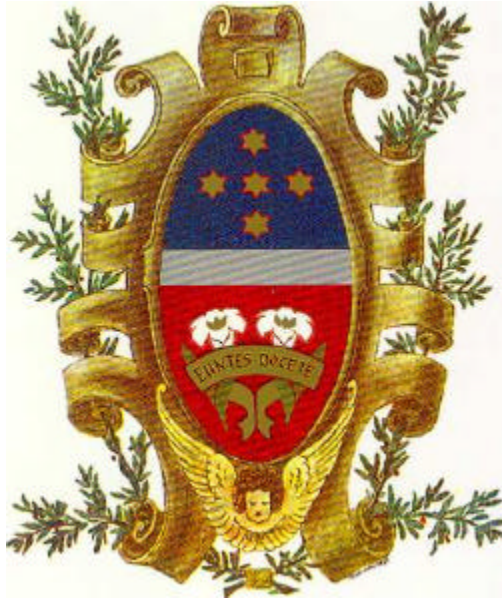


# A STIGMATINE CALENDAR



**“Going therefore, teach ye all nations.” (Mt 28:19)**

**Brief Reflections on a Partial Listing of Persons & Events  
from 1777 - 1911**

**Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS**

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## PREFACE

The Stigmatine Calendar was compiled between 1966-1967 - when I was given a year of study in Rome, and worked with the late Fr. 'Gino' Benaglia, CSS, on St. Gaspar's writings and spirit.

The parameters are 1777-1911, with the election of the first Fr. General in the 20th century, Very Rev. John B. Tomasi, CSS - whom I had the privilege to know during my student years in Rome [1952-1956]. I assisted at his last Holy Mass, celebrated on the feast of St. John the Evangelist, right after Christmas. In prayer, I was present the night of his death, in early January 1954.

As will be evident to Stigmatines, the source material has been the Founder's Spiritual Diary - his Letters - and the early Chronicles of the Stigmatine Community - Fr. Lenotti's 18 year Chronicle deserves a special mention. It has to be stated that my knowledge of Italian was not very strong at the time - and there may be some errors - but, basically, this is how I came to understand the Early Chronicles of our history. While not every entry is of major importance - and some are just passing glances at names of people, places and events - now long gone - but, which can live on in our Stigmatine heart.

One fact above all has touched my heart: the Stigmatine Community has truly experienced the Sacred Stigmata in its nearly 200 year history: the 'Sorrowful' Good Friday aspect, in the enormous sufferings the Community has endured - the many pre-mature losses of dear and competent men - and the failures of some apostolic projects. The 'Glorious', Easter aspect has been most evident as well: the undying hope in the resurrection, and the extraordinary commitment to the Apostolic Mission, living out in practice the words of Jesus on Easter night, when He manifested His sacred Stigmata in the Cenacle room with this Apostolic Missionary Mandate: *As the Father has sent me, I now send you!* [cf. Jn 20:19, ff.].

Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS

Beaverton, OR, in July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

**THE AUTHOR**

**Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS**, was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, USA, not far from Boston, in June 2, 1930.

He entered the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata on January 6, 1946, and was ordained a Stigmatine Priest in Rome, Italy, in July 1, 1956.

He spent 32 years in Rome - 10 years as General Councilor - and also taught at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas [ANGELICUM] [PUST] in Rome for more than 20 years. Among his illustrious students were two Brazilian Stigmatines: † Most Rev. Moacyr José Vitti, CSS, present Arch-Bishop of Curitiba, in Paraná State, and † Most Rev. José Alberto Moura, CSS, Bishop of Uberlândia, in Minas Gerais State, both in Brazil.

Now Fr. Henchey is Assistant Spiritual Director at Blessed Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts, for second career men, desiring to spend their last years as priests.

For all of his Stigmatine life, Fr. Henchey has been a student of St. Gaspar Bertoni, the founder of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata.

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**JANUARY****1**

- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni spoke on the beauty of Divine Grace; its beauty cannot be seen by the human eye but only in man's acts inspired by it. It is far greater than physical beauty and hence at all costs it must be kept and increased. If it should ever be lost, recover it as soon as possible - "create in me, O Lord, a clean heart."
- 1812:** Peter Vignola – born on the first day of this year – he would be followed by four brothers into the Priesthood – and would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Superior General.
- 1817:** A Priest by the name of Fr. Matthew Farinati joined the Congregation at the Stimate. He had given up his earlier hope of becoming a Jesuit.
- 1826:** The Papal Decree "*Exultabit Spiritus Noster*" of Pope Leo XII extended the Jubilee Year another six months.
- 1848:** Fr. Lenotti preached at the Stimate and told the congregation that the Word of God is omnipotent.
- 1851:** Charles Salocher left the Congregation due to ill health (he re-entered as a Brother in 1871 and died at *S. Maria dei Miracoli* in Rome on Nov. 2, 1903, always having manifested through life a special devotion to the Holy Souls, he died on the day of their commemoration).  
On this date, however, four other Brothers were vested with the religious habit - Vestition at this time in the history made one a member of the Congregation.
- 1855:** Another candidate, Joseph Reali, entered the Congregation. The Chronicle described him as having "a good heart, and good shoulders!"
- 1856:** Two Capuchin Priests from Milan arrived at Caravaggio to assist the 18 Confessors hearing the Confessions at the Mission that was being preached there by Frs. Marani, Lenotti, Benciolini and Venturini. Fr. Brugnoli had stayed behind in Verona with the three Novices.
- 1869:** Fr. Lenotti preached a Domestic Exhortation. In it he said that Christ shed His Blood on three occasions before His Crucifixion: the Circumcision, in Gethsemani and at the scourging. We can shed our "blood" as Religious, 1<sup>st</sup> in accepting Superiors corrections; 2<sup>nd</sup>, by performing penances ourselves; 3<sup>rd</sup>, by accepting the opposition of those who may be our enemies.
- 1883:** Fr. Pio Gurisatti became Superior of the Stimate, succeeding Fr. Zara.
- 1891:** Fr. Tabarelli and Fr. Scotton, in Rome, moved from their lodging on Via S. Francesco di Sales, to Vicolo del Bologna # 40. They lived on the 2nd floor of this building and the Carmelites, who cared for the Church of *S. Maria della Scala*, lived on the third. Fr. Tabarelli began looking in earnest for a Church in Rome for the Congregation. He had recently

been introduced to Cardinal Parocchi, through his Secretary, a Father Fossa.

- 1903:** On this date, the Congregation went to Piacenza. They had been invited there by the Christian Brothers, with Bishop Scalabrini's approval.

## 2

- 1856:** Tuesday evening: Fr. Marani wrote from Caravaggio to Fr. Richard DaPrato, a Novice. He spoke of his sorrow on hearing of Fr. Fedilini's accident, but was relieved to know that he was not seriously injured. He told Fr. DaPrato that they were all kept busy every night at Caravaggio until 11:00 pm. and told him to "**be prepared!**" He sent regards to Frs. Ruzzenenti and Marchesini ~ and also to a Louis Marchesini, who died this very day in Verona.
- 1857:** The Clergy and some people accompany Frs. Lenotti and Fedelini as far as Vo. The two priests had just completed a two week Mission at Avio, Trento.
- 1882:** The Congregation purchased a farm in Cadelara in Valpantena for 56.000 lire - the money from the sale of the *Trinita'* (Aug. 8, 1877) and other moneys.

## 3

- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning a young girl who had entered Mother Naudet's Congregation. It seems to have been clear that there were some doubts concerning her vocation.
- 1834:** Friday: a brass lamp had been struck for the main altar at the Stimate, but proved to be unsatisfactory.
- 1848:** Fr. Roothan, Superior General of the Jesuits, signed a document approving Fr. Fedelini's Marian Congregation at the Seminary of Verona.
- 1861:** Frs. Lenotti and Rigoni celebrated Mass again this day at the Stimate. They had been at Soave with Fr. Benciolini for a Mission.

## 4

- 1871:** Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Lenotti and assured him he would send money for the student house in exile at Villazzano. Fr. Bragato is most apologetic in the letter for not having as much money as previously. Fr. Marani. Sup. Gen. was ill at this time - they were about the same age but, from the tone of Fr. Bragato's letter, it is very clear that he considers Fr. Marani a "Father".

## 5

- 1832:** Charles Salcoher was born.
- 1864:** Frs., Benciolini, Lenotti and Bassi began a Mission at Barbarano, Vicenza. Despite the heavy snow and the cold wind, the Mission was very well attended.

6

- 1797:** Gaspar Bertoni was tonsured by Bishop Avogadro at the Bishops residence in Verona.
- 1806:** John Mary Marani was vested in St. Paul Church by the Pastor, Fr. Girardi.
- 1823:** Fr. Nicholas Galvani died at 5:30 p.m. Fr. Bertoni became the legal owner of the Stimate and the other "pious places" – he, therefore, had to fulfill the conditions outlined in the will of Joseph Bellotti, namely tuition free schools for youth.
- 1856:** The Mission that began at Dec. 27, 1855 at Caravaggio; ended on this day.
- 1863:** Just after the Feast of the Epiphany, Frs. Benciolini and Bassi went to Alpo to preach a Mission and the Forty Hours' Devotion.
- 1865:** Anthony Caucigh was vested as a Novice. He was at this time 14 and had been with the Congregation 2 years and 4 months. His Novice companions were Lawrence Pizzini, B. Perazzani, D. Vicentini, Pio Gurisatti, M. Lenaro, James Marini, A. Caresia, T. Vicentini, Richard Tabarelli, Br. J. Zadra, C. Nardelli, B. Carrara.
- 1866:** Fr. Joseph Riolfati, Pastor and Dean at Riva, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the excellent Novena for Christmas preached by Frs. Lenotti, Bassi and Peter Vignola. Fr. Riolfati said that in his 30 years in that parish he had never seen anything that could compare with the work of these three.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, spoke to the Community and told the members to thank God for the graces the Congregation had received during 1874. The two deaths of the previous year (Fr. Bragato and the Aspirant Brunati) were really just called home to God.
- 1882:** On the morning of this Feast of the Epiphany there was celebrated for the first time a devotion in honor of the Infant Christ under the auspices of the Pious Union of the Holy Infancy. That evening there was held in the Church an *Academia* with poems and music.
- 1883:** On the Feast this year, the services honoring the Infant Christ were held in the Church of St. Teresa with even greater solemnity than the year before.

7

- 1856:** Monday: the bells in the steeple rang out this morning at Caravaggio and the Parish assembled to bid farewell to the four Priests who had just concluded the Mission there. Three of the Priests went directly back to Verona but Fr. Marani had to go to Milan to purchase some vestments for the Church.

- 1892:** Fr. Benciolini had another very bad attack and was anointed. Bro. Nicora was with him through the night and Bro. DalSasso slept in the next room in the event his services might be needed during the night.
- 1906:** Cardinal Peter Respighi, Vicar of Pius X, consecrated in Rome this day the first member of the Congregation raised to the Episcopacy – Fr. Louis Morando, who had been named Arch-Bishop of Brindisi by the Pope the previous December.

8

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her that a Fr. Anthony Strabui had told him the night before that Fr. Dominic Bellavito, Oratorian, had had some difficulty with the government over the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary he founded.

9

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni cited a harsh saying of St. John Chrysostom in his Spiritual Diary: ***Few Priests are saved, but many more are lost!*** He stated that St. Augustine was of the same view, and told this to his Priests, not to shock them, but because he really believed it in his time.
- 1811:** Mother Naudet asked Fr. Bertoni, to be her Spiritual Director and made note of this in her Spiritual Diary. Fr. Bertoni used the saying as a challenge for on-going conversion.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to congratulate her on her fine work. He told her that a Maria Gagnere [she later became the Vicareess of Mother Naudet's Congregation of the Holy Family, when the holy Foundress died, August 17, 1834] wanted to enter her Congregation.
- 1847:** Fr. Venturini received the faculties for giving the Apostolic Blessing at the end of his Parish Missions.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani returned from Milan where he had gone after the Parish Mission at Caravaggio to procure some vestments.
- 1868:** Fr. Rigoni wrote from Florence to tell the Fathers at the Stimate to inform them of his efforts in recovering from the government the confiscated property of the Congregation. His efforts, though, at this time would be in vain.

10

- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Mother Naudet who was experiencing some difficulty in her spiritual life.
- 1836:** Mother Gagnere of the Sisters of the Holy Family died. She never seemed to recover from her sadness after the death of Mother Naudet, 17 months earlier.
- 1869:** The Novice, Stephen Oss Bals [of Pergine], who entered the Congregation at Villazzano as a Deacon, was ordained in Trent by Bishop Riccabona.

**1873:** The Court of Appeals in Venice put off Fr. Benciolini's case for another two weeks. He was attempting to re-possess, for the Congregation, the property confiscated by the government in 1867.

### 11

**1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that during Mass that day at the Consecration he had a vivid grasp of the Presence of Christ as one Friend talking to another friend. He said this experience lasted about one half hour after Mass.

**1811:** Fr. Bertoni was chosen the Ordinary Confessor of Mother Leopoldina Naudet.

**1817:** Elizabeth Ambrosini, penitent of Fr. Bertoni, joined Mother Naudet at St. Teresa's

**1868:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni at Florence to encourage him in his efforts to get the property back for the Congregation. He told Fr. Rigoni that the Fathers at the Stimate were praying to St. Ivo, the Patron of Lawyers, for his success.

**1890:** Fr. Benciolini suffered a severe attack that made his breathing difficult. He could no longer lie down, but had to sleep in a chair.

### 12

**1811:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that in his endeavor to direct the soul entrusted to him [that of Mother Naudet], he should wait for God's Will to be made clear, and should not anticipate it.

**1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning the vocation of three young women who were causing her some anxiety – Gertrude Vilchi, Ann Randelli and Clara Canton.

**1844:** Fr. Modesto Cainer died at 2:00 a.m. He had worked very hard for Fr. Bertoni in building up a Library at the Stimate.

**1856:** Fr. Marani went alone to preach the Mission at Lunghezano.

**1857:** Fr. Vincent Vignola in a letter dated this day, stated that his classes at St. Francis Xavier Church, near the Seminary of Trent, were going very well.

### 13

**1813:** Dr. Ravelli, Fr. Bertoni's maternal Uncle, prescribed some new medicine for his nephew – he also gave him strict orders not to leave the house before 11:00 a.m., nor before 3:00 p.m. – so that Fr. Bertoni would sleep longer in the morning and after dinner.

**1826:** Pope Leo XII again severely condemned Jansenism.

**1868:** Bro. Caresia came down with a high fever.

**1869:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, left Villazzano with the newly ordained Fr. Stephen Oss Bals. Fr. Oss Bals had to leave due to some

unexplained difficulty concerning Freemasonry. He had to leave his native Diocese of Trent and was stationed in Anglari Verona.<sup>1</sup>

#### 14

- 1856:** Fr. Marani summoned the Novice, Fr. DaPrato to help with the hearing of the Confessions at Lunghezzano.
- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola started a Novena in honor of the Holy Espousals at Garda. Due to the intense cold, Fr. Sandrinelli, the Pastor, would allow only two sermons a day.
- 1868:** Fr. Benciolini wrote again to Fr. Rigoni at Florence. He told him that the Fathers at the Stimate were beginning that night the Novena for the Espousals that they were saying special prayers before meals to Mary and Joseph for his success.

#### 15

- 1844:** Fr. Benciolini, as was the custom of those times, started the series of Gregorian Masses for a deceased Confrere – this time for Fr. Cainer.
- 1848:** Fr. Lenotti spoke at the regular Friday devotions at the Stimate and his theme was 'Prayer.'
- 1858:** Fr. Rigoni wrote still another letter back from Florence giving details of his life and struggles for the Congregation.

#### 16

- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet about a vocation, in the person of a Miss Angelina Raimondi. Fr. Bertoni called Mother Naudet's proposed Convent a 'Cenacle.'
- 1823:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his letter of this day to Mother Naudet of the taxes he owed as owner of the Stimate and St. Teresa's.
- 1830:** This was the date of a Rescript of Pope Pius VIII granting a Plenary Indulgence.
- 1872:** This was the date that Cardinal Quaglia, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, signed a statement to the effect that the Congregation of the Stimate had never been granted full Papal Approbation, despite their repeated requests for it. Some of the Fathers of the Stimate found this letter a little harsh for such an authoritative source - but, as history turned out, the lawyer of the Congregation hired to win back its confiscated property, used this authoritative statement from the Cardinal, and finally won his case! The Congregation would eventually receive papal Approval on September 15, 1890 from Pope Leo XIII.

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<sup>1</sup> The North American Professed Students spent the month of July 1953 in an orphanage in Pergine, Trent, as part of their summer holidays. While there, some visited the Oss Bals grave in the local cemetery there. The Fontanari Brothers were from there, Giovanni and Giuseppe.

17

- 1802:** It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany – Fr. Bertoni preached in St. Paul's Parish, Verona, where he was a Curate. He preached on the Holy Name of Jesus – he said that the Holy Name softened the hard of hearts, comforted the discouraged, and the use of the Holy Name would overcome the obstinacy of the sinner.
- 1855** Fr. Anthony Bresciani, SJ, in Rome, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, with words of high praise for Fr. Bertoni. And the Constitutions he wrote.
- 1868:** Fr. Rigoni wrote again from Florence informing the Fathers and Brothers at the Stimate in Verona of the difficulties he had in his fruitless efforts to win back the confiscated property.
- 1882:** During this night, the statue of the Sorrowful Mother, with its gold ornaments, was stolen from the Church of the Stimate – it was worth about 2,000 Lira in the currency of the time.
- 1891:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, sent Fr. Julius Zambiasi to Rome to study physics and mathematics. Cardinal Parrocchi would assign him to teach at the Albano Seminary with Fr. Tabarelli.

18

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached this year, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, on the Holy Name of Jesus in St. Paul's Parish. [He was a Curate here for the first ten years of his Priesthood: 1800-1810]. He said that the Holy Name of Jesus depicts a loving Person and urged his listeners to keep His Image in their hearts. Christ is the most tender and ardent lover of mankind.
- 1814:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni defeated a Jansenist in a debate.
- 1835:** It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after the Epiphany. Monsignor Castori [the Vicar of Bishop Grasser of Verona – who had a sister a Carmelite Nun, who was once stationed at St. Teresa's Convent] came to the Stimate to vest a young student by the name of Louis Ferrari, who was only 14 and one half years old. The Monsignor stated that he had wished he could vest 50 young Stigmatines! He had already vested John Lenotti on May 8, 1834 – and young Ferrari was the second, and last, Stigmatine that he vested.

19

- 1830:** Fr. Bertoni explained in his letter of this date to Mother Naudet the reasons for the delay in the legal matter concerning the use by her Congregation of the Convent of St. Teresa's which he owned. He promised the papers within the month.
- 1879:** Paul Gradinati was ordained a Priest this day by Bishop Haller, Auxiliary to Bishop Riccabona of Trent.

20

- 1834:** The Feast of St. Sebastian. The bells of the Stimate rang out at 9:00 a.m., at noon, at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m., as a reminder to the faithful of the Triduum for the Espousals being conducted at the Stimate.
- 1859:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Arch-Priest and Pastor of St. Firmus Major in Verona, met his brother, Monsignor Paul Vignola, Rector of the Cathedral and broke the news that he, Fr. Peter, was entering the Stimate at age 47 to begin his Novitiate. He would follow his brother, Fr. Vincent, who had already entered. Fr. Peter would remain in the House of the Stimate for 32 years.
- 1868:** Fr. Benciolini wrote from the Stimate to Fr. Rigoni to encourage him. He told him the news from the Stimate, which at this time was not good. Fr. Marani, the Superior General was still in bed – Bro. Caresia had been 'bled' three times by the doctor but his fever persisted.
- 1908:** This was a very dark and foggy night in Milan. There was a frightful train-wreck on the 'Acquabella'-Bivio line in Milan. The Fathers stationed at Milan in the 'Acquabella' section of the city were among the first on the scene. The House was used as a temporary hospital for the dying and the injured.

21

- 1798:** The Venetian states [that included Verona] passed under the dominion of Austria due to the agreement of Campoformio of October 29, 1797.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that Anetta Randalli, who was sick, could not receive Holy Communion unless she fasted – unless there was danger of death. As long as she was ill, Fr. Bertoni promised to come every eight days.
- 1849:** Fr. Venturini gave a sermon this Sunday on the Holy Family in preparation for the Feast of the Espousals. Mary is the Cause of our Joy – their marriage was indeed a Joy.
- 1856:** The Parish Mission at Lunghezzano ended. Brothers Ferrari and Stevanoni had come to Lunghezzano, their home town, for the closing of the Mission – this seems to have been an effort to promote vocations. As the Missionaries and the Brothers left, the bells of the Church sounded – despite the heavy, cold rain, about 18 people accompanied them as far as Bellorio.
- 1860:** Fr. Venturini expressed the hope this day that God would call him home on a Feast of the espousals.
- 1890:** Fr. Benciolini is unable to leave the house anymore. This day he took a few steps outside his room, assisted by the faithful Brother Nicora, who stayed with him day and night.

**22**

- 1805:** Monsignore Ridolfi, Vicar General of the Diocese of Verona, had to give the Program of Studies for the Seminary to the government. Verona was divided in two: the French controlled the right side of the Adige River and all students on this side, had to go to the public schools; the Austrians controlled the left side, and the seminarians could attend the Seminary.
- 1834:** The bells at the Stimate rang out on this eve, the Vigil of the Feast of the Holy Espousals.
- 1847:** Fr. Lenotti preached at the Stimate on the Joy of the Heart in these days just prior to Lent. He went on to say that the days just before Lent for so many, were days of intensified sin. They may have a thousand pleasures during these days, but some day they will have a thousand thorns and much bitterness.
- 1864:** Fr. Spiegiorin, Pastor at Barbarano, Vicenza, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the Mission which Frs. Benciolini, Lenotti, and Bassi had preached there. The Pastor said that despite the inclemency of the weather, the attendance was good.
- 1870:** Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola began a Mission at Mezzotedesco, now **Mezzocorona**

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**23: The Feast of the Holy Espousals**

- 1808:** Louis Biadego was born in Verona, at 7:00 p.m. – the son of Cajetan and Mary [Mistrorgio]. He would join the Community as an ordained Priest.
- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he was meditating every day on Psalm 14: **Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle ...or, who will rest on Your Holy Mountain?**
- 1823:** **This was the first public observance of the Feast of the Espousals at the Stimate!** There were four Priests living there at this time: Frs. Bertoni, Marani, Gramego and Brugnoli – and also Brother Paul Zanolì. 42 Priests came to the Stimate this day to celebrate Mass. Over the main altar hung a painting of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph. Among the visiting Priests were Fr. Carlo Steeb [Founder of the Mercy Sisters of Verona, a convert from Lutheranism] – and Fr. Nicholas Mazza, himself also a Founder. Their Causes for Beatification and Canonization are before the Congregation of Saints in Rome now.
- Fr. Brugnoli preached and said he hoped that the Feast of the Espousals would always be religiously observed.
- 1825:** Fr. Brugnoli preached also this year at the Stimate for the Feast. He contrasted Joseph and Mary and Adam and Eve: he said they were

'coadjutors' in the Redemption. Young Francis Benciolini was present at this service and took notes – at this time, he was a student in Theology.

- 1826:** The old Mass Registry at the Stimate records that there were 70 Masses celebrated on this day at the Stimate.
- 1828:** The Mass Book this day recorded 75 Masses celebrated. Fr. Marani preached. He noted that the Marriage was Virginal, and its off-spring was Divine. He contrasted Mary's strength to Joseph's fear and the Apostle Thomas' doubts.
- 1829:** Fr. Bragato preached on the Espousals this day. This holy Marriage produced a marvelous fruit which brought about the Redemption of the world.
- 1831:** The Feast this year occurred on a Sunday when most Priests were busy with Sunday Masses. Yet, there were 36 Masses recorded today at the Stimate.
- 1832:** There were 75 Masses recorded at the Stimate on this day.
- 1833:** Fr. Bragato preached on the Espousals this day - he said theirs was the happiest marriage ever on the face of the earth.
- 1834:** The Mass Book today recorded 77 Masses – more than on any other single day in Fr. Bertoni's life-time. The bells of the Stimate rang for five minutes at 5:00 a.m. [!], at 9:00 a.m. for ten minutes – and after dinner, every half hour for five minutes. The crowd was so big that the little Church could not handle it. Frs. Gramego and Brugnoli were blessing at the Main Altar, and Fr. Marani in the little Oratory of the Immaculate Conception.
- 1837:** The Jesuits returned to Verona.
- 1844:** Fr. Venturini preached on the Espousals – he said that God Himself hid in this mystery. He stated that the soul is espoused to Christ and the fruit of this union is Joy of the heart.
- 1848:** Fr. Marani preached on the Espousals – he stated that virginity is not good in itself as an end, but only insofar as it is useful to attain the Supreme Good. Through the Espousals, it is easier to understand Christ as man.
- 1849:** Fr. Marani preached on the Espousals and stated that marriage was honored by these two Saints – it was the perfect marriage.
- 1851:** Fr. Lenotti preached on the Feast this year, and said the distinctive characteristic of this marriage was a most singular and special holiness.
- 1857:** Fr. Lenotti wrote in the Chronicle this day that the Feast was celebrated with more solemnity than usual. Bishop Riccabona came at 7:00 a.m. for Mass, and there were then 40 Masses celebrated. In the

evening, Monsignor Marchi gave Benediction vested in a new cope – ‘the new organ sounded beautiful!’

- 1858:** The Feast was celebrated much like last year – Bishop Riccabona came for morning Mass, and Monsignor Marchi, his Vicar, gave the evening Benediction. A *Life of Fr. Bertoni*, written by **Fr. Cajetan Giaccobe**, was distributed to the people. The Novena at Garda preached by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola ended today.
- 1859:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, was sick in bed – an offer had come to him to open a House for the Congregation in Lussengrande, near Trieste – Fr. Marani, however, had to refuse this one, too.
- 1860:** Fr. Venturini promised obedience – for his evening teaching of the Catechism. He was beginning to feel his years and felt that obedience was placing too much of a strain on him, but on this Feast of the Espousals, he promised continued effort.
- 1861:** Bishop Riccabona celebrated his last Espousals at the Stimate.
- 1862:** Bishop Louis di Canossa took over the Diocese of Verona, as Bishop Riccabona had been transferred to Trent. Fr. Benciolini ceded the property Fr. Bertoni had put in his name to the Congregation, so that the community would have some possessions, and so that future members could be ordained with the title, ***mensa communis***.
- 1864:** Bishop di Canossa came to the Stimate to celebrate the Espousals with the Community. Fr. Peter Vignola noted that there were many rumors in clerical circles concerning the poor relations existing between the Bishop and Fr. Marani, Superior General.
- 1868:** This was a rather subdued celebration at the Stimate this year as the Congregation had been expelled from their property at the Stimate. They were allowed a few rooms and a kitchen there, but most of the Community was ‘in exile.’ Fr. Marani, Superior General, was living in the home of his niece, Mrs. Massalongo, and could not attend due to illness. Fr. Bassi, Superior of the Stimate, gave an exhortation to the assembled group and told them that the hard days the Congregation was then experiencing was no excuse for them not to live their vocations ‘to the hilt.’
- 1879:** Fr. Paul Gradinati, recently ordained, celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate.
- 1887:** On this Feast of the Espousals there was celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the episcopal consecration of the now Cardinal di Canossa. The Cardinal observed this occasion with a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of Verona, with six other Bishops. Bishop Brandolini of Ceneda, however, came to the Stimate on this occasion. A commemorative edition of the paper, ***Verona Fedele*** carried poems by Fr. Vincent Vignola and Fr. Gradinati, honoring the Cardinal.

**1906:** The recently consecrated Archbishop Louis Morando – a Stigmatine - returned to the Stimate to celebrate this Feast of the Espousals with his Confreres, before leaving to take over his Diocese of Brindisi, in Italy. He was the first Stigmatine elevated to the Episcopacy.

**24**

**1822:** Fr. Louis Trevisani, Prefect of Studies at the Seminary of Verona, died on this day - a Fr. Joseph Monterossi composed a poem in his honor and in it referred to Fr. Bertoni, who had worked with Fr. Trevisani to improve the Seminary, and described the Stigmatine Founder as a *uomo divo*.

**1826:** This is the date of a Letter signed by Monsignor Dionisi, commending the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, founded by Mother Naudet – he noted that she needed to obtain now Papal recognition for her Sisters.

**1855:** Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Fedelini from Prague – Fr. Bragato told him that Fr. Fedelini's Devotion to Mary was a help to Fr. Bragato in Prague – and asked for his continued prayers.

**1857:** Fr. Marani preached a Mission in Vignasio, a 'town of about 19,000 souls' – that exceeded all expectations. The old people of the town said that they had never seen anything like it there.

**1858:** Fr. Sandrinelli, Pastor at Garda, wrote to Fr. Marani, to thank him for the Novena to the Espousals that Frs. Vignola and Lenotti preached there. He said that he had been having a great deal of trouble in his Parish, but that the atmosphere was now much better after the Novena.

**1860:** Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola left for a Mission at Soave for teenagers.

**1861:** On the first anniversary of the Mission preached at Soave, Frs. Rigoni and Benciolini returned there to establish a Pious Union to combat blasphemy – this was an early practice of the Congregation at that time.

**1862:** The Fathers of the Congregation went to Lazise to preach a Mission there. The Parish was divided, due to a long-standing disagreement between the local Pastor and a Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. One of the officers of this organization was a well educated man, of about 35, 'with a long red beard!' He was the most adamant in his opposition. A Monsignor Turri, when consulted, had sided with the pastor - after the Mission, which ended on February 4th, peace was restored to this troubled parish of Lazise, near Verona.

**1873:** The Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Lawyer Branca of Milan, who represented the Congregation in its struggle to get back its confiscated property. The case was then sent back to Verona, and was settled before the end of the year.

25

- 1848:** On this date, two Decrees emanated from the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, entitled ***Romani Pontifices*** and ***Regulari Disciplinae***. Years later, in Rules that were presented to the II<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter [September 11, 1871], these two Decrees were prescribed reading for the Superior General.
- 1868:** The House Chronicle reads for this date that the Espousals was over for another year – and added that Brother Caresia's condition was much worse.
- 1874:** Fr. Sterza told Fr. Lenotti of a letter written by Monsignor Daniel Comboni, Pro-Vicar Apostolic to Central Africa, that appeared in several recent issues of the ***Voce Cattolica*** - in which the Monsignor stated that there was an immediate need there of '2,000 Jesuits and 50 Stigmatines of Verona... and some Benedictines of Subiaco!' This letter greatly impressed the young Stigmatine, Fr. Francis Sogaro.

26

- 1855:** A Decree of Praise was received by the Sisters of Mary Immaculate, founded in Verona.
- 1899:** The Sessions of the Diocesan Process in Verona of interviewing the witnesses in the Cause of Fr. Bertoni's Beatification finished this day in Verona.

27

- 1805:** Fr. Bertoni preached on 'Desperation' – he stated that all Conversion is the result of confidence in God Who never rejects sincere Repentance. Never lose hope in salvation, because the way of Penance that assures it, is really not that hard.

28

- 1815:** Bishop John Andrew Avogadro, SJ, the Bishop who ordained Fr. Bertoni on September 20, 1800, died in real poverty in a Jesuit House in Padua. [He had confirmed young Gaspar, and conferred Tonsure, and the Minor Orders on him as well]. The Bishop had resigned the See of Verona in 1805, and returned to the Society of Jesus, of which he was a member.
- 1823:** Pius VII richly indulgenced the Devotion to the Five Wounds and also granted some Indulgences for the Feast of the Espousals – but, these latter arrived 5 days too late to be gained this year.
- 1852:** Fr. Bertoni sent a letter to Bishop Mutti which is in Fr. Lenotti's handwriting. From Fr. Bertoni's signature at the end of the letter, it is evident that he was a very sick man.

29

- 1835:** Fr. Arrighi of Lonato sent a young man to the Stimate as a candidate for the Brotherhood, by the name of Angelo Papa. On arrival at the

Stimate, young Papa, a tailor by profession, was examined by Dr. Vasani, and was judged physically fit for the Religious Life.

**1840:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato at the Royal Court and told him he was grateful for the Cross that God saw fit to send him.

**1868:** Feast of St. Francis de Sales – Fr. Benciolini wrote from the House of the *Dereletti* to Fr. Rigoni in Florence to tell him of Brother Caresia's death. He stated that the good Brother was only sick for a few days and accepted everything with patience.

### 30

**1831:** The Inspector General of Schools for the Province of Venice signed a Certificate stating that Fr. Benciolini had passed his courses with first honors and that he was now approved as a Teacher.

**1882:** A Triduum was begun at the Stimate in reparation for the sacrilegious theft of the statue of the Sorrowful Mother two weeks earlier.

**1899:** After a delay of almost two years, Count Albert Gerbais de Sonas answered Fr. Fantozzi's letter – within this year the Congregation went to Lisbon.

### 31

**1830:** The documents granting Mother Naudet and her Congregation the permanent use of St. Teresa's Convent were finally in order. In return, Fr. Bertoni asked for a 'few *Hail Mary's*!

**1856:** Fr. Marani, **Superior** General, and Fr. Benciolini preached a short Mission at St. George's Parish in Verona.

**1873:** The Court in Venice gave the Court in Verona 60 days in which to make an equitable settlement with the Congregation in the rightful return of its property.

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