

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].

§
§§§
§

AUGUST1

- 1847:** Fr. Lenotti began assisting Fr. Fedelini with the Sunday services for the Oratory at the Stimate.
- 1853:** Fr. Benciolini began a series of Gregorian Masses for the deceased Fr. Gramago.
- 1854:** Pius IX signed a Rescript allowing for an extended period for the Jubilee indulgences.
- 1856:** An organ that had been purchased at the DeLorenzi firm of Vicenza was installed at the Stimate.

2

- 1840:** This was the last day of Fr. Bragato's annual vacation at the Stimate.
- 1872:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote a letter to the Students at Sale di Povo, and told them to draw a lesson from the Lawyer's profession and, in particular, from Attorney Brasca. He said that lawyers often must practice heroic humility and they have to take the 'back seat' even after extraordinary accomplishments. He exhorted the students to extra effort in the practice of silence.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti was at Trent, having just returned from Rabbi. He said that he had to spend several days in bed and was not even able to pray his Breviary. He said that he felt like a 'Hebrew Priest' – he expressed concern over the families of his two brothers – Joseph [recently deceased] and Francis.

3

- 1808:** Francis Louis Bertoni [Fr. Bertoni's Father] and his largest creditor, Julius Carra, reached some sort of an agreement on this date.
- 1829:** Countess Isabella Settala, daughter of a Count, entered Mother Naudet's Congregation.
- 1857:** **A number of Priests were leaving for the Missions in Africa, and they came to the Stimate to make their Retreat before leaving.** They were: Frs. John Beltrami, Daniel Comboni, Alexander Dal Bosco, Angelo Melotti and Francis Olibeni.

4

- 1853:** The Provincial authorities at Venice denied Fr. Marani's request to have Fr. Bertoni's body returned to the Stimate, so Fr. Marani appealed to Vienna.
- 1866:** Saturday – the Novice, Anthony Caucigh, took part in the regular Saturday afternoon recreations at the Novitiate – no one would suspect on this date that in one short week, he would be dead!
- 1872:** Fr. Vincent Vignola and Fr. Bassi had received permission to be away from the Student House at Sale di Povo for a few days. Fr. Lenotti wrote and asked them to be sure that there would be no lessening of discipline while they were away.

1874: A young aspirant of great promise died this day at Sale di Povo, at the age of 17 – his name was Achille Anselmo Brunati. He was eulogized by the Superior, Fr. V. Vignola.

5

1874: The 6th General Chapter convened on this date to discuss Fr. Francis Sogaro's request to leave the Congregation. A vote was taken and permission was given to him, 5 – 1. Fr. Lenotti felt his departure keenly and so he had been looking more in earnest for a possible Foreign Mission Field for the Congregation to satisfy this aspect of the Stigmatine Vocation, particularly among the talented young members.

6

1839: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Metilde di Canossa, Vicarress of the Sisters of the Holy Family, as she wanted to build a school near the wall of the Stimate,

1866: Monday – Feast of the Transfiguration – Anthony Caucigh received Communion with the community. [At this time, Novices received Communion only on Sundays, but special permission had been granted for this Feast]. After dinner, he told Fr. DaPrato that he had a head ache, and was given permission to go to bed.

1874: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, spoke to the Students of Theology on humility.

1875: The President of Equador, Garcia Moreno, was assassinated. Previously he had made an offer to pay the expenses for any Missionaries who would come to his country – the offer was seriously considered by Fr. Lenotti.

7

1814: Napoleon fell – the Jesuits were reinstated. Frs. Gramego and Farinati wanted to go to Rome to join the Jesuits, but Bishop Liruti was reluctant to grant permission.

1838: Fr. Bertoni completed payment for Sezano through Dr. Lawrence Maggi, with 110,000 Austrian Lira.

1853: Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Marani and told him that he hoped that he was still considered at the Stimate as 'a most obedient and still affectionate Brother', despite his 18 years of absence from the Community.

1866: Anthony Caucigh's condition at the *Trinita'* Novitiate seemed to be worsening.

1869: The Holy See granted permission to the Congregation to ordain some of its members this year without the canonical title of *Mensa Communis*.

1874: The members of the Congregation drafted a letter to Fr. Lenotti, besieged with difficulties, in which they affirmed their fidelity.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, ailing in Trent, wrote again to the Stimate and asked for their prayers so that he could return home.

8

- 1816:** Teodora Campestrini left the Salesian Sisters of Malo and returned to Verona hoping she could start her own Convent at St. Teresa's; she took up residence with Mother Madeline di Canossa.
- 1866:** Anthony Caucigh began to manifest signs that gave reason for alarm – on this day, his speech became confused.
- 1874:** The letter drafted by members of the Congregation promising their fidelity, was given to the Superior General, Fr. Lenotti.
- 1877:** To accede to Bishop di Canossa' wishes [but, much against the wishes of the Congregation], Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, sold the *Trinita'* to Clara Peranzoni, Superior of the Ottolini Sisters.

9

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that murmuring often wears the mask of charity; sometimes under the mask of noble virtues of zeal and charity lurks self-love – we will have to repay God for it.
- 1825:** the Emperor Francis I left Venice where he had been on a visit.
- 1838:** Fr. Bertoni offered all the property to Pope Gregory XVI. An eye-witness stated that when the Pope received this offer, he remarked with tears in his eyes that the conduct of such Priests in the Church gave him the courage to continue.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani was staying at the *Dereletti* to make room at the Stimate for the **Priests on Retreat**. Fr. Daniel Comboni, one of the retreatants, came to consult Fr. Marani. He seemed somewhat afraid of him, but was encouraged by Fr. Benciolini. Fr. Marani put him at ease and was a great help to him – long years later, as Prefect Apostolic to Central Africa, Monsignor Comboni remembered this day.
- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti, Rigoni, Benciolini finished their Mission at the Cathedral in Padua, that was attended by the Bishop and the Canons. The Bishop was most effusive in his thanks and appreciation.
- 1866:** Anthony Caucigh was visited by the doctor on this day who ordered a bleeding. The young Novice ranted and raved in his delirium about the Pope and his tormentors.
- 1869:** Fr. Marani, a tried, old man of 79, wrote for permission to have the Blessed Sacrament reserved in his house of exile, the home of his widowed niece, a Mrs. Massalongo.

10

- 1837:** Some property in Sezano that once belonged to the Olivetani, a religious Congregation, was put up for sale. Bishop Grasser stated that once any property was owned by the Church, it should be retained by it – Fr. Bertoni took this as a command, and set about to purchase it.
- 1849:** This was the date of Fr. Brugnoli's will – he stated that when he came to the Stimate, he had nothing. So, whatever he had now, he left to the Stimate, except for stipends of 200 Masses to be celebrated within 3 months of his death.

1854: Fr. Marani visited with the Under-Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and regulars in Rome and was assured that the documents he had brought from Verona were being scrutinized by Fr. John Perrone, SJ, a Consultor, who would give his opinion in due time. The Under-Secretary was very concerned about Fr. Marani's appearance. He seemed very uncomfortable.

1866: Anthony Caucigh sank still further – he was anointed and his delirium ceased. He spoke to the Brother Infirmarian who attended him day and night, and frequently mentioned the approaching Feast of the Assumption.

11

1827: Bishop Innocent Liruti died – the Diocese was ruled by Monsignor Dionisi and the Chapter.¹⁰

1845: A **Priest on Penance** was sent to Fr. Bertoni to make an eight day retreat.

1866: About 4:30 a.m., this Saturday morning, the Novice – Anthony Caucigh died, in the presence of Fr. DaPrato, his Novice Master for about two weeks; also present were Fr. Lenotti who had been his guide his four years at the Stimmate and others.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Rigoni about an offer for the Congregation that had been made by Bishop Dominic Villa, Bishop of Parma.

12

1810: A Fr. DelBusna received a letter from Monsignor Doria, 'Maestro di Camera' for Pope Pius VII, containing a Blessing for Mother Naudet's group.

1836: A Fr. David Fernarelli died of cholera – he had been stationed at St. Lawrence Parish, and was Confessor at the Seminary.

1857: The departing Missionaries concluded their Retreat at the Stimmate and were now set for Africa. These men made a deep impression on Fr. Lenotti.

1876: The Congregation suffered a great loss this day, in the death of Fr. Lawrence Pizzini, at the age of only 28. The brilliant young man had mastered French, Spanish, German and English – his death brought to an abrupt halt for now the **Foreign Missionary** aspect of the Congregation at that time.

13

1869: Fr. Marani made another trip from Verona to Villazzano – these trips were becoming increasingly more difficult for him to make. Fr. DaPrato, on this same day, had to make a trip to Verona on business.

1870: Fr. Marani, Superior General was anointed this day.

¹⁰ **BC I**, p. 42: gives August 21, 1827 as the date of his death; but **CS I** p. 106, has August 10th; the *Epistolario*, pp. 215 and 347 has August 11th.

1893: Michaelangelo Zanetti was ordained a Priest this day – on the same day, the Parish of the *Trinita'* celebrated the fact that Fr. Giaccobbe had served this Parish for 50 years.

14

1840: Fr. Bragato wrote again from Vienna – there was a very frequent correspondence between Verona and Vienna these days: Fr. Marani would later destroy all these letters between Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Bragato for fear of the government which would one day be hostile in Verona.

1842: Fr. Cainer celebrated Mass this day for the first time in many weeks.

1843: This was the date of the will of Teresa Borghetti Cartolari, the Mother of Fr. Francis Cartolari – this will made the Stimate, the Institute of San Silvestro and the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb the beneficiaries of this extensive estate.

1866: The Students of the Congregation left the *Trinita'* and Verona this day, and took up residence in Villazzano, in the Diocese of Trent. Bishop Riccabona had offered the use of his summer residence to the Congregation for its Students.

15

1799: Fr. Nicholas Paccanari [a most controversial figure in the life story of Mother Naudet] instituted a Congregation which he called the “Madames of the Faith.” St. Madeline Sophie de Barat would continue this institute as the “Madames of the Sacred Heart.’ Mother Naudet would develop the Italian branch as the ‘Sisters of the Holy Family.’

1825: Fr. Bragato stated that he had renewed his Private vows to “**D.G.**” - this seems to indicate *Don Gaspare*, Fr. Bertoni.

1847: Feast of the Assumption – Fr. Lenotti delivered a sermon to the members of the **Oratory** – he told the young men that when they prayed, to imagine that Mary was kneeling along-side of them praying as well; then, their prayer would always be humble and confident.

1867: the examinations were concluded, and Fr. Marani left for ‘Italy’, i.e., Verona.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, sent a Circular Letter out to the Congregation - it was to be his last. He asked for volunteers for the **Foreign Missions**, as Fr. Rigoni had just made some successful contacts in Rome, including Cardinal Franchi. Fr. Lenotti asked that those so inclined should volunteer before the end of the coming September – sadly, he would die on its 5th day! He urged the members to study German and also Swedish. His letter was signed from San Bernardino Vecchio, Trent.

1893: Fr. Zanetti celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate.

16

1839: Festivities honoring saint Zeno, Patron of the Diocese of Verona, began here. At the Cathedral, a Capuchin preached the morning

service and a Jesuit in the evening. Fr. Bertoni preached at a Novena to San Zeno.

- 1867:** Fr. Marani was back in Verona and stated how happy he was that no one among the Students at Villazzano had failed in their examinations.
- 1870:** Word was received at Villazzano that Fr. Marani had been anointed. Frs. Lenotti and DaPrato left immediately for Verona. Fr. DaPrato stayed with Fr. Marani until his death, nearly 11 months later – Fr. Lenotti filled in at Villazzano as Novice Master, a post he had held from September 1855-July 1865.

17

- 1792:** Francis Bertoni gave over the administration of the family finances and promised not to interfere again – a promise that he did not keep.
- 1805:** Pius VII accepted the resignation of Bishop Avogadro as Bishop of Verona.
- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that in matters concerning one's religious vocation, it is better to leave it up to God – it is better to accept the will of God in what happens, than to try to anticipate it.
- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Fr. Galvani had offered him the Stimate and the other 'pious places.' Fr. Marani was urging him to accept them.
- 1834:** **Mother Leopoldina Naudet died this day.** Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter of condolence to Sister Sophia Gagnere. The Sisters referred to this letter as 'precious.'
- 1841:** Fr. Odescalchi, SJ, retired Cardinal Vicar of His Holiness, died today in Modena.
- 1866:** A group of students of the Congregation left Verona for Villazzano.
- 1905:** **In a Session of the General Council, Fr. Gurisatti, Superior General, granted permission to Fr. Luchi and Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta to leave for the United States of America.**

18

- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her that the construction going on at St. Teresa's was jeopardizing a wall at the Stimate.
- 1845:** A Fr. Polidoro wrote to Fr. Bertoni and told him that the Priest who was performing his penance had gone to Confession.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani went to the Imperial Villa, at Stra'.
- 1866:** Fr. Lenotti arrived at Villazzano with a group of Students. They worked hard to prepare the Bishop's summer home for the rest of the Community.
- 1886:** Fr. Louis Tommasi wrote on this date that the little booklet he was preparing on the lives of the early Fathers and Brothers was being done in great haste. It had to be ready within a month for the Superior General's Golden Jubilee [Fr. Peter Vignola] the next month. [this may be the booklet used for the '**Early Necrologies**' that appears on the Stigmatine web-site, under 'Translations' [cf. www.st-bertoni.com].
- 1905:** Fr. Antonioilli was supervising the construction of the Students' Boarding House in the 'Acquabella' section of Milan.

19

- 1828:** Cardinal Castiglioni answered Fr. Bertoni's letter of the previous July 23rd, in which he had given an account of the activities at the Stimate.
- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of his difficulty in finding any competent professional advice in their construction difficulties.
- 1839:** Fr. Bertoni preached in his turn at the Cathedral at the Solemn Novena honoring San Zeno, Patron of Verona.
- 1845:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Bishop Mutti that the **Priest** he had sent to him at the Stimate had made his 8 day retreat very well.
- 1862:** Frs. Lenotti and Benciolini began two separate Retreats for the Clergy of the Diocese of Udine. In these two Retreats, they would preach to over 350 Priests, including Arch-Bishop Trevisanato, Bishop of Udine, who had been named Patriarch of Venice.
- 1866:** One of the Brothers accompanied the last of the Students from Verona to Villazzano.

20

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni wrote that it is a good practice to treat with others on their own level if the intention is to bring them to our own.
- 1817:** Some lumber was purchased on this date to construct benches, or pews, for the Stimate.
- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni wrote again to Mother Naudet, as he was very concerned about the construction at St. Teresa's coming so close to the wall at the Stimate.
- 1858:** the fathers began a Mission at Holy Cross Parish in Padova: the Capuchins had a House nearby, and were a great help in hearing Confessions.
- 1864:** Fr. Benciolini presented his litigation with the Sisters of the Holy Family to the Holy See. It was then referred back to Bishop di Canossa, who had already sided with the Sisters. The Bishop wrote to Rome that he was surprised that the Fathers at the Stimate were so insistent on their rights!
- 1875:** Fr. Rigoni went to Trent to accompany the ailing Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, back to Verona.

21

- 1847:** Because of Fr. Fedelini's failing health, Fr. Bertoni was afraid that he would leave the Congregation.
A **theater** near the Stimate caused some consternation there that it would prove in time to be a distraction to the students studying there.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani returned to Verona from Reichstadt.
- 1899:** The Diocesan Process of Fr. Bertoni's Cause was concluded in Verona, and was sent to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome. Fr. Tabarelli succeeded Fr. James Marini as Postulator.

22

- 1854:** Fr. Marani in Rome obtained from the Sacred Congregation of Indulgences a favor for the Main Altar of the Church of *Santa Maria del Giglio*, making of it a 'privileged altar.'
- 1904:** Fr. Joseph Zandonai suffered another attack of apoplexy, and this time it proved fatal. For the school year that had just ended, he had taught Church History to the Students of the Congregation.

23

- 1840:** Another letter from Fr. Bragato arrived for Fr. Bertoni at the Stimate.
- 1875:** On the doctor's advice, Fr. Lenotti went out to Sezano with Fr. Rigoni. Fr. Rigoni wrote that they were awaiting those students who had gone to Padova for the examinations of accreditation. Melchiade Vivari, a student, noted that the Superior was visibly slipping – he managed to get up every day, but could not hold anything on his stomach.
- 1891:** **Fr. Peter Vignola, 3rd Superior General, died very suddenly this Sunday afternoon. He had just finished teaching Catechism at San Silvestro. [Frs. Bertoni – Marani – Lenotti - and now, Fr. Peter Vignola: all died on a Sunday afternoon!]**

24

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet from Colognola ai Colli, where he was convalescing. He said that he was no longer afraid of pain – and that he was awaiting a 'command' from God.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani left Stra' for Verona.

25

- 1839:** Solemn Feast of San Zeno celebrated in Verona.
- 1841:** James Campedelli left the Congregation.
- 1843:** Cardinal Odescalchi in a letter of this date, had words of praise for Fr. Bragato – the Cardinal, at this time, was Secretary of State.
- 1847:** Fr. Fedelini left the Congregation this day due to ill health – he was 37 years of age, and had spent 21 years at the Stimate. Fr. Bertoni. When he came to say good-by, urged him not to resign as Professor of Moral at the Seminary. [Fr. Fedelini would one day return to the Congregation after Fr. Bertoni's death, and himself would die as a member of the Congregation].
- 1860:** Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola preached the Annual Retreat to the **Clergy of the Diocese of Feltre**. After this, they then preached to the **Clergy of the Diocese of Belluno**. Bishop Renier was most exuberant in his praise of the Fathers. Fr. Lenotti expressed the hope that Fr. Sperti's offer to the Congregation to come to Belluno would be accepted. [It was not, however, but the Fathers of the Congregation did serve the Diocese some 50 or more years later, by taking over as the **faculty of the Diocesan Seminary**. Fr. Fancis Cappello, SJ – a latter-day 'Confessor of Rome', whose Cause of Canonization has progressed, served with them].

1865: Charles Zara became a Deacon – he had received almost all of his education at the Stimate.

26

1799: Death of Pius VI.

1826: Bishop Liruti assigned Francis Benciolini, in his 2nd year of Theology, to assist at the Church of *Santa Maria della Scala*. This was near Piazza Erbe, and his Uncle, Fr. Cajetan Benciolini, was Pastor here.

1835: Fr. Gramego was out of danger, but needed a long convalescence.

1862: Monsignor Gaspardis wrote again to Fr. Marani and told him that Frs. Lenotti and Benciolini had made a lasting impression in Udine.

1872: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Vincent Vignola, Superior of the Student House at Sale di Povo, that the summer trips of the Students be not too fatiguing, and that their piety be not neglected.

1883: Fr. Andrew Sterza began a 13 week period of preaching throughout the Diocese of Pavia – Fr. Vivari helped him for a while, and so did Fr. Julius Zanini.

27

1812: This is the date of the only letter that has come down to us of Fr. Bertoni to Mother Madeline di Canossa, who was in Venice. He told her that Fr. Galvani had not been feeling well.

1839: two Brother candidates entered on this date – Louis Ferrari and Francis Stevanoni.

1840: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato this day and said that a Priest should be as familiar with God that he could be able to ‘incline God’s good pleasure.’

1862: **The Diocesan Retreat ended at Udine** – Fr. Benciolini told the Priests that they were all Ambassadors of Jesus Christ. He said that he had had the custom of going to chapel to recite the *Miserere* the last day of Retreats he preached to ask pardon for faults he committed during the Retreat.

1867: The members at the Stimate were told on this date that force would be used if anyone resisted the confiscation of the property.

28

1828: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that God distributes His graces in His own time. Fr. Bertoni told her that he has great difficulty in offering Mass, because his leg was quite swollen, and very painful.

1838: The Sezano deal was closed on this date – it now belonged to Fr. Bertoni and the Congregation – and still does.

1867: Fr. Rigoni left for Florence, the temporary capital of the new government, to plead the case of the Congregation losing its property.

1875: Fr. Zara’s Chronicle began on this date.

29

1910: Charles Joseph Zanotti pronounced his First Vows.

30

- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni visited Fr. Galvani to discuss particulars of the Bellotti property left to Fr. Galvanic, who in turn offered its use to Fr. Bertoni.
- 1837:** Fr. Benciolini's father, Peter, died on this day.
- 1853:** Fr. Benciolini finished the Gregorian Masses today for Fr. Gramego.
- 1856:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti began a Mission at Stelle - Fr. Marani was present for the opening, then left.

31

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that great temptations are the means of great holiness when they are met with courage.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni in his letter of this date showed a great fear of being Vice Rector of the Diocesan Seminary. This fact would later be used by the 'Devil's Advocate' in his Cause for Canonization – Fr. Bertoni had already been Spiritual Director. He wanted his Uncle, Dr. Ravelli, to write to Bishop Liruti to tell him that he could not be Vice Rector.
- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that a number of young girls wanted to enter her Congregation.
- 1864:** The Way of The Cross was erected at the Novitiate at the *Trinita'* by a Fr. Bernardino, OFM – it was a Wednesday.

§
§§§
§

SEPTEMBER1

- 1816:** Mother Naudet wrote to Fr. Galvani that she could not keep her Monday appointment at 9:00 a.m. She asked if she could meet with him at 3:30 p.m., to talk over the use of St. Teresa's. She told him that Fr. Trevisani was very happy over the proposed solution for the Convent.
- 1858:** The Mission at Holy Cross Parish in Padua ended – the Bishop asked Fr. Lenotti to preach in the Cathedral for the Jubilee services being conducted there.
- 1867:** A lawyer from Florence, Alexander Malenchini, was very impressed with Fr. Benciolini's arguments: that the Congregation was not at that time a religious congregation, and so the 'Law of Suppression' could not be legally applied; and that the property was in his name, and not that of the Congregation. Malenchini expressed the opinion that the government could never legally seize the Stimate.
- 1875:** De. Corradi went out to Sezano to see Fr. Lenotti – they both returned to Verona. He told Fr. Lenotti to go to bed – Fr. Lenotti would never get up again. The Students visited him that night and they knelt for his blessing.

2

- 1812:** Fr. Galvani purchased the old Vallambrosian Convent next to the *Trinita*'.
- 1875:** The Students went for an outing to Sezano – when they returned in the evening, Fr. Lenotti's condition had become grave. Dr. Corradi brought in a specialist, Dr. Morganti. He suggested that Fr. Lenotti should be anointed. Right after Night Prayers, about 9:15 p.m., Fr. Peter Vignola, Director, brought Holy Viaticum. In a clear voice, Fr. Lenotti asked pardon of God and his Confreres, and then received Holy Communion.

3

- 1816:** In the morning, Fr. Bertoni talked with Teresa and Benvenuta Bellotti, sisters of the deceased Joseph – that afternoon at 2:00 p.m., he spoke with Fr. Galvani – all of these conversations were concerned with the 'pious places' left by Bellotti to Fr. Galvani.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Florence and said that he was sorry that Fr. Rigoni had to carry out such exhausting labor for the Congregation.
- 1871:** The three members of the Capitular Commission: Frs. Rigoni, Lenotti and Peter Vignola – went out to Villazzano for their last meeting before the 2nd General Chapter was to convene.
- 1875:** There was no change in Fr. Lenotti's condition – about 9:00 p.m., his Confessor, Fr. Beltrami, went to his room and suggested that he be anointed again for this new crisis. Fr. Lenotti asked for Fr. Peter

Vignola, Director, and then Fr. Beltrami anointed him. His breathing was quite heavy.

4

- 1872:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Vincent Vignola, Superior at the Student House at Sale di Povo, that it would be more in accord with the traditions of the Congregation that if the Fathers who were sent to the Parish Church at Povo, not to stay for dinner – he also asked the Fathers to recite Vespers and Compline in common in the afternoon. Fr. Vignola wrote back and said the latter would not be possible, as they all had different schedules and it would be difficult to assemble them for that in the afternoon.
- 1875:** After midnight, Fr. Lenotti took a decided turn for the worse - he raved about the Aspirants in Trent passing by his bed. About 2:00 a.m. he asked for Fr. Peter Vignola – he then expressed the hope that he might be called to heaven on the day dedicated to Mary. He spoke with Fr. Sembianti and told him to exhort his students to be most observant of their vows and to be devoted to Mary and Joseph. Fr. Pizzini and Fr. Tabarelli came and he blessed them – to the latter, he said that his blessing was for always and repeated that several times. Bishop di Canossa came about 6:00 p.m., and blessed the dying Superior General. He was visited by his brother, Francis Lenotti.

5

- 1817:** John Baptist Mary Lenotti was born about 2:30 p.m., the son of Anthony. He was baptized this same day in St. Luke's Parish.
- 1820:** Louis Ferrari, a future Cleric in the Congregation, was born, the son of Louis.
- 1833:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that these were busy days for him. He said he was happy to hear Pope Gregory's encouraging words to new Congregations, and that next to the words of the Holy Father, his own observations was not very significant.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani left the Imperial Villa at Stra.
- 1862:** The Fathers finished preaching the two courses of Retreats at Udine. A Monsignor Frangipani wrote to Fr. Marani to tell him the wonderful work the Fathers had done at Udine.
- 1868:** Fr. Marani visited Villazzano for the first time since the previous April. A Passport was issued to Fr. Marani that bore this date – it was good for travel in France, Austria, Germany and the Papal States, with one 'Louis Ferrari, age 44.'. It described Fr. Marani as 'tall, dark brown hair, sprinkled with grey, dark brown eyes, and a grey beard.'
- 1869:** The Bishop of Trent ordained four young men of the Congregation as Sub-Deacons: Morando, Vicentini, Sterza and Lanaro.
- 1875:** Sunday – Fr. John Baptist Lenotti, Superior General, died on his 58th birthday. His most productive, but too abruptly ended, administration of four years comes to an end. He had opened the first House of the Congregation outside of Verona, in Trent - he was negotiating for a House in Parma – he was carrying on negotiations with the Holy See

for Papal Approbation of the Community, and was seeking a Foreign Mission field for the Congregation. Many of his efforts, then, would not reach fruition for many years to come. He died about the same hour he was born.

- 1876:** Paul Gradinati, a Student, eulogized Fr. Lenotti on his first anniversary, in the *Messenger of the Sacred Heart*.
- 1895:** Fr. Pizzighella and Fr. Gasperotti took possession of the Church of St. Francis;’ Stigmata in Rome [Largo Argentina], also known as the *Stimate*. Fr. Gasperotti also accepted a teaching post at the Vatican Minor Seminary.

6

- 1791:** Gaspar Bertoni was confirmed by Bishop Avogadro.
- 1818:** From this date onward, Mass could be celebrated in the little Oratory at the Stimate, dedicated to the immaculate Conception.
- 1828:** Mother Naudet sent a letter to Fr. Rozaven – a Jesuit in Russia. He was Vicar Provincial in France, and then a General Councilor under the Father General, Fr. Louis Fortis – Fr. Bertoni’s spiritual director as a young man. Fr. Bertoni reviewed Mother Naudet’s letter before she sent it.
- 1853:** Brother John Bandoria died – it was said of him: ‘he worked well, but lived little!’ The entire Congregation at this juncture numbered 6 Priests, and three Brothers.
- 1862:** Anthony Caucigh entered the Stimate, returning from Udine with Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti who had preached to the **Diocesan Clergy**.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani wrote to the Prior of the House in Florence that had extended hospitality to Fr. Rigoni during his stay there, to offer thanks.
- 1870:** Fr. Lenotti returned to Villazzano with the news that the Superior General, Fr. Marani, was out of danger, but that the doctor was concerned with his loss of weight and, of course, his age.
- 1871:** The Capitular Commission [Frs. Rigoni, Lenotti, and Peter Vignola] preparing the **Appendix to Part XII** of Fr. Bertoni’s **Original Constitutions**, left Villazzano for Verona, after three days of meetings.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti was waked in the little Oratory of the Immaculate Conception at the Stimate. It was noted that his face was yellowish, but he seemed to be at peace. Fr. Peter Vignola was chosen Vicar until the Congregation could elect a new Superior General.

7

- 1820:** Louis Ferrari, born two day before, was baptized - he would enter the Congregation and die before Ordination. [There was also a Brother Louis Ferrari – and their deaths are a day a part in the Necrology].
- 1855:** The official document of the civil approval of the Congregation was received today at the Stimate – it was signed by “Ferrari, Podesta’; Castelli; Jordis, Delegate”.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti’s funeral was held celebrated this morning at the Stimate – 23 Masses were celebrated; Fr. Peter Vignola was celebrant of a

High Mass of Requiem – Fr. Giacobbe led the procession from the Stimate to the *Trinita* – the Capuchin Fathers sang the burial service.

8

- 1856:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti concluded the Mission at Stelle – Fr. Marani returned for the closing.
- 1862:** The Feast of the ‘Madonna del Popolo’ celebrated in Verona with solemnity on the day of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 1867:** Fr. Rigoni wrote from Florence to Verona – his efforts there seemed fruitless in all the legal intricacies he was trying to unravel.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti sent out word that the 2nd General Chapter would convene in three days – every Priest of the Congregation would attend it, even Fr. Dominic Vicentini, ordained but a month.
- 1875:** The newspaper, *Riposo Domenicale*, contained an article that mourned the three-fold loss to the Church in Verona that year: Fr. Maestrelli [Co-Founder of the Sons of Mary] – Fr. Brazzeli [once a student at the Stimate, became Rector of the Diocesan Seminary] – and Fr. Lenotti – he was described as a Priest who had led ‘an immaculate life.’
- 1885:** Fr. Paul Gradinati was appointed Novice Master to succeed Fr. Alexis Magagna - Fr. Gradinati wrote in his Spiritual Diary that day: ‘May God grant that the Superiors have made a good choice – may Our Lady help me to carry out this task without harm to myself, or others.’

9

- 1867:** Fr. Rigoni’s letter, dated the previous day, arrived from Florence.

10

- 1833:** Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Bragato were scheduled to give the **Retreat at the Seminary**. Fr. Bertoni, however, was very uncomfortable with a fever, teeth infection and general discomfort – Fr. Bragato went alone. He was assisted there by two other priests – Fr. Joseph Gilardoni and Fr. Joseph Venturi.
- 1843:** this was the last recorded Mass of Fr. Cainer at the Stimate.
- 1857:** Frs. Marani and Lenotti went to Avesa to preach a Mission. The Novice, Fr. Rigoni, also came. After the opening, Fr. Marani left.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani dictated a letter to Fr. Rigoni that was written by Fr. Benciolini. He told of the search of the Stimate by the Agent Vanzetti – this Agent told them that the head of his department, a man by the name of Canton, was proceeding with great caution until the papers of confiscation were ready. Fr. Marani told Fr. Rigoni to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis’ Stigmata with the Community in Florence just as it was always celebrated at the Stimate.

11

- 1857:** Fr. Benciolini was summoned to help the Fathers at the Mission of Avesa. Fr. Rigoni preached the morning sermon – Fr. Lenotti preached

an examen of conscience at about 5:30 p.m., and Fr. Benciolini delivered the evening reflection.

- 1858:** Bishop Manfredi of Padua wrote to Fr. Marani to tell him that the work of his Diocese accomplished the previous months in two separate Missions by Frs. Lenotti, Benciolini and Rigoni was much appreciated. He asked Fr. Marani to tell the preachers of his [the Bishop's] undying gratitude.
- 1871:** The 2nd General Chapter convened at the Stimate – 16 Capitulars were present [the only Priest absent was Fr. Bragato] to pass judgment on the *Appendix to Part XII of the Original Constitutions*, prepared by the Capitular Commission [Frs. Rigoni, Lenotti, Peter Vignola], chosen by the 1st General Chapter [July 1871] It was decided at this Chapter that only ***Apostolic Missionaries*** could wield any authority in the Congregation – during Fr. Marani's administration, none were appointed.

12

- 1841:** Sunday dedicated to the Most Holy Name of Mary – the new Bishop [Mutti] conferred Tonsure and the Four Minor Orders on Louis Ferrari [in six short months, he would be dead!]
- 1854:** The High Altar at the Stimate became 'Privileged.'
- 1855:** Fr. Venturini wrote in his Spiritual Diary that this day for him was one of consolation – he wrote to his gratitude to Fr. Bertoni.
- 1889:** The 11th General Chapter convened at the Stimate – its purpose was to carry out the directives of the Holy See regarding the Constitutions in the Congregation's efforts to have the Congregation receive Papal Approbation.¹¹

13

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that anyone who does not want to consider God as just, only knows God by half, or partially.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti was confirmed as temporary Superior General until the subsequent Feast of the Espousals. The 2nd General Chapter adjourned on this date.
- 1875:** A Memorial Service for Fr. Lenotti was held at St. Lawrence's Church that was conducted by Monsignor Sorego.

14

- 1799:** Feast of the exaltation of the Holy Cross – a Mission was preached in St. Stephen's Parish, Verona, by Canon Louis Pacetti, where he launched the idea of the Marian Oratories – which would take up so much of Fr. Bertoni's time in his early years as a Priest.
[In the early days of the Congregation, this Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross would close the summer Catechism teaching of the so-called Fourth

¹¹ In the Introduction to the booklet [cf. p. 32] of the *Original Constitutions* that appeared in 1950, Fr. Martinis gives September 12, 1889, as the date of the 11th General Congregation - the **BV I**, p. 192, gives September 25th, 1889 as the date.

Class - which ran from the feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross in Mary, until this Feast in September. In the annals of the Stigmatines, Fr. Innocent Venturini was most outstanding in this summer catechism].

15

- 1805:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Holy Name of Mary – she is the Mistress of the world, with dominion over the devil.
- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni visited an altar dedicated to St. Ignatius at the beginning of his Annual Retreat – the Saint seemed to be telling him that he [Fr. Bertoni] must use the same means that he [St. Ignatius] used during his life-time to inspire the soldiers of Christ onward. This was a mystical experience, which does not, however, seem to have been a vision.

16

- 1804:** Vincent Raimondi was born, the son of Charles.
- 1855:** Fr. Fedelini returned to the Congregation, 'his nest', on this Feast of the Sorrowful Mother. He took up again the work of the Oratory.
- 1866:** Italian troops entered Verona – flags were hung from the Stimate, the *Dereletti*, and St. Teresa's.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani argued at some length with a Finance Official, by the name of Canon, concerning the imminent confiscation of the Stimate.

17

- 1820:** Fr. Matthew Farinati died today at 3:00 p.m., shortly after having been visited by Fr. Bertoni – whose place he had taken as Prison Chaplain, where he attracted a fatal illness. Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and asked for prayers for him.
- 1826:** Sunday – Bishop Liruti conferred Tonsure and the four Minor Orders on Francis Benciolini in the Bishop's residence Chapel. Young Benciolini composed a prayer on this date that he wrote in his Spiritual Diary – he also wrote that melancholy was his predominant passion.
- 1855:** Titular Feast of the Church of the Stimate, the Stigmata of St. Francis – 78 Priests came to celebrate Mass – Fr. Raimondi preached.
- 1841:** Fr. Anthony Rosmini preached the Annual Retreat at the Diocesan Seminary of Verona – John Lenotti made this Retreat in preparation for his Ordination to the Sub-Diaconate. He left a number of resolutions in his Spiritual Diary that have come down to us – he resolved to ask permission to help the Brothers once a week as a Priest in the kitchen. [During his administration as Superior General, he did this himself occasionally and also recommended all Priests to do the same]. He also resolved to be devoted to Joseph and Mary, under the title of the Sorrowful Mother.
- 1855:** Fr. Fedelini received the habit of the Congregation and began his Novitiate - Louis Falzi entered as a Brother.

- 1856:** Fr. Charles Fedelini pronounced his First Vows – he was dispensed from the 2nd year of Novitiate, as he had been a member before.
- 1868:** Fr. Marani returned from Villazzano after 12 days there.
- 1873:** Some agreement was made with the Sisters of the Holy Family concerning St. Teresa's – the Sisters would leave it entirely, and one day it would serve to house the Professed Students of the Congregation.
- 1882:** It had rained heavily for several days and on this day, the Adige river over-flowed its banks – a new bridge collapsed – many took refuge in the Stimate, about 300. Verona was described as 'all Adige.'
- 1883:** The first Vestition ceremony for the 3RD Order of St. Francis was held at the Stimate. In the beginning, the members of the Congregation had been enrolled in this 3rd Order, but a later ruling forbade religious from joining.
- 1885:** Bishop Francis Sogaro [a former member of the Congregation], recently consecrated in St. Agatha of the Goths Church in Rome - at the time, the Irish College], came to the Stimate and celebrated Mass. He stayed for dinner and said he still retained a strong desire of re-entering it, but had to fulfill his Foreign Mission calling to Africa.
- 1894:** Fr. Pizzihella, Rector of the Stimate, had the Feast celebrated this year with more than usual solemnity – a painting of St. Francis by Joseph Zannoni was placed over one of the Altars. Fr. Pizzighella had gathered the Relics from the House and placed them in an urn in the Church. The 3rd Order of St. Francis provided the painting.
- 1896:** The Congregation purchased the Church of St. James and he adjoining property in Parma – the Church had been closed many years.

18

- 1813:** Ember Saturday – Cajetan Brugnoli was ordained a Sub-Deacon.
- 1841:** John Lenotti was ordained a Sub Deacon.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani returned to Avesa to help Frs. Lenotti and Rigoni the last two days with the Mission there.
- 1865:** Fr. Lenotti went to Udine to preach the Annual Retreat to a group of Sisters called the *Converted*. While he was there. Fr. Fecchia, Spiritual Director of the Handmaids of Charity, wrote to Fr. Marani to see if Fr. Lenotti would also give a Retreat to the Handmaids - Fr. Marani so arranged.
- 1881:** The serious flooding of Verona continued – many homes were destroyed.
- 1896:** Fr. Mark Bassi died – he was eulogized by the paper *Verona Fedele*, as a true Priest of God.
- 1906:** the 17th General Chapter convened at the Stimate – Fr. Gurisatti, already General for 15 years, withdrew his resignation, and so automatically continued the last half of his second ten year term. The Councilors elected were: Frs. Tabarelli, Fr. John Tomasi, Julius

Zambiasi and Alfred Balestrazzi. The Chapter decided that at the end of Fr. Gurisatti's term, Superiors General would have six year terms.

19

- 1812:** Ember Saturday – Bishop Liruti conferred the Sub Diaconate on John Marani, and Tonsure and the four Minor Orders on Francis Cartolari.
- 1856:** Charles Bissoli was ordained - he had once been with Fr. Mazza.
- 1866:** Fr. Marani visited Villazzano again, but returned within the week to Verona on pressing business – there was a revolt going on in Palermo.
- 1879:** Fr. Benciolini's Golden Jubilee was celebrated – Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, ordered that a copy of the day's program be sent to every House so that there would always be a record of it in the Archives. Fr. Benciolini was celebrant; Fr. Peter Vignola was Deacon, and Fr. Charles Zara, Director of the Stimate, was Sub Deacon. At 3:00 p.m., there was an *Accademia*.
- 1899:** Fr. Benciolini's 60th anniversary was celebrated – he was much praised in speeches, music and poems. At the end of the meal, he knelt in the Refectory and asked pardon if he had ever given back example.

20

- 1800:** Ember Saturday – Bishop John Andrew Avogadro ordained Gaspar Bertoni a Priest of God!
- 1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the 2nd anniversary of his Ordination on the dignity of the Priesthood. He said that in this dignity God is honored – the Priest is the Minister and Ambassador of Christ. Priests need prayer – this Sermon may have been given at the First Mass of Fr. Farinati.
- 1806:** Fr. Michaelangelo Gramego was ordained a Priest by Bishop Scipione in St. Stephen's Padua. His Ordination was advanced due to the threat of Napoleon – he still had one more year of theology.
- 1828:** Ember Saturday – Innocent Venturini was ordained a Priest in the Cathedral of Mantua by Bishop Bozzi. Louis Biadego was tonsured and received all four Minor Orders at the same ceremony.
- 1834:** Charles Fedelini was ordained this Ember Saturday by Bishop Grasser. John Lenotti was tonsured and received the first two Minor Orders.
- 1841:** Bishop Mutti had given permission for another House Chapel at the Stimate which was frequently used by Fr. Bertoni during his long, last years of confinement. He celebrated Mass here on this day, his 41st anniversary.
- 1850:** Golden Jubilee of Fr. Bertoni - characteristic of the man, there was no external commemoration.
- 1854:** Bishop Riccabona, newly consecrated, visited the Stimate for the first time – he noted the small number of members, but compared them to Napoleon's 'Noble Guard', that would inflict the decisive blow for God in battle.
- 1856:** Charles Bissoli celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate – he had entered the Congregation as a Sub-Deacon.

- 1857:** The Mission at Avesa ended – as Frs. Marani, Rigoni and Lenotti left, they were accompanied by a military band, the ringing of Church bells – and fire crackers!
- 1870:** By this date, the temporal power of the Pope had been completely over-thrown.
- 1875:** Fr. Nichola Negrelli, Librarian of Ferdinand of Augsburg, learned of Fr. Lenotti's death from Monsignor Gaspardis, and an article in the *Riposo Domenicale*. He wrote of his sorrow to the Stimate.

21

- 1811:** John Marani was ordained a Sub-Deacon in the Basilica of St. Anthony in Padua, by Bishop Scipione de Desendis.
- 1828:** Fr. Venturini celebrated his First Mass at the *Trinita'*.
- 1833:** The Marchesini brothers took the bells from the Stimate for repairs on their cart.
- 1834:** Fr. Fedelini celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate this day – as did another young Priest, Fr. Louis Angeli.
- 1864:** Fr. Benciolini preached a Retreat to the “English Madames” at Rovereto.
- 1866:** The revolt in Palermo ended.
- 1869:** The Feast of St. Matthew – Bishop Riccabona in Trent ordained Louis Morando.

22

- 1834:** Another newly ordained Priest, Fr. Francis Girardelli, celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate on this day.
- 1836:** The work of the Abbe' di Condillac was put on the Index this day. [Surprisingly, Fr. Bertoni had recommended another work of his to Mother Naudet in a Letter, dated July 25, 1813].
- 1843:** Fr. Bragato was called back by the Empress due to some difficulty she was experiencing.
- 1853:** Fr. Marani made a second appeal to have Fr. Bertoni's body returned to the Stimate after his previous petition of August 4th of this year was refused.
- 1854:** Pius IX made it known that he wanted to be informed personally about any new and every religious order seeking approval – at the Stimate, this was received as welcome and encouraging news.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani went to the Imperial Villa at Stra', so that Fr. Bragato could spend his annual vacation with his Confreres. The Novices went out to Sezano where they spent six weeks of their Novitiate year.
- 1859:** Fr. Marani appealed to Bishop Riccabona, at this time Bishop of Verona, to declare null and void Fr. Bertoni's contract with the Sisters of the Holy Family for the perpetual use of St. Teresa's as he said it was against Canon Law to have a female religious community so close to a male community – the Bishop, however, did not act.
- 1869:** Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola left for a Mission in Bacolga di Calavine.

- 1887:** The Capitular Commission appointed by the 9th General Chapter [February of 1880] to review the *Appendix to Part XII of the Original Constitutions*, that had been prepared by a Capitular Commission appointed by the 1st General Chapter [July 3, 1871] on today's date finished its work.
- 1894:** Joseph Chesani and John B. Castellani were ordained Priests on this date – on the same day, Fr. John Rigoni celebrated his Golden Jubilee with the Students at Sezano.

23

- 1802:** Ember Saturday – Michaelangelo Gramego received the last two Minor Orders in St. Michael's from Bishop Avogadro.
- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that simplicity is not enough to lead others to holiness – prudence is also required.
- 1820:** Innocent Venturini received Tonsure and the first Minor Order of Porter from Bishop Liruti.
- 1823:** Bishop Liruti wanted the Blessed Sacrament reserved at the Stimate – this, in addition to the government requirements for schools, necessitated special construction. Fr. Bertoni asked his architect, Fr. Brugnoli, to study St. Teresa's.
- 1828:** Fr. Venturini, ordained 3 days earlier, celebrated Mass for the first time at the Stimate.
- 1833:** The Marchesini brothers returned the bells to the Stimate on their cart – the Brothers at the Stimate assisted the Marchesini's in unloading their cart and in re-installing the bells.
- 1855:** Sunday – at 3:00 p.m., 5 Priests [Frs. Marani, Benciolini, Brugnoli, Venturini and Lenotti] elected Fr. Marani Superior *Prepositus*, or General. After the Election, the entire Community was assembled and told of the proceedings.
- 1859:** Louis Salvi became ill.

24

- 1800:** Feast of Our Lady of Ransom – Fr. Gaspar Bertoni celebrated his First Mass at Caldiero, at Conti Cipolla. Joseph Scudellini, married to his Mother's sister, Rosa [Ravelli], gave the discourse.
- 1814:** Cajetan Brugnoli was ordained a Priest – he went from Vestition to the Priesthood in two years – receiving all orders from Bishop Liruti.
- 1833:** Work went on from midnight until 7:00 a.m. on the installation of the bells at the Stimate – Bishop Grasser came for Mass at 10:00 a.m. for their blessing. Following Mass, on this Feast of our Lady of Ransom.
- 1835:** Fr. Cajetan Benciolini – Uncle of Fr. Francis – signed his will.
- 1858:** Fr. Finazzi, Pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Padua, wrote to Fr. Marani to thank him for the fine work of Frs. Lenotti, Benciolini and Rigoni who had preached a Mission in his parish the previous month.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, sent out a notice that the 3rd General Chapter would convene at the Stimate on October 4, 1871.

1886: Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, celebrated his Golden Jubilee as a Priest – almost all the members of the Congregation were present for the occasion. He was assisted at the Solemn Mass by his brother, Monsignor Paul Vignola. Fr. Paul Zemari, Pastor of Caldiero, gave an outstanding speech. That evening at St. Teresa's. There was an *Accademia* in honor of the jubilarian, in which Fr. Vignola was praised as the 'heir of the spirit, prudence and authority' of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni.

[For this occasion, a Fr. Ferdinand Colombari edited a book, entitled ***Reminiscences concerning the Fathers and Brothers of the Congregation of the Apostolic Missionaries for the Assistance of Bishops [1835-1883]*** - published by the Prem. Tipografia Vescovile P. Colombari. An English Translation of these colorful biographies of the Early Stigmatines may be found on the St. Gaspar's web-site, under **Translations – Early Biographies** – www.st-bertoni.com].

1890: On this date, the stormy 12th General Chapter convened. There was a heated discussion on the "End" of the Congregation, its purpose and Apostolic Means – among the some, there was the feeling that there was an over-stress of schools and education, and the neglect of other aspects of the Apostolic Mission. This Chapter also officially changed the name of the Congregation – acting on Monsignor Battandier's suggestion. He was a Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. From this time onward, the title ***Apostolic Missionaries*** would no longer be used, as it is the prerogative of the Holy See to confer this title. It would now be called '**The Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Stigmata of our Lord Jesus Christ.**' [Long years earlier, Fr. Marani had opted for the title: 'Order of the Sacred Stigmata.']

1891: Fr. Louis Morando convoked the 14th General Chapter, to elect a successor to Fr. Peter Vignola, recently deceased. The Chapter chose Fr. Pio Gurisatti for a ten year term. The Councilors elected were: Frs. Morando, Tabarelli, Marini and Zandonai. This Chapter decided that once the General Chapter was announced, local Chapters should assemble, choose delegates for the General Chapter – those under 35 years of age should have Active, but not Passive voice.

25

1803: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that on this day he experienced a strong desire to follow our Lord more closely in his poverty.

1890: Fr. Sembianti renewed his request to be released from the Congregation – which he had previously made in 1879 – so that he could follow his Foreign Missionary Vocation: permission was granted to him and to Fr. Dominic Vicentini. This latter later became Superior General of the Scalabrini Fathers – and Fr. Sembianti became Vicar General – and it is through Fr. Dominic that ***Tibagy e' nostro!*** - the first foundation in Brazil.

26

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet on Abandonment to God – he was glad that she had taken advice from Fr. John Fusari - the Oratorian Superior at St. Philip's.
- 1838:** The Emperor Ferdinand was crowned at Milan, as King of Lombard-Veneto.
- 1840:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato and told him that he preached daily – perhaps a Domestic Exhortation each day to the Community, in the Oratory of the Transfiguration near his room at the Stimate. He also spoke about the two Feasts of St. Francis at the Stimate – September 17th and October 4th.
- 1853:** Fr. Marani purchased a lot in the local cemetery for the deceased of the Congregation.
- 1856:** Fr. Bragato arrived at the Stimate from Stra' for his annual vacation.
- 1875:** The 7th General Chapter convened and elected Fr. Peter Vignola as Superior General for five years. The Councilors were: Frs. Sembianti, Rigoni [who was also re-confirmed as Procurator General], Vincent Vignola and Benciolini. It was proposed that the Superior General prepare some members of the Congregation for the Foreign Missions as soon as possible – and that in the near future, the School at the Stimate be re-opened.
- 1876:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, convoked the 8th General Chapter, which met to discuss the House of Bassano. When Fr. Vignola was questioned about the Foreign Missions and the men being prepared for them, he stated that he had already assigned some members to study languages and that he was in contact with the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome. It was decided that the Superior General for the future would not have to convoke General Chapters in order to accept new Houses for the Congregation.
- 1905:** Fr. Luchi and Fr. Anthony Della Porta left Trent for their journey through Switzerland to LeHavre, France, where they set sail for North America.

27

- 1808:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote that he had experienced a strong desire to associate with the ignominies of our Lord.

28

- 1783:** Michaelangelo Gramego was born on this day about 10:00 a.m., the son of Sebastian.
- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that spiritual directors should forbid their penitents from practicing exterior penances, if they did not already make some progress in practicing interior penance. He also expressed a desire for martyrdom.
- 1823:** Cardinal Della Genga was elected to succeed Pope Pius VII – he took the name of Leo XII.

- 1824:** Fr. Cartolari received a government diploma to teach.
- 1833:** The bells at the Stimate, which had been named for St. Michael, rang out on the Vigil of the Feast.
- 1834:** Louis Ferrari made a Consecration to Mary.
- 1838:** The newly crowned Emperor and Empress visited the Jesuit Novitiate in Verona – he had asked Fr. Bragato to have Fr. Bertoni pray for them.
- 1862:** Canon Orlandi sent a letter of recommendation and stated that Anthony Caucigh's father had given his son permission to enter the Stimate.
- 1878:** The government granted permission for school to re-open for outside students at the Stimate.
- 1882:** The numerous refugees from the flood left the Stimate this day, after a stay of some 11 days – the government had provided some refuge at San Bernardino's in Verona. The Congregation was highly praised for its work during this catastrophe.

29

- 1783:** Feast of St. Michael the Archangel – Michaelangelo Gramego was baptized by Fr. P. Pompeius.
- 1804:** Fr. Bertoni preached on imminent death – it can be close even for the young – comes in every age, place and manner. Death never 'tires' – a sinner's death is unprepared and always unexpected.
- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that it is a good thing to suffer for Jesus Christ.
- 1824:** J. B. Bongiovani left the Stimate to become a Capuchin.
- 1868:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, wrote from Verona to Villazzano to the Novice Master, Fr. DaPrato. He said that he had noted during his recent visit in Villazzano a lack of respect among the students for one another. He said that if a student does not have respect for a fellow student, then he can neither be charitable, nor humble. In correcting students, Fr. Marani suggested that the first correction be slight – the second, or third failure, should be met with a little strong penance – if a fault is public, so should the penance be public.

30

- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her that he was glad that the Countess Settala had entered Mother Naudet's Congregation. He asked her to have the 'holy Prince d'Hohenloe' pray for Fr. Marani, who had been suffering for about a year now.
- 1833:** Angelo Casella became a member of the Oratory at the Stimate – he was 29.
- 1855:** **This was one of the more important dates in Stigmatine History. It was the 18th Sunday after Pentecost – at 8:00 a.m., Bishop Riccabona came to the Stimate for the special ceremony called the Canonical Erection of the Congregation. He was accompanied by his Vicar, Monsignor Marchi, and his Master of Ceremonies a Fr. Valbusa. The *Veni Creator* was sung - the**

Bishop then celebrated Mass – at its conclusion, he incensed the exposed Blessed Sacrament, went to the Chair that was prepared in the Sanctuary. Fr. Marani then knelt before the Blessed sacrament, and recited his Religious Profession - then sat at a chair placed before the Altar for him, and received the religious Profession of the 5 Priests and 3 Brothers.

- 1856:** Fr. Bragato was on vacation from his duties at the Imperial Court, and went out to Sezano to visit the Novices and remained there four days – he enjoyed the company of the students and often took part in their recreation.
- 1861:** The transcript of marks that Anthony Caucigh brought with him to the Congregation bore this date – in Latin he had received *cum laude*. [This is somewhat surprising, as later on, his Vestition would be delayed one month by Fr. Marani, Superior General, due to a rather poor showing in Latin – he was vested on January 6, 1865.
- 1865:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, wrote to the Provincial of the Camillian Fathers, Fr. Louis Artini, and dated his letter: ‘The 10th Anniversary of our Canonical Erection’ – he asked for Fr Artini’s prayers that he might rule the congregation according to the ideals of Fr. Bertoni.

§
§§§
§

OCTOBER1

1875: The Students of the Congregation, who were born in Trent, were transferred from the House of Studies in Verona, to the House of san Bernardino Vecchio in Trent. The reason for this was that there was a law at that time that would grant exemption from military service only to those young men of Trentine origin who were attending the Diocesan Seminary in Trent. The students of the Congregation attended classes in Philosophy and Theology at the Seminary or Trent.

2

- 1815:** Fr. Galvani wrote on this day that the Bishop still had not given Fr. Farinati permission to leave the Diocese to join the Jesuits.
- 1833:** After supper on this day, Fr. Bertoni gave a short Domestic Exhortation to the Community in the refectory at the Stimate.
- 1905:** Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovicus Luchi set sail from Lehavre, France, to establish the Congregation in the New World, in North America.

3

- 1806:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the meaning of 'External Cult.' He said that the very soul of all devotion is in the heart. By His Incarnation, Christ Himself experienced all the needs and trials of mankind, save sin – our worship answers a basic human need.
- 1822:** The Vigil of the Feast of St. Francis. At 3:00 p.m., the Church of the Stimate was opened once again to the public after being closed for many years. Fr. Brugnoli preached on this occasion – and from this time onward in the little Church there, were **weekly devotions in honor of the Five Wounds**. Fr. Gramego celebrated the first Mass on the main altar dedicated to the Espousals of Mary and Joseph. Bishop Liruti had given permission for the Blessed Sacrament to be reserved in the Church.
- 1857:** Fr. Bragato, again this year, spent his summer vacation with the Students at Sezano. On this date, he blessed a statue as he left for another year.

4

- 1807:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Rosary. He said that it was a devotion of most noble origin - we must imitate what the mysteries contain and strive for what they promise. He stated that the Rosary is a devotion approved by the highest Church authority. [Interestingly enough, Fr. Bertoni did not see, to insist much on the Rosary as a required practice – he just believed that a good Religious would offer it daily on his own.
- 1828:** Louis Biadego, a cleric in Minor Orders, entered the Stimate. He left his home at 4:00 a.m.. On this day, as he was leaving, his father told him that he did not know where the rest of his belongings were, and that his mother was already out in the fields! His father told his son to

give Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani his best regards – and ‘to all the others who will have to put up with your company!’

- 1834:** The annual celebration of the Feast of St. Francis occurred at the Stimate on this day. Fr. Francis Benciolini preached the sermon - 41 Masses were celebrated at the Stimate.
- 1836:** It was also the Fest of the Most Holy Rosary this year – 18 Masses were celebrated at the Stimate. Fr. Benciolini preached.
- 1866:** This is the date of Fr. Vincent Vignola’s Biography of Anthony Caucigh.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, received the first eviction notice at the Stimate. It was to be effective within 15 days – however, a ‘stay’ of another ten days was granted.
- 1871:** The 3rd General Chapter convened at the Stimate – there were 10 Capitulars present.

5

- 1823:** Fr. Bertoni was ill at this time, but he responded to Mother Naudet’s letter and agreed that the First Communicants should be enrolled in the Oratory.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani, the day after he received the eviction notice at the Stimate, went up to the Student House ‘in exile’ in Villazzano, Trent to tell the Students about it. Despite all the difficulties for the Congregation, it proved to be a happy day for all.
- 1871:** The 10 Capitulars attending the 3rd General Chapter spent the day in quiet prayer on the choice to be made on the morrow for the successor of the deceased Fr. Marani.

6

- 1863:** Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached to the Tertiaries at San Bernadino’s Parish in Verona.
- 1871:** The date of an encouraging letter from Fr. Benciolini, Vicar General, to Fr. Rigoni, Procurator General, who was in Florence trying to save the property of the Congregation that had been left by Fr. Bertoni in Fr. Benciolini’s name.
- 1871:** Fr. John Baptist Lenotti was elected the 2nd Superior General of the Congregation by the 3rd General Chapter, to a five year term – he would not complete this term, [as he died on September 5, 1875, after serving only three years and 11 months]. On this date of his election, he received 7 Votes; Fr. Benciolini received one – and the Vignola brothers, Fr. Peter and Fr. Vincent, received one each. The General Councilors elected were: Frs. Peter Vignola, Richard DaPrato, Francis Benciolini – this last named was also chosen to be ‘Father Admonitor’ of the Superior General - and John Rigoni, also chosen as Procurator General. A motion was made and carried to elevate Fr. Louis Bragato as the first official **Apostolic Missionary** so declared by the Congregation – as Fr. Marani had not named anyone during his 18 year administration. The Chapter adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

7

- 1812:** Mother Naudet wrote to Fr. Bertoni on this day stating that she was experiencing many difficulties in her spiritual life at this time.
- 1868:** Fr .Lenotti preached the annual retreat for the Madames at Rovereto.

8

- 1871:** Fr. John B. Lenotti, newly elected Superior General, wrote his first 'Circular Letter' and it was to the Students at Villazzano. His purpose in writing it was to inform them of the proceedings of the 3rd General Chapter, just completed. He told the students that he was just the 'Legate' of Mary and Joseph, under whose care the Congregation has been placed by its Founder. He told them that they all had a cross to carry, but that he, as Superior General, had a larger share of that cross and so asked for their prayers. He also asked that they dedicate themselves to their main task before them, their studies and to maintain regular observance. He recalled to their minds the memories of Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani. It was in this Letter that he recommended a second half hour of Meditation for Novices. To be held in the afternoon.
- 1874:** Fr. Louis Bragato, almost on his return from Reichstadt, fell seriously ill at Prague.

9

- 1777:** Gaspar Louis Denis Bertoni was born on this Feast of St Denis to Francis Louis Bertoni and Brunora [Ravelli]. He had only one sister, Metilda, who was born at Caldiero - outside of Verona - on March 18, 1783 - and she died as an child of three and one half, on November 11, 1786.
- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni, offering Mass on his 31st birthday, had a mystical experience of the Divine Teacher.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni, Procurator General, who was in Florence trying to save the property that would soon be taken away from the Congregation by the government. Fr. Marani dated his letter: "The 90th Birthday of Fr. Gaspar".
- 1877:** The first centenary of the Founder's birth was celebrated with great solemnity at the Stimate.

10

- 1827:** Monsignor Dionisi, Vicar General of the Diocese of Verona, signed the Decree of Vestition for the young Cleric of the Congregation, Louis Biadego.
- 1838:** Ursula [Rabbi] Marani, the Mother of Fr. John Marani, died today.
- 1898:** Bro. Fortunato Marini fell ill and received the Last Sacraments - he would die a week later. He was eulogized as 'a good Brother, and only 19!'
- 1862:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti returned to Callera Veneto where they had preached a Mission to establish a Pious Union to combat Blasphemy.

11

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that any religious who does not tend to his own personal perfection, impedes the entire Congregation.
- 1813:** On this date, a layman by the name of Joseph Bellotti signed a bill of purchase of the Stimate, the *Dereletti*, St. Teresa's and a house near the *Trinita'*. He would one day leave these to Fr. Galvanic, who in turn would leave them to Fr. Bertoni - who in turn would put them in Fr. Benciolini's name.
- 1817:** Fr. Cajetan Brugnoli entered the Congregation.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, painfully ill once again – at this time, there were only 6 more days until the eviction notice from the Stimate was to be effective.
- 1888:** Fr. Camilieri, OSA, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, gave a favorable reply regarding the Constitutions of the Congregation which had been presented to the Holy See by the Superior General, Fr. Peter Vignola.

12

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that if one feels himself attracted to high virtue, he should not be impeded by anyone else in the Community who may be of lesser virtue.

13

- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni was in Mantua, just a few weeks prior to coming to the Stimate. **He was with Monsignor Louis Pacetti preaching the annual retreat to the Diocesan Clergy there.**
- 1830:** A Dr. Vanni noted that Fr. Francis Benciolini had better than average health. Dr. Vanni proved to be a prophet! Fr. Benciolini died on February 19, 1892, at the age of 86!
- 1835:** The last recorded Mass for Fr. Bertoni for nine months.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani took Fr. Bragato's place at the Imperial Palace at Stra' so that Fr. Bragato might spend his annual vacation with the Students at Sezano.
- 1867:** 2nd Sunday of October, Feast of the Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni at Florence to tell him of Fr. Marani's relapse.
- 1905:** **The Stigmatine Congregation comes to North America. On this date, Fr. Anthony Dalla Porta and Fr. Ludovico Luchi were received by the Bishop of Scranton, Pennsylvania. They were the first Stigmatines in North America.**

14

- 1857:** Fr. Lenotti preached a private retreat to **four Priests** who had come to the Stimate to make their annual Retreat. One of these Priests was Fr. Vincent Vignola, one of five blood brothers, all of whom were Priests. Later on, Fr. Vincent Vignola entered the Congregation and some time later, he was followed by one of his brothers, Fr. Peter Vignola – who went on [with Fr. Vincent's deciding vote in the Chapter]

to be elected the 3rd Superior General of the Congregation. He was first elected on September 16, 1875 by the 6th General Chapter, and held this post until his very sudden death almost 16 years later, on August 23, 1891.

15

1818: This is the date of the Last Will and Testament of Fr. Nicholas Galvani that made Fr. Bertoni the legal owner of the Stimate, the Convent of St. Teresa's. the *Dereletti* and a house near the *Trinita*'.

16

1812: This was the birth date of a Francis Stevanoni – he later became a Brother in the Congregation, and was one of the four Brothers there present the day of the Founder's death at the Stimate, June 12, 1853.

1825: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet this day and promised his prayers that she might find a good Spiritual Director.

1866: Italian troops enter Verona after the defeat of Austria – they hung flags from the Stimate, the *Dereletti*, and from St. Teresa's.

17

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that on this day, at the noon visit, he experienced an intense realization of the presence of God.

1865: Melchiade Vivari entered the Congregation – most of his life as a Priest he expressed the hope to go one day to the Foreign Missions, but this favor was never granted to him. He did go to Lisbon [1899-1901], and translated several books from German into Italian.

18

1811: A young man by the name of Cajetan Brugnoli was discharged on this day from Napoleon's Noble Guard. In later years, a number of his comrades in arms perished in Napoleon's disastrous attempt to conquer Russia. Bishop Riccabona would in 1854 compare the small Congregation of the Stimate to Napoleon's Noble Guard, 'small in number, but would inflict the decisive blow for God in battle!'

19

1819: Fr. Matthew Farinati returned to his native Alcenago in an attempt to regain his health. He had been an earlier follower of Fr. Bertoni, and took his place as Prison Chaplain. In this work he contracted a disease that was to prove fatal.

1865: Fr. Picchia, Spiritual Director of the Handmaids of Charity, who conducted the Hospital in Udine, wrote to Fr. Marani to thank him for sending Fr. Lenotti to preach the annual retreat to the Sisters there. He stated that the Sisters had expressed to him the hope that some day Fr. Lenotti would come back to preach to them as he had that summer.

1866: Fr. Marani, Superior General, made a quick visit to Villazzano to be with the Students who had recently gone there from Verona 'in exile' from the menacing government.

1867: The eviction order that Fr. Marani had received at the Stimate 15 days earlier was due to be effective this date, but it was postponed 10 more days, perhaps because of Fr. Marani's poor health.

20

1893: Birth date of Charles Joseph Zanotti, first Provincial of North America.

21

1805: Fr. Bertoni preached on the Purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1835: On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato who in July of that year had been named Confessor of the Imperial Court of Vienna to the Empress, Marianna. This letter was dictated by Fr. Bertoni but was actually written by Fr. Gramego. There was much sickness at the Stimate at this time. Fr. Bertoni told Fr. Bragato of Fr. Benciolini's excellent preaching.

22

1847: At the regular Friday devotions at the Stimate, Fr. Lenotti concluded his series of Sermons on the Book of Ecclesiasticus.

1866: Fr. Richard DaPrato, appointed Novice Master to succeed Fr. Lenotti, arrived at Villazzano with the last of the Students. All of the Students of the Congregation left Verona shortly after the death of Anthony Caucigh, that occurred at the *Trinita'* on August 11, 1866.

23

1800: Fr. Bertoni, a Priest of but one month, gave a sermon on the Fear of God. He distinguished between Servile and Filial Fear. He said that Fear of the Lord is necessary not only for the sinner, but also for the just – without it, there could be no salvation.

24

1816: Charles Fedelini, a boy of 16, entered the Congregation.

1851: At the Friday Devotions at the Stimate, Fr. Lenotti preached at the services on the Book of Wisdom.

1854: Fr. Marani, Superior General, and Bro. Louis Ferrari, had a Private Audience with Pope Pius IX. Fr. Marani spoke candidly to the Holy Father about the Congregation. The Pope asked Fr. Marani if Bro. Ferrari also went out on the Missions with the Priests. Fr. Marani answered that they did not, so the Pope said that the Brothers of the Congregation should be the Masters of every trade. It was during this Audience that Pius IX stated that the little Congregation of the Stimate was 'his' Congregation, and he expressed the often quoted wish: ***Crescat Pusillus Grex!*** [**May the Little Flock grow!**]

1856: Frs. Benciolini and Fedelini [who had not yet starting teaching at the Seminary for the new School Year] left the Stimate to preach a Mission at Cerro.

25

1854: Fr. Marani, Superior General, and in Rome, wrote to Fr. Brugnoli back at the Stimate – as Fr. Brugnoli was the oldest – to tell the

Community of the happiness that he and Bro. Ferrari experiences the day before in their Audience with the Pope.

- 1866:** At 9:45 a.m., three Carabinieri came to the Stimate with a search warrant seeking to obtain incriminating evidence against the Jesuits, as the government considered them to be an international spy organization. With the prospect of sudden searches at the Stimate, Fr. Marani about this time burned a number of papers that had been kept at the Stimate for many years in the Archives at the Stimate.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Florence telling him that their eviction from the Stimate was imminent. Fr. Marani as yet had not found a place to live.

26

- 1812:** Fr. Bertoni fell seriously ill. He was plagued through his life by a painful and massive leg ailment [a fistula?] that was lanced over 200 times.
- 1823:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet who was seeking approbation for her Congregation. He advised her not to write so soon as the new Pope, Leo XII, had not as yet been crowned.

27

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that at the Examination of Conscience that day at noon, he experienced a lively realization of the presence of God.

28

- 1867:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Florence and told him that on the morrow all the members of the Congregation would be evicted from the Stimate.

29

- 1831:** Fr. Anthony Rosmini celebrated Mass at the Stimate.
- 1847:** At the Friday devotions at the Stimate, Fr. Lenotti preached on the Book of Ecclesiastes
- 1861:** Tuesday – Frs. Lenotti, Rigoni and Peter Vignola left Verona for the Mission in Vigasio.
- 1867:** **The ‘Darkest Hour’ for the Congregation** – the men were evicted from the House of the Stimate. It was almost 51 years to the day that Fr. Marani first came there with Fr. Bertoni and Bro. Paul Zanolli. They were allowed to have the Church, and a few rooms upstairs and a kitchen. Fr. Marani went to live with a widowed niece, a Mrs. Massalongo – and he never came back to the Stimate, dying ‘in exile’ on July 1, 1871.

30

- 1826:** Charles Fedelini, aged 16, vested at the Stimate.
- 1828:** Fr. Louis Bragato returned to the Congregation. He had entered earlier but left due to poor health.
- 1846:** Fr. Lenotti preached at the Friday Devotions at the Stimate for the first time. His text was from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 50:9.

1863: The Sisters of the Holy Family rented the Convent of St. Teresa's to the government for use as a military barracks.

31

1828: A Fr. Maggi took Fr. Bertoni's place as Confessor to Mother Naudet.

1834: The Priests at the Stimate swap rooms. Some of the Priests there at the time were Frs. Cainer, Cartolari and Raimondi.

1854: Fr. Marani and Bro. Ferrari left Rome after their successful visit there to obtain the **Decree of Praise** for the Congregation. It would be granted on **April 16, 1855**.

1862: Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached a successful Mission at Ala in the Tyrol.

§
§§§
§

NOVEMBER

1

- 1805:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Souls in Purgatory; he described it as a torturous prison - purgation is achieved either by fire [the pain of Purgatory] – or, it can also be obtained now, by water [the tears of repentance]. There are many advantages for those who pray for the dead.
- 1806:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Beatitudes – they are as a ladder that one must ascend to reach heaven.
- 1825:** Young Charles Fedelini is enrolled at the Marian Oratory at the Stimate.
- 1847:** Fr. Lenotti preached to the members of the Oratory and urged them to imitate the Saints of God.
- 1853:** Charles Salocher entered the Congregation, but had to leave a few months later due to illness – he re-entered 1871, and made Perpetual Profession on July 17, 1874.
- 1854:** Fr. Marani and Bro. Louis Ferrari arrived back in Verona after their stay of almost 4 months in Rome, where they had a Private Audience with Pope Pius IX [on October 24, 1854]. Their visit achieved the conferral on the Congregation of the much coveted **Decree of Praise**, granted on **April 16, 1855**.

2

- 1902:** Bro. Charles Salocher died at *Santa Maria dei Miracoli* in Rome. All his life he had been very observant of the Suffrages for the Poor Souls in Purgatory.

3

- 1863:** Fr. Dominic Rossi died. At one time, he was Economus General.

4

- 1794:** Francis Peter Faber Pacificus Leonard Cartolari was born, the son of Peter.
- 1816:** **The birthday of the Congregation. On this day, Fr. Bertoni, Fr. John Mary Marani and Brother Paul Zanolli came to the Stimate to take up residence. The beginnings of the Congregation.**
- 1862:** The Novitiate was transferred from the Stimate to the *Trinita'* for the second time. Fr. Marani, Superior General, blessed the House that had been renovated. Fr. Vincent Vignola celebrated the Mass. The *Triinita'* had been vacant for the past three years due to the work going on there. There were three Professed Students: Charles Zara, Francis Sogaro and Louis Morando [these last two would pass away as Consecrated Bishops]. There were four Novice Students: Andrew Sterza, Joseph DeVai, Joseph Sembianti and one other. There were also several Brothers there: Bro. Zanolli, Infirmarian and laundry; Bro.

Nicora, Porter and tailor; Bro. Reali, Cook. Among the Aspirants were Anthony Caucigh, Pio Gurisatti and James Marini.

1866: This was the Golden Jubilee of the Congregation. It was the first Sunday of November. The day was celebrated both at the Stimate and at Villazzano, Trent, where the Students of the Congregation were living 'in exile.'

1885: On this date, Bishop Riboldi [later Cardinal], welcomed the Congregation of the Stimate into his Diocese. The Congregation had come to Pavia to assist with the Oratory of St. Aloysius; to conduct a night school for workers' and to preach Missions throughout the Diocese as long as this did not conflict with the other functions there.

5

1822: The School at the Stimate and the School at the Convent of St. Teresa's Convent are investigated by the government in a routine investigation. Fr. Bertoni assisted Mother Naudet in filling out her questionnaire.

1841: [The date of a Letter from Fr. Bertoni to Fr. Bragato in Vienna, in which Fr. Bertoni asked for prayers for the work of writing the booklet of his *Original Constitutions*. Fr. Stofella has more rightly placed this as **May 11, 1841**].

6

1822: Mother Naudet had asked for more specific details in answering the questionnaire on her School. Fr. Bertoni wrote in greater detail.

7

1847: Fr. Lenotti preached to the young boys of the Oratory. He continued the explanation of St. Matthew's Gospel where his predecessor, Fr. Fedelini, had left off. Fr. Fedelini had returned home due to illness. He did not return to the Congregation until after Fr. Bertoni's death, almost six years later.

1854: Fr. Marani wrote to Bishop Riccabona informing him that Fr. DaPrato and another Diocesan Priest wanted to enter the Congregation.

1858: Fr. Lenotti, Novice Maser, gave a Domestic Exhortation to the Novices, telling them to pray often for the Congregation that was suffering so much at that time. Fr. Marani, the Superior General, had been seriously ill; Fr. Brugnoli was dying and Brother Marini had just died at the age of 19.

1861: Anthony Caucigh was enrolled at the Seminary of Udine.

1891: Fr. Morando, the Superior at the Stimate, celebrated a solemn Memorial Mass for the deceased Superior General, Fr. Peter Vignola.

8

1822: In the questionnaire Fr. Bertoni filled out for the investigation of the Stimate on this date, it was evident that the Congregation at that time numbered five Priests, one Brother – and there were 74 Students attending school at the Stimate.

- 1834:** Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Sister Bussetti, who had been elected to succeed Mother Naudet as Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family. Mother Naudet had died a few months previously, August 17, 1834.
- 1844:** A man by the name of Stephen Debboni died at Caldiero. He had been caretaker of the Bertoni property there and he left two daughters 'of marriageable age, and other children' – who had no means of support.

9

- 1816:** Mother Naudet took over the Convent of St. Teresa's in Verona. She was to do a similar work for girls there as Fr. Bertoni was doing for boys at the Stimate.
- 1896:** John Baptist Zaupa entered the Congregation.

10

- 1856:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, and Fr. Lenotti, Novice Master, begin a Retreat in Cremona for the 'Madames.'
- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola begin a Mission at Villa Lagarina, Trent.
- 1910:** Fr. Alexander Grigoli, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi leave Trieste for Brazil. The first Foundation in South America for the Congregation was thus established.

11

- 1786:** Matilda Bertoni, younger sister of Gaspar, died this day at the age of three and a half. He was nine years old at the time. Her existence is not even noted in the first Biography of the Founder, by Fr. Giacobbe.
- 1810:** Bishop Liruti remains firm in his refusal of allowing Fr. Matthew Farinati to join the Jesuits.
- 1829:** An ordained Priest, Fr. Francis Benciolini, entered the Congregation,' with the consent of his entire family,' The Chronicle noted that he had a very 'frank way about him, a German air!'
- 1832:** Young Angelo Casella entered the Congregation. It was the Feast of St. Martin, and nearly all the men at the Stimate were 'sick' at the time!
- 1833:** Fr. Bertoni was bleeding profusely, so he was unable to attend the opening of school this day.

12

- 1855:** Canon Bertinelli, the host of Fr. Marani and Bro. Ferrari during their lengthy stay in Rome [June – November 1854], wrote to Fr. Marani this day. He told Fr. Marani that he did not have the heart to tell him of the many obstacles that he faced in coming to Rome to obtain the **Decree of Praise** for so small a Congregation. He told Fr. Marani that Cardinal Fransoni still spoke of Fr. Marani and of the wonderful impression he had made in Rome.
- 1878:** School opens again at the Stimate for the first time since 1843, when Fr. Bertoni closed it in favor of the Jesuits.

13

1816: School opens at the Stimate for the first time under Fr. Bertoni's direction. It remained open for 27 years – in this time, there were 70 Priests ordained from its alumni.

14

1833: Fr. Anthony Rosmini celebrated Mass at the Seminary.

1834: Fr. Rosmini returns to the Stimate again on this date, and offered Mass. He used Fr. Bertoni's room to write a 'small book' [*The Five Wounds of the Church* ???]

1835: Fr. Bragato was promoted to the title of 'Honorary Chaplain' at the Imperial Court of Vienna. He wrote back and said that the only 'uniform' that he would ever wear would be the habit of the Congregation.

15

1842: The last school year at the Stimate during Fr. Bertoni's life time began this day.

16

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that some try to build a spiritual life without a foundation – he noted that one must always start with an interior spirit.

1812: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he was convalescing from his recent, serious and painful illness. He told her that there was no need to confess her feelings of lack of faith as she had described them in the previous letter.

1834: Fr. Brugnoli went to Sts. Firmus and Rusticus 'at the bridge' to offer Mass, at the request of Fr. Albertini.

17

1811: Mother Naudet noted that she had prayed this day that Mary and Joseph would be the true 'Superiors' of her Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. She prayed that she would practically unite the active and contemplative lives. It was the Feast of the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1854: There was a solemn commemorative service held at the Stimate this day for Fr. Bertoni, who had died 17 months earlier. Permission had been granted to return his body to the Stimate. There was a terrible wind and rain today – the service was held this Friday morning. Forty Mass were celebrated at the Stimate on this day. Monsignor Marchi, Vicar General of the Diocese, celebrated a Solemn Mass.

18

1810: It was the 3rd Sunday of the month, and the feast of the Patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Fr. Bertoni preached that the Church was the House of God, and that Mary was its door, or 'the Gate of Heaven.'

- 1834:** A number of complaints had been received at the Chancery Office concerning the bell ringing at the Stimate. Bishop Grasser defended the Fathers there in his response to the complaint.
- 1844:** A Vincent Rufo wrote to Fr. Bertoni interceding for the family of the late Stephen Debboni, who had died 10 days earlier. Fr. Bertoni answered immediately and told Mr. Rufo that the widow could stay on the property there, and could keep one half of all the produce of the farm.

19

- 1798:** Modesto Cainer was born.
- 1828:** Fr. Giaccobbe's father died.
- 1829:** Fr. Benciolini was enrolled in a school to obtain civil certification to teach Elementary School.
- 1854:** Bishop Riccabona wrote to Fr. Marani and expressed some pride that two of his Priests were about to enter the Congregation. He said that he was especially sorry to lose Fr. Richard DaPrato, but that he gave his permission for both to enter.

20

- 1808:** Bishop Liruti dropped in unexpectedly on Fr. Bertoni as he was teaching Catechism to some adults. Fr. Bertoni noted that night in his Spiritual Diary that he should always be ready to appear before the Tribunal of Christ – which could come just as unexpectedly.
- 1816:** Pope Pius VII granted a Decree of Praise to the Congregation founded by Mother Madeline di Canossa.
- 1824:** Matilda di Canossa, niece of Mother Madeline di Canossa, entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, founded by Mother Naudet. Years later, Matilda di Canossa became Vicar General of these Sisters.

21

- 1832:** Donnadei Conti Martelli entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. She had been a penitent of Fr. Bertoni. In 1840, she became the 2nd Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Family.
- 1851:** A Papal Decree emanated proclaiming the following year to be the 'Holy Year of Jubilee'. The Pope was unable to proclaim 1850 as the 'Holy Year', as he had to flee Rome.
- 1858:** A Fr. Peter Slenzi, Pastor at Villa Lagarina, wrote to Fr. Marani and told him that Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Vincent Vignola were tireless Confessors in the Mission they had just completed in his Parish, and that they had won many sheep back into the fold.
- 1859:** Feast of the Presentation – Frs. Benciolini and Peter Vignola preached this day at Nove, dear Vicenza.

22

- 1801:** Michaelangelo Gramego approved for Vestition.
- 1811:** Cajetan Brugnoli was vested by his Uncle, Fr. Francis Brugnoli, in the Church of St. Peter in Monastero.

- 1837:** Public sale was held for the property at Sezano. A Dr. Lawrence Maggi represented Fr. Bertoni at this sale and offered 140,000 Lira for the property.
- 1839:** Bishop Joseph Grasser died. He was the first Bishop of Verona younger than the Founder. He was assisted by Fr. Bertoni, and Fr. Odescalchi, SJ. [Fr. Odescalchi had been the Cardinal Vicar of Pope Gregory XVI, and resigned the Cardinalate to enter the Jesuit Novitiate in November 1838].
- 1843:** The date of the will of one Anthony Lenotti. It divided the family inheritance among the Lenotti brothers and sisters. The oldest of the three sisters, Marietta, was already deceased.

23

- 1853:** All the deceased of the Congregation at this time were transferred to the lot in the city cemetery purchased by Fr. Marani. The deceased re-interred on this day were: Bro. Casella; Fr. Biadego; Cleric Louis Ferrari; Fr. Bertoni; Fr. Gramego and Bro. Bandora. Fr. Cainer and Fr. Cartolari had been buried in their family lots.

24

- 1874:** The Students of the Congregation left Sale' di Povo, near Villazzano, in Trent, and returned to Verona. The Students had been 'in exile' for eight years. They left Verona shortly after the death of one of their own, the beloved Anthony Caucigh – on August 11, 1866 – due to the unfavorable political climate of that era.

25

- 1810:** Fr. Bertoni preached to the young Seminarians of the Diocese of Verona. He told them to invoke Mary in any difficulties with their vocations.
- 1812:** Fr. Bertoni was received this day by Bishop Liruti. Fr. Bertoni explained to the Bishop that the offered position in the Diocese as Vice-Rector of the Seminary he felt to be alien to his vocation.
- 1820:** In the Church of the Stimate, the Altar of St. Catherine was used for the first time. Over the altar, hung a painting by Voltolini, depicting the Betrothal of the Saint. Fr. Marani said the first Mass on the new Altar. Fr. Gramego the second – and Fr. Bertoni the third.
- 1833:** The new bells at the Stimate rang out on this Feast of St. Catherine of Siena. Each bell was in honor of a different saint. Fr. Bertoni was ordered to bed – at noon he underwent a bleeding, and by night fall, he had a high fever, that caused some alarm.

26

- 1812:** Fr. Louis Fortis, SJ, assisted Fr. Bertoni during his illness today. He was the Founder's first Spiritual Director in his teen years, and later became Superior General of the restored Jesuits.
- 1854:** On this Sunday evening, the former Canon, Fr. Richard DaPrato, entered the Congregation.

27

- 1801:** Sebastian Gramego, the Father of Michaelangelo Gramego, died this day at 7:00 a.m. He was buried in the cemetery of the *Trinita*’.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that he would be at the Convent the following day, so that they could discuss a number of items that she had mentioned.
- 1822:** On this day, Bishop Liruti celebrated his 80th birthday. In a conversation this day, he praised Fr. Bertoni as ‘learned and venerable.’

28

- 1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the General Judgment. For the wicked, there can only be a useless remorse and an unchangeable condemnation.
- 1856:** Fr. Vincent Vignola entered the Congregation. He was to be followed later by his brother, Fr. Peter Vignola, who became the 3rd Superior General
- 1857:** Frs. Benciolini, Lenotti and Peter Vignola left Verona to preach a Mission in Bovolone.

29

- 1860:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti prepare for the Mission at San Ambrogio. In the ten years that he was Novice Master, Fr. Lenotti preached over 30 Missions – and about the same number of Retreats to Sisters and to the Clergy, as well as many other Retreats to various other groups.

30

- 1834:** Fr. Bertoni offered some advice to Sister Bussetti, who succeeded Mother Naudet in the government of the Sisters of the Holy Family.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, began a Mission at Bovolone. He was assisted by Fr. Rigoni.
- 1858:** Fr. Lenotti gave a Novena in preparation for the Immaculate Conception to the Novices. He asked them to pray that Fr. Marani, Superior General, soon be restored to health and that the Congregation might be blessed with more vocations.
- 1869:** Louis Morando was ordained a Priest this day - he would die as Archbishop of Brindisi.

DECEMBER

1

- 1812:** In a letter on this date, Fr. Bertoni directed Mother Naudet to turn her sights toward heaven – such a vision turns sadness into joy.
- 1837:** On this day, Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Fr. Bragato who was at the Imperial Court in Vienna. Fr. Bertoni wrote in glowing terms of Fr. Marani's competent, busy and varied apostolate – a good idea of Fr. Bertoni's ideal for the ***Apostolic Missionary***. Fr. Marani was giving evening conferences to the **clergy** – hearing **confessions** – teaching **catechism** – examining vocations in the **seminary**. Fr Bertoni also sent a book to Fr. Bragato for the March devotions in honor of St. Joseph.

2

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary on this date that we must above all take good care that we do not fail God, as we are sure that, on His part, He will never fail us.
- 1846:** On this date, Celestine Marani – Fr. Marani's father - died at the age of 86 in St. Paul's Parish.

3

- 1808:** Out of love for us, God shows us the Cross that we are to carry - Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary on this date. It is for us to have good will, and He will be with us in carrying our Cross through life.
- 1812** On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet. He promised her that he would say some Masses for her, and he had already begun them in honor of St. Francis Xavier.
- 1845:** A Youngman by the name of Louis Toffaloni died on this date at the age of 18. He had been a member of Fr. Bertoni's Oratory, and was mourned by Fr. Fedellini.

4

- 1816:** Fr. Michaelangelo Gramego entered the Congregation, a month after Frs. Bertoni and Marani and Bro. Paul Zanoli.
- 1835:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni began preaching a course of the Spiritual exercises for some young **seminarians** about to receive Holy Orders

5

- 1812:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet – he told her that the religious soul must impede anything that interferes with union with God.
- 1837:** On this date, 140,500 Lira [up 500 Lira from the previous offer] was proposed for the purchase of Sezano. This was done in the name of Fr. Bertoni – but, still no sale.

1910: Fr. Alexander Grigoli¹², Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi are the first Stigmatines in South America.

6

1910: Fr. Grigoli made arrangements to see Bishop Braga, or **Curitiba**¹³ for a possible foundation for the Congregation in his Diocese. The three Stigmatines stayed with the Missionaries of St. Charles – their Father General, Fr. Dominic Vicentini, was a former Stigmatine.

7

1837: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Sister Bussetti to express his best wishes for the holiday season She was the Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

1838: Pope Gregory XVI responded to Fr. Bertoni's letter of August 9, 1838 in which the Founder offered the Holy Father all the property owned then by the Congregation. The Pope answered, thanking Fr. Bertoni for the gracious offer – it was said that the Pope remarked on receiving Fr. Bertoni's letter that it was a great source of encouragement as Pope to know that there were Priests like Fr. Bertoni working hard for the glory of God.

1852: A newly ordained Priest, Fr. Mark Bassi, celebrated one of his first Masses at the Stimate.

1853: Bishop Peter Aurelius Mutti, OSB, Patriarch of Venice, and former Bishop of Verona, wrote a letter of recommendation to the Holy See in behalf of the Congregation at Fr. Marani's request.

1857: Fr. Benciolini wrote that the Fathers heard Confessions at Bovolone from almost 4:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m.!

8

1805: Fr. Bertoni preached on death this day. He said that the love for this life makes any death bitter. One terrible moment decides all eternity.

1833: Feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrated at the Stimate. The little Oratory of the Immaculate Conception was left open all day with four candles burning. The bells rang out from the Stimate.

1854: Fr. Richard DaPrato began his two year Novitiate. This was the first formal Novitiate - previously, members on entrance, just donned the habit, and then they were members of the Congregation

1856: Fr. DaPrato made his Religious Profession.

1857: Perpetual Profession was made today by Bro. Joseph Reale.

1864: This was the original date chosen for Anthony Caucigh's Vestition – it was delayed a month, though, until January 6th, 1865, at Fr. Marani's direction, because of a rather poor showing Caucigh had made in Latin.

¹² Fr. Grigoli preached the Ordination retreat for the compiler of this Stigmatine Calendar, in Grottaferrata, outside of Rome – in June 1956. Fr. Adami also worked for a time in North America.

¹³ On June 18, 2004 – another Stigmatine – Dom Moacyr Vitti, CSS, was installed as the Archbishop of Curitiba PR.

9

- 1804:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Coming of Christ - sinners have a special reason to rejoice at His Coming – our misery is more than enough reason to harbor high hopes.
- 1834:** Fr. Bertoni preached a Retreat to Seminarians about to receive Holy Orders in the Oratory dedicated to St. Stanislaus.
- 1842:** Fr. Cainer said Mass this day but experienced some difficulty - he would not be able to say Mass again for about six more months.
- 1855:** Today was the Vestition of Bro. Louis Falzi and two Students.

10

- 1828:** Joseph Reale was born at Corrido Como. He would one day enter the Congregation and die in it as a Professed Brother.
- 1863:** The Novitiate Chapel at the *Trinita'* was finished on this day, and Bishop di Canossa celebrated Mass for the Novices.

11

- 1812:** In his letter of this date, Fr. Bertoni agreed to review Mother Naudet's Constitutions which she had written. This letter also contains Fr. Bertoni's views on the spiritual life.
- 1847:** Fr. Lenotti preached to the faithful who came regularly to the Friday night Devotions at the Stimmate.

12

- 1834:** Three days earlier, Fr. Bertoni began a Retreat for **Seminarians** preparing for the Priesthood. Fr. Bertoni fell ill on this day, and the retreat was continued by Fr. Marani.
- 1853:** The '**Report**' that Fr. Marani had drawn up for presentation to the Holy See to obtain the Decree of Praise, bore this date.
- 1856:** Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Marani from Vienna – to encourage him in his work.

13

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached this day in the Church of St. Paul in Campo Marzo on the Feast of the House of Loreto. He compared the House of the Holy Family to the heart of the Christian sincerely desirous of being the House of God. The only true happiness for us is to have God dwelling within us.
- 1807:** Fr. Bertoni preached again in St. Paul's on this day – in the course of his sermon, he remarked that the youth of that time were being subject to so many difficulties that it was hard for them to keep from sin.
- 1808:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that people of God must expect severe temptations.
- 1813:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni visited the College of Acolytes in Verona. He himself had once studied here preparing for the Priesthood.

14

- 1812:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning her Constitutions. He told her of his recent illness and felt that God was 'joking' with him. He suggested to her for one part of her rule, that 'Vicar' was a better title

than 'Provincial.' He expressed the hope that the French branch of the Sisters would join Mother Naudet. [They were led by St. Sophie Marie and are known as the 'Madames of the Sacred Heart."]

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his letter to Mother Naudet that a Vocation is the work of God. He recommended his 'poor Father' to her prayers.
- 1822:** The Emperor Francis I, who had been visiting Verona, left this day. About this same time, Fr. Galvani fell seriously ill and Fr. Bertoni sent Fr. Marani to assist the old Benefactor of the Congregation.
- 1855:** Fr. Marani sent a rather bulky array of documents to the Holy See, petitioning the Decree of Praise for the Congregation.

15

- 1838:** Bishop Joseph Grasser, present Bishop of Treviso, was named Bishop of Verona.
- 1866:** Fr. Marani had ordered Fr. Vincent Vignola to prepare a newsletter containing information on the events of interest within the Congregation that was divided for the first time. The newsletter was a forerunner of the modern **BERTONIANO** and was entitled: ***Il Nuovo Messaggero Tirolese.***

16

- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni spoke on this day of his hopes of finishing the construction soon at the Stimate, and he feared for the safety of Bro. Zanoli, who worked so very hard on the renovation.
- 1856:** Fr. Cajetan Brugnoli celebrated his last recorded Mass.
- 1857:** Fr. Marani assisted by Frs. Rigoni and Benciolini, preached the Christmas Novena at Grezzana that began this night.

17

- 1808:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he had been reading the ***Spiritual Combat***, by Dom Scupoli, and the ***Imitation of Christ*** attributed to Thomas a Kempis – he resolved to flee negligence.
- 1859:** St. Teresa's Convent at this time had been used as a hospital. The government was presently using it as a barracks for the soldiers. Fr. Marani was taking legal action to have them ousted.

18

- 1813:** The Church of St. Teresa's opened again for public worship after being closed for some time due to Napoleon's occupation of Verona.
- 1818:** Francis Cartolari was ordained a Priest.
- 1819:** Monsignor Louis Pacetti died – on **December 20, 1817** he had obtained for Fr. Bertoni the Papal Title of **Apostolic Missionary.**
- 1841:** Ember Saturday – in Bishop Mutti's residence chapel, John Lenotti was ordained a Deacon.

19

- 1805:** One of the last acts of the Chancery Office under Bishop Avogadro was the signing of the Decree for John Marani's Vestition on this day.

1850: Frs. Lenotti and Fedelini left for a two week Mission at Avio, Trent. It was the first Mission preached by the Fathers of the Congregation in the 'Tyrol.'

20

1801: Michaelangelo Gramago was vested this day in the Church of Sts. Firmus and Rusticus.

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that the Vow of Obedience for Superiors binds them directly to God.

1814: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet – she was afraid that should the Salesian Sisters come to Verona, it might put her very Congregation into some jeopardy.

1817: The Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the faith named Fr. Bertoni an *Apostolic Missionary* on this date. This Decree describes the Missionary Obedience, or Manner, with its repeated emphasis on obedience, serving the purposes of the Bishop, of carrying out the end, or purpose for the members of the Congregation – which for a number of decades would be known as the Congregation of Apostolic Missionaries.

1833: On this date, the Sisters of the Holy Family founded by Mother Naudet, received approval from Rome.

1873: Ember Saturday - Richard Tabarelli was ordained.

21

1812: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet on this day and told her that he found her Constitutions praiseworthy.

1833: Cajetan Giacobbe was ordained a Priest this day – the future and first Biographer of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni.

22

1805: In a sermon on this day, Fr. Bertoni described penance as a most sweet fruit that reconciles one with God – sin destroys the soul, whereas penance reconstructs it.

1832: Bishop Grasser ordained Charles Fedelini a Deacon.

1887: The Congregation celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Pope Leo XIII's ordination to the Priesthood. A special program [an *Accademia*] was held at the Stimate which Cardinal di Canossa attended. In January of this year, the Cardinal himself had celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his Episcopal consecration. Fr. Sterza composed a number of poems that were later published and Fr. Tabarelli wrote his first theological work, and dedicated it to Leo XIII.

23

1808: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that we are to seek God and not consolations.

1853: In seeking approval from the government for the Congregation, Fr. Marani sent his array of documents to Fr. Bragato to be reviewed before presentation to Francis Joseph I.

1876: Melchiade Vivari was ordained a Priest on this day.

24

1865: Sunday – the Fathers of the Congregation preaching at Riva, as the conclusion of the Mission, established a Union to oppose Blasphemy, that was their custom as the conclusion to the Missions they preached.

25

1825: The Holy Year of 1825 and its Indulgences was extended by the Holy Father for six more months. Fr. Bertoni wrote of his satisfaction.

1883: The Golden Jubilee of Fr. Giacobbe's ordination was celebrated today. He was the first biographer of Fr. Bertoni. On this day, Fr. Rigoni preached the sermon.

26

1804: Fr. Bertoni delivered a sermon on the death of the 'just' and the 'unjust.' He stated that even a toothache causes much discomfort – we should think now of the last agony, when our pains may make it impossible to pray – we should do that now.

1805: The 'Peace of Presburg' was signed which meant that now both sides of the Adige River in Verona was now under French Domination.

1841: On this Feast of St. Stephen, Fr. Biadego was very seriously ill – he suffered a bad spell in the morning, and another one in the evening.

1855: Four of the five Priests at the Stimate left Verona by train to preach the Mission at Caravaggio. Their efforts proved so successful that the Congregation was offered a foundation there, which had to be refused because of lack of members.

1858: A Fr. Achetti wrote to Fr. Marani to thank him for the wonderful Mission that Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola had preached in his parish of St. Peter's in Cariano. Fr. Achetti wrote that the two Priests proved to be most assiduous and charitable Confessors in handling the long lines that came to them.

27

1813: Francis Louis Bertoni, father of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, died. The register at St. Paul's Parish stated: 'He died strengthened by the Most Holy Eucharist.'

1829: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that a legal document was being drawn up by a Count Vener that would grant the Sisters of the Holy Family the perpetual use of St Teresa's Convent.

1835: A young Priest, Fr. Louis Benasutti, offered his First Mass in the Oratory at the Stimate. He had once been a student there at the Stimate as a boy.

1841: Fr. Biadego was dying – and he stated that he was at peace and the end would soon come for him.

28

1836: A Fr. Louis Pacchera, newly ordained, came back to the Stimate where he had gone to school as a boy, to offer his First Mass as a Priest.

29

1824: The Holy Father declared that the year 1825 would be the Holy Year.
1828: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Fr. Marani was still suffering – he suffered many difficult years from a stomach ailment and also from gall stones.

30

1830: Fr. Bertoni wrote this day that he was glad that the epidemic of small pox that had scourged Verona was now over.
1868: Fr. Marani, Superior General, visited the Student House at Villazzano – he brought with him an ordained Deacon from Pergine, Trent – Stephen Oss Bals – who had already begun his Novitiate in Verona, and who would continue it at Villazzano.

31

1796: Young Gaspar Bertoni was vested in the Seminary Chapel.
1803: Fr. Bertoni preached on Divine Blessings – he stated that there is a marvelous Divine Providence in all things.
1839: Fr. Cajetan Benciolini, Uncle of Fr. Francis Benciolini, died on this day.
1840: A Dr. Manzoni came to the Stimate for the first time to treat the ailing student, Louis Ferrari.

§
§§§
§



FATHER BERTONI

(1777 – 1853)

AN APOSTLE OF YOUTH