
Document 1669H

Letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Casanova, dated 28 December 1669

Source: 1-page ms. in 26 Martyr's Museum, Nagasaki; illustration courtesy of Fr. Diego Yuuki.

Note: Fr. Sanvitores was then either in Rota, or in Guam. Fr. Casanova was then in Tinian with Fr. Medina and Fr. Morales.

Original text in Spanish.

Mi Padre Pedro de Casanova

Pax et Bellum Xri et Mæ

*Harto me holgara que hallase a V.R.^a el Padre Luis de Morales **Bellipotens Marianus**, sin la escolta que ay se prevenia pero lo que hubiese sucedido, y sucediera espero sin duda sera lo de mayor gloria de Dios. De camino dando el tiempo tiempo se ira que ay la dedicacion con mayor solemnidad &¹ en lo qual y en lo demas V.R.^a obrara lo que a cada paso le dictarà N.Sor. que es su mayor gloria p.^a lo qual me guarde[n] mis angeles de guarda por quienes convierta este mal ladron en bueno el que por M[ari]a hace lo que aun por si imm[ediatamen]te no hiço tal ves porque aun se digno de que qualquier creyente discipulo **maiora horum faciet**. y acuerdese V.R.^a de que su S[an]to S. Pedro hiço milagros con su sombra, &a.*

Dec. 28 de 669

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+ Siervo. S. V. +

1 El titulo desa Iglesia disponiamos desde Gani que fuese Presentacion.

Translation.

My dear Fr. Pedro de Casanova
Peace and War in Christ and Mary.

I would indeed be glad if Your Reverence should meet with Fr. Luis de Morales, **the Mariana Warlord**, without the escort that was being prepared overthere, but whatever did happen, and might happen, I hope that it will no doubt be for the greater glory of God.

By the way, let us wait for a better occasion in order for the dedication to be made with greater solemnity.¹ In this matter and others Y.R. should be guided at every step by what our Lord will dictate in accordance with His greater glory, for which my own guardian angels watch over me. May they convert this bad thief² into a good one. Entrust the matter to Mary; if she has not done so immediately, it is because she had deigned to make any disciple who believes an even better one of theirs.³ And Y.R. should remember that the very patron saint of Y.R., St. Peter, did miracles with his shadow, etc.

28 December 1669.

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+ Servant, S. V[itores] +

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- 1 When we were in the Gani [Islands] we had agreed that this Church would be dedicated to the Presentation [of Our Lady]. Ed. comment: This feast-day is 21 November.
 - 2 Ed. note: A play on words, as thief also meant a native of the Ladrones, or Marianas. Unfortunately, we do not know what incident Fr. Sanvitores is alluding to here. The native in question may have been Chief Caiza of Sungharon, Tinian.
 - 3 Ed. note: Approximate rendering of a Latin phrase.