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Fulgentius Pastorelli of Jesus (48)

San Angelo

March 8, 1749

J.M.J.

My Dearly Beloved Father Rector,

I am writing in haste since I am loaded with important letters. I arrived at the holy Retreat on March 4 and thought I was going to die on the road. After having arrived at Corneto[169] Sunday night, weary and half-falling because of the suffering endured from Montalto to that city because of the heavy mud clinging to my feet, I was overcome by a fiery diarrhea, which seemed to be unlike any before. Nevertheless, I wanted to leave on Monday and, when I arrived at Mount Romano, I was taken again by vomiting and saw it as the end. Blessed be God, who warned me and revived me. I am now better, and tomorrow I will be in Bieda to visit Canon Valerani, who is staying there for a short time. Let us pray for this good benefactor. I have hope for his health.

Here things are going well and with great fervor. They send you many greetings in the Lord. Father Rector left here the day before yesterday for the convent in Farnese.[170] At Soriano there are four or five sick with the epidemic of catarrh,[171] which is visiting this area. There are few it spares. It is very dangerous for the one who contracts it.

Father Thomas is in Rome. He is a true instrument for the glory of God. Things have had a good start. He will have the negotiations for the Retreat of Saint Bibiana[172] and we may expect good results. But let them pray much, for this is the time for that, and our needs are great.

Bit by bit I will give you an account of everything. Father Eustace[173] is a deacon. I think that at Easter there will be not a few novices to be accepted.

The Retreat at Tivoli[174] is in process, and I make it my concern.

I ask you, for the love of God, to have concern for yourself and take care. Do that out of pure charity and with the merit of holy obedience.

Help me, my Father Rector, "for more and more the waters have invaded my very soul." I find myself overloaded with business on every side, without light and without spirit, and with little bodily strength besides. Oh, God! How angry God is with me! However, I do hope in his holy Passion and Mercy. More and more I am living full of fear within and without. The more I try to make it disappear, the less success I have. I am under a heavy scourge. Pray and have prayers offered to His Divine Majesty that he save this poor soul of mine. Greet all the professed and novices for me. Happy are they who have so much time to make themselves holy! Woe to me, that when I could, I did not do so, and now I find myself as I am. May Jesus bless all. Let them recommend the affair to Saint Joseph. I embrace you in the holy Side of Jesus. If you write to Orbetello, give my greetings to the Grazi household, to Signore Petri, Sancez, Bausani, etc.

They will send assurance that the Masses were offered.

Your unworthy servant,
Paul of the Cross

169. Today the town is named Tarquinia.

170. Farnese, diocese of Viterbo.

171. Catarrh refers to a heavy cold.

172. A foundation in Rome, mentioned earlier; which was not made because of opposition.

173. Father Eustace Lippici of the Holy Spirit.

174. This was not realized.