

Mobile, August 12, 1868

Dearest Mother

I didn't have a chance to write you last week because of our Odelia and her sickness, today is 10 days. Monday I went to town to get a few of the things we needed, I stayed 2 hours and I returned home. The moment I was entering in the house Odelia said to me thank God that you returned because I don't feel good. I told her that it is better that she lays down in the bed not thinking about it. The moment she laid down in the bed she started vomiting in a towel. My Lizie brought me the towel. God it wasn't other than blood. Dear Mother you can imagine the situation; I was alone in the house with creatures (literally, but meaning children) around crying, especially Lizie for her sick mother. My neighbor who heard the noise came directly over so I sent for help from a doctor who took more than one hour to come. While waiting for him she lost a big quantity of blood and _____ 20 to lose in _____ tell _____ I've sent for confession, she took confession and Saint Oil (religious ointment) at the same time. When the doctor arrived and looked at her, he wrote a prescription for medicine. I sent Lizie for that medicine to get as soon as possible. In the mean time I talked with the doctor and asked what he thinks she has. He answered that if he doesn't stop the veins inside there will be bad/horrible case. Her blood was going out since 10 o'clock in the morning till 5 o'clock in the afternoon and with all that and you didn't lose her and what is it that saved her life – otherwise he was going to lose her after she was unconscious and the next thing we could say that the world considers the sweater (death?).

O my poor mother O mia povera madre. You can imagine how I felt with my heart in my mouth. Believe in the hope for living after all of this said the good priest from our Saint Patrick church. Mr. Franelich your wife is very bad. God help you and your poor children.

In the end after suffering for one entire week, she was up but very weak. Dear mother, I am below doctor and I wonder. Doctor said getting better little by little. The doctor said _____ other he said goodbye. Odelia says hi to you with a hope to see you one more time. Lizie says hi with our other creatures (children?) You dear mother, mister Mauro (or Marco) honestly _____ received any letter from the captain after the first? I pray for a quick answer. I love you. Your grateful children.

Tomaso e Odelia Franelich