

## MAY

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

- 1815:** Innocent Venturini joined the Oratory at St. Sebastian's, Verona.
- 1816:** Fr. Bertoni assisted Canon Louis Pacetti at **the historic Parish Mission preached at Sts. Firmus and Rusticus, Verona.** During this Mission, Fr. Bertoni received from God the idea of establishing a Congregation – for his work during this Mission, Fr. Bertoni would receive a Papal Honor, that of ***Apostolic Missionary.***
- 1835:** **The works of the great Jesuit theologian, Fr. Francis Suarez, arrived today at the Stimate. It was the Balleoniana Edition, 23 volumes.** Fr. Suarez influenced Fr. Bertoni a great deal in the compiling of his rule, begun a few years after this date.
- 1858:** On this date, Fr. Marani, Superior General, wrote to Pope Pius IX, and he sent to the Holy Father a copy of the Life of Fr. Bertoni, written by Fr. Cajetan Giacobbe.
- 1868:** This was the date of Fr. Benciolini's appeal before the Civil Tribunal of Florence - he made it clear that he did not want both lawyers

[Malenchini and Galeotti], and suggested to Fr. Rigoni that Lawyer Galeotti only be retained for consultation.

**1871:** Fr. Bragato wrote to Fr. Lenotti, as Fr. Marani was near death. Fr. Bragato said that he would do his best to send some money, but that it would no longer come 'in streams', as it did before for the Students at Villazzano.

### 5

**1790:** Wednesday – John Mary Marani, son of Celestine, born at 10:00 a.m., in the Parish of St. Stephen's, Verona.

**1833:** Mother Naudet's Congregation received approval from the government – this was a condition that Fr. Bertoni had placed in granting perpetual use of St. Teresa's namely, that the Congregation be approved in 1833.

**1873:** Great joy among the Students of the Congregation on hearing that the long legal battle to regain from the government had been won by the Congregation.

**1877:** Fr. Vignola, Superior General, wrote to a Clara Perenzoni that the members of the Congregation were very much opposed to the sale of the House of the *Trinita'*, that had belonged to its original patrimony and that there were plans for its future use.

### 6

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

**1864:** Fr. Benciolini, 'always obedient to Fr. Marani', wrote to Bishop di Canossa to see if it would be all right if he appealed his case with the Sisters to the Holy See.

**1872:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Pius IX to see if the Congregation could ordain some young men to Sacred Orders even though the Congregation still could not provide the canonical title, *Mensa Communis*.

**1898:** A second meeting between the Viscounts of S. Jose' de Pasqueira and Frs. Lenotti and Tabarelli took place at the home of one Anthony Bras, to iron out the difficulties so that the Congregation could assume the direction of the Portuguese College in Rome.

### 7

**1797:** First Tree of Liberty was planted in Piazza Bra', Verona.

**1835:** Fr. Santi, Vice Director of Studies at the Diocesan Seminary of Verona, gave a report on Fr. Fedelini's two years of Philosophy and 4 years of Theology there. Fr. Bertoni asked Fr. Raimondi to teach Gregorian Chant to the Students on Thursdays and Sundays.

**1870:** Fr. DaPrato, after spending several days with Fr. Marani in Verona, left to return to the Novices at Villazzano.

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

- 1827:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet this day and spoke of his illness and operations that he was undergoing at this time.
- 1841:** **On this date, Fr. Bertoni wrote a letter to Fr. Bragato and asked him to pray for a work that he was writing so slowly and carefully**

**[a *piccole gocciole*]. This was the booklet of his *Original Constitutions*].<sup>3</sup>**

**1856:** Fr. Marani preached at the Cathedral of Treviso for the Feast of Pentecost.

### **12**

**1856:** Fr. Marani again preached in the Cathedral of Treviso. The Novice, Fr. DaPrato arrived to help with Confessions.

**1864:** Fr. Benciolini had second thoughts about writing to the Holy See and going over the head of the local Bishop. He wrote to Bishop di Canossa before receiving an answer from his previous letter, to see if a Diocesan Tribunal could be set up to handle the dispute.

**1867:** Feast of the Patronage of St. Joseph – Fr. Marani, Superior General, at Villazzano, received the First Vows of Richard Tabarelli and Bellino Carrara. The Students presented Fr. Marani with a cricket that he had lost on his return trip to 'Italy', i.e. Verona.

**1873:** Attorney Brasca wrote to Fr. Rigoni and told him that their opponent in the case, Attorney Righi, acting for the government, was unwittingly their ally in the case before the court.

### **13**

**1773:** Leopoldina Naudet was born at Florence.

**1845:** The nine Priests of the Stimate unanimously agreed to reject the substantial sum left to them by Teresa Cartolari.

**1863:** The second centenary of the 'Madonna of the Novitiate' at the *Trinita*' – Fr. Vincent Vignola preached; the Fathers came up for dinner from the Stimate, but Fr. Marani did not attend, as he was ill.

**1864:** Fr. Lenotti preached on this commemoration of the 'Madonna of the Novitiate', and said it was a memorable day for them, as the Novitiate was under the protection of the Mother of God.

**1867:** Monday – Fr. Marani left Villazzano for Verona, refreshed, as always – after his stay with the students.

### **14**

**1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached on Detachment from this World – he stated that a mortified life is not a sad one; this world is not proportionate to the human heart.

**1814:** Pope Pius VII visited Loreto; Canon Louis Pacetti spoke with him concerning Mother di Canossa; her work pleased the Holy Father very much.

### **15**

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

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

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<sup>3</sup> Fr. Joseph Fiorio, in his *Breve Cronaca*, I, p. 64 – gives Nov. 5, 1841 as the date of this letter - but, the booklet of the *Original Constitutions*, p. 16, gives this date]

- 1864:** Pentecost Sunday – just before Pentecost, Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached a Retreat at the Seminary of Padua.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti left Villazzano to visit Fr. Marani in Verona to speak about a young Novice who seemed to have nerve troubles. Fr. Marani, although dying is still governing the Congregation. The Bishop of Parma offered the Congregation St. Mary's Church for their Marian Oratories.
- 1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was viewed a fourth time by the Diocesan Officials in the Diocesan Process for his Canonization.

### 16

- 1839:** Fr. Gramego celebrated Mass for the last time for 10 months; he was suffering from a mouth fistula.
- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Lenotti concluded the retreat at Treviso for the Seminarians. This was a Friday, and Fr. Marani left for Verona alone – Fr. Lenotti stayed behind to terminate the Retreat for the young Students who had had their own Retreat.
- 1859:** The Sisters were given a 48 hour notice to vacate St. Teresa's: the Municipal Government was going to take over the Convent.
- 1871:** Fr. Lenotti returned to Villazzano after speaking with Fr. Lenotti about one of the Novices.

### 17

- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Benciolini started an eight day retreat for the Sisters of St. Clare in Verona; Fr. Lenotti finished his Retreat for the young Students at the Diocesan Seminary of Treviso
- 1863:** Frs. Benciolini and Rigoni left for Rovereto to preach a Retreat to the Madames of the sacred Heart there.

### 18

- 1810:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in his Spiritual Diary that it really costs nothing to be devoted to Mary. It is up to us to purify ourselves so that her mediation in our behalf will meet no obstacle.
- 1835:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Bishop Grasser to tell him that the Capuchin on penance had made his 30 day Retreat very well.
- 1846:** the Will of the Benciolini family is settled – Fr. Francis received 12, 600 Lira as his share; his sister Teresa had already died.
- 1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was sealed in the Epistle side of the old Oratory in the Stimate with this inscription:

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

### 19

- 1836:** Fr. Cainer was able to offer Mass again today – he and Fr. Bertoni had long sieges of illnesses at the same time

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

## 20

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

## 21

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

**22**

- 1827:** Fr. Bertoni filled in the government questionnaire on the School at the Stimate – the statistics were: 33 in elementary school; 78 in high school – there were four classes of Grammar, and two of the Humanities.
- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Bishop Grasser's visit was delayed; Fr. Bertoni recommended to her the book by the Dominican, Fr. Anfessi, in defense of Pius VI's Bull.
- 1898:** The newly constructed Church at San Bernardino Vecchio in Trent was opened to the public and dedicated to the Holy Espousals.

**23**

- 1863:** The Sisters of the Holy Family, with their lawyer, Canon Cedegnola, drew up a new agreement with the government concerning the rent to be paid to them for the use of St. Teresa's. Fr. Benciolini thought this contract very illegal, as they were not the legal owners of this Convent – he was!!!
- 1903:** Louis Marchesini filed papers to contest the will of his Uncle, Fr. Joseph Marchesini, who had made Fr. Stephen Rosa his heir.

**24**

- 1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet stating that his illnesses had him back in bed again. On this same day, Pius VII entered Rome in triumph – he had endured a harsh and humiliating imprisonment by Napoleon.
- 1819:** Fr. Fusari of the Oratory of St. Philip wrote to Mother Naudet and he told her that he was doing his best to persuade his friend, Fr. Bertoni, to continue as her Confessor.

**25**

- 1833:** Fr. Venturini received Faculties to hear the Confessions of both men and women.
- 1856:** Frs. Marani and Benciolini concluded the Retreat for the Clarissan Nuns in Verona on this Sunday. After the Retreat, Fr. Marani went to Vicenza to the DeLorenzi Organ Company to purchase an organ for the Stimate.
- 1858:** Fr. Marani and Fr. Vignola went to Padua to arrange with the Bishop for a Mission at the Cathedral. They stayed overnight and returned the next day to Verona.
- 1900:** The examination of witnesses began in Verona in the Diocesan Process of Fr. Bertoni's Cause to establish the fact that no external cult had been shown to him.

**26**

- 1807:** On this date, there was a Decree from Napoleon prohibiting Marian Oratories, Confraternities, Congregations, and the building of Churches.

**1816:** Canon Louis Pacetti and Fr. Bertoni concluded the historic Mission at Sts. Firmus and Rusticus that began on May 4<sup>th</sup>. During this Mission, Fr. Bertoni received the idea of establishing a Congregation.

### 27

**1827:** Bishop Liruti conferred Tonsure and the four Minor Orders on Charles Fedelini. On this same day, Mark Bassi was born in Verona.

**1844:** The Diocesan Decree granting a Plenary Indulgence for Devotions to the Five Wounds for the First Fridays of January, March, May, July, September and November [the odd numbered months]. This was the response from the Holy See of April 23, 1844, which left the six months of the year up to the Diocese to specify.

**1873:** With the long legal battle for the restoration of the confiscated property now out of the way, Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, could now turn his attention to other matters for the Congregation. He decided to finish construction on the Church of *Santa Maria del Giglio*.

### 28

**1840:** Fr. Odescalchi, SJ, the former Cardinal Vicar of the Holy Father, wrote to an old friend, Cardinal Patrizi, and in the course of this letter, Fr. Odescalchi refers to Fr. Bertoni as 'an excellent priest.'

**1865:** The ceremony of Beatification of John Berchmans, Jesuit Scholastic, took place in Rome today. Anthony Caucigh began to read his biography.

**1871:** This date marks the last entry in Fr. Lenotti's House Chronicle. He was appointed Chronicler at the death of Fr. Bertoni, and for these 18 years he gave a most exact account of the Congregation and its varied Ministries: Parish Missions, Retreats and other ministries of the Word of God, catechetics, work among seminarians and Religious and youth work. Fr. Lenotti noted the good days and the bad endured through all these years.

### 29

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

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

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

### 30

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

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

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

**31**

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

**1854:** Fr. Marani went to Bolzano to see Bishop-Elect Benedict Riccabona before his departure for Rome. He left with the Bishop-Elect a copy of Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions***.<sup>4</sup>

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

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

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

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<sup>4</sup> The *Breve Cronaca*, I, p. 88 places this as 'the last day of March 1854.' However, the CS II, p. 30, lists May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1854 the date of this important meeting.

**JUNE****1**

- 1785:** Fr. James Bertoni died – he was the brother of Gaspar Bertoni [Sr.] - the Grandfather of St. Gaspar Bertoni.
- 1796:** French troops enter Verona.
- 1814:** In his letter this day, Fr. Bertoni seemed to express a much broader view for the education of women than did many of his contemporaries: he also offers some views on class-room procedures and concluded with the thought that suffering is the best school.
- 1875:** Attorney Brasca wrote again to Fr. Rigoni and told him the long ordeal in the Courts that had just been concluded was one of the most difficult cases that he had ever handled and one that had a better solution than most cases he had handled.

**2**

- 1831:** Feast of Corpus Christi – Louis Zozza entered the Congregation: he was described as a ‘man of good will.’
- 1835:** Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani began a retreat for 20 young men about to receive Holy Orders. One of them, a young man by the name of Sartori, made his retreat privately, under Fr. Brugnoli.

**3**

- 1826:** Francis Bongiovanni, a Doctor of the Law, had not settled the difficulties with Fr. Galvani’s heirs. In the meantime, he had passed away about one month earlier. Fr. Bertoni then asked Fr. Guerrieri’s<sup>5</sup> help as he was most learned. Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet that he could not cede St. Teresa’s Convent to her until he himself legally owned it.
- 1871:** Andrew Sterza and Michael Lanaro were ordained Priests.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, on this first Thursday of the month, preached a day of recollection to the Diocesan Seminarians of Verona in the place of Fr. Maestrelli, recently deceased.

**4**

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

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<sup>5</sup> This Dominican is often noted in Fr. Bertoni’s *Epistolario*.

**1864:** This date marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Marani's ordination. A painting was made of him that is still retained.

### 5

**1803:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the Law of the Gospel – it is the richest state of all and promises eternal happiness.

**1814:** Trinity Sunday – Fr. Marani, ordained the day before, celebrated his First Mass in St. Paul's Parish. Fr. Bertoni was ill so could not attend. He wrote to Mother Naudet and offered her suggestions on how to write to the Pope. He advised her to keep copies of her correspondence on file.

**1867:** Fr. Lenotti preached at the Seminary of Trent on the occasion of establishing there a Congregation of Prayer to the Sacred Heart for the Priests of the Diocese.

**1875:** Fr. Alfieri arranged two audiences with the Holy Father, Pius IX, for Fr. Rigoni, one private and one public.

**1896:** The corner-stone of the new Church of St. Bernadine Vecchio, Trent, was blessed.

### 6

**1815:** French troops under Napoleon, moved north, toward Belgium

**1817:** Bishop Liruti granted broader faculties for the Priests at the Stimate that Fr. Bertoni had requested.

**1860:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti preached a Retreat to the Daughters of Mary.

### 7

**1800:** This was the original date for Fr. Bertoni's Ordination – it was postponed, as Bishop Avogadro was prevented from coming.

**1867:** Bishop Riccabona took part in the closing ceremony at the Seminary of Trent of the erection of a Congregation of Prayer for the Priests of his Diocese that had been preached by Fr. Lenotti.

**1837:** Bartholomew Perrazzani and Bellino Carrara were ordained Priests this day.

### 8

**1800:** Gaspar Bertoni, a Deacon, preached his first sermon in his home Parish of St. Paul's and he spoke on 'Humility'. It is a virtue needed by saint and sinner alike – it is practiced eminently by St. Aloysius Gonzaga.

**1814:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he was feeling better but was still unable to offer Mass.

**1846:** Fr. Lenotti seemed to have some fear of preaching – Fr. Bertoni suggested three simple rules for him: just before going out to preach, remain quiet, without studying; while preaching, try to imagine that it is God Who listens; rest a while after preaching, to regarding your strength and reflect on what you have preached to others. [In these days, sermons were sometimes about 45 minutes long, as a matter of

routine – Fr Bertoni often noted after the title of his text how many minutes it took to deliver his sermons].

- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Rigoni, Procurator General, who was in Rome, to tell him that he was most pleased that Cardinal Franchi [Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the faith] had seen him and that they had discussed a possible mission field for the Congregation.

### 9

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

### 10

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

### 11

- 1797:** Sunday – Bishop Avogadro conferred the last two Minor Orders, Exorcist and Acolyte, on Gaspar Bertoni.
- 1801:** Charles Pacificus Fedellini, son of Peter, was born at 9:00a.m. and baptized this same day.

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

## 12

- 1819:** Bishop Liruti extended for two more years the faculties that he had previously granted the Priests at the Stimate.
- 1826:** A Dr. Philip Marai noted that he had been treating Fr. Francis Benciolini for shortness of breath caused by an inflammation of the thorax.
- 1842:** Fr. Cainer celebrated Mass this day, but not again for two months.
- 1846:** Bishop Mutti made a Pastoral Visitation at the Stimate, and found everything satisfactory.
- 1853:** A number of Priests at the Stimate went out to teach the *Fourth Class* [Catechism] in the parishes of Verona this Sunday afternoon. Fr. Marani had been attending the dying Fr. Bertoni and then handed the Ritual and stole to Fr. Brugnoli - after conferring the Last Sacraments. He then started out for St. Luke's Parish, where he was to teach. Then he decided to come back to Fr. Bertoni and sent word to the Pastor of St. Luke's – when he re-entered Fr. Bertoni's room, he made the responses to the prayers 'for a departing soul' offered by Fr. Brugnoli. Shortly, Fr. Brugnoli turned to Fr. Marani, and said: '**Don't you see that Fr. Gaspar is dead?**' Fr. Gramego came into the room and looked at the still form of Fr. Bertoni, and was recorded as saying: **It is now my turn to follow him soon.** [He died six weeks later].
- 1854:** A letter arrived at the Stimate from Fr. Bragato urging Fr. Marani to hasten to Rome and visit Bishop Riccabona there.
- 1855:** Fr. Raimondi, SJ, former member of the Stimate, died on Fr. Bertoni's second anniversary.
- 1864:** The Golden Jubilee of Fr. Marani's Ordination observed this day - Fr. Bragato came and assisted at the Solemn Mass. Maestro Gagliardi

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

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

### 13

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

### 14

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

**1867:** Fr. Rigoni was in Florence and he wrote on this date saying that the difficulties with St. Teresa's will soon be over – by the following August, this would prove to be an illusion!

### 15

**1821:** Fr. Galvani gave the Stimate an annual endowment of 100 Lira, and asked permission from the government that it be opened for public worship. He was the legal owner.

**1845:** The government of Lombard-Veneto approved Fr. Charles Fedelini for the Chair of Moral Theology in the Diocesan Seminary.

**1882:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, convoked a meeting of the General Council, and the ***Graduati Fathers*** – i.e., those Priests who had been raised to the title of ***Apostolic Missionary*** - to discuss Fr. Morando's proposal concerning Bassano. Five Priests were needed for the ever-expanding work there.

**1891:** About this time, Fr. Pio Gurisatti, who was sent to Rome to care for the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti on a temporary basis, returned to Verona, and his place in Rome was taken by Fr. Louis Morando.

### 16

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

**1832:** Bishop Grasser ordained Charles Fedelini a Sub-Deacon.

**1865:** Bro. Horace Negro, at the Stimate a mere six years, died this day at the young age of only 34. He was described as a man of great humility, wisdom and prayer – his death deeply grieved the ageing Superior General, Fr. Marani.

**1869:** Fr. Marani wrote to Fr. Rigoni who had gone to Milan to consult a lawyer concerning the property. He told Fr. Rigoni to explain the case well to the lawyer' he said that both he and Fr. Bassi were grateful to Fr. Rigoni for his two letters.

**1875:** At 8:45 p.m., Fr. Rigoni was ushered into the presence of Pope Pius IX for a Private Audience with him. The Audience lasted one half hour. Fr. Rigoni wrote exuberantly that the Holy Father was a 'Miracle of a Pope'. As soon as he returned to his lodging in Rome this night, he wrote immediately to Fr. Lenotti. Fr. Rigoni received the following from the Holy Father: permission for the Blessed Sacrament in Trent; the commemoration of the day of the Espousals was raised to a Double of the 2nd Class, with an Octave – and the Pope promised his personal assistance to the Congregation in its efforts to obtain Papal Approbation.

### 17

**1807:** One of Napoleon's edicts further explaining the ban of Oratories was signed this date by an agent named Guicciardi.

- 1812:** Louis Ferrari was born at Lughezzano, son of James; he would one day be a Brother in our Congregation, and a confidant of Fr. Marani, Superior General.
- 1853:** Fr. Lenotti did not preach at the regular Friday devotions at the Stimate – perhaps Fr. Marani preached – he had the reputation of being able to preach without formal preparation, with the same effect as ‘one who had studied.’
- 1857:** Fr. Marani went to Stra’ to take Fr. Bragato’s place at the Imperial Court. Fr. Bragato went to Bologna to obtain two favors from the Pope: that the members of the Congregation might be able to give the papal Blessing at the close of their Parish Missions, Retreats; that they might be able to bless Rosaries and the like with special indulgences – and also the favor that the members of the Congregation might say Mass one hour before dawn, if there was a good reason.
- 1872:** The Students left the summer home of Bishop Riccabona at Villazzano which had been the Student House for the past six years – and they moved to nearby Sale’ di Povo. The Student House stayed here then two years.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, was appointed extraordinary Confessor to a group of Religious.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General wrote to Fr. Rigoni in Rome and told him that the Confreres at the Stimate were most anxious to hear about Fr. Rigoni’s private audience with the Pope the day before.

### 18

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

19

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

20

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

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

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

21

- 1801:** Fr. Bertoni preached on this Feast of St. Aloysius, one of his special Patrons. He spoke on the Saint's love for neighbor – our advantage with God increases in proportion to our love for our neighbor.
- 1821:** Bishop Liruti extended for another two years the faculties of the Fathers at the Stimate. These were special faculties he granted in deference of Fr. Bertoni
- 1834:** Special services were held at the Stimate in honor of St. Aloysius – it was a special service for men that began at 9:45 a.m., with a review of the Saint's life; at 10:15, the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, and a sermon by Fr. Bragato; at 5:00 p.m., a lesson from the Saint's life and Solemn Vespers, conducted by Fr. Lenotti.
- 1840:** Fr. Odescalchi, SJ [retired Cardinal] wrote to Monsignor Anton Mary Traversi – close friend of Pope Gregory XVI - and told him of Fr. Bertoni's 'devoted affection' for the Holy See.
- 1846:** Louis Morando was born.

- 1862:** Fr. Bragato celebrated his 'Name Day' at the Stimate by assisting at the Profession of a young man also celebrating his 'Name Day', Louis Morando.
- 1863:** Fr. Bragato again this celebrated his 'Name day' at the Stimate, by vesting two young students – Lawrence Pizzini and Bartholomew Perazzani. Fr. Marani was too ill to conduct the service.
- 1865:** Lawrence Pizzini and Bartholomew Perazzani completed their two year Novitiate and pronounced their First Vows.
- 1872:** Melchiade Vivari was ordained a Priest.
- 1873:** The Civil Court of Verona was informed officially that the government and Fr. Benciolini had worked out an agreement – thus, ending the long case concerning the confiscated property.
- 1891:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> Centenary of the death of St. Aloysius Gonzaga was celebrated throughout Verona – Fr. Morando wrote a short life of the saint that was published.
- 1905:** Fr. Fantozzi supervised renovations at the Stimate to house the endeavor of the *Laborers' Patronage* [*Patronato Operaio*] – consisting of a Boarding House, instructions and training established for Workers in Verona.

## 22

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

## 23

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

## 24

- 1816:** Louis Gagliardi was born – he composed and directed in later life the music for the Canonical Erection of the Congregation [held September 30, 1855] – ad also for Fr. Marani's Golden Jubilee celebrations [June 12, 1864]. He composed, ***Su, Fratelli*** [Onward, Brothers!] that was sung also at Fr. Benciolini's Golden Jubilee [September 19, 1879].
- 1834:** Fr. Cainer went to St. John's in Valle to offer Mass – he left the House at 7:00 a.m. to avoid the confusion in the streets, customary for the streets of Verona for the Feast of St. John the Baptist.
- 1853:** Fr. Lenotti resumed his regular Friday preaching assignment at the Stimate – he was also made the Chronicler of the Congregation, which task he faithfully fulfilled [the source of much of the material for this ***Stigmatine Calendar***] until shortly before his Election as Superior General [July 1871].
- 1866:** A very bloody battle of Custoza was fought this day at the gates of Verona – all Religious Communities called upon to help with the wounded. Austria claimed victory over the Italian fleet.

**1867:** Bishop di Canossa issued a strong protest against the sacrilege committed in the Piazza dei Signori a few days earlier on the attack on the Procession honoring the Blessed Sacrament. He also issued new restrictions for external manifestations of the faith for the future.

**1872:** Pius IX, in response to Fr. Lenotti's request of the previous May 6<sup>th</sup>, answered that the Congregation could ordain its members in the future even without the title of *Mensa Communis* [as the Congregation had been exiled from its property – as long as the new Clerics would have some means of their own independent support.

### 25

**1847:** Fr. Lenotti preached on the only true contentment this world can offer is to those who serve God – worldly people have a life-long *Mardi Gras*, followed by an eternal Lent!

**1848:** Pius IX issued two Decrees: ***Romani Pontifices*** and ***Regulari Disciplinae***, which treated specifically of the steps one would take in the religious life. These steps were not clearly delineated in Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions***, that he was writing during these years.

**1883:** Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, expressed sincere sorrow hearing of Fr. Zara's death – and some bitterness at Fr. Carrara's departure [for the Jesuits].

**1900:** The Diocesan Tribunal in Verona concluded its examination that established the fact that no external cult had been shown to Fr. Bertoni since his death – which otherwise would have been an impediment to his Canonization.

### 26

**1813:** This date marks the last recorded entry in Fr. Bertoni's Diary that has come down to us.

**1841:** Fr. Bragato, in the Imperial entourage, made a brief half hour visit to the Stimmate.

**1861:** Bishop Riccabona took over the See of Trent on the Feast of the Patron, Saint Virgilius, in ceremonies at the Cathedral dedicated to this Saint in Trent.

### 27

**1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on St. Aloysius Love for God – a lover becomes like his beloved, the soul becomes more unto God's image the more it loves.

**1841:** Fr. Bragato and the Imperial party left for Vienna at 8:00 a.m.

### 28

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

**1831:** Fr. Bertoni cautioned Leopoldina Naudet on this date against joining with some Sisters of now defunct Congregations, as each of them

would be imbued with the spirit of her own Foundress, which would make union difficult.

- 1854:** Fr. Marani and Bro. Lois Ferrari arrived in Rome on the Vigil of St. Peter: they took up lodging with a Canon Bertinelli.
- 1858:** Pius IX wrote to Fr. Marani – he thanked him for the receipt of the Biography of Fr. Bertoni [written by Fr. Giaccobbe]. He also expressed happiness on learning that ‘his’ Little Flock - our Congregation – had grown somewhat – the Pope sent his Apostolic Blessing to Fr. Marani and the Congregation.

### 29

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

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

### 30

- 1817:** A long stairway for the Stimate was contracted for with a builder named Maceta.
- 1857:** Pius IX, in his own hand, signed Fr. Marani’s request presented to him at Bologna, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of June 1857
- 1860:** Fr. Charles Fedelini died at 9:00a.m. this day dedicated to Mary – it was noted that he had been most devoted to her throughout his life.
- 1891:** At the end of June, Fr. John Baptist Tomasi joined the Community of the Congregation in Rome to prepare himself for the Doctorate in Theology.

## JULY

### 1

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

### 2

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

### 3

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

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

#### 4

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

#### 5

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

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

### 6

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

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

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

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

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

### 7

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

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

**1860:** Anthony Caucigh received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

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

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

### 8

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

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

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

### 9

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

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

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

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

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

### 10

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

**1869:** Fr. Marani returned to Verona from Villazzano.

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

### 11

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 12

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

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

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

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

### 13

**1804:** Angelo Casella was born this day at Monfuso.

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

#### 14

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

#### 15

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

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

### 16

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

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

**1854:** Bishop Riccabona was consecrated a Bishop in Rome.

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

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

### 17

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

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

### 18

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

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

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

### 19

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

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

## 20

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

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

**1833:** Mother Naudet's Congregation received approval from the Bishop.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

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

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

## 21

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

## 22

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 23

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

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

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

### 24

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

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

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

**1835:** Fr. Gramego becomes seriously ill.

**1854:** The soldiers who had been occupying the Stimate for nearly four years left on this date. The order was given to them in the government decree that gave civil approval to the Congregation<sup>7</sup>.

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

### 25

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

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

**1822:** Fr. Modesto Cainer entered the Congregation today.<sup>8</sup>

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

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

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

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

### 26

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

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

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

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

### 27

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

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

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

### 28

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 29

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

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

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

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

### 30

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

### 31

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

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**AUGUST**1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

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

### 5

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

### 6

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

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

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

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

### 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

- 1854:** Fr. Marani visited with the Under-Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and regulars in Rome and was assured that the documents he had brought from Verona were being scrutinized by Fr. John Perrone, SJ, a Consultor, who would give his opinion in due time. The Under-Secretary was very concerned about Fr. Marani's appearance. He seemed very uncomfortable.
- 1866:** Anthony Caucigh sank still further – he was anointed and his delirium ceased. He spoke to the Brother Infirmarian who attended him day and night, and frequently mentioned the approaching Feast of the Assumption.

### 11

- 1827:** Bishop Innocent Liruti died – the Diocese was ruled by Monsignor Dionisi and the Chapter.<sup>10</sup>
- 1845:** A **Priest on Penance** was sent to Fr. Bertoni to make an eight day retreat.
- 1866:** About 4:30 a.m., this Saturday morning, the Novice – Anthony Caucigh died, in the presence of Fr. DaPrato, his Novice Master for about two weeks; also present were Fr. Lenotti who had been his guide his four years at the Stimmate and others.
- 1875:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, wrote to Fr. Rigoni about an offer for the Congregation that had been made by Bishop Dominic Villa, Bishop of Parma.

### 12

- 1810:** A Fr. DelBusna received a letter from Monsignor Doria, 'Maestro di Camera' for Pope Pius VII, containing a Blessing for Mother Naudet's group.
- 1836:** A Fr. David Fernarelli died of cholera – he had been stationed at St. Lawrence Parish, and was Confessor at the Seminary.
- 1857:** The departing Missionaries concluded their Retreat at the Stimmate and were now set for Africa. These men made a deep impression on Fr. Lenotti.
- 1876:** The Congregation suffered a great loss this day, in the death of Fr. Lawrence Pizzini, at the age of only 28. The brilliant young man had mastered French, Spanish, German and English – his death brought to an abrupt halt for now the **Foreign Missionary** aspect of the Congregation at that time.

### 13

- 1869:** Fr. Marani made another trip from Verona to Villazzano – these trips were becoming increasingly more difficult for him to make. Fr. DaPrato, on this same day, had to make a trip to Verona on business.
- 1870:** Fr. Marani, Superior General was anointed this day.

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

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

#### 14

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

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

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

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

#### 15

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### 16

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

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

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

### 17

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

### 18

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

19

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

20

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

21

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

22

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

23

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

24

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

25

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

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

### 26

**1799:** Death of Pius VI.

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

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

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

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

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

### 27

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

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

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

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

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

### 28

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

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

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

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

### 29

**1910:** Charles Joseph Zanotti pronounced his First Vows.

**30**

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

**31**

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

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