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[Vicar General of Orbetello] (2)[323]

Toscanella

December 17, 1753

J.C.P.

Your Eminence,

That gratitude which is so much in accord with the Heart of God obliges me to offer you this act, which you truly deserve, of my genuine servitude at the approach of the Feast of Christmas as I extend best wishes for all spiritual and temporal felicity in the Lord. I will do that all the more willingly in the coming holy novena, along with our good religious, and especially on the holy, sweet solemnity, asking the Divine Infant through the Divine Mother, Mary Most Holy, to enrich your pious soul with graces and heavenly gifts, raining over your house the most copious blessings of heaven. May you rejoice out of pure charity over the act of my reverent affection, which I will continue for your as long as I live.

I suppose you have understood from the syndic the reply of His Eminence, which I sent on to Father Rector for lack of an address. In it I adore the Holy Will of the Most High, and, humbled in the depths of my horrible nothingness, I adore, while trembling, the holy, most just, and fearful judgments of His Divine Majesty since there are such great spiritual needs in that city, His Divine Majesty is holding back the remedy, making use of the delay imposed.

I hope that the Lord will draw great good by providing help at the right time, as Your Eminence has said. I am not making a further offering of myself, for those gentlemen know how much I love their city and how much I have admitted I am bound. I cannot doubt for a moment that they could believe that I would put anything else before serving their souls. Now, however, we must await the divine dispositions. The truth is that I have been requested by two cardinals for their dioceses for this spring. If I had been warned in time, I would have taken steps to suit everyone. Father Eustace continues with his sickness, and, if it follows its course, we shall lose him soon; therefore, we cannot use him. I end by enclosing you in the sacred Side of Jesus, where I affirm that I am with fullest esteem and respect,

Your unworthy, obligated servant,

Paul of the Cross

323. There is no name on the letter. From the contents of the letter and from what was directed to the syndic, Signore Sancez, December 25, 1753, in which Paul speaks of the mission he was to give in Orbetello, but the Cardinal Commendatory Abbot (bishop of Orbetello) did not want the mission at that time, the letter is directed to the vicar general at Orbetello.