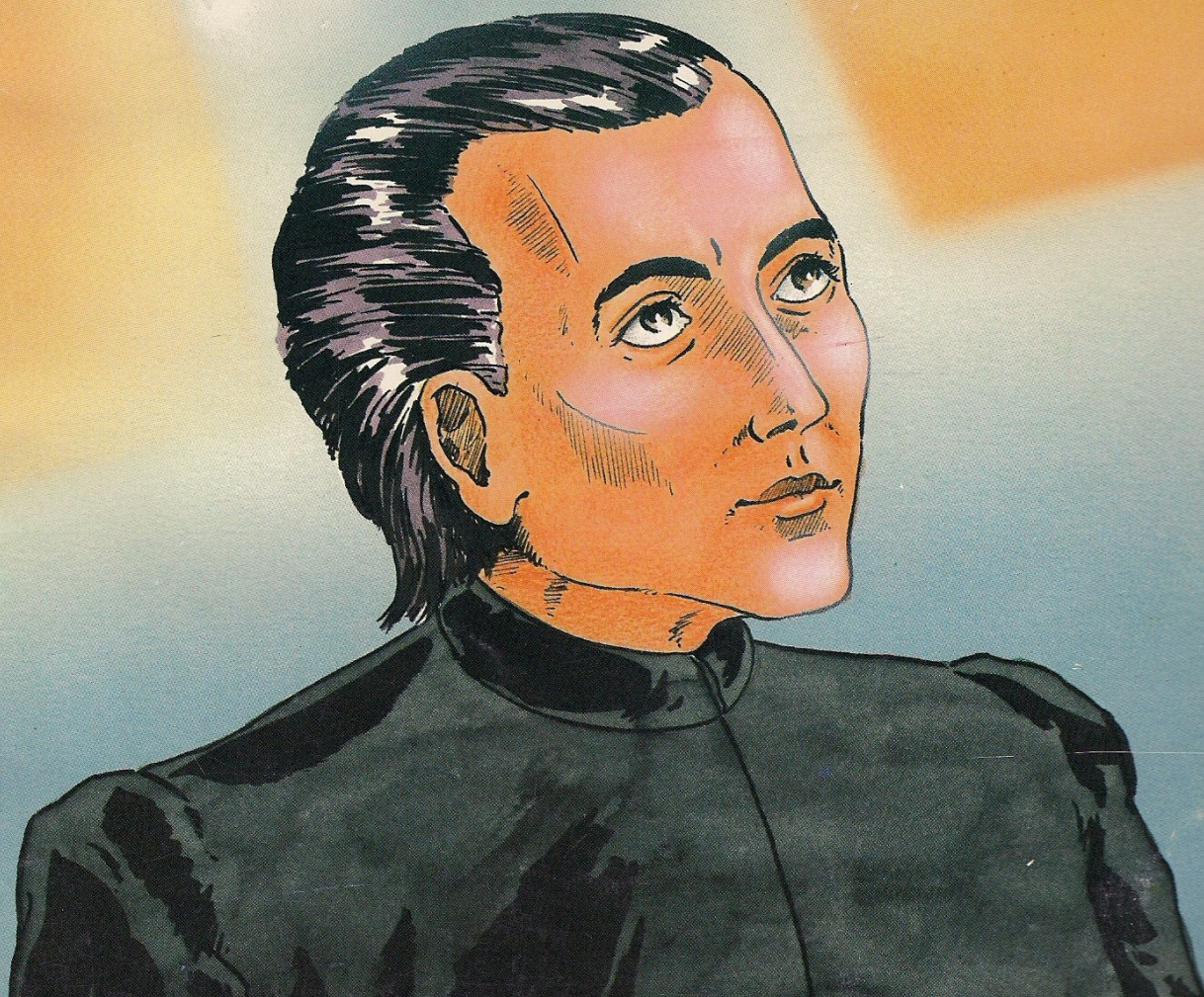


SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS

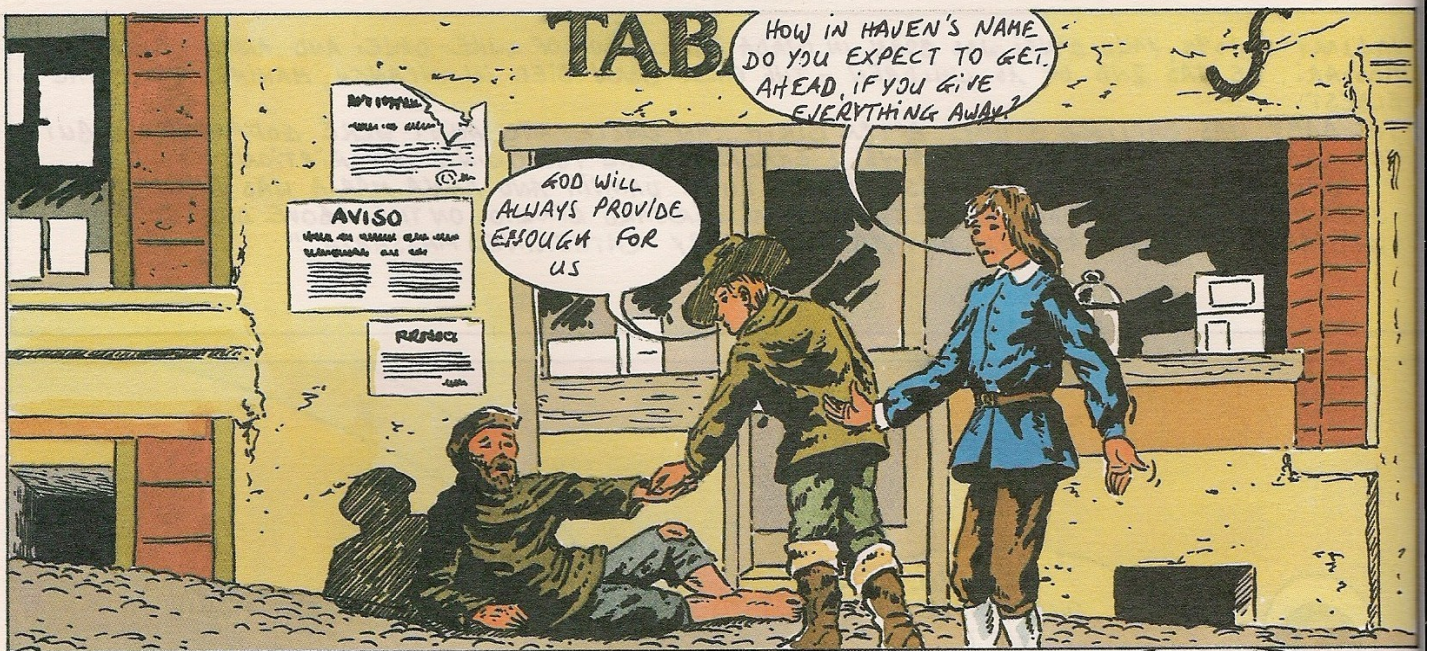


JANUARY 3, 1694; PAUL DANEI WAS BORN IN OJADA, ITALY, SON OF LUKE DANEI AND ANNA MARIA MASSARI. HE WAS 2ND OF 16 CHILDREN - THE FIRST-BORN DIED IN INFANCY, MAKING PAUL THE ELDEST

THE BABY WAS BAPTISED 3 DAYS AFTER BIRTH. AN UNCLE AND AUNT WERE GODPARENTS, BUT THE BAPTISMAL REGISTER CONTAINS 2 ERRORS IN THE FOLLOWING INSCRIPTION:

"6 JANUARY 1694 PAUL FRANCIS, SON OF LUKE DANNIA AND ANNA MARIA WAS BORN 3 JANUARY AND BAPTISED BY RECTOR JOHN BERNARD BENZIO ON THE ABOVE DAY. GODPARENTS: JOHN ANDREW DANNIA AND MARY CATHERINE MASSARIA."



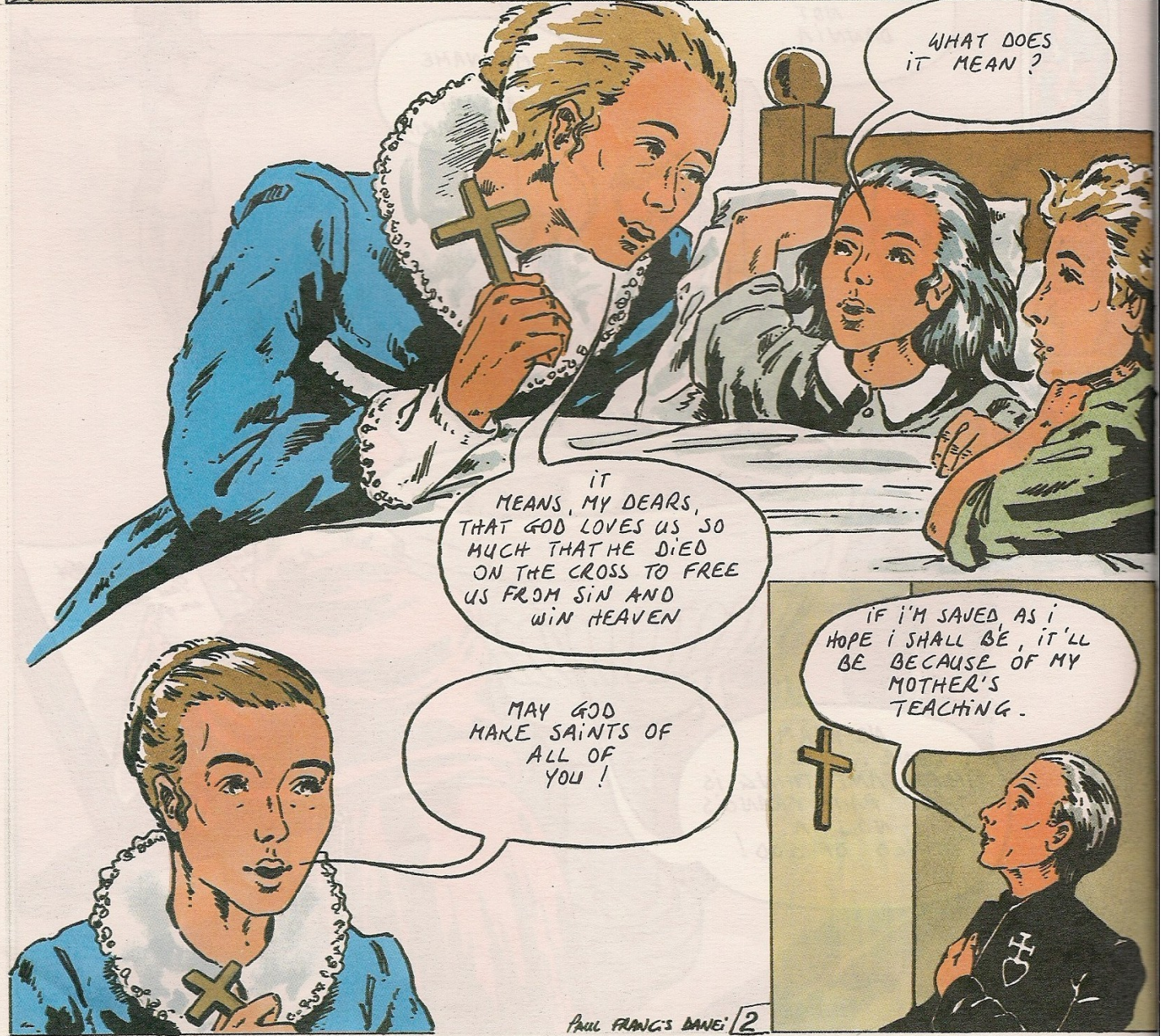


HOW IN HAVEN'S NAME DO YOU EXPECT TO GET AHEAD, IF YOU GIVE EVERYTHING AWAY?

GOD WILL ALWAYS PROVIDE ENOUGH FOR US

AVISO

Refugio



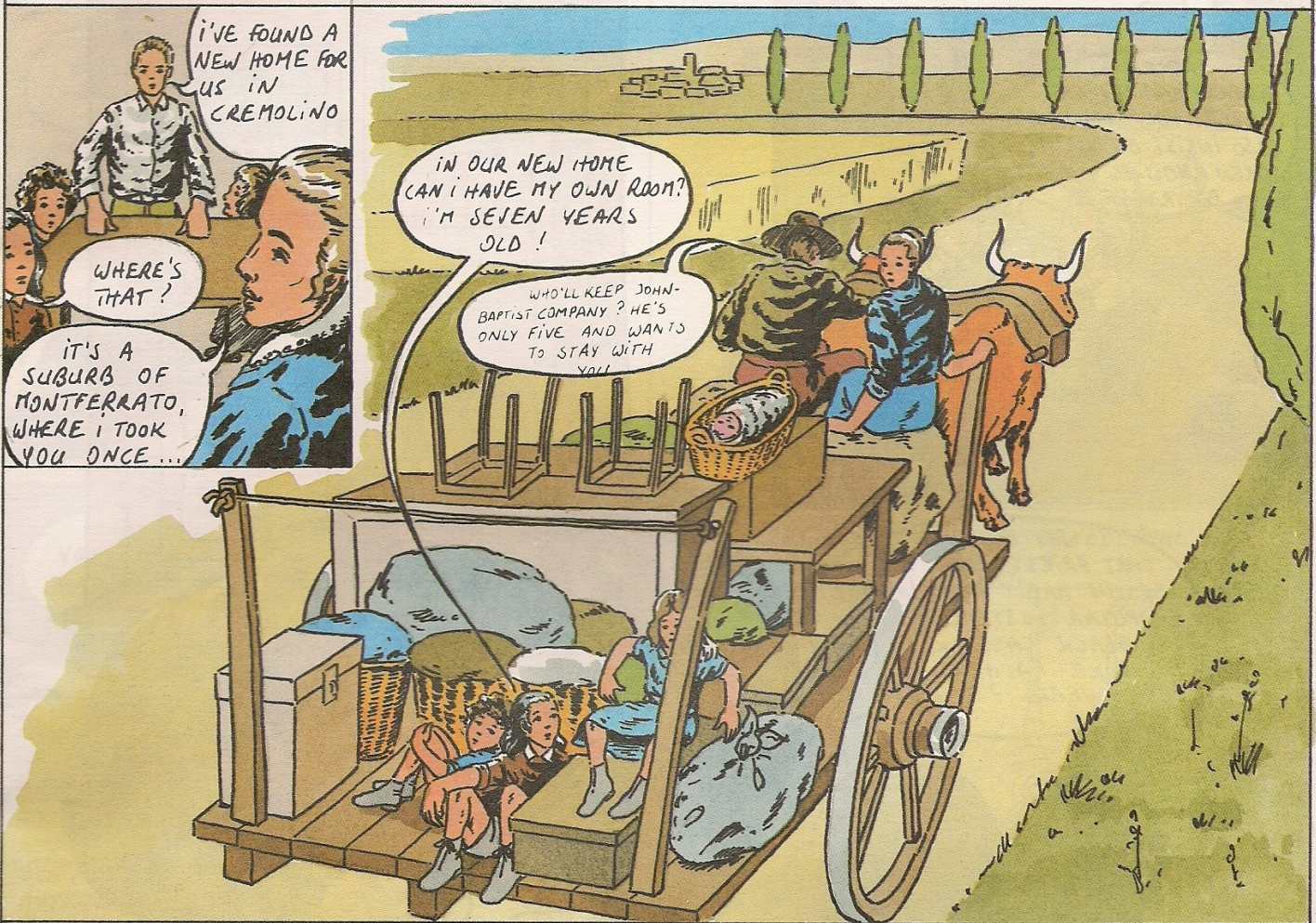
WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

IT MEANS, MY DEARS, THAT GOD LOVES US SO MUCH THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS TO FREE US FROM SIN AND WIN HEAVEN

MAY GOD MAKE SAINTS OF ALL OF YOU!

IF I'M SAVED AS I HOPE I SHALL BE, IT'LL BE BECAUSE OF MY MOTHER'S TEACHING.

IN 1701, HAVING LOST HIS TOBACCO SHOP THROUGH BANKRUPTCY AND NEEDING MORE ROOM FOR HIS GROWING FAMILY, LUKE DANEI IS FORCED TO MOVE TO A POORER PLACE IN A NEARBY VILLAGE



I'VE FOUND A NEW HOME FOR US IN CREMOLINO

WHERE'S THAT?

IT'S A SUBURB OF MONTFERRATO, WHERE I TOOK YOU ONCE ...

IN OUR NEW HOME CAN I HAVE MY OWN ROOM? I'M SEVEN YEARS OLD!

WHO'LL KEEP JOHN-BAPTIST COMPANY? HE'S ONLY FIVE AND WANTS TO STAY WITH YOU!

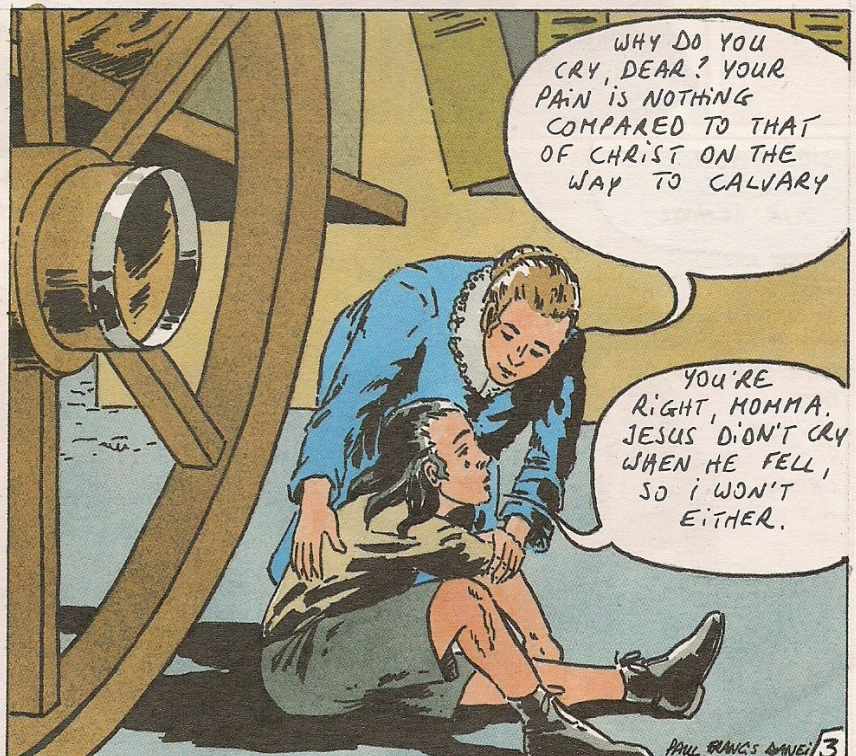


HERE IT IS ...

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE INSIDE!

IT'LL TAKE A LOT OF FIXING...

CREMOLINO



WHY DO YOU CRY, DEAR? YOUR PAIN IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THAT OF CHRIST ON THE WAY TO CALVARY

YOU'RE RIGHT, MOMMA. JESUS DIDN'T CRY WHEN HE FELL, SO I WON'T EITHER.

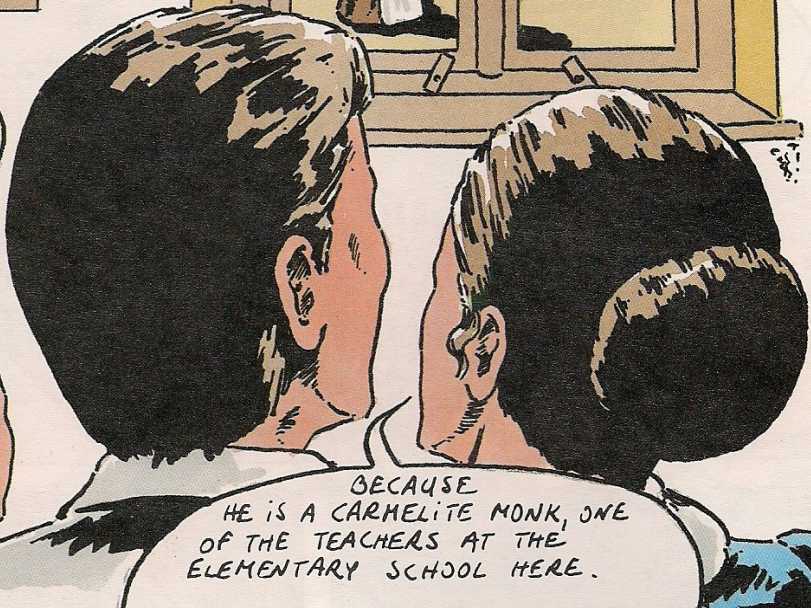


HOW FORTUNATE WE ARE THAT THE PARISH PRIEST HAS OFFERED TO TEACH OUR BOYS TO READ AND WRITE

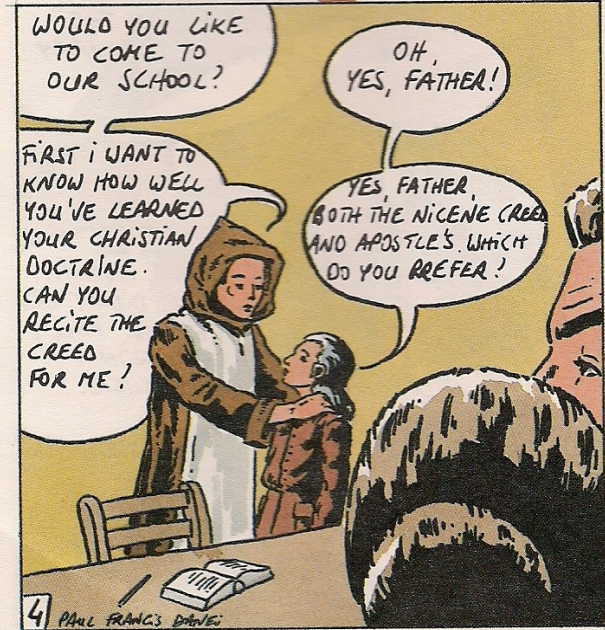
FATHER ALBERTO MARIA VERRI IS A VERY HOLY MAN. HE'LL ALSO INSIST ON OUR CHILDREN KNOWING CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE



WHY DOES THAT PRIEST WEAR A BROWN HABIT AND WHITE SCAPULAR INSTEAD OF A BLACK CASSOCK LIKE FATHER VERRI?



BECAUSE HE IS A CARMELITE MONK, ONE OF THE TEACHERS AT THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HERE.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO OUR SCHOOL?

OH, YES, FATHER!

FIRST I WANT TO KNOW HOW WELL YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE. CAN YOU RECITE THE CREED FOR ME?

YES, FATHER, BOTH THE NICENE CREED AND APOSTLE'S. WHICH DO YOU PREFER?



WHAT AN UNUSUAL BOY...



THAT PROVES THERE WASN'T ANYTHING JESUS WOULDN'T DO TO PROVE HIS LOVE FOR US!

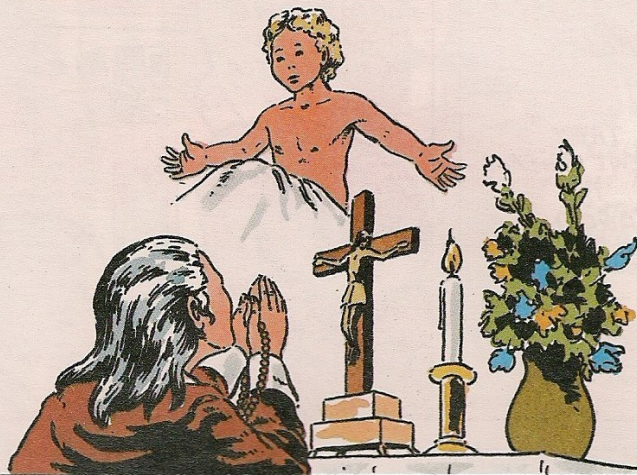
AT THE AGE OF 10, PAUL AND HIS BROTHER, JOHN BAPTIST (8), BUILD AN ALTAR IN THE ATTIC OF THEIR HOME.



WHAT ELSE DO WE NEED?

WE SHOULD GET SOME FLOWERS

PAUL, WHILE SAYING THE ROSARY BEFORE HIS ATTIC SHRINE IS FAVORED BY A VISION OF THE INFANT JESUS



JOHN, CAN YOU KEEP A GREAT SECRET?

CERTAINLY!



DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT THIS AFTER NOON WHILE SAYING THE ROSARY IN THE ATTIC, I DISTINCTLY SAW THE INFANT JESUS OVER THE ALTAR...

REALLY?

FATHER ALBERTO MARIE VERRI GIVES PAUL HIS FIRST COMMUNION IN 1909



ECCE, AGNUS DEI...

PAUL, WHAT DID YOU ASK OF JESUS WHEN HE WAS SO CLOSE TO YOU?

TO RECEIVE HIM AGAIN...



IN 1709
POVERTY
AGAIN FORCED
THE
DANEI FAMILY
TO
MOVE.

THEY
WENT BRIEFLY
TO
TAGLILOLO
...

THIS MUST BE THE
POOREST PLACE
IN TAGLILOLO.
BEFORE WINTER
I MUST GO TO
CAMPO LIGURE
TO FIND SOMETHING
BETTER

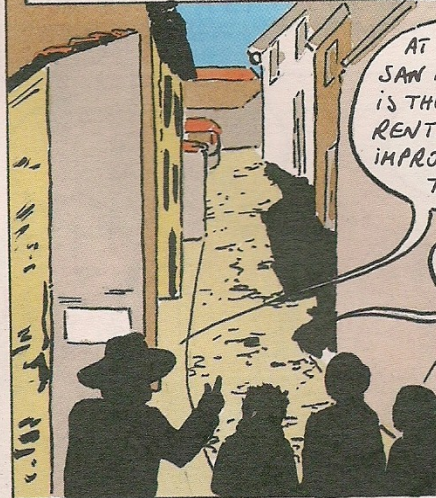


... THEN TO CAMPO LIGURE

AT THE END OF
SAN ANDREA LANE
IS THE HOUSE I'VE
RENTED. IT'S A BIG
IMPROVEMENT OVER
TAGLILOLO

IT DOESN'T
HAVE AN ATTIC

NEVER
MIND! WE
CAN ALWAYS GO
TO THE
PARISH
CHURCH

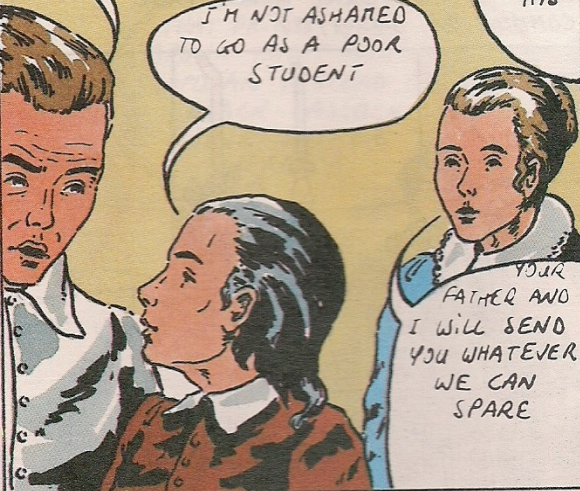


WE'VE DECIDED TO SEND YOU TO
THE BUFFA FAMILY IN GENOA. THERE
YOU CAN CONTINUE SCHOOL

I'M NOT ASHAMED
TO GO AS A POOR
STUDENT

WE SHOULD NOT
COMPLAIN AT BEING
POOR. JESUS HAD ONLY
A STABLE FOR
HIS FIRST HOME

YOUR
FATHER AND
I WILL SEND
YOU WHATEVER
WE CAN
SPARE



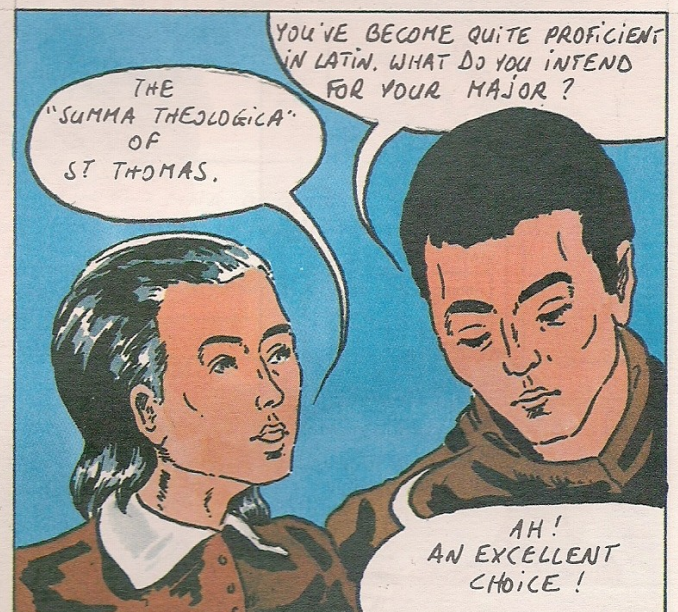
EMBARRASSED AT HIS PARENTS REDUCED
CIRCUMSTANCES, PAUL FELT OBLIGED TO
DO SOMETHING FOR THEM. ACCORDINGLY,
HE SMUGGLED 20 KILOS OF TOBACCO
ACROSS THE SWISS BORDER IN THE
DEPTH OF WINTER AND UNDER COVER OF SNOW

PAPA, YOU CAN SELL
THIS TOBACCO AND GAIN
BACK DOUBLE THE MONEY
YOU GAVE ME. I DIDN'T USE
IT FOR BOOKS, BUT INSTEAD
BOUGHT THIS TOBACCO IN
SWITZERLAND TAX FREE

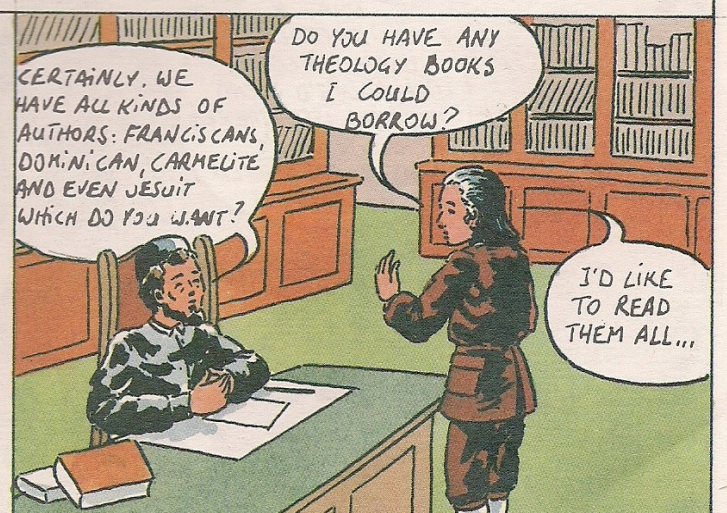
IF THE CUSTOMS
HAD CAUGHT YOU,
YOU'D NOW BE
IN
PRISON



PAUL
ATTENDS THE
UNIVERSITY
OF
GENOVA
1710-12



TOWARD THE END OF 1712 THE DANEI FAMILY FORTUNES TAKE A TURN FOR THE WORSE. PAUL LEAVES THE UNIVERSITY AND JOINS THEM IN OVADA.

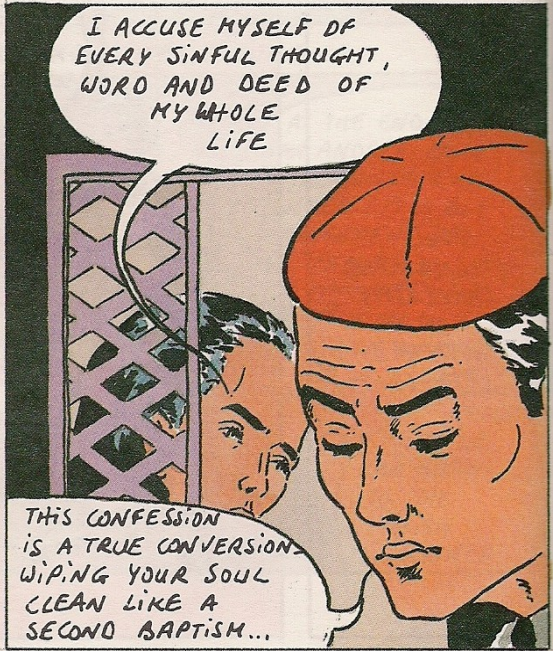


ON PASSION SUNDAY, 1713, PAUL IS DEEPLY MOVED BY A SERMON ON THE PASSION PREACHED IN HIS PARISH CHURCH AT OVADA.



JESUS DIED FOR EACH ONE OF YOU AND THE CROSS IS YOUR ONLY HOPE OF HEAVEN. YOU CANNOT THINK OF THESE TRUTHS WITHOUT RESPONDING IN SOME WAY...

I MUST MAKE A GENERAL CONFESSION ...



I ACCUSE MYSELF OF EVERY SINFUL THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED OF MY WHOLE LIFE

THIS CONFESSION IS A TRUE CONVERSION - WIPING YOUR SOUL CLEAN LIKE A SECOND BAPTISM...



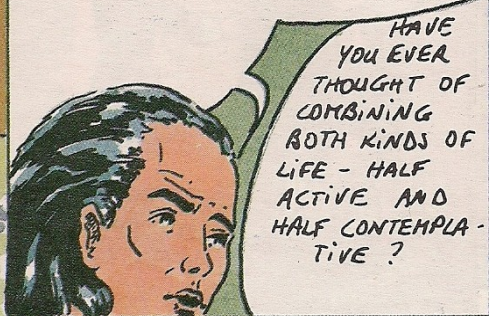
LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME TO DO ?



IN 1714, PAUL FINALLY SEEKS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION FROM THE PARISH PRIEST, FATHER COLUMBAN.

SOMETIMES, I FEEL A STRONG INCLINATION FOR SOLITUDE AND THINK I SHOULD BE A HERMIT, BUT THEN I THINK OF THE POOR PEOPLE WHO NEED INSTRUCTION AND WONDER IF GOD DOESN'T WANT ME TO BE A MISSIONARY

WHAT A DELIGHTFUL HIDDEN PLACE! WILLINGLY I'D SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE THERE, IF CHARITY DIDN'T OBLIGE ME TO HELP MY PARENTS



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF COMBINING BOTH KINDS OF LIFE - HALF ACTIVE AND HALF CONTEMPLATIVE ?

IN 1715 POPE CLEMENT XI CALLED UPON ALL CHRISTIAN YOUTHS TO JOIN IN A CRUSADE AGAINST THE TURKS.

ALL CHRISTIAN MEN ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE CHURCH WHICH IS THREATENED BY ENCROACHMENTS OF THE TURKS AGAINST VENICE AND THE PAPAL STATES



I VOLUNTEER AS A PRIVATE - WITHOUT-PAY IN THE ARMY OF VENICE

AFTER YOUR OATH, REPORT TO CREMA FOR BOOT-TRAINING

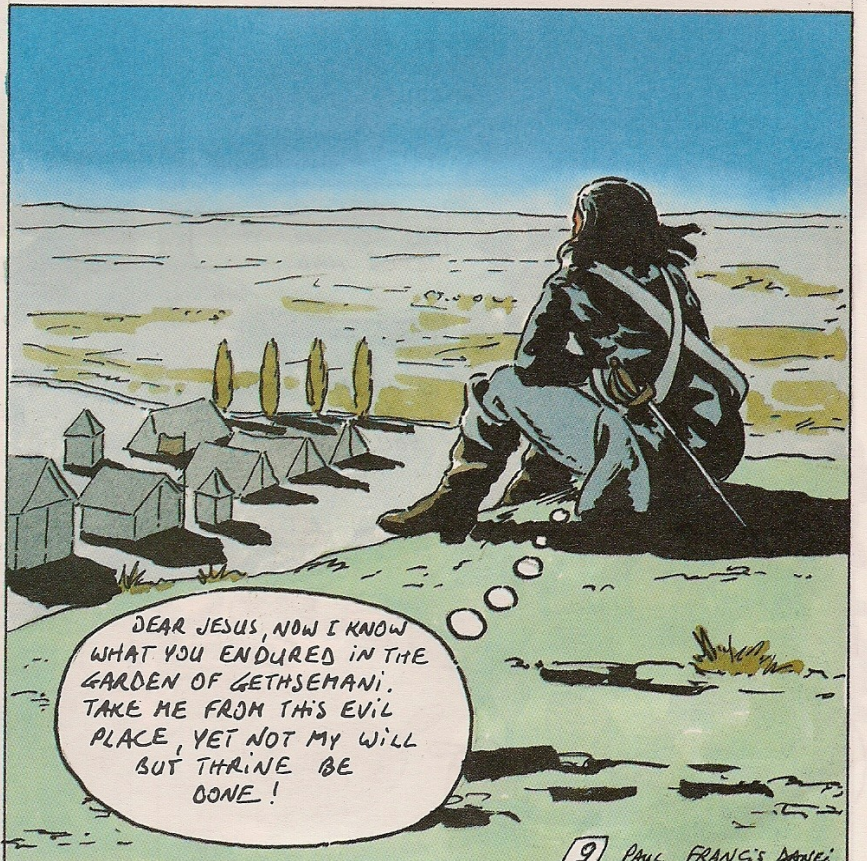


TRAINING CONSISTED IN REPEATED FORCED MARCHES ACROSS THE PLAINS OF NORTHERN ITALY WITH BIVOUACS AT PARMA AND FERRARA

FRUSTRATED BY CONFLICTING ORDERS AND INACTION THE SOLDIERS SEEK DIVERSION WITH WOMEN AND GAMBLING. PAUL IS TORMENTED BY THEIR LANGUAGE AND MORALS AND SEEKS SOLACE IN PRAYER.

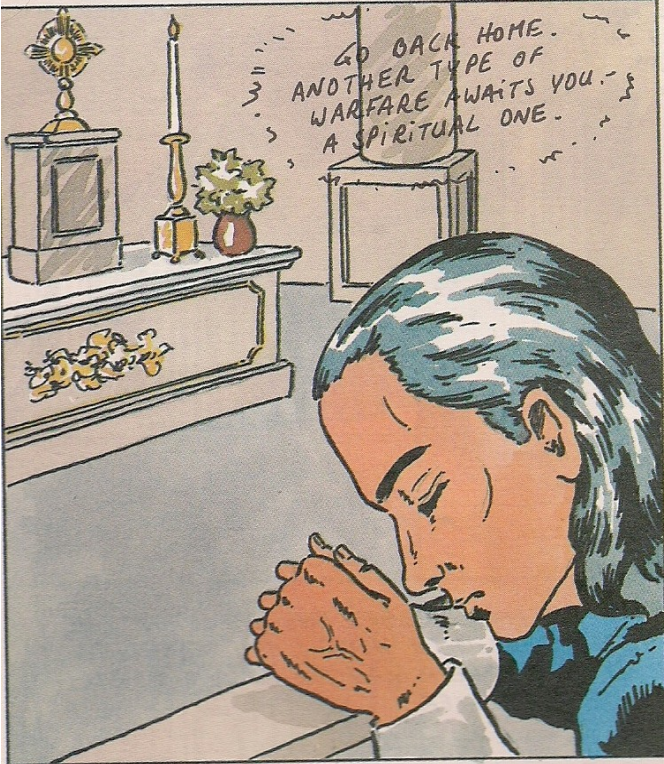
THIS IS THE FIFTH TIME WE'VE BEEN ORDERED TO MARINA DI RAVENNA FOR EMBARCATION. I DOUBT WE'LL EVER SEE ACTION!

GOD HAS HIS OWN DESIGNS FOR EACH ONE OF US.



DEAR JESUS, NOW I KNOW WHAT YOU ENDURED IN THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANI. TAKE ME FROM THIS EVIL PLACE, YET NOT MY WILL BUT THINE BE DONE!

IN FEBRUARY OF 1715 PAUL'S COMPANY IS ORDERED BACK TO CREMA. THERE ON THE 20TH. HE MADE A VISIT TO A CHURCH WHERE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT HAD BEEN EXPOSED SO THE FAITHFUL COULD ATONE FOR THE LICENTIOUSNESS OF THE PRE-LENTEN CARNIVAL.



AFTER HIS DISCHARGE PAUL IS WITHOUT MONEY, SO HE SEEKS EMPLOYMENT AT THE HOSPITAL IN NOVELLO. A CHILDLESS COUPLE THERE OFFER HIM LODGINGS.



AS THE LONELY COUPLE'S ATTACHMENT TO PAUL INCREASES, HE DECIDES IT WOULD BE MORE PRUDENT TO RETURN HOME TO OVADA.



DURING JUNE OF 1715 PAUL RETURNS TO HIS FAMILY IN OVADA.

MY PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED! YOU ARE BACK SAFE AND SOUND!

IT WAS A MISTAKE FOR YOU TO HAVE ENLISTED IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU'RE NOT A SOLDIER!

I THOUGHT HOW WONDERFUL IT WOULD BE TO DIE FOR HIM WHO DIED FOR LOVE OF ME...

WHAT DO YOU NOW PLAN TO DO?

LIKE FRANCIS OF ASSISI I WANT TO PRACTICE HOLY POVERTY AND COMPLETE DETACHMENT FROM THE WORLD.



DID YOU KNOW THAT PAUL HAS GIVEN AWAY MOST OF HIS CLOTHES TO THE POOR? I DECLARE! ONE OF THESE DAYS HE'S LIKELY TO COME HOME STARK NAKED!

THE FAMILY BECOMES INCREASINGLY UPSET AS THE TWO BROTHERS CONTINUE THEIR LIFE OF PENANCE AND SELF-DENIAL

I KNOW BOTH HE AND JOHN HAVE BEEN ACTING STRANGELY, LETTING THEIR BEARDS GROW AND EATING VERY LITTLE AT TABLE...



WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF JOHN AND PAUL, ANTHONY? PAUL HASN'T TAKEN A BATH IN AGES OR CHANGED HIS CLOTHES. JOHN NEEDS A HAIRCUT, DISGUSTING, REALLY!!!

THERESA, I'VE TOLD THEM HOW DISGUSTED WE ARE WITH THEIR CONDUCT, BUT THEY HARDLY LISTENED

...



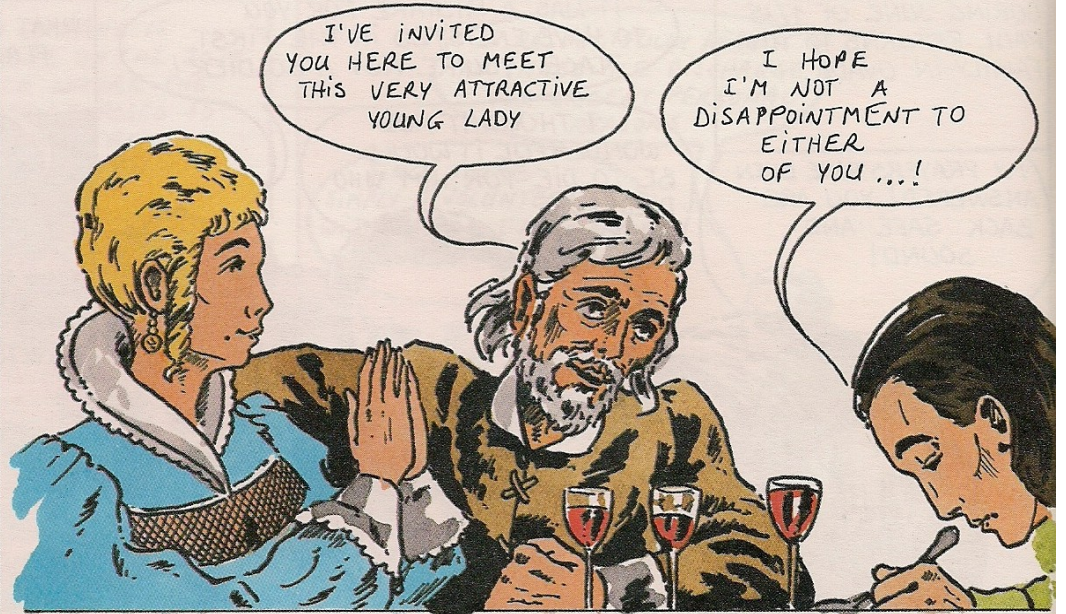
ONE MUST PLEASE GOD THROUGH ONE'S NEIGHBOR... AND THAT CERTAINLY INCLUDES ONE'S FAMILY

SINCE WE ARE UPSETTING OUR FAMILY, I WONDER IF WE REALLY DO GOD'S WILL?...

PAUL AND JOHN-BAPTIST ABANDON THEIR IMITATION OF THE "POOR MAN OF ASSISI."

NOTING PAUL'S RETURN TO NORMALITY, AN UNCLE, FATHER CHRISTOPHER DANEI, TRIES TO INTEREST HIS NEPHEW IN A RICH, ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY

...



SHORTLY THEREAFTER, FATHER DANEI, SUFFERED A SEVERE HEART-ATTACK. PAUL VISITS HIM IN THE HOSPITAL.

THIS MORNING I OFFERED MY MASS AND COMMUNION FOR YOUR RECOVERY

IF GOD SHOULD CALL ME, I'VE MADE PROVISION FOR YOU ...



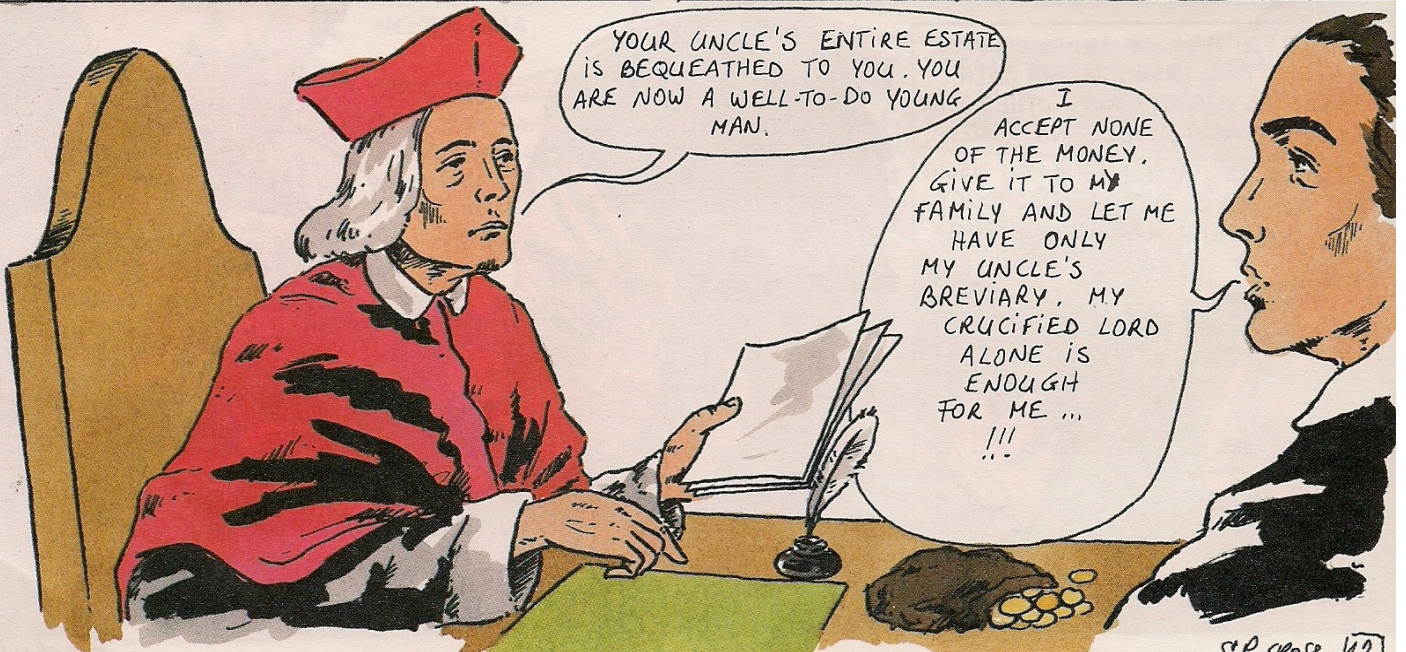
FR. CHRISTOPHER DANEI DIED NOVEMBER 16, 1718.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO HIM, O LORD, AND MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON HIM.



YOUR UNCLE'S ENTIRE ESTATE IS BEQUEATHED TO YOU. YOU ARE NOW A WELL-TO-DO YOUNG MAN.

I ACCEPT NONE OF THE MONEY. GIVE IT TO MY FAMILY AND LET ME HAVE ONLY MY UNCLE'S BREVIARY, MY CRUCIFIED LORD ALONE IS ENOUGH FOR ME ... !!!



STP CREASE 1/9

IN 1717 THE DANEI FAMILY WAS ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR ANCESTRAL HOME IN THE TOWN OF CASTELLAZZO...



AT LAST WE HAVE A FINE HOUSE AND A BIT OF COMFORT FOR OUR OLD AGE

THANKS TO UNCLE CHRISTOPHER'S WILL WHICH ALSO FREES ME AND MY BROTHERS FOR WHATEVER GOD WANTS.

BEFORE POPE PIUS X GRANTED PERMISSION IN 1910 FOR FREQUENT COMMUNION, MOST CATHOLICS RECEIVED ONLY 4 OR 5 TIMES A YEAR AND ONLY ON MAJOR FEASTS. PAUL RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR FREQUENT COMMUNION IN 1718 AND LATER, AS A PRIEST, GRANTED THE PERMISSION FREELY TO HIS PENITENTS.

IF YOU DEEM ME WORTHY, FATHER, COULD I RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION AT LEAST THREE TIMES A WEEK?



YES, BUT ONLY ON CONDITION YOU DO SO IN A DIFFERENT CHURCH EACH TIME, IF OTHERS SEE YOU GOING TOO OFTEN, THEY WILL BE UPSET

CHRISTMAS EVE OF 1718 PAUL WENT WITH HIS FRIEND PAUL JARDI TO THE CAPUCHIN CHURCH IN CASTELLAZZO.



WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? WE AGREED TO SEE THE CRIB AND SPEND A FEW MOMENTS IN PRAYERS. YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR HOURS AND I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET THROUGH TO YOU!

IT HAS SEEMED ONLY MINUTES !!!

IN THE 18TH CENTURY IT WAS OFTEN THE PRACTICE TO DELAY THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION UNTIL ONE REACHED MATURITY. THUS PAUL DANEI WAS CONFIRMED APRIL 23, 1719, IN THE CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA DEI SERVI BY BISHOP ARBORIO DI GATTINARA.

I SIGN YOU WITH THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND I CONFIRM YOU WITH THE CHRISM OF SALVATION



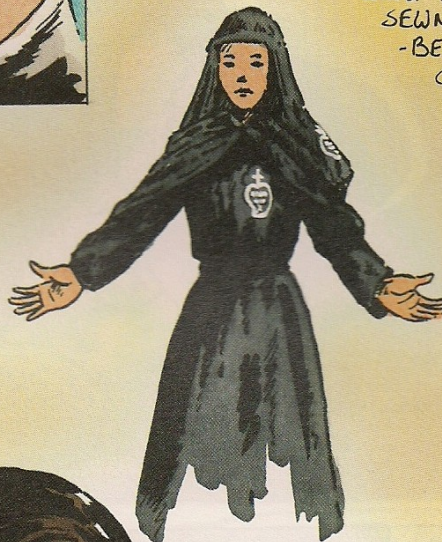
HAVING RECEIVED SACRAMENTALLY GIFTS OF PIETY AND PRUDENCE, PAUL RESPONDS MORE POSITIVELY TO HIS VOCATION. GRACE WAS INDUCING HIM TO CHOOSE A LIFE WHEREIN HE COULD BEST SERVE GOD AND HIS NEIGHBOR FOR LOVE OF GOD.

I NEED YOUR HELP IN RECOGNIZING GOD'S HOLY WILL. I'VE THOUGHT OF RECRUITING A GROUP OF MEN WHO WOULD WEAR A TUNIC OF COARSE, BLACK CLOTH, GO BAREFOOT, AND LIVE COMPLETELY POOR...

IF SUCH DESIRES ARE FROM GOD, HE WILL EVENTUALLY MAKE THEM CLEARER AND MORE COMPELLING. BE PATIENT AND PERSEVERING IN PRAYER.



IN JULY OF 1720 MARY APPEARED TO PAUL TELLING HIM THAT HE WILL SOON ESTABLISH A RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY AND SHE WILL GIVE HIM A BLACK HABIT WITH THE NAME JESUS SEWN IN THE AREA OF THE HEART. THEN IN NOVEMBER OF THAT SAME YEAR SHE APPEARED AGAIN CLOTHED IN THE HABIT AND WEARING A DISTINCTIVE SIGN. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT HE WAS NOW TO BEGIN THE NEW CONGREGATION.



TELL ME HOW YOU HAPPENED TO SEE OUR BLESSED MOTHER THIS MORNING...

ON MY WAY HOME FROM THE CAPUCHIN CHURCH, AFTER RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION AS I TURNED THE CORNER ON THE STREET I LIVE, MARY SUDDENLY

APPEARED, WEARING A BLACK DRESS OF HOUR-NING WITH A WHITE HEART IN WHICH HEART WERE THE LETTERS "JESU XPI PASSIO"

THAT IS ALMOST EXACTLY WHAT YOU THOUGHT ABOUT EARLIER. SHE HAS ANSWERED YOUR PRAYERS!

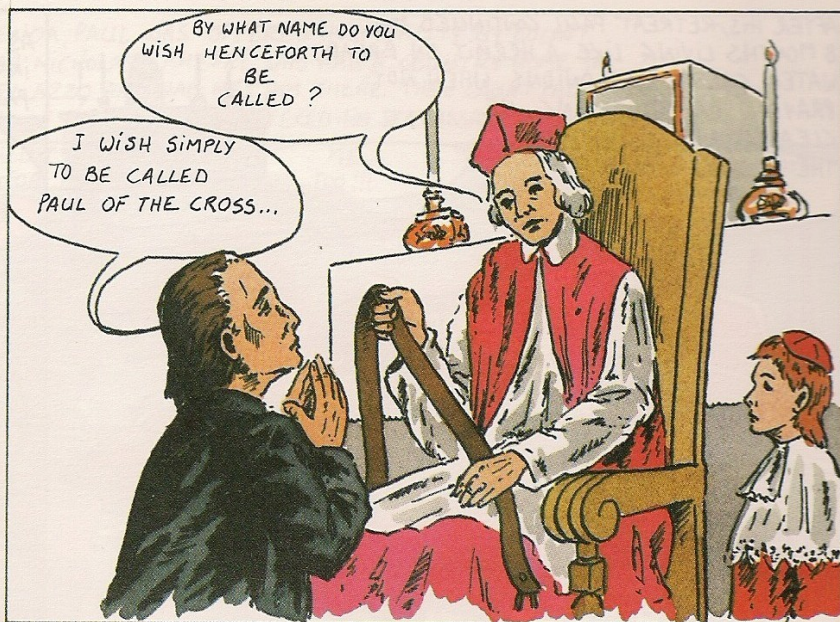


THAT NOTHING BE HELD BACK PAUL REPEATED EVERYTHING TO THE BISHOP IN A FORMAL CONFESSION OF HIS WHOLE LIFE. THE PRELATE LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY, BUT DELAYED GIVING AN ANSWER UNTIL HE HAD REFLECTED ON THE MATTER.

A WEEK LATER THE BISHOP CALLED PAUL AND TOLD HIM THAT HE ALONE COULD BEGIN THIS NEW WAY OF LIFE.

THE BLACK HABIT COULD BE WORN, BUT THE SIGN OF THE PASSION WOULD BE PERMITTED ONLY AFTER FORMAL APPROVAL CAME FROM ROME.

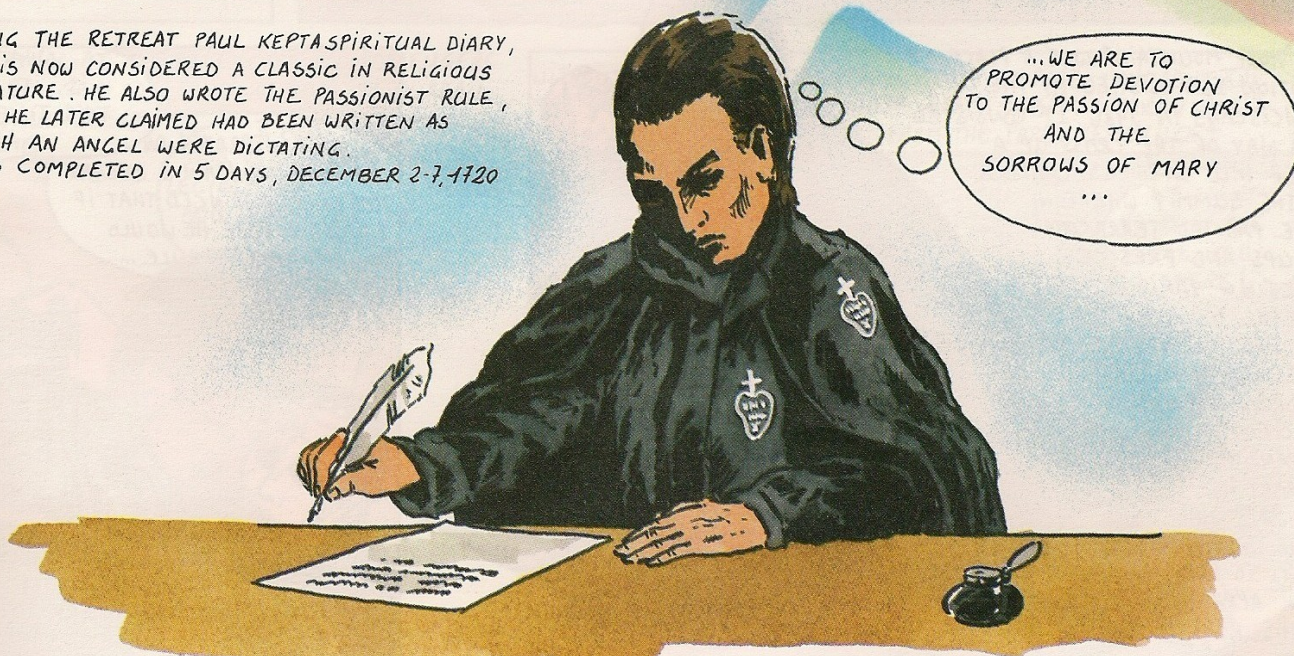
THE DATE FOR PAUL'S VESTITION WAS NOVEMBER 22, 1720.



IMMEDIATELY AFTER RECEIVING HIS DISTINCTIVE DRESS PAUL BEGAN 40 DAY RETREAT IN A POOR ROOM OFF THE SACRISTY OF THE CHURCH OF ST CHARLES AND ST ANNA IN CASTELLAZZO



DURING THE RETREAT PAUL KEPT A SPIRITUAL DIARY, WHICH IS NOW CONSIDERED A CLASSIC IN RELIGIOUS LITERATURE. HE ALSO WROTE THE PASSIONIST RULE, WHICH HE LATER CLAIMED HAD BEEN WRITTEN AS THOUGH AN ANGEL WERE DICTATING. IT WAS COMPLETED IN 5 DAYS, DECEMBER 2-7, 1720



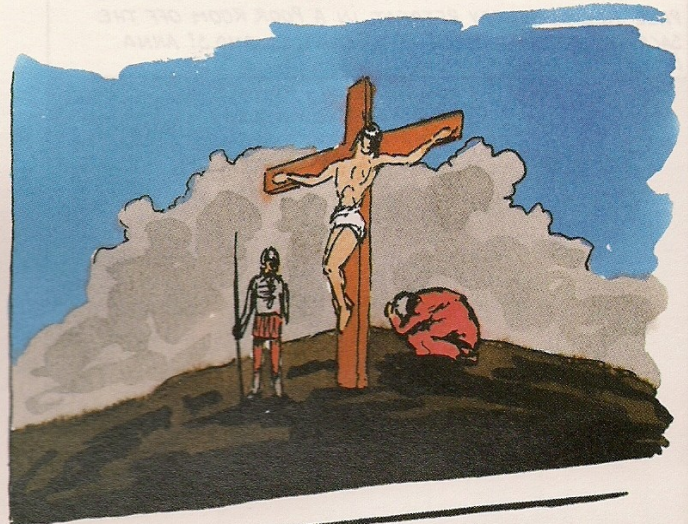
AFTER HIS RETREAT PAUL CONTINUED FOR 8 MONTHS LIVING LIKE A HERMIT ON BREAD, WATER, CHEESE AND ONIONS. WHEN NOT PRAYING OR MEDITATING, HE CLEANED AND DECORATED THE CHURCH.



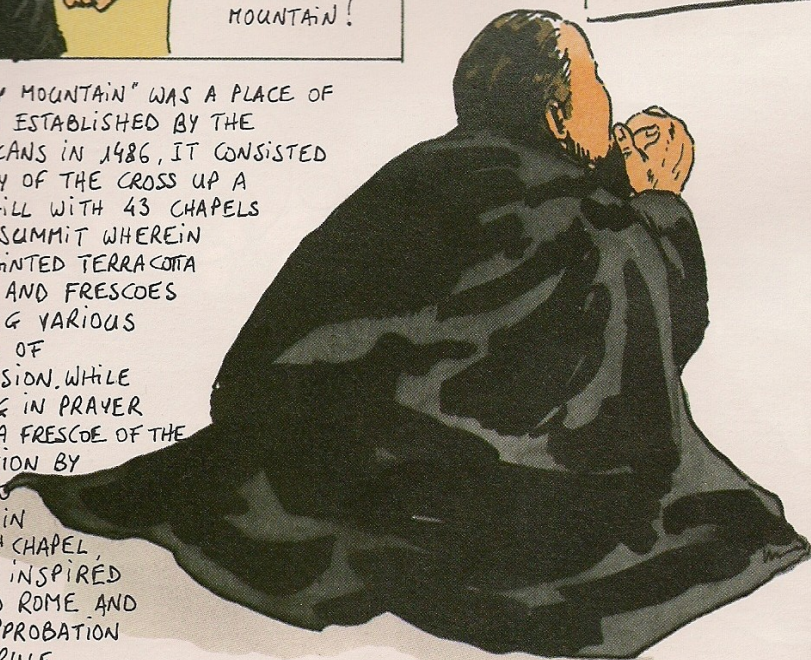
AS LENT OF 1721 BEGAN, BISHOP GATTINARA INVITED PAUL TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

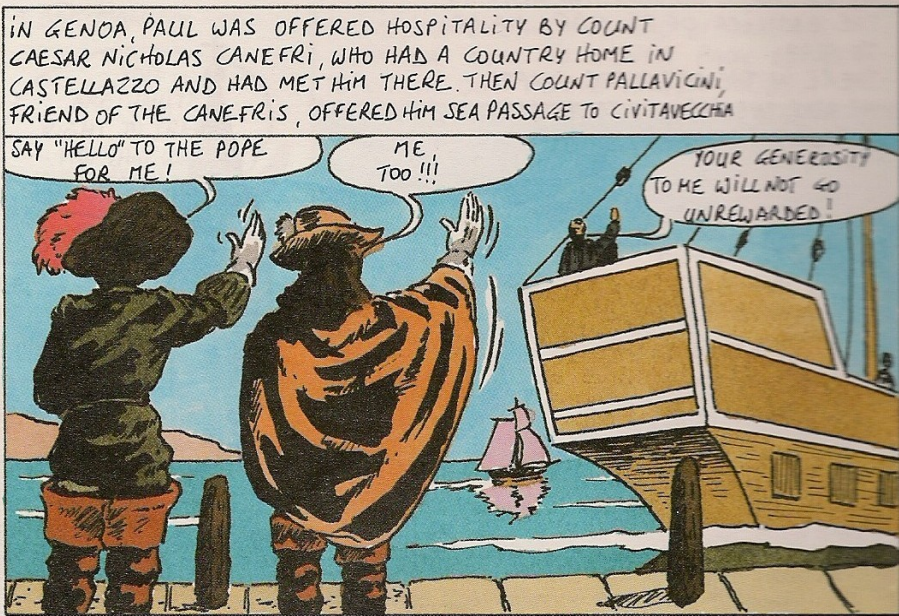
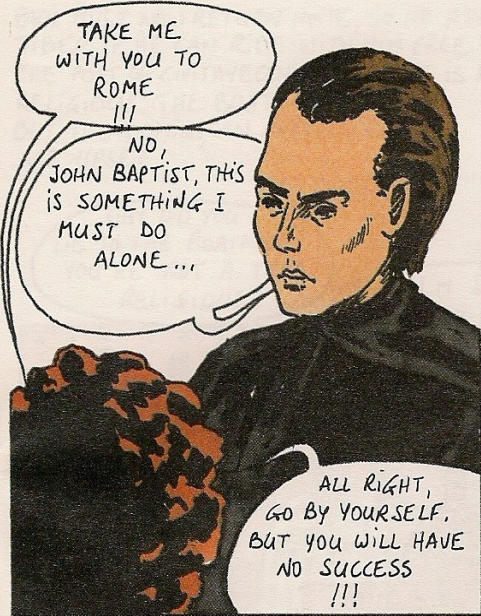


MARCH 11, 1721, PAUL CALLS ON BISHOP GATTINARA

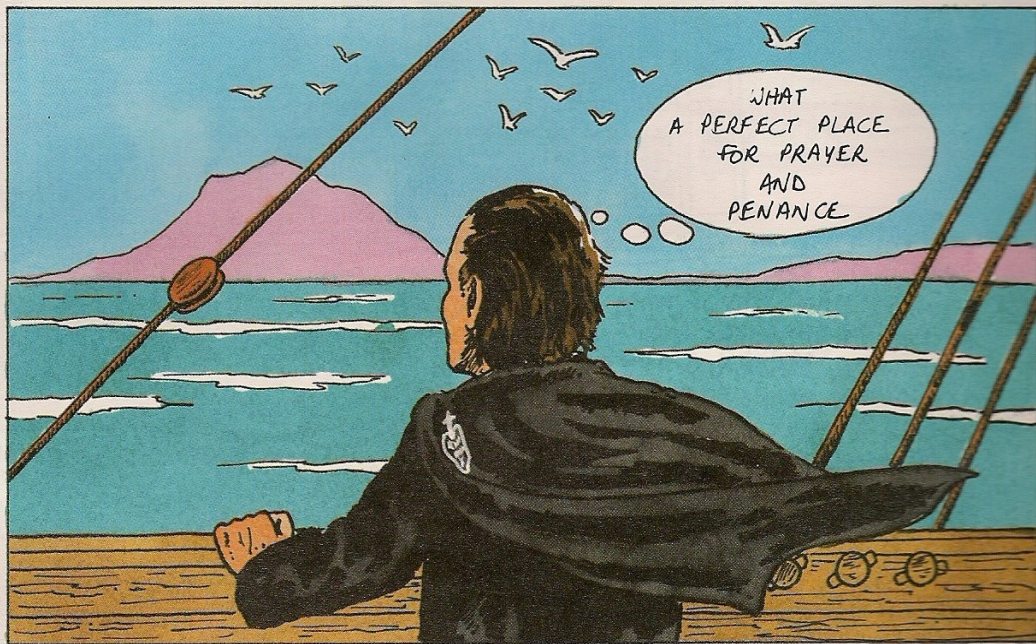


THIS "HOLY MOUNTAIN" WAS A PLACE OF DEVOTION ESTABLISHED BY THE FRANCISCANS IN 1486, IT CONSISTED OF A WAY OF THE CROSS UP A STEEP HILL WITH 43 CHAPELS ON THE SUMMIT WHEREIN WERE PAINTED TERRACOTTA GROUPS AND FRESCOS DEPICTING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE PASSION, WHILE KNEELING IN PRAYER BEFORE A FRESCO OF THE CRUCIFIXION BY GAUDENZIO FERRARI IN THE 38TH CHAPEL, PAUL IS INSPIRED TO GO TO ROME AND SEEK APPROBATION OF HIS RULE



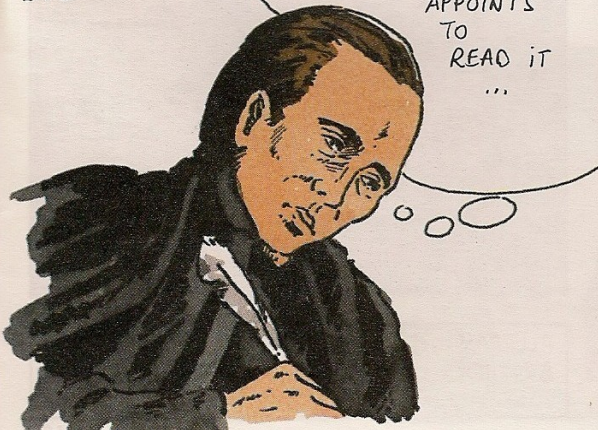


NOVEMBER 8, 1721, FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF MARY, THE SHIP WAS BECALMED OFF MONTE ARGENTARIO. AS PAUL GAZED AT THIS SOLITARY MOUNTAIN WRAPPED IN SOLITUDE, HE RESOLVED THERE TO ESTABLISH HIS FIRST MONASTERY.



ON ARRIVAL AT CIVITAVECCHIA ALL PASSENGERS WERE OBLIGED TO SPEND 10 DAYS IN QUARANTINE. PAUL SPENT THE TIME RECOPYING HIS RULE OF LIFE

WITHOUT ANY LETTER OF INTRODUCTION TO POPE INNOCENT XIII THE BAREFOOTED PAUL IN COARSE, BLACK HABIT IS TAKEN FOR A VAGABOND AND DRIVEN AWAY FROM THE PAPAL RESIDENCE*



* THE ORIGINAL PALACE

PAUL PATIENTLY ACCEPTED HIS REJECTION BY THE PAPAL GUARDS AND WENT TO THE BASILICA OF ST. MARY MAJOR TO PRAY. THERE IN THE BORGHESE CHAPEL HE WAS INSPIRED TO TAKE A FOURTH VOW



SURELY. MARY WILL LISTEN WHEN I AM IN THE CHURCH SHE DIRECTED POPE LIBERIUS TO BUILD IN HER HONOR

I DO VOW AND PROMISE TO ALMIGHTY GOD, TO YOU, MARY EVER VIRGIN, AND TO ALL OF THE HEAVENLY COURT, A DILIGENT ENDEAVOUR TO PROMOTE ACCORDING TO MY STRENGTH DEVOTION TO THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

ALL PASSIONISTS - PRIESTS AND BROTHERS - NOW MAKE THIS SAME VOW.

PAUL MUST NOW RETURN HOME, SO HE ASKS A BOATMAN ON THE TIBER IF HE CAN RIDE WITH HIM FREE TO THE PORT OF CIVITAVECCHIA, SINCE HE IS A RELIGIOUS. THE BOATMAN AGREES, BUT TWO DOMINICAN PASSENGERS - ARE UPSET.



WHY DID YOU LIE TO THE BOATMAN? YOU'RE NOT A TRUE RELIGIOUS!

I'M SURE THE HOLY SEE HAS NEVER EVEN HEARD OF YOU!

YOU ARE QUITE RIGHT TO TREAT ME THAT WAY, FOR I'M A GREAT SINNER

AT CIVITAVECCHIA, INSTEAD OF TAKING ANOTHER BOAT TO GENOA, PAUL DECIDES TO CHECK OUT MONTE ARGENTARIO.



WHO OWNS THAT MOUNTAIN?

BISHOP FULVIO SALVI AND HE LIVES AT BIENZA

PAUL CONTINUES TO BIENZA AND IS KINDLY RECEIVED BY BISHOP SALVI



I BEG YOUR EXCELLENCY TO PERMIT ME AND A FEW COMPANIONS TO LIVE AS HERMITS ON MONTE ARGENTARIO

YOU CAN LIVE THERE AS HERMITS WITH ONE OR TWO COMPANIONS. BUT ONCE YOU GET A GROUP TOGETHER, YOU MUST HAVE THE POPE'S APPROVAL. IF AND WHEN HE GIVES SUCH APPROVAL, YOU CAN HAVE THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN, FOR I'VE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND A USE FOR IT!!!

OVERJOYED PAUL HURRIES ON TO CASTELLAZZO WHERE HE PERSUADES HIS BROTHER, JOHN BAPTIST, TO PUT ON THE PASSIONIST HABIT AND JOIN HIM IN A HERMITAGE ON MONTE ARGENTARIO.

EASTER SUNDAY, 1723, THE TWO BROTHERS MOVE INTO AN ABANDONED HERMITAGE ON MONTE ARGENTARIO NEXT TO A WAYSIDE CHAPEL DEDICATED TO THE ANNUNCIATION



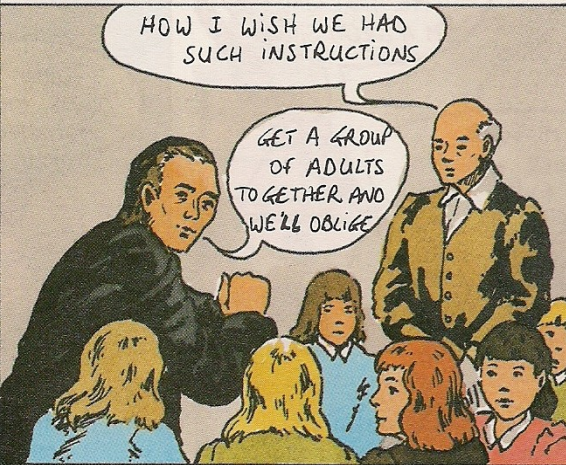
WHAT A PERFECT PLACE FOR PRAYER AND PENANCE!

IT CAN CERTAINLY STAND SOME REPAIRS ...

FOR A YEAR (1722-23) THE BROTHERS LIVE AS HERMITS ON MONTE ARGENTARIO
LET'S DIVIDE OUR TIME BETWEEN PRAYER, THE DIVINE OFFICE, READING THE BIBLE AND MEDITATION



ON VISITS TO ORBETELLO TO BEG FOR FOOD AND DRINK, THE BROTHERS LEARN THAT THE CHILDREN ARE WITHOUT CATECHICAL INSTRUCTIONS. THEY RESOLVE TO REMEDY THIS SITUATION.



THEIR FAME AS CATECHISTS AND SPEAKERS SPREAD. SOON BOTH MEN HAD MORE REQUESTS THAN THEY COULD FILL



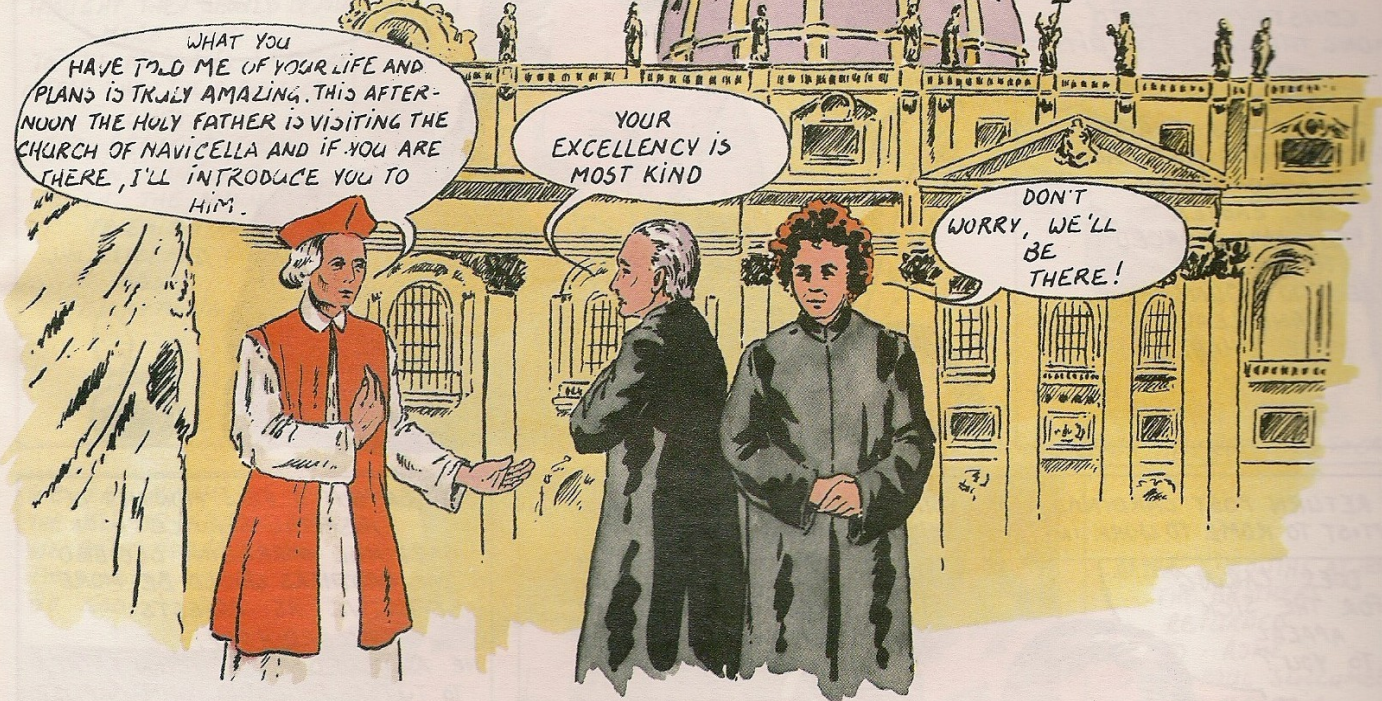
BOTH PLACES WERE BETWEEN ROME AND NAPLES SO THE BROTHERS DECIDE TO VISIT THERE IN THE HOPE OF RECRUITING COMPANIONS WHO WOULD JUSTIFY THEIR MAKING A FORMAL REQUEST FOR APPROBATION OF THEIR WAY OF LIFE.

ON THE FEAST OF ST. JANUARIUS IN 1724 PAUL AND HIS BROTHER VISIT THE SHRINE OF THE PATRON OF NAPLES AND SEE HIS BLOOD LIQUIFY. THE PEOPLE THERE PAY ALMOST AS MUCH REVERENCE TO THE TWO HERMITS AS THEY DO TO THE SHRINE.

GIVE YOUR HONOR TO THE SAINT!
WE ARE BUT POOR SINNERS DOING PENANCE !!!



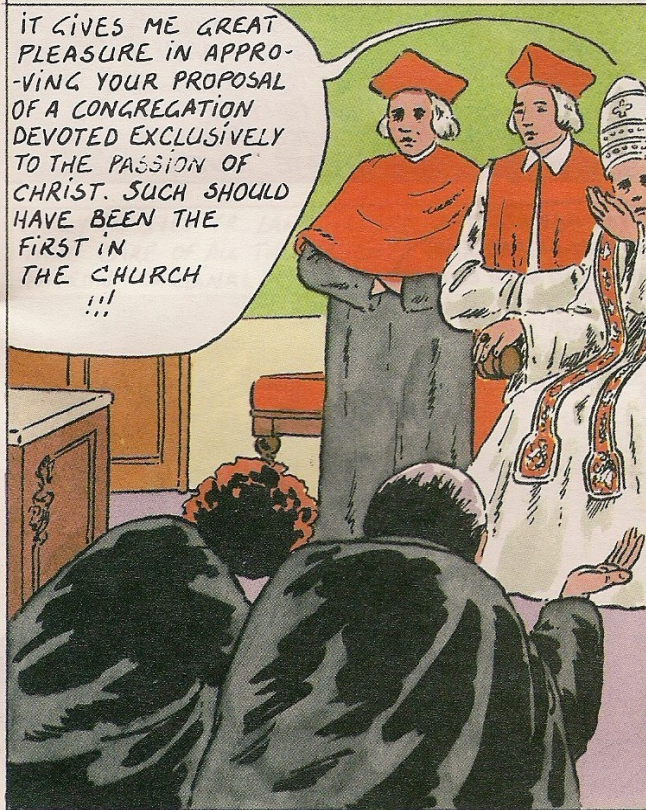
IN 1725 POPE BÉNÉDICT XII PROCLAIMED A HOLY YEAR, SO BOTH PAUL AND JOHN BAPTIST DECIDED TO MAKE THE PILGRIMAGE TO ROME. THERE THE TWO BROTHERS MET BY CHANCE BISHOP CRESCENZI, A CANON OF ST. PETERS WHO WAS FASCINATED BY THEIR ATTIRE AND PERSONS



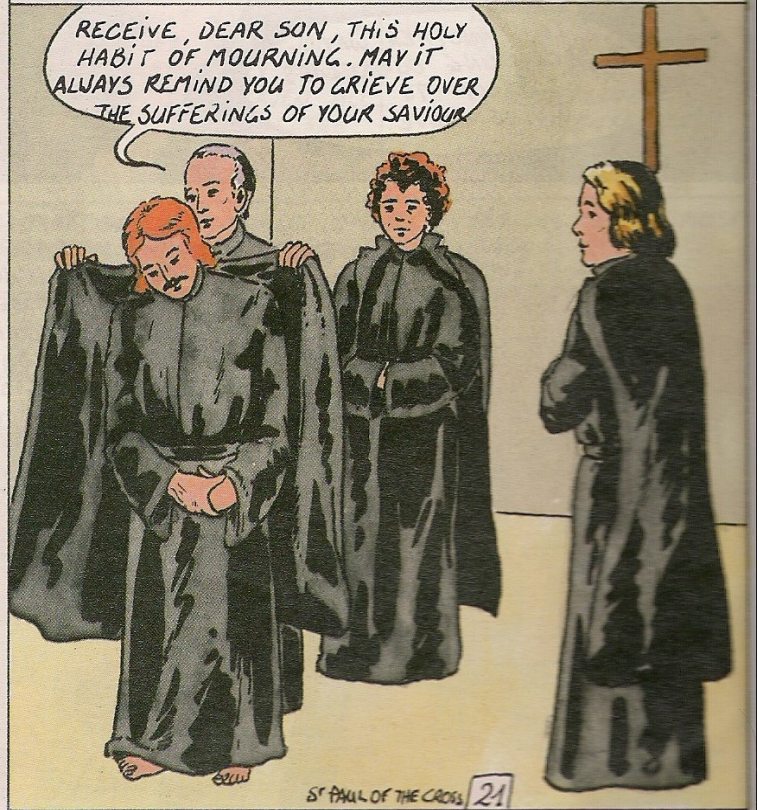
TRUE TO THIS WORD BISHOP CRESCENZI TOLD CARDINAL CORRADINI OF THE TWO BROTHERS AND ARRANGED FOR THEM TO MEET THE PONTIFF WHO GAVE "VIVA VOCE" APPROVAL TO THEIR WAY OF LIFE

THE BROTHERS RETURN TO GAETA AND VEST IN THE HABIT TWO HERMITS WHO HAD BEEN LIVING IN THE VICINITY, ANTHONY SCHIAFFINO AND MICHEL-ANGELO MICHELLINI

IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE IN APPROVING YOUR PROPOSAL OF A CONGREGATION DEVOTED EXCLUSIVELY TO THE PASSION OF CHRIST. SUCH SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST IN THE CHURCH !!!



RECEIVE, DEAR SON, THIS HOLY HABIT OF MOURNING. MAY IT ALWAYS REMIND YOU TO GRIEVE OVER THE SUFFERINGS OF YOUR SAVIOUR



DURING LENT OF 1726 DIFFICULTIES DEVELOPED. THERE WAS CONSTANT DISCORD AMONG THE NEW RECRUITS AND THE PATRON OF OUR LADY'S CHAPEL TURNED AGAINST PAUL. ACCORDINGLY, BY EASTER PAUL WAS FORCED TO DISMISS THE TWO YOUNG MEN AND LEAVE THE CHAPEL ...



BY RETURN POST CARDINAL CORRADINI INVITES PAUL AND JOHN-BAPTIST TO ROME TO WORK IN THE HOSPITAL OF GALLICANO



AFTER BUT A FEW MONTHS OF HOSPITAL SERVICE CARDINAL CORRADINI DECIDED THE BROTHERS WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE AS PRIESTS. ACCORDINGLY, HE ASSIGNED A CAPUCHIN FATHER TO TUTOR PAUL AND JOHN-BAPTIST IN THEOLOGY. IN QUICK SUCCESSION THEY RECEIVED ALL MINOR ORDERS AND ON JUNE 7, 1727 POPE BENEDICT XIII ORDAINED THEM TO THE PRIESTHOOD IN ST PETER'S BASILICA. AFTERWARDS THE PONTIFF RECEIVED THEM IN PRIVATE AUDIENCE.



AS ORDAINED PRIESTS PAUL AND JOHN BAPTIST THOUGHT THEY SHOULD DEVOTE MORE TIME TO THE PATIENT'S SPIRITUAL NEEDS THAN THEIR PHYSICAL ONES. THIS BROUGHT THEM IN CONFLICT WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR, FR. EMILIO LANII, WHO ESTEEMED EFFICIENCY ABOVE EVERYTHING ELSE

YOUR DUTIES HERE, FATHERS, ARE NOT ONLY SPIRITUAL BUT TEMPORAL AS WELL. SEE TO IT THAT YOU SERVE THE PATIENTS THEIR BREAKFASTS IMMEDIATELY!



... THAT SUMMER THEY RECEIVED THE SAD NEWS OF THEIR FATHER'S DEATH. THEY RETURNED TO CASTELLANA

THE VERY INSTANT WE RECEIVED THE NEWS OF FATHER'S DEATH, WE BOTH ADORED THE HOLY WILL OF GOD...

WE WERE PARTICULARLY SADDED IN THAT WE HAD NO DETAILS ...



YOU MUST NOT GRIEVE, MOTHER, BUT REJOICE. I AM ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED FATHER IS IN HEAVEN. ALL OF US SHOULD SHARE HIS JOY!

AFTER 3 MONTHS AT HOME THE BROTHERS RETURNED TO ROME WERE PAUL SUCCEEDED TO MALARIA. FOR 18 DAYS HE WAS TOO WEAK EVEN TO SAY MASS. WHEN HE FINALLY RECOVERED AND RETURNED TO WORK THE SITUATION AT THE HOSPITAL BECAME INCREASINGLY INTENSE.

EARLY IN 1728 FR. LANII ISSUED A NEW REGULATION WHEREBY EVERY NURSE, WHETHER CLERICAL OR LAY, MUST TAKE CARE OF ALL THE PATIENTS' PHYSICAL NEEDS. PAUL WAS OPPOSED TO THIS SO WENT TO HIS PATRON, CARDINAL CORRADINI.



THE SITUATION AT THE HOSPITAL HAS BECOME INSUFFERABLE FOR US ...

I'VE SUSPECTED AS MUCH AND HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT YOU SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR HERMITAGE ON MONTE ARGENTARIO ...

THERE WE WILL PRAY FOR YOU

THAT I HOPE !!!

WHEN PAUL AND JOHN BAPTIST ARRIVED AT THEIR FORMER HERMITAGE ON MONTE ARGENTARIO THEY FOUND ANTHONY SCHIAFFINO LIVING THERE.



YOU MEAN IT WAS YOUR RETREAT. AT GAETA I DISTINCTLY HEARD YOU SAY YOU SAY YOU LEFT THE PLACE, SO WHEN I LEFT YOU I CAME HERE. NOW IT'S MINE !!!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? THIS IS OUR RETREAT !!!

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO THIS MOUNTAIN. BISHOP SALVI GAVE IT TO US IN PERPETUITY

RATHER THAN DISPUTE THE MATTER FURTHER OR ENGAGE IN EVICTION PROCEDURES, PAUL PERSUADED HIS BROTHER TO ACCEPT A POORER HERMITAGE, NAMED AFTER ST ANTONY.

THE BROTHERS IMMEDIATELY SET TO WORK REPAIRING THE CHAPEL AND IMPROVING THEIR LIVING QUARTERS. FORMER FRIENDS FROM ORTOBELLO CAME TO HELP AND ONE HAD A SURPRISING REQUEST



THIS IS LITTLE MORE THAN A MISERABLE HUT !!!

THE ONLY GOOD THING ABOUT IT IS THE VIEW !!!



DO ALL MEMBERS OF YOUR ORDER HAVE TO BECOME PRIESTS?

NO! SOME ARE SIMPLY LAY-RELIGIOUS OR WHAT WE CALL "LAY-BROTHERS"

THEN I WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A BROTHER

THREE MONTHS LATER BISHOP SALVI VISITS MONTE-ARGENTARIO AND IS PLEASED WITH WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED



YOU HAVE WORKED A MIRACLE HERE. THE CHAPEL IS BEAUTIFUL AND IN APPRECIATION I HEREBY GRANT BOTH OF YOU PRIESTS FACULTIES FOR PREACHING AND HEARING CONFESSIONS THROUGHOUT THE DIOCESE

AFTER THE BISHOP'S VISIT PAUL AND JOHN BAPTIST GIVE FREE REIGN TO THEIR ZEAL



THE CONGREGATION BEGINS TO GROW. A THIRD DANEI, ANTHONY, ALREADY A PRIEST, JOINS HIS BROTHERS. THE FIRST LAY-BROTHER LEAVES, BUT TWO OTHERS TAKE HIS PLACE.



NEITHER PASTOR COULD OBTAIN THE BISHOP'S PER-
-MISSION TO JOIN PAUL, BUT THEY DID SEND 3
YOUTHS. ANTHONY AND THE NOW 5 PROSPECTS
REMAINED WITH PAUL ONLY A FEW MONTHS. AT
THE BEGINNING OF 1730 PAUL AND JOHN -
-BAPTIST WERE ONCE MORE ALONE.

THE FAME OF THE TWO BROTHERS SPREADS AND THEY ARE ASKED TO
PREACH NOT ONLY ON SUNDAYS BUT ALSO DURING THE WEEK. THEY
DEVELOP A SERIES OF SERMONS THEY CALL
"A PASSIONIST MISSION",
THESE EXERCISES BECOME VERY POPULAR AND
SOON 3 PRIESTS AND 4 BROTHERS JOIN.



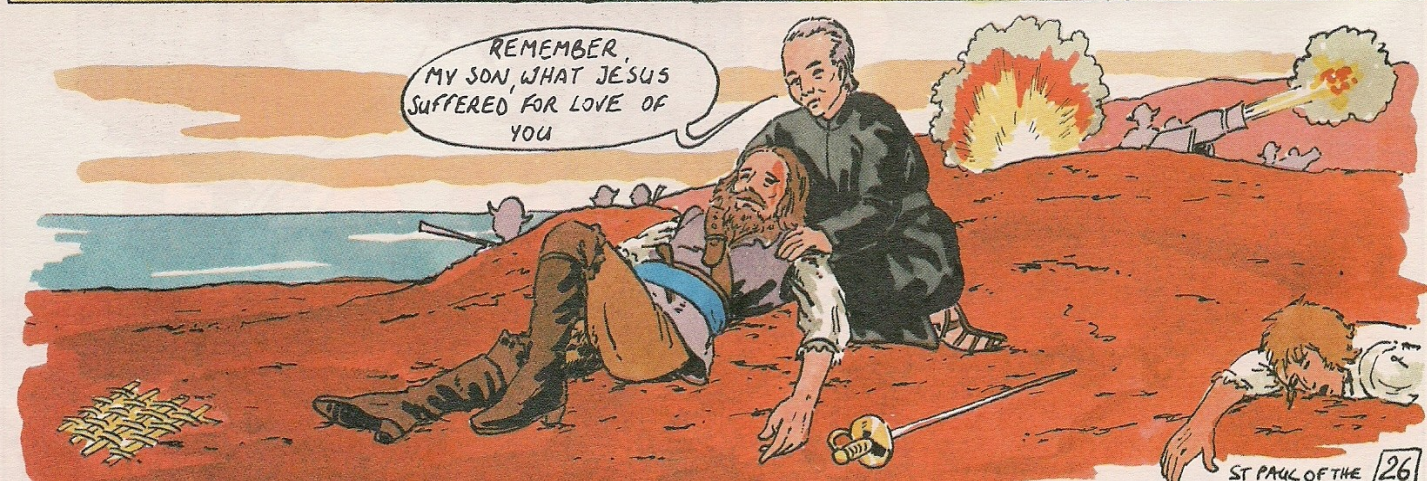
WHEN FR. PAUL FIRST CAME TO MONTE-ARGENTARIO, THE AREA WAS HELD BY THE AUSTRIANS, WHO HAD A GARRISON AT ORBETELLO. IN FEBRUARY OF 1734 WAR BROKE OUT BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND SPAIN AND SUDDENLY HE WAS IN THE MIDST OF THE CONFLICT.

FR. PAUL IS PRESUMED TO BE A SPY, SO HE IS BROUGHT BEFORE GENERAL DE LAS MINAS. BEING A DEVOUT CATHOLIC, THE GENERAL IMMEDIATELY RECOGNIZES THAT FR. PAUL IS A MAN OF GOD AND INVITES HIM TO DINNER

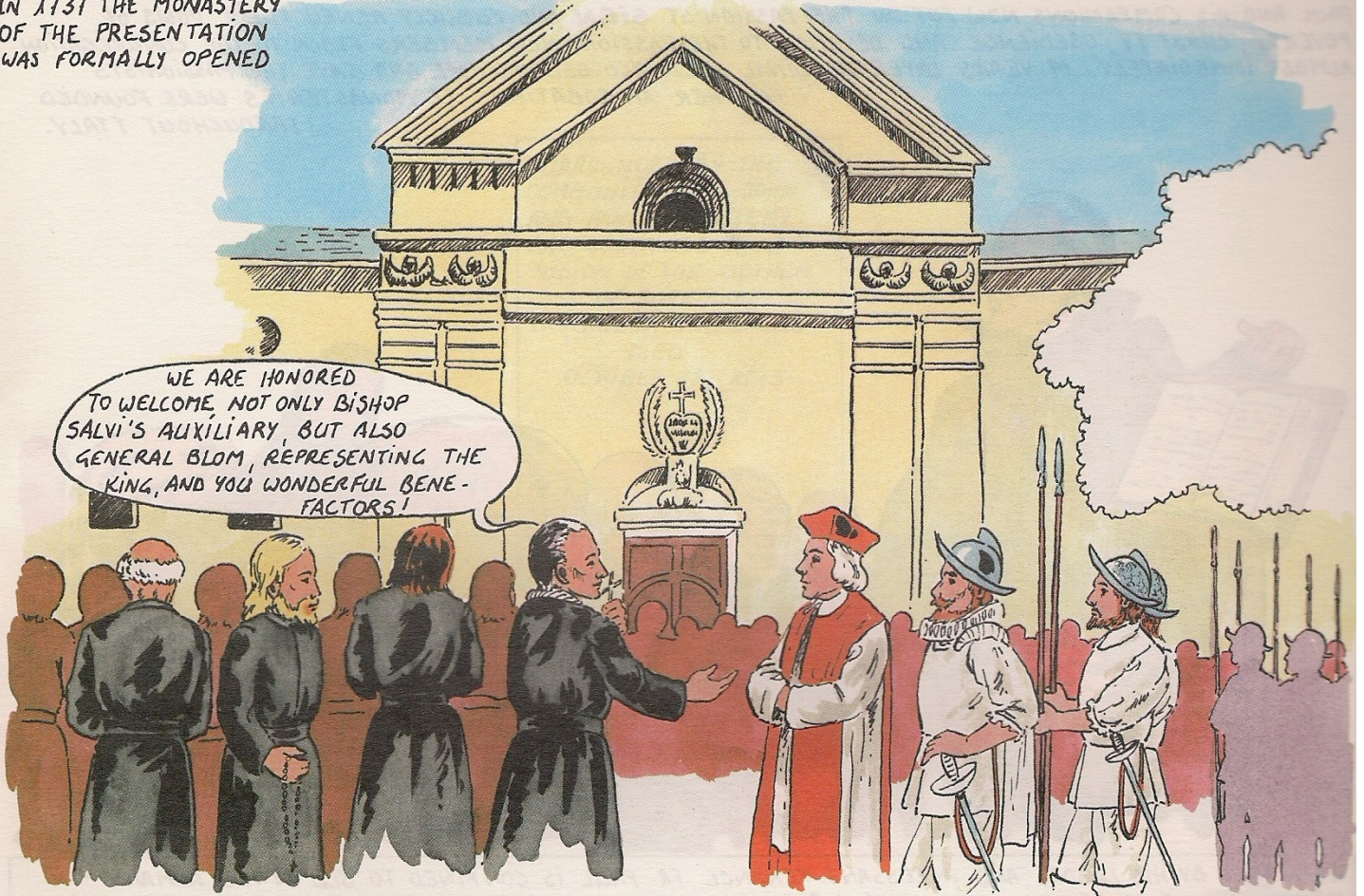


AS THE INVADING ARMY MOVES SOUTH TOWARDS ORBETELLO, THEY MEET THE AUSTRIANS. A BATTLE ENSUES AND PAUL PLEADS WITH THE SPANISH GENERAL TO MINISTER TO THE AUSTRIANS AS WELL.

I TRUST YOU'LL NOT BETRAY OUR NUMBERS OR MUNITIONS, SO YOU CAN FREELY PASS THROUGH MY LINES, BUT WHAT OF THE AUSTRIANS?



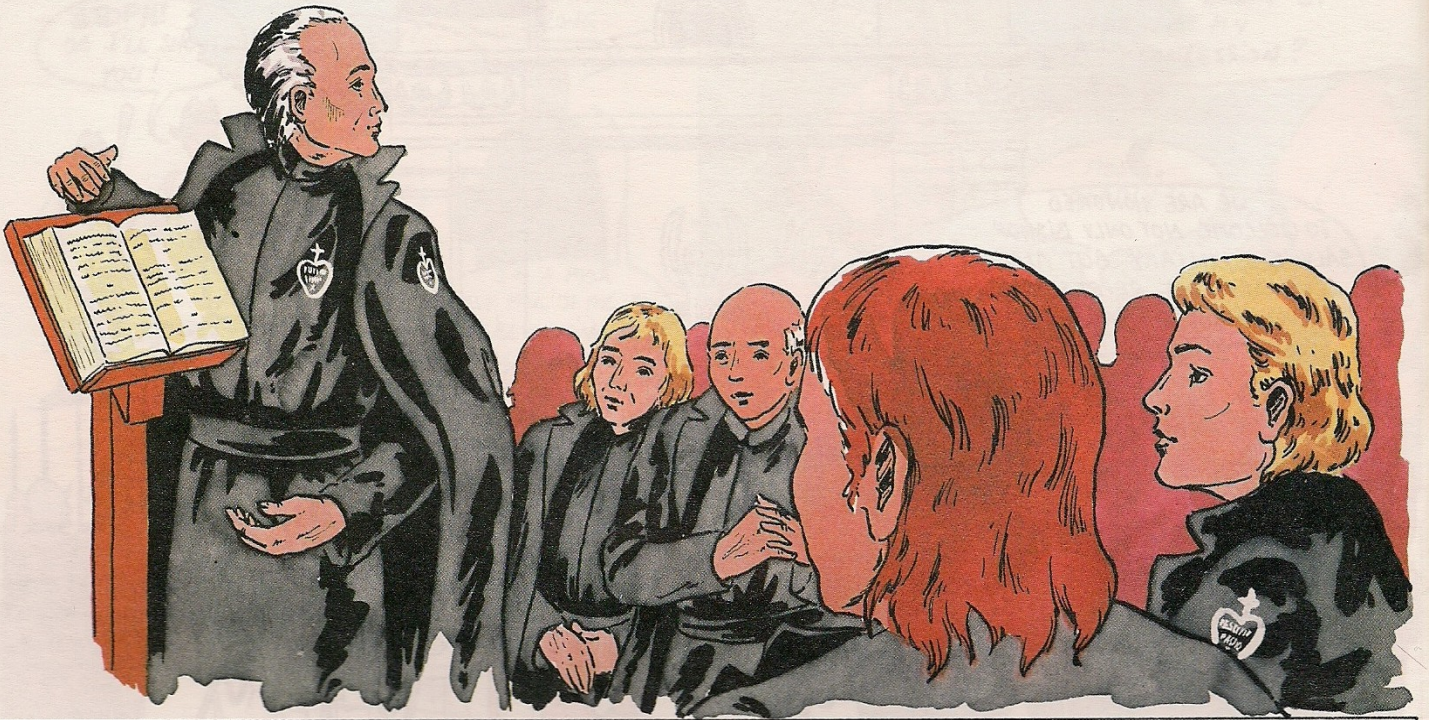
IN 1737 THE MONASTERY OF THE PRESENTATION WAS FORMALLY OPENED



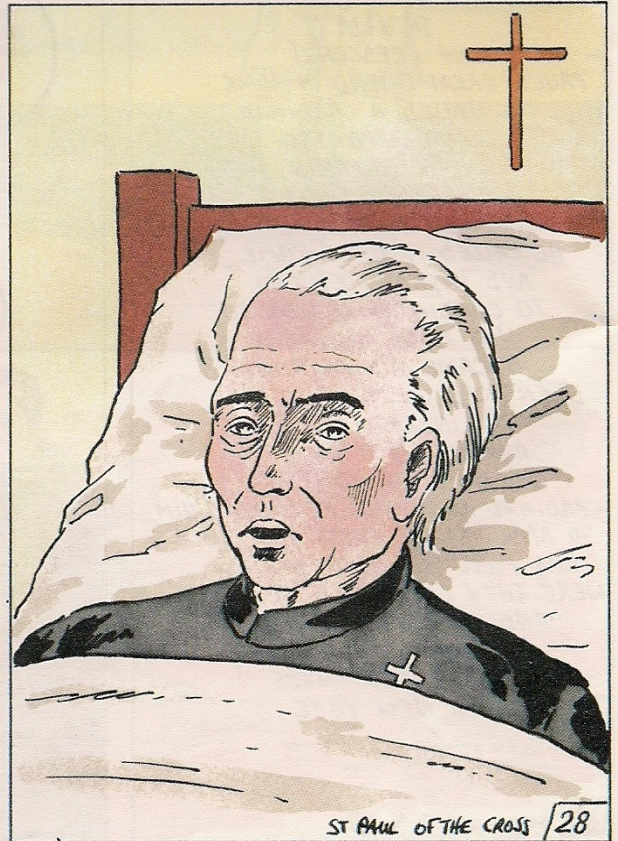
IN 1739 BISHOP CRESCENZI PAUL'S GREAT FRIEND IN ROME WAS NAMED A CARDINAL AND APPOINTED NUNCIO TO PARIS. BUT BEFORE TAKING HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT HE CALLED PAUL TO ROME AND INTRODUCED HIM TO CARDINAL REZZONICO, WHO MOST WILLINGLY BECAME HIS PATRON. WHEN POPE CLEMENT XII DIED IN 1740 AND BENEDICT XIV BECAME THE PONTIFF, CARDINAL REZZONICO PERSUADED HIM TO APPROVE THE PASSIONIST RULE. FRs. PAUL AND JOHN BAPTIST WERE THEN SUMMONED TO ROME AND ON MAY 15, 1741 CARDINAL REZZONICO PRESENTED THEM TO THE NEW POPE.



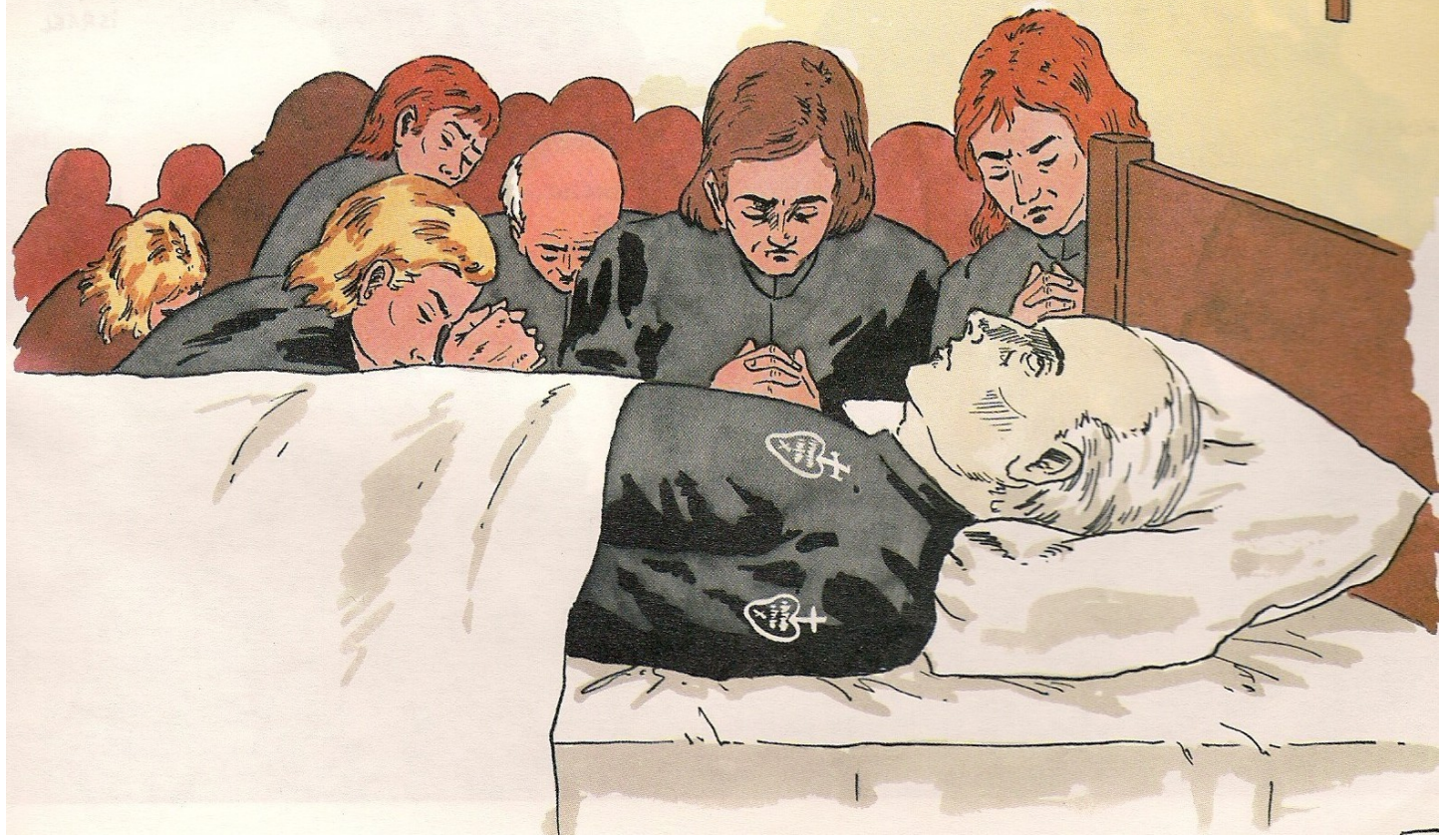
PAUL AND HIS COMPANIONS NOW PUT ON THE PASSIONIST SIGN AND PUBLICLY RENEW THEIR VOWS OF POVERTY, CHASTITY, OBEDIENCE AND DEVOTION TO THE PASSION. NEW MEMBERS FLOCK TO THE CONGREGATION ALMOST IMMEDIATELY. 19 YEARS LATER CARDINAL REZZONICO BECAME POPE AND GAVE THE PASSIONISTS FURTHER APPROBATION. 12 MONASTERIES WERE FOUNDED THROUGHOUT ITALY.



WORN OUT BY HIS LABORS AND INCESSANT PENANCE, FR PAUL IS CONFINED TO BED IN THE ROMAN MONASTERY OF SS. JOHN AND PAUL, WHICH POPE CLEMENT XIV GAVE TO THE FOUNDER SHORTLY AFTER MAKING THE CONGREGATION A PAPAL INSTITUTE.



SURROUNDED BY THE
COMMUNITY OF SS. JOHN
AND PAUL MONASTERY
AND SUSTAINED BY A
VISION OF THE MOTHER
OF SORROWS,
FR. PAUL OF THE CROSS
DIED
OCTOBER 18, 1775



SAINT PAUL OF THE CROSS

