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Bishop Fabrizio Borgia (49)

Patrica

April 29, 1751

Leaving.

J.C.P.

Your Excellency,

I have the happy lot of replying to your letter, directed to Father Stephen. It is true that two confessors would have contributed much to the fruit of this mission, especially in the territory that is much in need of help. But in everything the tremendous justice of God must be adored, and in regard to what is expected of us, to leave to the care to His Divine Majesty, to whom the souls belong.

I am leaving this Monday after the blessing at 14 hours and going to Terracina. On account of my chest pains, contracted in Ferentino and still present, I cannot continue working. I attribute it to a miraculous grace that I was able to have the fruitful mission in Supino and the one in Patrica. I am expecting good from there if those upon whom it depends to maintain the fruit will be faithful in the vineyard of the Lord of Hosts and guard the sheep confided to them by the kindness of the Supreme Shepherd, Christ Jesus.

I beg you to pardon what was wanting in the work I did this time in your diocese, while your zeal already makes you know that from a rotten tree one cannot expect good fruit. I warmly thank you for all your charitable cooperation, which I will not forget in my poor prayers.

In Supino I came to know that good subdeacon, who is truly exemplary. If I am not being too bold, I would ask you to stand behind him, since I hope that the glory of the Lord would come from that. If he does not have the equivalent title that you do, he supplies for it with great piety. You will find out on a visit to Supino.

With heroic virtue Captain Marchioni has sacrificed to the Most High every injury received. He simply desires that these diabolical lampoons, which are being prepared, be consigned to the flames. I promised him that I would ask you, which I dare do with profound respect and do not doubt for a moment your charity. Oh, what a great Christian! Oh, what a pious nobleman with a great depth of fear of God! Oh, how much I know!

I ask your holy blessing, and with full esteem, veneration, and respect I kiss your holy pastoral vestments. In the name of my companions, I ask your benevolent pardon, for I am writing with a mouthful in my throat after coming from eating, and in haste I pay you profound reverence,

Your humble, devoted, obligated servant,

Paul of the Cross