibi ipsi vim intuleris - You will make as much progress as you do violence to yourself.

By dint of small renunciations we get to form the habit of effort, that is, of *momentum*. *Momentum habit!* Then a breath of the Spirit is enough for ascension. But am I speaking to a closed heart?

Close it in Lents of silence. Open it in Pentecosts⁴ of contempla-

⁴ For the sanctification of time, the Vocationist ascetic year is divided into nine Lents (40-day periods), seven Pentecosts (50-day periods) and 12 devotional months.

tions. Write to me. But tell me that you gladly glorify the divine love for Perdifumo and Camella, in the Vocationary and in the parish, as if, and even if you were to consume your entire life in it.

Fiat voluntas tua!

Cling to Jesus and it will be enough for you. Goodbye. I warmly greet Fr. Saverio and yours one by one.

P. S. A special greeting to the parish priest... and I would also like to say a blessing to the nuns of Fr. Eustachio (Sacro Costato).

N. 814

"Whoever proclaims much will keep silent for a long time collected in himself, whoever will throw the lightning will remain cloudy for a long time."

Pianura, 7 - 19 - 1943 XXI

Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

When I wrote to you, I still hadn't received any letter from you after your last visit to Pianura.

I wanted to warn you, saddened as I was by your case. I am now sending you the formula of the Consecration, already released in Spiritus Domini, which, however, has not yet reached you.

Do it you of Perdifumo and those from Mercato on the day of the Annunciation and possibly together.

I think you would do well to address those who want you to preach directly to me, because you would hardly say no to them. Meanwhile it is necessary.

You will suffer for it, but it will be for the best of you, ours and theirs.

Those German verses I read in a life of St. Paul: "whoever pro-

claims much will remain silent for a long time collected in himself, whoever will throw a thunderbolt will remain a cloud for a long time" (Nietsche).

Pray and have many pray in these days until Pentecost, for the holy Rules, which I must present to the Rev. Fr. Visitor.

May man (I) take nothing away and add nothing to the divine thought.

I am sending you this by hand, through Massimo Russolillo. Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 815

Speak little, and never about yourself, either good or bad, openly or covertly, except with the doctor, confessor and me. Be a saint and don't forget me.

Pianura, 8 - 18 - 1943

My Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Take care of the confrere as of Jesus in person. Greet him dearly.

Prepare the convent, and the new bathrooms and the fathers' rooms and the nuns' apartment, this in exactly the right way, while giving precedence to the aqueduct.

The promised help is already prepared both in Cava and in Pianura, so that you can do what you have planned. May it be an obedience from the execution of which only the impossibility can excuse you.

You haven't written as often as before, and this is a bad sign. Each time give me a detailed report of religious observance in the convent and parish life.

Become a saint. Don't leave the place for any reason, not even to come to me.

See you again if ever in Perdifumo.

In silentio et spe, erit fortitudo vestra. Speak little, and never about yourself, either good or bad, openly or covertly, except with the doctor, confessor and me.

Despite the war, do as much propaganda as you can for your Vocationary, even if it's only one or two classes, as many as you can hold with the current staff, in case I would not be able (as well as I want) to help you right away.

Goodbye. Be a saint and don't forget me.

N. 816

You must, in private, speak loudly to Jadeluca to win him over to Jesus, and if he bears fruits of penance and humility he will also be able to save his vocation. You see well that all the hardships come from the current state of affairs, which is one of general suffering.

Mercato, 11 - 25 - 1943

My Dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You must, in private, speak loudly to Jadeluca to win him over to Jesus, and if he bears fruits of penance and humility he will also be able to save his vocation. I have to say though that I hadn't heard such things about him yet.

As for the serious discomfort you are in, it will be good for Fr. Ciro to return; he is currently in Licusati (where he went without a van to see what could be collected there).

I suppose he'll be back tomorrow or the day after. If possible, we need to talk together, not in isolation. And especially that brother Giuseppe also comes back, whose presence could also be of help to you, without him going so far and for so long.

Four priests, a good lay brother, plus another who can also do something, two nuns for the kitchen, for a rather small house and

community... You can clearly see that all the hardships come from the current state of things that it is of general suffering.

But together we will see how to do it.

A father can come back here, and one of your classes can go elsewhere and thus ease the discomfort. But we will see better together. Now is the time for perfect joy! May the Lord grant us to obtain the greatest possible profit from it for the increase of his charity and that of our neighbor.

Bye. Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 817

Holy and most fruitful ministry, in every field, but first in your interior life.

Pianura, 4 - 30 - 1947

Dear Fr. Galasso,

J.M.J.

I beg you to get in contact with the Most Excellent Bishop of Campagna for the Eucharistic decade, agreeing on his deferment to a time when it is possible for you to accept his preaching.

Holy and most fruitful ministry, in every field, but first in your interior life! May Jesus bless you.

N. 818

We can and must be affective in our private prayer, but not in our preaching. In this more intellectual than emotional, you understand.

Pianura, 6 - 6 - 1947

My dear Fr. Galasso,

I thank you for your preaching in Campagna and for the good wishes, which I warmly reciprocate. I rejoice that the Lord bless-

ed your obedience by giving you sufficient physical strength, and we hope, also fruit in souls.

You will not have had the time to study on the spot the possible developments that the vocationary work could have there, for the benefit of the whole diocese as the Ordinary hopes.

As a religious and much more as an assistant, even if a substitute, do not fail to make your observations, dispassionately, verbally or in writing, according to prudence.

Make your ministry of the Word ever more substantial, ever more theological, ever more liturgical, ever more evangelical, callously ascetic and less and less sentimental. The chord of feeling can sometimes give a useful note; but it is never to be ironed.

We can and must be affective in our private prayer, but not in our preaching. In this more intellectual than affective, you understand. Read and assimilate the Catechism of the Council of Trent.

We have begun the procedures for Pontifical approval also for the male branch of our Congregation, as the Counseled by Rome. Let us pray for the "Gaudium."

The parish priest of Perdifumo wrote me a beautiful letter on the occasion of the Easter week. Now I'm in doubt whether I answered him. Ask him explicitly, because if not, I'll fix it. And pity me all, and pray for me. I warmly greet the confreres and students one by one. Do something beautiful for the divine Heart!

N. 819

What you must recommend to him, to you, to anyone, is absolutely not to go to private families except for the sacraments, according to the rule. Be strict about this.

Pianura, 6 - 9 - 1947

My dear Fr. Giovannino,

Deo Gaudium Imi.

I am sending to you so that you may keep with you the permis-

sion for the Confessions for Fr. Emmanuele. You will communicate it to him by restricting it to men everywhere, even in preaching through different towns. I oblige you to inform him of what Fr. Anella has told you and people of Mercato, and that you told me, with charity, firmness and secrecy, and then tell me how he takes the admonition. You will give him verbal permission for the confessions, without showing him the document.

Fr. Basilio was chosen on purpose to help you with Camella and Salvazione. He is valid and eager to move. Perhaps on Sundays he could go to some other abandoned or almost abandoned rural chapel. But you see. He can confess ... *utriusque*.

What you must recommend to him, to you, to anyone, is absolutely not to go to private families except for the sacraments, according to the rule. Be strict about this. And that he stops smoking and doesn't let himself get carried away even once a year by the desire to go hunting. Instead, make an effort to do some schooling and do catechism and homilies. He can, but it's either shyness or indolence, he appears a bit embarrassed. Have and show him respect and affection. He's one of our very first, and he's very sensitive, and he can do a lot.

You may well read these words of mine to him. Then tell him that he would do well to write me an illustrated postcard at least every two months; so also Anella.

You could very well have come to the exercises. Many times you have left the house even with only one to replace you. But by that I don't mean authorizing you to do the same later.

Preach divine friendship everywhere by popularizing the treatise *De gratia, De caritate, De Trinitate*. Be solid.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 820

Keep in mind that September 19-20 marks the coram Deo start of the Congregation. This is the whole reason for the obligatory September feast.

9 - 21 - 1947

Dear Fr. Galasso,

I see that this frequent house-swapping also has its advantages, and so yesterday evening, out of necessity, I had to come to Mercato, saddened by my own way of acting that was not normal, but my friends sympathize with me.

Thanks so much for yesterday.

Keep in mind that September 19 - 20 marks the *coram Deo* start of the Congregation. This is the whole reason for the obligatory September feast.

Most of our people look forward to future centuries to learn and practice certain things.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 821

The three practices of the Word: given to us by the Father through study, given by us to the Father in prayer, given by us to souls in preaching.

Salerno, 9 - 23 - 1947

My Dear Galasso,

J.M.J.

I fully approved the timetable (assuming that the rising at 5:00 a.m. is legal time, and therefore 4:00 solar time) and the note of the prayers and mortifications. I believe they are copies of those in your possession, and therefore do not return them. But another time send them to me on a separate sheet so that I can get back to you with observations. About the holy hours to Jesus in the sacrament, to the Blessed Virgin, to the adorable Trinity, I think it is about the hours of internal loving attention in almost contemplation. What if it were instead of practices of piety, I would like to replace them with the sacrosanct hour of sacred study (in honor of the Father), the holy hour of catechism (in honor of the Son), the sacred hour of meditation (in honor of the Holy Spirit).

To God the Father the study from which preaching and prayer proceed, and without which, preaching and prayer wither. They are the three practices of the Word (given to us by the Father through study, given by us to the Father in prayer, given by us to souls in preaching and I mean “catechism”, because in the other forms there could be too much human word rather than divine) and without the word *factum est nihil*, while *omnia per ipsum facta sunt*. And these are true practices of active and passive priestly sanctification.

The Archbishop of Salerno added “the missionary hour” in honor of the Virgin Mary. and it means at least one hour a day spent in the midst of workers, wherever it is, for their pastoral edification.

As for kindergarten, I don’t see why you call that condition onerous, if it is true that after the sum has been discounted, the building remains our property. The owner who up until now had forbidden it would thus do us two benefits: by advancing us the capital necessary to fix it, and then by giving us the property neat and tidy. I don’t believe in such fervor. What profit does this proposal aim at? If, therefore, things are like this, certainly we must accept and give thanks. But look deeply. The mill affair makes me suspicious.

Explain things to me in more details.

Be calm. Don’t criticize in any way the dispositions of the superiors; fight valiantly this libertinism of thought and words too frequent among us! Otherwise we will never conquer the perfection of integral obedience (of intellect and will, as well as of action) and without this obedience there is no true humility, and without true humility there is no true victory over evil, or true exaltation by attraction, to the heart of our Lord in divine union. None! - Isn’t that so?

Goodbye. Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 822

If you have the opportunity to speak with the Most Excellent Ordinary of Vallo, you must humbly explain to him the rumors circulating on account of his unfavorable assessments regarding us, and if he confirms them, you could and should, always humbly, justify us and turn the situation upside down, according to I don't say charity, but truth and justice.

Pianura, 2 - 25 - 1948

Dear Galasso,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thank you for your gifts and contributions to Motherhouse.
Much more thank you

For the good news about our confrere Polverino, which can also be attributed to the good environment that you form.

If you have the opportunity to speak with His Excellency Ordinary of Vallo (and not with others, because it would be worse), you must humbly explain to him the rumors that, as far as I am reporting, are circulating on account of his unfavorable assessments in our regard, and if he confirms them, you could and should, always humbly, justify us, and reverse the situation, according to, I am not saying charity, but truth and justice.

But be careful not to even think about it, especially then not to talk about it so as not to give the devil a field to embitter us against those we only have to venerate, obey and serve, never mind if we are not paid, nor considered, nor esteemed. Indeed better when we will have rather to suffer. *Patientia (i.e. suffering) opus perfectum habet (i.e. reddit).*

I had to go to Altavilla precisely to find a way to provide for Matinella. And on this occasion I would have visited Mercato and Perdifumo. In the meantime I have sent Fr. Fontana who knows the places, to find places where to set up something religious and lasting. Then I will easily go to ascertain the convenience of these new works in that plain ... of mission.

Let us pray now for the Pontifical Approval of our "Divine Union Sodality" i.e. of external religious, spheres of aggregates, etc.

I am also sorry that I have not yet found a way to send you help for discipline.

If you think that Don Attilio could be useful to you, I could invite him and he will willingly consent. But I don't know if he too will willingly consent.

Become saints. Pray for me.

N. 823

We always prefer long lease contracts (even irredeemable) so that the ownership of the building remains with the Municipality and we, however, are legally assured of perpetual use.

Pianura, 3 - 13 - 1948

Dear Galasso,

May Jesus bless us.

Finally, I am sending you a copy of the contract stipulated with the Municipality of Laureana so that it can serve to give an idea of how roughly, the one should be done with the Municipality of Perdifumo for the convent. We always prefer long lease contracts (even irredeemable) so that the ownership of the building remains with the Municipality and we are legally guaranteed perpetual use. But if it were difficult for us, let's do it differently, however excluding any form of rent, even if it is for the longest possible term.

For the conditions on the part of the Municipality, they are such as to correspond to our works such as for example holding study classes in the convent, welcoming free and on favorable terms a certain number of poor pupils presented by the Town Hall, etc. but always forcing ourselves to a minimum, not a maximum.

It is necessary that the priest who comes to Serramezzana stay

for Holy Week. So we agreed with the Abbot. I cannot send anyone from Pianura, we have so many commitments.

Goodbye. Become a saint.

N. 824

Limitless faith in divine providence, the charity of benefactors, and our humility in begging according to the various needs of the time are the sources from which we will always be able to draw, without fear and with every certainty of a good result.

Pianura, 5 - 6 - 1953

Dear Fr. Galasso,

J.M.J.

Yesterday I came to bring you what I had promised you (£100,000). Certain you will have received them. Now I beg you at least to let yourself be seen by that firm to which Fr. Carlo is indebted for the furniture, etc. to get some more deferment for payments, and in time you will try to satisfy them.

Don't be afraid to ask possible benefactors for what we need for good works. Fr. Giorgio, Fr. De Filippis, etc. they did it too, and likewise the undersigned:

- 1) Boundless faith in divine providence,
- 2) The charity of benefactors,
- 3) The humility of us in begging according to the various needs of the time they are the sources we can always draw on, without fear and with every certainty of a good result.

Try to come once a week to hear the confession of poor deaf Sister Carmela Polverino, the sister of Fr. Salvatore; she feels abandoned, otherwise. Always watch over the employees of your house, community and parish, so as not to let the enemy win.

Become saints.

N. 825

Undated letter

Dear Fr. Galasso,

Having applied for aid, in the name of orphans educated in our houses, please send me the list of your orphans and as well as of a section of Mercato, so presented in greater numbers, the more easily we will have something and I will conscientiously remit you what belongs to your orphans because any kind of aid will be given, pro capita.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. I strongly recommend the delivery of this letter to De Simone. It's a delicate thing.

N. 826

(undated)

We await God's providence! In the meantime, let's arrange as best we can.

N. 827

(undated)

In eternity we will be happier with what little we have suffered rather than with what we have enjoyed.

N. 828

Undoubtedly it is an answer to a specific question by Fr. Galasso: It is probable that these are prayer groups to be added to the group of 12 and 72.

(undated)

For the glory of God, in his will, with his love.

They will gather in groups of seven around each of the seven Assistant Spirits at the throne of the Most High, thus forming a total of forty-nine souls, to which will be added the fiftieth servant-priest. This is the constellation.

N. 829

Let us fill our whole life with Gloria Patri.

Dear John,

Feast of the Blessed Trinity, *post missam*

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Let's fill our whole life with Gloria Patri.

In the tone of joy and melancholy, of feria and of feast, in the colors of day and night, alone and in chorus, always Gloria Patri.

The printing of the Directory absorbs what little strength and time I still have. Then, I'm not saying when you have the volume in your hand, but when you have penetrated its spirit, by dint of practicing its letter, you will be grateful to me.

Become a saint! Do you remember the eve of the Trinity of that year? Everything passes!

But we are always happier with what we have suffered than with anything else. And of course all suffering come from men; from the Lord we have nothing to suffer. *Laetati sumus pro diebus quibus nos humiliasti, annis quibus vidimus mala. Transivimus per ignem et aquam et duxisti nos in refrigerium. Dirupasti vincula mea.* Even your chains will fall broken and you will sing to the Lord in the humility of gratitude.

I hope to see you soon!

N. 830

(undated)

Dear Fr. Galasso,

The Father Assistant is certainly in Naples. If you believe, go back and receive the profession of those three, and tell them about the other things I'm sending you the note about.

Try to digest well my last letter. May Jesus bless us.

Affectionately.

CHAPTER VII

Letters to Fr. Giuseppe Garofalo

Fr. Garofalo was born in Casapulla, Caserta in 1918. He entered the Congregation in 1931, was ordained a priest in 1943. He died in Pianura on November 18, 2001. Vivid and fervent of intelligence, he did honor to himself and to the Congregation. Altavilla, Mercato Cilento, Omignano, Scigliano, Pianura, Mola di Bari, Anagni and Rome saw him engaged in various ministries and in teaching Greek and Latin as well as General Councilor and Procurator with the Holy See. From the little correspondence preserved, he does not seem to have cultivated any spiritual friendship with St. Justin.

N. 831

Always and effectively take an interest in their physical health, in their needs, sufferings, so that nothing prevents, but instead everything favors their application to vocationist piety, vocationist study and to vocationist life.

Altavilla Silentina, 1 - 12 - 1944

J.M.J.

To Rev. Fr. Pasquale Romano, spiritual educator in the novitiate of Altavilla, and much more to Rev. Fr. Giuseppe Garofalo, spiritual educator of the vocationist students in Altavilla.

Be very grateful to the Lord who, together with the gift of the priesthood, has entrusted you with such a delicate and important mission as that of continuing the formation of young religious as their spiritual educator.

The exercise of the philosophical teaching to them is the greatest help and means for your formation as an educator, since in the

school and with science the vocationist mentality is received more directly. I was disappointed not to find in them, at such a short distance from their profession, I could say, any trace of liturgical modesty and of the religious habit, which is so necessary for internal formation.

Likewise not to find in the house any trace of the necessary segregation between clerics and lay brothers, between the studentate and the novitiate. I understand that it is no one's fault in this first trend of the house, but it must be established immediately.

You will do every evening, if the Local Director does not reserve it for himself, the almost half hour of instruction-exhortation to the clerics, which must or at least can serve as points of their private morning meditation.

For this instruction-meditation, you must follow this method for at least seven years: read and at the same time explain a strong spiritual text in some detail, without allowing the clerics either interruptions or questions of any kind.

For this purpose you can choose from the works of Fr. Faber: *All for Jesus*, *Spiritual Conferences*, *Progresses of the soul*, or other book; but every Thursday and Sunday, and on every other minor and major holiday day, a second meditation is obligatory for all.

This will be done in two half hours, in the afternoon and in the evening, and always "compulsory" on the Last Things and on the Lord's Passion alternately. You must check and make sure that it is done faithfully, deeply, most religiously.

Demand that every evening they accuse themselves in a personal note of the external defects into which they occurred during the day. If you could put a good word on these notes, in reply, that would be good, but if you don't have the time, it is sufficient that they do them.

It is necessary to accustom them to the chapter on active and passive faults, to the weekly interview, to the book of the soul, the director can reserve all this for himself, but in his absence, you will personally ensure that everything is done and well.

Open your soul to all the good inspirations and initiatives that

the Lord deigns to send you for your sanctification and their formation. And if they do not exceed the scope of our holy rules, do not be afraid to propose and impose them in agreement with the director. Likewise for their formation to the apostolate, how happy I would be if you could personally lead them to catechize the countryside below on holidays, despite the distances. But always together with you or another confrere if in two or three groups.

If then these initiatives that appear to you encroach on your competence, do not fail to explain them to me, because I will always take them into consideration, for that veneration we owe to divine inspirations and for our spirit of originality and progress.

Keep them very close to the Blessed Virgin in the Holy Family, very close to the Holy Spirit in the divine Trinity, very practiced in sacred singing and in all the exercises of light, peace, joy, indicated by our Rules.

Always and effectively take an interest (but never exclusively and principally and primarily, this is not) in their physical health, their needs, sufferings, so that nothing prevents, but instead everything favors their application to vocationist piety, vocationist study and to vocationist life. I look forward to detailed bimonthly personal reports.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 832

Letter to Fr. Giuseppe Garofalo, then Rector of the Anagni house; it is an invitation to apostolate among orphans and local people.

Pianura, September 12, 1954

Dear Fr. Peppino,

J.M.J.

May Jesus bless us.

I enjoy the good news you tell me about the progress of the

house in Anagni. When there is life there is also the movement of development. I wish and pray and (permit?) impose equal and greater development and progress of the internal and external apostolate, that is, among the young people of the orphanage-handicrafts and among the population that grows every year around the (insufficient) church. Goodbye.

Become a saint.

N. 833

I believe that both Fr. Carlo and you can very easily help Domenico Vaccaro in his private preparation... and he would be a worthy company and occupation for you.

Pianura, March 7, 1955

Dear Fr. Garofalo,

J.M.J.

I would like you to welcome young Domenico Vaccaro immediately. He has the license and admission to the third Industrial Graphic Technical Institute, which is the course for typographer. But he doesn't want to be a printer. It would be necessary to prepare him in private for an integration exam, for that year of the Masters which to you seems to best correspond to the cultural conditions of the young person.

He is assisted by the "Provincial Committee for War Orphans," which spends ten thousand lire a month. And also from the mother it will be added something to this monthly sum. I believe that both Fr. Carlo and you can very easily help him in his private preparation... and he would be a worthy company and occupation for you.

He is the nephew of our Fr. Giacomino Vaccaro and I would like you to do this favor cordially.

Sure of ... I thank you and I'm waiting for a telegram to call him (telegram to be addressed either to uncle Fr. Giacomo Vaccaro or to myself).

Your affectionate servant Sac. Justin M. Russolillo

CHAPTER VIII

Letters to Fr. Olindo Giacci

Fr. Giacci carried out his apostolate as rector, parish priest and professor in Cava dei Tirreni, Vibonati, Scigliano, Montella, Acquaviva and Paestum. With a good and joyful soul, he enjoyed the esteem and affection of the Founder, who wanted to be his confirmation godfather and wanted him to take Paolo as his name. Only with him did St. Justin signed himself "little father and friend." Every time he spoke or wrote about the Congregation he always used the adjective "benamata = beloved." For twenty years he was the exemplary "Brother Treasure" of the Congregation in the community of Posillipo, where for many years he was a true immobile crucifix, suffering atrocious pains with heroic patience and praying continuously. He was born in Serracapriola in the province of Foggia on November 17, 1913 and after 73 years of community life, he died in Posillipo on March 6, 2001.

N. 834

Let us open our hearts like a rose of love to our Jesus "the most beautiful, the sweetest." When you feel the need to love and to be loved, think of him and call him and sigh to him and sing love to him in the secret of your heart, and don't waste your affection with the creatures of the earth.

Pianura, 5 - 15 - 30

(To Paolo = Olindo)

Dear Paul,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

From now on I send you holy and happy wishes for the Di-

vine Annunciation according to the family custom of our dear Congregation. It's spring now. May the cold and gray winter of sins and lukewarmness pass for your soul. Let us open our hearts like a rose of love to our Jesus "the most beautiful, the sweetest." When you feel the need to love and to be loved, think of him and call him, sigh to him and sing love to him in the secret of your heart, don't waste your affection with the creatures of the earth. Try during lent to make a beautiful crown of strong acts of contrition every day! For the study, more effort in the application, and in the punctuation that follows.

Above all, I recommend the mortification of the eyes and the devotion to Mary Most Holy. Goodbye. I bless you very much.

Your little father and friend Sac. Justin Trinitatis

N. 835

Pianura, 7 - 5 - 30

My Dear Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Perhaps I have made you suffer a little by not immediately replying to your three letters (or two?) sent to me since the last time we saw each other. But I want to test your fidelity of friendship, because I fear it is a straw fire. It seems alive when I'm present... and then maybe it immediately shuts down.

But I think one day I will find in you a great and good friend. And will this day be very far away? It's up to you!

I think I'll keep you with me one day to work together for the good of our dear S.D.V. Will this day ever come? It's up to you, my dear. It seems to me a thousand years that you cling to the Lord with holy vows. Then also you will be more united with my soul.

Meanwhile, when you write to me, you have not yet managed to free yourself from every impediment and awe of rhetorical

formalities. Write freely, as your heart dictates, without fear, as a friend to a friend, everything you want.

I want you among the first in the chosen group of the most winged Vocationists as the most ardent spirit of love.

Try, my dear, to do many acts every day against your will, against pleasure; and to deny you all satisfaction; and say something.

In giving then report of you I expect you all to tell me with numbers e.g. I did two meditations in addition to the other obligatory ones; I did fifty hours of spiritual reading, I received three absolutions a day (I say for example... yet how beautiful it would be!) In this way you will become strong, active and true Vocationist.

Goodbye, my dear, I too long to be together with you, but this cannot be in this world, if not for short stretches, then in Paradise forever.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 836

It is also very good that you grow in the esteem and love of the Congregation, which is for us mother, heaven and everything, since in it the Lord has established to celebrate the encounter and his divine mission with our soul.

My Dear Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thanks for the letter; the first one I liked because it was spontaneous and true. It is also very good that you grow in the esteem and love of the Congregation, which is for us mother, heaven and everything, since in it the Lord has established to celebrate the encounter and his divine mission with our soul.

You must get used to dominating all the impressions of feeling, all the illusions of the imagination, which is easily achieved

by making every impression and illusion the object, the theme of prayer in every way.

If we find ourselves talking I will explain to you how this is done, in the meantime do it as best you can.

In the meantime, thank you for the good assistance you gave me in those last days in Pianura. May Jesus reward you with spiritual favors and consolations.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Get ready with fervor for the holy vows.

N. 837

Anagni, 8 - 7 - 33

Dear Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thank you for writing to me. We'll be back tonight; tomorrow I'm leaving for Orte, I'll be in Pianura soon, God willing! Take advantage of these holidays and also of my every absence to fill yourself with holy readings.

But you must also begin to get used to solid and long meditations. It will cost you first, then it will be delicious. But you do not obey when I prescribe spiritual things! So start with... an entire hour to reflect, helping yourself with the method of St. Ignatius. I put it as a condition of many things and many results. Stay faithful to your dormitory post. Perfect common life! Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

N. 838

Be very humble, never excuse yourself with anyone (but out of true, not feigned humility, that is truth) never contradict anyone (but out of true not feigned humility) obey the rule, in all observances, in all common life.

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thanks for the letter. Remember the prayer I indicated to you and assigned in Baronissi: "Show me, O Lord, your face, let me hear your voice!" because only in the passionate love of Jesus will our heart be satisfied.

N. 839

11 - 25 - 33

I stayed first in Orte and then returned to Sezze on Wednesday evening and immediately began the exercises which I finish tomorrow morning (Sunday 26) and on Monday evening I plan to stay in Pianura to resume school on Tuesday morning. We'll see if you'll be able to memorize two or three entire cantos of Dante and many chapters of the Hellenic already studied and written in the vocabulary, version, etc. (You will remember that I assigned as homework all the battles).

May Jesus bless you. Humble yourself, never excusing yourself with anyone (but out of real, not feigned humility, i.e. the truth) never contradict anyone (but out of real, not feigned humility) obey the rule, in all observances, in all your community life.

I want your true good, not passing satisfaction. *Quod aeternum non est, nihil est.* Goodbye.

N. 840

Believe me, my dear, as your mother, I am for you. I want you holy. I wanted your soul, you didn't understand me. I forgive you.

My Dear Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

If you were more humble you would understand me. Thank you for the letter. I always desire you. I didn't think badly of you. I wanted to take you away from an occasion. If you had made an effort to observe modesty, as you did for those three days, you would have been blessed, and you would have made everyone happy. I wanted to make you the perfect friend!

You have not thought about these words of mine. Now I always want you. Try to be, for me, from afar. I was in Baia for fourteen days. You were supposed to come with me. But you were not here. Now I look forward to your exam promotion. I am glad that you have obeyed me regarding the haircut. Will you always do this? Do me this favor! Don't make it happen again. Do it yourself with beautiful generosity and simplicity. I expect this from you.

Believe me, my dear, I am like your mother, for you. I want you holy. I wanted your soul, you didn't understand me. I forgive you. But don't tell me (irony!) thank you for so much goodness! Because I really don't want to remember anything about your flaws and your ways and your selfishness and self-respect.

I don't want to remember them anymore, because I trust that you will apply yourself to being, and becoming more humble. All I have left is the desire for you and I will give myself the pleasure of seeing you again... and stay calm. Don't contradict me. It doesn't suit you.

May Jesus bless you. Pray for me.

One day I was so sick that I thought I had to leave for eternity but he still left me because he didn't find me the perfect friend I was meant to be for him. Let's purposely be one. For him alone!

Ciao.

P. S. You won't understand this one either: I said I wanted you,

not your services. And yet I thank you, my son, for all the patience you have had with me, for the sleep you have lost over me, for all the readiness with which you have always done what you believed was necessary, useful, pleasant for me. I cannot forget this. The Lord has placed in your heart, as in those who preceded you, all those attentions and charity towards one of his servants, sick and busy and what is worse, very ungrateful for him and instead superfluously sensitive for these good creatures, who lived next to him. Farewell!

N. 841

Do you remember the sacred bond with God of September 20, 1933, the anniversary year of the redemption? Bless that day. Let's stay true to our love Jesus.

Bovino, 10 - 1 - 1934
Eve of the Angels

My dear,

God bless you.

I received your letter in Termoli while the exercises were about to end and the work of the confessions of 34 priests absorbed me completely.

So I'm answering you from Bovino although I think I'll come before the letter.

What and how I appeared to you the last time is always less of what I am inside for you. If you were ever more humble, ever more studious, ever more pious! It would be a glory for God, happiness for you, for me, for everyone. Let's put ourselves more and more into the commitment to be or become one.

Do you remember the sacred bond with God of September 20, 1933, the anniversary year of the redemption? Bless that day. Let us remain faithful to our love Jesus.

I hope to see you soon.

N. 842

G.A.U.D.I.U.M. I.M.I.

12 - 24 - 1934

Giacci is allowed to come to Pianura with Palermo.

N. 843

1 - 25 - 1936

to... Paolo Olindo

Durum est tibi contra stimulum calcitare.

Ne tardes converti ad Dominum.

May the new name remind the new life of perennial conversion.

N. 844

What it took to induce you to write the book of the soul, and yet it didn't happen regularly. You are satisfied with little in terms of spirituality; you do not please me in this.

10 - 29 - 36

Dear Giacci,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Your letter was late in coming. I'll answer you soon. As far as writing a long letter I wait to have work in your soul. But she is closed to me. What it took to induce you to write the book of the soul, and yet it doesn't happen regularly. You are satisfied with little in terms of spirituality and I don't like you in this.

Now take from me all the wishes of the Saints together for our first of November. In the morning we are celebrating the novena

of the Dead, in the evening that of the Saints, with the singing of the hymn of their first Vespers and that of the Dedication of the Church: *Caelestis urbs Jerusalem* and the recitation of three chapters of *Spiritus Orationis*: To the Triumphant Church, to the Angels, to the Saints.

Study philosophy every day. Keep coming on Thursdays with me, not in person because you can't but... in any other way that you can.

I don't know when I'll be able to come; after all, it will be shortly now.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 845

Pianura of Naples, 12 - 20 - 1936

My Dear Giacci,

God the Holy Spirit be with us.

I appreciated your letter. I've already arranged for you to come and spend the Christmas holidays in Pianura. I was afraid you would not find me there.

May the divine will be done and loved.

I am waiting for you.

May Jesus bless you and make you worthy of himself. May Our Lady be always more mother to you.

N. 846

The need of the Congregation is above all this: "that you personally become a saint in it," the rest will come by itself. In the solicitude then for the answer, and in the pain I feel for your lukewarmness, please, see the proof of what you are looking for and believe (the enemy deluding yourself) that you will not find.

4 - 15 - 1938

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I very much appreciated your letter. In the content I find... the same error of years and years. The Lord asks you (through me too) you refuse. And then you say: Why am I not esteemed, loved, honored with every trust? Will we start always over and over again?

I still had to call you attention about the hair. Your immodest eyes did not please at all. Why don't you surrender generously, definitively? I ask you again, certainly not for my personal reasons and objectives, however much I may like to be an occasion for virtue and a stimulus to virtue for someone, but for higher motives and goals that you know, and that you should be familiar with. Now you will receive, as usual, with bitterness, with aversion, with murmurs these admonitions... and thus you will make them sterile for you of any good effect. But you will finally understand that the holy humility makes you the object of spiritual sympathies and it alone will make you dear to the Lord and generally also to men, because through it all graces are well received and corresponded.

The need of the Congregation is above all this: "that you personally become a saint in it," the rest will come by itself.

In the solicitude for the answer, and in the pain I feel for your lukewarmness, please, see the proof of what you are looking for and believe (the enemy deluding you) that you will not find.

Become a saint and we will get along perfectly. May Jesus bless you.

N. 847

Obedience wants you to reside in Cava dei Tirreni, with the job of Father Prefect.

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

9 - 26 - 1942

To Very Rev. Fr. Olindo Giacci.

May Jesus bless us.

Obedience wants you to reside in Cava dei Tirreni, with the task of Father Prefect and above all teacher, under the direction of the local superior, Fr. Salvatore Polverino.

Please, strive for full religious observance with your example and with the authority of your office.

May Jesus, bless us.

N. 848

Mercato Cilento, 12 - 20 - 1944

Dear Fr. Giacci,

Holy wishes for Christmas, New Year, and Epiphany.

I'm sending you Eduardo Giuseppe to try to have him examined and, if necessary, submit him to radiology, for a certain stomachache he has been suffering for a long time. If this is not possible in Cava or Salerno or Nocera or elsewhere, send him to Posillipo.

Again: Fr. Salvatore promised to send me for the house of Mercato, which is in dire need of them, a good number of beds, even old, even broken, of any type, with or without nets, Ciro would fix them. Wouldn't it be possible for you to have them brought with a vehicle from Cava or its surroundings? But I don't want to spend more than £. 2,000. If you succeed, send me as many as you can, at least beds' iron.

And if you come with this truck too, so much the better. If ever Eduardo could be useful to you, keep him for the Christmas holidays (no later than January 1st) always, however, if he could have visit and x-ray in Cava or surroundings for which I am sending him. Otherwise, send him immediately to Posillipo.

May Jesus bless you.

I kiss Fr. Salvatore's hand and greet Fr. Ruizzo and Fr. Vincenzo dearly.

N. 849

3 - 25 - 1945

Dear Giacci,

Fr. Fontana writes me that he will send you Adinolfi. Please have Aniello D'Onofrio checked for the eyes, and to avoid if possible, using glasses. If they're ordered, I don't want you to buy them. He has to come right back, because he's a novice. If you company him, it is fine.

We will have spiritual exercises for ours in October. But a course will also be held from 17 of March If you or Fr. Polverino want to profit, come.

May Jesus bless you.

Please, provide financially for Aniello's return.

N. 850

I.M.I.

I need one million to buy the big house in Acquaviva (with 12 acres of land). So, pass the word to benefactors and also one lira will be useful and welcome to me.

Dear Giacci,

Mercato, 3 - 25 - 1945

May Jesus bless you.

Religious and very affectionate greetings for a holy Easter to you, Fr. Salvatore, Fr. Ruizzo, Fr. Passariello and the entire community and parish.

1) I don't know if they wrote to tell Fr. Salvatore that if he

would see the young Pignataro during his retreats in Angri, he should tell him to come back among us and we would welcome him warmly.

2) I am writing to you now to ask you and Fr. Salvatore to leave the Sisters and the kindergarten where they are, at least until the end of the school year for reasons of the greater and common good. In the meantime prepare, but precisely in the modern way, the house intended for them, but entirely and with the garden, as a worthy residence for the Sisters and for all the women's parish works.

3) Let Fr. Salvatore know that I need one million to buy the big house in Acquaviva (with 12 acres of land). So pass the word on to benefactors and even one lira will be useful and welcome to me. Farewell! Become a saint.

N. 851

Pianura, 7 - 15 - 1946

Dear Fr. Giacci,

I.M.I.

The Major Superiors have assigned our professed confrere Gualtieri to Cava for a period of convalescence. I highly recommend him to your charity and munificence, to the Sisters and to everyone in the house so that he can soon return to the students' house all reinvigorated.

May these months of spiritual vacation that divide one school year from another have the same effect on you, spent religiously in a religious house.

I hope to see you soon for the spiritual exercises.

N. 852

I think Fr. Eduardo asked you for something and was not satisfied. But in the end it is a good subject, and dear to us.

Pianura, 3 - 11 - 1948

Dear Giacci,

May Jesus bless you.

Be always in a good mood.

Tell Eduardo: I'm so sorry but partly due to illness and partly due to work overload I have neglected my mail.

Do me the favor of repeating your letter, because it will have escaped me. In the meantime, I'm making a request. If he pleases, he can profess his perpetual vows at Easter, I am delegating you to receive them, after having repeated the request.

This treatment was also used with his companions, for the feast of the Congregation. More news I will write to you. Because now I have so much to do. I think that he asked you for something (perhaps like underwear or clothes) and was not satisfied (certainly due to forgetfulness, not due to indolence). But in the end he is a good subject, and dear to us. You can make him read this.

May St. Joseph console us all. Become saints.

N. 853

Rome is examining the "Divine Union Sodality" of which our Congregation is the center, but which embraces the spheres of multiform external religious. This is the integral element of the work, necessary to work efficiently for universal sanctification.

Pianura, 3 - 12 - 1948

Dear Giacci,

May Jesus bless us.

Eduardo has arrived. Patience.

I'm looking at how to please you with some high school senior. But if your nephew could serve as prefect of the internal aspirants (so few) it would be better. Put him to the test, I think he will succeed.

The decree regarding the Cardinal Protector (Lavitrano) is late, and perhaps it will be a long time. All the better this way, so we will be able to prepare at ease for the celebration of his taking possession of the Protectorate.

As for Brazil, the practice has resumed, with due permission from Rome, and we are awaiting replies from the Apostolic Nuncio, and from the Bishop of Braganza (of Brazil). What is actually more and better is this: Rome is examining the "Divine Union Sodality" of which our Congregation is the center, but which embraces the spheres of multiform external religious. This is the completion of the work necessary to work effectively for universal sanctification. And every internal religious should become a true missionary of this Sodality, and thus form a people of saints to present to the Lord.

What does the parish do? Are you aware of all the current provisions regarding Catholic Action? And what does Fr. Pietro say? Goodbye. Happy Easter! Do the sacred functions with fervor. The money order also arrived today. Thanks a lot.

N. 854

We'll see if we can improve Scigliano's situation a little, but for now you have to make up for it, courageously.

Pianura, July 28, 1948

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May God the Holy Spirit unite you ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thank God I am healed and I thank you for what you have done for this purpose. I also thank you for the generous offering you sent. I permit you to go home for your sister's wedding, begging you to hurry quickly.

The professed will probably stay a month in Perdifumo and a month in Mercato; but I thank you all the same for the hospital-

ity you would have granted them. We'll see if we can improve Scigliano's situation a little, but for now you have to make up for it, courageously.

May Jesus bless you. Become a saint.

P. S. Perhaps four or five professed will come, those who have to begin the academic course.

N. 855

Get your pupils excited. Because they aim at lay states, they must not be dispensed from the duty of religious fervor. Get this right in your head: Serving God fervently is simply every man's duty!

Pianura, November 22, 1948

Dear Giacci,

I hope you have sent Fr. Garofalo to his destination of obedience. If you find out that he hasn't gone yet, you'll make an effort to make him leave immediately, and if he isn't in Scigliano I authorize you to do so by telegram with my signature.

As soon as a teacher sent by me arrives, you will have Fr. Carosiello leave for Valleverde of Bovino. If he had already taken the exam for the parish and had the bull of parish priest, he will remain the holder of the benefit, even if he goes to Bovino. If he hasn't taken the exam yet, you will prepare yourself for it and you will do it without fear of staying in Scigliano forever. I beg you to facilitate the labor of our houses and works with generosity of obedience.

Become a saint.

Fraternally, prevent Fr. Jovine from forming friendships with outsiders, from going to anyone's house. But this was not because he left anything to be desired on this point, not at all, but out of duty as a local superior. And do not receive people of the other sex into your house, according to the Rule, which is so explicit on this point.

Get your pupils excited. Because they aim at lay states, they must not be dispensed from the duty of religious fervor. Get this right in your head: Serving God fervently is simply every man's duty!

Become saints. May Jesus bless us.

Fr. Pietro stopped in Posillipo or Pianura before reaching the residence.

N. 856

I recommend the fervent Christian formation of your internal and external students. They must receive from us a beautiful spiritual imprint and deep religious convictions.

Pianura, 11 - 29 - 1948

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless us.

About the wishes of the good town hall and people of Scigliano yes, we must always and invariably answer everyone: "If we haven't first modernized the entire gymnasium rooms decently, we won't do the paperwork for state recognition of the school." As for the contract, it is expressly stated that we will do everything possible, but only "possibly" and the first thing to make this possible is the decent modernization of the entire place. You can tell anyone these decisive words.

As for the parish of Calvise, evidently His Excellency could not tolerate any longer that it remained juridically vacant, the confrere not having hastened to repeat the exam. Now the confrere is destined elsewhere. I think you could prepare yourself a nice exam in morals, with some compendiums and be ready for some calls.

It is forbidden for religious to present themselves in the competition, because the parishes that are to be entrusted to them must be so, non more *sacerdotum saecularium*, as it would be through a

successful competition which would give the individual a certain right to be a parish priest and remain a parish priest, while the religious pastor is always removable.

On the other hand, it may also be that His Excellency either did not ask or had denied permission from the Sacred Congregation of the Council to entrust the Parish of St. Nicola in Calvise to the religious.

For my part, then, I have no exact idea of the convenience or otherwise on our part of remaining committed to that Parish. Certainly either that, or no other in Scigliano, for distances that are not short. But is it better to keep at least that one? You who are in the area - you can say it, and you must say it dispassionately even if the affirmative judgment would result in you having to take the exam.

As for Fr. Jovine, he and everyone else should be grateful if the superior warns them against the things that can and do happen to everyone. Taking it badly is a bad thing for many reasons.

The professor I am sending you is a university student who has completed the four years and exams, he only has to discuss his thesis. I have no reason to believe he's lying. He would like to be a religious, and as our postulant I am sending him to you so that you can then report on his conduct.

I trust it will be useful to you. His name is Farro Antonio, from Marcianise. Dressed as a layperson. We have known him for more than a year, because he has been insisting on coming to us for a long time, however he has had some hesitations perhaps because of his family. Make him a good religious.

I recommend the Christian-fervent formation of your internal and external students. They must receive from us a beautiful spiritual imprint and deep religious convictions.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

N. 857

Do you have enough clothes (shirts, coats) for winter? Why don't you buy electric heaters for the bedrooms, starting with yours?

Pianura, 12 - 4 - 1948

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless us.

I'm doing everything I can to send you another priest. Whoever comes, welcome him fraternally. (Perhaps Fr. Ruizzo). As soon as the other priest arrives, Fr. Pietro will go to Mercato Cilento, no more to Bovino. In Mercato he will teach theology to one of latest ordained priests.

Do you have enough clothes (shirts, coats) for winter? Why don't you buy electric heaters for the bedrooms, starting with yours?

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you. Merry Christmas.

N. 858

12 - 4 - 1948

Dear Giacci,

The other priest will surely come. Either Fr. Ruizzo or someone else, he'll come. There will be three of you. In the meantime, couldn't you get Fr. Carosiello to leave right away for Mercato? Since from his arrival depends Fr. Paris departure from Mercato to Camella, where poor Anella is alone in caring for the vocationary (with three classes) and the parish, having retired to Pianura Fr. Galasso as master of novices.

If you can do this, notify me by telegram.

I hope that the priest destined for you arrives before this letter. But if he were to be late for a few days, I would like Fr. Carosiello not to be late in his new post.

N. 859

Pianura, 12 - 18 - 1948

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

It was not possible for me to assign anyone else to Scigliano but Fr. Costantino Ruizzo, of whom, they assured me, that he would gladly have been with you. He is allowed to keep his studying brother with him, and also to dispose of the Masses in favor of the family. Since the applications are missing on the spot, I proposed that he apply for me so that I would give him the corresponding alms month by month.

I thought that he had arrived in Scigliano the same day that Fr. Carosiello was leaving. Instead he was in Salerno with Fr. Fontana.

I would like to know immediately of his arrival and accommodations and I say the same of the parish, which I hope will remain ours; prepare yourself for the exam (not the one for the competition to which ordinarily we do not have to present ourselves) that the Bishop would ask, at his guarantee of the subject's suitability.

Watch yourself as best you can from the cold. I wish you many beautiful heavenly graces for Christmas, with your warm welcomes and correspondences.

Become a saint.

N. 860

Any other good priest would do what you do, but it cannot be enough for a religious apostolate and a religious vocationist. I expect from you, after many prayers and, if anything, also penance, as a vocationist religious action plan because this is what the Lord wants from us!

Pianura, March 22, 1949

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you!

I enjoy the positive outcome of the examination, and also the interest in keeping this area to the Congregation.

I wish that by praying every day specifically for this, you would be enlightened by the Lord on the practical way how to carry out the true and proper vocationist apostolate in that area, both within the college (vocationary) and in the parish (ascensionary) and in the populations of the various fractions of Scigliano and neighboring towns.

Because, observe well, any other good priest would do what you do, but it cannot be enough for a religious apostolate, and a religious vocationist.

I expect from you, after many prayers and, if anything, also penance, as a vocationist religious action plan because this is what the Lord wants from us!

I commend our confreres to your charity so that you help them to be and perfect themselves as vocationist religious!

And (as if you had thought of it yourself and yourself alone) provide for Fr. Ruizzo according to his wishes, without naming me, because in other houses he was not satisfied with the local superiors while he seems not to have, and must not have any complaint. He is a good religious worker, and can do a lot of good.

Recommend to Ennio humility with the superiors, charity with the students and fervor in the things of the Lord.

Pray for me. Become a saint.

N. 861

I have instructed Fr. Ciro. Let him go, don't be afraid. You just mind being and forming good religious!

Pianura, 6 - 8 - 1949

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

Hurry to take canonical possession of the parish. Did you

get the letter of appointment? Today I sent the Superintendent of school of Potenza the documents for the twelve graduates in Theology, to have the relevant documents for teaching in middle schools and thus be able to ask for August 20, the day on which the deadline expires, the authorization for the Gymnasium and so start the practice.

I have instructed Fr. Ciro. Let him do; don't be afraid. You just take care to be and train good religious!
Become a saint. I'm in a hurry.

Gualtieri, the little one, has yet to profess. He is a novice. I promised him to come for a week and he refused. The older is in Rome and cannot leave.

N. 862

Pianura, August 15, 1949

Dear Fr. Olindo,

Happy Assumption.

I am sending you a copy of my reply to the Mayor. It's not necessary. Let's do the best we can in silence. This year there is the intention of establishing in Scigliano the vocationary of the upper, fourth and fifth gymnasium; so that all aspirants to the secular clergy and to other institutes come to Scigliano; and only aspiring vocationists in Pianura (I - II - III gymnasium) but only boarding school for these classes and for the upper gymnasium, then vocationary and boarding school, until the approved boarding school has a sufficient number of pupils, and the congregation can have elsewhere the complete vocationary for the secular clergy etc.

In the meantime, Trifirò and Fr. Di Guida would be needed in Rome. In their place I am sending you the two Gualtieri brothers, whom you will allow to visit the family every day, but they must reside in the religious house.

I ask to know in detail about their fidelity to our practices of piety, and I expect from them perfect obedience to the first call to

Pianura, without any delay, for any reason, neither from you nor from them, nor from the family.

I expressly send them for the service of the Congregation, (and they can return it by helping those who have to take remedial exams) not for family holidays.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 863

As for everything, after having explained every difficulty with simplicity and interior humility, that is, true before the Lord, let us commit ourselves to obedience with all reverence, and to providence with all trust. There is divine providence also for the place, for the staff, etc.

Pianura, 9 - 8 - 1949

Dear Giacci,

May Jesus bless us.

De Luca is also coming to stay with you for a while. And how is Trifirò? I would have liked some news. When he can travel without danger, you will have him accompanied, or if it is useful for you to come, you will accompany him to Pianura.

I have engaged Fr. Giorgio, Fr. Ciro to follow Scigliano's practice in Rome. We are still waiting for the diplomas, the appointees are away from the offices.

As for everything, after having explained every difficulty with simplicity and inner humility, that is, true before the Lord, let us commit ourselves to obedience with all reverence, and to providence with all trust. There is divine providence also for the place, for the personnel, etc. Only that the Lord does not always provide with the criteria and in the ways that we would think. So for e.g. a person who seems inappropriate to us can become very appropriate, and while we were thinking of changing him for another, the Lord instead changes him into himself, and here we have reached the goal but in a different way from ours.

Dear Giacci.

I wrote you the above letter then, waiting for you in Mercato for the spiritual exercises, I left it in Pianura. Having come back here I send it now.

Let the two Gualtieri come quickly, indeed immediately, since (the first) has to retake an exam before being admitted to the new year, and the inauguration is on Saturday, and on October, 3 next Monday, they begin very regularly the classes.

You haven't even written to justify your failure to come to the exercises. We were about fifteen priests and the same number of Sisters.

Goodbye.

P. S. I'm afraid that you may have allowed Trifirò to go home. Reassure me.

N. 864

You did not reply to the circular. Respond above all with facts of obedience and observance and we will all be happy relating to these practices; likewise you did not answer another one of mine that was very serious in content and form.

Pianura, 4 - 25 - 1950

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

I hope Fr. Carosiello is already in Scigliano. He had almost completely lost his hearing, and therefore deserves all fraternal sympathy if he delayed, to regain it, at least in large part, with the means of science.

Even dear Fr. Zoppo was prevented by the Archbishop of Salerno from coming as he had decided, and he had to have another destination. Circumstances independent of our human will prevent the course of events as traced by our desire, and also by the decision of others.

So now I am obliged to ask you brother Giovanni Saturno who is wanted by obedience to Acquaviva delle Fonti, for help to that orphanage and vocationary. Get it started right away, since I've already delayed too long writing to you out of regard for the need of this house, a need however insignificant compared to the need of another. As soon as other brothers have professed I will send you another.

Your last letter to Ennio is neither prudent nor edifying, nor is it very truthful in the assessments you make about myself and the two aforementioned confreres. Patience! I recommend you once again that one of these Fathers should not fail to celebrate Holy Mass every day for the Sisters of the hospital, and that you all do the morning meditation hour in common, and at least the evening prayers in common.

You did not reply to the circular relating to these practices: just as you did not reply to another of mine, which is very serious in terms of content and form. Respond above all with deeds of obedience and observance and we will all be happy.

Have a beautiful Marian month, with the Sisters, in the parish, and at the Gymnasium!

I hope to see you soon. Become a saint. May Jesus bless us.

P. S. We are now beginning to give news of our most important affairs in *Spiritus Domini*, and therefore I dispense with telling you about the departure of our people for Brazil, etc. Become a saint and be a good friend!

N. 865

I have to prepare about two million for about ten missionaries to Brazil and therefore I ask you for what is needed for the habit of this teacher destined for Scigliano because having been in Marsico as a cleric, he rightly does not want to return there as a layperson.

Pianura, 7 - 25 - 1950

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

I hope you derive much fruit of patience from all these contradictions about the college and the school. But fear not. Everything will be better with the grace of the Lord and your good will. Now:

1 - let me know what Riccardo Gualtieri, our fugitive, is doing. Before asking for a dispensation from holy vows question him alone about his intentions.

2 - You have to make a civilian suit for the young Lauriello, a graduating student (in excellent condition with exams already taken, and with flattering results: he has just three left to do); he has applied to come to us, but since he was in the Seminary, he is accepted with the condition to graduate first. However, he cannot wear the seminarian's habit, which he has worn so far. He has already been teaching with us for two years, one year in Pianura and one in Marsico. And he is good.

I have to prepare about two million for about ten missionaries to Brazil and therefore I ask you for what is needed for the habit of this teacher destined for Scigliano because having been in Marsico as a cleric he rightly does not want to return there as a layperson. If you want to receive some professed brothers for the holidays, let me know and I will send them to you.

Ennio did a good exam. I'll send him on vacation elsewhere, not to you.

Tell the confreres to prepare well for the five-year exam. How many have to do the spiritual exercises? I hope to get to you for a couple of days, but I don't know when. Become a saint. Pray for me.

N. 866

We would like the confrere Colaguori to touch up a statue. If you can, let him come and he'll discuss the matter with Fr. Impagliazzo.

Pianura, 7 - 29 - 1950

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

We have here in Pianura and precisely in Torre Pisciscelli a statue of the Blessed Virgin that must be carried in procession in days but is in a deplorable state because it is all smoked (and this is partially insignificant due to the dampness). We would like brother Colaguori to retouch it. If you can, get him to come and he will discuss the matter with Fr. Impagliazzo (because I will be absent).

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 867

Another vocation in difficulty and to be rehabilitated, Professor Cristallo obtained permission from the Sacred Congregation of Religious to come to the Congregation and then to the novitiate.

Pianura, 11 - 25 - 51

Dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

Professor Cristallo obtained from the Congregation for Religious permission to come to the Congregation and then to the novitiate. This will bring you pleasure and ... displeasure. But trust the Lord that he knows even better how to provide for the need of teachers in which you find yourself. I did not quite understand the proposed solution (one of the solutions) that is to make Scigliano like a section of the Ginnasio di Cosenza: I would like to know if these schools "section of Cosenza" remain under our management or not. Because (for example) I would be very worried if they sent female teachers, or hostile to the clergy and women religious. Keep me informed.

If you have no Mass applications, celebrate for me, and at the end of the month give me the number and simply, each time, you

will tell me whether or not you can, in whole or in part, leave the corresponding alms to the mother house. If you can't, I'll pass you the alms; however after the application, not for lack of confidence, but because I won't always have it. I am anxious that you apply for me, to offer many *ad mentem Mariae!* Become a saint. We will take care of the rest in the coming years.

N. 868

Let's hope that the suffering from the rash coincides with the spiritual purifications of all the rot that spreads throughout life coming from the hidden subconscious bottom of our fallen nature.

Pianura, February 4, 1955

My dear Fr. Olindo,

May Jesus bless you.

Thank you for your last letter with the good wishes that I reciprocate. I've been prevented (now nearly three months) by many and severe eruptions in the neck, shoulders and sides. Now it seems they are leaving. This is for your concern about physical health. We hope they coincide with the spiritual purifications of all the rot that spreads throughout life from the subconscious occult depths of our fallen nature. Let us help each other to become saints!

Concerning the third father and anything else that may concern the external discipline of works and subjects, you must all contact Fr. Vicar General to whom all power has been given in this regard.

As for *Lupia's* salary, humbly ask the Rev. Curia after the first semester of ministry.

Become a saint! *Estote parati!*

What about the apostolate of Universal Sanctification? Don't you tell me anything? You are pastor of two villages and you will find in it the perfection of pastoral care.

N. 869

(undated note)

For Olindo Giacci,
Duc in altum!

N. 870

I especially want extraordinary modesty and a guard against superfluity and sensitivity of natural, even lawful, affections.

(Undated)

What I expect in particular from Giacci:

Extraordinary Modesty;

Complete abstinence from newspapers and romantic books;

Daily study of philosophy;

Daily and abundant private reading of the lives of the Saints;

Faithful exercise of the practice (Matter of the morning and evening extraordinary sacrifice);

Absolutely no relationship with any lay people;

Mortification of vainglory and vanity. (Habitual short haircut, no use of mirror, etc.);

Beware of the superfluity and sensitivity of natural, even lawful, affections.

Become competent in teaching and put all your effort into it.

N. 871

(Undated)

Dear Giacci,

May Jesus bless us.

Here are the professed brothers. From twenty they are reduced to two, which at the most will become four or five. They are those

destined for the academic course; they come to regain their physical strength before facing the school year and to prepare for the supplementary exam in philosophy. I entrust them to your benevolence, vigilance and edification.

Become a saint, May Jesus bless us.

CHAPTER IX

Letters to Fr. Mario Giannone

Vocationist of the first hour! First novice (together with Alfieri) after diocesan approval; he seems to have never entered the spirit of the Congregation, in which he made himself extremely useful as a professor. He enlisted as a military chaplain, without Fr. Justin's permission, and was a prisoner in Russia. After his release from captivity he continued his teaching of Italian and Latin. He was born in Montella, province of Avellino in 1910, entered the vocationary of Pianura in 1922, professed in 1928 and was ordained a priest in 1934. He died in Posillipo on May 25, 1989. He carried out his ministry in Sezze Romano, Altavilla Silentina, Posillipo and Pianura. From 1970 to 1982 he was General Councilor, Dean of Studies.

N. 872

Very tough recall for a 15 year old boy! Remember how the devil wanted to distract St. Ignatius from studying? Flooding him with apparently holy devotional sweetness. Thus this taste and attraction to solitude.

To Mario Giannone in reply.

May Jesus bless you.

1925

In your relationship there is the surest sign of natural or diabolical delusion. Any internal belief or disposition also of things that seem spiritual that causes us to then in disgust perform the present duty of obedience¹ is suspect and under the influence of

¹ "I mention your disgust at serving the holy Mass, which was extrinsic-

the evil one through our fault or trial. The good spirit puts only convictions in our heads and puts only dispositions in our hearts that conform both to the present duty of obedience.

Remember how the devil wanted to distract St. Ignatius from studying? Flooding him with apparently holy devotional sweetness, hence the taste and attraction to solitude. Examine your heart and much more ascend and dwell in the hermitage of the heart of God, and then you will have all the good of contemplation and action according to the integral type of Jesus which is the type of the religious of Divine Vocations (external name) and of the Divine Union (our internal real name).

By uniting ourselves more to God we will find ourselves more united with each other as well. Amen.

N. 873

Gionnone's father was about to leave for the United States; then the whole family moved there. "If you feel the vocation, there are no valid reasons against it."

Pianura, 8 - 14 - 1926

My dear son,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more in happy assumptions with Mary, Our Mother and Superior.

Thanks for your greetings and those of Fierro that reached me in Vaglie. If you feel the vocation, there are no valid reasons against it.

Putting yourself in the gears of the secular clergy, then hoping to get out of it is foolishness. It is easier to overcome the difficulties of the family today than of the bishop tomorrow. Returning to

ly and intrinsically obedience and in itself angelic ministry, unitive action with the Blessed Trinity in the wounds and sacrifice of Jesus. O my God, to be disgusted with serving Holy Mass!" (Fr. Justin).

the Vocationary is no longer permissible for you; yes, you can go to the novitiate; in the Vocationary no, because it's over for you.

I wish you the most beautiful things. Try to get your father's permission before he leaves. I warmly greet all of yours. They are good Christians and will not want to impede your religious vocation whatever it is.

May Jesus bless you all.

I'm waiting for all the aspirants from Montella to the Vocationary immediately. I kiss the hand of the Reverend Fathers Pelosi and Dragone parish priests.

N. 874

Do not boast, bad man, of the title of victim of the S.D.V! Our victim is only Jesus, Mary and Joseph, with them all of us it's true! But our sacrifice is consumed in the martyrdom of charity, in the hatred and pain of sin, in the devouring zeal for the glory of God in the sigh for the heavenly kingdom.

Nola, 9 - 18 - 1928

My dear Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The house in Posillipo where there is everything to prepare from scratch, without anyone's help, at least now, and a retreat in Afragola, and then here in Nola, and the worry of our students' exams at the seminary of Campania have prevented me so far from coming there to visit and also to write to you. You of Baronissi must help us a lot and you can help us a lot with prayer, with sacrifice. You have Jesus-Host!

How I wish our people in general, rather than thinking about their own consolation, would apply themselves to consoling others; more than to their own satisfaction they were helping others! I do not say this as a rebuke of your desire for at least epistolary correspondence from the one or those who

have to perform the office of Mary and Joseph with Jesus, for you! On the contrary, it is a duty and a need for you to desire and solicit it, just as for them, the superiors, it is a duty and a need to provide spiritual and material care to their pupils. Do not boast, bad man, of the title of victim of the S.D.V.! Our victim is only Jesus, Mary and Joseph with them all of us, it's true! But our sacrifice is consumed in the martyrdom of charity, in the hatred and pain of sin, in the devouring zeal for the glory of God, in the sigh of the heavenly kingdom.

If you believe you are a victim in any other way... you will be a victim of your own illusions, of the temptations of another, of the seductions of a third party, or a victim in a very common and ordinary sense, you will never be a victim of the S.D.V.

So wait to fortify or at least preserve what little health you have. I Forbid you to sing forever, except when you sing mass, and I impose the gravest possible silence.

May Jesus bless us. Goodbye. Become holy.

N. 875

I want you all exterior and interior industriousness, all austerity, all manly serenity, all strength of heart and spirit, all discipline of obedience.

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Ariano, 3 - 20 - 1929

My dear Don Mario,

Peace and joy from the good Lord!

Thanks for the letter, and for the good news and for the last ones of the previous letter of a higher order! My dear, we still need the healthy fear of death. And our Lord infuses it in a more effective way, since we didn't want to laboriously draw it from the holy meditation.

But I am sure that when we have come out of ourselves and

completely detached from any mellowness of the senses, from any tenderness of creatures according to flesh and blood, from any sentimentality that seems to be of heart and spirit but is not: then entering the empire of the holy author we will not need the stimulus of fear; and we will shed blood in another way! As we await an internal and external martyrdom. We wish it for the resurrection of many souls, and for our own ascension. *Haec est annuntiatio!* Your gospel!

Listen, my dear, I want you all exterior and interior industriousness, all austerity, all manly serenity, all strength of heart and spirit, all discipline of obedience.

It is all the more necessary to you as your physique does not stand strains and serious external labors. Show all the respects indicated, show all the reproaches for having neglected them, but internally plan what I want from you (as above).

Hoping to see you soon, maybe I'll get there first and then the letter.

I kiss the hand of my dear assistant and substitute. I recommend him! I greet Vassallo and I thank him for the greeting.

I bless you in Domino

N. 876

Your letter is the best you have written so far. There is no drop of poison. But it often happens that haste or other circumstances make me externally very rude and internally unintuitive of the wants and needs of others. Because it would be enough for me to know that another wants me or feels the need for me in his heart, and I immediately transport myself along the same paths of his heart.

Baronissi, 5 - 23 - 1930

Dear Mario,

As soon as I arrived, I looked for you, amazed that I didn't see you. Then you came while I was shaving ... and then the face is ... distorted. Come on, let's not be sentimental about it! Your letter

is the best you have written so far. There is no drop of poison. But it often happens that haste or other circumstances make me externally very rude and internally unintuitive about the wants and needs of others. Because it would be enough for me to know that another wants me or feels the need for me in his heart, and I immediately transport myself along the same paths of his heart. But when I don't intuit it... I make people suffer through no fault of my own... I must now tell you all the reasons for my work, my preference, etc. If you knew how hateful and bitter it is to have to justify yourself to a non-superior! I think this is enough to close the heart to any expansion.

I really didn't know, or I had completely forgotten, that the doctor had advised you to change air often. I only knew that Baronissi had hurt you.

I wrote greetings to Ubaldo ironically... he never wrote to me again neither for St. Justin nor for Easter! But I don't want to hurt him though. He has done and loved me like you, like many others, and he wants to be a Vocationist.

The thought of bringing him with me was really sudden... nor did I think of having him accompany me to Pianura.

Just this morning I made a prayer taken from various words of the Canticle, addressing them to the Man-God. "Let me feel your face. Take me in your embrace and in your kiss!" Since I really need a friend. And feeling a need is a sign that you do not have what you need. You know that expression from my prayer book "future friend!" But he will be not a man, but the God-Man! And we will love him.

Become a saint, be happy, and with a great blow of the wing and with a great dip in the blood of Jesus, get rid of the desire and love of sex and senses. Otherwise one is not really capable of the sovereign forms of friendship.

And the manna ceased after they had fruit of the earth. The superior form ceases when the inferior form takes over.

Goodbye. Are you preparing some exam? May Jesus bless you.

I have not said nor will I tell anyone what you have communicated to me. I hope you will do the same. Let us not aggravate the evil by spreading it, even as simple news in others.

Perdifumo, August 2, 1930

My dear Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

... And men loved darkness more than light because their works were not such that they could come to light.

There is the one who draws us from the darkness into his admirable light; he shines in our hearts; in his heart and in our heart. So if we want we can settle down and progress in the light... *ut filii lucis.*

Your violation of the perpetual vows *coram Deo* has no extenuating circumstances, nor in the family that emigrates, since already *coram Deo* is no longer your family but the S.D.V.; nor in sickness because it should be the S.D.V. to dismiss you, not you that leaves it out of fear of punishment; and the fear of death, proper to infirmity, keeps us from prevaricating and leaving our place in earthly paradise, so as not to lose that in heavenly paradise as well.

I won't tell you anything else, because you have always poisoned my words. You call hostile ultimatums my propositions so true, so good and so useful if a faithful heart had listened to them. Your heart is not and has never been like this; it was satisfied with some sweet emotion of the moment, and believed it to be love and praised it as friendship; but was unable to sacrifice and to unite itself in the great reality of duty with the one who unworthily represented Jesus with you, in your midst.

Don't tell Jesus that the one who thinks of betraying him loves him. Don't tell him that the one who wants to do his own will loves him. All right. Enough. May the precious blood of Jesus preserve us from the abyss of sin and hell.

Et pax Dei quae exsuperat omnem sensum, custodiat corda vestra et intelligentias vestras in Cristo Jesu.

If you decide to stay, expect the word of truth from me every day... *veritas odium parit!* ... but you will do it in caritate... *veritatem facientes in caritate...* and for this you will grow in Jesus Christ.

Our hearts will adore him.

P. S. You will do theology in Cava (not as a prefect but as a Vocationist enrolled in the Diocese of the Trinity according to the last agreement with the Abbot).

P. S. I have not told and will not tell anyone what you have communicated to me. I hope you will do the same. Let us not aggravate the evil by spreading it, even as simple news in others.

N. 878

Pianura, 3 - 11 - 1931

To Giannone
My dear Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The ninety-nine sheep are left safe and the shepherd goes in search of the lost one. In my opinion the young Giannone is always where he was when he came for the first time. I don't care what old man came out of him later. I say to this ugly old villain: you need to make yourself a child again. I accepted that boy into the Vocationary. And that child will also be admitted to heaven. The other, no!

Now I leave you on the knees of Saint Catherine like that young delinquent sentenced to death, who in Catherine found peace, penance, and the courage to die peacefully. Let yourself be cut off in peace on the knees of St. Catherine, otherwise you will

not become the child of the Gospel again, to whom only heaven is reopened. And don't come back to me again, sick as before, neither spiritually nor physically, but all science and health, all healthy and beautiful and apostle's fire.

Write to me often and I will seldom answer you. And don't murmur if you ever notice that I write to others more often. Now you are quite a group of theologians... I want you to be a group of religious saints. You must be like its soul with your example. I condemn you in preparation for the interior and exterior apostolate to seven years of silence, interrupted only by a few replies to your professors and confessors and by a few letters to me. Then nothing more.

Bye. Become holy. May Jesus bless you.

N. 879

My son, do not ruin yourself, body and soul, in time and in eternity. Cling more than ever to your Mother Society of Divine Vocations; she will be your victory and your life. Now I entrust you more than ever to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Now I recommend you more than ever holy humility. I bless you most effusively. Become a saint! Don't betray me, don't abandon me. You must be a beautiful star of the S.D.V.

Pianura, 5 - 10 - 1931

My dear Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

How are you? They write to me that when you're strong and good, you sometimes deprive yourself of a few eggs to give to sick comrades. I enjoy the virtuous act, but don't do it anymore because I fear for you.

As I wrote to the other houses, I charge you to recite aloud every day, during the holy Mass all seven prayers of St. Alphonsus distributed for each day of the week, which are found at the end of the Tribute, with as many "Salve Regina" and precisely:

1. *At the Offertory; 2. At the Sanctus; 3. After elevation; 4. After the Pater; 5. After communion; 6. After the holy mass; 7. After the blessing. Seven prayers and seven Salve Regina a day during the sacrifice.*

It was Pirelli to begin negotiations for the house in Rome, I hope that air helps you... because you're going there to become my doctor! Perhaps our deacons will be priests at Pentecost! Thank you. Pray a lot for them to be apostles!

Your mother wrote to me. She also sent me greetings and I didn't answer because I didn't know the address. Now I got the address from Aunt Angiola and wrote to her. Promising her that when the time to leave really comes, she will notify me and I will have you come to our beautiful new house in Posillipo (Bellavista!) and there you can stay together even for several days, because she will also be able to stay with the nuns, and then I will come to greet her at the time of departure and to bless her journey and to comfort her in that sadness.

But you, always so chatty, now you don't write to me. And I understand why. You have made a covenant with sin, and you conspire with Satan who is always the author of division and therefore of death.

My son, do not ruin yourself, body and soul, in time and in eternity. Cling more than ever to our Mother, Society Divine Vocation; she will be your victory and your life.

Now I entrust you more than ever to Mary Most Holy. Now I recommend you more than ever holy humility.

I bless you most effusively. Make yourself a saint! Don't betray me, don't abandon me.

You must be a beautiful star of S.D.V. By the time I meet you, I want you all victorious morally and physically.

Nothing is impossible to grace when we on our part bring goodwill into the service of God. May Jesus protect you.

This letter is a masterpiece of irony! "It seems to me that Jesus has abdicated his judicial power into your hands and you with ardent zeal hold his position as judges of men and of the elderly, of the living and the dead, and then woe to others if they judge and condemn you! Then it would be everyone's duty to rise up on your behalf so that you are recognized as the most studious, the most cultured, the most modest, the most obedient, the most amiable, the most angelic young men who have ever gladdened the heart of the Lord.

Pianura, 6 - 8 - 1931

To the Vocationist Clerics
of Vallo della Lucania

My Dear Little Brothers,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

In our little story it will be remembered that from the house of St. Catherine came the first announcement of the approval she had been waiting for about twenty years (just as from Pinta², if I'm not mistaken, went off the shot announcing to the tired and disheartened crew of Columbus the appearance of dry land, after so long and painful and scary navigation!). Congratulations to you!

As a thanksgivings I remind you that in every person of the neighbor, but especially in the superiors starting from the highest and most intermediate to the lowest and most immediate (therefore prefects of dormitories, vice-rectors, professors etc. etc.) in them all we must see, reverence and please Jesus himself! How can we afford such endless murmurings, such ruthless condemnations, such harsh criticisms?

It seems to me that Jesus has relinquished his judicial power

² Pinta is the name of one of the three caravels in which Christopher Columbus set out to discover America.

into your hands and you with ardent zeal hold his position as judges of men and of the elderly, of the living and the dead, and then woe to others if they judge and condemn you. Then it would be everyone's duty to rise up on your behalf so that you are recognized as the most studious, the most cultured, the most modest, the most obedient, the most amiable, the most angelic young men who have ever gladdened the heart of the Lord.

Therefore, my dear ones, learn to obey with simplicity, to suffer in silence with wisdom, to always interpret correctly and always justify your neighbor, to leave the Lord in charge of you, of your profit, of your good name, of your physical and moral well-being. Think only of diligently fulfilling all your duties of piety and study, as good religious; the Lord will take care of the rest.

You have seen the consequences of your dealings with lay people, not exclusively for spiritual ends and things. Worse still, you have suffered in yourselves, in your sick fantasies and morbid feelings.

Learn to obey simply, once and for all, without much reasoning.

Now, as in the small mail, I give some answers to individuals, while reserving the right to write to those who wait patiently.

1. The tonsure cannot be received before the holy vows, nor can these be taken before the two years of novitiate, etc. Therefore:

2. Those who do not have the vows should not present themselves for the theology exams and I myself will write to the Bishop not to admit them to the exams. They will do them after the holy vows.

3. It is impossible to take exams elsewhere. Therefore, without discouraging yourselves, with holy humility and trust in the Lord, present yourselves, and try to be promoted in as many subjects as possible, and the others will then be discussed in October, but in virtue of holy obedience present yourselves to the exams of all subjects.

4. For the needs of the house, everyone is to give literally every-

thing he has with him, even if it's 5 cents. The postulants should ask their families for some assistance by way of alms. Write to Costantino's family to match what he paid to the Seminary, with all the arrears or at least two thirds of what he paid to the Seminary, and this by way of justice. This is what the superiors of the Pozzuoli Seminary tell us. The Lord sees our need and has to pity us if we come to this decision.

5. Ask for forgiveness whenever any of the superiors seem offended, for any reason, even if it seems to you that you have all the reasons. The reasons for humility are above all others, for us.

6. Ciro and Giannone renew the perpetual vows, or rather make them in the hands of my delegate Fr. Guerriero, whose absence made invalid the profession already made. If then they had already made their vows in the hands of Fr. Guerriero, nothing else is needed.

7. Let everyone sanctify the month of the Sacred Heart, June, and of the Precious Blood, July and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, August, as well as the common practices with these two: heroic modesty and millions of acts of love.

8. I will slowly write to D'Auria, Martellino, Costantino, Tizio and Sempronio, Caio, Giannone, Fr. Mario in Montella, Gerardo's brother, Commare Gioconda's son.

I hope to see you soon glorious and triumphant over solemn failures.

May Jesus bless us.

Do penance, because you have once again forced me to write to you with my head, while I always wanted to write to you with my heart.

N. 881

Between serious and half-joking, he jokes, makes fun of, exhorts and directs his not too docile friends!

Pianura, 6 - 30 - 1931

My dear friends,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I am sorry that I am still unable to write at length to each and everyone of you as you deserve and as I would like. So, you must be content with some answer in common, and to whomever it may concern

1. I'm sorry that my Broccoli is sick; and much more that he does not want to be examined. Obedience of healing and a splendid result in the exams! Consult your doctor if necessary. I don't mind that I may find him in more correct proportions and somewhat approaching the Gothic style ... like Giannone.

2. Since the exams won't take long, I would ask Ciro to ask that excellent friend of ours, professor Signorelli to postpone coming to Naples for that purchase during the holidays.

3. I will gladly do the Gregorian month for D'Auria's mother this July; I'm content with almsgiving, as Father General is only a hundred thousand lire, I'll start tomorrow, July 1st: most precious Blood.

4. My beloved Mastrandrea will certainly learn with classic pleasure that in Morrone I had to send another to preach in my place. He went ... was not expected etc. some confusion... Deo gratias.

5. I tell Ciro for that lay brother whom he recommended to me, have him leave immediately for Bovino where he will do the postulancy with Don Attilio Cota. Much, much better if they were two lay brothers instead of one! The parish priest who wanted to detain him should be asked to let him leave immediately, because in this way he will be able to begin by rendering a great service to the Shrine of Valleverde.

6. I was invited to preach the spiritual exercises in the seminary and for those who are to be ordained, towards the end of July and beginning of August. If I'm not ill, I'll certainly come and we'll do them together. I hope to find you all with a clear conscience and a happy heart.

7. Ciro, see that you hurry up with your exams, and return im-

mediately to Pianura to prepare the... underground summer palace, intended for the holidays of the students from Vallo, who will mature there like the famous... hunchbacks! But I'll keep them annoying company.

8. I was coming to visit my very dear godson of your community, O.V. s.d.v. and I brought him the gift that I didn't give him at his Confirmation. On the way, the bicycle I was riding on broke, I panted to fly to him and... now I wait for him to come to me and take care of my bicycle!

9. I'm making myself a little prettier to please my beloved friends from Vallo. Now I understand why they cool my friendship. They find me a bit uncivilized and crude. A little aged... But I'm growing a tuft, I've bought a nice little watch for my wrist, a poetic Mazzellian line joins my forehead to the tonsure, you will see what a handsome young man who can occasionally go to the balcony... if ever some eye (...of vague pearls...) should grow languid or light up for me and I finally find some "correspondence of amorous senses" in my friends from Vallo.

10. So with thousands and thousands congratulations I take leave from my beautiful and ugly friends with a goodbye this time at the Greek calends, or rather, I meant at the Greek calends of August.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 882

It seemed useless to me that whole process drawn up against our ex-postulant. Charity is always needed. Even if we have to give a refusal, even if we have to take an austere measure, we always need humility for ourselves, charity for others.

Pianura, 7 - 11 - 1931

My dear Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

From what *Ciro* tells me, I can congratulate you on your exam and health. Glory to God and health to you!

You were asking me if you could use that principle of the Catholic morality regarding sins in any way doubtful in relation to confession. Not only can you but you must, I say, in your particular case.

It seemed to me useless that whole process drawn up against our ex-postulant. Charity is always needed. Even if we have to give a refusal, even if we have to take an austere measure, we always need humility for ourselves, charity for others. What would become of us if he who is above applied to us the criteria and measures that we use with others?

Focus more and more on yourself, detaching yourself from your own self and always going back to the Lord your God.

Even brimming with health, act like a fearful convalescent to always gain ground and never retreat. Much more is this notice worth to your soul.

I thank you for all the last letters that were... legible. Now I'm also writing to your mother and I've already written twice to console her and encourage her to do the duty that costs her so much.

Then, coming to *Posillipo* or *Pianura*, you will have permission to have her come to you... or vice versa.

I recommend that you cheer up, encourage, edify all these confreres... with your silence.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Prepare yourself for the ordinations.

N. 883

Pianura, 11-30-1931

My dear Don *Giannone*,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Ad maiora! In all the best meanings and *Deo gratias*.

In order not to aggravate you too much, I have arranged for Fr. Greco to come and replace Fr. Guerriero in the governance of this very small house. But you must tell me candidly if, in good conscience, all sentimentality aside, you believe that you could be enough on your own. Because I do not at all like putting in charge, even of four boys of the vocationary, this confrere not well formed (be prudent in keeping strictly confidential this thought).

If you can't or don't want to, then you remain in charge of supervising Fr. Greco rigorously. Do him the charity of fraternal correction with all charity and all truth, sweet and firm, when his mind is calm. I am also writing to him at the same time, so that he recognizes you as his private superior.

As for the boys, I want us to go forward with their contributions and with the providence of local benefactors.

I do not intend to contribute to the expenses of this house. If it does not succeed in this way, if by Christmas you have not paid off all debts, and renewed supplies like last year, I will really close up the house and they will go back to their homes, and they will see what a big difference between the tuition fees of the Seminaries and the alms that the Vocationary asks for.

As for the past exam, my dear, I think it is better to suffer in silence, and do spiritual good to whomever has given us or gives us this benefit of suffering.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 884

I too want the best proof of Vocationist devoted to the Holy Family-Congregation, in keeping you closely interested with loyalty and charity in the spiritual profit of Greco. He has lifted a burden from you, because you had to be in charge of the house.

Pianura, 1 - 4 - 1932

Dear Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thanks for the good wishes, which I warmly reciprocate, for the divine Epiphany.

I would like to keep you in more contact with me, at least by letter. But I cannot. The Lord disposes so. You are an adult. You have to give it a good try. You are acolyte. You must prepare yourself for the priesthood in union with the divine Word in the Spirit. You are perpetually professed and you must strive generously for our perfection.

I too want a better proof of a Vocationist devoted to the Sacred Family-Congregation, in taking a close interest in Greco's spiritual profit with loyalty and charity. He has lifted a burden from you, because you had to be in charge of the house (and if I could do it right away, I would send him elsewhere). And you now take care of him with much prayer, with your good example, and with the secret fraternal correction, of which I make you a true duty of conscience.

As for you, just as your silence displeased me when you were in Pianura, so now your verbosity from Vallo.

Write to me every day, but without abandoning yourself to declamation, and without the frills of sought-after phrases and words. So blunt, I'd say almost like a telegram.

Don't take into account, nor report so many fleeting attitudes of your thought and all the mental film. You are a companion of death. It accompanies you step by step, and wants to fix you in eternity with thought and heart. Remember "*O mors, bonum est consilium tuum!*" Make continuous acts of theological divine virtues, and the continuous abnegation of the intellect in its curiosity, morbidity and pride.

If you wanted to study more and you would leave it to me, now I would provide you with good books and tomorrow Rome would be waiting for you for the two-year period of improvement after the priesthood. But for you it could also be six years. So you could elaborate on something. But as on holidays you indulged

in intemperate reading and study without availing yourself of the control and blessing of obedience, so now you feel the effects of mental confusion and weaknesses.

Durum est tibi contra stimulum calcitrare... And elsewhere “see how it hurts you to have distanced yourself from the direction and from the Lord” (this last quote is not *ad litteram*). Enough.

And the holy vows? How is your observance going? Whoever confided in me bad things in the past, please don’t leave me with those very sad ideas. I want to know you better. May Jesus bless you. Read, read spiritual things. If you promise me I’ll send you nice and high ones.

N. 885

You are a good financier! Thanks to the Lord and then to mother Gioconda and then a little to you too. I thank your young people very much for the good wishes, and you who have taken away from me the worry of this house. Stay calm on the breach. Holy Mary, our superior be with you in a very special way.

Pianura, 4 - 2 - 1932

Dear Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You are a good financier! Thanks to the Lord and then to mother Gioconda and then a little to you too.

I’ll be racking my brain over whom to send you. In the meantime, know that under the veil of this obedience that you have to remain where you are until the end of the year, Jesus sends you precisely the grace of victory over the beast that afflicts you. Then you will tell me the reasons.

During school time, you will take everything you need with you to take care of yourself and you will ask the Rector to allow you to stay at least in the Chapel and thus you will be safe with Jesus.

As for priests, I really can't move any of them. May Jesus bless us. I'll come to visit the house but I can't tell you when. I thank your young students very much for the good wishes, and you have taken away the preoccupation of this house. Stay calm on the breach. May Holy Mary, our superior be with you in a very special way. Amen.

Goodbye.

P. S. If you can, keep that layman with you, on trial, for some time, then we'll send him elsewhere. Couldn't he help you?

N. 886

You have to go through the desert, through the tunnel, through much bitterness of heart, to find in Jesus "the friend." But in that sense we cannot have it in any creature. The divine friend is disgusted by it. What would he do with a divided heart, that is, finally, with a dead heart? Behold! He will collect it, heal it, restore it, keep it in his own and set it on fire with himself and then that poor human heart will have found its friend and will count it in eternal love.

Pianura, 3 - 17 - 1932 - St. Patrick's Day

My dear little Rector,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You were right, as a good religious, to confide those temptations to me. You spoke like a good superior with those remarks about Jervasi. And you will still be a good subject to become more ascetic and more obedient.

Look, my dear, I can't do otherwise. This is how you have to finish the year. This gives you the merit of obedience (in which every victory of ours lies). I do not list the reasons for my precept. You will be satisfied with the "Will of the Lord."

But you must allow me certain confidences: 1. Why do you visit the parish priest? 2. Why read the newspaper on the balcony,

even if it were the Osservatore? 3. Why study on the balcony? 4. Why turn to calls and nods? 5. And above all, why only at home?

Go always with the community to church, to the seminary, everywhere; even if there were no other particular duty to make you go, you will go there to protect them and yourself. And everywhere you will find some nice way to occupy yourself.

I am convinced that you will allow me another confidence. Believe me: romanticism, sentimentality, swooning, betrothal of that correspondence of yours with our confrere Palmieri harm seriously holy purity. Your last letter has fallen into my hands. No, my dear, don't delude yourself! That is not supernatural affection, it is not laudable friendship. Jesus and the saints do not speak of that when they praise fraternal charity. It happened to me quite by chance and therefore providentially. I've never gone to the post office to supervise, as I could for my office, correspondence from our parents. But I would like you to spontaneously let your letters, active and passive, pass through me.

Don't say, "what's wrong!" There is real softness. Rather, tell me: where is the virginity of the heart when we open it and pour it out like that? How would a young lay man express himself to his fiancée? Isn't that like a marriage? Please read carefully the next and future installments of *Direttorio Sponsa Trinitatis*. Be a man, be religious, be holy, and be faithful to Jesus Christ.

You have to go through the desert, through the tunnel, through much bitterness of heart, to find in Jesus "the friend." But in that sense we cannot have it in any creature. The divine friend is disgusted by it. What would he do with a divided heart, that is, in the end, with a dead heart? He will collect it, heal it, restore it, keep it in his own and set it on fire with himself and then that poor human heart will have found its friend and count it in eternal love.

I already knew Zanella's verses after reading Kempis. But thanks a lot for the thought. I'll have them memorized.

I have truly involuntarily wronged you by not sending you the first copy of "*Spiritus Orationis*." Now let's do this, I'll give you

three copies ... one of which for Fr. Palatucci with a review prayer on "*Luce Serafica*" one for your mother if you like and another to your liking. Your personal, however, I will give it to you with my epigraph. Perhaps it will be good to give a free copy "*in homage and a perennial wish*" to all the superiors of the seminaries. I will send it to the Bishop from Pianura for Easter.

Farewell! May Jesus bless you. Be good.

N. 887

Fr. Gennaro D'Orso is coming. Welcome him and cherish him that he is a friend.

Pianura, 4 - 4 - 1932

Dear Fr. Giannone,
The Very Rev. D'Orso Gennaro comes for about twenty days.
Welcome him and cherish him that he is a friend. He could stay also forever.

May Jesus bless us.

Do not move without my order. Goodbye.

888

For all the blame you want to throw on me, I appeal to your conscience, which attests to your full freedom to expose yourself or not to expose yourself to opportunities, to yield or resist temptations. For all the poison with which you intend to embitter those you shouldn't. I appeal to your heart.

Pianura, 4 - 24 - 1932

Reverend and Dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I thought of sending you company and help in Fr. Guglielmo Rossi whom I greatly respect.

You will assign him those tasks that you want in this small community, for which you will be responsible at least to the end of this year.

For all the blame you want to throw on me, I appeal to your conscience, which attests to your full freedom to expose yourself or not to expose yourself to opportunities, to yield or resist temptations.

For all the ... poison then with which you intend to embitter the one you shouldn't, I appeal to your heart that I never believe as bad as you would like to imply.

For your vocation as hermitic, Jesuit, I appeal to the Lord of our holy vows and the divine union of vocationists that you will speak to me very differently.

As for the house, the discipline, the administration, I'm almost happy. I recommend that you observe it as if it were a novitiate.

May Jesus bless you.

It's a beautiful Marian month all in the exercise of holy humility, since your weakness is pride and nothing else. I will see you in Vallo.

Jesus Mary Joseph.

P. S. I kiss the hand of Fr. D'Orso

N. 889

Do not receive any sister who is not sent by the Superior, I mean postulant or similar. While the one who is in the house, if she really cannot go back to her family and negotiate admission from there, let her go to the vocationary of Altavilla. But she should regularly complete the admission paperwork from her home.

Pianura, Corpus Christi, 5 - 26 - 1932

My dear Fr. Giannone and Fr. Rossi,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I feel a real gratitude for you, who with personal sacrifice carry on this house. Thanks to Giannone because he fills the financial gaps with his mother's donations. Thanks also to the students who, with the sacrifice of begging, help the treasurer a little. Thank you for the patience with which you bear my silence, and my delay in coming.

Do not receive any sister who is not sent by the Superior, I mean postulant or similar. While the one who is in the house, if she really cannot go back to her family and negotiate admission from there, let her go to the vocationary of Altavilla. But she should regularly complete the admission paperwork from her home.

In this way it seems that we must necessarily keep her, and to tell the truth, the Superior General is very annoyed by this and similar cases, of people recommended by priests, who intend to do a favor to families or young girls, with real disdain and disadvantage, and serious responsibilities of our poor congregation which is abused.

Even that of Vallo, which was recommended as a tribute to a person of the local clergy, leaves much to be desired and makes one suffer.

Jesus bless you.

Pray for me earnestly and reverently.

N. 890

Happy exams to you and the students! They need not think of going home for the holidays if they intend to continue their studies with us.

Plain, 6 - 25 - 1932

My dear Don Mario,

God the Holy Spirit... Amen! Have the kindness to stay until the end of the year in Vallo.

Happy exams to you and the students! They need not think of going home for the holidays if they intend to continue their studies with us.

Make sure you know for sure whether or not there will be high school in Vallo next year and report it. You can ask the Rector on my behalf. I know that the Regional is opening in Salerno and I have designated Fratte as Philosophical Vocationary etc. However, I do not want to displease His Excellency Cammarota if the high school remains in Vallo.

For the holidays, my dear, I have assigned you to Perdifumo, where other friends of Posillipo will go. Pianura is now all and only Novitiate.

I was with the Holy Father in private audience. Everything OK.

See you soon, I believe in Perdifumo! Keep in the holy fear of God! Jesus is near!

May he bless you!

Thank you very much for what you spent on the house, for your mom's dollars. She sent me \$5:00 too.

Greetings to Rossi. Your brother doesn't write to me.

N. 891

When I preach I would like you present, because you understood me and you were inflamed. But because you didn't practice Jesus made you absent. Now I don't talk anymore, because I'm under treatment, about preparation for death.

Pianura, 7 - 9 - 1932

My Dear Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

How I would like to find in you the ideal vocationist - or at least the fervent vocationist - or at least the good vocationist. "Humility, purity, charity" form the ideal Vocationist according to their degrees. Poor Giannone if he had to be judged by his letters. A grave shame they were for themselves, regardless of the faults they spoke of, but alas, too human! A good ingenuity like you should intuit many things, or at least all of these things!

All selfishness and sensuality! All right, I allow you the newspaper, but only the *Osservatore*, and reluctantly; make a real effort to make each article the theme of apostolic prayer.

Friends? Bad! You will find friends: The dead, Jesus in the Sacrament, and my spirit through the *Constitutions, Spiritus Orationis, Offertories*, and also through my miserable sick body, which nevertheless will still have to serve something, even there and around.

I don't like these friendships that are so frivolous with some, so soft with others. I don't yet see those friendships of apostles that I could bless.

I'm preparing a circular letter for our sick people: Justin, Giannone, Alfieri, Cajazzo, Rossi, Palmieri and a few others who escape me.

We must sanctify and sanctify ourselves! Do not poison! Treatment of silence and love of God! And not together!

In Rome nothing extraordinary much less theatrical as you would like! I will tell you everything verbally.

Be happy. When I preach I would like you present, because you understood me and you were inflamed. But because you didn't practice Jesus made you absent. Now I don't talk anymore, because I'm under treatment, about preparation for death.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 892

Let them take Cota's strong, disciplined temperament. Tell them these things. I regret not being able to write to them one by one as they deserve and I would like.

Baia, 9 - 9 - 1932

Dear Don Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The last letter is a good one. But among the motivations that

must make your current residence wonderful you have missed the most beautiful: The real poetry and sublimity of the place!

Obedience makes every religious residence delightful! Well you will go and stay wherever holy obedience wants.

Love the Cilento! Make me a nice poem or ode on Cilento, I don't have time to do it as I would like. It must be our first religious province!

My dear, my apologies to these good young men: D'Auria, Gentile, Romano, Rossi! I'm really getting them into theology! Let them take a good exam in philosophy, a strong resolution to fill every gap on their own, a private vow to be docile, faithful and generous in everything to Don Cota whom I give them as director these years up to the priesthood.

Take Cota's strong, disciplined temperament. Tell them these things. I regret not being able to write to them one by one as they deserve and would like.

Your mother will always be welcome in the Vocationary! But I wish she wouldn't move from your father's side. Don't ask for money! It's not good, it's forbidden! Gratefully accept on behalf of the community but without asking.

I kiss Guerriero's hand. I go to Lourdes.

May Jesus bless you. Don't be careless about your health.

N. 893

A truly exceptional gift! I want to offer for you one Mass a month, celebrated for you alone. Choose month by month the day that gives you the most devotion and you will tell me; at least until you are a priest.

Pianura, 11 - 25 - 1932

My good Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Come now, don't sulk at me! If you think about it, I really don't

deserve it. It is not convenient for you to praise or blame your superiors until you have the duty of office to do so. Don't believe so easily in everything that is said and that can disturb souls on behalf of the neighbor and especially of the superiors. Nor easily admit the thoughts that upset and agitate you. You know they are not from God.

In that great work of ours, take special care of England! You will see some beautiful things! Now it's in your hands. You must be like Moses or better still ... like Jesus!

I don't know what book you wanted. I found a piece of paper in the Breviary with your character on it and then I dropped it. Repeat it to me and I will get it for you. Meanwhile, a truly exceptional gift. I want to give you one Mass a month, celebrated for you alone. Choose month by month the day that gives you the most devotion and you will tell me; At least until you are a priest. But I also want to do it for Alfieri on another day if he likes it. Become a saint.

N. 894

Reject, fight, condemn frankly, strongly any escape from dependence, obedience and the like regarding readings, correspondences, affections and any relationship. These are the doors and the ways by which every enemy usually enters the soul of the religious, as it was for all humanity in every age.

Pianura, 12 - 13 - 1932

My dear Mario,

I will celebrate the holy Mass, for you alone, on St. John the Evangelist, so that you understand. What? Many things.

You didn't tell me the book you wanted, but the Lord made me track down that piece of paper and I'll try to accommodate you. However, I think that in the volumes of the Barin you could find what you want about the liturgy. See if they are in Posillipo as it seems to me, and if they satisfy you, so much the better.

My dear, as at the first inkling and report of the thing I didn't

want to inquire, so I didn't even want to read the letter. I said to Saggiomo: "Read it yourself and tell me only if it is humble." He told me: "he is humble." Thank God.

The aim is not morbid curiosity, nor the delight in the humiliation of others. How I wish certain things didn't even exist, so I try not to make them exist even in the imagination of ours. Once the measure has been taken, that's it. The most appropriate measure is humility.

My dear, let us embrace a generous discipline of humility of mind, of heart, of life. It consists in depending on everything. We seek direction and obedience for every pasture of the mind, for every pasture of the heart. It is the only guarantee against evil, as our cooperation in the grace of reparation; and of the preservation from evil. It is also the true discipline of the Christian hero, of God's chosen one. One of the gravest penalties is seeing our best minds withdraw from this strong discipline of mind and heart, with the only effect of enervation and dissipation of the mind, enervation and corruption of the heart.

You were at the head of the list. Now, pass among the humble, that is, among the great. *Dilectus Deo et hominibus cuius memoria in benedictione...erit*, this is humility.

Please accept the most sincere wishes of humility, purity, charity of Jesus Christ for the holy Christmas. Cooperate wholeheartedly in the progressive re-flowering of virtue among our confreres.

This I recommend: Reject, fight, condemn frankly, highly any escape from dependence, obedience and the like regarding readings, correspondences, affections and any relationship. These are the doors and the ways by which every enemy usually enters the soul of the religious, as it was for all humanity in every age.

Become holy. May Jesus bless you.

N. 895

May the Lord write your name in his heart, like the name of a vocationist saint.

1 - 27 - 1933

Greetings to my dear Mario Giannone, today that I am starting to use your gift, the fountain pen.

May the Lord write your name in his heart, like the name of a holy vocationist.

Prepare for the degree exam in philosophy to be taken, please the Lord, before priestly consecration (in Rome of course).

May Jesus bless you.

N. 896

I would like you, for reasons of humility, to abstain from any appreciation of anyone and always, and since it is done spontaneously, you contain it in yourself alone and drive it away.

Pianura, 3 - 30 - 1933

Dear Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The last observations (two letters) are so correct that I am surprised that you thought that the superior had not been aware of them. Believe in common sense, good judgment, good will and above all in the good (really adorable!) inspirations that the Lord, for the love he bears for this Congregation of his, gives to those to whom he has entrusted it up to now.

Don't send letters without envelopes anymore. I would like you, for reasons of humility, to abstain from any appreciation of anyone and always, and since it is done spontaneously, you contain it in yourself alone and drive it away.

In due time, that is, when you have a mission from God, you

will find yourself full of experience, common sense, good judgment, good will, holy inspirations. Courage. Write the book of the soul and for reasons of humility show it to Don Attilio (!).

Courage. We want to become saints. May Jesus bless us. Happy Easter!

N. 897

3 - 30 - 1933

To my Don Giannone.

Pax.

You will teach Holy Scripture to Don Attilio, succeeding to Don Fausto, two hours weekly. Arrange the time with him.

N. 898

Give me your head! Your heart is there too!

Pianura, 4 - 12 - 1933

My Dearest Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

For a month now, I too have loved Giannone sincerely; and I answer him precisely for those last lines of the letter... slyly pasted after four pages of grumbling.

I'll come especially for you, my dear, even twice a week if you like. Remember that in your last infirmity and confidences we remained that you had to apply yourself very, very much to humility to win on the whole line. Here are these opportunities for you to exercise it even heroically. You are capable of it.

I'll come, I told you, even twice a week for you alone, because I don't want to hinder with my mitigations the strong action you wanted for others. I will not give any permission to you either;

sure, however, that he will give them to you when you ask him.

If you were to show him your book of the soul just as to a director, I would like you much more, because I am sure you would become much better. Humility, humility! Accept this wish of mine among all the graces of redemption and sanctification.

Enter, my dear, into the reasons and opinions of the superiors, including him. You can say the Rosary uphill by yourself, even mentally so you will obey all the same.

Make yourself holy. Give me your head! Your heart is there too! I will see you in Posillipo. You would not come here for me.

N. 899

It is our right to participate in the meeting and I would like you not to renounce as, absolutely speaking, you could do. It seems to me, in the present moment, that you should rather make it your duty.

Pianura, 8 - 14 - 1933

My dear Don Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us more and more
with the Son to the Father.

It is our right to attend the meeting and I would like you not to renounce, as, absolutely speaking, you could do. It seems to me, in the present moment, that you should rather make it a duty.

I have no difficulty, out of exclusive concern for your health, allowing you days of vacation in another house, but it would be more perfect to conform to the rest of the community and take, as our purification, all the pains, adversities and inconveniences, of any kind, which we find in the house of common residence.

After the assembly, you could make the choice yourself, between staying (more perfect) and leaving (less perfect).

I highly recommend humility and meditated spiritual reading. May Jesus bless you. I wish you a good Assumption! Be holy.

N. 900

Man of little faith! This whole struggle is proof of life. It is a form of high purification, it is part of the cross of exile.

Pianura, 12 - 1 - 1933

My dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Man of little faith! This whole struggle is proof of life. It is a form of high purification; it is part of the cross of exile.

Benedixit te Dominus in virtute sua quia per te ad nihilum redigit inimicos nostros. "For you the enemy is annihilated," they say to Mary Immaculate, in the praise they already sang to Judith. Repeat it too.

Respice stellam, voca Mariam.

Exurgat Deus, Maria Immaculata, Sanctus Michael et dissipentur inimici tui. Amen.

Fiat cor tuum et corpus tuum immaculatum, in iustificationibus Domini ut non confundaris in aeternum. Amen.

Super aegros manus imponet et bene habebunt. Adulescens tibi dico: surge. Amen.

N. 901

I thank Blessed God for the good resolutions you have made in the spiritual exercises, especially regarding the holy obedience. But ask for perseverance in every grace, in every resolution, in every gift of God, otherwise we are all over again with our miseries.

Pianura 3 - 19 - 1934

Very Reverend and dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I hope that my delay in answering you, doesn't make you sad. I thank Blessed God for the good resolutions you have made in the spiritual exercises, especially with regard to holy obedience. But ask for perseverance in every grace, in every resolution, in every gift of God, otherwise we start all over again with our miseries.

Get ready to preach the spiritual exercises to the seminarians at the beginning of the school year, or when the Rector decides.

It would be very well done if you gave them the holy meditation orally almost every day. I say almost, because a little variety and vacation always helps. I say vacation from sermon, not from meditation, which would be done differently, not that it would be omitted.

Have you taken a look at the Library? There are some beautiful works. I gladly allow you to spend two dollars a month on books, and no more.

Don't preach to the people, I'm very afraid that you will lose in one day what you have acquired with great difficulty in a year of attention and care. Don't sing. Speaks little. But keep a good mood. Do not read daily newspapers but only *La Civiltà Cattolica* and the like.

Send me the fortnightly report and you will do a great good to remind the Rector of it too and to get him to do it and send it together.

Farewell. Become a saint.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 902

If you are well enough you could get there personally, in order to see personally whether it is appropriate to give him a second admonition, or to take him away if he is well disposed, even if he were still half-sick.

Pianura, August 1934

Dear Don Mario,

Please, welcome D. L. D'Auria for a few days. Four of these

theologians will go to Nola to act as prefects to the seminarians during the month of vacation they spend in the seminary. They will leave with Fr. Saggiomo on August 6, Sunday in the afternoon. Will remain the one you think is most useful to the house of Posillipo.

The address of De Felice is: Via Vittorio Veneto 54; if you are well and could go there in person, in order to see personally if it is appropriate to send him the second canonical admonition, or to take him away if he is well disposed, even if he were still half ill.

A Provincial who due to some indisposition does not carry out the orders of the General, I don't know what clothes he wears.

Until we meet again. As soon as I have made two or three thunderbolts to hurl at you!

May Jesus bless us.

N. 903

They have applied for admission among us. Officially declare to them that if they have been dismissed from the seminary or religious institutes, they will only be accepted in the category of our religious teachers (not priests).

12 - 10 - 1934

My dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Happy Advent, Merry Christmas!

Sorry if I don't immediately respond to yours for now. I need you to call the cleric Dante Ulgiati and La Foche, both from Sezze. They have applied for admission among us. Tell them clearly that if they have been dismissed from the seminary or religious institutes, they can only be accepted in the category of our religious teachers (not priests).

If they are willing, they can repeat the application for admission expressing this category to which they aspire. Otherwise

give them, in my name, the most categorical refusal, even if they submit to the three-year probation.

May Jesus bless you. Become a saint. Pray and have many pray for the Congregation. I warmly greet the Rector.

N. 904

Best wishes for much spiritual fruit. You will have to preach until Sunday, plan for the holy masses and provide.

Dear Don Giannone,

1935

The Rector of Saint Restituta comes to Lacco Ameno.³ I advised him to stay overnight in Posillipo and leave together tomorrow. Coming the bishop, make my apologies and highly recommend me to his prayers in which I trust very much.

May Jesus bless you. Best wishes for much spiritual fruit. You will have to preach until Sunday, plan for the holy masses and provide.

Goodbye.

N. 905

Words reveal the heart and therefore the interior, which is not always well regulated.

1 - 4 - 1935

Dear Don Giannone,

Pay close attention to the words, especially if they are written. From the words the heart is revealed and therefore the interior, not always well regulated.

Become saints! May Jesus bless you.

³ Lacco Ameno is one of the municipalities of the island of Ischia.

N. 906

Hope to see you in Pianura, for the day of the awards in Postilli if you can make it.

Pianura, 1 - 18 - 1935

To my dearest Don Mario.

All good wishes for your name day, with many thanks for the pious hospitality granted to me fraternally in the Ven. Seminary of Sezze.

I hope to see you in Pianura, for the day of the award ceremony in Postilli, if you can make it.

N. 907

It would seem to me not erroneous to say that the first grace (that is, the one received in our first justification, e.g. after the absolution of grave sins), this is intangible by venial sins. The second grace instead acquired with charity, good works etc. this is diminished by venial sins.

3 - 13 - 35

My Dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Although the trial continues, please do not slow down or reduce, much less omit those practices of piety for our Society.

As for ... venial sins, you were right to notice the difficulty that arises from that wording. And now knowing from your experience that way of expressing it may seem wrong, I would not use it so crude again. But you want to know how things are, doctrinally. Behold: venial sin does not diminish *entitative* grace, but the *dispositive* one.

As for the habit of grace itself, venial sin weakens it in its rootedness in the soul; and weakens it in terms of the intensity of the fervor of charity that habit induces in the soul.

As for the principal effect of grace, which implies the soul being ever more dear to God (*gratia gratum faciens*), it certainly diminishes it, so that it applies to lukewarm (that is, to venial sin deliberate and not renounced). "I'm starting to vomit you out" etc. all of this is contained in that expression.

To tell the truth, it would seem to me not erroneous to say that the first grace (that is, the one received in our first justification, e.g. after the absolution of grave sins), this is intangible from venial sins. The second grace instead acquired with charity, good works, etc. this is diminished by venial sins.

Imagine: I am in an abyss, far from the surface of the earth and therefore from the light of the sun, mortal sin. I rise from it. I emerge on earth, I see the sky, I am illuminated by the sun. State of grace before. I rise higher and higher into the sky and as I rise I am more and more ablaze with light and solar heat.

Second grace increases. It begins to decay, venial sins. I go down, down, down until I touch the ground again. Loss of grace due to venial sins. But I'm still on the ground, in the light and warmth of the sun, although less alive for myself. Because it is certain that venial sin does not deprive me of the state of grace; it doesn't make me sink below the first grace.

My dear, now please do not argue with anyone on this subject, not even myself, until we have spoken it out. But you can think differently. It seems to me that there can be free discussion of these effects of venial sin. What is established is that venial sin does not deprive us of the state of grace.

Other authors say that it does not deprive us of degrees of grace. I really hope that's the case too. But I don't see clearly in this other people's theory. It maybe be because my ignorance and I'm studying on it.

Goodbye. Become a saint.

N. 908

I wholeheartedly approve abstinence from the newspaper, even more rigorously if the Spirit so wishes.

Pianura, 5 - 5 - 1935

My dear Don Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

As for the use of the meat, you still have to use it for some time. You can take it, but only at noon.

I too thank the Lord for the holy lent that you spent quite well in terms of corporal penance. Brotherly, watch over the health of Torromacco who is dear to me.

I wholeheartedly approve abstinence from the newspaper, even more rigorously if the Spirit so wishes.

I am enclosing a current account with the wish that Sezze would renew my subscription to *Vie del Mondo* etc. If you can, point out that they have to send the backlogs starting in January. This is not urgent. Therefore, when you can, you will, without the slightest inconvenience.

This month, if the Lord wants it, I will go to Orte and Gorga and I will come to spend the night once in Sezze, going and returning, not having much time.

If the text of the consecration of the Society of Divine Vocations to St. Michael has not reached you by May, 8 do it in that form and with what you think best, by yourselves.

Strictly abide by what I prescribed to you regarding your internal difficulties of conscience, whatever happens to you and in any case it seems to you every time that there is, even if only, a single point of doubt involved.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 909

The word that is Word for you is "Intimacy of God, intimacy with God

6 - 26 - 1935

To Don Mario of the Holy Spirit (Giannone).

"Intimacy of God and intimacy with God." In other words, how it is missing, and it wants to be cultivated ... and all that one can meditate and practice on this theme, here is what the Lord is telling you today. Consider it as the supreme goal of our vocation and of our Congregation, and therefore also as the supreme grace of our family and individuals.

Since it's about intimacy, I can't get involved; I'm talking about your intimacy with God. Therefore, there's no need to think of any help that any creature can give you in this matter. The creature can remind you, point out nothing else. It is a hall whose doors the Lord himself wants to open! Then imagine all the rest.

Enough of human words. The word that is Word for you is this: "Intimacy of God, intimacy with God."

May Jesus bless you.

N. 910

This letter was attached to the one dated 6 - 26 - 1935. If you have the "Lectures of Fr. Faber" with you, I think it would help you a lot to understand the enclosed note, the one on "Trust."

Dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I received "Le Vie d'Italia e del Mondo" and I thank the donor and Providence.

Those sheets from the book of the soul, would you prefer me to send them back to you with annotations? If you have the "Lec-

tures by Fr. Faber" with you, I think it would help you a lot to understand the enclosed note, the one on "Trust."

It does a real study of the rules. Observe exactly seven, eight hours of continuous night rest. Avoid what you know is harmful to health, both in terms of quantity and quality of food and work, etc.

A relapse would be a real threat from the enemy. Goodbye. Become a saint.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 911

See to scrape together as much as you can and send it or bring it in this month of August. And if you ever know any possible benefactors, don't be afraid to ask for the Congregation.

Pianura, 8 - 10 - 1935

My Dear Brothers,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I have to pay several thousand (7000) in sales taxes etc. relating to the buildings received as a donation (fictitious purchase). In a few days, the term assigned by the law with judicial documents expires, beyond which part of these properties would be sold at public auction with very serious damage to the Congregation.

See to scrape together as much as you can and send or bring it in this month of August. And if you ever know any possible benefactors, don't be afraid to ask for the Congregation.

Bye. May Jesus bless you. Become a saint.

N. 912

If more through me or more through you, I leave it to you to guess. To me it would seem more through you since the instrument must be applied for it to act; and a nearby tool can be applied easier than a far away one.

8 - 21 - 1935

My dear Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I received your long letter and I will answer you at length when I come to Sezze for several days, now it is enough to recall together the divine *Misericordiam volo et non sacrificium* because in that mercy we will find the most effective means for everyone's conversion. Certainly this change for the better is needed and urgently needed, and perhaps I want it more than you and certainly the Lord wants more than us, but through us he wants to achieve and operate it. If more through me or more through you, I leave it to you to guess. To me it would seem more through you since the instrument must be applied for it to work; and a nearby tool can be applied easier than a far away one. But an instrument of what? Of that mercy of which it is said that it is desired in preference to sacrifice, by the Lord. With hasty means and methods we will immediately want to drive away, decapitate, bury. The Lord wants to be patient, heal, cure, reprove, etc. And you too, if you want to bear some healthy fruit, you must adopt that spirit and that method. And of course we agree on this.

I from afar and you from up close we have to confess *mea culpa*. Thus we get closer to the truth and for it to charity, and through charity we get more life in us and through us in others.

We are with the first course of spiritual exercises for religious Vocationists. Will there be a second? I'm afraid not. You will make them in Sezze, or you will go and have them done in some religious house in Rome. I will come for the exercises at the Institute of the Child Jesus. Do me the charity of going to the superior so that she can determine the day they will have to begin and I will come; in September, indeed in the first fortnight.

I hope to see you soon. Continue to be faithful to the book of the soul. I will take with me all the papers received so far.

May Jesus bless you.

Let us insist more in praying for the Congregation, since it seems that something will be decided in a few days. *Fiat voluntas Domini in gaudio.*

N. 913

You know how small our number is. And how limited the competence of many. So do not increase my anguish with your precipitation. A little more true humility, internal and external, and you would have gained your brother and guaranteed your progress. But we are still on time.

Pianura, 10 - 3 - 1935

My dear Don Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You're right. But don't rush. Don't start sending me... implicit and explicit ultimatums. Did you take me for the ... Negus⁴? "Either do this or else. Either he goes or I go. Either he changes course or I will do worse than him. Is all this convenient? You are not dealing with me but with God! Have it in mind!

So, I said you are right and we will fix it, with divine grace, in a way. But let's not rush. Having been in Termoli for a week, and immediately after in Pozzuoli for exercises in the seminary, I have not yet seen the confrere to see and know what he means. But he came several times to look for me and never found me. Now you do everything, out of obedience to the writer. And let me know objectively whether it would be better in the event that he does not return, that you act as rector and administrator and another as Fr. Spiritual and Chaplain of St. Peter's, or rather rector of St. Peter's.

You will say: who is this other one? I don't know yet. But I will

⁴ Alludes to the Negus of Ethiopia, subject of numerous ultimatums by the Fascist government before the conquest of Abyssinia in 1936.

find him. You know how small our number is and how limited the competence of many. So do not add to my anguish with your haste.

In his absence, you do everything. And especially ... form the prefects and teachers according to what you have understood. May they be good religious above all, and then they will easily be good prefects and teachers.

I will come soon, to see you again, to say certain things which it is not good to commit to paper.

See you again! Be serene and win this internal test that Jesus has sent you, to establish the virtue that is weak in you.

Finally a little more true humility, internal and external, and you would have won your brother and guaranteed your progress. But we are still on time.

Jesus bless you. We love him

N. 914

Do not easily confide in others what you are suffering. If there is ever a need for a doctor, telegraph and I will send you the Balilla to come to Naples and have you examined, etc.

Pianura, 10 - 4 - 1935

My Son,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I didn't expect this threat on your health. I suffer with you. I join the will of the Lord. But, courage! You must be well and become a saint.

Stay in silence for a long time, avoid everything that can harm you. Take whatever is good for you.

Do not easily confide in others what you are suffering. If ever there is a need for a doctor, telegraph and I will send you the Balilla to come to Naples and have you examined, etc.

I replied last night. Arrange the classes so that you have no les-

sons to do. Our things seem to be going better with the ecclesiastical authorities ... and in the meantime internal storms are being stirred up. Let us remain strong in the intimacy of trust in Most Holy God and in interior observances, preferably.

Make sure you're okay soon. Jesus bless you. Become a saint.

N. 915

I also want this form of good activity to be good on our holidays as usual; and even more this spiritual help to other Religious Communities. You too must do something for the religious communities of Sezze. Do not disobey!

Pianura, 10 - 15 - 1935

Very Reverend and dearest Don Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Let me know this good news about your health. And be on guard against it so that it is no longer due to any imprudence that a relapse occurs.

As for the exercises, if Father Rector and you don't mind, I will send Fr. Luigi Diodato who is in Pianura following the death of his brother. Returning to Orte, he would gladly stop in Sezze to hold a three days retreat for the seminarians. I would like Torromacco in Orte to do the same, as soon as he feels free from this health ailment. You tell him for me, because I don't have time to write on purpose right now. I am preaching the spiritual exercises to the Community of the Missionaries of the Sacred Hearts in Secondigliano. And so from September 22 to October 23.

I also want this form of good activity to be good on our holidays as usual; and even more this spiritual help to other religious communities. You too must do something for the religious communities of Sezze. Do not disobey!

Become saints. Jesus bless you.

N. 916

The preparation and training of prefects and teachers can never be complete. It must be continued under the direction, religious edification of our local fathers who must consider themselves Rector and Spiritual Father first of the little superiors and teachers they use, and then of the rest of the young people of the seminary.

Pianura, 10 - 20 - 1935

Dear Don Mario,

I am sending the young Cataldo and Cernolo to the Ven. Seminary of Sezze and I am waiting in Pianura La Fratte destined to this vocationary for as long as he deems fit. So would remain in Sezze: Cernolo, Romano, Giordano, Cataldo and Di Matteo.

To these you (Rector and Spiritual Father) will assign offices, classes, places etc. because I don't determine anything from a distance. I just want Di Matteo to attend fifth year of gymnasium and take the college entrance exams at the end of the year. Any comments about their preparation and training are superfluous.

Their preparation and formation can never be complete. It must be continued under the direction, religious edification of our local fathers who must consider themselves Rector and Spiritual Father first of the little superiors and teachers they use, and then of the rest of the young people of the seminary.

So I recommend Cernolo to you in a special way, so that you form him or rather reform him according to the Constitutions. I enclose a note for young people the students (which you will read to them, then keep it for yourself in accordance with the law).

To our young teachers (Ven. Sezze Seminary)

My dear,
God be with us.

Know that the Rector of the Seminary is your immediate Religious Superior; and the Spiritual Father is your Spiritual Father; in terms of confessions, life of prayer, etc., you are obliged to the same as the seminarians plus that of the Vocationists.

Therefore, the ordinary confessor is the spiritual father of the seminary. He must also preside over the weekly chapter in his room, or in that of the Rector. The Rector will then give you the conference with notices at least in each of our feasts (and there are many) and each time he feels good. And you must religiously listen to him and satisfy him.

Above all, I recommend the book of the soul, which you will send every fortnight to a father of the Congregation, and I must know it. And above all I forbid you to read the newspaper *L'Osservatore*. The local superiors will pass on to you any news or even those articles that they think best for you to read. Those who are not faithful to the book of the soul will not be ordained. For me they represent rebels against the direction of the Congregation.

Jesus bless you.

N. 917

As the gymnasium is complete this year, it should not seem excessive that there are also five teachers and even two prefects, in addition to the Rector and Spiritual Father.

Pianura, 10 - 24 - 1935

Dear Don Mario,

At the same time not simultaneously with the confrere Fr. De Rosa comes also Di Matteo. He comes to visit his aunt Sister Michela. He would like to stay in Sezze as prefect and fifth year student. If it looks good, hold him. He is able to please you.

Thus all the other teachers would be freer to study more comfortably on their own.

And since the gymnasium is complete this year, it should not seem excessive that there are also five teachers and also two prefects, in addition to the Rector and the Spiritual Father.

So it seems to me. But in this, tell me how it seems to you two priests. Because I repeat that I don't want you to teach (at most I would allow only one hour).

Jesus bless you.

I would like to know if any of the superiors warned, or not, La Fratte of the faults noted and deplored in him. And if, admonished, he repented and asked for forgiveness, etc. and whether, at least in the short time after, he corrected his conduct. He says no one told him anything. If this were true, I could not approve the removal caused by faults not reproached, and without any contumacy.

Pianura, 11 - 7 - 1935

My Dear, (Giannone and De Rosa)

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Evidently (for me, and I am surprised that it is not for the others as well) Fr. De Rosa must replace the Rector in all respects, until others come, or the direct appointment to him. For this he was sent, and left after the spiritual exercises.

I approve of any proposal aimed at saving Vocationist vocations, provided that the observance of the holy vows is absolutely saved, especially of obedience and poverty (I won't say the other way because it is not easily controllable).

Only one must be the custodian and administrator of the money, only one the receiver and controller of the letters also of the brother priests, be they two, three or a hundred.

What is Di Matteo doing? Ask him, Giannone, if he privately renewed his expired holy vows; in the negative case, he was willing to renew them; if not, inform me, if so, send the application and the formula signed by him, with a small private report drawn up by himself.

I would like to know if any of the superiors warned, or not, La Fratte of the faults noted and deplored in him. And if, admonished, he repented and asked for forgiveness, etc. and whether, at least in the short time after, he corrected his conduct. He says that nobody told him anything. If that were true, I could not approve the removal caused by faults not reproached, and without any contumacy.

Please always remain virtuously happy and fervently observant.

Jesus bless you.

Inform me if the provisions given by me in the sheet concerning young people are carried out. I await the books of the soul or at least the assurance that it will be sent, or given, to our other priests.

N. 919

This letter was attached to the one dated 11-7-35. I want to know if this happens because some have asked me (and have very willingly obtained it on my part) for permission to address you (I say Giannone, for now).

My dear,

If from other houses our people ask you for spiritual direction and send you the books of the soul, lend yourselves wholeheartedly, with all solicitude, prayers and study, strive to help them in the great work of their own sanctification.

I want to know if this happens because some have asked me (and have very willingly obtained it on my part) for permission to address you (I say Giannone, for now).

Jesus bless you.

I wrote to your Bishop.

N. 920

And your book of the soul? I haven't seen it in a long time. However, you are free to send it to others in the Congregation as long as you do so.

Pianura 12 - 3 - 1935

My Dear Giannone,

Thanks for the greetings. The hope of writing at length has not made me write so far. And your book of the soul? I haven't seen

it in a long time. However, you are free to send it to others in the Congregation as long as you do so.

Things are going a little better but we still need to pray a lot so that everything settles down, and... then other battles start again.

Help us even more financially. Have you kept the chaplaincy?

I would gladly come and stay with you one day, but I have three hours of school a day...

Fr. Franco is Spiritual Father at the Pozzuoli seminary to my full satisfaction. We pray for everyone's good spirits.

Divine epiphany to you.

N. 921

We need a closing sermon for the holy Marian month in the church of Agnano.

Pianura 1935

Dear Giannone,

Tomorrow, June 2, Sunday, we need a sermon for the holy Marian month in the little church of Agnano.

Provide for it by going there personally or, if, I don't really say prevented, but unable, by sending us another priest. e.g. Fr. Pace, or Fr. Franco Torromacco or Fr. Verde (observe this order). Thanks a lot.

The envelope... later. Jesus bless you.

N. 922

It is quick to say: "Change, send, provide, etc. etc." but if there is no how to fix it? Rather try to save, use and immunize the ones you have.

Pianura, 2 - 11 - 1936

Dear Fr. Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

How are you? If I had obeyed! I send another teacher. But be more... human. It is quick to say: "Change, send, provide, etc." but if there is no how to fix it? Rather, try to save, use and immunize the ones you have.

I'm waiting for Cernolo.

Thank you very much for the invitation for the agony of Good Friday. I can't come. Please excuse me.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 923

Attached to the letter dated 2 - 11 - 1936. Be rigorous with regard to vanity and sensuality, even if it were veniality. These are those sins that nest in your soul, and corrupt her in the quagmire of lukewarmness.

To Don De Rosa and Fr. Giannone.

If, with Cernolo leaving, you can remedy yourselves, all the better. Otherwise send him with a return ticket for the one I will send.

If you decide, at the last moment to let him stay, I don't insist. But he must immediately shave his hair, I mean shave, don't fix it as it is, if he doesn't obey, send him away without further ado.

Be strict about vanity and sensuality, even if it were venial. These are those sins that nest in your soul, and corrupt her in the quagmire of lukewarmness.

Though there is much to fear that the poor soul is in more serious condition.

Jesus Mary Joseph.

N. 924

Fr. De Rosa told me that you were preparing something for Pianura. As I told you, I hope so, for the teachers who already regularly come, one from Pozzuoli and

another from Naples to give lessons every day in our high school. Send me by the end of the month, indeed ... of every month!

Pianura, 2 - 26 - 1936

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Happy Lent. How are you? And the book of the soul? Bad sign?

Fr. De Rosa told me that you were preparing something for Pianura. As I told you, I hope so, for the teachers who already regularly come, one from Pozzuoli and another from Naples to give lessons every day in our high school. Send it to me by the end of the month, indeed ... of every month!

I greet everyone dearly.

The Superior of the Bambino Gesù Institute again asks me for spiritual exercises in the summer. Should I accept? I haven't answered her yet. Be Holy! May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Urge Father Rector to always have plenty of material ready for the Bulletin⁵. It is true that it hasn't come out yet but, once the paperwork for the new director is finished, it will be very regular. I don't ask for your articles because you would mind if I edit them or not?

N. 925

Pianura, Easter 1936

My dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

⁵The Father Rector is Fr. Mario De Rosa and the Bulletin is the magazine of the Congregation, *Spiritus Domini*.

Thank you and best wishes. We will see you in a few days with the grace of the Lord.

Now, and always, the best that can be done is for everyone to do, as generally as possible, his duty, without invading other people's field. In the field of others we have neither competence nor grace from above.

In your case, carry out your office of spiritual father as you have done hitherto, procuring with the edification of the example, with the effectiveness of prayer, with the advice *in foro conscientiae* and the like, to place, preserve and raise in fervor the individual souls entrusted to you.

In external measures, if you are not asked, do not intervene. I have every confidence in the pro tempore rector. Let us help him, always, with prayer, with fraternal encouragement, to carry his cross, but without weighing it down on him, and also without taking it away from him. We, for the moment, would not be capable of it, not having the mission from above.

Becoming the judge and executioner of major superiors does not suit anyone at all. You must be very ill, either physically or morally, to reveal yourself so disturbed and distorted in your assessments, so dispassionate in your judgments and sentences, so excessive and imprudent in resorting to extreme measures. I will also come to visit you, and see how you are. I hope to find you that good son and friend that you showed me for some time, and you were. Now, however, the Giannone from other periods reappears to me. But those were abnormal periods and, Jesus grants me grace that they won't happen again.

My dear, we always need, and for each one of us, even our young students, someone who supports them, pities them, defends them, angers them, precisely to correct them more effectively. They must have and feel close to this angel, this father, especially in their faults. This office of angel and father is the most similar to that of Jesus, and therefore is the most savior and repairer.

We cannot destroy original sin! Let us work to remedy its con-

sequences, as they gradually make themselves felt. How else to predict the human future? But the grace of God is very great!

I hope you understand me. If you understand me, it's a sign that you're serene, it's a sign that you're fine. Such I want to find you.

Bless me and I too bless you a thousand times.

I have decided to write the directory of the *magisterium* and superiors soon. And soon we will be obliged to you. Farewell

N. 926

You try to maintain yourself in my regard as you have shown me, and I believe, you have felt, from the death of Fr. Palmieri up to the ... penultimate letters excluded. However, I do not intend to question your good intentions of providing for the good of the seminary and the Congregation.

Pianura,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I'm better. I'm starting to feel better just now. I came only because I was frightened by the suffocating asthma, for nothing else. That's right, I'm sure.

You try to maintain yourself in my regard as you have shown me, and I believe, you have felt, from the death of Fr. Palmieri up to the ... penultimate letters excluded. However, I do not intend to question your good intentions of providing for the good of the seminary and the Congregation. I say this as a sign of peace and unity.

I am glad that Fr. Pastò is now your mother's parish priest. It may be of comfort to you. Try not to fall ill again, I have now sufficient experience of what can harm or benefit you.

Goodbye. Be holy.

Begin to collaborate with *Spiritus Domini*. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. About Carlo. If the document for the delay or exemption

from military service was signed only by the Vicar, the local curia must notarizes etc. If it was signed by some (local?) religious superior, then we too will notify his exit, etc. Do you remember exactly how too do it? It seems to me that I didn't sign it or..

Also the fact that Carlo turned to Sezze to have his exit notified says that it was not us from Pianura who issued him that document.

N. 927

As gratitude and Lent, offer the resolution to speak little, very little, always smile, pity more those who seem to you "ignorant and wandering!"

Pianura, 2 - 22 - 1937

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Ask Jesus for forgiveness for all the disobediences so far. Kneel in front of your crucifix and humbly receive the precept to truly heal. As gratitude and Lent, offer the resolution to speak little, very little, always smile, pity more those who seem to you "ignorant et errant! *Quoniam et ipse circumdatus es infirmitate*, as he who *didicit ex in quibus passus est oboedientiam. Amen.*

And so keep silence.

Then always avoid the effort of kneeling, walking, talking. The effort you must make is another thing, and you must abound in this.

Goodbye, pray for me. May Jesus bless you.

I hope you can send the offering again this month to Pianura, if you just can't, get as close to that amount as possible.

And the history? I greet the confreres warmly.

P. S. If you could renew my subscription to *Vie d'Italia e del Mondo!*

N. 928

It seems that on July 1, our confidential private directory volume, Ascension, will be available. It has absorbed me in recent months. I hope you want to receive it in spirit "humilitatis et in animo contrito" and much more to execute it... corde magno et animo volenti.

6 - 23 - 1937

My dear Fr. Mario,

I believe you have already received the letter from the Vicar, Fr. Saggiomo with the receipt of the previous £. two-thousand.

I had to pass the last ones whole to the Sisters. I'll go find out right away if they've sent you the receipt.

So I'm still waiting for yours. It seems that on 1st July our confidential private directory volume will be released⁶. It has absorbed me in recent months. I hope you want to receive it *in Spiritu humilitatis* and in contrite mind and much more to execute it... *Corde magno et animo volenti.*

I will not come to Congress.

I warmly greet all of you. Become saints. May Jesus bless you.

N. 929

Pianura, 8 - 28 - 1937

Very Rev. and Dear Fr. Salvatore,

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more with the Son to the Father.

Do not worry about the deficit etc. Many very excellent Ordinaries would be happy if they had to pay only £3000 a year on the seminary! The seminary is a great liability for almost all dioceses!

As for you, I find what you say right. Fr. Romano will take over

⁶ Russolillo, Ascension, Works, vol. 1.

the administration. Only that you have to help him a lot, especially for purchases, because he is a rookie. And you will be more specific Spiritual Father and teacher.

Make yourself holy with this matters above all! May Jesus bless you.

N. 930

This letter was attached to that of Fr. Giannone. We do not know to which Fr. Salvatore, St. Justin was referring to. It could be Fr. Salvatore Vivenzio, Fr. Salvatore Polverino, or Salvatore De Simone. We thank the Lord for the good that the exercises do to those who give them and to those who receive them.

Pianura, 8 - 28 - 1937

Very Rev. and Dearest Fr. Salvatore,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

We thank the Lord for the good that the exercises do to those who give them and to those who receive them... and much more we thank him for the holy vocation of perpetual preachers of divine grace.

I gladly allow you to go to Rome if it is edifying for you.

I thank you for what you have disposed about that sum. It will be returned, because every religious must work towards establishing a scholarship.

I will see you again in Pianura. Become a saint.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 931

For your own good and that of the community, I think it's better to leave you in Posillipo.

9 - 18 - 1939

Dear Fr. Giannone,

Jesus be with us.

For your own good and that of the community, I think it's better to leave you in Posillipo.

(If the air of Pianura is harmful to you) so that:

- 1 From there you can fulfill the new office assigned to you;
- 2 Prepare the thesis;
- 3 Be closer to the center.

Don't worry about anything else, because the Lord gently will fix everything⁷... *Diligentibus Deum... in bonum*. Let's focus on the... and of the neighbor for him alone,... May Jesus bless you.

N. 932

Great modesty for the external environment; great edification of observance for the internal environment; detachment from creatures; accession and union with the Lord.

9 - 29 - 1939

Dear Giannone.

The Lord be with us.

Be at peace. Wait for the thesis. You live in Posillipo. Exempted from all duties for the house and vocationary of Pianura. Great modesty for the external environment; great edification of observance for the internal environment; detachment from creatures; adhesion and union with the Lord! We will see together what you will have to do within the limits possible for you, for the area entrusted to your superintendence.

For the family do the pure necessary. And since I don't really see clearly, I defer to your conscience, which will want to consider

⁷ This letter arrived mutilated to the office of the postulation; probably a sheet is missing.

the thing from all aspects, past, present, future; on the part of the mother-Congregation no less than of the mother-family etc.

Deo gratias et Mariae. Jesus bless you.

I wrote a letter to you and to Fr. Alfieri with pleasure asking that Fr. Alfieri go to Mercato for the time that Fr. Ciro will be in Anagni for the works (at least this is now the need). I would like you to answer me immediately with the *fait accompli* of going to Mercato.

N. 933

1940

Dear Fr. Giannone,

I send the other boys destined for Altavilla: Luigi, Consolante, Angelo, Meo, Domenico, Starace, and Renato Scherillo.

Then there is another (from Genoa) recommended by the Jesuit Fathers. In another letter of mine I will show you those that are kept completely free and those that pay something.

Nardelli will go to Mercato.

I wrote a letter to you and to Fr. Alfieri asking that Fr. Alfieri go to Mercato for the time that Fr. Ciro will be in Anagni for the works (at least this is now the need). I would like someone to answer me immediately with the *fait accompli* of going to Mercato.

I will send Mariotti to help you, as long as you answer me without posing difficulties and with the obedience carried out.

Pray a lot. Form a very observant community of little religious, truly chosen and loved by Jesus.

In union of prayers.

Fr. Ciro doesn't know whom I will send to Mercato. But just present my letter to him to be welcomed with open arms.

N. 934

2 - 20 - 1940

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Dear Fr. Giannone,
Thank you very much.

Definitely take the chaplaincy at 8:00 to be able to celebrate...
with more fervor.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 935

If they have made Fr. Zolli assistant pastor as they tell me, I am very pleased and he can remain there with the obedience of the Congregation and of the Most Excellent Ordinary.

2 - 21 - 1940

Dear Fr. Giannone,

Jesus bless us.

Leaving the chaplaincy you have had up to now, write to Fr. Zolli. If they have made him assistant pastor as they tell me, I am very pleased and he can remain there with the obedience of the Congregation and of the Most Excellent Ordinary. If, on the other hand, he were free from such commitments, you could put him in your position as before and thus more duties would be reconciled together.

N. 936

7 - 8 - 1940

Dear Fr. Giannone,

Obedience assigns you the parish and the vocationary of Al-tavilla.

In Nomine Domini,

The sooner you go there the more you will join the divine will. May the Lord grant you to render that post a great service to the Congregation and an excellent service also to your dear family.

Do not be surprised or discouraged by first impressions and difficulties. With holy obedience you triumph.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 937

Fr. Alfieri will come in a few days and your attributions will be determined and so together you will take up this dead vocationary and you will resurrect him and bring him to a great and holy life.

Pianura, 8 - 11 - 1940

Dear Fr. Mario,

Jesus bless us.

I send you this letter of Guglielmo, which I cannot decipher in all individual words. Please, examine his case well and resolve it either by persuading him to be integrally religious with all the consequences, even on the part of the local superior, such as e.g. to provide for him all he needs or by dismissing him definitively for lay life or other institutions. Do it with charity but also with firmness.

Fr. Alfieri will come in a few days and your attributions will be determined and so together you will take up this dead vocationary and you will resurrect it and bring it to a great and holy life.

I remember what you showed me during one of the Lents of Sezze, a really good religious and eager for perfection. May Jesus make you more and more according to his designs on your soul.

The obedience that was given to you is absolutely not a punishment.

We operate our sanctification and that of others in the truth and not only in words.

Jesus bless us.
I warmly greet Fr. Mele.

P. S. Also to your mother and sister blessed Jesus will share the merit of your obedience in some beautiful form of his.

N. 938

Fr. Pietropaolo will invite you for a sermon at San Mauro la Bruca, I would like you to accept.

N. 939

First rule, above all others: the charity of God and neighbor and maximum with the confreres.

J.M.J. G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

Appointments for the House of Altavilla

Rector Fr. Mario Giannone

Treasurer Fr. Ercole Alfieri

Spiritual Father of the Vocationary Fr. Giorgio Mele

Dean of the Vocationary Fr. Salvatore Boccuti

Acting Parish priest) of St. Antonino Fr. Giorgio Mele

First rule, above all others: the Charity of God and of the neighbor and maxim with the confreres.

Second rule: our ascetic observances etc.

May Jesus bless everyone and prosper each of their pious undertakings for the revival of the house - vocationary - parish.

N. 940

If you really want to give your head to Jesus, through my poor hands, send for

the other youngsters. You and Fr. Giorgio prepare what is needed, by begging to borrow mattresses until those sent arrive. Your love makes up for everything.

Pianura, 12 - 28 - 1940

My Dearest Mario,

1. If you really want to give your head to Jesus, through my poor hands, send for the other youngsters. You and Fr. Giorgio prepare what is needed, by begging to borrow mattresses until those sent arrive. Your love makes up for everything

2. Accept the mission to go every month to the individual populations of the stations in the Capaccio-Vallo diocese for a meeting and spiritual exhortation to those abandoned or almost abandoned souls e.g. Omignano, Vallo, Rutino station etc. In prayer you will find the initiative, you will light a fire from above. After an initial visit, you will ask the Most Excellent Shepherd for permission. All for free, or at least at my expense. But I would like to be informed only post-factum. First, it's better not to write me a single word about it.

3. In homage and special worship to the Word, you soon become a man of few, very few words to men. You will see the vein of prayer and apostolic, seraphic preaching well up in your heart, according to our vocation, mission, congregation. Be good.

N. 941

1941

Dear Giannone,

Fr. Mario comes to preach the spiritual exercises for our dear seminarians. Then we'll see the rest. I want you not to teach this year, or no more than one hour a day. Rather help the other teachers by correcting the writings in the room.

Goodbye. Become saints. May Jesus bless us.

N. 942

Note - Spiritual Exercises 1941

For my part, every pleasure that goes Fr. Giannone and bears much fruit in souls. I ask Fr. Giannone to answer directly and also in my name, in case it seems good to accept. If not, please write to Fr. Giorgio Saggiomo.

Jesus Mary Joseph.

N. 943

If you really do the charity of being rector, you must make use of the office not to judge or condemn the major superior, but to carry out his orders with all fidelity and generosity; solving not opposing difficulties, feeling and showing reverence, obedience, and togetherness.

1 - 12 - 1941

My Dearest Fr. Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus Mary Joseph.

Let the Holy Family live again and gloriously in the convent of Altavilla.

If you truly do the charity of being rector, you must avail yourself of the office not to judge or condemn the major superior, but to carry out his instructions with all fidelity and generosity, solving, not opposing difficulties, Feeling and showing reverence, obedience, and togetherness.

Start, my dear, by putting yourself in fervor. Maybe you have some secret guilt that puts you in trouble and opposition to Jesus and to whomever represents him. Maybe you entered the university without the permission of the religious superior, and of the superior ecclesiastical authority. If it were true, for my part I forgive you with all my heart and as far as is in me I allow it, as

I would have granted it if you had asked me. Several times they told me something on this point. I never wanted to believe it. But your state of mind reveals internal disorders to me... I am above all concerned that you become a religious saint. This is why I insist on wanting reverence and obedience to authority. Everything else is nothing in comparison.

Become a saint my friend, my son; life passes. We will die! Blessed are those who strive for divine union! Blessed is he who becomes an apostle and missionary! Don't be offended if every time it seems that I am not being obeyed, I turn to someone else who seems to me to be a more faithful executor.

I highly recommend that you establish the observance of the life of prayer well, integrally. Everything else will depend on that. You and your confreres should always be the first in all practices of piety, when you are not exactly impeded by more serious duties.

I will send a maximum of twelve pupils. But first the mattresses and blankets. I would be glad if you could hasten the work and find the necessary mattresses and blankets in Altavilla before they arrive from Pianura.

Become a saint therefore for the glory of the Blessed Trinity and for your own happiness in time and in eternity. May Jesus bless you.

P. S. Have you accepted invitations for mid-Lent? There are some others (San Paolo Civitate near S. Sereno).

N. 944

With regard to the convent, turn and direct others always to the Reverend Episcopal Curia since we are of diocesan right and depend from the Ordinary of the place, above all because through him we received the convent.

1 - 13 - 1941

My Dear Brothers.

May Jesus bless us.

In the present circumstances more than ever harmonized in your conduct:

1. Maximum faith and trust in the Lord,
2. Utmost reverence and obedience to authority,
3. Utmost humility and charity towards others.

And I expressly say: also to the civil authority (cf. n. 2); also to possible candidates admitted to the convent, but above all between yourselves and with myself (cf. n. 3).

Diligentibus Deum omnia cooperantur in bonum!

Let us therefore put ourselves into a more frequent, more intense, purer exercise of charity for God and, consequently, for our neighbor. Everything else will come by itself, it will go by itself.

As far as the convent is concerned, direct yourself and those who always turn to you to the Reverend Episcopal Curia since we are of diocesan right and depend from the Most Excellent Ordinary of the place, especially since through him we received the convent.

I won't go into any other details. I am sure that your good disposition will find a way to keep the vocationary of twelve children well, which if the whole convent were occupied... I also authorize you to rent a house if it were necessary for this purpose.

Divine providence, allow me the expression is always at the orders of the divine will, and practically of obedience and religious observance. Make our life of prayer beautiful, entirely beautiful, and you will make happy Jesus, his and your servant as well.

N. 945

Fr. Alfieri would take Nardelli with him, who is from the II of gymnasium. Fr. Alfieri's duties in Mercato would be determined on the spot, after he had examined the most appropriate steps to be taken.

Pianura 1 - 25 - 1941

My Dear Confreres (Fr. Giannone and Fr. Alfieri),

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Since it seems to me that you are better disposed, I come to ask you for a favor, and I would really like that my desire were enough for you, and there was no need for a precept.

Fr. Ciro must stay in Anagni for the work you know. I would like Fr. Alfieri to move to Mercato, where the vocationary is so numerous and only Don Ribaudi remains during Fr. Ciro's long absences.

In order not to tire Don Giannone too much in teaching, I am willing to send the good young Mariotti to Altavilla as prefect and part-time teacher.

Fr. Alfieri would take Nardelli with him, who is from the II year of gymnasium. Fr. Alfieri's duties in Mercato would be determined on the spot, after he had examined the most appropriate steps to be taken. I cannot determine how long Fr. Ciro's absences will last. But he would not fail to return twice a month for other needs.

I trust in your willingness to unite yourselves to our Lord in the Congregation through the daily work of sanctification of yourself and of your neighbor, especially of the little ones chosen by vocations.

May Jesus bless us. Pray for me.

N. 946

Don't ask dispensations from abstinence. These abstinences are very healthy for the body and for the morale, and I think that under the present conditions you can observe them even better than before.

Mercy, goodness and love always
in action from the Lord.

Pianura, 3 - 31 - 1941

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Some hard work in progress has prevented me from answering you as soon as possible.

I enjoy the good you do to our good soldiers. We thank the Lord. I wish you all the best for the upcoming celebrations of the Resurrection of Jesus and ours.

Don't ask dispensations from abstinence. These abstinences are very salutary to the body and morale, and I think that under present conditions you can observe them even better than before. However, in cases of necessity you do not need a dispensation (I am speaking of meat, because wine would require a doctor's order) to use it according to the law.

Become a saint.

Vigilate et orate so as not to fall into temptation. May the passion of Jesus find our con-passion by virtue of the heart!

N. 947

I approve, from afar, what you will decide, religiously.

Pianura, 6 - 10 - 1941

Jesus Mary Joseph

Dear Fr. Giannone

We thank the Lord for the good he gives you the opportunity and the means to do among the brothers soldiers.

Increasingly fervent in the service of souls, beginning with yours, I am always on your side, also to be able to serve our dear neighbor ever better.

As for the five hundred lire from the Altavilla house, I was completely unaware that they were with you.

Rule yourselves according to your knowledge and conscience, considering from every side, as the other practical questions, so

also this one. And I approve, from afar, what you will decide, religiously.

Become a saint in the three virtues. May Jesus bless you.

N. 948

It does not seem to me (really) contrary to our vocation and to the so great and vast aims of the Congregation the office of Military Chaplain even in times of peace, and therefore the Vocationist religious not only without ceasing to be such, but perfecting himself in his mission could extend the sanctifying action, and specifically recruiting and forming vocations to faith, to holiness to the priesthood, to the religious state even in the army.

Pianura, 6 - 25 - 1941

My dear Fr. Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

You must have that sum from Fr. Mele. I will absolutely oblige him to send it to you. Then you will use it according to your conscience. I do not doubt the good use and therefore quite willingly, I defer to you.

As for the title, don't change it. It too must remain for the purpose desired by you and by the benefactors. It doesn't matter to me then where it is kept, if with you, if in Altavilla, if with me. I would entrust him to the superior of the Vocationist Sisters in Altavilla, if you don't want this boredom with you.

There is truly to thank the Lord who has provided for your case, for this time, through the mission of Military Chaplain. For now, do all the good you can where you are. Tomorrow, like today, we will do according to the divine approval. Not to mortgage the future, but from common study and knowledge, I say that the office of military chaplain even in peacetime, the religious Vocationist not only without ceasing to be such, but by perfecting himself in his mission he could extend the sanctifying action, and

specifically recruiting and forming vocations to faith, to holiness to the priesthood, to the religious state even in the army.

I repeat: I say this not out of already acquired conviction but as a thesis to be studied afterwards, it is so that you still have to pierce me with telling me that I wanted to ... defenestrate you from the congregation. I only thought I could please you and help you provide for the needs of your loved ones by allowing you to be a Military Chaplain.

But let's not go back to certain topics that you have seen from a point of view and in a light that is too different from my point of view and from the light in which I saw then, so I had to defer to the judgment of the Lord, without even being able to answer you, in tone, for fear of further confusing the ideas.

But your letters can be read and found. May the Lord always increase your serenity, peace, strength and joy, fruits of the Holy Spirit. Thanks for the good wishes and gifts for the supreme feast of the Most Holy Trinity.

I would like a favor. If it is easy for you, ask the Directorate of the Regional Council for information on a certain Filiberto Ferro who was there at the time of Fr. Jaccarino's Rectorship. He claims that he has not been able to continue his studies due to lack of means, and would like some help from me.

Thank you. May Jesus bless us.

N. 949

I hope that our situation will improve and thus he will be able to enter the postulancy; otherwise you know very well that I cannot receive him.

Pianura, 7 - 10 - 1941

Dear Fr. Giannone,

Please, advise Ranieri to obtain the high school license first and then make an explicit request.

I hope that our situation will improve and thus he will be able

to enter the postulancy; otherwise you know very well that I cannot receive him.

I still welcome those who have to do or complete their high school studies, not those who should be admitted to lyceum without going through the Vocationary.

I asked you for news of a certain Filiberto Ferro. Maybe you didn't get mine. He claims to have left the Catanzaro Regional because he could not pay. Is this true? See if you can verify it. He is willing to wait even more years, until we have the regular permits for admission to the novitiate, and in the meantime he would do some service in the vocationary houses.

Ranieri could also do the same.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless you. Become a saint.

N. 950

We wait day by day for the Apostolic Visitor; His name is Fr. Raffaele Baldini, of the Order of Servants of Mary, intensify your prayers in these days for the success of the Visit.

Pianura of Naples, 9 - 3 - 1941

My dear Fr. Mario,

As soon as I received yours I hastened to get Scutari's certificate although to be clear he didn't deserve it; at least he should send me the money for the stamped paper! Don't you think so? I did it to him because you recommended him.

I received your offer in good time and I thank you sincerely.

We wait day by day for the Apostolic Visitor; his name is Fr. Raffaele Baldini, of the Order of Servants of Mary, intensify your prayers in these days for the success of the visit.

With best wishes for an ever more fruitful apostolate, I salute you and bless you.

N. 951

Let us intensify our prayers and good works for the Congregation, and much more our personal religious observance also on the occasion of the Holy Apostolic Visit of which we have had the singular grace from the mercy of the Blessed Trinity. I moved to Camporotondo in obedience to the Most Reverend Visitor.

Pianura, 9 - 24 - 1941

Dear Fr. Mario,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Thank you very much for the last letters.

I received the 200 lire returned to you by F. Mele and the other 200, for September, 20.

I am grateful to you for the letters and also for the holy masses that you apply for me and that I will mark in the common register month by month, as soon as you give notice.

Let us intensify our prayers and good works for the Congregation, and much more our personal religious observance also on the occasion of the holy apostolic visit of which we have had the singular grace from the mercy of the Most Holy Trinity.

I moved to Camporotondo in obedience to the Most Reverend Visitor. Become a saint and make many saints.

N. 952

You must do me the favor of really making Fr. Pacifico, the seminarians and their prefect understand that I really wanted to go there because it seemed to me that they really wanted me and this moved me. I still have my bags packed and ready!

December, 1948⁸

⁸ From September, 7, 1941 to December 1948 there is a long period of silence in the correspondence between St. Justin and Fr. Giannone. Undoubtedly some letters must have been lost during the war and the absence of the

Dear Giannone,

I am affectionately grateful to you for this retreat that you preach on my behalf to the Sisters of the Child Jesus of Sezze. You must do me the favor of really making Fr. Pacifico, the seminarians and their prefect understand that I really wanted to go there because it seemed to me that they really wanted me to and this moved me. I still have my bags nicely packed!

If Fr. Pacifico hasn't done it yet, I will officially charge him to receive the canonical renewal of holy, temporary vows of Castiglione. But I suppose they did it this morning.

As for the Sisters, I trust very much that the Lord will make use of you, and of your filial obedience to desire to do them a much deeper, higher and lasting good than through the undersigned, for many reasons.

Kiss the hand of the Reverend Msgr. Vicar for me and (without appearing so) make a canonical visit (unofficial) to the work of the seminary or to the conduct of our people, giving a written report.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 953

On July 2, 1948, the Anagni orphanage was officially opened. Fr. Giannone is sent as St. Justin's official delegate for the occasion.

Pianura, June 28, 1948

I.M.I.

Dear Fr. Giannone,

From the panegyric of Saints Peter and Paul, I have the pleasure of delegating you to represent me in Anagni for the solemn inauguration of that Vocationist orphanage, on July 2, in the presence of the bishop and civil authorities.

addressee, who was with the Alpine troops of Julia as a military chaplain. He participated in the campaign in Russia and was taken prisoner

You will therefore give, in the name of the Congregation, a speech (short or long as you like) in which I would like you to highlight the vocationist work at the service of divine vocations not only to the priesthood and to the religious state, but in general to Christian perfection, to even lay holiness, and this justifies our embracing every work of education of childhood and especially of the children of the people, and of orphans "*pater meus et mater mea dereliquerunt me, Dominus autem assumpsit me.*" Thank you very much for this too.

I hope that Fr. Giorgio can also come with you, who as general procurator has to deal with various things with that Bishop, e.g. about Gorga.

May Jesus bless us. Become a saint.

N. 954

Dear Fr. Giannone,

6 - 28 - 1948

May Jesus bless us.

On June 30 of this month at seven in the afternoon, you should preach the panegyric of Saints Peter and Paul in Soccavo's parish church. I strongly urge you to do this and make sure of it immediately.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 955

It is necessary that you go to Scigliano to receive Fr. Olindo's transfer of power who, otherwise, cannot go to his new destination. This last conciliatory thought is mine, as a private one, while the desire that you go immediately to preside the change of administration is of another order that you understand.

Pianura, July 24, 1952

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May Jesus bless us.

I do not know to which address of the Rev. Father Visitor you sent your last. I say this because he is currently at the "Villaggio Guido Negri (Vicenza) Asiago" and will be there for a while.

In the meantime, you must go to Scigliano to receive Fr. Olin-do's transfer of power who, otherwise, cannot go to his new destination. Go there at once, and your case will settle in peace afterwards. I think you could fulfill that office even without a continuous stay if they give you a good deputy, so it will be easier to reconcile many things.

This last conciliatory thought is mine, as a private individual, while the desire that you go immediately to receive the change of administration is of another order, which you understand.

May the Lord grant you full physical vigor, full moral fervor. Goodbye.

N. 956

Keep in mind my position as nominal superior general. I will help you in what I can.

Pianura, 7 - 20 - 1952

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May Jesus bless us.

I am surprised that you doubt my sympathy, affection, etc. Keep in mind my position as nominal Superior General. I will help you in what I can. But above all we pray that the Lord will grant you so much physical health and so much moral vigor that you can truly fulfill his every wish even if he asks for heroism.

Become a saint.

N. 957

Don't lose the fruit of your victory and give this good example to our young people.

Pianura, October 20, 1953
St. John Canzio, professor

Dear Fr. Giannone,

May Jesus bless you.

I am sending you a copy of your previous letter.

"...(Father Visitor) did not want to be inferior to Fr. Justin in understanding and goodness and therefore he finished by promising me the same promise as you: 'If we can do without you, we will do without you. Conclusion: this being the case, moved and conquered by your truly paternal and long-suffering manners and a letter to treat me well, I will willingly take up my position as professor in Rome.

Quam primum and regardless of the outcome of the medico-legal examination. Therefore, dear Fr. Justin, you can count on me. I will not fail to obey you: on the contrary, if it didn't happen now, I would feel disappointment. It must have been your miracle. I will take it into account in order to love you more and to comply with your directives.

P. S. I will stay in Posillipo for a few more days for the visit. Then I will fly, I will fly, I will fly to Rome."

The underlining was underlined by you. Instead, what is ... under-pointed was by me. I did not see the implied condition "if you can't find how to replace me." From a simple reading I understood that you, winning a good victory over the difficulties that arise against obedience, offered yourself (with no other condition than not being obliged) to go to Rome for teaching. On the contrary, I promised myself that once on the spot, (since you see for yourself that that superior was not after all such a hard and difficult thing as to have to refuse you) I would again propose that you be asked to accept it.

Fr. Zoppo is always ready to go to, but for many reasons he had to be left in Altavilla.

As for Fr. Carlo, he has no degree in literature or anything else; but having always taught all the classical and philosophical subjects, including mathematics and science, gives him a certain competence in these too. His character and method also make him desired as vice rector of the orphans who are currently around a hundred. And I think that was the main reason.

Don't lose the fruit of your victory and give this good example to our young people.

May the Lord bless us. In union of prayer.

N. 958

We would like a brief exposition of the Congregation (origin, purpose, number of houses and assisted persons and pupils) that said Monsignor would make it his own by completing it himself.

Pianura, July 18, 1955

Dear Fr. Giannone,

J.M.J.

What you told me and proposed (following the offer of the Rev. Provincial of the Fate-benefratelli) has now been inspired by Monsignor Camelo (from the same villager as the Minister of the Interior).

We would like a brief résumé of the Congregation (origin, purpose, number of houses and assisted persons and pupils) that said Monsignor would make his own by completing it himself.

Attilio Pagano came to ask me and he expressly wanted you to do it. Do it to me as soon as possible and not too long, because tomorrow evening it must be here in Pianura delivered either to me or to Fr. Vaccaro. You can get help from Fr. Valentino or other confreres for the numerical data of the assisted (for example, a thousand orphans, etc.).

Most affectionately in the Lord,

Fr. Justin M. Russolillo

CHAPTER X

Letters to Fr. Francesco Guerriero

Fr. Guerriero was born in Avella, province of Avellino in 1907; he entered the Vocationary in 1927 and was ordained a priest in Vallo della Lucania in 1931. He worked in various Vocationaries as an educator and teacher. Strong psychic disturbances made his life in the community extremely difficult. In various letters Fr. Justin refers to the illness of his Fr. Guerriero and does his utmost to ensure that he receives all the assistance and understanding of the case. His natural family welcomed him into their home and he lived the last years of his life in serenity, always maintaining all ties with the Congregation. He died in Avella on December 13, 1965.

N. 959

Perhaps Fr. Justin foresaw that physical weakness would cause mental imbalance. To prevent such an occurrence, he gave the special obedience, "take care to feed yourself more, also using a second breakfast around 10 and a snack between lunch and dinner. Even if it's an egg, a stewed fruit, five chestnuts or the like. This obedience is valid forever."

12 - 18 - 1932

My dear Fr. Guerriero,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I thank you for your good feelings and for what you do for the discipline of the house and for the education and formation of the youngsters.

Dear Guerriero, pay close attention to your observance and

that of Fr. Ciro and the nuns: because the first thing is the good example.

Secondly, pay close attention day and night, at study, in church, recreation, wherever, so that young people always feel under the eyes of their superiors.

Thirdly, and out of special obedience, take care to feed yourself more by also using a second breakfast around 10 and a snack between lunch and dinner. Even if it's an egg, a stewed fruit, five chestnuts or the like. This obedience is valid forever.

I truly wish you a new life of strength and spiritual fervor.

Continually recommend to Ciro obedience to the undersigned, sweetness with the boys, and religious life. Because he gives himself too much to external and material things, in which he finds no blessing.

May Jesus make you saints.

CHAPTER XI

Letters o Fr. Francesco Impagliazzo

Fr. Impagliazzo was born in Forio D'Ischia in 1910 and entered the Congregation in 1927. He was ordained a priest in 1936. From 1954 until his death he was the founding parish priest of the Parish of S. Maria ad Nives in Torre Caracciolo. He built the church and the annexed rooms as well as two other large buildings with immense sacrifices. From the Vocationary of Pianura, where he lived, he came and went on foot to the "mountain." He has always combined pastoral care with the ministry of teaching mathematics, physics and chemistry. He always showed great attachment to the founder.

N. 960

I thank you for the assurances you have given me regarding the recitation of the Divine Office, abstinence from gambling, commerce, etc. These are the things I always long to know: that is, how everyone observes the sacrosanct duty of a religious, as well as an ecclesiastic. Because if it can be easy for us to deceive men, it is not possible for us to hide from the Lord, not even the slightest of our faults or only imperfections.

Jesus Mary Joseph

Mercato, 7 - 4 - 1944

Dear Impagliazzo,

May Jesus bless you.

I received your dear letter. It is very similar to yours, from when you were young. Very affectionate. And it's fine.

I thank you for the assurances you have given me regarding

the recitation of the Divine Office, abstinence from gambling, commerce, etc.

These are the things I always long to know, that is, how everyone observes the sacrosanct duty of a religious, as well as an ecclesiastic.

If it can be easy for us to deceive men, it is not possible for us to hide from the Lord, not even the slightest of our faults or only imperfections. And we are accountable for everything!

Will you (finally!) get your degree or will you have to attend the Royal University *sine fine, sine die*?

Detach yourself from the world, rise above the life of the senses, deny your ego and heart of flesh, to prepare for yourself a happy entry into blessed eternity, and much more to correspond to the Lord who wants more from you.

Work hard, not for just one person, but for the good and ever greater spiritual good of the people, in the ways that obedience shows or allows you.

Whenever you have the opportunity, try to influence the confreres well, *opportune et importune*... as perhaps yours truly is doing.

Goodbye. Make yourself a saint!

affectionately
Sac. Justin M. Russolillo

CHAPTER XII

Letters to Fr. Giovanni Iovine

Fr. Iovine was born in Marianella of Napoli in 1921. He entered the Vocationary of Pianura in 1933 and was ordained a priest in 1947. He was Rector of Scigliano and Laureana Cilento; He always combined teaching with the parish apostolate and the direction of our institutes, using his degree in literature and philosophy for the good of the Congregation. In the long illness that preceded his death he strengthened and refined his spirit, setting an example not only of resignation, but also of discipline and self-control. His always-weak hearing unconsciously led him to certain pessimism towards others.

N. 961

*To cure the pessimism that St. Justin saw in Fr. Iovine, he recommends good humor. Cultivate the fervor of love of Jesus and of neighbor! This is the *unum* necessary.*

Pianura, 11 - 14 - 39

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

I note with pleasure that you have calmed down a bit in spirit and I wish you to preserve and increase the natural good humor, which is like an image of grace.

Cultivate the fervor of love for Jesus and neighbor! This is the *unum* necessary.

I won't go into details on how to be able to send at least this note without further delay. I haven't written yet to any of the prefects of the other colleges. You are the first I address.

Be first in...all good things. May Jesus bless you.

The year that followed my Extreme Unction, you accompanied me, one of these days in February up the hill road, and suddenly a flowering almond tree appeared to me at a bend and moved me to tears. Not the first flowering of an almond tree, but the approach of the flower of flowers, of the flower divine person to the soul on the way.

2 - 18 - 1941

To Jovine Gianni, My dear friend,

Jesus Mary Joseph - G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

The year that followed my Extreme Unction, you accompanied me, one of these days in February up the hill road, and suddenly a flowering almond tree appeared to me at a bend and moved me to tears. Not the first flowering of an almond tree, but the approach of the Flower of flowers, of the Flower Divine Person to the soul on the way¹.

So now I seem to see something blossoming in your soul as if all these previous, adolescent, youthful years of yours had been just a poor cold winter, from which you now begin to awaken and blossom with an almost affection for... a soul, image of Jesus for you.

Therefore I answer you immediately with the "*florete flores*" that you know, waiting patiently for the fruit of Jesus' love in love for the Congregation, from this Benedictine oasis.

Speak to me therefore of your soul, and the soul will answer you. Become holy.

May Jesus bless us.

¹ Fr. Justin had been administered the Sacrament of the Sick, then called Extreme Unction, in 1935, therefore this important mystical episode (remembered several times by the writer himself) took place in February 1936 (cf. Letters 967 and 994).

Important hard work took away from me the two hours (!) per day that I had begun to set aside for correspondence with our religious who seem to me to be better disposed with regard to acquiring perfection. I consider you among them, in the front row. But I was waiting to be able to send the new Devotionals and the other one you asked for. They are not yet ready, having wanted them all well bound. Now you threaten to get real nice.

3 - 19 - 1941

Jesus Mary Joseph

My dear John... Evangelist,

May Jesus bless you.

I reply immediately, so that you are sure that I correspond. Important hard work took away from me the two hours (!) per day that I had begun to reserve for correspondence with our religious who seem to me to be better disposed with regard to acquiring perfection.

I consider you among them, in the front row. But I was waiting to be able to send the new Devotionals² and the other one you asked for. They are not yet ready, having wanted them all well bound. Now you threaten to get real nice.

Entrust all the inspirations to the Blessed Virgin, just as they come to you, one by one, so you won't lose the fruit.

If all the flowers that dress the branches could bear their fruit! But most fall off after flowering in vain. Not so in your inner life, in your supernatural world.

Doesn't it seem better to you to regularly lay out the book of the soul in two columns, one for you and the other for me, and send it periodically so that I can return it to you with annotations?

But if you induce yourself to do so, it must be very transparent, by dint of humility and sincerity and loyalty.

²This is the Devotional of the Third and Fourth Ascetic Period, printed in 1941.

This is the drawback of spiritual direction from afar, one can appear to me from letters as seraphim, and in reality then, in ordinary life, very mediocre, very vulgar.

With this observation I do not intend at all to question your good dispositions and your filial affection, in which I believe and enjoy it.

On the contrary, I thank you for the letters you write despite the fact that I don't always answer them. But now your good companions are also waiting for me and I want to please them.

Become holy. Goodbye. May Jesus bless us.

N. 964

Try to use for the spiritual life that certain acrid delight you feel in hatred. Bring it all against it and against the one who really hurt you: I mean the devil and sin.

Pianura, 4 - 5 - 1941

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

I greatly enjoyed the taste you say you took in reading Don Columba Marmion. Excellent book for the theological substantiality of the doctrine. If you are passionate about spiritual reading, you are safe. Then you will enjoy even more the authors that we consider more ours as e. g. Faber, St. Theresa (the *Works*) etc.

Try to use for the spiritual life that certain acrid delight you feel in hatred. Bring it all against it and against the one who really hurts you: I mean the devil and sin. There is a demon that would like to be your demon, your evil genius, your invisible instigator here, tormentor there. Don't give him satisfaction as you often gave him up to now, put him to flight, keep him away.

Only means "Mary and humility."

Don't worry about the book of the soul for now. These are those recordings mentioned several times in "*Ascension*" and in "*Pietà del Seminario*."

Now let's focus on Jesus crucified and sacrament! Holy Easter in the triumph of his love.

We love him

N. 965

Get used to never believing anyone who speaks unfavorably to you about others, and never to accept the affirmations of just one. But if you have to pronounce yourself, listen first to the other, without prejudice.

Pianura 5-24-1941

Dear Jovine,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I want you to be serene and not only for the exam period, since "*non in commotione Dominus.*" And therefore I write to you. An absentee cannot be convicted. First I will listen to you, then I will be able to get an idea, with the grace of God, right.

Get used to never believing anyone who speaks unfavorably to you about others, and never to accept the affirmations of just one. But if you have to pronounce yourself, listen first to the other, without prejudice. Otherwise we are unjust and cruel. And I don't want to be with anyone. Not even with you, although you are with others, even superiors. Let him who takes away sin embrace us in his heart.

I reply quickly to your letters:

1. Do not be afraid to do good (e.g. extra ordinary visits to the Blessed Sacrament) even if there is a danger that they will judge too well or too badly. Think of pleasing Jesus. Who cares about anything else?

2. One can pray for the success of the exams, always entrusting oneself ultimately to the divine approval, and purifying one's intentions and desires, elevating and reducing everything to the unity of divine glory, love and will.

3. No wonder if the enemy occasionally collects garbage carts and comes to empty them... into the cesspool of the fantasy and feeling. Just be careful not to invite him to this bad service yourself.

4. It is excellent to have recourse to the intercession of the humblest saints for the gift of humility. And not only Francis but also especially Michael. However, always combine prayer with the practice of some humiliation, even external, according to the occasions and approved inspirations.

Humility is the guarantee of holy purity.

Humility forms the supernatural sympathy of souls before the gaze of the Lord.

I wish you this search and this conquest for the divine Pentecost.

May Jesus bless you.

See you in Pianura, *recto tramite*, immediately after the exam.

N. 966

I greatly enjoyed your double promotion, that is to say to the theological academic course and to the state university. Thank you much more, however, for the good feelings you manifest towards the Congregation and the vocation.

Pianura, 11-24-1941

My Dear Jovine,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I greatly enjoyed your double promotion to the theological academic and to the state university. Thank you much more, however, for the good feelings you show towards the Congregation and vocation.

Apply yourself now with true commitment to religious perfection. The secret of success in this (as in everything) is holy humility. Purposely cultivate it in your thoughts, desires, affections, future plans and in everything.

Begin to say the *Magnificat* every day for the Congregation, which is reborn to new life, with the reopening of the sacred canonical novitiate and all other faculties restored.

I would like you to write longer ... but I want to respond at least now with my brevity to your brevity.

May Jesus bless you.

I warmly greet Valentino.

N. 967

Your memory of a first birthday party is like the memory of the almond tree in full bloom. Silver threads in a gold weave. And the plot is woven of the supernatural.

2 - 19 - 1942

My Dear Jovine,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I have several letters from you to answer. As for irregularity, you have not contracted it. Just not putting in the handful would already be enough to exclude any suspicion of irregularity. Don't worry.

Your remembering a first birthday party is like remembering the almond tree in bloom. Silver threads in a gold weave. And the plot is woven of the supernatural.

Will you do the novitiate again? I don't know. On your behalf it is beautiful, it is worthy to desire it, silencing nature, which perhaps repels it. I hope you leave behind in this Ven. Seminary a beautiful trace of good; of good done or at least sown in the souls of the little pupils.

Happy Lent, spring and winter cure for the soul. I highly recommend much rigor in the mortification of the senses, much fervor in holy meditation and prayers.

Become a saint!

N. 968

With humility you would have happily passed the test of fire, which is the two-year teaching period. As for treatment, as good religious, don't really think about the house that was yours.

Pianura, 5 - 16 - 1942

Dear Jovine,

G.A.U.D.I.U.M.

May Jesus bless you.

Fr. Giorgio can't come right away. He will have to go to Anagni and, if he can, he will pass through Sezze, but I don't know when.

With humility you would have successfully passed the test of fire, which is the two-year teaching period.

As for the treatments, as good religious, don't really think about the house that was yours. And if you are entitled to subsidies, have them come to the Congregation and they will be used to get you what you need. If then they really cannot find this straight path, but have to take oblique paths, the Congregation, helped by divine providence, will not let you lack the attention you need. I think you also need wine. If this is also needed, you will also have this.

What is needed is the humility that you lack, it is prayer for humility, it is constancy in good intentions.

You had to finish this year happily, without spot! I was very sorry to hear of bad ways, verging on cruelty, used with seminarians. Possible? A Vocationist? Do not destroy the esteem that you had painstakingly acquired.

Read, reread and practice the "*Tolle Crucem*" because only against you must you wage war and win.

Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

Be humble, call yourself guilty always, everywhere, with anyone and so soon you will be purified and justified before the Lord.

Pray for me too.

N. 969

I expected that after the baths you would go back to the novitiate, but it seems to us that 1) you came by force, 2) you left with joy, 3) you do not express any grateful memories. All the others thanked me instead!

Mercato Cilento, November 3, 1944

Dear Iovine,

J.M.J.

Thank you (finally) for your three short letters. I expected that after the baths you would have returned to the novitiate, but it seems to us that 1) you came by force, 2) you left with joy, 3) no grateful memories remain. All the others thanked me instead!

All right! Patience for this too! If you took something away from Mercato (e.g. electric bulbs) have the kindness and charity to return it. And if in anything you are better equipped than your companions, have the charity of giving some to the community (to which everything belongs) so that someone who is more timid, more reserved and more needy, suffers a little less, thanks to your good heart. Waiting for this test!

Study a lot and pray more. Tell me about the audience with Monsignor Ruffini in full.

I wrote to you for your own spiritual good, if you understand that!

Become a Salesian and with this I hope you will more easily become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 970

Coming for the exams we will together arrange to provide you with linen.

Pianura, 5 - 4 - 1947

My dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

Thanks for the letter and good feelings. Coming for exams together we will provide you with all clothing items.

Stock up plenty of Roman intimacy (I say intimate!) in order to benefit from it for life. Really pray for me.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 971

I rejoice in knowing how you apply yourself to the preparation for the exams, I wish you every good result. And much more I wish and pray to you every spiritual progress in the life of religious fervor. I long to know how you apply yourself to this sovereignly.

Campagna, 9 - 2 - 1947

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

We remained that you absolutely should have achieved the Master degree in sacred theology, and then duly graduate with the Ph.D. I therefore rejoice in knowing how you apply yourself to the preparation for the exams, I wish you every good result. And much more I wish and pray for every spiritual progress in the life of religious fervor. I long to know how you apply yourself to this, sovereignly, not in the cold and imperfect forms of the spirit of duty, or fear; but in a spirit of personal love for the three divine persons. Only the spirit of love is the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

Feed charity with faith and humility (someone says that you don't ask permission and don't even notify the proper authorities when you leave the house, or give an account of yourself and your things). Avoid contracting the very imperfect habits of those who consider the Congregation as a means for their temporal comfort and profit, not as a means for their actual sanctification.

Be ready for every obedience, post and residence. Become a saint.

May Jesus bless us.

N. 972

Open your heart to trust and love. Trust in God, love God. All the rest is vanity. And you try to be a faithful, lively, expressive image of the one of whom you are a minister, to do real good to souls in the tasks that will be entrusted to you.

Pianura, 10 - 12 - 1947

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you. Always be of good cheer!

Open your heart to trust and love. Trust in God, love God. All the rest is vanity. And you try to be a faithful, lively, expressive image of the one of whom you are a minister, to do real good to souls in the tasks that will be entrusted to you.

I was very pleased that some of our people vowed never to touch anyone! It is effective wisdom for those who can find themselves in constant occasions, especially living among youngsters almost all day long.

Become a saint.

P. S. Happy Return!

N. 973

If we don't really apply ourselves to the holy humility we will be unhappy and unfortunate with all our damage. Holy humility is exercised with loving, perfect obedience, without trial to the intentions and dispositions of the superiors.

Pianura, 4 - 29 - 1948

Dear John,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

I am sending you a document that does no good either before the Lord or before men, because it is too harmful to a good religious spirit. Destroy it inside you and outside you.

If we don't really apply ourselves to the holy humility we will be unhappy and unfortunate with all our damage. Holy humility is exercised with loving, perfect obedience, without trial to the intentions and dispositions of the superiors.

Be ready for the new assignment that will be given to you as soon as necessary. Without necessity, I don't think of inconveniencing anyone.

Become a saint; more endearing to the Blessed Virgin Mary in this month of hers and whenever you can, make her known better and loved more by souls.

May Jesus bless you.

N. 974

From his spiritual sons Fr. Justin always expects prompt and joyful obedience, even when nature kicks back.

Pianura, 5 - 20 - 1948

May Jesus bless us.

Tomorrow evening, May 21, you will go to the Badia (or at the latest on Saturday in the morning) and from there you will go with the Rev. Father Prior to S. Maria di Castellabate to act as assistant pastor to Fr. Franco Torromacco. This is provisionally, but out of obedience. We'll see. I trust you *in Domino*.

N. 975

Please reach your new residence as soon as possible and apply yourself with greater commitment to your own and your students' spiritual good and profit.

Pianura, October 28, 1948

To the Reverend Fr. Giovanni Jovine

Holy obedience wants you in Scigliano as vice-rector of that

small vocationary-college and teacher at our gymnasium. Please reach your new residence as soon as possible and apply yourself with greater commitment to your spiritual good and profit and that of your pupils. Pray a lot. May Jesus bless you.

N. 976

Obedience without limits "at the disposal of Father Rector."

October 7, 1949 - Holy Rosary

Dear Fr. Jovine,

Obedience sends you to Sezze, where you will serve in that seminary and in the Church of St. Peter at the disposal of Fr. Rector, without denying you in anything. Become a saint.

N. 977

My dear, you can no longer afford to have childish attitudes. It's not obvious to you in all this that the animating spirit of your intentions and dispositions and actions is not the Holy Spirit? Humanum est errare.

Pianura, 4 - 22 - 1950

Dear Confrere Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

No wonder that at the first rehearsals you don't succeed perfectly. This happened with the vice-rector of the Ven. Seminary of Sezze. He did not have the necessary humility to remain united with the Rector in everything, with the criteria and guidelines of the discipline, and, worse, he did not have the prudence to abstain from any unfavorable assessment on behalf of the Rector, even speaking with the seminarians, that is, with some seminarians.

Worse still, he resigned from his office, out of wounded pride, as if the office were not an obedience given to him by the undersigned implicitly and by the Most Rev. Father. Assistant explicitly. Worst of all, he took the liberty of proclaiming his resignation in front of the gathered seminary in the refectory.

Babies' staff, my dear that you can no longer afford. Isn't it clear to you in all of this that the animating spirit of your intentions and dispositions and actions is not the Holy Spirit? *Humanum est errare*. Now obedience does not accept resignations, and requires you to remain in your place, with your office and to do so in perfect union of subordination to the directives, criteria, wishes of the Rector and thus also edify these good young people to you entrusted with your great union of humility and charity.

Respond with facts, and then, later, with words too. I mean with deeds of humility, obedience, prudence and charity. You will well understand that I am also writing to you in the name of the Most Reverend Pontifical Assistant, to whom you explained your case.

Pray for me.

P. S. I repeat obedience in the attached note that you can exhibit if you deem it appropriate; but you must show it to the Rector.

N. 978

Limit your personal needs to what is necessary, with religious generosity and evangelical self-denial by carrying the cross of private suffering with Jesus Christ, almost without letting others notice it.

Pianura of Naples, 4 - 22 - 1950

For the Very Rev. Fr. Giovanni M. Jovine of the Vocationists

Holy Obedience wants you to act as Vice Rector in the Ven. Seminary of Sezze, in full union of directive criteria with the pro tempore Rector, to whom you will give every possible coopera-

tion in teaching and also in priestly ministries and you will strive to give (wherever you are and whoever you are with) the least possible nuisance by also limiting your personal needs to what is necessary, with religious generosity and evangelical self-denial carrying the cross of private sufferings with Jesus Christ, almost without letting others notice it. May the Lord bless you.

N. 979

Patiently Fr. Justin synthesizes for a recalcitrant son the ascetic advice that can make him a holy Vocationist. Useful advice for every religious of all times.

Pianura, February 24, 1952

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

1) For each exam you spend too many days (sometimes whole months) away from the house. It is not according to religious obedience.

2) You worry above all about your degree and your bodily health. Try to take care of your spiritual perfection first of all, which is the highest duty of our state.

3) Continue this year to stay in Scigliano, returning immediately and directly after the exam. With next winter I will see, (if it depends on me) to satisfy you.

4) Wherever you go, you must work more for the house, for the Congregation, for sanctification and make the effort to help your neighbor at home and away from home, and especially the local and central superiors.

5) I highly recommend: 1. The daily morning meditation hour (in honor of the Holy Spirit); 2. The hour of sacred study (I say sacred) also daily (in honor of the Eternal Father); 3. The hour of the ministry of the word, as a catechism to any group of listeners, children or adults, (in honor of the divine Word). They are our three holy hours every day.

6) Similarly it is very much desired that the holy Breviary be recited "*coram Sanctissimo*" and precisely in the hours of the Agony of the Lord e.g. from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. joining Prime to Compline of the current day with Matins and Lauds of the following day.

7) Offer to the Lord all that you do well and all that you suffer with patience and humility, for universal sanctification with a special memento for me. Become a saint.

N. 980

I wish you a beautiful death and resurrection with our Lord in these holy days. Death of some imperfection, voluntary, of course.

Pianura, April 4, 1952

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

During Easter week we will have spiritual exercises in Posillipo for all the superiors of the houses, during which the Rev. Fr. Apostolic Visitor will contact the individual superiors. Therefore it is not the General Assembly, and I do not have the right to call you who, in actuality, are not at the head of any house.

And if in these days I'm told I can call others as well, you'll be the first to express your desire.

I wish you a beautiful death and resurrection with our Lord in these holy days, death of some imperfection, voluntary, of course.

Goodbye. May Jesus bless us.

Haven't you assured me yet if you do the three holy hours every day? No.

N. 981

Among the promises of the Sacred Heart, we are very interested in those which ensure fervor for the lukewarm; to the righteous the greatest perfection; to priests

the gift of converting and sanctifying, as long as we are devoted to him, i.e. of the Sacred Heart, i.e. of the divine friend and divine love.

Pianura, May 5, 1952

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

Gladly I begin with the spiritual things with which you end yours last. Did you mean the Marian month? Where do you do it? Every vocationist must preach every day. Where do you go for the ministry of the Word? How nice it would be if you also chose an abandoned chapel... half-ruined, to gather there children... souls and for them to break the bread of the divine Word.

And your personal May? At least this will be valid for the month of the Holy Week. Among the promises of the Sacred Heart, we are very interested in those which ensure fervor for the lukewarm; to the righteous the greatest perfection; to priests the gift of converting and sanctifying, as long as we are devoted to him, i.e. to the Sacred Heart, i.e. to the divine friend and divine love. But you want more from me. Here: as a religious saint, put yourself entirely in front of the local superior. If he sends you to vote, you will. If he sends you to exams, you'll go, if not, you'll stay where you are.

You must recognize, venerate and obey Jesus himself, in the person of the immediate local superior. It is very convenient to want to depend on a distant superior and lack respect and obedience to the local superior. On this point there is much to reform in you. And if you don't practice and fortify yourself in holy humility, you will have to deplore bad falls on other very delicate points. Therein lies the secret of victorious asceticism "humility!" And if we do not feel it and exercise it with our superiors, in the practical forms of internal veneration and external respect and in perfect internal and external obedience, how is it possible to have it? So I don't intend to give you absolutely any permission to leave your post: but I defer to the local superior and I recommend you and

I beg you (if you love Jesus) to make your superior happy, out of respect for Jesus Christ!

Become a saint.

N. 982

Renew the application for the missions e.g. to Guatemala or, if you prefer, elsewhere, but always submitting to obedience, and in this way you will certainly be able to prepare for your departure with Fr. Adinolfi. I think a total change of environment and occupations will be of great help to you to perfect yourself in the religious observance of our works.

Pianura, 7 - 6 - 1952

My Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

I enjoy what you write to me about your desire to rest from your studies and give yourself to the life of the apostolate to be... a priest.

Therefore, do not take on any more exams. Renew the application for the missions e.g. to Guatemala or, if you prefer, elsewhere, but always submitting to obedience, and in this way you will certainly be able to prepare for your departure with Fr. Adinolfi³.

It is understood that the last word belongs to the Most Reverend Fr. Visitor, and that what I have written is based on the believed sincerity of your repeated requests to leave for abroad.

If you have already changed your mind, nobody will impose it to you by obedience. As for other tasks, residences, offices, etc. the Most Reverend Father Visitor, after having assigned the Superiors of the houses and the parish priests, will subsequently determine (and the Council) the residences and offices of the other subjects, also bearing in mind the observations of the individual superiors.

³The missionary dream of Fr. Tommaso Adinolfi will come true in 1962 with his departure for the United States.

Become a saint. I sincerely wish you to become an apostolic missionary in all the fullness of meaning, and I believe that a total change of environment and occupations will be of great help to you in perfecting yourself in the religious observance of our works. Become a saint, pray for me and bless me!

N. 983

Do not present yourself to the Ordinary without further notice that you will receive after we have informed him ex officio.

Pianura, 8 - 29 - 1952

Dear Jovine,

Holy obedience assigns you as pastor of the parish entrusted to us in Scigliano. Please read and re-read and copy in your life the life of the Patron Saint of parish priests, St. Vianney, the Curé of Ars!

Do not present yourself to the Ordinary without further notice that you will have after we have informed him ex officio.

Become a saint! We'll see!

N. 984

Please, show this letter to the director a quo (so that he can help you with the necessities for the trip) and to the director ad quem so that he knows your position. As soon as you arrive, inform me and then the more formal document will be sent to you from Rome.

Pianura, 10 - 5 - 1952

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

Obedience sends you to Acquaviva delle Fonti to help that Director and Parish Priest (Fr. Cesare Caradonna) both in the Vocationary and in the Parish.

Please, show this letter to the director a quo (so that he can

provide you with the necessary supplies for the trip) and to the director ad quem so that he knows your position. As soon as you arrive, inform me and then the more formal document will be sent to you from Rome.

Become a saint and help all the souls you will meet for the duty of office to become saints in the proper and rigorous sense of the word. See you there. May Jesus bless you.

N. 985

May your application to generous and rigorous observance put a more spiritual note in this house, where the unsuitable premises somewhat impede various things, such as, for example, perfect segregation and cloister. Do your best to zeal for all our observances, together with the confrere who does not lack good will.

Pianura, 10 - 17 - 52

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless us.

Now you want to give yourself to the priestly ministry. Please, and I warn you not to think of everything as knowing how to do and being able to do! Try to educate yourself better in morals and pastoral care in a different way... yes, you could even behave well, and do a little bit of good, but so little cannot be enough for a religious and a vocationist! The parish, no less than the college, is our field in which the Lord wants us to be specialized and specialists. Consider the parish as a great *Ascensionary* of the faithful, among whom the Vocationist works, with intellect and wisdom, with fear and fortitude of the Holy Spirit, in the apostolate 1) of the irradiation of the religious state in every human condition; 2) of universal sanctification 3) of divine union!

All the good that we want for ourselves, we must want and procure for every soul.

I would like you to act as Apostle of Universal Sanctification in Acquaviva, since it seems to me that neither Fr. Cesare nor the

Sisters have yet taken seriously this work which our Society has taken on and of which we are all over Italy official promoters.

I wait! Become a saint. May Jesus bless you.

N. 986

If someone... crosses you, then, kiss their hand. He is one of the external sanctifiers. The internal Sanctifier, on the other hand, is the Consoler. And you know him, and you will know him even more.

Rome, 11 - 6 - 1952

My Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

Here I am "in storage" too! But no one can stop us, on the contrary everyone wants us to become saints and the Lord also wants to make us apostles of sanctification. Buy yourself the thermometer of fervor and send me... the daily temperature, so that as soon as you arrive at the heroism of charity and humility, I can offer you in my mass, on the paten and in the chalice, for your consecration as an apostle of holiness, and set you off... for the fields of souls!

So, become a saint! If someone crosses you, kiss his hand. He is one of the external sanctifiers. The internal Sanctifier, on the other hand, is the Consoler. And you know him, and you will know him even more.

I recommend the three sacrosanct hours! Do you remember them? Add the Canonical Hour *coram Sanctissimo* in the sacred time of the Lord's agony.

Write to me, see that now I have more time. Pray for me.

N. 987

When you write, do it with your bare head. When you get answers you have to do it with an open heart. Now you can close your heart, if you have accepted this

exhortation of which few can be more necessary to the supernatural, individual and social life.

Pianura, 12 - 5 - 1952

My Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

When you write, do it with your bare head. When you get answers you have to do it with an open heart.

I didn't pass yours in which you said things to Quacquarelli that you wished I had not reported. Learn: if you don't want someone to know your appreciation about him, you really mustn't show it to anyone (to anyone without exception). The only thing to do is to immediately drive out of your head (memory, intelligence, will) every judgment, opinion, feeling unfavorable towards your neighbor and even every coldness and indifference, even if only internal, even only mental; because duty is charity and coldness is not charity; and indifference is not charity. Now you can close your heart, if you have accepted this exhortation of which few can be more necessary for the supernatural, individual and social life.

It was a good opportunity for you to teach philosophy to Constantine, even more treatises. If you agree, I'll see to sending some others with him if necessary. This way you will always make yourself more useful to others. As for the missions, keep your apostolic interest and indeed cultivate it on purpose for those peoples. It is of much merit and spiritual profit.

See you there. Greetings to Fr. Cesare. Merry Christmas!

N. 988

We must, where possible, avoid all travel even if the expenses are reimbursed by others, because it is not only for reasons of poverty but for many others that the religious understands.

Pianura, 2 - 18 - 1953

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

I think that family, if they wanted, could also mail by mail how much they want to donate for masses. In any case, answer: "I am religious and I cannot personally receive legacies of masses or anything else. Please contact my superiors" whose address you will give. This is the first reason. The second is that we must all avoid travel, as far as possible, even if the expenses are reimbursed to us by others, because it is not only for reasons of poverty but for many others that the religious understands.

Be a saint, happy Lent.

N. 989

I await your confidences, which will certainly deserve a prompt reply. If you want to hide in the fear that the letters will be read by others, I assure you that it is the devil's trench, nor is it useful for you to stay with him as a kind of defense.

Pianura, 4 - 29 - 1953

Dear Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

You know very well that we don't want our religious to put themselves often on a travelling path. Nor does it seem to me that there can be anything that cannot be entrusted to paper, at least with vague hints and distant allusions. I therefore await your confidences, which certainly deserve ready answer. If then you want to hide in the fear that the letters will be read by others, I assure you that it is the devil's trench and it is not useful for you to stay with him as a kind of defense. Think about having a nice Marian month!

Become a saint.

"I'll wait a week," you say; and then? What kind of ultimatum is this? Will you leave for Brazil afterwards? Amen!

N. 990

Please meditate on the duties of these tasks and obtain from the Lord the grace necessary to fulfill them well for your sanctification and ours.

St. Ignatius - Pianura, July 31, 1953

Dear Fr. Jovine,

May Jesus bless you.

Holy obedience transfers you from Acquaviva to Posillipo with teaching duties in the Pianura Vocationary, assistant to the Rector of Posillipo orphanage as Spiritual Father of the house.

Please meditate on the duties of these tasks and obtain from the Lord the grace necessary to fulfill them well for your sanctification and ours.

May St. Ignatius obtain perfect obedience for you! In union of prayers.

N. 991

To a note in which Fr. Jovine said that Fr. Master easily believed everyone, and collected news to the detriment of the individual, Fr. Justin replies: "Do not believe the others who are malicious, vengeful, gatherers of drool. Because you could be told that you judge others by yourself. Rise up to the Lord with a little love, and you will see all sad things vanish under your feet."

(undated)

I would like you to have this note of yours read to Father Master and in this way he would persuade you of the contrary.

You fear judgment from others because you have been very (or somewhat?) flawed in the past. Now then you are perfect consumed (read: now all defects have become internal and few are left on the outside). But don't believe the other malignant, vindictive, drool-gatherers. Because you could be told that you judge others by yourself. Rise up to the Lord with a little love, and you will see all sad things vanish under your feet.

Jesus bless you.

Soon the plants will flower. Flourish and enjoy in the Lord you too, as an angel, not as a worm.

N. 992

In a note, Fr. Iovine wrote to Fr. Justin: "I have been called (in a given place and at a given time) a murmurer and insatiable. I know and I swear it's not true (God judge me). How should I behave? Until when to endure?" On the same leaflet, Fr. Justin replies: It is true that in that time and in that place we did not commit that particular defect. But the Lord wants to purify us of all similar defects committed in other places and times.

(undated)

Dear Jovine,

Do not be alarmed that it displeases the Lord and harms you greatly. Do this. It is true that in that time and in that place we did not commit that fault. But the Lord wants to purify us of all similar defects committed in other places and times.

May he always be blessed. Thus you will regain your peace. Become a saint.

May Jesus bless you

P. S. Never judge without being forced by authority.

N. 993

On another note, also undated, Fr. Iovine laments the fact that the superiors do not offer an adequate religious education to the boys in the seminary and wonders if he, a second year novice, could make up for it. Fr. Justin replies:

Why not?

(undated)

When I go for my usual walk up the hill, I get to that point where we saw that almond tree, it flowered so early, mid-February, remember? February 1936, the beginning of Septuagesima. I cried over those first fruits flowers, like over our students who get lost, in the frost of the first passions.

Dear Jovine,

May God the Holy Spirit unite us ever more
with the Son to the Father.

Love always finds time to write. If they loved me in Anagni, the letters would flock. Enough. Tell your comrades.

Now that you are in the holy habit you must apply yourself more to being truly religious. No longer a miserable layperson, but a perfect religious like St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows.

Especially: purity, humility, love of the Blessed Trinity. They are our first magnitude stars.

When I go for my usual walk up the hill, I get to that point where we saw that almond tree, it flowered so early, mid-February, remember? February 1936, the beginning of Septuagesima. I cried over those first fruits flowers, like over our students who get lost, in the frost of the first passions.

And then I remember your last letter to your distant father. It seemed too passionate to me. But what happened next made me change my mind. May the Lord keep him in his paradise and in his heart. Instead, allow you to enjoy all the maternal affection of the Congregation that welcomed you. Remain faithful to the commitments assumed with the Lord.

This time I replied immediately but I no longer reply except to those who write to me as a religious.

And who writes as a religious?

He who is above all interested in spiritual perfection! And it appears from the letters as from the conduct. Also tell this to your comrades.

The literature will be sent to you. May Jesus bless you.

N. 995

Please be very zealous for the work of vocations, with your priestly example and word.

(undated)

To Very Rev. Fr. Giovanni Jovine

Dear Brother,

Obedience assigns you to the house of Cava dei Tirreni with the office of Vice-Rector in that Vocationary.

Please be very zealous for the work of vocations, with your priestly example and word.

In union of prayers.

N. 996

By way of example we publish this example of formal obedience in Latin. The obedience is signed not only by the Superior and the General Secretary as usual, but also by the Vicar General who at the time enjoyed all the rights and duties of the Superior General. Fr. Jovine went to the house in Mezzegra, but stayed there only 5 days and then left. The religious community practically did not settle down at all.

September 20, 1954

Societas Vocationum Divinarum Director Generalis

Sac. Justinus M. a santissima Trinitate

Tibi R.mo Joani Iovine in nostra Congregatione Sac. Prof.

Salutem in Domino

Confisi tuo amore religiosae observantiae, tuo zelo incrementi operum Vocationistarum et tuo studio spiritualis perfectus fratrum et alumnorum te Rectorem et Presidem domus religiosae at Mezzegre eligimus et deputamus.

Tibi, sanctae oboedientiae merito iniungentes ut huiusmodi munus humiliter suscipias et, qua possis vigilantia, exequeris,

atque omnibus religiosis in tua domo commorantibus, ut eiusdem oboedientiae merito, tibi pareant, quo unanimes Deo Uno et Trino beneplacendum in animarum sanctificatione intendatis.

In quorum fidem, praesentibus hisce nostro sigillo muniti subscripsimus.

Datum Romae, in Aedibus nostris ad Montem M. dia 20 Sept. 1954.

(Iustinus M. Russolillo)
Sup. Gen.lis

(Hugo Fraraccio)
Vic. Gen.lis

(Antonius M. Di Pierno) Sec. Gen.lis

P. S. With sincere prayers to reach the headquarters as soon as possible. Deputy and Bursar will be Fr. Guido Longoni.

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Baronissi
Bavarella
Bellomo
Bergantino
Berte
Boccuti Bonichi
Bonifacio
Borghese
Boschetti
Bovino
Bracigliano

Braganza
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Buenos Aires
Buonomo
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Campagna
Campina Grande
Candela
Capaccio
Caracciolo
Caradonna
Carosiello
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Caruso
Casal Monferrato
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D'Agostino
D'Auria
D'Onofrio
D'Orso
Da Silva 263.
De Caprio
De Crosta
De Cubellis
De Felice
De Filippis
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Farro
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Fierro
Fiume
Florida
Fontana

Fraraccio
Fratte
Frieri
Frosinone
Gagliardi
Galante
Galasso
Gentile
Germano
Giacci

Giagnacovo
Giannattasio
Giannone
Gioconda
Giovazzini
Giove
Gorga
Granato
Gravina
Greco
Grimaldi
Gualtieri
Guantai
Guatemala
Guerriero
Gueto
Guida
Haiti
Iadeluca
Iannotta
Ilpens
Impagliazzo
Imperatore
Innocenzi
Innocenzo
Itaparica

Lacidogna
La Fratte
La Greca
Lanzaro
Larraona
Laureana
Lauriello
Le Foche
Lepore
Lercaro
Licusati
Lombardi

Longobardi
Lucera
Lucio
Lullo
Lupia
Maccarone
Maiolo
Maiorano
Malta
Manzo
Maracas
Maretta

Mariotti
Mariotto
Martellino
Marta
Marzano
Mascolo
Matarazzo
Matinella
Mazzei
Mazzocchi
Mazzotta
Mele
Melillo
Meo
Mezzegra
Milano
Mileo
Mola
Mola di Bari
Monreale
Montecalvo Irpino
Montecassino
Montesano
Montella
Montevideo
Montoro

Morrone
Muccitelli
Mugnano del Cardinale
Murdocca
Napoli
Nardelli
Nardin
Narni
Natale
Nazareth
Nicastro
Nocera
Nuzzo
Omignano
Omnis
Orte
Oscar
Pace
Pacifico
Paestum
Palatucci
Palermo
Pallottino
Palma Campania
Palomba
Palombaio
Parete.
Pasetto
Passariello
Passero
Pasto'
Pelosi
Pennacchia
Pepe
Perrino
Perrone
Piedimonte D'Alife
Pietro
Pietropaolo

Pignataro
Pinto
Pintonello
Pirelli
Pizzirusso
Placido
Policastro
Polito
Polverino
Pontestura
Porrino
Posillipo
Potenza
Pozzuoli

Providence
Quacquarelli
Ragone
Ranieri
Reale
Reggiano
Resina
Ribaudi
Ribaudò
Ribeirao
Preto
Riberrai
Riccardo
Ricciardi
Rio Preto
Rocciolo
Rocco
Romano
Romeo
Rosa
Rosmini
Rossi
Rota
Rotoli

Ruberti
Ruggiero
Ruizzo
Rule
Russia
Russo
Saggiomo
Sagliocco
Salerno
Salesio
Salzano
Sant'Angelo dei Lombardi
Santa Fe
Santillo
Santucci
Sarno
Satriano
Saturno
Scandiffio
Scanu
Scarpa
Scherillo
Schettini
Sciarrotta
Scigliano
Scolaro
Scotto
Scutari
Sepe
Sepinski
Serracapriola
Severino
Sezze
Sezze Romano
Signorelli
Silimbri
Silvestri
Soccavo
Solfrizzo

Soprano
Soverino
Spinillo
Sposato
Sposetti
Starace
Striano
Suso
Taburno
Tardi
Teofano
Termoli
Tisi
Torromacco
Trifirò
U.S.A.
Uruguay
Vaccaro
Vaglie
Valentino
Valleverde
Vallo
Vassallo
Venezuela
Verde
Vibonati
Vilardi
Villammare
Viscusi
Vitale
Vivencio
Wilkinson
Zennaro
Zolli
Zoppo
Zullo

