
Document 1659D

Letter from Fr. General to Fr. Sanvitores, dated Rome 8 May 1660

Source: Jesuit archives of the Province of Toledo, Alcalá de Henares, Spain: legajo 1273, n° 4, fol. 1; translated by Fr. Juan Ledesma.

Introductory note, by Fr. Ledesma.

With the letter of Father General on 12 October to Fr. Provincial ordering him to send Fr. Sanvitores to the Indies, the latter received also a direct permission from Fr. General. This was on 18 December of the same year, as we indicated in the preceding document.

After some time Fr. Provincial gave his permission to Fr. Sanvitores. He in turn, on 15 February of the following year 1660, wrote once more to Fr. General. We know this from the reply which was sent him on May 8, some six days before he embarked in Cadiz, on 14 May, for the Philippines (reproduced below).

As regard the second letter of Fr. Sanvitores we have not found a copy of it, much less the original. Its content is surmised from the reply of Fr. General. It expresses the consolation received from the permission given to go to the Indies, the difficulties that had been overcome, which are a sign “that God had intervened in this matter.” It also informs Fr. General about the Act of Contrition.

Fr. Sanvitores is allowed to become a missionary overseas

Pax Christi.

The letter of Your Reverence was dated February 15. I received it with particular consolation seeing that you have received the permission to go to the Province of the Philippines. All that Your Reverence remarks about the circumstance that intervened in this matter and about the difficulties that without violence have been overcome, indicate that God has intervened here, and that he has chosen Your Reverence for the conversion of many souls and to suffer much for his love.

I shall take care to enjoin Your Superior not to let the zeal and goodwill of Your Reverence remain idle, specially when some door is open for the conversion of the Gentiles. When you arrive in that Province Your Reverence can write to me, giving me an account of your voyage, of your health and of the missions that may be discovered there and your inclination to embark in them.

And be sure that as much as I can, I will always help Your Reverence for your consolation, without overlooking the greater glory of God our Lord whom I beg to bless you and to fill Your Reverence with his divine spirit, and that he make you a great apostle of the Indies.

I already knew about the practice of the **Act of Contrition**, which Fr. Jerónimo Lopez¹ of pious memory has introduced in those Provinces. And I shall see that it is translated into Latin so that it may be shared with the others, for I know that it is a very effective means to save the souls from sin. I am grateful to Your Reverence for having sent me a copy of it.

I pray our Lord to keep you.

Commending myself to your holy sacrifices and prayers.

Rome, 8 May 1660.

G. Nickel

1 Ed. note: Fr. Lopez was born in Gandia, Spain, in 1590, and died at Valencia in 1658 (ref. Sommervogel IV, col. 1952-53). Some printed copies of his *Acto de Contrición* are given in Fr. Uriarte's "Catálogo Razonado de Obras Anónimas y Seudónimas de autores de la C. de J.," vol. 1, Madrid, 1904, p. 14: "Acto de Contrición con exortación. En 4º, 2 hojas" There were then many copies in the library and archives of the College of Loyola. There were at least 2 editions, with various printings each. One copy was also available at BNM.