

SEPTEMBER1

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

2

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

3

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

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

4

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

5

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

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

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

6

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

7

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

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

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

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

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

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

15

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

16

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

17

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

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

18

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

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

19

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

20

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

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

21

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

22

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

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

23

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

24

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

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

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

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

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

25

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

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

26

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

27

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

28

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

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

29

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

30

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

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

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

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OCTOBER**1**

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

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

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

5

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

6

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

7

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

8

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

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

15

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

16

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

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

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

17

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

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

18

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

19

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

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

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

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

20

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

21

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

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

22

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

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

23

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

24

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

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

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

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

25

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

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

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

26

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

27

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

28

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

29

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

30

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

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

31

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

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

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

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

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NOVEMBER

1

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

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

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

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

5

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

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

6

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

7

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

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

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

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

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

8

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

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

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

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

15

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

16

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

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

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

17

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

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

18

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

1834: A number of complaints had been received at the Chancery Office concerning the bell ringing at the Stimate. Bishop Grasser defended the Fathers there in his response to the complaint.

1844: A Vincent Rufo wrote to Fr. Bertoni interceding for the family of the late Stephen Debboni, who had died 10 days earlier. Fr. Bertoni answered immediately and told Mr. Rufo that the widow could stay on the property there, and could keep one half of all the produce of the farm.

19

1798: Modesto Cainer was born.

1828: Fr. Giaccobbe's father died.

1829: Fr. Benciolini was enrolled in a school to obtain civil certification to teach Elementary School.

1854: Bishop Riccabona wrote to Fr. Marani and expressed some pride that two of his Priests were about to enter the Congregation. He said that he was especially sorry to lose Fr. Richard DaPrato, but that he gave his permission for both to enter.

20

1808: Bishop Liruti dropped in unexpectedly on Fr. Bertoni as he was teaching Catechism to some adults. Fr. Bertoni noted that night in his Spiritual Diary that he should always be ready to appear before the Tribunal of Christ – which could come just as unexpectedly.

1816: Pope Pius VII granted a Decree of Praise to the Congregation founded by Mother Madeline di Canossa.

1824: Matilda di Canossa, niece of Mother Madeline di Canossa, entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family, founded by Mother Naudet. Years later, Matilda di Canossa became Vicar General of these Sisters.

21

1832: Donnadei Conti Martelli entered the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Family. She had been a penitent of Fr. Bertoni. In 1840, she became the 2nd Superior General of the Sisters of the Holy Family.

1851: A Papal Decree emanated proclaiming the following year to be the 'Holy Year of Jubilee'. The Pope was unable to proclaim 1850 as the 'Holy Year', as he had to flee Rome.

1858: A Fr. Peter Slenzi, Pastor at Villa Lagarina, wrote to Fr. Marani and told him that Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Vincent Vignola were tireless Confessors in the Mission they had just completed in his Parish, and that they had won many sheep back into the fold.

1859: Feast of the Presentation – Frs. Benciolini and Peter Vignola preached this day at Nove, dear Vicenza.

22

1801: Michaelangelo Gramago approved for Vestition.

1811: Cajetan Brugnoli was vested by his Uncle, Fr. Francis Brugnoli, in the Church of St. Peter in Monastero.

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

23

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

24

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

25

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

26

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

27

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

28

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

29

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

30

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

DECEMBER**1**

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

5

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

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

6

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

7

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

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

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

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

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

8

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

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

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

1856: Fr. DaPrato made his Religious Profession.

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

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

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

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

9

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

10

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

11

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

12

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

13

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

14

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

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

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

15

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

16

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

17

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

18

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

19

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

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

20

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

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

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

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

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

1873: Ember Saturday - Richard Tabarelli was ordained.

21

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

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

22

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

1832: Bishop Grasser ordained Charles Fedelini a Deacon.

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

23

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

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

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

24

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

25

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

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

26

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

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

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

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

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

27

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

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

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

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

28

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

29

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

30

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

31

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

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FATHER BERTONI

(1777 – 1853)

AN APOSTLE OF YOUTH