

Bishop Count Peter M. Garagni (15)²⁴⁰

Viterbo

January 22, 1744

J.M.J.

Very Reverend Father,

I presented the letter to the monsignor, the governor, who put it into execution with pleasure. The bishop, too, gave full approval to these two foundations, which were received with great joy in God by the whole population.

Today, I am leaving for Vetralla to achieve something else and to arrange affairs. And since I find myself near, I see it is necessary that I come there to obtain a favor from His Holiness, a favor that is necessary for a successful outcome and furthering of these foundations. And once you will have listened to me, you will know that for now it is better to delay the mission in Nettuno. I am writing Cardinal Albani and Cardinals Rivara and Colonna and conveying my thanks to them, and much more to God, for you who cooperated so much for this work of God. Around January 26 I hope to be there; however, I am not sure. I will allow Divine Providence to guide me.

I end by prostrating myself at your feet. I am leaving now for Vetralla. Excuse me, for I am writing in haste as I had much to take care of for convents in Viterbo, etc. Bless me, and with profound reverence I am,

Your Reverence's humble, unworthy servant,

Paul of the Cross, Least Discalced Cleric Regular

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In this letter of the new year Paul outlines for Garagni all that must be done to achieve his desired goal of founding two new Retreats. He writes to the civil and spiritual authorities in Viterbo. He plans to go to Rome. He has written to the pope for permission to ordain several religious and to shorten the novitiate of several. Everything is carefully planned! But notice that he leaves everything to the guidance of Divine Providence!