

JULY

1

- 1808:** The Spiritual Diary that has come down to us from Fr. Bertoni started with this date – it actually only covers about a five year period I his early Priesthood.
- 1835:** Bishop Grasser came to the Stimate –there were many secret conversations between him – and Frs. Bertoni and Bragato. He had come to find a Confessor for the Imperial Court.
- 1841:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to the Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family – there was a promise of mutual prayers.
- 1855:** Fr. DaPrato left in the morning and Fr. Lenotti in the evening for Caselle and San Massimo to care for the cholera victims.
- 1871:** Sunday - Fr. John Mary Marani, Superior General, died this day in the home of his niece, Mrs. Massalongo. It was about 2:30 p.m. – he was 81 years old a month and 27 days. He died ‘in exile’, as the government had confiscated the property in October 1867.
- 1883:** this was Election Day in Verona – Fr. Benciolini was one chosen to guard the polls – he would greet each voter with his customary ***‘Praised be Jesus Christ!!’***

2

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that this was a Feast of the Sacred Heart – he wrote that at Mass that day, during the Consecration, he had strong feelings of gratitude and compunction – and at Communion, he experienced a strong sentiment of detachment from creatures.
- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni had reviewed Mother Naudet’s corrected version of her Rules and he wrote to her on this day telling her that she had omitted a correction he had made – he just wanted to know if her omission was intentional, and if it was, he would not object.
- 1847:** A Mary Pizzeli Entered The Sisters of the Holy Family during Fr. Marani’s second year as their Spiritual Director.
- 1855:** Frs. Lenotti and DaPrato went to Peschiere to assist the cholera victims – Fr. Lenotti told of a local woman who refused to make the Mission for fear of contracting the disease; she contracted it anyway, and was gone in less than two hours.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani, filling in for Fr. Bragato at the Imperial Villa at Stra’. Returned to Verona after a two week stay there.
- 1860:** Feast of the Visitation – Fr. Charles Fedelini was laid to rest on this Feast of the Blessed Mother.

3

- 1807:** Monsignor Ridolfi answered the Questionnaire of the government that to his knowledge, there were no more Oratories in the City of Verona.

- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that the trees that separated their adjoining Communities would not always bloom and so, he suggested the construction of a wall.
- 1834:** Fr. Bertoni gave Mother Naudet certain permissions regarding the building and property of St. Teresa's.
- 1846:** After five days of intense pain, Fr. Cartolari died this date at the age of nearly 52. He was sorely missed at the Stimate. In his will, he left a large share of his holdings to the Stimate – which would be declined by the Community.
- 1866:** Italy and Prussia signed an alliance at Sadowa.
- 1871:** Fr. Marani's funeral was held at 7:00 a.m. this Tuesday morning. The revered body was carried out of the Massalongo home for services and then laid to rest in the cemetery. His slogan as General had been ***Parati ad omnia! [Be prepared for all!]*** After the funeral, the First Session of the 1st General Chapter was held in the Massalongo home. The motion to choose a permanent Superior General was rejected 12-1. A Committee was chosen to add an ***Appendix to Part XII*** of Fr. Bertoni's *Original Constitutions*: the members were Fr. Rigoni [President]; Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Bassi.
- 1872:** Fr. Sembianti wrote from Bassano in response to the Superior General's [Fr. Peter Vignola] questionnaire concerning the sale of the *Trinita'*. Fr. Sembianti wrote that if the Congregation had to sell to the Ottolini Sisters, if, in the future, the Sisters were ever to sell, the Congregation should have the first option to buy it back from them.

4

- 1830:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet in a cheerful mood as he was most pleased with the progress her Congregation was making.
- 1834:** Fr. Bertoni sent Mother Naudet a brief note on finances, thanking her for money she had sent.
- 1871:** The Second Session of the 1st General Chapter returned to the Stimate form the Massalongo House. Fr. Vincent Vignola was assigned the task of informing Frs. Lanaro, Morando and Sterza [all three had voted for Fr DaPrato] – that Fr. Lenotti had been chosen temporary Superior. Fr. DaPrato was elected 2nd Councilor; Fr. Rigoni as 3rd Councilor and Fr. Peter Vignola as 4th Councilor.

5

- 1826:** Fr. Bertoni who was ill at this time, wrote to Mother Naudet, giving some advice for her annual retreat - he asked for her prayers as he himself was experiencing real difficulties.
- 1835:** Fr. Bertoni assembled the Community at the Stimate and announced to them that Fr. Bragato would soon be going off to Prague as Confessor at the Imperial Court, to the Empress Marianna Carolina Pia di Savoia.
- 1846:** Fr. Bertoni and all at the Stimate signed over everything that Fr. Cartolari had left them to the ceased Priest's brother, Anthony.

1871: The concluding Session of the 1st General Chapter – Fr. Rigoni was chosen Economus but was hesitant to accept; finally, he did. Fr. Benciolini was retained as Vicar General.

6

1809: Pope Pius VII was confined by Napoleon's forces.

1834: Louis Zocca left the Congregation 'for good, and with tears in his eyes.'

1848: Bishop Peter Aurelius Mutti granted an indulgence of 40 days for a figure of the Blessed Mother that Fr. Fedelini had.

1869: Fr. Marani, Superior General, visited Villazzano – it was noted that he was in fairly good health.

1871: Fr. DaPrato who had assisted Fr. Marani for almost 11 months, returned to the Novices at Villazzano. During his absence, Fr. Lenotti had taken over his old post as Novice Master.

7

1850: Anthony Caucigh was born, just outside of Prepotischi, high in the mountain, 45 minutes [walking distance] from Castelmonte.

1856: Fr. Marani left for Reichstadt to visit Fr. Bragato.

1860: Anthony Caucigh received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

1866: On this date, a 'Law of Suppression' aimed at Religious Orders was passed – it made it legal to confiscate the property of Religious Orders, properly so constituted.

1888: Fr. Zandonai made one last attempt to keep the Congregation in Bassano – the Bishop of Vicenza backed his plan, but the General Council could no longer maintain the group there.

8

1813: Angelo Allegri was executed in Piazza Navona, Verona, after having been absolved sacramentally by Fr. Bertoni – Allegri had been convicted of matricide.

1830: Fr. Benciolini completed his one year Education Course and was approved to teach – he had attained first honors.

1854: Bishop Riccabona was questioned by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars in Rome concerning the Congregation at the Stimate that was seeking Papal Approval.

9

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that advance an undertaking that is truly of God, it would never be necessary to offend any virtue – God protects all that is done, truly in His Name.

1834: Fr. Mark Cavanis – who was also a Count – visited Fr. Bertoni.

1848: Fr. Lenotti preached at the regular services at the Stimate – he remarked that he never had to ask for the attention of those who came regularly to these devotions.

1856: Fr. Marani met Bishop Riccabona in Reichstadt – the Bishop told that the Bishop of Mantua had expressed the desire to have the Congregation in his Diocese.

1871: Fr. Lenotti, elected temporary Superior General, wrote to the Students at Villazzano to ask for their prayers – he told them that the Congregation was divided in body, but not in spirit.

10

1866: The Jesuit Novices were being housed at the *Trinita'* with the Novices of the Congregation as the government had already seized their Novitiate and property. On this date, Fr. Viscardini, SJ, their Novice Master, told them on this date that they should be ready at any time to leave Verona.

1869: Fr. Marani returned to Verona from Villazzano.

1873: On this date, the government signed a Decree empowering its own agency of Finances to return the property of the Congregation that had been confiscated on October 29, 1867.

11

1793: Paul Zanoli was born, son of Felice - he would be the first Brother to enter the Congregation.

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary than on this date after celebrating Mass, he experienced a lively faith that God was near, coupled with feelings of hope – he offered his own sufferings in union with those of Christ, for the vexations he still had to suffer.

1833: Fr. Venturini went to the Convent of Sts. Joseph and Fidentius for the memorial service for the deceased Mother Madeline di Canossa [+ April 10, 1833].

1835: Fr. Bragato wrote from Innsbruck to the Stimate.

1837: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Sister Bussetti, Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and asked for her prayers – this was also the date of a Papal Rescript granting special indulgences for special Feast Day of the Congregation: January 23rd; September 17th; October 4th.

1899: Fr. Pio Gurisatti, Superior General, accepted the Church that was offered in Lisbon and decided to send Fr. Vivari and Fr. Pio Gabos, land Bro. Cesare Bonfanti there.

12

1847: Pius IX approved the decision of the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences of February 22ⁿ, 1847, to extend the indulgences of the Portiuncula.

1854: Permission was received to return Fr. Bertoni's body from the cemetery next to the *Trinita'* and to place it in a second lead, or zinc casket for entombment at the Stimate.

1866: The Jesuits leave the *Trinita'* early this day, and set out for Bolzano.

1875: The ailing Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, left the Stimate for Trent for some weeks of rest, and a hoped-for cure.

13

1804: Angelo Casella was born this day at Monfuso.

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni wrote that we should never abandon our wayward friends, as our friendship with them might prove to be the starting point for their conversion.
- 1813:** Anna Randelli died at the age of 28 – she was one of Mother Naudet’s Sisters, and Fr. Bertoni had shown interest in her vocation.
- 1835:** Fr. Bragato’s letter from Innsbruck arrived at the Stimate.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti was joined by Fr. Lanaro, also in failing health – both set out for the waters of Rabbi, in search of a cure.

14

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that one should only act for God’s Glory – from this sentiment proceeds true detachment from the world.
- 1821:** A government Decree was dated this day granting permission to Fr. Galvani, the owner, to have service for the public at the Church of the Stimate.
- 1835:** Fr. Bragato arrived in Vienna at 4:30 a.m., to take up his new duties at the Imperial Court.
- 1855:** The Imperial Government gave its approval to the Congregation at the Stimate – this was required in addition to Church approbation.
- 1888:** Fr. Tabarelli, who had been sent to Rome by Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, to obtain Papal Approbation was assured that the documents he had brought with him from Verona were in the hands of a Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and regulars, a Fr. John Mary Camilleri, OSA – so, on this day, Fr. Tabarelli returned to Verona.

15

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni wrote on this day to Mother Naudet that she should never act according to nature as this interrupts God’s work.
- 1810:** On this date, there was a Procession of the Transferal of the Relics of San Gualfardo from the Church of the Holy Savior to that of Sts. Firmus and Rusticus. Fr. Bertoni, Fr. Farinati and Fr. Gramego took part in this ceremony and established friendships that lasted their whole lives.
- 1811:** A Monsignor Ruzzenenti, Canon of the Cathedral, and friend of Fr. Bertoni’s father, wrote this day – on this same date, a Mr. Anthony Micheletti furnished an endowment that John Marani could continue his studies for the Priesthood.
- 1841:** Pope Gregory XVI gave permission for the opening of the Oratory of the Transfiguration at the Stimate.
- 1872:** Fr. Benciolini’s case for the restoration of the property was continued until September 14th – Attorney Brasca suggested to the Congregation that no one ever refer to the Congregation as ‘a suppressed religious Order’, as the case hinged on the fact that the Congregation had never received Papal Approbation up to that time.

1902: This was the date of a letter signed by Joseph Marchesini that later, his nephew, Louis, would use in Court in his attempt to contest his uncle's will, that made Fr. Stephen Rosa, his heir.

16

1827: Monsignor Dionisi signed a document stating that Francis Benciolini, student of 4th Theology, because of his excellent qualities, advances in study, notwithstanding his young age, and that he could be promoted to Holy Orders.

1835: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Sister Bussetti, Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family, granting all her requests concerning construction at St. Teresa's.

1854: Bishop Riccabona was consecrated a Bishop in Rome.

1856: Fr. Lenotti left for Milan to preach a Retreat to the Sisters at a hospital there.

1881: Monsignor Daniel Comboni wrote from El-Obeid, in African, reminiscing much about Fr. Marani, already deceased about 10 years. He said that Fr. Marani had not studied much, and was a bit stingy and gruff, but withal, he was a Saint. He said that Fr. Marani derived much from Fr. Bertoni.

17

1856: Fr. Marani, away in Reichstadt, wrote to the Community at the Stimate. In the course of this letter, he stated that Fr. Galvani had indeed made Fr. Bertoni the 'owner' of the Stimate, and the other 'pious places'. Bishop di Canossa, though, when he sided with the Sisters of the Holy Family in their dispute with Fr. Benciolini, who became the owner at Fr. Bertoni's death, felt that Fr. Bertoni had only the 'use' of these places – and, hence, Fr. Benciolini did not have the rights of ownership.

1896: Monsignor Giovannini, Secretary of the Apostolic Nuncio, wrote to the Stimate, asking for some Priests to come to Lisbon, to care for an Italian Parish there. This was the first offer for Lisbon.

18

1832: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Rosmini to congratulate him for the Constitutions that he had written, and that Fr. Bertoni had studied. Fr. Bertoni told Fr. Rosmini that all at the Stimate were most edified with the group of his men who had stayed at the Stimate.

1871: A moving eulogy on Fr. Marani appeared in this day's edition of the *Veneto Cattolico*.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, on sick leave at Rabbi, wrote to Fr. Rigoni, telling him to follow up on the progress that had already been made in the efforts to obtain Papal Approbation. Fr. Lenotti wrote that he envied Fr. Rigoni's opportunity to go to Rome.

19

1856: An Oblate came to help with the Confessions at the hospital where Fr. Lenotti was preaching a Retreat.

1875: Joseph Lenotti, the brother of the Superior General, died this day – he and his brother, long ago were members of the Oratory at the Stimate. [His brother, the Superior General, would follow him in a pre-mature death just about 6 weeks later, September 5, 1875].

20

1813: Louis Maestrelli was born – he was to become a Priest and with Fr. Anthony Provolo he would found the *Sons of Mary* - he was assisted frequently in life by Fr. Bertoni.

1827: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and expressed his gratitude for the prayers of the 'Holy Prince', Alexander **Emmerick**. Fr. Bertoni told Mother Naudet that whatever we have, in reality it all belongs to Christ.

1833: Mother Naudet's Congregation received approval from the Bishop.⁶

1835: Fr. Bragato's first letter back to the Stimate from Vienna arrived this evening about 6:30 p.m.

1864: The study of St. Thomas by the Novices of the Congregation began this Wednesday – this practice was stopped when Fr. Lenotti became Superior General in 1871.

1866: Victory at Lisca on the Adriatic – Lutheran Prussia had defeated Austria and the Veneto was handed over to Napoleon IIIrd, who handed it over to Victor Emmanuel IIrd.

1870: The Court of Appeals at Lucca handed down a decision that was not too favorable to the Congregation in its quest to have its property returned. Fr. Lenotti stated that the legal battle would go on.

21

1854: The Decree permitting the exhumation of Fr. Bertoni's body arrived at the Stimate. His body was to be brought back to the Stimate.

22

1854: Bishop Riccabona wrote an enthusiastic letter of recommendation in behalf of the Congregation. He said that he only knew Fr. Bertoni by reputation but that his Congregation had done much good in the Diocese of Verona.

1859: Frs. Lenotti, Rigoni and Vignola returned to the Stimate after 39 straight days of preaching in the mountains, in little villages preparing for the Bishop's Pastoral Visitation. Some of the places they preached at were: San Rocco di Piegara, Revere di Vole, Tregno, Cogollo, Badia, Selva di Tregno, Mizzele, Pigosse, Castagno, Trezzalano, Moruri, Cancelli and Salina.

1873: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, hastened to the bed-side of Fr. Sterza who was seriously ill – young Paul Gradinati was deeply impressed this day for Fr. Lenotti's solicitude for the sick members of the Congregation, and it made an impression on him that he never forgot.

⁶ The *Epistolario* [p. 287] gives this July 20, 1833 as the date – the *Breve Cronaca*, I, [p. 45] gives October 20, 1833.

1882: Worn out by long years of work, the holy Bishop of Parma, Bishop Dominic Villa, died this day – the Congregation lost a dear friend.

1883: The young students of the Oratory attended the Month's Mind Mass for Fr. Charles Zara at the Stimate.

23

1809: There might be another indication in the annotation of Fr. Bertoni's Diary of this date that he had been thinking of establishing a Congregation; he wrote that he did not want to overlook anything, or to be careless in carrying out any inspiration that God was sending him.

1811: Mother Naudet noted in her Spiritual Diary that her Spiritual Director, Fr. Bertoni, was inspired by God and she vowed that she would obey him.

1826: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Cardinal Castiglioni asking for his sanction on some renovations undertaken in Verona. He had neglected to ask permission for this work previously – Cardinal Castiglioni was the Cardinal Penitentiary.

24

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that time does not return; he resolved to make the best use of what was offered to him.

1809: Fr. Bertoni noted this date in his Diary that he had to prepare for a terrible war with hell – to attract graces from heaven, he needed a great humility and a great detachment from this world.

1813: Fr. Bertoni told Mother Naudet in his letter of this date that he had read her papers to the Vicar General of the Diocese and he was not pleased with her ideas and spirit.

1835: Fr. Gramego becomes seriously ill.

1854: The soldiers who had been occupying the Stimate for nearly four years left on this date. The order was given to them in the government decree that gave civil approval to the Congregation⁷.

1873: The finance agency of the government finally returned the confiscated property to Fr. Benciolini on this date, thus ending the six year struggle.

25

1803: Innocent Venturini, son of Andrew, was born.

1813: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet on this date and told her that he had written to the Vicar General who had shown such interest in her Congregation. The letter also contained a number of Fr. Bertoni's ideas on education and in which is found a statement of Fr. Bertoni's often quoted to the Students of the Congregation: ***It is better to know a little, but well – than a great deal confusedly!***

1822: Fr. Modesto Cainer entered the Congregation today.⁸

⁷ CS I, p.87 gives June 23, 1854 as the date of the soldiers' departure; the same source gives on p. 512, July 24, 1854 as the date.

⁸ BC, I, p. 36 gives July 25, 1822 as the date of his entrance; the CS I, p. 458, gives July 25, 1824 as the date.

1871: Fr. Lenotti went to Villazzano for a few days vacation with the students of the Congregation.

1883: Fr. Bellino Carrara wrote to the Superior General, Fr. Peter Vignola, from Trent, and informed him that all was ready for his [Fr. Carrara's] entrance into the Society of Jesus.

26

1801: Fr. Bertoni preached on pride; he said it was once vice that God resists. He exhorted all to be humble under the powerful hand of God.

1825: Fr. Bertoni was ill at this time – the Emperor Francis I was visiting Venice.

1858: Fr. Marani was anointed a second time as he was seriously ill with a fever.

1906: Fr. Anthony Della Porta moved into St. Michael's Cathedral Rectory in Springfield MA and took over from a Fr. Kelley [a former student of Fr. Tabarelli in Rome] the care of the Italians of the city.

27

1816: This was the date of the will of one Joseph Bellotti, who left the pious places [the Stimate, St. Teresa's Convent, the *Trinita'* and the *Dereletti*] to Fr. Galvani - with the proviso that schools be conducted on them, and that one Ursula Spina, long a governess in the Bellotti home, be supported until her death.

1865: The 'Change of the Guard' – Fr. DaPrato became the Novice Master in place of Fr. Lenotti, on this date.

1873: Fr. Sterza was out of danger, so Fr. Lenotti left Trent.

28

1816: Mother Naudet wrote to Fr. Galvani and offered to buy from him St. Teresa's Convent. Fr. Galvani did not accept the offer.

1825: Fr. Bragato expressed the intention of re-entering the Congregation. During his years away from the Congregation, he made Private Vows to his Confessor, Fr. Bertoni.

1853: Four Masses were offered for the dying Fr. Gramego.

1855: A happy day at the Stimate – the news of the Sovereign's approval of the Congregation was received Approval had actually been already granted two weeks previously.

1869: Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola left to preach a Mission in San Zeno, Val di Non, Trent.

1875: Frs. Lenotti and Lanaro left Rabbi for Trent.

29

1809: Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that if he would have the heart, temptation would cease for him.

1834: Louis Ferrari entered at the age of 14 and took the room of Louis Zecca, who had left 18 days earlier.⁹

⁹ **BC I**, p. 46, gives July 24, 1834 as the date of his entrance; **CS I**, p. 462, gives July 29, 1834 – as does **CS III**, p. 17.

- 1860:** A Month's Mind Mass was celebrated for Fr. Charles Fedelini at the Stimate – Fr. Giacobbe eulogized him as 'the never-to-be-forgotten Director of the Oratory'.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti returned to Verona from Villazzano after four day's vacation there with the Students.
- 1883:** John Baptist Zaupa was born at Chiampo, near Vicenza.

30

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that each one should choose a saint with a similar vocation to use as a mirror – in this way, one could find matter for Confession daily. Fr. Bertoni chose St. Ignatius of Loyola.
- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted this day in his Spiritual Diary that resolution is needed in the spiritual life – one must be on guard against half-hearted resolutions.
- 1836:** Fr. Innocent Venturini's father died this day – Fr. Venturini prayed to St. Joseph for him.
- 1853:** Fr. Michael Angelo Gramego died this day.
- 1854:** Fr. Bertoni's body was returned to the Stimate and laid to rest in the center aisle of the Church. Fr. Giacobbe gave a moving sermon on this occasion. Fr. Marani, Superior General, was away in Rome.
- 1855:** Frs. Lenotti and DaPrato returned from Peschiera where they had been assisting the cholera victims. The 1st anniversary of Fr. Bertoni's body being returned to the Stimate was noted.

31

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that studies are a means of extending God's glory.
- 1825:** Fr. Bragato again indicated his intention of re-entering the Congregation. [He had left on June 14, 1819, and eventually did return, October 30, 1828].

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