

Mundelein Seminary  
1000 East Maple Avenue  
Mundelein IL 60060

Feb. 25, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

Dear Stigmatine Lay Member,

These are important **March** dates in our Stigmatine Calendar – as will be seen from their content:

#### 4th

**1855:** Fr. John Perrone, SJ, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars gave his official view of Fr. Bertoni's *Original Constitutions* and his Congregation. As to the *Constitutions*, he noted that they had indeed been written in a spirit of prayer, but did need emendation as to their juridical section – the Congregation, although small, should be granted the Decree of Praise that would serve as an encouragement to the members.

#### 16th

**1855:** The Liturgical Feast of the Five Wounds, or Sacred Stigmata, occurred on this date. This same day, the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars issued the Decree of Praise for the Congregation. Bishop Riccabona who was in Rome at this time, made note of this coincidence in favor of the Congregation of the Stimate.

In this time in which we are still in the after-glow of the recent General Chapter, we will also include here the English translation of the Actual Minutes taken during the meetings of the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> General Chapters [1872 – 1875].

As we prayerfully reflect in these early days of Lent, let us pray for each other – and especially for those among us who might be suffering in any way.

Let us pray for those who served in the previous six year term, and those recently elected for this next period. From my own lived experience from January 1970 and following, I personally lived this experience that involves very hard travel, much stamina and prayer. May God bless all those who served us over these many years since 1855 in leadership roles, and the many good men who have preceded us home to the Father's House.

As we are in Lent, this is a good time to try to make a new beginning in our own lives of prayer and Christian living in this Lenten season. May God bless us all as we continue to pray for each other.

Respectfully yours in the Mercy of God,  
which has flowed to us through  
the Sacred Stigmata [Pope Francis],

*Fr. Joseph Henchey, CSS*

Acting Spiritual Director

Appendix:

The Stigmatine Calendar for the month of March. Compiled by Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS [1967].

Enclosed documents:

- The 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Stigmatine General Chapters [1872 - 1875]. English translation by Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS.
- Preface of the English Translation of *Fabro's Profiles of Saints* – by Rev. Joseph Henchey, CSS [2018].
- Roster of the Deceased Stigmatines in March.

**MARCH****1**

- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni wrote in some haste to Mother Naudet as he feared some misunderstanding with Mother diCanossa. He advised Mother Naudet to get Fr. Galvani's advice as well.
- 1815:** Napoleon arrived at the Riviera with only 1,000 men and forbade that any French blood be shed.
- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni, legal owner of St. Teresa's, gave Mother Naudet permission to make some renovations at the Convent.
- 1836:** The House of the *Dereletti*, next to *Santa Maria del Giglio*, was made a filial House of the Stimmate. Fr. Marani came to the Stimmate five days a week for school and he gave theological conferences at the *Dereletti* for 10, or 12 Priests, as Fr. Bertoni used to do years before at Sts. Firmus.
- 1842:** A young student, Louis Ferrari, lay seriously ill across the hall from Fr. Biadego. The doctor visited Fr. Gramego, too, who had suffered for a long time with a painful mouth infection.
- 1855:** About this time, Frs. Marani and Lenotti gave a Mission at Badia del Polesine, in the Diocese of Rovigo.
- 1865:** The Fathers returned from a very short Mission at Gavello. Frs. Benciolini and Bassi preached a Mission in Bottrighe, Diocese of Adria.

**2**

- 1831:** Fr. Bertoni sent further permissions for renovations to Mother Naudet for the Convent of St. Teresa's.
- 1835:** The Emperor, Francis I, 'always the champion of religion', died.
- 1856:** Fr. Marani started a Retreat for the Seminarians of the Diocesan Seminary.
- 1864:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti began a Mission at Rovereto in St. Mary's Church. People came from the surrounding towns and Confessions were heard every night until 11:30 p.m.
- 1868:** The name of Alexander Brasca, Catholic lawyer from Milan, came to the attention of the Congregation for his work in winning cases for religious orders whose property had been confiscated by the government. The

morale at the *Dereletti* was 'at a low ebb', wrote Fr. Benciolini – as his claim of ownership was denied by a Court in Venice.

**1906:** Pope Pius X signed a Decree for the Introduction of the Cause of Fr. Bertoni.

### 3

**1829:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet to tell her of Fr. Guerrieri's visit to him.

**1836:** Fr. Benciolini received the customary faculties from the Diocese of Verona with the proviso that he would make the annual retreat in September.

**1849:** Fr. Francis Ravelli, SJ, cousin [on his Mother's side] of Fr. Bertoni, died at the age of 55.

**1855:** Fr. Bresciani, SJ, Fr. Alfieri and Fr. John Perrone, SJ were in agreement after discussing Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions***, that Fr. Perrone should issue a favorable opinion concerning them to the Sacred Congregations of Bishops and Regulars, of which he was a Consultor.

### 4

**1813:** Mother Naudet asked Fr. Bertoni's advice concerning a good book for her Retreat. Fr. Bertoni suggested the ***Spiritual Exercises*** of St. Ignatius of Loyola – he also suggested to her to keep a Spiritual Diary.

**1829:** Fr. Bertoni celebrated his first Mass in a month, as he had been ill again.

**1855:** Fr. John Perrone, SJ, Consultor to the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars gave his official view of Fr. Bertoni's ***Original Constitutions*** and his Congregation. As to the ***Constitutions***, he noted that they had indeed been written in a spirit of prayer, but did need emendation as to their juridical section – the Congregation, although small, should be granted the ***Decree of Praise*** that would serve as an encouragement to the members.

**1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Vignola preached a Mission at Ara Caeli in Vicenza – Fr. Marani helped at some of the services. The Fathers visited the Shrine at Monte Berico.

**1860:** The Bishop of Padua, Bishop Manfredini, wrote to Fr. Marani, Superior General, to thank him for the fine Retreat just preached to the Seminarians there. The Rector of the Seminary, Fr. Lawrence Sartori, wrote in a similar vein. This Retreat had been preached by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola.

5

- 1842:** Dr. Manzoni paid his last visit to the dying student, Louis Ferrari. Since December of 1840, he had made 1,125 visits in a vain effort to save his life. During this day, Fr. Bertoni visited the dying boy for a little while.
- 1860:** A Fr. Cajetan Modena, a Camillian, who had assisted in the Confessions at the Retreat for the Seminarians preached in Padua by Frs. Lenotti and Peter Vignola, wrote this day to Fr. Marani. He said that the older Professors at the Seminary had told him that it was the best Retreat they had had there since one that the Jesuits had preached there 20 years earlier.
- 1862:** Ash Wednesday – Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti returned to Galliera [Veneta] to establish a Pious Union to combat Blasphemy, to leave a visible memorial to the Mission they had preached there the previous December. Fr. Marani also went along to hear Confessions.
- 1870:** Fr. Lenotti left Villazzano for Verona – he intended to bring the ailing Fr. Marani, Superior General, back with him, as the Superior always found happiness being among the young Students who represented for him the hopes of the future.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti was at the Student House, now at Sale di Povo, preparing for his departure the next day to visit Fr. Bragato at Prague. The long Court case seemed to be settled, and it would only be a matter of time as to when the property would be returned to them.

6

- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni renounced his share of his family inheritance that came to him from his Aunt Paula at the time of his Uncle Anthony's death.
- 1830:** Louis Biadego was ordained a Deacon this day by Bishop Grassler.
- 1834:** The bells of the Stimate rang out this Thursday evening to remind the faithful that the morrow would be First Friday of the month.
- 1842:** *Laetare* Sunday – at 2:00 a.m., the young student, Louis Ferrari, died. He was much admired by his friend, John Lenotti, who would be ordained within the week. Young Ferrari had been with the Congregation eight years.
- 1850:** Austrian troops came to live in a part of the Stimate – they were to remain there for over four years. During their stay at the Stimate, they presented a fertile apostolate to Bro. Zanoli, himself an old soldier, who

brought a number of the Austrian soldiers back to the Sacraments. Fr. Lenotti would mention this years later, how the Brother had fulfilled the 'End' of the Congregation, through his apostolic conversations.

**1872:** Fr. Lenotti was appointed Diocesan Examiner of Vocations, a post held by Fr. Bertoni and Fr. Marani before him.

## 7

**1834:** [Feast of St. Thomas] – it was First Friday of the month, and **the Feast of the Five Wounds** this year. The bells of the Stimate rang out in *tono minore*, as was the custom for the Sunday's of Lent. The bells were rung on this Friday, as it was a special Feast at the Stimate.

**1835:** At 6:00 p.m., the bells of the Stimate tolled for one half hour in honor of the deceased Emperor, Francis.

**1873:** Frs. Lenotti and Vincent Vignola were expected at Prague at 9:00p.m. Fr. Bragato, now nearly 83, needed assistance when he walked. During the stay of the Fathers at the Imperial Court, they meet a Fr. Negrelli, the Court Librarian. The trip from Sale di Povo through Bolzano, took 27 hours.

**1876:** The Students at St. Teresa's celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas in a special way this year – guests were invited to attend the *Accademia* they put on.

**1878:** At the *Accademia* held at the Stimate this year, there was frequent tribute paid to Pius IX, who had always been most gracious toward the Congregation during his life-time.

**1880:** This year, the Students celebrated the Feast of St. Thomas solemnly, preceded by a Triduum in the light of Pope Leo XIII's recent Encyclical Letter ***Aeterni Patris***, that so strongly recommended the doctrine of St. Thomas. The Triduum was preached by the Students.

**1883:** As classes were being taught during this time from the elementary grades, all the way up to the 4<sup>th</sup> year of Theology, and a number of Congregations of Verona were sending their Students to the Stimate for instruction, the Feast of St. Thomas had special significance this year. In the evening, Cardinal di Canossa, his Vicar, Monsignor [also a future Cardinal] Bacilieri, and other notables attended the *Accademia*, which this year was a disputation among several of the Students. A Maestro Ravignani prepared special music for the event.

**1887:** On this date, Fr. Richard Tabarelli presented a philosophical dissertation before the Academy of St. Thomas in Parma.

- 1888:** Bro. Louis Ferrari, long-time confidant of the deceased Superior General, Fr. Marani [he had accompanied the Superior General to see Pius IX in 1854, seeking the **Decree of Praise** which was then granted], died at the Stimate at the age of 76. On this same day, Fr. Peter Vignola informed the Abbot of Bassano, who was most displeased with the Congregation, that at the close of that school year, the Congregation would leave Bassano – thus closing its 12 years of service there.
- 1893:** A special *Accademia* was held this year on the Feast of St. Thomas, to honor the Priestly Jubilee of Pope Leo XIII.
- 1902:** The Superintendent of Schools in Parma gave notice this day that the Congregation would have to close its School in Parma in view of the ‘Casati Law’, forbidding those born in Trent to teach in Italian schools.

## 8

- 1813:** Mother di Canossa would not let one of her Professed Sisters transfer to Mother Naudet’s Congregation. So it was, that Christine Scalfo left Religious Life altogether. Fr. Bertoni wanted to see Fr. Galvani to explain the dispute, but was impeded due to the constant care he was giving to the dying boy, Ruffoni, of the Oratory. Fr. Farinati was then assigned as Confessor to Mother di Canossa’s Congregation.
- 1831:** Mother Naudet bought the old Monastery of St. Dominica and her group moved into it within this year.
- 1840:** Fr. Gramego’s name appeared in the Mass Book for the first time since the previous May. He was visited by the Doctor several times.
- 1856:** Passion Sunday: Fr. Marani concluded the retreat at the Seminary. Fr. Benciolini was preaching a Mission at the Parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury in Verona.
- 1863:** Fr. Benciolini wrote to Fr. Rigoni telling him to use his good judgment concerning the celebration of the Feast of St. John of God. He was the Patron saint of the Religious Community with whom Fr. Rigoni was living in Florence and he had written Fr. Benciolini concerning what he should do for the Community, that had extended hospitality to him.
- 1893:** Fr. Pizzighella received an affirmative answer concerning the Devotions to the Holy Face being conducted in the old Oratory of the Immaculate Conception at the Stimate. Fr. Pizzighella had written to the Holy Office and explained what was going on in the light of the furor caused by this Devotion.

9

- 1799:** Gaspar Bertoni was ordained a Sub-Deacon in the Cathedral of Verona by Bishop Avogadro.
- 1813:** Bartholomew Ruffoni, Fr. Bertoni's choice as Prefect of his Marian Oratory, died today. His life's story was written after his death by Fr. James Righi and Anthony Campostrini. He was called the 'Dominic Savio of the Oratory.'
- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni celebrated Mass with extreme difficulty. Both legs were very painful, but the right leg was swollen and bled.

10

- 1790:** Nicholas Mazza was born. He would become a Priest – he had Fr. Bertoni as his Confessor. Presently, Fr. Mazza's Cause of Beatification is being considered by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, in Rome.
- 1813:** Fr. Bertoni spoke with Monsignor Dionisi, Vicar General of the Diocese, in the Library, concerning the difficulties between Mother di Canossa and Mother Naudet.
- 1835:** After dinner, all at the Stimate go to the Cathedral of Verona for the Memorial Service in honor of the deceased Sovereign, Francis.

11

- 1866:** Fr. Lenotti, assisted by Frs. Benciolini and Rigoni, reached a Novena in honor of St. Joseph.

12

- 1809:** Donna dei Conti Martelli was born. She became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Successor to Mother Naudet in 1840.
- 1821:** The birthday of one F. G. Clementi, who would one day enter our Congregation – he left, though, after only two months, September 1, 1846.
- 1834:** A serious accident was narrowly avoided at the Stimate under construction, when a staging collapsed.<sup>1</sup>
- 1842:** *Sitientes*<sup>2</sup> Saturday – John Lenotti was ordained a Priest by Bishop Mutti in his Residence Chapel.

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<sup>1</sup> It might be noted that CS I, p. 268, gives 1834 as the date – whereas the same volume, p. 504, gives 1835.



**1864:** Francis Sogaro was ordained a Priest – he was a product of the School at the Stimate, and the House Chronicle noted that his ordination made up somewhat for the death of Fr. Venturini a few weeks before.<sup>3</sup>

**1873:** Fr. Lenotti and Fr. Vincent Vignola knelt for Fr. Bragato's blessing as they concluded their five days in Prague. He had seen the Empress Marianna, and thanked her for her charity in financing the House at Villazzano during the hard years of the Students' exile. Fr. Lenotti had always admired Fr. Bragato who had been his first Confessor when he entered the Congregation.

**1892:** Cesare Benaglia was ordained a Priest this day.

### 13

**1842:** Passion Sunday: Fr. John Baptist Lenotti, newly ordained, celebrated his First Mass at the Stimate. It was attended by his family, friends and a good number of the students staying at the Stimate. Fr. Bertoni's name did not appear in the Mass Book this day – nor did it ever again. He would not see any other First Mass of a member of the Congregation in his life-time.

**1864:** The Mission at St. Mary's Church in Rovereto concluded. An estimated 5,000 flocked into the Square for the Papal Blessing. Memorial cards of the Mission were distributed.

**1888:** Bishop Francis Sogaro requested the services of Fr. Dominic Vicentini for Central Africa, but Fr. Peter Vignola refused. The Bishop presented the case to the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith which ruled that Fr. Dominic Vicentini should go to Africa for two years.

**1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was exhumed for examination and identification as a part of the Process for his Cause. The body was exposed in a room in an upper floor at the Stimate, which was sealed.

### 14

**1800:** Gregory Louis Barnabas Chiaramonti, OSB was elected Pope Pius VII at the Conclave held in Venice

**1882:** Fr. Francis Cartolari entered the Stimate.

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<sup>2</sup> Editor's note: the Saturday in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent.

<sup>3</sup> He would one day be an Arch-Bishop, after leaving the Congregation, and died as President of the Noble Ecclesiastics in Rome. He was ordained a Bishop in St. Agatha of the Goths Church, Rome.

- 1826:** The Papal Decree extending the Holy Year was published in Verona.
- 1840:** Louis Gagliardi was ordained a Priest – he later composed some special music for the Canonical Erection of the Congregation, that would be held September 30, 1855.
- 1842:** Fr. John Lenotti celebrated one of his First Masses in the family Parish of St. Luke's.
- 1857:** Fr. Benciolini and Fr. Lenotti preached a Mission at S. Nicolo' in Verona.
- 1860:** Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti left Verona for the Mission at Noventa di Piave. People came from as far as 20 miles around to make the Mission.
- 1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, and Fr. Vincent Vignola returned to Sale di Povo, from their visit with Fr. Bragato at Prague.
- 1880:** Fr. Anthony Oss Balss and Fr. Dominic Vicentini opened an Oratory at S. Martino, Trent.

## 15

- 1826:** Fr. Antony Rosmini in Milan sent the Plan of the Congregation he wanted to establish to Fr. Bertoni in Verona.
- 1830:** Fr. Bertoni ceded the Convent of St. Teresa to Mother Naudet for her perpetual use. [These conditions were not kept in later years by the Sisters and eventually they left St. Teresa's].
- 1834:** A brass lamp was struck for the second time at the altar at the Stimate, but the work was still unsatisfactory.
- 1842:** From this day onward, Fr. Lenotti's name appeared regularly in the Mass Book at the Stimate. He looked poorly at this time and Fr. Bertoni had him consult a doctor.
- 1856:** Frs. Benciolini, Venturini and Lenotti concluded the Mission at St. Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Verona.
- 1858:** Frs. Lenotti and Vignola finished this morning a successful Mission at Ara Caeli in Vicenza.
- 1864:** There was a dispute between Fr. Benciolini and the Sisters concerning St. Teresa's Convent and its use. Bishop di Canossa [whose two blood sisters were Sisters of the Holy Family] took counsel with a lawyer, by the name of Alexander Zeppi, who sided with the Sisters.

**1873:** Fr. Lenotti, Superior General, having returned to Sale di Povo the day before from his trip to Prague, returned to Verona.

**1878:** Fr. Rigoni resigned as director of the Diocesan Seminary of Verona, due to ill health, and returned to the Stimate.

## 16

**1855:** The **Liturgical Feast of the Five Wounds, or Sacred Stigmata**, occurred on this date. This same day, the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars issued the **Decree of Praise** for the Congregation. Bishop Riccabona, who was in Rome at this time, made note of this coincidence in favor of the Congregation of the Stimate.

**1858:** Having completed the Mission yesterday at Vicenza, Fr. Marani, Superior General, left this day for Caravaggio to look into the offer of the Shrine there to the Congregation.

**1867:** Charles Zara was ordained a Priest [he had been a Deacon since August 1865].

**1870:** Fr. Lenotti left Verona to return to Villazzano, without Fr. Marani, who was too ill, and the weather too cold for him to make the trip. Fr. Lenotti had come down to Verona for the express purpose of bringing Fr. Marani back up with him.

**1875:** Fr. Louis Maestrelli, Superior of the 'Sordo-Muti',<sup>4</sup> died today.

**1876:** The Bishop of Parma wrote to Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, to tell him that he was well satisfied with the work of the Congregation in Parma.

## 17

**1837:** Fr. Vincent Raimondi entered the Congregation. [For a number of years, he was to teach Patrology at the Diocesan Seminary – he died a Jesuit 2 years after Fr. Bertoni, June 12, 1855].

**1855:** Bishop Riccabona wrote to the Stimate from Rome to tell the news of the granting of the **Decree of Praise** the day before the Feast of the Sacred Stigmata. He said that it was not a coincidence, but a manifestation of Divine Providence.

**1905:** Fr. Joseph Antonioli purchased a piece of property in the 'Acquabella' section of Milan, with the intention of building there a Boarding House for

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<sup>4</sup> A Deaf community.

students attending school in Milan. At first, the General Council, under Fr. P. Gurisatti, Superior General, was not interested, but in time it would become an important project of the Congregation.

### 18

- 1783:** Matilda Bertoni was born – the only sister of Gaspar, already six years old. She would die at the age of 3 and one half.
- 1827:** The wife of Joseph Ferrari fell seriously ill and was anointed and received Viaticum. Fr. Bertoni told Joseph to be of good hope, as the morrow was the Feast of St. Joseph, who would watch over his loved one.
- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni was confined to bed again as his leg was badly swollen and very painful to touch. He wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that he would be under-going surgery. He told her to copy the procedure of the Madames of the Sacred Heart in obtaining the approval of the Holy See.
- 1834:** At about 6:00 p.m., the bells of the Stimate rang out on the Vigil of the morrow's Feast of St. Joseph.
- 1846:** The Vigil of St. Joseph – John B. Bandoria, aged 39, a tailor, entered the Stimate.
- 1854:** The Imperial Government answered the Congregation's request to return Fr Bertoni's body to the Stimate. Before granting permission, the government asked for more information.
- 1858:** After returning from an inspection trip to Caravaggio, Fr. Marani and Frs. Benciolini and Lenotti went to Fossolovara to preach a Mission.
- 1859:** Holy Thursday – Fr. Marani celebrated Mass in the Church of the Stimate, his first Mass in many months. He was no longer able to keep his busy preaching schedule that he did his first years as Superior General.

### 19

- 1827:** Fr. Bertoni is confined to bed again – the ailment seemed to have been a tumor on the leg. Mrs. Joseph Ferrari suddenly improved this day and her husband attributed it to Fr. Bertoni's prayers.
- 1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of the repeated lancing of his leg by Dr. Gregori, who ordered him to stay in bed. He received Holy Communion in bed this day.

- 1829:** The bells of the Stimate rang out for six minutes, at 6:00 a.m., and for 12 minutes at noon.
- 1854:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, responded to the questionnaire sent to him by the authorities in Venice. He stated that the Schools at the Stimate would conform exactly to the state requirements.
- 1866:** Fr. Rigoni preached the panegyric in the Church of S. Nicola in Verona, the center in the city of Devotions to St. Joseph. For the rest of this year, one of the Fathers of the Stimate came to preach at this Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> of the each month at the Devotions for a Good Death.
- 1891:** On this Feast of St. Joseph, the Fathers of the Congregation officiated at the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome, for the first time.

## 20

- 1800:** Leopoldina Naudet left for Venice to congratulate the new Pope, Pius VII.
- 1803:** Fr. Bertoni preached on Frequent Communion and analyzed the usual excuses offered for its neglect. He said there was no valid reason, as Christ would respond to the needs of man in this Sacrament.
- 1808:** Bishop Innocent Liruti took over the See of Verona – there had been no Bishop since Bishop Avogadro resigned the See in 1805.
- 1866:** The Novena at the Church of St. Nicola in Verona ends. Fr. Lenotti resumed his evening services there, preaching every night on the Saint.

## 21

- 1802:** Fr. Bertoni preached on Confession and stated that there can be no comparison in the shame a sinner feels before the Confessional where he has come to accuse himself and that a sinner would feel who had never confessed and was accused publicly by the Divine Judge at the General Judgment. A good Confession is an honor to the penitent.
- 1804:** Fr. Bertoni preached on the meaning of true happiness – he said that it was the testimony of a good conscience; sometimes it knows no human delight – happiness is abandonment to God.
- 1829:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her that Monsignor Dionisi would speak to the new Bishop [Grasser] as soon as he arrived in the Diocese.

- 1837:** Fr. Bertoni offered the Jesuits in Verona lodging at the Stimate – there were already 11 Priests, 2 Students and several Brothers living there at the time. He also offered them the direction of his School at the Stimate.
- 1855:** Feast of St. Benedict – word was received at the Stimate that the Holy Father, Pius IX, had granted the **Decree of Praise**. Canon Bertinelli wrote from Rome and said that, since the Congregation was so small, with so few members, that the granting of the Decree should be considered as Fr. Bertoni's first miracle!
- 1874:** Fr. Francis Sogaro wrote a letter to all the Fathers who were **Apostolic Missionaries** - he asked them not to be scandalized in his request to leave the Congregation - to which he would always be grateful. He stated that he wanted to follow his Missionary vocation to Africa.

## 22

- 1817:** Francis Cartolari was ordained a Deacon.
- 1828:** In the Cathedral of Mantua, Innocent Venturini was ordained a Sub-Deacon by Bishop Buoizzi.
- 1838:** A Dr. Lawrence Maggi - acting for Fr. Bertoni – offered 160,000 Austrian Lira for the purchase of Sezano.
- 1868:** Fr. Marani, Superior General, came to Villazzano with the intention of staying only a few days. However, he became ill and stayed almost an entire month in bed.
- 1895:** On this date, the Congregation purchased a house in Parma, near the Church of St. James, on Via Massimo d'Azeglio, which was better suited for their work.
- 1899:** Fr. Bertoni's body was re-examined by the Diocesan Tribunal, in the Process of his Beatification.

## 23

- 1807:** Benedict Riccabona – the future Bishop of Verona, and later of Trent – was born in Cavalese, Trent.
- 1836:** Fr. Cainer went to bed and was laid up for about a month.
- 1848:** The Dominicans at Santa Sabina in Rome ceded the Church of S. Nicola dei Prefeti in Rome to a Confraternity of the Crucified. The Church would

administered by our Congregation in 1891 – and the Confraternity caused no small difficulty to our Fathers.

**1891:** Frs. Tabarelli, Julius Zambiasi and Scotton moved from Vicolo del Bologna, n. 40 in Rome – to a House near S. Nicola dei Prefeti. As these Priests were involved in school work, Fr. Pio Gurisatti – the future 4<sup>th</sup> Superior General – was sent to care for the Church.

## 24

**1800:** The Bertoni family signed the agreement concerning the family estate, as the father in the family had been causing no small grief in his poor administration of it.

**1873:** The Court of Verona, ordered by the Court of Venice in January of this year to make an equitable settlement with the Congregation regarding its property granted another stay of 30 days to the government. A lawyer friend of Brasca's, by the name of Gemma, represented Fr. Benciolini.

## 25

**1790:** Cajetan Brugnoli, son of Charles, was born.

**1817:** Fr. Louis Della Rizza had been living in the house of the Stimmate when Fr. Bertoni took possession of it the previous November. He finally left this day, after the winter.

**1851:** Feast of the Annunciation – Fr. Marani gave First Communion to two young sisters, by the name of Haller, at the 7:00 a.m. Mass. At 8:30, there was a Mass and the young girls sang during it. They were being trained by the Sisters of the Holy Family.

**1855:** Passion Sunday – Fr. Marani and Bro. Zanolli went to Treviso for a Mission. Fr. Marani, Superior General, frequently took Brothers with him on his trips.

**1860:** Passion Sunday – Frs. Benciolini, Lenotti and Vincent Vignola finished the strenuous Mission at Noventa di Piave.

**1865:** Richard Tabarelli and James Zadra [a Brother candidate] became Novices.

**1906:** Arch-Bishop Louis Morando, the first member of the Congregation elevated to the Episcopacy, entered his See of Brindisi.

**26**

**1812:** Mother Naudet's notes of this day indicate that she had experienced some sort of an ecstasy – or intense experience in prayer.

**27**

**1809:** Fr. Bertoni cited Dom Scupoli's *Spiritual Combat* in his Spiritual Diary on this date, and wrote that temptations return after failure that one might regain the merit lost from the previous failure.

**1813:** One Angelo Allegri was condemned to death – he was impenitent for his crime of matricide, but was ultimately converted and made his Confession to Fr. Bertoni, before his execution.

**1826:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Rosmini to congratulate him for the wonderful work he had planned for his future Congregation. Fr. Bertoni suggested that Fr. Rosmini begin the process of obtaining Papal Approbation.

**28**

**1829:** Bishop Grasser, who had taken over the See of Verona some days earlier, was mentioned in Fr. Bertoni's letter to Mother Naudet as being much esteemed by the government.

**1866:** Fr. Lenotti, who was preaching the entire month at the Church of S. Nicola in Verona in honor of St. Joseph, stated this night that St. Joseph was a model of Devotion to our Lord. This was Wednesday in Holy Week.

**1899:** Count Albert Gerbaid de Sonas wrote again from Lisbon delineating the duties of the Congregation once they got to Lisbon. They would have the care of an Italian Parish there and the opportunity of opening a school as soon as possible.

**29**

**1835:** Bro. Angelo Casella went to bed on this day, suffering from a very serious 'inflammation.'

**1840:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Fr. Bragato at Prague and sent him the best regards from the Community at the Stimate.

**1858:** A Priest Novice, Fr. Bissoli, left the Congregation – the Chronicle read that he had shown signs of being an excellent Religious and was most exemplary.



**1866:** Holy Thursday – Fr. Lenotti preached at S. Nicola’s on this night, on St. Joseph as the ‘Saint of Providence.’

**1873:** Lawrence Pizzini, James Marini and Pio Gurisatti were ordained on this day, *Sitientes*<sup>5</sup> Saturday.

**1878:** The Congregation of the Stimate sent a congratulatory note to the new Pope, Leo XIII.

### 30

**1816:** Francis Cartolari was ordained a Sub-Deacon.

**1866:** Good Friday – Fr. Lenotti preached at S. Nicola’s in Verona on ‘Conformity to the Will of God’.

### 31

**1828:** Fr. Bertoni wrote to Mother Naudet and told her of his happiness that a certain Santa Campanini had entered the Congregation of Mother Naudet. Fr. Bertoni, in this letter, suggested that she have 3 classes of membership in her Congregation.

**1866:** Holy Saturday – at the concluding services at St. Nicola’s in Verona on the March Devotions, in honor of St. Joseph, Fr. Lenotti told his hearers that fidelity and constancy are the characteristics of those truly devoted to St. Joseph.

**1867:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – Fr. Lenotti preached a three-day retreat in the Church of the *Trinità*, to high school students.

**1879:** Bishop Benedict Riccabona, true friend of the Congregation, died in Trent. Fr. Peter Vignola, Superior General, came from Verona for the funeral. Fr. Zara noted in the House Chronicle that his memory would always be venerated in the annals of the Congregation – and that those who came after them, would always venerate his name.

**1887:** The Congregation purchased a House in Pavia, next to the Church of Sts. Philip and James for 50,000 Lira, borrowed from Bishop Riboldi.

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<sup>5</sup> i.b.: Editor’s note: the Saturday in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of Lent.



Fr. Bertonni used to teach even during his long and painful illnesses that held him in bed for many years.