793

John Anthony Lucattini (9)

San Angelo

December 16, 1751

J.C.P.

Reverend Father,

I am writing on poor paper so as not to cost the rector, Father Dominic, a lot, to whom I am directing this note for readdressing. This will serve to let him know that for a few days I have been in this Retreat, but I expect there will be new difficulties.

If the weather is passably good, on the day after Christmas I will be in Toscanella in the evening on my way to Mount Argentario, and I will stay all of Monday, the third day after Christmas. So if Lucy wishes to come, she is free to do so, for I will gladly hear her in Jesus Christ. However, the conference needs to be short, but that is not important.

I offer all Christmas greetings, and I will extend them to one and all from the holy altar, especially on the Holy Night of Christmas. Dearest one, "Prepare your hearts for the Lord," so that there may be born spiritually in you the Divine Word-Made-Man. Oh, fortunate that soul who, well purged from vices, detached from everything created, and in a profound annihilation, remains in a holy, divine solitude with profound interior recollection, and then in that sacred desert reposes on the bosom of the Father and is reborn every moment in the Divine Word to a new life of holy love, a divine life.

Tell Lucy that on her Name's Day I wished her greetings from the altar. I wonder whether she forgot to do that for me, but I remembered her in God.

I have extreme need for prayers, etc. Let us become good companions of the sweet infant. But what astonishment to see a God become an infant! A God wrapped in poor bandages! A God on a little straw between two beasts! Who would not be humble! Who would not be subject to every creature for God's sake? Who would have the audacity to complain? Who would not remain in silence, within and without, in his suffering?

Tell Lucy to cry out much for me and for the Congregation, and have Mary Most Holy and Saint Joseph intercede.

On Christmas we will be together in spirit. Goodbye. Jesus make you as holy as I desire. Amen

Your unworthy, affectionate servant,

Paul of the Cross