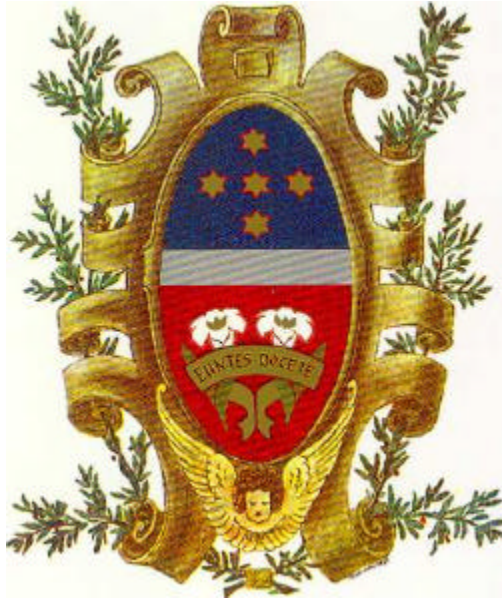


# A STIGMATINE CALENDAR



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

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

**Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS**

**Printed Edition: 1967**

**Electronic Edition: July, 2004**

## PREFACE

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

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

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

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

Rev. Joseph Charles Henchey, CSS

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

**THE AUTHOR**

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

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

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

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

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

He can be reached at: [jhenchey@rcn.com](mailto:jhenchey@rcn.com)

or: Stigmatines – Bertoni Hall  
554 Lexington Street  
Waltham, MA 02452-3097  
USA

His website, dedicated to the Founder, has this address: [www.st-bertoni.com](http://www.st-bertoni.com)

**JANUARY****1**

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

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

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

## 2

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

## 3

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

## 4

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

## 5

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

6

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

10

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

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

### 11

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

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

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

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

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

### 12

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

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

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

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

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

### 13

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

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

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

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

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

#### 14

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

#### 15

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

#### 16

- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet about a vocation, in the person of a Miss Angelina Raimondi. Fr. Bertoni called Mother Naudet's proposed Convent a 'Cenacle.'
- 1823:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his letter of this day to Mother Naudet of the taxes he owed as owner of the Stimmate and St. Teresa's.
- 1830:** This was the date of a Rescript of Pope Pius VIII granting a Plenary Indulgence.
- 1872:** This was the date that Cardinal Quaglia, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars, signed a statement to the effect that the Congregation of the Stimmate had never been granted full Papal Approbation, despite their repeated requests for it. Some of the Fathers of the Stimmate 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.

---

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

17

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

18

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

19

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

20

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

21

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

**22**

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

---

**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 Zanolli. 42 Priests came to the Stimate this day to celebrate Mass. Over the main altar hung a painting of the Espousals of Mary and Joseph. Among the visiting Priests were Fr. Carlo Steeb [Founder of the Mercy Sisters of Verona, a convert from Lutheranism] – and Fr. Nicholas Mazza, himself also a Founder. Their Causes for Beatification and Canonization are before the Congregation of Saints in Rome now.
- Fr. Brugnoli preached and said he hoped that the Feast of the Espousals would always be religiously observed.
- 1825:** Fr. Brugnoli preached also this year at the Stimate for the Feast. He contrasted Joseph and Mary and Adam and Eve: he said they were

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

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

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

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

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

**24**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25

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

26

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

27

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

28

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

29

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

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

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

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

### 30

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

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

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

### 31

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

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

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

§  
§§§  
§

**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 *Stimate*, 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 'Me4rcy.'
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent.
- 1842:** Fr. Biadego was visited by Fr. Fenzi, Pastor at the Trinita', 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 31<sup>st</sup>. 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 Trabaleno, 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 Stimate, 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> through midnight, August 2<sup>nd</sup>] 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 5<sup>th</sup> General Chapter had 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Stimmate.
- 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 Stimmate.
- 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 petition 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 *Trinita'* became the Novitiate for the first time. There were 13 Novices, 7 Students, and 4 Brothers. Fr. Lenotti was Novice Master – and Bro. Zanolli 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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, holly, zealous, well educat4ed 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.

§  
§§§  
§

**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 Stimmate. Fr. Marani came to the Stimmate 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 1125 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. Zanolì, 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. [It might be noted that CS I, p. 268, gives 1834 as the date – whereas the same volume, p. 504, gives 1835].
- 1842:** *Sitientes* 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. [He would one day be an Arch-Bishop, 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.
- 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 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 life-time.
- 1864:** The Mission at St. Mary's Church in Rovereto concluded. An estimated 5000 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. D. 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.

### 14

- 1800:** Gregory Louis Barnabas Chiaramonti, OSB was elected Pope Pius VII at the Conclave held in Venice

- 1882:** Fr. Francis Cartolari entered the Stimate.
- 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 Ereption 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 Stimate, but the work was still unsatisfactory.
- 1842:** From this day onward, Fr. Lenotti's name appeared regularly in the Mass Book at the Stimate. 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 'Sordo-Muti' 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.

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 Riccabona 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 reset of this year, one of the Fathers of the Stimate came to preach at this Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> 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 Buoizzi.
- 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Stimmate 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. Zanolli 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, this night stated 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* 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 of 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.
- 1867:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Fr. Lenotti preached a three-day retreat in the Church of the *Trinita'* 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.

§  
§§§  
§

**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 *Trinita'*.
- 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 4<sup>th</sup>, five years later. He stated that Christ suffered in His entire humanity, body and soul. He suffered more than any man could.
- 1813:** *Sitientes Saturday* – Cajetan Brugnoli was tonsured and received the four Minor Orders.
- 1825:** During these days, the Emperor visited the Stimate 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

'Pilgrim's Gate'. It was the 19<sup>th</sup> year of the Congregation's establishment.

- 1838:** Bishop Grasser made a Pastoral Visitation at the Stimate this day.
- 1867:** The students' retreat ended at the *Trinita'* 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 celebrated 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.]
- 1824:** Fr. Bertoni obtain a Decree of Enrollment for the new Oratory at the *Trinita'* 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.
- 1855:** John Lenotti received the last two Minor Orders, Exorcist and Acolyte, on this *Sitientes* Saturday.
- 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].
- 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.

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 mitered 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 cited the example of Laménais who died on Feb. 27, 1854, in an Exhortation 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 Scalfio 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 Scalfio 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 Stimmate – 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 Stimmate 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 Gramago received tonsure and the first two Minor Orders [Porter and Lector] from Bishop Avogadro.
- 1845:** he will of Teresa Borghetti Cartolari was made public - she left a large share of her goods to the Stimate and to the Institute of San Silvestro. The Fathers of the Stimate 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 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 Sunday - 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.
- 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 wound<sup>2</sup>.
- 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*.

---

<sup>2</sup> 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

- 1867:** This was the 33<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### 24

- 1824:** This is the date of an official establishment of an Oratory at the Parish of the *Trinita'*, 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 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Viscounts of S. Jose' de Pasqueira, met at the Hotel of Rome to discuss the Congregation taking over the direction of the Portuguese College in Rome and agreement was reached.

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.