

SPIRITUAL WRITINGS

of Venerable

MARIA BARTOLOMEA CAPITANIO

PRIME FOUNDRESS

OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY
IN LOVERE

drawn from manuscripts
with notes

by

LUIGI IGNAZIO MAZZA S.J.

Volume One

LETTERS

MODENA

TIP. PONTIFICIA ED ARCIVESCOVILE
DELL'IMMACOLATA CONCEZIONE

1904

Imprimatur,
si iis ad quos spectat ita videbitur.

Mantova, 4 January 1904.

J.B. Rossi S.J.
Praep. Prov. Ven.

Nihil obstat

ANGELUS Adv. MARIANI S.R.C. Assessor.

In obedience to the decrees emanated by His Holiness Urbano VIII and issued by the *S.R.U. Inquisizione*, the author affirms that he attributes no authority to what is said nor to the appreciation contained in this book other than what is given or what will be given by the Roman Catholic and Apostolic Church, to whom it is his honour to totally submit.

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A.M.D.G.
(*AD MAIOREM DEI GLORIAM*)

THE COMPILER
HEREWITH PRESENTS AND DEDICATES

**THESE SPIRITUAL MEMORIES
OF VEN. B. CAPITANIO**

TO VERY REV. MOTHER **MARIA ANGELA GHEZZI**
SUPERIOR GENERAL

TO ALL THE REV. **SISTERS OF CHARITY**

SO THAT
THE SPIRIT OF THEIR PRIME FOUNDRRESS
MAY LIVE ON
AMONG HER DAUGHTERS

FOREWORD TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The present volume reproduces the **vol. I** of the **SPIRITUAL WRITINGS OF VEN. BARTOLOMEA CAPITANIO** collected by Luigi Ignazio Mazza sj and published in Italian in 1904.

This includes the **LETTERS** of Bartolomea, which Mazza had at his disposal, according to the interpretation, transcription and the chronological order proposed by him.

This collection also has been translated in English by **Sr. Maximilla Saydon**, and revised several times by other sisters, both in Italy and in India.

Its publication **follows that of the III vol.** of **Spiritual Writings**, carried out in 2016 by Brilliant Printers, Bangalore. Therefore it is asked to refer to the **Presentation** of that text (pp II-III), which explains the aim of the initiative and the care taken to make the format and contents correspond substantially to the numbering of pages of the text of Mazza and thereby to facilitate consultation.

With regard to the present edition, it is noted:

- in the translation the numerous titles and attributes have been very often simplified - expressions of courtesy, typical of the times - reserved to the addressee of the **LETTERS**, however without disregarding the overall sense, and those with which Bartolomea, while signing, defines herself. These latter ones were often popular ways of saying, written at times using acronyms that are difficult or it is not always possible to retrieve the correct meaning;
- the use of capital letters, very persistent in Bartolomea, does not follow any precise rule. It should also be kept in mind that for an exact comparison, we do not have at our disposition a

critical edition of the original Manuscripts, which Mazza has used. Hence, regarding the use of capital/small letters, not always there is a strict correspondence with the text in Italian. Only in certain case, a clear emphasis has been respected;

- the Notes added by Mazza in the body of the LETTERS have been quoted in normal character; those in italics, instead, are according to the translators, made necessary in order to understand some terms written in Latin, or in dialect, or in Italian prevalent in the Eighteenth century.

Thanks to all the sisters who have collaborated in this demanding and meticulous work of translation and compilation of this volume of LETTERS. May it be useful to go deeper into the richness of Bartolomea's spiritual experience, which has nourished and continues to nourish our Institute.

April 2018

*Edited by: **Sisters of Charity of Saints
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N.B. The anastatic reprinting of 1968 comprises a Note upon the "HISTORICAL AND SPIRITUAL SOURCES OF THE INSTITUTE OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINTS BARTOLOMEA CAPITANIO AND VINCENZA GEROSA" useful for the knowledge of the original sources, collected by Mazza and for their authenticity, which for right reasons will be printed apart.

