

---

## Document 1565C

---

# Legazpi—Letter from King Philip II to Father Urdaneta, dated Valladolid 24 September 1559

*Sources: Col. de Navarrete, t. 17, doc. 1; Col. Ultramar ii, doc. 11, pp. 98-100; translated in B&R 23:122-123 and FBG 8:4.*

[From] the King,

[To the] Devout Father Fray Andrés de Urdaneta, of the Order of St. Augustine:

I have been informed that as a layman you accompanied the Loaysa expedition and that you had passed by the Strait of Magellan and the Spice Islands, where you spent 8 years in our service. Inasmuch as we have now ordered Don Luis de Velasco, our Viceroy in New Spain, to send two ships for the discovery of the Islands of the West, towards the Moluccas, and to give them orders what to do according to the instructions sent to him; and because of the wide knowledge you have about those Islands and your familiarity with the route to those places, you being a good cosmographer, it would be of great value if you join the said ships for service in matters concerning navigation as well as for the service of God, our Lord.

I, therefore, entreat and ask you to go in the said ships and do whatever the Viceroy orders; for aside from serving thus our Lord, I shall order to have this recorded so that you will receive proper compensation.

Valladolid, 24 September 1559.

I, the King.

—By order of His Majesty: Francisco de Eraso.

Assigned by Briviesca.

Don Juan Vazquez Agreda Jaraba.