GUILLERMI'S LETTER

Monsignor Giovanni Battista Guillermi, Canon of the Diocese of Feltre, was Vicar General of the Diocese of Bergamo during the years when Jerome worked in the land of Lombardy (1532-1537)

I know that you have heard of the death of our Sir Jerome Miani, valiant captain in the army of Christ, as well as of the two deaths of this government. I do not write about his illness and his death; otherwise I will break your heart. He looked as though he had paradise in his hands because of his confidence. He would exhort his own with so joyous and a smiling a face that it made those who were looking at him fall in love with Christ and become inebriated with the love of Christ.. It seemed he knew he was dying as I know I am writing this letter. He said that he had settled his business and had made his covenant with Christ. He was never heard mentioning Venice or relatives. He talked about nothing but following Christ. He departed from here before Christmas, but before [leaving] he came to pay me a visit at the bishop's palace. He knelt before me, bid me to take care of Christ's faith, and asked my forgiveness. He took leave as if we would never see each other again, and I never saw him again. He died in Somasca, where there are many upright men from Pavia, Como, and Bergamo.

Today we have celebrated his memory in some of the churches and Wednesday we will do it in others, as if it were the Pope who died, or our Shepherd. While alive, he had reduced himself to such an austerity and humility that he could not go lower. Thus it pleased to God! I do not know if the death of another person could make me sadder.

The Lord has deprived his fold of his most important governors. I believe He will not abandon it: I am waiting for one of the deeds He alone can do with His wisdom and infinite power. If I am longwinded, forgive me. It is Monday of Carnival and I am having a good time with you. I have told you all this in reference to Sir Mario, to whom the Lord may be favorable, since he died the seventh of this month.