875

Raymond Viti of the Sorrowful Heart of Mary[322]

Toscanella

December 11, 1753

J.C.P.

Dear Father Raymond,

I read to my highest edification your welcome letter of November 30, forwarded from the Presentation. It makes me recognize more and more the truth of your vocation, founded on the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Look now, in order to cooperate for your greater perfection, for your greater recollection, and all your other pious intentions, I am accepting your resignation and in a short time there will be an election of another rector. Meanwhile, I beg you to live quietly, for all the more reason since I recall very well the pious sentiments and holy resolutions which you shared with me in our conference, which were the same as you expressed to me in your letter of November 30. Be very sure that I will never speak about this business, but I will work to cooperate toward your greater perfection. I am much pained that you continue with your persistent quartan fever. Because you were acceptable to God, it is necessary that temptation try you.

Among the young men there is one about seventeen years old. He has a delicate complexion and has had the quartan fever and was sick while at the Presentation. When I came here, I managed his cure with a prescription of some marvelous pills. He was quickly cured, and the illness has not returned. As soon as the sickness left him, he went about as before with no further complications. I am writing after Matins, but as soon as it is daylight, I will tell Brother Charles, the infirmarian, to give me that prescription so I can send it to you. I see it is necessary for you to get well, for you cannot set out on a journey now. So I leave it to your prudence and charity to stay where you are as long as you think necessary.

In the letter from Confrater Charles, I learn that he is back in health and wants to return soon. I would also be happy for his ordination. However, I do not know if it will be soon.

I am sorry that you would remain by yourself, not for any special reason, but simply for your greater support. If it does not concern you to be there without a companion, I could have him, accompanied by the servant of this house, come here if that is easier, or go directly by way of Viterbo and Vetralla. But if you do not wish to be deprived of your companion for support, I am very willing to send the dimissorials there so he could be ordained in Orvieto. I leave all to your prudence. Since you are retired and it is a small region, I would believe that you would not feel deserted to be there without a companion. Once again, I say, I leave it up to your prudence.

Strengthen yourself more and more in your holy resolutions, and place in the hand of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, the sacrifice you have made. Detest the temptations that may come to the contrary from the devil or the miserable world.

When you will be in shape to leave, if you wish to be once more under the holy direction of Father Fulgentius, I will be pleased to grant that. If you wish to stay in San Angelo or another Retreat, where you can

remain more recollected, I will cooperate for your greater profit. Do not think you will be doing your own will in making a selection, for you will be doing the Will of God in accord with your interior inspirations with the merit of obedience. Often renew your holy vows, sacrificing yourself more and more to the service of God in the vocation you have undertaken, and be assured that His Divine Majesty will cure you and make you holy. All happenings and sufferings work for our good: "For those who love God all things work together unto good."

I extend feast day greetings from the holy altar, and we will do the same in spirit.

I will write the receipt for Masses for San Angelo, and they will send it and the oil you asked for. Father John Baptist and all greet you. I embrace you in the pure Heart of Jesus. In charity recommend me to God for my needs are not few. Jesus make you as holy as I desire. Amen

Confrater Charles tells me that he wishes the obedience to return, and I am including that in this note. I am from a true heart,

Your affectionate servant,

Paul of the Cross

322. Rector of our Lady of the Oak at Toscanella, Father Raymond wishes to resign his office, and Paul is willing to agree. He was later elected rector of San Angelo, but at this time received permission to join the Trappists. He did not stay with them, withdrawing from the religious life in 1760. He had taken his vows in 1750 at the age of twenty-six.