
Document 1660A

Letter from Fr. Sanvitores to a Father Domingo, dated Mexico 21 August 1660

Source: Original now at ARSI, formerly in Martyr's Museum, Nagasaki; bad photocopy in Fr. Ledesma's The Cause of Beatification, p. 382.

Notes: What was Fr. Domingo's last name? I have searched for the name of a would-be missionary in ARSI and was led to find the following: Fr. Domingo Langa, who was, like Fr. Sanvitores and Fr. Tirso Gonzalez, also involved with itinerant missions and a special form of the Act of Contrition (ref. ARSI Aragon, Mission. varia 27I, fol. 30-31). Fr. Langa is not listed in Sommervogel.

Original text in Spanish

Pax Xpi &a

Ya P[adr]e mio y commilito¹ chariss^o

Se pasaron las dos mil leguas de la primera embarcacion, con la prosperidad que VR^a vera por la relacion mas extensa que escribe el Hermano Solano (q. ha salido famoso indiano de San Francisco Xavier) a Alcala y yo le pido al Pe. Guillen la remita a VR^a. Yo de mi [parte] no tengo q. decir sino q. aun no me a fiado el buen Señor los achaques y penalidades q. an sentido lo mas los mas valientes de nuestra mission, aunque al presente todos estan buenos, y bien contentos. Todavia me hallo con mas fuerças y salud[.] quiera el q. murio por nosotros darnos despues a probar algo de su caliz en los trabaxos que fuesen de su mayor gloria y bien de las almas. por las nuevas q. van en dicha relacion de Philipinas, China y Japon y regiones adjacentes q. claman por ministros[.] sabra VR^a q. aun no se a pasado el tiempo de su vocacion q. con la debida indiferencia sera bien proponerla a los superiores, y mas en la oracion q. espero avra presto de nuevo Procurador de Philipinas q. creo llegara a España el año q. viene. todo a de ser lo que Dios dispusiese por medio de la obediencia: pero es bien informar de todo al q. nos gobierna, y del titulo que VR^a tiene y la mision de Filipinas a VR^a, pues segun me escrivio el Pe. Visitador solo por la apretura del tiempo no se le dio a VR^a el aviso para que viniese a cumplir el numero señalado de los de su prov[inci]a y suplir

1 Ed. note: A Latin word meaning "comrade-in-arms".

por el Pe. Castillo como deseaba y avia ofricido el P[adr]e Visitador. Dios sobre todo y la V[irgen] SS^a. S. Ignacio y S. Francisco Xavier. hacer entretanto lo que se pudiese por las almas que redimio Jesu Xpo.[.] Misiones y Actos de contricion etc. por aca se va disponiendo en esta Prov^a oraciones de buenos que aun desde España los oie Dios para Indias, podran mucho y supliran por las obras que no se permitieren. Adios adios, q. me g[uar]de a VR^a con mucho amor suio etc.

Mexico y Agosto 21 de 1660

A nos [=Nos ha] llevado N[uestro] S[eñ]or al Pe. Juan de Ribera. desde la Veracruz a Mexico le dio la enfermedad de q. murio[.] [h]aranos gran falta por bien compañero, pero sin duda le avra premiado N[uestro] S[eñ]or aunque a la mitad del viage segun el fervor con que se abia dedicado a esta mision. hagase en todo la voluntad del Señor. y mittat operar[arii] in messem suam etc.

Commilito y siervo de VR^a en Xpo.

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores +

[Address:] Al Pe. Domingo [... de]

la Comp^a de J[esus]

por Mad[rid]

Translation

Peace of Christ, etc.

Now then, dearest Father and comrade-in-arms.

The 2,000 leagues of the first navigation were spent with the success that Y[our] R[everence] will see by the longer account written by Brother Solano (who has turned out to be a famous Indian [missionary] like St. Francis Xavier) and sent to Alcala; I have asked Fr. Guillén¹ to forward it to you. As for me, I have nothing to say, other than the good Lord has not yet trusted me with the indispositions and sufferings that have befallen the more courageous ones in our mission [band], although at present they are all well and rather happy. Every day I find myself with more strength and more health. May He who died for us deign to test us later on with something from His chalice, in our labors, which hopefully will be for His greater glory and the good of souls. According to the news contained in the said Report from the Philippines, [it seems that] China, Japan and neighboring regions clamor for missionaries. Y.R. should know that the time for your vocation has not yet expired, that you should take it up again with the superiors, with due indifference, of course, the more so, given the new request that will be made, I hope very soon, by the Procurator of the Philippines, whom I believe will get to Spain during the coming year. Everything will happen the way God will decide, through [holy] obedience, but you should nevertheless inform those who govern us, about the permission which Y.R. already has, and about the mission [band] for the

1 Ed. note: Father Juan Gabriel Guillén (see Doc. 1663D).

Philippines. For instance, according to the letter I received from the Fr. Visitor, it was only for lack of time that Y.R. was not warned in time to join the number of those selected from your Province and to substitute for Fr. Castillo, as you wished and as the Fr. Visitor had suggested. God above all and the Most Holy Virgin, St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier [will support you]. In the meantime, better do what you can for the souls that Jesus Christ redeemed, with missions and Acts of contrition, etc. Overhere, in this Province, some prayers are being made for good men who are yet to come from Spain. May God hear such prayers and send them to the Indies. They would be able to do much good in works that would otherwise not be possible.

Good-bye. May God keep Y.R. with His love, etc.

Mexico, 21 August 1660.

Our Lord has taken from us Fr. Juan de Ribera. He gave him the illness that killed him during the trip from Veracruz to Mexico. We will sorely miss this good companion, but no doubt our Lord will have rewarded him, though half-way along, in tune with the fervor with which he had dedicated himself to this Mission. May God's will be done in everything. May He send many more workers to reap His harvest, etc.

Y.R.'s comrade-in-arms and servant in Christ,

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores +

[Address:] To Fr. Domingo [... of] the Society of J[esus], via Madrid.



Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.