

"have made me realize that they would be much greater in the months of June and July  
"in Basra, a climate far hotter than this: so in order not to expose myself to the evident  
"risk of a severe illness, perhaps fatal in view of my great debility . . . I thought it better  
"to stop here for two or three months, during which I should be comforting Fr. Cyril"  
(the Carmelite Vicar) "and ease him in his lamentable misfortunes, because of which he  
"is much worn out and wasted. . . ."

A further letter of 22.9.1730<sup>1</sup> spoke of his having received the welcome news—at last, after he had left Isfahan—from the Sac. Congregation of scudi 1,839 being remitted to him on account of the eleven years' stipend to his credit. Then he mentioned

"before my departure . . ." (from Isfahan) "I arranged to ensure the welfare of the  
"mission by appointing as my Vicar General Fr. Archangelus Ferri, already Archbishop-  
"elect of Nakhchiwan, but altogether loth to go there, as he had two or three times affirmed  
"to me verbally and in writing that he has twice sent his resignation: and, because the  
"Father was having difficulty over the mission in the heart of Julfa on account of the  
"Armenian church being rather hard to control, in order to satisfy him I have thought it  
"well to appoint as my vicar there Fr. Philip Mary, the Carmelite, a Religious of really  
"tried virtue and also doctrine, who for many years past is labouring there to the approval  
"of all the people, especially of all the Shariman households who are very fond of him and  
"can help him a good deal, should any fresh persecution arise. . . ."<sup>2</sup>

But that was the last communication from Bishop Barnabas: and on 4.8.1731 Fr. Archangelus O.P., wrote from Julfa to the Cardinal Prefect:

"In ink mingled with tears I give your Eminence the inauspicious news of the death of  
"our Mgr Barnabas Fedeli, which occurred at Shiraz, 8.1.1731, at 5 o'clock in the morning,  
"when he had been fortified with all the Holy Sacraments. . . . In the month of October  
"he fell ill" (it is the season for fevers in that town). "In his illness Fr. Cyril, Vicar of the  
"Residence of the Carmelite Fathers, gave him every attention possible; but, he himself  
"falling ill, and Mgr Barnabas, being separated from him and in another house deprived  
"of the charitable nursing of the Father, so rapidly lost ground that, however much was  
"done later to minister to him, it was without avail and in the end he gave up his soul to  
"the Creator. With all the solemnity possible Fr. Cyril performed his obsequies and buried  
"the bishop in his church, which he has again restored. . . ."

That was how one bishop of Isfahan, the only Dominican in the succession, came to lie at Shiraz in a grave the whereabouts of which, like those of the church, are now quite unknown. Through twelve years of great privations and in the midst of sanguinary struggles the patrician from Milan had stood his ground valiantly—a longer period in Persia after his consecration than any of his predecessors or successors in the see.<sup>3</sup>

When the Sac. Congregation met in the General Session of 12.11.1731<sup>4</sup> to consider, *inter alia*, the announcement by Fr. Archangelus Ferri, O.P., through his brother, the Prior of Sta Sabina in Rome, notably of the death of Bishop Barnabas Fedeli, but also of his own

<sup>1</sup> *S.N.R.*, IV, p. 542.

<sup>2</sup> There is confirmation of this in a letter of Fr. Philip Mary himself, Julfa, 7.5.1731 (*S.R.*, vol 672):

"Last year, on 7.5.(1730) there quitted Julfa Mgr Barnabas Fedeli, O.P. . . . who had left as his Vicar General Fr. Archangelus Ferri, of the same Order. . . . The latter accepted the office on condition that he should be spared the administration of the people of Julfa, where in addition to our Residence there is a Catholic church of the Armenian rite, dedicated to the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and maintained by the Messrs. Shariman with much zeal, from which much good is derived. . . . Mgr Barnabas laid on me independent charge of this church, and also of the whole populace of Julfa, with the title of 'Episcopal Vicar', for which he sent me the patents from Shiraz. . . ."

<sup>3</sup> His financial difficulties in not receiving his stipend regularly fell on his family after his death, when his bill of exchange presented by the Swiss merchant, Rousseau, was not met; and the Bishop's nephew, Count Gianantonio, appealed to the Sac. Congregation (*S.N.R.*, IV, p. 550, 24.4.1732, and also 9.3.1735).

<sup>4</sup> *Acta* for 1731, p. 512.