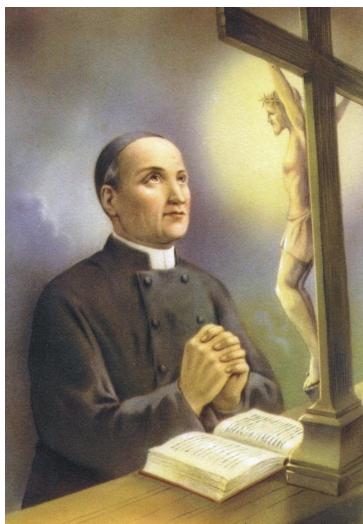


A STIGMATINE CALENDAR



“Going therefore, teach all nations.”

(Mt 28:19)

Brief Reflections on a Partial Listing of Persons & Events
[1777 - 1911]

English Translation and Compilation:

Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS

Printed Edition: 1967

Electronic Edition: 2004

Latest update on April, 2018

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PREFACE

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



Fr. John Baptist Tomasi,
the 4th Superior General
[1911 - † 1922]

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

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

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

Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS

Beaverton, OR, on July 10th, 2004.

JANUARY**1**

1803: Fr. Bertoni spoke on the beauty of Divine Grace; its beauty cannot be seen by the human eye but only in man's acts inspired by it. It is far greater than physical beauty and hence at all costs it must be kept and increased. If it should ever be lost, recover it as soon as possible - "create in me, O Lord, a clean heart."

1812: Peter Vignola – born on the first day of this year – he would be followed by four brothers into the Priesthood – and would be the 3rd Superior General.

1817: A Priest by the name of Fr. Matthew Farinati joined the Congregation at the Stimmate. He had given up his earlier hope of becoming a Jesuit.

1826: The Papal Decree "*Exultabit Spiritus Noster*" of Pope Leo XII extended the Jubilee Year another six months.

1848: Fr. Lenotti preached at the Stimmate and told the congregation that the Word of God is omnipotent.

1851: Charles Salocher left the Congregation due to ill health (he re-entered as a Brother in 1871 and died at *S. Maria dei Miracoli* in Rome on Nov. 2, 1903, always having manifested through life a special devotion to the Holy Souls (and he died on the day of their commemoration).

On this date, however, four other Brothers were vested with the religious habit - Vestition at this time in the history made one a member of the Congregation.

1855: Another candidate, Joseph Reali, entered the Congregation. The Chronicle described him as having "a good heart, and good shoulders!"

1856: Two Capuchin Priests from Milan arrived at Caravaggio to assist the 18 Confessors hearing the Confessions at the Mission that was being preached there by Frs. Marani, Lenotti, Benciolini and Venturini. Fr. Brugnoli had stayed behind in Verona with the three Novices.

1869: Fr. Lenotti preached a Domestic Exhortation. In it he said that Christ shed His Blood on three occasions before His Crucifixion: the Circumcision, in Gethsemani and at the scourging. We can shed our "blood" as Religious: 1st in accepting Superiors corrections; 2nd, by performing penances ourselves; 3rd, by accepting the opposition of those who may be our enemies.

- 1883:** Fr. Pio Gurisatti became Superior of the Stimate, succeeding Fr. Zara.
- 1891:** Fr. Tabarelli and Fr. Scotton, in Rome, moved from their lodging on Via S. Francesco di Sales, to Vicolo del Bologna # 40. They lived on the 2nd floor of this building and the Carmelites, who cared for the Church of *S. Maria della Scala*, lived on the third. Fr. Tabarelli began looking in earnest for a Church in Rome for the Congregation. He had recently been introduced to Cardinal Parocchi, through his Secretary, a Father Fossa.
- 1903:** On this date, the Congregation went to Piacenza. They had been invited there by the Christian Brothers, with Bishop Scalabrini's approval.

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

3

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

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

5

1832: Charles Salcoher was born.

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

6

1797: Gaspar Bertoni was tonsured by Bishop Avogadro at the Bishop's residence in Verona.

1806: John Mary Marani was vested in St. Paul Church by the Pastor, Fr. Girardi.

1823: Fr. Nicholas Galvani died at 5:30 p.m. Fr. Bertoni became the legal owner of the Stimate and the other "pious places" – he, therefore, had to fulfill the conditions outlined in the will of Joseph Bellotti, namely tuition free schools for youth.

1856: The Mission that began at Dec. 27, 1855 at Caravaggio ended on this day.

1863: Just after the Feast of the Epiphany, Frs. Benciolini and Bassi went to Alpo to preach a Mission and the Forty Hours' Devotion.

1865: Anthony Caucigh was vested as a Novice. He was at this time 14 and had been with the Congregation 2 years and 4 months. His Novice companions were Lawrence Pizzini, B. Perazzani, D. Vicentini, Pio Gurisatti, M. Lenaro, James Marini, A. Caresia, T. Vicentini, Richard Tabarelli, Br. J. Zadra, C. Nardelli, B. Carrara.

1866: Fr. Joseph Riolfati, Pastor and Dean at Riva, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the excellent Novena for Christmas preached by Frs. Lenotti, Bassi and Peter Vignola. Fr. Riolfati said that in his 30 years in that parish he had never seen anything that could compare with the work of these three.

- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, spoke to the Community and told the members to thank God for the graces the Congregation had received during 1874. The two deaths of the previous year (Fr. Bragato and the Aspirant Brunati) were really just called home to God.
- 1882:** On the morning of this Feast of the Epiphany there was celebrated for the first time a devotion in honor of the Infant Christ under the auspices of the Pious Union of the Holy Infancy. That evening there was held in the Church an *Accademia* with poems and music.
- 1883:** On the Feast this year, the services honoring the Infant Christ were held in the Church of St. Teresa with even greater solemnity than the year before.

7

- 1856:** Monday: the bells in the steeple rang out this morning at Caravaggio and the Parish assembled to bid farewell to the four Priests who had just concluded the Mission there. Three of the Priests went directly back to Verona but Fr. Marani had to go to Milan to purchase some vestments for the Church.
- 1892:** Fr. Benciolini had another very bad attack and was anointed. Bro. Nicora was with him through the night and Bro. DalSasso slept in the next room in the event his services might be needed during the night.
- 1906:** Cardinal Peter Respighi, Vicar of Pius X, consecrated in Rome this day the first member of the Congregation raised to the Episcopacy – Fr. Louis Morando, who had been named Arch-Bishop of Brindisi by the Pope the previous December.

8

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

9

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni cited a harsh saying of St. John Chrysostom in his Spiritual Diary: ***Few Priests are saved, but many more are lost!*** He stated that St. Augustine was of the same view, and told this to his Priests, not to shock them, but because he really believed it in his time.

- 1811:** Mother Naudet asked Fr. Bertoni to be her Spiritual Director and made note of this in her Spiritual Diary. Fr. Bertoni used the saying as a challenge for on-going conversion.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to congratulate her on her fine work. He told her that a Maria Gagnere [she later became the Vicaress of Mother Naudet's Congregation of the Holy Family, when the holy Foundress died, August 17, 1834] wanted to enter her Congregation.
- 1847:** Fr. Venturini received the faculties for giving the Apostolic Blessing at the end of his Parish Missions.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani returned from Milan where he had gone after the Parish Mission at Caravaggio to procure some vestments.
- 1868:** Fr. Rigoni wrote from Florence to tell the Fathers at the Stimmate to inform them of his efforts in recovering from the government the confiscated property of the Congregation. His efforts, though, at this time would be in vain.

10

- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Mother Naudet who was experiencing some difficulty in her spiritual life.
- 1836:** Mother Gagnere of the Sisters of the Holy Family died. She never seemed to recover from her sadness after the death of Mother Naudet, 17 months earlier.
- 1869:** The Novice, Stephen Oss Bals [of Pergine], who entered the Congregation at Villazzano as a Deacon, was ordained in Trent by Bishop Riccabona.
- 1873:** The Court of Appeals in Venice put off Fr. Benciolini's case for another two weeks. He was attempting to re-possess, for the Congregation, the property confiscated by the government in 1867.

11

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that during Mass that day at the Consecration he had a vivid grasp of the Presence of Christ as one Friend talking to another friend. He said this experience lasted about one half hour after Mass.
- 1811:** Fr. Bertoni was chosen the Ordinary Confessor of Mother Leopoldina Naudet.

- 1817:** Elizabeth Ambrosini, penitent of Fr. Bertoni, joined Mother Naudet at St. Teresa's.
- 1868:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni at Florence to encourage him in his efforts to get the property back for the Congregation. He told Fr. Rigoni that the Fathers at the Stimate were praying to St. Ivo, the Patron of Lawyers, for his success.
- 1890:** Fr. Benciolini suffered a severe attack that made his breathing difficult. He could no longer lie down, but had to sleep in a chair.

12

- 1811:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that in his endeavor to direct the soul entrusted to him [that of Mother Naudet], he should wait for God's Will to be made clear, and should not anticipate it.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning the vocation of three young women who were causing her some anxiety – Gertrude Vilchi, Ann Randelli and Clara Canton.
- 1844:** Fr. Modesto Cainer died at 2:00 a.m. He had worked very hard for Fr. Bertoni in building up a Library at the Stimate.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani went alone to preach the Mission at Lunghezano.
- 1857:** Fr. Vincent Vignola, in a letter dated this day, stated that his classes at St. Francis Xavier Church, near the Seminary of Trent, were going very well.

13

- 1813:** Dr. Ravelli, Fr. Bertoni's maternal Uncle, prescribed some new medicine for his nephew – he also gave him strict orders not to leave the house before 11:00 a.m., nor before 3:00 p.m. – so that Fr. Bertoni would sleep longer in the morning and after dinner.
- 1826:** Pope Leo XII again severely condemned Jansenism.
- 1868:** Bro. Caresia came down with a high fever.
- 1869:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, left Villazzano with the newly ordained Fr. Stephen Oss Bals. Fr. Oss Bals had to leave due to some unexplained

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

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

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

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- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet about a vocation, in the person of a Miss Angelina Raimondi. Fr. Bertoni called Mother Naudet's proposed Convent a 'Cenacle.'
- 1823:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his letter of this day to Mother Naudet of the taxes he owed as owner of the Stimate and St. Teresa's.
- 1830:** This was the date of a Rescript of Pope Pius VIII granting a Plenary Indulgence.
- 1872:** This was the date that Cardinal Quaglia, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, signed a statement to the effect that the

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

Congregation of the Stimate had never been granted full Papal Approbation, despite their repeated requests for it. Some of the Fathers of the Stimate found this letter a little harsh for such an authoritative source - but, as history turned out, the lawyer of the Congregation hired to win back its confiscated property, used this authoritative statement from the Cardinal, and finally won his case! The Congregation would eventually receive papal Approval on September 15, 1890 from Pope Leo XIII.

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

18

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached this year, which was the 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, on the Holy Name of Jesus in St. Paul’s Parish. [He was a Curate here for the first ten years of his Priesthood: 1800-1810]. He said that the Holy Name of Jesus depicts a loving Person and urged his listeners to keep His Image in their hearts. Christ is the most tender and ardent lover of mankind.
- 1814:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni defeated a Jansenist in a debate.
- 1835:** It was the 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany. Monsignor Castori [the Vicar of Bishop Grassi of Verona – who had a sister a Carmelite Nun, who was once stationed at St. Teresa’s Convent] came to the Stimate to vest a

young student by the name of Louis Ferrari, who was only 14 and one half years old. The Monsignor stated that he had wished he could vest 50 young Stigmatines! He had already vested John Lenotti on May 8, 1834 – and young Ferrari was the second, and last, Stigmatine that he vested.

19

1830: Fr. Bertoni explained in his letter of this date to Mother Naudet the reasons for the delay in the legal matter concerning the use by her Congregation of the Convent of St. Teresa's, which he owned. He promised the papers within the month.

1879: Paul Gradinati was ordained a Priest this day by Bishop Haller, Auxiliary to Bishop Riccabona of Trent.

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1834: The Feast of St. Sebastian. The bells of the Stimate rang out at 9:00 a.m., at noon, at 4:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m., as a reminder to the faithful of the Triduum for the Espousals being conducted at the Stimate.

1859: Fr. Peter Vignola, Arch-Priest and Pastor of St. Firmus Major in Verona, met his brother, Monsignor Paul Vignola, Rector of the Cathedral and broke the news that he, Fr. Peter, was entering the Stimate at age 47 to begin his Novitiate. He would follow his brother, Fr. Vincent, who had already entered. Fr. Peter would remain in the House of the Stimate for 32 years.

1868: Fr. Benciolini wrote from the Stimate to Fr. Rigoni to encourage him. He told him the news from the Stimate, which at this time was not good. Fr. Marani, the Superior General was still in bed – Bro. Caresia had been 'bled' three times by the doctor but his fever persisted.

1908: This was a very dark and foggy night in Milan. There was a frightful train-wreck on the 'Acquabella'-Bivio line in Milan. The Fathers stationed at Milan in the 'Acquabella' section of the city were among the first on the scene. The House was used as a temporary hospital for the dying and the injured.

21

1798: The Venetian states [that included Verona] passed under the dominion of Austria due to the agreement of Campoformio of October 29, 1797.

1813: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that Anetta Randalli, who was sick, could not receive Holy Communion unless she fasted – unless there was

danger of death. As long as she was ill, Fr. Bertoni promised to come every eight days.

- 1849:** Fr. Venturini gave a sermon this Sunday on the Holy Family in preparation for the Feast of the Espousals. Mary is the Cause of our Joy – their marriage was indeed a Joy.
- 1856:** The Parish Mission at Lunghezzano ended. Brothers Ferrari and Stevanoni had come to Lunghezzano, their home town, for the closing of the Mission – this seems to have been an effort to promote vocations. As the Missionaries and the Brothers left, the bells of the Church sounded – despite the heavy, cold rain, about 18 people accompanied them as far as Bellorio.
- 1860:** Fr. Venturini expressed the hope this day that God would call him home on a Feast of the espousals.
- 1890:** Fr. Benciolini is unable to leave the house anymore. This day he took a few steps outside his room, assisted by the faithful Brother Nicora, who stayed with him day and night.

22

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

1870: Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola began a Mission at Mezzotedesco, now ***Mezzocorona***.

23: The Feast of the Holy Espousals

1808: Louis Biadego was born in Verona, at 7:00 p.m. – the son of Cajetan and Mary [Mistrorgio]. He would join the Community as an ordained Priest.

1809: Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he was meditating every day on Psalm 14: ***Lord, who will dwell in Your tabernacle ... or, who will rest on Your Holy Mountain?***

1823: **This was the first public observance of the Feast of the Espousals at the Stimate!** There were four Priests living there at this time: Frs. Bertoni, Marani, Gramego and Brugnoli – and also Brother Paul Zanoli. 42 Priests came to the Stimate this day to celebrate Mass. Over the main altar hung a painting of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph. Among the visiting Priests were Fr. Carlo Steeb [Founder of the Mercy Sisters of Verona, a convert from Lutheranism] – and Fr. Nicholas Mazza, himself also a Founder. Their Causes for Beatification and Canonization are before the Congregation of Saints in Rome now.

Fr. Brugnoli preached and said he hoped that the Feast of the Espousals would always be



Painting of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph hung over the main altar at the Stimate

- 1825:** Fr. Brugnoli preached also this year at the Stimate for the Feast. He contrasted Joseph and Mary and Adam and Eve: he said they were 'coadjutors' in the Redemption. Young Francis Benciolini was present at this service and took notes – at this time, he was a student in Theology.
- 1826:** The old Mass Registry at the Stimate records that there were 70 Masses celebrated on this day at the Stimate.
- 1828:** The Mass Book this day recorded 75 Masses celebrated. Fr. Marani preached. He noted that the Marriage was Virginal, and its off-spring was Divine. He contrasted Mary's strength to Joseph's fear and the Apostle Thomas' doubts.
- 1829:** Fr. Bragato preached on the Espousals this day. This holy Marriage produced a marvelous fruit which brought about the Redemption of the world.
- 1831:** The Feast this year occurred on a Sunday, when most Priests were busy with Sunday Masses. Yet, there were 36 Masses recorded today at the Stimate.
- 1832:** There were 75 Masses recorded at the Stimate on this day.
- 1833:** Fr. Bragato preached on the Espousals this day - he said theirs was the happiest marriage ever on the face of the earth.
- 1834:** The Mass Book today recorded 77 Masses – more than on any other single day in Fr. Bertoni's life-time. The bells of the Stimate rang for five minutes at 5:00 a.m. [!], at 9:00 a.m. for ten minutes – and after dinner, every half hour for five minutes. The crowd was so big that the little Church could not handle it. Frs. Gramego and Brugnoli were blessing at the Main Altar, and Fr. Marani in the little Oratory of the Immaculate Conception.
- 1837:** The Jesuits returned to Verona.
- 1844:** Fr. Venturini preached on the Espousals – he said that God Himself hid in this mystery. He stated that the soul is espoused to Christ and the fruit of this union is Joy of the heart.
- 1848:** Fr. Marani preached on the Espousals – he stated that virginity is not good in itself as an end, but only insofar as it is useful to attain the Supreme Good. Through the Espousals, it is easier to understand Christ as man.

- 1849:** Fr. Marani preached on the Espousals and stated that marriage was honored by these two Saints – it was the perfect marriage.
- 1851:** Fr. Lenotti preached on the Feast this year, and said the distinctive characteristic of this marriage was a most singular and special holiness.
- 1857:** Fr. Lenotti wrote in the Chronicle this day that the Feast was celebrated with more solemnity than usual. Bishop Riccabona came at 7:00 a.m. for Mass, and there were then 40 Masses celebrated. In the evening, Monsignor Marchi gave Benediction vested in a new cope – ‘the new organ sounded beautiful!’
- 1858:** The Feast was celebrated much like last year – Bishop Riccabona came for morning Mass, and Monsignor Marchi, his Vicar, gave the evening Benediction. **A Life of Fr. Bertoni**, written by **Fr. Cajetan Giaccobe**, was distributed to the people. The Novena at Garda preached by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola ended today.
- 1859:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, was sick in bed – an offer had come to him to open a House for the Congregation in Lussengrande, near Trieste – Fr. Marani, however, had to refuse this one, too.
- 1860:** Fr. Venturini promised obedience – for his evening teaching of the Catechism. He was beginning to feel his years and felt that obedience was placing too much of a strain on him, but on this Feast of the Espousals, he promised continued effort.
- 1861:** Bishop Riccabona celebrated his last Espousals at the Stimate.
- 1862:** Bishop Louis di Canossa took over the Diocese of Verona, as Bishop Riccabona had been transferred to Trent. Fr. Benciolini ceded the property Fr. Bertoni had put in his name to the Congregation, so that the community would have some possessions, and so that future members could be ordained with the title: ***mensa communis***.
- 1864:** Bishop di Canossa came to the Stimate to celebrate the Espousals with the Community. Fr. Peter Vignola noted that there were many rumors in clerical circles concerning the poor relations existing between the Bishop and Fr. Marani, Superior General.
- 1868:** This was a rather subdued celebration at the Stimate this year as the Congregation had been expelled from their property at the Stimate. They were allowed a few rooms and a kitchen there, but most of the Community was ‘in exile.’ Fr. Marani, Superior General, was living in the home of his

niece, Mrs. Massalongo, and could not attend due to illness. Fr. Bassi, Superior of the Stimate, gave an exhortation to the assembled group and told them that the hard days the Congregation was then experiencing was no excuse for them not to live their vocations 'to the hilt.'

1879: Fr. Paul Gradinati, recently ordained, celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate.

1887: On this Feast of the Espousals there was celebrated the 25th anniversary of the episcopal consecration of the now Cardinal di Canossa. The Cardinal observed this occasion with a Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of Verona, with six other Bishops. Bishop Brandolini of Ceneda, however, came to the Stimate on this occasion. A commemorative edition of the paper, **Verona Fedele** carried poems by Fr. Vincent Vignola and Fr. Gradinati, honoring the Cardinal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1860:** Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola left for a Mission at Soave for teen-agers.
- 1861:** On the first anniversary of the Mission preached at Soave, Frs. Rigoni and Benciolini returned there to establish a Pious Union to combat blasphemy – this was an early practice of the Congregation at that time.
- 1862:** The Fathers of the Congregation went to Lazise to preach a Mission there. The Parish was divided, due to a long-standing disagreement between the local Pastor and a Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament. One of the officers of this organization was a well educated man, of about 35, 'with a long red beard!' He was the most adamant in his opposition. A Monsignor Turri, when consulted, had sided with the pastor - after the Mission, which ended on February 4th, peace was restored to this troubled parish of Lazise, near Verona.
- 1873:** The Court of Appeals ruled in favor of Lawyer Branca of Milan, who represented the Congregation in its struggle to get back its confiscated property. The case was then sent back to Verona, and was settled before the end of the year.

25

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

26

- 1855:** A Decree of Praise was received by the Sisters of Mary Immaculate, founded in Verona.

1899: The Sessions of the Diocesan Process in Verona of interviewing the witnesses in the Cause of Fr. Bertoni's Beatification finished this day in Verona.

27

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

28

1815: Bishop John Andrew Avogadro, SJ, the Bishop who ordained Fr. Bertoni on September 20, 1800, died in real poverty in a Jesuit House in Padua. [He had confirmed young Gaspar, and conferred Tonsure, and the Minor Orders on him as well]. The Bishop had resigned the See of Verona in 1805, and returned to the Society of Jesus, of which he was a member.

1823: Pius VII richly indulgenced the Devotion to the Five Wounds and also granted some Indulgences for the Feast of the Espousals – but, these latter arrived 5 days too late to be gained this year.

1852: Fr. Bertoni sent a letter to Bishop Mutti which is in Fr. Lenotti's handwriting. From Fr. Bertoni's signature at the end of the letter, it is evident that he was a very sick man.

29

1835: Fr. Arrighi of Lonato sent a young man to the Stimmate as a candidate for the Brotherhood, by the name of Angelo Papa. On arrival at the Stimmate, young Papa, a tailor by profession, was examined by Dr. Vasani, and was judged physically fit for the Religious Life.

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

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

30

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

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

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

31

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

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

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

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Fr. Bertoni teaching the young boys in Verona to love and praise the Holy Spouses Mary and Joseph

FEBRUARY**1**

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he had experienced a powerful recollection on the Life of Christ, with an equally strong desire to correspond to it.
- 1857:** Fr. John Rigoni, Pastor at Cerea and Vicar of St. John in Valle, entered the Congregation.
- 1868:** Vigil of the Purification – Fr. Marani, Superior General, went to Villazzano to be with the students for one week.
- 1873:** The lawyer, Alexander Brasca, was very content with the decision made at the Court of Venice in favor of the Congregation on the day before.
- 1876:** Fr. Vincent Vignola, Fr. Morando and Bro. Zadra left to open the new House in Parma. From the start they applied themselves to youth work.
- 1877:** On this day, Bishop di Canossa appointed Fr. John Rigoni as Director of the Diocesan Seminary in Verona – he would hold this post about one year. On this same day, Fr. Joseph Sembianti, Fr. Julius Zanini and Bro. Zadra opened the new House at Bassano. Bro. Salocher took Bro. Zadra's place at Parma, and Fr. Charles Zara took Fr. Zembianti's place as Director of the Stimate.
- 1900:** Fr. Joseph Marchesini signed his Will on this date leaving all his earthly goods to Fr. Stephen Rosa. A Court case developed from this later, as a nephew of Fr. Marchesini contested the will later on.
- 1902:** Fr. Fantozzi became Chaplain at a Reform School at Certosa, Parma. He had to resign a few months later as the Superintendent would not allow any ministrations for the inmates.

2

- 1840:** Fr. Odescalchi, former Cardinal Vicar of Rome for His Holiness, the Pope – who had resigned that post in order to become a Jesuit - pronounced his First Vows.
- 1854:** Monsignor Prela, Apostolic Nuncio, forwarded to Rome Fr. Marani's request for Approbation from the Holy See. It seems to have become lost in the files there.
- 1856:** Fr. Lenotti preached the Forty Hours' Devotion in the Church of St. John, *in Lupatoto*, Verona.

- 1857:** The Mission at Vignasio ended this day – the local Pastor and two town officials accompanied the departing Missionaries.
- 1860:** The Mission at Soave, preached by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola, was in full swing today. The first Mass was at 7:30 a.m., and there was a High Mass at 10:00 a.m. At 2:00 p.m., the boys assembled in one Church of the town - and the girls at another for services.
- 1862:** The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, long at odds with the local Pastor at Lazise, had a meeting in which some of their difficulties were ironed out. That evening, the Missionaries from Verona preached on Mary, the Queen of Peace.
- 1870:** The Parish Mission at Mezzotedesco [Mezzocorona] came to a close. Monsignor Gobbi had given a sermon of welcome in the Cathedral for the three members of the Congregation who had come there to open a House for the Congregation.
- 1878:** The Holy Father, Pope Pius IX, who had the longest reign [33 years] of all the Popes [with the exception, perhaps, of St. Peter] in the history of the Church, died. The Congregation lost a true friend.
- 1895:** On this date, some of the Fathers of the Congregation presented the traditional candle to the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIII. The Pope himself offered the Congregation the Church of the Stigmata of St. Francis, known as the *Stimmate*, in Largo Argentina, Rome, to the Congregation. This became the third Church in Rome that the Congregation cared for at this same time - the other two were *S. Nicola dei Prefetti*, and *S. Maria dei Miracoli*.
- 1907:** Cardinal Ferrari of Milan blessed the Pavillion converted into a Church by the Congregation in his Archdiocese – it went by the name of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

3

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni was scheduled to hear the Sisters' Confessions at 10:00 a.m. this Wednesday at St. Firmus.
- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni celebrated Mass this day – but, then not again for a month.
- 1868:** Feast of St. Blaise. Fr. Benciolini wrote to encourage Fr. Rigoni at Florence. He told him that they were in the month of 'Mary's Sorrows', and that she

was the Holy Advocate who would help him in the legal struggles he was having.

4

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that if Priests do not pray well, they can never speak well of God.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni went to St. Joseph's Convent to speak with the Sisters on this Wednesday, after dinner.
- 1830:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to a Father Cavanis – actually there were two by this name who were brothers – Fr. Anthony and Fr. Mark Anthony. They were of the nobility and had founded Schools of Charity in Venice.
- 1860:** The Mass Book today at the Stimate contains the names of Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Peter Vignola. They had returned from the Mission at Soave.
- 1862:** The turbulent Mission at Lazise came to a close. The Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, now restored to the good graces of the local Pastor, took part – as did a band from the neighborhood of Bardolino. This town and Lazise had long been feuding – it seems that peace was restored!
- 1888:** The 'Abbot' of Bassano wrote to the Superior General, Fr. Peter Vignola, and in no uncertain terms made his displeasure known concerning the community at Bassano, and regarding the Congregation as a whole.

5

- 1811:** Mother Naudet noted in her Spiritual Diary how she seemed to be repaying God's Goodness with her own ingratitude.
- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Benciolini finished their Mission at St. George's and Fr. Lenotti finished at St. John's.
- 1874:** Fr. Bragato wrote from Prague in response to Fr. Lenotti's request for advice concerning St. Teresa's. He advised Fr. Lenotti against giving the Convent to the Sisters and even suggested that they should pay some rent.
- 1879:** The Professed Students of the Congregation [the 'Scholastics'] had been enrolled at the Diocesan Seminary of Trent, if they were of Trentine origin – otherwise they would have been inducted into the army. Joseph Nicolini, in his 2nd year of Theology, died this day at San Bernardino's in Trent.

6

1810: Fr. Bertoni's beloved Mother, Brunora [Ravelli] died this day. Shortly after this, Fr. Bertoni was transferred from St. Paul's Church to Sts. Firmus and Rusticus.

1881: A statue of the Sorrowful Mother, sculptured by the Veronese artist, Spazzi, was placed in the Stimate this day.

7

1811: Mother Naudet wrote in her Spiritual Diary that she began this day to examine herself hourly. This has been suggested to her by Fr. Bertoni. She wrote that she found many defects of hers that she was being distracted due to her many faults, and that were impeding her spiritual progress.

8

1810: Fr. Bertoni names Joseph Scudellini [who was married to Rosa Ravelli, his Mother's sister] as the lawyer to regain the Family Estate squandered by his Father, Francis Bertoni.

1811: Mother Naudet wrote in her Spiritual Diary that the hourly examen that Fr. Bertoni had suggested to her was proving to be a great help to her.

1860: Fr. Anthony Sperti wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, and told him he hoped the Congregation would accept the offered Parish of St. Rocco and also the Orphanage. Fr. Sperti thanked Fr. Marani for his advice and that he would try in the future never to anticipate the Will of God, but would accept it when it was made known - as Fr. Bertoni consistently taught in his lifetime.

1868: Fr. Marani returned to Verona after a restful week at Villazzano with the Students.

9

1876: Fr. Vincent Vignola, Fr. Morando and Bro. Zadra were finding life difficult in Parma due to the lack of any finances.

10

1829: Pope Leo XII died.

1854: The civil authorities granted permission this day for Fr. Bertoni's body to be returned to the Church of the Stimate.

1883: The Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome was adjoined to a House that would one day be occupied by the Fathers of the Congregation. On this day, a part of it was sold to a Mr. Cesar Lozza who would figure later in the transactions involving the Congregation.

11

1809: Fr. Bertoni cited St. Augustine's saying: *fear Jesus passing me by!* - in his Spiritual Diary. His recorded comment on this date was that his greatest fear was to fail to correspond to God's grace.

1813: Fr. Bertoni remarked on this date that there are really very few who do the will of God.

1858: Frs. Marani and Benciolini went to Zevio to preach a Mission for young girls.

1876: An old House Chronicle of Parma shows the dire economic straits of the Congregation's early days there. Bro. Zadra was preparing supper and discovered there was no more polenta – and he was much chagrined to find that the store across the street was almost as badly off as the Stigmatine House in Parma – no polenta!

12

1806: Frs. Bertoni, Allegri and Farinati started a Retreat at the Little Sisters of St. Francis di Paola. Fr. Marani, newly ordained, helped somewhat, as did a young lad by the name of J. B. Ruffoni. This Retreat seemed to be for young students.

1832: Louis Biadego was ordained on this 6th Sunday after the Epiphany, in the Chapel of Bishop Grasser's Residence.

1857: Fr. Benciolini and the Novice, Fr. Vincent Vignola, preached a very fruitful Mission at St. Peter of 'Morubio'.

13

1806: Fr. Bertoni preached this Thursday morning's Meditation at St. Francis di Paola on 'The End of Man'. Fr. Allegri preached the evening Meditation on 'Sin.'

1832: Fr. Biadego celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate.

1835: Elizabeth Ambrosini, penitent of Fr. Bertoni, made her Perpetual Profession on her death bed, to Mother Naudet.

14

1806: Friday – the Fathers continue the retreat for the young students. On this date, some of the subjects discussed were: ‘Death’, ‘The Necessity for a Guide’, ‘The Necessity of avoiding Mortal Sin.’

15

1806: Saturday: on this date the Fathers preached on ‘Hell’, ‘The Examen of Conscience’, and ‘Mercy.’

1829: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her that God is the Master and we are the servants; he also jotted some observations on a plan that she had sent for his perusal.

1834: The bells of the Stimate rang out, as was customary Saturday nights, and the eve of Feasts.

1842: Fr. Biadego received Viaticum.

16

1806: At the Retreat of St. Francis di Paola, Fr. Farinati preached on the ‘Kingdom of Christ’ – other sermons were on ‘Confession’ and the ‘Last Day’.

1811: Mother Naudet wrote in her Spiritual Diary that her task in life is to love and please God in all things.

1834: The bells of the Stimate rang out in ‘*tono minore*’ for four minutes on this Sunday morning, as was the custom. This was the 1st Sunday of Lent.

1842: Fr. Biadego was visited by Fr. Fenzi, Pastor at the *Trinità*, predecessor of Fr. Giacobbe. Fr. Biadego was now near death.

1873: Lawyer Brasca wrote to Fr. Rigoni concerning the Venice Court’s favorable decision of the previous January 31st. He suggested that they do not manifest their joy publicly, lest the decision be reversed.

17

1799: Bishop Avogadro confirmed John Mary Marani.

1806: The Retreat for the Students at the Little Sisters continued this Monday – the sermons were on Meekness, as a remedy for anger, and the life of Christ.

1837: This date was the last entry in Fr. Cainer’s Chronicle called the *Memorie*.

- 1842:** Fr. Biadego died this Thursday afternoon, at about 5:00 p.m., at the age of 34.
- 1855:** Bishop Riccabona wrote to the Congregation at the Stimate asking them to establish a House in his Diocese of Trent. A letter was also received this same day from Monsignor Gasparini, Pastor of Trbaleno, about the same matter.
- 1865:** Frs. Benciolini, Lenotti and DaPrato made a promise to St. Joseph that they would celebrate 100 Masses each annually in the Saint's honor, that some day the Congregation would receive papal approval. Fr. Marani had procured the **Decree of Praise** ten years earlier but nothing seemed to happen since.
- 1876:** On this date at St. Teresa's, which was now used for the Students of the Congregation, Fr. Sembianti Director at both the Stimate and St. Teresa's, gave a Domestic Exhortation. It was followed by a discussion period and copious notes were taken by the Novice, Louis Tomasi – which have come down to us.
- 1891:** On this date, the custom in the Congregation of reading a short account of a Confrere's life on his anniversary of death began. It was later sanctioned by the Constitutions.
- 1897:** Fr. Fantozzi wrote on this date to the authorities stating that the Congregation was willing to come to Lisbon. He received no answer to this letter for two years.

18

- 1806:** The day before Ash Wednesday. Fr. Bertoni, Fr. Allegri and Fr. Farinati were concluding their Retreat to the young Students. Fr. Farinati preached on the Blessed Sacrament.
- 1842:** Fr. Brugnoli commented on the death of Fr. Biadego and the loss to the Congregation.
- 1881:** The 10th General Chapter convened to elect a Superior General. Fr. Peter Vignola was elected for life. The General Councilors elected were: Frs. Bassi, Sembianti, Vincent Vignola and Charles Zara. Fr. Marini was elected Procurator General.
- 1882:** A silk back-drop, interwoven with gold, was presented to the Church of the Stimate for the altar of the Sorrowful Mother.

19

- 1831:** Paul Lenotti, the Uncle of young John, Joseph and Francis, studying at the Stimmate, was enrolled as a member of the Marian Oratory- he was 31 years of age.
- 1868:** Fr. Rigoni wrote from Florence again to tell of his lack of progress in the attempt to regain the confiscated property.
- 1892:** Fr. Francis Benciolini died at the age of 86. He had been the first Vicar General of the Congregation. Bro. Dal Sasso said that he died about 1:00 a.m., and that his death was serene. He was laid out in the Oratory of the Immaculate Conception.

20

- 1816:** A Retreat began at Sts. Firmus and Rusticus in preparation for the Oratory that was to be established there the following Sunday, *Quinquagesima* Sunday.
- 1824:** Mother Naudet wrote to Fr. Bertoni asking for his guidance and direction.
- 1873:** A new Pope was elected, and he chose the name as Leo XIII.
- 1889:** Fr. Camillieri, OSA, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars made 21 Observations concerning the Constitutions presented to him by Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, who was seeking the Papal Approbation for the Congregation. One of the suggestions was that the Superior General no longer be elected for life – as Fr. Vignola had been. As the result, Fr. General began thinking about convoking the General Chapter of Elections.
- 1902:** On this date, Fr. Joseph Marchesini sold a part of his extensive holdings to Fr. Stephen Rosa and Fr. Victor Gurisatti, for 120,000 Lira!

21

- 1873:** By Decree of the Superior General, Fr. Joseph Sembianti was promoted to the **Grade of *Apostolic Missionary***. He was the last member so promoted in Fr. Lenotti's life-time. There were none during Fr. Marani's 18 year administration, 1853-1871.
- 1880:** While the 9th General Chapter was in Session, Louis Battisti was ordained a Priest. During this General Chapter, Fr. Rigoni resigned as General

Councilor and Procurator General. He was succeeded as Councilor by Fr. Bassi, and as Procurator General, by Fr. James Marini.

- 1892:** Fr. Rigoni eulogized Fr. Benciolini and stated that, when Fr. Bertoni died in 1853, he actually lived on in Fr. Benciolini – and asked: ‘Who was there in Verona who did not know Fr. Benciolini?!’

22

- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni preached on undertaking the Lenten Fast joyfully – he said that any penance we do, will repair any damage that has been inflicted on our souls by sin.
- 1847:** The Sacred Congregation of Indulgences extends the indulgences for the *Portiuncula* [that can be gained from noon August 1st through mid-night, August 2nd] to ***toties quoties***, i.e., it can be gained as often as the conditions for it are fulfilled.
- 1878:** A solemn commemorative service was held at the Stimate for the deceased Holy Father, Pius IX, who in his life time so often blessed this “Little Flock” [***Crescat Pusillus Grex!***] at the Stimate.

23

- 1819:** Mother Naudet wrote to Fr. Bertoni that these days had been for her a time of discouragement.
- 1854:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, had sent Fr. Bertoni’s ***Original Constitutions*** to a friend, Fr. J. Fusari, SJ – who said that he had read them and that he had admired the spirit with which they had been written. Fr. Fusari suggested that they be sent to a Fr. Mignardi who could offer a better critical view of them.
- 1868:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Florence and cautioned him not to have too many lawyers handle their case, for as many lawyers as there are, there will be that many opinions!
- 1880:** Fr. Louis Battisti celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate.

24

- 1874:** The big news of the Congregation on this date was that the 5th General Chapter has convened at the Stimate.

25

- 1816:** *Quinquagesima* Sunday, and the date of the Solemn Religious Erection of a Marian Oratory in the Parish of Sts. Firmus and Rusticus. The first four names of this new Oratory were: Frs. Bertoni, Nicholas Mazza, Marani, and Gramego. Fr. Marani gave much time to this Oratory until about November of 1819.
- 1829:** A Fr. Guerrieri visited Fr. Bertoni to talk over the details of ceding the Convent of St. Teresa's to Mother Naudet's Sisters of the Holy Family for their perpetual use. Fr. Bertoni frequently consulted this Fr. Guerrieri. It was said, however, that he was a bit too speculative for practical matters, but was frequently consulted by the Religious of his time for their spiritual lives. He was a Dominican, and mentioned in Fr. Bertoni's *Epistolario*.
- 1835:** Sister Elizabeth Ambrosini, former penitent of Fr. Bertoni, died this day as a Sister of the Holy Family.
- 1848:** A Fr. DalBosco wrote to Fr. Marani from Karthum, Egypt. He stated that he and his companions still cherished the happy memories of the retreat that they made at the Stimate the previous summer. He said that Africa was vast and that there was much work for Catholic Missionaries there.
- 1874:** During the 5th General Chapter, it was noted that the Superior General, Fr. John Lenotti, had appointed a number of the members of the Congregation to the **Grade of Apostolic Missionaries**, but that he himself had never been made one! And the technicality arose that, in Fr. Bertoni's Original Constitutions, only an **Apostolic Missionary** could be elected Superior General. This was disposed of with the solution that by his very Election, *ipso facto*, Fr. Lenotti was an **Apostolic Missionary!**

26

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that it is our job to make a copy of Jesus Christ in ourselves.
- 1829:** Fr. Anthony Rosmini, aged 29, visited Fr. Bertoni for the first time at the request of Mother Madeline di Canossa.
- 1831:** John Lenotti, age 14, and his brother, Joseph, age 12, were enrolled as members of the Marian Oratory at the Stimate.



Painting of the young Fr. Bertonni with the boys at a Marian Oratory

- 1864:** Fr. Innocent Venturini died at 9:00 a.m. He was eulogized by Fr. Joseph Zenti in the paper *Cronaca Camilliana*. His death was sorely felt at the Stimate.
- 1867:** A very promising young Novice in his second year of Novitiate, Joseph Nardelli, left the Congregation today. His departure was a great disappointment to the Congregation.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director of the Student House at Villazzano, and recommended silence and humility to all, as 'these are all that we need.'
- 1906:** Cardinal Tripepi, the Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, obtained an affirmative reply to the question of the Founder's Cause being introduced in Rome.

27

- 1815:** Napoleon slipped away from Elba at noon.
- 1865:** Frs. Lenotti, Benciolini and DaPrato made a petition to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to renew negotiations with the Holy See to obtain Papal Approbation from the Holy See.

1867: Fr. Lenotti offered a Votive Mass in honor of St. Joseph that more vocations be sent to the struggling Congregation.

28

1813: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he was at the bedside of one Bartholomew Ruffoni - he was the 'Dominic Savio' of Fr. Bertoni's Oratory, and its Prefect.

1826: Fr. Venturini received the degree from the government to teach school.

1855: A Decree from the Magistrates's office read to the effect that the Congregation could indeed apply for the approbation from the Holy See. This was necessary in those times!

1857: The *Trinità* became the Novitiate for the first time. There were 13 Novices, 7 Students, and 4 Brothers. Fr. Lenotti was Novice Master – and Bro. Zanolì carried on his customary number of tasks!

1882: A gift was received at the Stimate of some decorations for the altar of the Sorrowful Mother.

1890: The Constitutions approved by the 11th General Chapter [September 25, 1889] were sent to Rome along with some Testimonial Letters. Bishop [later Cardinal] Riboldi of Pavia wrote that when he was looking for a male Congregation for his Diocese, the Congregation of the Apostolic Missionaries was highly recommended. Now that they had been active in his Diocese, he could state, from his own experience, that they were learned, holy, zealous, well educated Priests, with a special reverence for the Holy See.

29

1832: This was a 'Leap Year' and on this date, a Fr. Peter Riegler, follower of Fr. Rosmini, celebrated Mass at the Stimate.

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MARCH**1**

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in some haste to Mother Naudet as he feared some misunderstanding with Mother diCanossa. He advised Mother Naudet to get Fr. Galvani's advice as well.
- 1815:** Napoleon arrived at the Riviera with only 1,000 men and forbade that any French blood be shed.
- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni, legal owner of St. Teresa's, gave Mother Naudet permission to make some renovations at the Convent.
- 1836:** The House of the *Dereletti*, next to *Santa Maria del Giglio*, was made a filial House of the Stimate. Fr. Marani came to the Stimate five days a week for school and he gave theological conferences at the *Dereletti* for 10, or 12 Priests, as Fr. Bertoni used to do years before at Sts. Firmus.
- 1842:** A young student, Louis Ferrari, lay seriously ill across the hall from Fr. Biadego. The doctor visited Fr. Gramego, too, who had suffered for a long time with a painful mouth infection.
- 1855:** About this time, Frs. Marani and Lenotti gave a Mission at Badia del Polesine, in the Diocese of Rovigo.
- 1865:** The Fathers returned from a very short Mission at Gavello. Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached a Mission in Bottrighe, Diocese of Adria.

2

- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni sent further permissions for renovations to Mother Naudet for the Convent of St. Teresa's.
- 1835:** The Emperor, Francis I, 'always the champion of religion', died.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani started a Retreat for the Seminarians of the Diocesan Seminary.
- 1864:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti began a Mission at Rovereto in St. Mary's Church. People came from the surrounding towns and Confessions were heard every night until 11:30 p.m.
- 1868:** The name of Alexander Brasca, Catholic lawyer from Milan, came to the attention of the Congregation for his work in winning cases for religious orders whose property had been confiscated by the government. The

morale at the *Dereletti* was 'at a low ebb', wrote Fr. Benciolini – as his claim of ownership was denied by a Court in Venice.

1906: Pope Pius X signed a Decree for the Introduction of the Cause of Fr. Bertoni.

3

1829: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her of Fr. Guerrieri's visit to him.

1836: Fr. Benciolini received the customary faculties from the Diocese of Verona with the proviso that he would make the annual retreat in September.

1849: Fr. Francis Ravelli, SJ, cousin [on his Mother's side] of Fr. Bertoni, died at the age of 55.

1855: Fr. Bresciani, SJ, Fr. Alfieri and Fr. John Perrone, SJ were in agreement after discussing Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions***, that Fr. Perrone should issue a favorable opinion concerning them to the Sacred Congregations of Bishops and Regulars, of which he was a Consultor.

4

1813: Mother Naudet asked Fr. Bertoni's advice concerning a good book for her Retreat. Fr. Bertoni suggested the ***Spiritual Exercises*** of St. Ignatius of Loyola – he also suggested to her to keep a Spiritual Diary.

1829: Fr. Bertoni celebrated his first Mass in a month, as he had been ill again.

1855: Fr. John Perrone, SJ, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars gave his official view of Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions*** and his Congregation. As to the ***Constitutions***, he noted that they had indeed been written in a spirit of prayer, but did need emendation as to their juridical section – the Congregation, although small, should be granted the ***Decree of Praise*** that would serve as an encouragement to the members.

1858: Frs. Lenotti and Vignola preached a Mission at Ara Caeli in Vicenza – Fr. Marani helped at some of the services. The Fathers visited the Shrine at Monte Berico.

1860: The Bishop of Padua, Bishop Manfredini, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the fine Retreat just preached to the Seminarians there. The Rector of the Seminary, Fr. Lawrence Sartori, wrote in a similar vein. This Retreat had been preached by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola.

5

- 1842:** Dr. Manzoni paid his last visit to the dying student, Louis Ferrari. Since December of 1840, he had made 1,125 visits in a vain effort to save his life. During this day, Fr. Bertoni visited the dying boy for a little while.
- 1860:** A Fr. Cajetan Modena, a Camillian, who had assisted in the Confessions at the Retreat for the Seminarians preached in Padua by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola, wrote this day to Fr. Marani. He said that the older Professors at the Seminary had told him that it was the best Retreat they had had there since one that the Jesuits had preached there 20 years earlier.
- 1862:** Ash Wednesday – Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti returned to Galliera [Veneta] to establish a Pious Union to combat Blasphemy, to leave a visible memorial to the Mission they had preached there the previous December. Fr. Marani also went along to hear Confessions.
- 1870:** Fr. Lenotti left Villazzano for Verona – he intended to bring the ailing Fr. Marani, Superior General, back with him, as the Superior always found happiness being among the young Students who represented for him the hopes of the future.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti was at the Student House, now at Sale di Povo, preparing for his departure the next day to visit Fr. Bragato at Prague. The long Court case seemed to be settled, and it would only be a matter of time as to when the property would be returned to them.

6

- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni renounced his share of his family inheritance that came to him from his Aunt Paula at the time of his Uncle Anthony's death.
- 1830:** Louis Biadego was ordained a Deacon this day by Bishop Grasser.
- 1834:** The bells of the Stimate rang out this Thursday evening to remind the faithful that the morrow would be First Friday of the month.
- 1842:** *Laetare* Sunday – at 2:00 a.m., the young student, Louis Ferrari, died. He was much admired by his friend, John Lenotti, who would be ordained within the week. Young Ferrari had been with the Congregation eight years.
- 1850:** Austrian troops came to live in a part of the Stimate – they were to remain there for over four years. During their stay at the Stimate, they presented a fertile apostolate to Bro. Zanoli, himself an old soldier, who

brought a number of the Austrian soldiers back to the Sacraments. Fr. Lenotti would mention this years later, how the Brother had fulfilled the 'End' of the Congregation, through his apostolic conversations.

1872: Fr. Lenotti was appointed Diocesan Examiner of Vocations, a post held by Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani before him.

7

1834: [Feast of St. Thomas] – it was First Friday of the month, and **the Feast of the Five Wounds** this year. The bells of the Stimate rang out in *tono minore*, as was the custom for the Sunday's of Lent. The bells were rung on this Friday, as it was a special Feast at the Stimate.

1835: At 6:00 p.m., the bells of the Stimate tolled for one half hour in honor of the deceased Emperor, Francis.

1873: Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola were expected at Prague at 9:00p.m. Fr. Bragato, now nearly 83, needed assistance when he walked. During the stay of the Fathers at the Imperial Court, they meet a Fr. Negrelli, the Court Librarian. The trip from Sale di Povo through Bolzano, took 27 hours.

1876: The Students at St. Teresa's celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas in a special way this year – guests were invited to attend the *Accademia* they put on.

1878: At the *Accademia* held at the Stimate this year, there was frequent tribute paid to Pius IX, who had always been most gracious toward the Congregation during his life-time.

1880: This year, the Students celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas solemnly, preceded by a Triduum in the light of Pope Leo XIII's recent Encyclical Letter ***Aeterni Patris***, that so strongly recommended the doctrine of St. Thomas. The Triduum was preached by the Students.

1883: As classes were being taught during this time from the elementary grades, all the way up to the 4th year of Theology, and a number of Congregations of Verona were sending their Students to the Stimate for instruction, the Feast of St. Thomas had special significance this year. In the evening, Cardinal di Canossa, his Vicar, Monsignor [also a future Cardinal] Bacilieri, and other notables attended the *Accademia*, which this year was a disputation among several of the Students. A Maestro Ravignani prepared special music for the event.

- 1887:** On this date, Fr. Richard Tabarelli presented a philosophical dissertation before the Academy of St. Thomas in Parma.
- 1888:** Bro. Louis Ferrari, long-time confidant of the deceased Superior General, Fr. Marani [he had accompanied the Superior General to see Pius IX in 1854, seeking the **Decree of Praise** which was then granted], died at the Stimate at the age of 76. On this same day, Fr. Peter Vignola informed the Abbot of Bassano, who was most displeased with the Congregation, that at the close of that school year, the Congregation would leave Bassano – thus closing its 12 years of service there.
- 1893:** A special *Accademia* was held this year on the Feast of St. Thomas, to honor the Priestly Jubilee of Pope Leo XIII.
- 1902:** The Superintendent of Schools in Parma gave notice this day that the Congregation would have to close its School in Parma in view of the ‘Casati Law’, forbidding those born in Trent to teach in Italian schools.

8

- 1813:** Mother di Canossa would not let one of her Professed Sisters transfer to Mother Naudet’s Congregation. So it was, that Christine Scalfo left Religious Life altogether. Fr. Bertoni wanted to see Fr. Galvani to explain the dispute, but was impeded due to the constant care he was giving to the dying boy, Ruffoni, of the Oratory. Fr. Farinati was then assigned as Confessor to Mother di Canossa’s Congregation.
- 1831:** Mother Naudet bought the old Monastery of St. Dominica and her group moved into it within this year.
- 1840:** Fr. Gramego’s name appeared in the Mass Book for the first time since the previous May. He was visited by the Doctor several times.
- 1856:** Passion Sunday: Fr. Marani concluded the retreat at the Seminary. Fr. Benciolini was preaching a Mission at the Parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Verona.
- 1863:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni telling him to use his good judgment concerning the celebration of the Feast of St. John of God. He was the Patron saint of the Religious Community with whom Fr. Rigoni was living in Florence and he had written Fr. Benciolini concerning what he should do for the Community, that had extended hospitality to him.

1893: Fr. Pizzighella received an affirmative answer concerning the Devotions to the Holy Face being conducted in the old Oratory of the Immaculate Conception at the Stimate. Fr. Pizzighella had written to the Holy Office and explained what was going on in the light of the furor caused by this Devotion.

9

1799: Gaspar Bertoni was ordained a Sub-Deacon in the Cathedral of Verona by Bishop Avogadro.

1813: Bartholomew Ruffoni, Fr. Bertoni's choice as Prefect of his Marian Oratory, died today. His life's story was written after his death by Fr. James Righi and Anthony Campostrini. He was called the 'Dominic Savio of the Oratory.'

1828: Fr. Bertoni celebrated Mass with extreme difficulty. Both legs were very painful, but the right leg was swollen and bled.

10

1790: Nicholas Mazza was born. He would become a Priest – he had Fr. Bertoni as his Confessor. Presently, Fr. Mazza's Cause of Beatification is being considered by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, in Rome.

1813: Fr. Bertoni spoke with Monsignor Dionisi, Vicar General of the Diocese, in the Library, concerning the difficulties between Mother di Canossa and Mother Naudet.

1835: After dinner, all at the Stimate go to the Cathedral of Verona for the Memorial Service in honor of the deceased Sovereign, Francis.

11

1866: Fr. Lenotti, assisted by Frs. Benciolini and Rigoni, reached a Novena in honor of St. Joseph.

12

1809: Donna dei Conti Martelli was born. She became the 2nd Successor to Mother Naudet in 1840.

1821: The birthday of one F. G. Clementi, who would one day enter our Congregation – he left, though, after only two months, September 1, 1846.

- 1834:** A serious accident was narrowly avoided at the Stimate under construction, when a staging collapsed.²
- 1842:** *Sitientes*³ Saturday – John Lenotti was ordained a Priest by Bishop Mutti in his Residence Chapel.
- 1864:** Francis Sogaro was ordained a Priest – he was a product of the School at the Stimate, and the House Chronicle noted that his ordination made up somewhat for the death of Fr. Venturini a few weeks before.⁴
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Vincent Vignola knelt for Fr. Bragato's blessing as they concluded their five days in Prague. He had seen the Empress Marianna, and thanked her for her charity in financing the House at Villazzano during the hard years of the Students' exile. Fr. Lenotti had always admired Fr. Bragato who had been his first Confessor when he entered the Congregation.
- 1892:** Cesare Benaglia was ordained a Priest this day.

13

- 1842:** Passion Sunday: Fr. John Baptist Lenotti, newly ordained, celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate. It was attended by his family, friends and a good number of the students staying at the Stimate. Fr. Bertoni's name did not appear in the Mass Book this day – nor did it ever again. He would not see any other First Mass of a member of the Congregation in his lifetime.
- 1864:** The Mission at St. Mary's Church in Rovereto concluded. An estimated 5,000 flocked into the Square for the Papal Blessing. Memorial cards of the Mission were distributed.
- 1888:** Bishop Francis Sogaro requested the services of Fr. Dominic Vicentini for Central Africa, but Fr. Peter Vignola refused. The Bishop presented the case to the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith which ruled that Fr. Dominic Vicentini should go to Africa for two years.
- 1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was exhumed for examination and identification as a part of the Process for his Cause. The body was exposed in a room in an upper floor at the Stimate, which was sealed.

² It might be noted that CS I, p. 268, gives 1834 as the date – whereas the same volume, p. 504, gives 1835.

³ Editor's note: the Saturday in the 4th week of Lent.

⁴ He would one day be an Archbishop, after leaving the Congregation, and died as President of the Noble Ecclesiastics in Rome. He was ordained a Bishop in St. Agatha of the Goths Church, Rome.

14

- 1800:** Gregory Louis Barnabas Chiaramonti, OSB was elected Pope Pius VII at the Conclave held in Venice
- 1882:** Fr. Francis Cartolari entered the Stimmate.
- 1826:** The Papal Decree extending the Holy Year was published in Verona.
- 1840:** Louis Gagliardi was ordained a Priest – he later composed some special music for the Canonical Erection of the Congregation, that would be held September 30, 1855.
- 1842:** Fr. John Lenotti celebrated one of his First Masses in the family Parish of St. Luke's.
- 1857:** Fr. Benciolini and Fr. Lenotti preached a Mission at S. Nicolo' in Verona.
- 1860:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti left Verona for the Mission at Noventa di Piave. People came from as far as 20 miles around to make the Mission.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, and Fr. Vincent Vignola returned to Sale di Povo, from their visit with Fr. Bragato at Prague.
- 1880:** Fr. Anthony Oss Balss and Fr. Dominic Vicentini opened an Oratory at S. Martino, Trent.

15

- 1826:** Fr. Antony Rosmini in Milan sent the Plan of the Congregation he wanted to establish to Fr. Bertoni in Verona.
- 1830:** Fr. Bertoni ceded the Convent of St. Teresa to Mother Naudet for her perpetual use. [These conditions were not kept in later years by the Sisters and eventually they left St. Teresa's].
- 1834:** A brass lamp was struck for the second time at the altar at the Stimmate, but the work was still unsatisfactory.
- 1842:** From this day onward, Fr. Lenotti's name appeared regularly in the Mass Book at the Stimmate. He looked poorly at this time and Fr. Bertoni had him consult a doctor.
- 1856:** Frs. Benciolini, Venturini and Lenotti concluded the Mission at St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Verona.

- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Vignola finished this morning a successful Mission at Ara Caeli in Vicenza.
- 1864:** There was a dispute between Fr. Benciolini and the Sisters concerning St. Teresa's Convent and its use. Bishop di Canossa [whose two blood sisters were Sisters of the Holy Family] took counsel with a lawyer, by the name of Alexander Zeppi, who sided with the Sisters.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, having returned to Sale di Povo the day before from his trip to Prague, returned to Verona.
- 1878:** Fr. Rigoni resigned as director of the Diocesan Seminary of Verona, due to ill health, and returned to the Stimate.

16

- 1855:** The **Liturgical Feast of the Five Wounds, or Sacred Stigmata**, occurred on this date. This same day, the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars issued the **Decree of Praise** for the Congregation. Bishop Riccabona, who was in Rome at this time, made note of this coincidence in favor of the Congregation of the Stimate.
- 1858:** Having completed the Mission yesterday at Vicenza, Fr. Marani, Superior General, left this day for Caravaggio to look into the offer of the Shrine there to the Congregation.
- 1867:** Charles Zara was ordained a Priest [he had been a Deacon since August 1865].
- 1870:** Fr. Lenotti left Verona to return to Villazzano, without Fr. Marani, who was too ill, and the weather too cold for him to make the trip. Fr. Lenotti had come down to Verona for the express purpose of bringing Fr. Marani back up with him.
- 1875:** Fr. Louis Maestrelli, Superior of the 'Sordomuti',⁵ died today.
- 1876:** The Bishop of Parma wrote to Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, to tell him that he was well satisfied with the work of the Congregation in Parma.

⁵ A Deaf community.

17

- 1837:** Fr. Vincent Raimondi entered the Congregation. [For a number of years, he was to teach Patrology at the Diocesan Seminary – he died a Jesuit 2 years after Fr. Bertoni, June 12, 1855].
- 1855:** Bishop Rlccabona wrote to the Stimate from Rome to tell the news of the granting of the **Decree of Praise** the day before the Feast of the Sacred Stigmata. He said that it was not a coincidence, but a manifestation of Divine Providence.
- 1905:** Fr. Joseph Antonioli purchased a piece of property in the 'Acquabella' section of Milan, with the intention of building there a Boarding House for students attending school in Milan. At first, the General Council, under Fr. P. Gurisatti, Superior General, was not interested, but in time it would become an important project of the Congregation.

18

- 1783:** Matilda Bertoni was born – the only sister of Gaspar, already six years old. She would die at the age of 3 and one half.
- 1827:** The wife of Joseph Ferrari fell seriously ill and was anointed and received Viaticum. Fr. Bertoni told Joseph to be of good hope, as the morrow was the Feast of St. Joseph, who would watch over his loved one.
- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni was confined to bed again as his leg was badly swollen and very painful to touch. He wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he would be under-going surgery. He told her to copy the procedure of the Madames of the Sacred Heart in obtaining the approval of the Holy See.
- 1834:** At about 6:00 p.m., the bells of the Stimate rang out on the Vigil of the morrow's Feast of St. Joseph.
- 1846:** The Vigil of St. Joseph – John B. Bandoria, aged 39, a tailor, entered the Stimate.
- 1854:** The Imperial Government answered the Congregation's request to return Fr Bertoni's body to the Stimate. Before granting permission, the government asked for more information.
- 1858:** After returning from an inspection trip to Caravaggio, Fr. Marani and Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti went to Fossolovara to preach a Mission.

1859: Holy Thursday – Fr. Marani celebrated Mass in the Church of the Stimate, his first Mass in many months. He was no longer able to keep his busy preaching schedule that he did his first years as Superior General.

19

1827: Fr. Bertoni is confined to bed again – the ailment seemed to have been a tumor on the leg. Mrs. Joseph Ferrari suddenly improved this day and her husband attributed it to Fr. Bertoni's prayers.

1828: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of the repeated lancing of his leg by Dr. Gregori, who ordered him to stay in bed. He received Holy Communion in bed this day.

1829: The bells of the Stimate rang out for six minutes, at 6:00 a.m., and for 12 minutes at noon.

1854: Fr. Marani, Superior General, responded to the questionnaire sent to him by the authorities in Venice. He stated that the Schools at the Stimate would conform exactly to the state requirements.

1866: Fr. Rigoni preached the panegyric in the Church of S. Nicola in Verona, the center in the city of Devotions to St. Joseph. For the rest of this year, one of the Fathers of the Stimate came to preach at this Church on the 19th of the each month at the Devotions for a Good Death.

1891: On this Feast of St. Joseph, the Fathers of the Congregation officiated at the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome, for the first time.

20

1800: Leopoldina Naudet left for Venice to congratulate the new Pope, Pius VII.

1803: Fr. Bertoni preached on Frequent Communion and analyzed the usual excuses offered for its neglect. He said there was no valid reason, as Christ would respond to the needs of man in this Sacrament.

1808: Bishop Innocent Liruti took over the See of Verona – there had been no Bishop since Bishop Avogadro resigned the See in 1805.

1866: The Novena at the Church of St. Nicola in Verona ends. Fr. Lenotti resumed his evening services there, preaching every night on the Saint.

21

- 1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on Confession and stated that there can be no comparison in the shame a sinner feels before the Confessional where he has come to accuse himself and that a sinner would feel who had never confessed and was accused publicly by the Divine Judge at the General Judgment. A good Confession is an honor to the penitent.
- 1804:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the meaning of true happiness – he said that it was the testimony of a good conscience; sometimes it knows no human delight – happiness is abandonment to God.
- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Monsignor Dionisi would speak to the new Bishop [Grasser] as soon as he arrived in the Diocese.
- 1837:** Fr. Bertoni offered the Jesuits in Verona lodging at the Stimate – there were already 11 Priests, 2 Students and several Brothers living there at the time. He also offered them the direction of his School at the Stimate.
- 1855:** Feast of St. Benedict – word was received at the Stimate that the Holy Father, Pius IX, had granted the **Decree of Praise**. Canon Bertinelli wrote from Rome and said that, since the Congregation was so small, with so few members, that the granting of the Decree should be considered as Fr. Bertoni's first miracle!
- 1874:** Fr. Francis Sogaro wrote a letter to all the Fathers who were **Apostolic Missionaries** - he asked them not to be scandalized in his request to leave the Congregation - to which he would always be grateful. He stated that he wanted to follow his Missionary vocation to Africa.

22

- 1817:** Francis Cartolari was ordained a Deacon.
- 1828:** In the Cathedral of Mantua, Innocent Venturini was ordained a Sub-Deacon by Bishop Buozzi.
- 1838:** A Dr. Lawrence Maggi - acting for Fr. Bertoni – offered 160,000 Austrian Lira for the purchase of Sezano.
- 1868:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, came to Villazzano with the intention of staying only a few days. However, he became ill and stayed almost an entire month in bed.

1895: On this date, the Congregation purchased a house in Parma, near the Church of St. James, on Via Massimo d'Azeglio, which was better suited for their work.

1899: Fr. Bertoni's body was re-examined by the Diocesan Tribunal, in the Process of his Beatification.

23

1807: Benedict Riccabona – the future Bishop of Verona, and later of Trent – was born in Cavalese, Trent.

1836: Fr. Cainer went to bed and was laid up for about a month.

1848: The Dominicans at Santa Sabina in Rome ceded the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome to a Confraternity of the Crucified. The Church would be administered by our Congregation in 1891 – and the Confraternity caused no small difficulty to our Fathers.

1891: Frs. Tabarelli, Julius Zambiasi and Scotton moved from Vicolo del Bologna, n. 40 in Rome – to a House near S. Nicola dei Prefeti. As these Priests were involved in school work, Fr. Pio Gurisatti – the future 4th Superior General – was sent to care for the Church.

24

1800: The Bertoni family signed the agreement concerning the family estate, as the father in the family had been causing no small grief in his poor administration of it.

1873: The Court of Verona, ordered by the Court of Venice in January of this year to make an equitable settlement with the Congregation regarding its property granted another stay of 30 days to the government. A lawyer friend of Brasca's, by the name of Gemma, represented Fr. Benciolini.

25

1790: Cajetan Brugnoli, son of Charles, was born.

1817: Fr. Louis Della Rizza had been living in the house of the Stimate when Fr. Bertoni took possession of it the previous November. He finally left this day, after the winter.

1851: Feast of the Annunciation – Fr. Marani gave First Communion to two young sisters, by the name of Haller, at the 7:00 a.m. Mass. At 8:30, there was a

Mass and the young girls sang during it. They were being trained by the Sisters of the Holy Family.

1855: Passion Sunday – Fr. Marani and Bro. Zanolì went to Treviso for a Mission. Fr. Marani, Superior General, frequently took Brothers with him on his trips.

1860: Passion Sunday – Frs. Benciolini, Lenotti and Vincent Vignola finished the strenuous Mission at Noventa di Piave.

1865: Richard Tabarelli and James Zadra [a Brother candidate] became Novices.

1906: Arch-Bishop Louis Morando, the first member of the Congregation elevated to the Episcopacy, entered his See of Brindisi.

26

1812: Mother Naudet's notes of this day indicate that she had experienced some sort of an ecstasy – or intense experience in prayer.

27

1809: Fr. Bertoni cited Dom Scupoli's *Spiritual Combat* in his Spiritual Diary on this date, and wrote that temptations return after failure that one might regain the merit lost from the previous failure.

1813: One Angelo Allegri was condemned to death – he was impenitent for his crime of matricide, but was ultimately converted and made his Confession to Fr. Bertoni, before his execution.

1826: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Rosmini to congratulate him for the wonderful work he had planned for his future Congregation. Fr. Bertoni suggested that Fr. Rosmini begin the process of obtaining Papal Approbation.

28

1829: Bishop Grasser, who had taken over the See of Verona some days earlier, was mentioned in Fr. Bertoni's letter to Mother Naudet as being much esteemed by the government.

1866: Fr. Lenotti, who was preaching the entire month at the Church of S. Nicola in Verona in honor of St. Joseph, stated this night that St. Joseph was a model of Devotion to our Lord. This was Wednesday in Holy Week.

1899: Count Albert Gerbaid de Sonas wrote again from Lisbon delineating the duties of the Congregation once they got to Lisbon. They would have the

care of an Italian Parish there and the opportunity of opening a school as soon as possible.

29

- 1835:** Bro. Angelo Casella went to bed on this day, suffering from a very serious 'inflammation.'
- 1840:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato at Prague and sent him the best regards from the Community at the Stimate.
- 1858:** A Priest Novice, Fr. Bissoli, left the Congregation – the Chronicle read that he had shown signs of being an excellent Religious and was most exemplary.
- 1866:** Holy Thursday – Fr. Lenotti preached at S. Nicola's on this night, on St. Joseph as the 'Saint of Providence.'
- 1873:** Lawrence Pizzini, James Marini and Pio Gurisatti were ordained on this day, *Sitientes*⁶ Saturday.
- 1878:** The Congregation of the Stimate sent a congratulatory note to the new Pope, Leo XIII.

30

- 1816:** Francis Cartolari was ordained a Sub-Deacon.
- 1866:** Good Friday – Fr. Lenotti preached at S. Nicola's in Verona on 'Conformity to the Will of God'.

31

- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of his happiness that a certain Santa Campanini had entered the Congregation of Mother Naudet. Fr. Bertoni, in this letter, suggested that she have 3 classes of membership in her Congregation.
- 1866:** Holy Saturday – at the concluding services at St. Nicola's in Verona on the March Devotions, in honor of St. Joseph, Fr. Lenotti told his hearers that fidelity and constancy are the characteristics of those truly devoted to St. Joseph.

⁶ i.b.: Editor's note: the Saturday in the 4th week of Lent.

1867: 4th Sunday of Lent – Fr. Lenotti preached a three-day retreat in the Church of the *Trinità*, to high school students.

1879: Bishop Benedict Riccabona, true friend of the Congregation, died in Trent. Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, came from Verona for the funeral. Fr. Zara noted in the House Chronicle that his memory would always be venerated in the annals of the Congregation – and that those who came after them, would always venerate his name.

1887: The Congregation purchased a House in Pavia, next to the Church of Sts. Philip and James for 50,000 Lira, borrowed from Bishop Riboldi.

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Fr. Bertoni used to teach even during his long and painful illnesses that held him in bed for many years.

APRIL**1**

- 1797:** Saturday – Gaspar Bertoni receives the *Ostiariate* and *Lectorate* from Bishop Avogadro.
- 1836:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Bussetti, Mother General of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and offered her some suggestions in her renovations to protect the Cloister at St. Teresa's. He also wished her a happy Easter.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani was ill, so Fr. Lenotti went to Cremona to preach the Retreat to the Camillians.
- 1867:** Monday – Fr. Lenotti preached two sermons to the high school students on Retreat at the *Trinità*.
- 1868:** Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola preached a three day Retreat to the Students under Fr. Fusari's care – he was in charge of the Diocesan Boarding School in Trent.
- 1869:** Frs. Marani, Benciolini and Bassi sent a letter to Pius IX and gave a description of their life at the time. They were getting along financially by means of their ministry and everything was held in common.
- 1906:** Arch-Bishop Morando, newly consecrated, entered Ostuni – he had been named Apostolic Administrator here.

2

- 1804:** Fr. Bertoni preached on freedom from sin and the devil – he stated that man is made to God's image, and the devil will try to destroy this image. The devil becomes the tyrant of the human heart and degrades the soul.
- 1856:** John B. Marchesini entered the Congregation – he later left, married and had a son, Louis, who would one day contest his uncle's will – this was the Stigmatine, Fr. Joseph Marchesini, brother of John B., who had made Fr. Stephen Rosa his heir. The Marchesini family was very well to do.
- 1867:** Fr. Lenotti preached only one sermon today for the young students on Retreat, so that the rest of the day could be left free for Confessions.

3

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Passion of Christ – he would use this same sermon again on April 4th, five years later. He stated that Christ suffered in His entire humanity, body and soul. He suffered more than any man could.
- 1813:** *Sitientes*⁷ *Saturday* – Cajetan Brugnoli was tonsured and received the four Minor Orders.
- 1825:** During these days, the Emperor visited the Stigmatate under construction and also St. Teresa's. This day was Easter Sunday.
- 1835:** Bro. Angelo Casella died today – he was the first member of the Congregation to die. He was buried in the city cemetery at the *Villa Pellegrini*. It was the 19th year of the Congregation's establishment.
- 1838:** Bishop Grasser made a Pastoral Visitation at the Stigmatate this day.
- 1867:** The students' retreat ended at the *Trinità* today. Fr. Lenotti complimented the young boys on their attention and recollection.
- 1873:** Lawyer Brasca wrote this day to Fr. Rigonio, Procurator General of the Congregation, and told him that the government side in the long case seemed to be preparing for a settlement outside of Court. The lawyer suggested that the Congregation accept any offer, as the government might use again Fr. Marani's **Cenni** [**'Indications of our Early History'**] – this was a Report on the Congregation that he had written, in which he considered the Decree of Praise tantamount to Papal Approval [which the Congregation at that time had not received] – and also the fact that the Congregation had acquired property, as at Sale di Povo, which gave every appearance of a legal act, performed by a legal body.
- 1892:** A Memorial Service was held for the recently deceased Fr. Benciolini. The Pastor of St. Stephen's Church presided the Mass - Fr. Zocchi delivered the sermon and told the hearers that, in the place of sorrow, there should only be admiration for the holy old man who had just died.

4

- 1806:** Fr. Bertoni used the same Sermon on the Passion this day that he had preached on April 3, 1801. John Marani was tonsured this day by Bishop Molin. [This Bishop seemed favorable to the French faction in Verona. He was Administrator of the Abbatial Church in Asola]

⁷ i.b.: Editor's note: the Saturday in the 4th week of Lent.

- 1824:** Fr. Bertoni obtains a Decree of Enrollment for the new Oratory at the *Trinità* for the Pastor of that Church, Fr. Peter Palamidese.
- 1828:** Bishop Grasser ordained Francis Benciolini a Sub-Deacon, with the Canonical title of Patrimony being supplied by his Uncle, Fr. Cajetan Benciolini.
- 1843:** Francis Solari left the Congregation after 13 years of service – the House Chronicle noted: ‘May God bless him’.
- 1851:** Fr. Lenotti gave the last of his 200 or more sermons at the Friday devotions at the Stimate. [There are copies of many of these sermons still retained in the Archives at the Stimate].
- 1855:** John Lenotti received the last two Minor Orders, Exorcist and Acolyte, on this *Sitientes*⁸ Saturday.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani left the Student House for troubled Verona.

5

- 1806:** Michael Angelo Gramego was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Molin, Administrator of Asola, at St. George’s Church, Verona – John Marani received the four Minor Orders at the same ceremony.
- 1807:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the theme: ‘Holy Easter and the Spiritual Life’. Our life of glory is hidden with Christ in God.
- 1812:** Francis Cartolari was vested at St. Firmus Major by the noble Penitentiary, Christopher Cartolari, with Bishop Liruti’s permission.
- 1813:** In his letter to Mother Naudet of this date, Fr. Bertoni praised the work of Fr. John Louis Fusari, long time Superior of the Oratory of St. Philip.
- 1838:** Fr. Biadego, a Priest of six years, received his first faculties for Confessions, good for six months, with the customary proviso of making the Retreat in September.
- 1868:** Palm Sunday – Holy week services began at Villazzano. Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola preached a retreat to the community there; Fr. Marani was sick in bed.
- 1869:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, came to Villazzano to stay with the students for a while.

⁸ i.b.: Editor’s note: the Saturday in the 4th week of Lent.

6

- 1815:** The date of a letter from Mother Naudet to Pius VII – it is in her handwriting, but it does not seem to be her style of writing. It seems to have been dictated by Fr. Bertoni.
- 1821:** Fr. Gramego took an exam to be approved as a teacher of Grammar.
- 1839:** The House Chronicle noted Fr. Bertoni's offer of the property of Sezano to Pope Gregory XVI the previous December. It also noted the Pope's blessing on the Congregation.

7

- 1821:** Fr. Gramego was approved by the State to teach on this date.
- 1854:** The mitred Provost of Bolzano, Benedict Riccabona, was named Bishop of Verona.
- 1858:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, went to Rovereto to see about accepting a House in Sacco, just outside of Rovereto. After some deliberation, Fr. Marani refused both Sacco and Caravaggio, that had been offered.

8

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni had hoped to be at St. Joseph's this day, but was unable to make it.
- 1821:** Fr. Bertoni took his state examinations to be approved as a teacher for all grades of high school.
- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet, and praised three authors in the letter: DeMaistre, Laménais and Bonald. [Joseph DeMaistre had written a book on the Papacy, which, at that time, was very well received; Laménais, too, though, would one day be condemned by the Church. Fr. Lenotti, in an Exhortation, cited the example of Laménais, who died on Feb. 27, 1854, and asked who ever would have thought that so ardent and gifted apologist would ever come to such an end – such is the way of pride, he remarked.]

9

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni spoke with Monsignor Dionisi concerning the differences between Mother Naudet and Mother di Canossa.

1867: Holy Week – Fr. Vincent Vignola preached the Instruction, and Fr. Lenotti preached the Meditations to the Community at Villazzano.

10

1813: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to explain the reasons why Mother di Canossa would not allow Sister Christine Scalfo change to Mother Naudet's Congregation. Fr. Bertoni wrote that Mother di Canossa felt that all Religious Congregations were basically the same, and, if Sister Scalfo changed, maybe many others would, too.

1833: Mother Madeline [now Saint] di Canossa, sister of Boniface, and Aunt of the future Cardinal Louis di Canossa of Verona, died this day.

1867: The Royal Office of Finance decreed that St. Teresa's Convent was the rightful property of the Fathers of the Stimmat – this was a decision in the case with the Sisters of the Holy Family who had been renting the Convent to the government.

11

1803: Fr. Bertoni preached on 'Perseverance' – he said that we should be ready for temptation, but we should not worry about tomorrow. The life of virtue is the only happy one.

1829: This was the date of a Papal Rescript that raised the Feast of St. Francis to a 'Double of the 2nd Class' – mention of this was one day made in Fr. Zara's House Chronicle.

1839: Fr. Charles Fedelini received Faculties for hearing Confessions.

1848: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato to congratulate him for turning down the 'miter'. This does not seem to have meant the episcopacy, but rather the Abbatial miter.

1883: Anthony Conte, from Bassano, entered the Congregation. He proved to be the only vocation received from Fr. Morando's afternoon tutoring at Bassano.

1896: Fr. Gurisatti, Superior General, wrote to the Bishop of Civitavecchia to see if some solution could be reached in the difficulties the Congregation met there. No solution was forthcoming, so Fr. Gurisatti withdrew the community at the end of the School Year – two priests had been sent there in 1895, and left less than one year later, due to some difficulties with a Canon Caraciale.

12

- 1800:** Gaspar Bertoni was ordained a Deacon by Bishop Avogadro, in the Chapel at the Bishop's Residence.
- 1834:** All six bells of the Stimate rang out in honor of St. Zeno, Patron of Verona.
- 1868:** Easter Sunday – Fr. Marani spent the whole week in bed at Villazzano. Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola concluded the Retreat to the Community.
- 1892:** Fr. Richard Tabarelli was named a Consultor of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars - the first member of the Congregation to be so chosen.

13

- 1805:** Michael Gramego was ordained a Sub-Deacon by Bishop Avogadro. It was Holy Saturday.
- 1815:** Teodora Campostrini, a Penitent of Fr. Bertoni, entered the Salesian Sisters at Malo.
- 1856:** Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph – the Sub-Deacon Charles Bissoli was vested with the habit of the Congregation.
- 1876:** The mitred Arch-Priest of Bassano, Monsignor John Gobbi, requested Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, to send two Priests and a Brother to Bassano to establish a House for youth work. They would teach Catechism on days free from school and evening to adults. Fr. Vignola took the request under advisement.

14

- 1814:** Catherine Slavier renounced legally what Francis Bertoni [Fr. Bertoni's Father] had left her. Final settlement in this dispute was not made for more than a month.
- 1830:** On this date, in legal form, Fr. Bertoni ceded the use [not the ownership] of St. Teresa's Convent to the Sisters of the Holy Family.
- 1856:** Fr. Mark Bassi entered the Congregation – Fr. Lenotti noted in the House Chronicle that his name reminded the older Fathers of Fr. Bertoni's frequent saying in the Veronese dialect: ***Bassi, bassi...!***

1883: Fr. Zara transcribed some old paper he found in the House Archives, concerning the early History of the Congregation.

1904: Fr. Joseph Chesani had worked very hard preparing a study of Dante's *Inferno* - he died this day, in Verona.

15

1813: Holy Thursday – Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of some consolation that he had had in life.

1827: Mother Naudet was on retreat – she wrote that she had prayed for Fr. Bertoni during her Retreat.

1851: Anthony Caucigh was vaccinated!

1873: On this date, a lawyer, Francis Gemma, representing Attorney Alexander Brasca, who was representing the Congregation, met with the government lawyers outside of Court to work out a settlement for the restoration of the Congregation's rightful property.

16

1855: The **Decree of Praise** granted to the Congregation by Pope Pius IX bears this date.

1874: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, sent Fr. Peter Vignola and Fr. Francis Sogaro to meet with the authorities at the Shrine of Caravaggio, that had been offered to the Congregation during Fr. Marani's administration. The Administrators of the shrine opposed the Congregation coming to Caravaggio, so negotiations were called to a halt. Bishop Bonomelli had made the offer.

17

1802: Holy Saturday – Michael Gramego received tonsure and the first two Minor Orders [Porter and Lector] from Bishop Avogadro.

1845: The will of Teresa Borghetti Cartolari was made public - she left a large share of her goods to the Stimmate and to the Institute of San Silvestro. The Fathers of the Stimmate refused their share. She was the Mother of Fr. Fancis Cartolari.

1855: Frs. Marani and Lenotti preached a three day retreat for young boys at Lugagnano, in preparation for the Formal erection of an Oratory there.

1873: In the Court of Verona, the government agreed to restore the confiscated property to the Congregation, and also pay one third of the damages incurred, if Fr. Benciolini would agree to halt the already dragging court case. Payment would be made within 60 days.

18

1867: Holy Thursday - Fr. Lenotti was preaching to the Community at Villazzano during their annual retreat – and stated that the ***Apostolic Missionaries*** are soldiers who are to follow Christ until death. In Battle, we need resolutions and sustenance – for us, this means Holy Communion.

19

1829: Fr. Bertoni wrote on this date that he was able to speak more freely to Bishop Grasser [the first Bishop of Verona younger than St. Gaspar] than he was to his predecessor, Bishop Liruti. This was Easter Sunday.

1830: The Document ceding St. Teresa's to the Sisters of the Holy Family was registered today. It stressed that the Sisters had the use of the Convent, but not its ownership.

1867: Fr. Vincent Vignola wrote in the *Nuovo Messagero Tirolese* [the forerunner of the *Bertoniano*] that Fr. Lenotti had purchased the Jesuit Tangiorgia's work on Philosophy. Fr. Tabarelli had studied this author in his student days at Villazzano.

1868: Low Sunday⁹ - Fr. Marani was still sick at Villazzano.

1889: Fr. Vincent Vignola was preaching the Seven Last Words of Christ in the Church of the Stimate this Holy Thursday, when he collapsed.

20

1801: Fr. Bertoni preached on Devotion – he said that it was an error to believe that Devotion can only be achieved by a few.

1826: Laménais, once admired by Fr. Bertoni, was condemned by the Church.

1834: Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph – young John Lenotti asked his Mother's permission to enter the Congregation at the Stimate, where he had been going to school – his Father was already dead at this time.

⁹ Editor's note: the 2nd Sunday of Easter, the Divine Mercy Sunday.

- 1838:** The urn containing the relics of St. Zeno was opened in the presence of the Diocesan Commission appointed by Bishop Grasser.
- 1840:** On this date, Fr. Bertoni sent his second letter to Pope Gregory XVI, asking permission to negotiate concerning some property and books.
- 1864:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Bishop di Canossa telling him that he did not agree with Lawyer Brasca's opinion concerning the Sisters' use of the Convent of St. Teresa's, as they did not own it. The Bishop, however, had agreed with Lawyer Zoppi's defense of the Sisters. The ever candid Fr. Benciolini told the Bishop that he had consulted a Canonist, Bishop Zanelli of Treviso, and he wanted to know if he could take the Sisters to Court. Bishop di Canossa said 'No!'
- 1869:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, had been preaching a Triduum to the Students at Villazzano, and urgent business called him away to Verona. He told Andrew Sterza, soon to be ordained, to finish the Retreat for him.
- 1889:** Fr. Vincent Vignola never recovered from his attack of the day before in the pulpit, and he died this Holy Saturday.
- 1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was viewed a third time by the Diocesan Officials in the Diocesan Process of his Cause.

21

- 1817:** The tiles on the roof of the Stimate were repaired at the cost of 40 *napoleons*.
- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Lenotti concluded the three day retreat at Lugagnano and the Oratory was established there.
- 1867:** Easter Sunday was celebrated with solemnity at Villazzano.
- 1868:** Tuesday – an old friend of the Congregation visited Villazzano today, Bishop Benedict Riccabona. Villazzano was his summer residence which he loaned to the Congregation for six years for a Student House.
- 1889:** It was stated that the deaths of Fr. Anthony Conte, Fr. Vincent Vignola [the Superior General's brother] and the serious illness of Fr. Morando, hindered Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, from accepting many offers to the Congregation at this time.

22

- 1797:** The People of Verona revolted against the occupying French troops in a bloody uprising. It has been since called the *Pasqua Veronese*.
- 1805:** Fr. Bertoni preached to the youth of St. Paul's Parish and urged them to be careful of their eternal salvation in those times.
- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he, who has good will, has everything – weak resolutions are like painted hunters, or soldiers, who appear to be in act but never kill, or even wound¹⁰.
- 1834:** John Lenotti entered the Congregation on this date, arriving at the Stimate at 7:30 a.m.. The House Chronicle notes that he was a *timid rabbit*! Fr. Zara noted years later in the Chronicle, on September 5, 1875 – the day of Fr. Lenotti's death as Superior General, that the *timid rabbit* had become a *giant*.
- 1867:** This was the 33rd anniversary of Fr. Lenotti's entrance. In accord with the customs of those times, Fr. Lenotti wrote a letter to the Superior General, who was then Fr. Marani. Fr. Lenotti candidly admitted to his Superior that he was having great difficulty in obeying him. Almost every year, for ten years, one of Fr. Lenotti's resolutions at the Annual Retreat was 'to obey', 'not to contradict'. And the like.
- 1868:** The Count and the Countess Fietta, old friends, came to Villazzano, to visit the ailing Fr. Marani.

23

- 1844:** Pope Gregory XVI granted an increase of Indulgences for the **Devotion to the Five Wounds**, that could be gained on six First Fridays of the year, to be determined by the Local Ordinary.
- 1855:** Monday – it was learned at the Stimate that Bishop Riccabona had mailed the **Decree of Praise**, recently granted, from Rome to the Stimate. Fr. Marani wrote to his friend in Rome, Canon Bertinelli, to tell him of the happiness at the Stimate at the reception of this news.

¹⁰ Fr. Ceresatto, in his 'Life of the Founder', gives April 22, 1809 – cf. p. 135 for this idea – whereas CS II, p. 411,# 4, gives March 22, 1809.

24

- 1824:** This is the date of an official establishment of an Oratory at the Parish of the *Trinità*, which Fr. Bertoni had obtained for the Pastor, Fr. Peter Palamidese.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani went to Desenzano to preach to the young men of the Oratory.
- 1858:** Frs. Benciolini and Marani preached the annual retreat to the Seminarians at Vicenza.
- 1873:** On this date, Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, noted in his Spiritual Diary that he had been called to perfection but that so far he felt that he had done very little. He resolved to boast little about the Congregation and the work it was doing, unless this could serve to promote God's glory.

25

- 1856:** Fr. Ruzzenenti, who had entered the Congregation with the former Canon, Fr. Richard DaPrato, left the Congregation due to ill health.

26

- 1789:** Young Gaspar Bertoni received First Holy Communion in St. Sebastian's Church. A Marian Oratory for the public schools of Verona was established this day and went under the Patronage of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- 1907:** Fr. Melchiade Vivari died this day at the Stimate. He was eulogized in the Parma Press as: *...a holy and learned Priest ... a valiant soldier of Jesus Christ ... one of the most illustrious members of the Congregation...* During his lifetime, he had translated two books from German: the Jesuit, Fr. Biederlak, SJ, *Social Questions*; and the other Jesuit, Fr. Von Dess, *Counsels for the Young*. He also translated a book on Lourdes from the French.

27

- 1835:** Angelo Papa left the Congregation today, 'to become a Monk.'
- 1844:** Fr. Francis Ravelli, SJ, wrote from Rome to his Cousin, Fr. Bertoni, with high words of praise for Fr. Cainer, recently deceased.
- 1850:** Melchiade Vivari was born at Fai, Trent.

- 1856:** Fr. Marani and some of the Novices went to Lugagnano to erect a Pious Union to combat Blasphemy – the usual conclusion of a Mission preached by the Congregation in those years.
- 1872:** Due to his repeated attacks of apoplexy, Bishop Riccabona made it known that, for the coming summer, on doctor's orders, he would have to use his summer residence at Villazzano. Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, immersed in numerous projects at the time, had the added item of trying to find a new Student House before summer.

28

- 1811:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that the expression: ***watch and pray*** was in capsule form in all the Scriptural admonitions on the spiritual life. ***Watch*** meant to be on the alert – which was useless without weapons, and ***Prayer*** supplied these.
- 1870:** Fr. Peter Vignola had been ordered by the Superior General, Fr. Marani, to preach a Triduum for the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph, the 5th Sunday after Easter this year. At the last moment, Fr. Marani cancelled the Triduum – Fr. Vignola humbly obliged, but he found it difficult.
- 1873:** There was a meeting between the government side, represented by the Finance Official, a man by the name of Calligari, and his lawyer, Righi – and Fr. Benciolini, Fr. Rigoni, and their lawyer, Gemma, serving for Brasca. The government agreed to restore the property and also pay 5,000 Lira if Fr. Benciolini would not push for full satisfaction. Agreement was reached.
- 1898:** Fr. P. Gurisatti, Superior General, Fr. Tabarelli and the Viscount of *S. José da Pesqueira* met at the Hotel of Rome to discuss the Congregation taking over the direction of the Portuguese College in Rome, and agreement was reached.



Fr. Pio Gurisatti, the 4th Superior General
[1891 – 1911]

29

1824: The Emperor Francis I, of Augsburg, had just about concluded his two week stay in Verona. He would leave the next day.

30

1828: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her that he did not think that the plan of one Charles Pozzi for the area close to the Stimate and St. Teresa's was very practical, being so close to two Religious Houses.

1834: A Dr. Biseti came to the Stimate to bleed Fr. Bertoni. Fr. Bertoni was in some pain and this was the remedy of those times.

1841: Fr. Bragato was in the entourage of the Empress who was passing through Verona – and he spent two nights at the Stimate.

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Fr. Bertoni in different aspects of his ministry: writing his Original Constitutions, teaching the Youth, in the Marian Oratories, preaching to the people and the clergy.

MAY**1**

- 1824:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning her hope one day to purchase St. Dominic's Convent. It could not be done then, but he told her in time it could happen.
- 1828:** Mother Naudet mentioned for the first time the name she would call her Congregation: ***The [Devout] Sisters of the Holy Family.***
- 1868:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, wrote to the Holy See explaining that the Congregation could no longer ordain its members with the title *Mensa Communis*, since the confiscation of the property – but, asked if he could still ordain them, if he would make sure that they could be provided for in some decency.

2

- 1836:** Marietta Lenotti, sister of John Baptist, died today.
- 1858:** Fr. Anthony Graziani, rector of the Seminary of Vicenza, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the fine Retreat that Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti had just preached at the Seminary.
- 1870:** Fr. Marani, seriously ill in Verona, set to Villazzano for Fr. DaPrato, Novice Master, to come to see him.

3

- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni was confined to bed again, but he wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he liked very much her observations on the Holy Family. He also treated of some renovations at St. Teresa's in this letter.
- 1843:** Fr. Cainer started to offer Mass again this day, for the first time in many months.

4

- 1815:** Innocent Venturini joined the Oratory at St. Sebastian's, Verona.
- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni assisted Canon Louis Pacetti at **the historic Parish Mission preached at Sts. Firmus and Rusticus, Verona.** During this Mission, Fr. Bertoni received from God the idea of establishing a Congregation – for his work during this Mission, Fr. Bertoni would receive a Papal Honor, that of ***Apostolic Missionary.***

- 1835:** The works of the great Jesuit theologian, Fr. Francis Suarez, arrived today at the Stimate. It was the Balleoniana Edition, 23 volumes. Fr. Suarez influenced Fr. Bertoni a great deal in the compiling of his rule, begun a few years after this date.
- 1858:** On this date, Fr. Marani, Superior General, wrote to Pope Pius IX, and he sent to the Holy Father a copy of the "Life of Fr. Bertoni", written by Fr. Cajetan Giacobbe.
- 1868:** This was the date of Fr. Benciolini's appeal before the Civil Tribunal of Florence - he made it clear that he did not want both lawyers [Malenchini and Galeotti], and suggested to Fr. Rigoni that Lawyer Galeotti only be retained for consultation.
- 1871:** Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Lenotti, as Fr. Marani was near death. Fr. Bragato said that he would do his best to send some money, but that it would no longer come 'in streams', as it did before for the Students at Villazzano.

5

- 1790:** Wednesday – John Mary Marani, son of Celestine, born at 10:00 a.m., in the Parish of St. Stephen's, Verona.
- 1833:** Mother Naudet's Congregation received approval from the government – this was a condition that Fr. Bertoni had placed in granting perpetual use of St. Teresa's namely, that the Congregation be approved in 1833.
- 1873:** Great joy among the Students of the Congregation on hearing that the long legal battle to regain from the government had been won by the Congregation.
- 1877:** Fr. Vignola, Superior General, wrote to a Clara Perenzoni that the members of the Congregation were very much opposed to the sale of the House of the *Trinità*, that had belonged to its original patrimony and that there were plans for its future use.

6

- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Lenotti left to preach the annual retreat to the Seminary of Treviso. They preached four sermons a day to the Seminarians and two others daily to the young Students. The Seminarians were very attentive, and one expressed the desire to enter the Congregation.

- 1864:** Fr. Benciolini, 'always obedient to Fr. Marani', wrote to Bishop di Canossa to see if it would be all right if he appealed his case with the Sisters to the Holy See.
- 1872:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Pius IX to see if the Congregation could ordain some young men to Sacred Orders even though the Congregation still could not provide the canonical title, *Mensa Communis*.
- 1898:** A second meeting between the Viscounts of S. Jose' de Pasqueira and Frs. Lenotti and Tabarelli took place at the home of one Anthony Bras, to iron out the difficulties so that the Congregation could assume the direction of the Portuguese College in Rome.

7

- 1797:** First Tree of Liberty was planted in Piazza Brà, in Verona.
- 1835:** Fr. Santi, Vice Director of Studies at the Diocesan Seminary of Verona, gave a report on Fr. Fedelini's two years of Philosophy and 4 years of Theology there. Fr. Bertoni asked Fr. Raimondi to teach Gregorian Chant to the Students on Thursdays and Sundays.
- 1870:** Fr. DaPrato, after spending several days with Fr. Marani in Verona, left to return to the Novices at Villazzano.

8

- 1790:** John Marani was baptized in St. Stephen's Parish, Verona, three days after his birth.
- 1806:** Francis Benciolini, son of Peter, was born at 7:00 a.m.
- 1808:** Mother di Canossa opened a Convent for her Congregation at the Convent of Sts Joseph and Fidentius, Verona. Fr. Bertoni, 30 years of age, was appointed by the Bishop as their Confessor. Bishop Liruti seemed to have a great deal of confidence in Fr. Bertoni from the start.
- 1814:** Final settlement reached between Fr. Bertoni and Catherine Slavier, concerning the Bertoni family money that Fr. Bertoni's father, Louis, had left her.
- 1826:** Death of Francis Bongiovanni, a layman, Doctor of Canon and Civil Law. Fr. Bertoni had recommended his services to Mother Naudet in her letters to the Bishop.

9

- 1808:** Mother Naudet gave her first Conference to her Sisters. Mother di Canossa had appointed her Superior at Sts. Joseph and Fidentius before they parted company.
- 1865:** Papal Bull of Beatification of the Jesuit Scholastic, John Berchmans, always a favorite among the students of the Congregation.
- 1867:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, came to Villazzano for the Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph. There was a Triduum preceding the Feast preached by the Novices.
- 1887:** The new House Chapel in Parma, constructed under Fr. Dominic Vicentini's direction, was inaugurated this day.

10

- 1806:** This day was the Baptism of Francis Joseph Michaelangelo Benciolini in the Cathedral of Verona. Monsignor Maffei, Canon of the Cathedral, performed the ceremony, by permission of Monsignor Ridolfi, Vicar General.
- 1877:** A Royal Decree of this date required that teachers in the secondary schools be at least 25 years of age, have had four years of experience [six years, if the school was private], and pass a special exam. Bishop di Canossa wrote a letter to the authorities at the University of Padua, stating that at the Stimate, all civil requirements had been fulfilled. His letter was needed for the approbation of the Schools at the Stimate by the government.
- 1900:** There began in Verona the Process to prove that no external cult had ever been given Fr. Bertoni since his death.

11

- 1827:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet this day and spoke of his illness and operations that he was undergoing at this time.
- 1841:** **On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Fr. Bragato and asked him to pray for a work that he was writing so slowly and carefully [a piccole gocciole]. This was the booklet of his *Original Constitutions*].**¹¹
- 1856:** Fr. Marani preached at the Cathedral of Treviso for the Feast of Pentecost.

¹¹ Fr. Joseph Fiorio, in his *Breve Cronaca*, I, p. 64 – gives Nov. 5, 1841 as the date of this letter - but, the booklet of the *Original Constitutions*, p. 16, gives this date].

12

- 1856:** Fr. Marani again preached in the Cathedral of Treviso. The Novice, Fr. DaPrato arrived to help with Confessions.
- 1864:** Fr. Benciolini had second thoughts about writing to the Holy See and going over the head of the local Bishop. He wrote to Bishop di Canossa before receiving an answer from his previous letter, to see if a Diocesan Tribunal could be set up to handle the dispute.
- 1867:** Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph – Fr. Marani, Superior General, at Villazzano, received the First Vows of Richard Tabarelli and Bellino Carrara. The Students presented Fr. Marani with a cricket that he had lost on his return trip to 'Italy', i.e. Verona.
- 1873:** Attorney Brasca wrote to Fr. Rigoni and told him that their opponent in the case, Attorney Righi, acting for the government, was unwittingly their ally in the case before the court.

13

- 1773:** Leopoldina Naudet was born at Florence.
- 1845:** The nine Priests of the Stimmate unanimously agreed to reject the substantial sum left to them by Teresa Cartolari.
- 1863:** The second centenary of the 'Madonna of the Novitiate' at the *Trinità* – Fr. Vincent Vignola preached; the Fathers came up for dinner from the Stimmate, but Fr. Marani did not attend, as he was ill.
- 1864:** Fr. Lenotti preached on this commemoration of the 'Madonna of the Novitiate', and said it was a memorable day for them, as the Novitiate was under the protection of the Mother of God.
- 1867:** Monday – Fr. Marani left Villazzano for Verona, refreshed, as always – after his stay with the students.

14

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached on Detachment from this World – he stated that a mortified life is not a sad one; this world is not proportionate to the human heart.
- 1814:** Pope Pius VII visited Loreto; Canon Louis Pacetti spoke with him concerning Mother di Canossa; her work pleased the Holy Father very much.

15

1828: Ascension Thursday – Fr. Bertoni was able to offer Mass on this Feast.

1835: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Buseti, the Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Family, and he approved her design for the Main Altar at St. Teresa's.

1864: Pentecost Sunday – just before Pentecost, Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached a Retreat at the Seminary of Padua.

1871: Fr. Lenotti left Villazzano to visit Fr. Marani in Verona to speak about a young Novice who seemed to have nerve troubles. Fr. Marani, although dying is still governing the Congregation.

The Bishop of Parma offered the Congregation St. Mary's Church for their Marian Oratories.

1899: Fr. Bertoni's body was viewed a fourth time by the Diocesan Officials in the Diocesan Process for his Canonization.

16

1839: Fr. Gramego celebrated Mass for the last time for 10 months; he was suffering from a mouth fistula.

1856: Frs. Marani and Lenotti concluded the retreat at Treviso for the Seminarians. This was a Friday, and Fr. Marani left for Verona alone – Fr. Lenotti stayed behind to terminate the Retreat for the young Students who had had their own Retreat.

1859: The Sisters were given a 48 hour notice to vacate St. Teresa's: the Municipal Government was going to take over the Convent.

1871: Fr. Lenotti returned to Villazzano after speaking with Fr. Marani about one of the Novices.

17

1856: Frs. Marani and Benciolini started an eight day retreat for the Sisters of St. Clare in Verona; Fr. Lenotti finished his Retreat for the young Students at the Diocesan Seminary of Treviso.

1863: Frs. Benciolini and Rigoni left for Rovereto to preach a Retreat to the Madames of the Sacred Heart there.

18

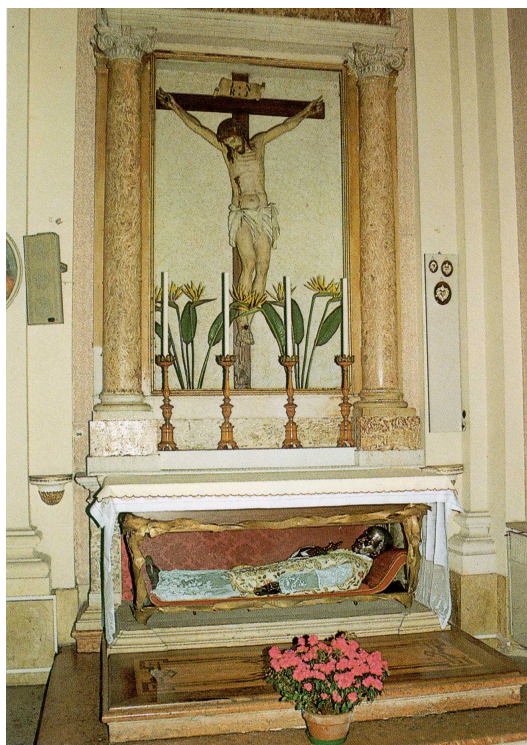
1810: Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that it really costs nothing to be devoted to Mary. It is up to us to purify ourselves so that her mediation in our behalf will meet no obstacle.

1835: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Bishop Grasser to tell him that the Capuchin on penance had made his 30 day Retreat very well.

1846: the Will of the Benciolini family is settled – Fr. Francis received 12,600 Lira as his share; his sister Teresa had already died.

1899: Fr. Bertoni's body was sealed in the Epistle side¹² of the old Oratory in the Stimate with this inscription:

**The Remains of the Servant of God, Gaspar Bertoni, Priest,
Founder, Legislator of the Congregation of the Priests of the
Sacred Stigmata.**



The body of Fr. Bertoni in the
Church of the Stimate in
Verona.

¹² Translator's note: In the pre-Vatican II years, the Epistle of each Mass was read on **the Epistle Side of the Gospel** -looking at the altar from the pews, **this would mean the right hand side of the altar**.

At a certain point, the altar boy after the Epistle would **change the Missal to the left side of the altar, called the 'Gospel' side from where the Gospel was read** - and the homily would follow from the top of the altar steps by the celebrant. That all changed with Vatican II and the addition of the pulpit, or stand, where the readings are now delivered.



The Church of the Stigmati in Verona. Fr. Bertoni's body is at the Epistle (right) side, at the back.

19

- 1836:** Fr. Cainer was able to offer Mass again today – he and Fr. Bertoni had long sieges of illnesses at the same time.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote a letter to Fr. Vincent Vignola, Director of the Student House at Villazzano, and urged all there to have the apostolic spirit of Frs. Bertoni, Marani, Gramego, Cartolari and DaPrato – now all deceased.
- 1891:** A special *Accademia* was held at the Stigmati in honor of Cardinal di Canossa for his 90th birthday, but the old Cardinal was unable to come.
- 1903:** Louis Marchesini, nephew of the deceased Fr. Joseph Marchesini, went to Tregnago with a sealed box which he opened in the presence of the Notary Ghirardini. This held the papers of his uncle that the young Marchesini claimed would prove that his uncle had made him the heir and not Fr. Stephen Rosa.

20

- 1871:** Fr. DaPrato at Fr. Marani's bed-side wrote to the Community at Villazzano, asking for prayers to the Holy Spouses that Fr. Marani might be spared from so much suffering.
- 1872:** Attorney Brasca wrote to Fr. Rigoni and stated that he hoped Fr. Marani was praying for them in heaven as his **Cenni** ['Remarks on the early History of the Congregation'] in the hands of the government lawyers would prove, at least in his mind, that the Congregation was indeed a duly constituted religious body - and hence, the Law of Suppression was rightly applied by the government in the confiscation of the community's property.
- 1873:** Attorney Brasca, now that the case had been decided in favor of the Congregation, wrote to Fr. Rigoni to say good-by. He mentioned that he hoped that Fr. DaPrato was in heaven as this long case had so saddened him, and that he did not live to see its happy conclusion.
- 1903:** The Notary Burzie in Verona published Fr. Marchesini's will that made Fr. Rosa the legal heir. A long court case developed from this will.
- 1905:** The newly constructed theater in Trent was inaugurated this day. Frequently plays would be put on in this theater as part of the activity of the Oratory.

21

- 1830:** The Oratory at the Stimmat became an aggregate of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart in Rome, with all its indulgences.
- 1858:** Frs. Marani, Vignola and Rigoni returned to Fossolovara where they had preached a Mission, to establish a Pious Union to combat Blasphemy.
- 1860:** Fr. Venturini received permission on this date to celebrate the same Votive Mass daily in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, due to his failing eye-sight.
- 1864:** Bishop di Canossa answered Fr. Benciolini's many letters and told him that there would be no Diocesan tribunal to settle his dispute with the Sisters over their use of the Convent of St. Teresa's, and that he would have to send his plea to the Holy See.

22

- 1827:** Fr. Bertoni filled in the government questionnaire on the School at the Stimmat – the statistics were: 33 in elementary school; 78 in high school – there were four classes of Grammar, and two of the Humanities.

1829: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Bishop Grasser's visit was delayed; Fr. Bertoni recommended to her the book by the Dominican, Fr. Anfessi, in defense of Pius VI's Bull.

1898: The newly constructed Church at San Bernardino Vecchio in Trent was opened to the public and dedicated to the Holy Espousals.

23

1863: The Sisters of the Holy Family, with their lawyer, Canon Cedegnola, drew up a new agreement with the government concerning the rent to be paid to them for the use of St. Teresa's. Fr. Benciolini thought this contract very illegal, as they were not the legal owners of this Convent – he was!!!

1903: Louis Marchesini filed papers to contest the will of his Uncle, Fr. Joseph Marchesini, who had made Fr. Stephen Rosa his heir.

24

1814: Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet stating that his illnesses had him back in bed again. On this same day, Pius VII entered Rome in triumph – he had endured a harsh and humiliating imprisonment by Napoleon.

1819: Fr. Fusari of the Oratory of St. Philip wrote to Mother Naudet and he told her that he was doing his best to persuade his friend, Fr. Bertoni, to continue as her Confessor.

25

1833: Fr. Venturini received Faculties to hear the Confessions of both men and women.

1856: Frs. Marani and Benciolini concluded the Retreat for the Clarissan Nuns in Verona on this Sunday. After the Retreat, Fr. Marani went to Vicenza to the DeLorenzi Organ Company to purchase an organ for the Stimmate.

1858: Fr. Marani and Fr. Vignola went to Padua to arrange with the Bishop for a Mission at the Cathedral. They stayed overnight and returned the next day to Verona.

1900: The examination of witnesses began in Verona in the Diocesan Process of Fr. Bertoni's Cause to establish the fact that no external cult had been shown to him.

26

- 1807:** On this date, there was a Decree from Napoleon prohibiting Marian Oratories, Confraternities, Congregations, and the building of Churches.
- 1816:** Canon Louis Pacetti and Fr. Bertoni concluded the historic Mission at Sts. Firmus and Rusticus that began on May 4th. During this Mission, Fr. Bertoni received the idea of establishing a Congregation.

27

- 1827:** Bishop Liruti conferred Tonsure and the four Minor Orders on Charles Fedelini. On this same day, Mark Bassi was born in Verona.
- 1844:** The Diocesan Decree granting a Plenary Indulgence for Devotions to the Five Wounds for the First Fridays of January, March, May, July, September and November [the odd numbered months]. This was the response from the Holy See of April 23, 1844, which left the six months of the year up to the Diocese to specify.
- 1873:** With the long legal battle for the restoration of the confiscated property now out of the way, Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, could now turn his attention to other matters for the Congregation. He decided to finish construction on the Church of *Santa Maria del Giglio*.

28

- 1840:** Fr. Odescalchi, SJ, the former Cardinal Vicar of the Holy Father, wrote to an old friend, Cardinal Patrizi, and in the course of this letter, Fr. Odescalchi refers to Fr. Bertoni as 'an excellent priest.'
- 1865:** The ceremony of Beatification of John Berchmans, Jesuit Scholastic, took place in Rome today. Anthony Caucigh began to read his biography.
- 1871:** This date marks the last entry in Fr. Lenotti's House Chronicle. He was appointed Chronicler at the death of Fr. Bertoni, and for these 18 years he gave a most exact account of the Congregation and its varied Ministries: Parish Missions, Retreats and other ministries of the Word of God, catechetics, work among seminarians and Religious and youth work. Fr. Lenotti noted the good days and the bad endured through all these years.

29

- 1841:** James Campedelli, third Aspirant from Lughezzano, was sent to the Stimate by a Fr. **Zampieri**, Pastor there.

1844: Fr. Mark Cavanis celebrated Mass at the Stimate today – he and his brother, also a Priest, were of the nobility, and had founded Schools of Charity at Venice. They were much admired by Fr. Bertoni.

1898: The Diocesan Tribunal in the Process of Fr. Bertoni's Cause of Canonization began its seven month Sessions today.

30

1812: Fr. Bertoni left a rather lengthy account of an experience he had praying before Mass today. He said that the Crucifix seemed to be indicating that he should reflect on the Heart of Christ.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, sent Fr. Rigoni to Rome to see Fr. Alfieri, to look into the possibility of obtaining a Foreign Mission for the Congregation.

1885: Fr. Octavian Piccoli was ordained a Priest today, in Verona.

31

1828: Bishop Buoizzi in the Cathedral of Mantua ordained Innocent Venturini a Deacon.

1854: Fr. Marani went to Bolzano to see Bishop-Elect Benedict Riccabona before his departure for Rome. He left with the Bishop-Elect a copy of Fr. Bertoni's *Original Constitutions*.¹³

1872: The government lawyers presented an array of 17 documents to 'prove' that Fr. Bertoni was never the rightful owner of the Pious Places, and therefore, he could not have left them legally to Fr. Benciolini.

1874: Construction was finished this day at the Church of *Santa Maria del Giglio*, begun during Fr. Marani's administration.

1875: Fr. Rigoni stopped off in Florence on his way to Rome to see some old friends he had made during the time he spent there in the legal battles to keep the property of the Congregation.

†

†††

†

¹³ The *Breve Cronaca*, I, p. 88 places this as 'the last day of March 1854.' However, the CS II, p. 30, lists May 31st, 1854 the date of this important meeting.

JUNE**1**

1785: Fr. James Bertoni died – he was the brother of Gaspar Bertoni [Sr.] - the Grandfather of St. Gaspar Bertoni.

1796: French troops enter Verona.

1814: In his letter this day, Fr. Bertoni seems to express a much broader view for the education of women than did many of his contemporaries: he also offers some views on class-room procedures and concludes with the thought that suffering is the best school.

1875: Attorney Brasca wrote again to Fr. Rigoni and told him the long ordeal in the Courts that had just been concluded was one of the most difficult cases that he had ever handled and one that had a better solution than most cases he had handled.

2

1831: Feast of Corpus Christi – Louis Zozza entered the Congregation: he was described as a ‘man of good will.’

1835: Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani began a retreat for 20 young men about to receive Holy Orders. One of them, a young man by the name of Sartori, made his retreat privately, under Fr. Brugnoli.

3

1826: Francis Bongiovanni, a Doctor of the Law, had not settled the difficulties with Fr. Galvani’s heirs. In the meantime, he had passed away about one month earlier. Fr. Bertoni then asked Fr. Guerrieri’s¹⁴ help as he was most learned. Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that he could not cede St. Teresa’s Convent to her until he himself legally owned it.

1871: Andrew Sterza and Michael Lanaro were ordained Priests.

1875: Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, on this first Thursday of the month, preached a day of recollection to the Diocesan Seminarians of Verona in the place of Fr. Maestrelli, recently deceased.

¹⁴ This Dominican is often noted in Fr. Bertoni’s *Epistolario*.

4

- 1814:** Ember Saturday¹⁵ – Bishop Liruti ordained John Mary Marani a Priest. On this same day, Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he was confined to bed.
- 1829:** Fr. Guerrieri was of the opinion that Fr. Bertoni should cede the Convent of St. Teresa's to Mother Naudet for as long as her Congregation lasts.
- 1836:** Fr. Bertoni thanked Fr. Bragato for having the 'Holy Prince', i.e., Prince d'Hohenlohe, or Alexander Leopold Francis **Emmerick** – pray for him.
- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Benciolini went to Montorio to preach a Mission. When it was over, they traveled through many little villages of Valle di Tregnago for a number of Missions.
- 1864:** This date marked the 50th anniversary of Fr. Marani's ordination. A painting was made of him that is still retained.

5

- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Law of the Gospel – it is the richest state of all and promises eternal happiness.
- 1814:** Trinity Sunday – Fr. Marani, ordained the day before, celebrated his First Mass in St. Paul's Parish. Fr. Bertoni was ill so could not attend. He wrote to Mother Naudet and offered her suggestions on how to write to the Pope. He advised her to keep copies of her correspondence on file.
- 1867:** Fr. Lenotti preached at the Seminary of Trent on the occasion of establishing there a Congregation of Prayer to the Sacred Heart for the Priests of the Diocese.
- 1875:** Fr. Alfieri arranged two audiences with the Holy Father, Pius IX, for Fr. Rigoni, one private and one public.
- 1896:** The corner-stone of the new Church of St. Bernadine Vecchio, Trent, was blessed.

¹⁵ Ember days (corruption from Latin *Quatuor Tempora*, four times) are the days at the beginning of the seasons ordered by the Church as days of fast and abstinence. They were definitely arranged and prescribed for the entire Church by Pope Gregory VII (1073-1085) for the Wednesday, Friday and Saturday of the same week, in conjunction with the four seasons of the year. The Fall *Tempora* (in the North hemisphere) occurs after September 14th (Exaltation of the Holy Cross); on Winter, after December 13th (St. Lucy); on Spring, after Ash Wednesday; and, on Summer, after Whitsunday (Pentecost Sunday).

6

- 1815:** French troops under Napoleon, moved north, toward Belgium
- 1817:** Bishop Liruti granted broader faculties for the Priests at the Stimate that Fr. Bertoni had requested.
- 1860:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti preached a Retreat to the Daughters of Mary.

7

- 1800:** This was the original date for Fr. Bertoni's Ordination – it was postponed, as Bishop Avogadro was prevented from coming.
- 1867:** Bishop Riccabona took part in the closing ceremony at the Seminary of Trent of the erection of a Congregation of Prayer for the Priests of his Diocese that had been preached by Fr. Lenotti.
- 1837:** Bartholomew Perrazzani and Bellino Carrara were ordained Priests this day.

8

- 1800:** Gaspar Bertoni, a Deacon, preached his first sermon in his home Parish of St. Paul's and he spoke on 'Humility'. It is a virtue needed by saint and sinner alike – it is practiced eminently by St. Aloysius Gonzaga.
- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he was feeling better but was still unable to offer Mass.
- 1846:** Fr. Lenotti seemed to have some fear of preaching – Fr. Bertoni suggested three simple rules for him: just before going out to preach, remain quiet, without studying; while preaching, try to imagine that it is God Who listens; rest a while after preaching, to regarding your strength and reflect on what you have preached to others. [In these days, sermons were sometimes about 45 minutes long, as a matter of routine – Fr. Bertoni often noted after the title of his text how many minutes it took to deliver his sermons].
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Rigoni, Procurator General, who was in Rome, to tell him that he was most pleased that Cardinal Franchi [Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the faith] had seen him and that they had discussed a possible mission field for the Congregation.

9

- 1814:** Feast of *Corpus Christi* - Fr. Bertoni left his home [that of Joseph and his Aunt Rosa Ravelli Scudellini] to offer Mass.
- 1826:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her of his happiness regarding the Rescript that the Sisters had received from Rome that granted a Plenary Indulgence on Entrance and Profession Days.
- 1829:** Francis Solari entered 'one month after the departure of Louis DalForno', the House Chronicle notes.
- 1846:** Then 'Way of the Cross' was erected in the Church of the Stimmate.
- 1874:** The little Church of *Santa Maria del Giglio* opened its doors to the public this day. An old diary left by the then Cleric, Joseph Zandonai, called it 'magnificent.'
- 1891:** Fr. Anthony OssBals who had endeared himself to the people in and around the Church of San Martino, Trent, died this day. His place was taken by the ailing Fr. Peter Beltrami.
- 1896:** On this date, Fr. Tabarelli signed an agreement with the Confraternity of the Crucified, which ceded the use of the Church and the adjoining house of San Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome to the Congregation. It required that the Congregation should take care of the Church and the House and their up-keep, and the Confraternity would retain the rights to the Church for certain of its special Feasts.

10

- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he had received a copy of Corneille's *Tragedies*. He stated that he was waiting for Certicelli's Italian Grammar.
- 1836:** The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus – Fr. Bertoni said Mass for the first time in many months. Fr. Marani celebrated at St. Sebastian's in fulfillment of a Novena that had been suggested to him by the holy Prince d'Hohenlohe.
- 1903:** The Court of Appeals heard the case of Louis Marchesini vs. Stephen Rosa concerning the will of the late Fr. Joseph Marchesini.

11

- 1797:** Sunday – Bishop Avogadro conferred the last two Minor Orders, Exorcist and Acolyte, on Gaspar Bertoni.
- 1801:** Charles Pacificus Fedellini, son of Peter, was born at 9:00 a.m., and was baptized this same day.
- 1851:** Fr. Bertoni dictated a letter to Bishop Mutti, which Fr. Lenotti wrote – the Bishop had sent Father Bertoni a book on Religion for his perusal and, in this letter, Fr. Bertoni offered his critique of it.
- 1856:** Sunday – Frs. Marani and Benciolini began a Retreat for young girls at St. Anastasia's. At its conclusion, they gave a two day retreat to the young girls at the Canossian Sisters, at San Zeno. Fr. Benciolini noted in his Spiritual Diary the practice of St. Paul of the Cross of praying to the Guardian Angel before preaching.
- 1866:** Bro. Paul Zanoli, the first Brother of the Congregation, died at the *Trinità* on this day, 'at the hour of sunset and without fear.'
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, sent precise instructions to Fr. Rigoni, who was in Rome to speak with Cardinal Franchi, the Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith. Fr. Rigoni was instructed to ask the Cardinal the following: [1] what studies future Missionaries should take up, and could they study in Verona, or would they have to go to Rome; [2] who would bear the expenses of their trips; [3] what dependence would be expected of them toward the Sacred Congregation, and in what would they be subject to the Superiors of their own Congregation in Verona.

12

- 1819:** Bishop Liruti extended for two more years the faculties that he had previously granted the Priests at the Stimate.
- 1826:** A Dr. Philip Marai noted that he had been treating Fr. Francis Benciolini for shortness of breath caused by an inflammation of the thorax.
- 1842:** Fr. Cainer celebrated Mass this day, but not again for two months.
- 1846:** Bishop Mutti made a Pastoral Visitation at the Stimate, and found everything satisfactory.
- 1853:** A number of Priests at the Stimate went out to teach the *Fourth Class* [Catechism] in the parishes of Verona this Sunday afternoon. Fr. Marani

had been attending the dying Fr. Bertoni and then handed the Ritual and stole to Fr. Brugnoli - after conferring the Last Sacraments. He then started out for St. Luke's Parish, where he was to teach. Then he decided to come back to Fr. Bertoni and sent word to the Pastor of St. Luke's - when he re-entered Fr. Bertoni's room, he made the responses to the prayers 'for a departing soul' offered by Fr. Brugnoli. Shortly, Fr. Brugnoli turned to Fr. Marani, and said: **'Don't you see that Fr. Gaspar is dead?'** Fr. Gramego came into the room and looked at the still form of Fr. Bertoni, and was recorded as saying: **It is now my turn to follow him soon.** [He died six weeks later].



The dying Fr. Bertoni, with his confreres.
The Crucifix was the only ornament of his room ever.

- 1854:** A letter arrived at the Stimate from Fr. Bragato urging Fr. Marani to hasten to Rome and visit Bishop Riccabona there.
- 1855:** Fr. Raimondi, SJ, former member of the Stimate, died on Fr. Bertoni's second anniversary.
- 1864:** The Golden Jubilee of Fr. Marani's Ordination observed this day - Fr. Bragato came and assisted at the Solemn Mass. Maestro Gagliardi

composed and conducted the music at the evening *Accademia*. Count Fietta and his wife, the Countess, commissioned a portrait of Fr. Marani – the Countess also presented Fr. Marani with a reliquary of St. Rose of Viterbo.

- 1873:** The feast of *Corpus Christi* solemnly observed by the Students at Sale di Povo. A Solemn Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart was made in honor of the long legal battle just ended for the return of the property that had been confiscated by the government.
- 1875:** Fr. Rigoni took part in a public audience granted by Pius IX and got close enough to kiss the Pontiff's feet – he had the rosaries blessed, as Fr. Lenotti had requested.
- 1890:** Monsignor Battandier, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, made some important observations concerning the Constitutions and the Congregation. It was he who pointed out that the Congregation had no right to confer the title *Apostolic Missionary*, as this title was the prerogative of the Holy See.
- 1903:** The Court in Verona ruled that Louis Marchesini had no valid case against Fr. Stephen Rosa - Marchesini appealed the case to a higher court, still claiming that he was the rightful heir.

13

- 1829:** Bishop Grasser ordained Louis Biadego a Deacon in the Cathedral of Verona this Ember Saturday.¹⁶
- 1848:** Fr. Benciolini and Fr. Venturini were released from house arrest in the Seminary after nine days, due to the intervention of Marshall Radetski.
- 1853:** Fr. Marani, Director of the Oratory, gave a talk to the Sisters of the Holy Family on the passing of Fr. Bertoni - he frequently broke down during his talk. Fr. Fedelini, who had left the Congregation, wrote to Fr. Marani on this day, and asked if he could one day return to the Congregation.
- 1899:** Lady Giacomina Guicciardi Simonetti left the 'Guicciardi Palace' in Gemona to the Congregation in the person of Fr. James Marini, for use as a school and Oratory. In the beginning, two Priests took care of Gemona, coming from the community in Udine.

¹⁶ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

14

- 1819:** Fr. Bragato left the Congregation on this date, due to a chest ailment. He re-entered the Congregation on October 30, 1828 – and died as one of its most illustrious members, on October 12, 1874.
- 1854:** Fr. Bragato arrived too late for Fr. Bertoni's funeral.
- 1858:** Fr. Marani was ill at this time – most of the Fathers were out preaching extensively through the mountains: in Ghiaccia, Compofontana, San Bartolemeo, Belca, Castelnuovo, Vestena Vecchia and Nuova, preparing these parishes for the Bishop's impending Visitation.
- 1861:** Pius IX answered Fr. Marani's petition in the affirmative, allowing the members of the Congregation to be ordained with the canonical title *mensa communis*.
- 1867:** Fr. Rigoni was in Florence and he wrote on this date, saying that the difficulties with St. Teresa's will soon be over – by the following August, this would prove to be an illusion!

15

- 1821:** Fr. Galvani gave the Stimmate an annual endowment of 100 Lira, and asked permission from the government that it be opened for public worship. He was the legal owner.
- 1845:** The government of Lombard-Veneto approved Fr. Charles Fedelini for the Chair of Moral Theology in the Diocesan Seminary.
- 1882:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, convoked a meeting of the General Council, and the ***Graduati Fathers*** – i.e., those Priests who had been raised to the title of ***Apostolic Missionary*** - to discuss Fr. Morando's proposal concerning Bassano. Five Priests were needed for the ever-expanding work there.
- 1891:** About this time, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, who was sent to Rome to care for the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti on a temporary basis, returned to Verona, and his place in Rome was taken by Fr. Louis Morando.

16

- 1809:** Fr. Bertoni noted in his Spiritual Diary that he, as a 'soldier', had to place himself on the field of combat every morning – he proposed to disavow his own will and of trying to do all things as God's Will.

- 1832:** Bishop Grasser ordained Charles Fedelini a Sub-Deacon.
- 1865:** Bro. Horace Negro, at the Stimate a mere six years, died this day at the young age of only 34. He was described as a man of great humility, wisdom and prayer – his death deeply grieved the ageing Superior General, Fr. Marani.
- 1869:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni who had gone to Milan to consult a lawyer concerning the property. He told Fr. Rigoni ‘to explain the case well to the lawyer’. He said that both he and Fr. Bassi were grateful to Fr. Rigoni for his two letters.
- 1875:** At 8:45 p.m., Fr. Rigoni was ushered into the presence of Pope Pius IX for a Private Audience with him. The Audience lasted one half hour. Fr. Rigoni wrote exuberantly that the Holy Father was a ‘Miracle of a Pope’. As soon as he returned to his lodging in Rome this night, he wrote immediately to Fr. Lenotti. Fr. Rigoni received the following from the Holy Father: permission for the Blessed Sacrament in Trent; the commemoration of the day of the Espousals was raised to a Double of the 2nd Class, with an Octave – and the Pope promised his personal assistance to the Congregation in its efforts to obtain Papal Approbation.

17

- 1807:** One of Napoleon’s edicts further explaining the ban of Oratories was signed this date by an agent named Guicciardi.
- 1812:** Louis Ferrari was born at Lughezzano, son of James; he would one day be a Brother in our Congregation, and a confidant of Fr. Marani, Superior General.
- 1853:** Fr. Lenotti did not preach at the regular Friday devotions at the Stimate – perhaps Fr. Marani preached – he had the reputation of being able to preach without formal preparation, with the same effect as ‘one who had studied.’
- 1857:** Fr. Marani went to Stra to take Fr. Bragato’s place at the Imperial Court. Fr. Bragato went to Bologna to obtain two favors from the Pope: that the members of the Congregation might be able to give the papal Blessing at the close of their Parish Missions, Retreats; that they might be able to bless Rosaries and the like with special indulgences – and also the favor that the members of the Congregation might say Mass one hour before dawn, if there was a good reason.

- 1872:** The Students left the summer home of Bishop Riccabona at Villazzano which had been the Student House for the past six years – and they moved to nearby Sale' di Povo. The Student House stayed here then two years.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, was appointed extraordinary Confessor to a group of Religious.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Rome and told him that the Confreres at the Stimate were most anxious to hear about Fr. Rigoni's private audience with the Pope the day before.

18

- 1815:** Waterloo, Belgium – the battle raged for nine hours, 50,000 men either killed, or wounded – the Duke of Wellington – [Gen. Arthur Wellesley] defeated Napoleon and sent his Victory Dispatch from Waterloo, and history recorded it as the 'Battle of Waterloo'.
- 1839:** Louis Ferrari and Francis Stevanoni, both 27, entered the Congregation on this date to be Brothers.
- 1852:** Canonical Erection of the Congregation of the Sisters called 'The Handmaids of Charity of Mary Crucified of Rose', from Brescia.
- 1853:** In the paper *Collettore dell'Adidge*, Fr. Fedelini authored a eulogy of Fr. Bertoni – he wrote: 'we have lost a treasure.' Fr. Fedelini had not as yet re-entered the Congregation.
- 1875:** Fr. Rigoni wrote again from Rome concerning his Audience with Pius IX. In the exchange of letters between Frs. Lenotti and Rigoni, great emphasis was given to the fact that the Audience took place on the Pope's 29th anniversary of his Election as Pope, and the 2nd centenary of the Apparitions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. In answering these letters, Fr. Lenotti told Fr. Rigoni to pray to some saint that he [Fr. Lenotti] might be relieved of his terrible headaches.
- 1891:** A Triduum was preached at the Stimate and at Pavia in honor of St. Aloysius. Fr. Bertapelle preached to the 500 members of the Oratory at Pavia and sent a letter to Rome that was on display for many years in the Saint's room there.

19

- 1834:** Fr. Oberrauch wrote to Fr. Rosmini and told him that Fr. Bertoni's advice to Fr. Rosmini concerning his acceptance of the Parish at Rovereto was most wise and founded on good reasons.
- 1866:** Fr. Lenotti preached at S. Nicola in Verona at the Devotions in honor of St. Joseph, as was done each month on the 19th, and he told his listeners how much he enjoyed preaching the entire month there.

20

- 1802:** Sunday – the actual date of the beginning of the Marian Oratory established in St. Paul's Parish by young Fr. Bertoni. This Oratory became the exemplar for so many other such organizations in the Diocese of Verona.
- 1833:** The first casting of the bells for the Stimate was done this day - they were to be 'as perfect as those at the *Trinità*. Fr. Cainer's Memories [a Chronicle of events in the Church of the Stimate] began this day.
- 1854:** A civil Decree bore this date, that permitted Fr. Bertoni's body to be returned to the Stimate for interment.
- 1867:** Feast of *Corpus Christi* - Fr. Marani left Verona for Villazzano, to celebrate the Feast there with the Students; Fr. Lenotti gave a brilliant discourse.

In Verona on this day, a sacrilege was committed against the Blessed Sacrament, that seemed to portend an unhappy time for the Church in Verona. As the procession went through the Piazza dei Signori, it was broken up by a band of ruffians, and the Blessed Sacrament was locked in a nearby Church.

- 1883:** Fr. Charles Zara, faithful Chronicler of the Congregation, died today – on this same date, Fr. Carrara left the Congregation to join the Jesuits in Trent.

21

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached on this Feast of St. Aloysius, one of his special Patrons. He spoke on the Saint's love for neighbor – our advantage with God increases in proportion to our love for our neighbor.
- 1821:** Bishop Liruti extended for another two years the faculties of the Fathers at the Stimate. These were special faculties he granted in deference of Fr. Bertoni.

- 1834:** Special services were held at the Stimate in honor of St. Aloysius – it was a special service for men that began at 9:45 a.m., with a review of the Saint's life; at 10:15, the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, and a sermon by Fr. Bragato; at 5:00 p.m., a lesson from the Saint's life and Solemn Vespers, conducted by Fr. Lenotti.
- 1840:** Fr. Odescalchi, SJ [retired Cardinal] wrote to Monsignor Anton Mary Traversi – close friend of Pope Gregory XVI - and told him of Fr. Bertoni's 'devoted affection' for the Holy See.
- 1846:** Louis Morando was born.
- 1862:** Fr. Bragato celebrated his 'Name Day' at the Stimate by assisting at the Profession of a young man also celebrating his 'Name Day', Louis Morando.
- 1863:** Fr. Bragato again this celebrated his 'Name day' at the Stimate, by vesting two young students – Lawrence Pizzini and Bartholomew Perazzani. Fr. Marani was too ill to conduct the service.
- 1865:** Lawrence Pizzini and Bartholomew Perazzani completed their two year Novitiate and pronounced their First Vows.
- 1872:** Melchiade Vivari was ordained a Priest.
- 1873:** The Civil Court of Verona was informed officially that the government and Fr. Benciolini had worked out an agreement – thus, ending the long case concerning the confiscated property.
- 1891:** The 3rd Centenary of the death of St. Aloysius Gonzaga was celebrated throughout Verona – Fr. Morando wrote a short life of the saint that was published.
- 1905:** Fr. Fantozzi supervised renovations at the Stimate to house the endeavor of the Laborers' Patronage [*Patronato Operaio*] – consisting of a Boarding House, instructions and training established for Workers in Verona.

22

- 1816:** Fr. Gramego received Diocesan Faculties for men's Confessions only.
- 1833:** Some flaws were noted in the bells for the steeple of the Stimate.

23

- 1809:** It seems that Fr. Bertoni was thinking seriously these days about a future Congregation, as he wrote in his Spiritual Diary on this date, that there was needed almost heroic virtue for such an undertaking.
- 1854:** Friday – at 12:35 p.m. – Fr. Marani, Superior General, and Bro. Louis Ferrari left for Rome from Bologna – ‘350 miles in 54 hours!’

24

- 1816:** Louis Gagliardi was born – he composed and directed in later life the music for the Canonical Erection of the Congregation [held September 30, 1855] – and also for Fr. Marani’s Golden Jubilee celebrations [June 12, 1864]. He composed ***Su, Fratelli*** [Onward, Brothers!] that was sung also at Fr. Benciolini’s Golden Jubilee [September 19, 1879].
- 1834:** Fr. Cainer went to St. John’s in Valle to offer Mass – he left the House at 7:00 a.m. to avoid the confusion in the streets, customary for the streets of Verona for the Feast of St. John the Baptist.
- 1853:** Fr. Lenotti resumed his regular Friday preaching assignment at the Stimate – he was also made the Chronicler of the Congregation, which task he faithfully fulfilled [the source of much of the material for this ***Stigmatine Calendar***] until shortly before his Election as Superior General [July 1871].
- 1866:** A very bloody battle of Custoza was fought this day at the gates of Verona – all Religious Communities called upon to help with the wounded. Austria claimed victory over the Italian fleet.
- 1867:** Bishop di Canossa issued a strong protest against the sacrilege committed in the Piazza dei Signori a few days earlier on the attack on the Procession honoring the Blessed Sacrament. He also issued new restrictions for external manifestations of the faith for the future.
- 1872:** Pius IX, in response to Fr. Lenotti’s request of the previous May 6th, answered that the Congregation could ordain its members in the future even without the title of *Mensa Communis* [as the Congregation had been exiled from its property] – as long as the new Clerics would have some means of their own independent support.

25

- 1847:** Fr. Lenotti preached on the only true contentment this world can offer is to those who serve God – worldly people have a life-long *Mardi Gras*, followed by an eternal Lent!
- 1848:** Pius IX issued two Decrees: ***Romani Pontifices*** and ***Regulari Disciplinae***, which treated specifically of the steps one would take in the religious life. These steps were not clearly delineated in Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions***, that he was writing during these years.
- 1883:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, expressed sincere sorrow hearing of Fr. Zara's death – and some bitterness at Fr. Carrara's departure [for the Jesuits].
- 1900:** The Diocesan Tribunal in Verona concluded its examination that established the fact that no external cult had been shown to Fr. Bertoni since his death – which otherwise would have been an impediment to his Canonization.

26

- 1813:** This date marks the last recorded entry in Fr. Bertoni's Diary that has come down to us.¹⁷
- 1841:** Fr. Bragato, in the Imperial entourage, made a brief half hour visit to the Stimate.
- 1861:** Bishop Riccabona took over the See of Trent on the Feast of the Patron, Saint Virgilius, in ceremonies at the Cathedral dedicated to this Saint in Trent.

27

- 1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on St. Aloysius Love for God – a lover becomes like his beloved; the soul becomes more unto God's image the more it loves.
- 1841:** Fr. Bragato and the Imperial party left for Vienna at 8:00 a.m.

¹⁷ There is a slight discrepancy here: Fr. John Ceresatto has on p. 131 of his *Life of the Founder*, that his *Spiritual Diary* covers from July 1, 1808-June 26, 1813 – then on p. 184, he states that **June 28, 1813** is the last note in the Diary – most likely, a printing mistake.

28

- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni cautioned Leopoldina Naudet on this date against joining with some Sisters of now defunct Congregations, as each of them would be imbued with the spirit of her own Foundress, which would make union difficult.
- 1854:** Fr. Marani and Bro. Louis Ferrari arrived in Rome on the Vigil of St. Peter: they took up lodging with a Canon Bertinelli.
- 1858:** Pius IX wrote to Fr. Marani – he thanked him for the receipt of the Biography of Fr. Bertoni [written by Fr. Giaccobbe]. He also expressed happiness on learning that ‘his’ Little Flock - our Congregation – had grown somewhat – the Pope sent his Apostolic Blessing to Fr. Marani and the Congregation.

29

- 1824:** John Baptist Bandoria came to the Congregation as a candidate for the Brotherhood to help Bro. Zanoli in the ‘sea of work’ in which he was then immersed.
- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet concerning a passage between the Stimate and St. Teresa’s, which he wanted closed off.
- 1846:** Fr. Cartolari became ‘painfully ill.’
- 1854:** Fr. Marani and Bro. Ferrari saw Pius IX at a Papal Mass on the Feast of St. Peter – they wrote that the scene was so magnificent that they could not express it.
- 1883:** This day was celebrated the ‘Name Day’ of Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General – the new kitchen and refectory at the Stimate was used for the first time.
- 1908:** Pope Pius X issued an Apostolic Constitution which revamped the offices of the Holy See. The Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars was split, and became the Sacred Congregation of Religious.

The Capitular Commission elected by the 17th General Chapter [September 18, 1906] was working on the Constitutions to bring them into accord with the *Norms* issued by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars – issued in 1901]. The Commission suspended its activity for the time being, until the competency of the Sacred Congregation of Religious was more determined.

30

1817: A long stairway for the Stimate was contracted for with a builder named Maceta.

1857: Pius IX, in his own hand, signed Fr. Marani's request presented to him at Bologna, on the 17th of June 1857.

1860: Fr. Charles Fedelini died at 9:00a.m., on this day dedicated to Mary. It was noted that he had been most devoted to her throughout his life.

1891: At the end of June, Fr. John Baptist Tomasi joined the Community of the Congregation in Rome to prepare himself for the Doctorate in Theology.

†

†††

†

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 of 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 *Trinità*. 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 from 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.



Fr. John Baptist Lenotti, the 2nd Superior
General [1871 – 1875]

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 Prepotischis, 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 Stimmatine 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 Stimmate – 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 *Trinità* 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 Zanolli 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, and Bro. Cesare Bonfanti there.

12

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

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

1866: The Jesuits leave the *Trinità* 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 Transferral 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 e 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 Stimmate. [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.¹⁸

1835: Fr. Bragato's first letter back to the Stimmate 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 Lissa 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.

¹⁸ The *Epistolario* [p. 287] gives this July 20, 1833 as the date – the *Breve Cronaca*, I, [p. 45] gives October 20, 1833.

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.

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 most 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 Congregation.¹⁹
- 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.²⁰
- 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

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ 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.

- 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 Dalla 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 *Trinità* 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.²¹
- 1860:** A Month's Mind Mass was celebrated for Fr. Charles Fedelini at the Stimate – Fr. Giacobbe eulogized him as 'the never-to-be-forgotten Director of the Oratory'.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti returned to Verona from Villazzano after four day's vacation there with the Students.
- 1883:** John Baptist Zaupa was born at Chiampo, near Vicenza.

30

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

31

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

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²¹ **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.

AUGUST**1**

- 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. Gramego.
- 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, Vicaress 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 headache, 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 *Trinità* 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’s wishes [but, much against the wishes of the Congregation], Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, sold the *Trinità* 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 and 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.²²

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 Stimate, 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 Stimate 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.

²² **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.

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

1893: Michaelangelo Zanetti was ordained a Priest this day – on the same day, the Parish of the *Trinità* 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 *Trinità* 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 Strà.

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.²³

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.

²³ This may be the booklet used for the '*Early Biographies*', that appears on the web-site: 'A Tribute to St. Gaspar Bertoni' [www.st-bertoni.com], under 'Stigmatine History'.

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 Stimmate.
- 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!]**



Fr. Peter Vignola, the 3rd Superior General
[1875 – 1891]

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 Strà 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-bye, 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. Francis 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 Stimmate 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. Galvani, 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 *Trinità* by a Fr. Bernardino, OFM – it was a Wednesday.

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Sezano (Verona): Monastery acquired by Fr. Bertoni in 1838.

SEPTEMBER**1**

- 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 Stimmate.
- 1875:** Dr. 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 *Trinità*.
- 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 were 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 *Stimmate*. 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 Stimmate, 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 Stimmate, 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 Stimmate. 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 Stimmate – it was signed by the delegates: “Ferrari, Podestà, Castelli and Jordis”.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti’s funeral was held celebrated this morning at the Stimmate – 23 Masses were celebrated; Fr. Peter Vignola was celebrant of a High Mass of Requiem – Fr. Giacobbe led the procession from the Stimmate to the *Trinità* – 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* ('Sunday Repose') 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 on 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 received Papal Approbation.²⁴

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.

²⁴ 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.

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 Class* – which ran from the feast of the Finding of the Holy Cross in May, 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 overflowed 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 the adjoining property in Parma – the Church had been closed many years.

18

- 1813:** Ember Saturday²⁵ – 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, 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.

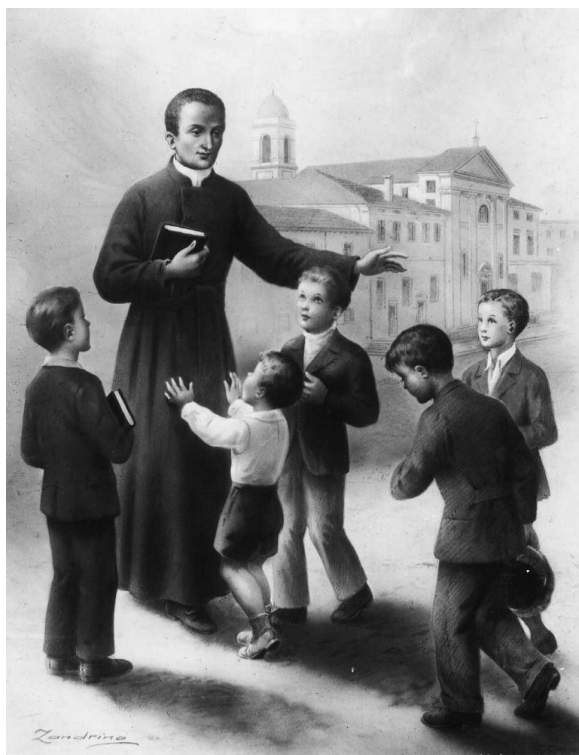
²⁵ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

19

- 1812:** Ember Friday²⁶ – 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 Stimmate, 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 Saturday²⁷ – Bishop John Andrew Avogadro ordained Gaspar Bertoni a Priest of God!



The young Fr. Bertoni with
the boys in Verona.

At the background, the
Stimmate.

²⁶ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

²⁷ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

- 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 Saturday²⁸ – 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 Saturday²⁹ by Bishop Grassier. 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 overthrown.
- 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.

²⁸ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

²⁹ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

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 *Trinità*.
- 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 Abbé 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 Strà, 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 Saturday³⁰ – 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.

³⁰ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

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 Priest³¹ – 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.
- 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 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

³¹ 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, www.st-bertoni.com, under **History – Early Biographies**].

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 è 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 Strà, 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.



Frs. Anthony Dalla Porta and Ludovico Luchi,
the first Stigmatines in 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.



Fr. John Mary Marani,
the First Superior General
[1855 – 1871]

- 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***.³² [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.

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³² With praise.

OCTOBER**1**

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 of 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 need 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 Feast 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.
- 1867:** 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.



The House where Gaspar Bertoni was born, on October 9, 1777, after restoration. The plaque between the windows reads:

‘In this house, there was born, on October 9, 1777, Blessed Gaspar Bertoni, Pearl of the Clergy of Verona, Founder of the Stigmatines.

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.



St. Paul Parish in Campo Marzio, in Verona, where Gaspar Bertoni was baptized on October 10, 1977. At the Baptismal font, the plaque reads:

‘In this baptismal font, on October 10, 1977, the Blessed Gaspar Bertoni was born into the life of son of God the Glittering Gem of the Veronese Clergy, Apostle of the Youth, Founder of the Stigmatine Fathers.

The Parish of St. Paul exultant venerates him and relies on his protection, on the second centenary of his birth.

Verona, October 9, 1977

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 *Trinità*. He would one day leave these to Fr. Galvani, 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 *Trinità*.

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 on 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 confreres in arms perished in Napoleon's disastrous attempt to conquer Russia. Bishop Riccabona would in 1854 compare the small Congregation of the Stimmate 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 Stimmate 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 Stimmate 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 *Trinità* 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 he 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 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.

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The only portrait of Fr. Bertoni painted with him in life. The painter was Cajetan Vedovelli, and tells the history that Fr. Bertoni did not know this was being made. He never consented his portrait be painted; however, as he was myopic, arrangements were made for the painter stand out of reach of his eye-sight, while somebody else was talking with him.

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.**



The Stimate at the time of foundation

1862: The Novitiate was transferred from the Stimate to the *Trinità* for the second time. Fr. Marani, Superior General, blessed the House that had been renovated. Fr. Vincent Vignola celebrated the Mass. The *Trinità* 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. Zanolì, Infirmaryman 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 e 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 Grigolli, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi leave Trieste for Brazil. The first Foundation in South America for the Congregation was thus established.



Fr. Henry Adami, Fr. Alexander Grigoli and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi:
the First Stigmatines in South America.

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, 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 Vicaress 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, near 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. He 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 *Trinità*.
- 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.

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†

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 young man 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 Zanolì.
- 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 Grigoli³³, Fr. Henry Adami and Bro. Dominic Valzacchi are the first Stigmatines in South America.**

6

- 1910:** Fr. Grigoli made arrangements to see Bishop Braga, in **Curitiba³⁴** 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.!

³³ 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.

³⁴ On June 18, 2004 – another Stigmatine – Dom Moacyr Vitti, CSS, was installed as the Archbishop of Curitiba, PR, Brazil.

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.

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 *Trinità* 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 Stimate.

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 ***IL 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 Saturday³⁵ – 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 Gramego 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 Saturday³⁶ - Richard Tabarelli was ordained.

21

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

³⁵ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

³⁶ i.b.: footnote 15, p. 75.

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



The Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith named Fr. Bertoni an *Apostolic Missionary* on December 20, 1817.

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 that would grant the Sisters of the Holy Family the perpetual use of St. Teresa's Convent was being drawn up by a Count Vener.

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 smallpox 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.

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FATHER BERTONI

[1777 – †1853]

AN APOSTLE OF YOUTH