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Legazpi—Letter to the King, dated Navidad 18 November 1564

Sources: Col. de Navarrete, t. 17, doc. 7; Col. Ultramar ii, doc. 24, pp. 211-213; summarized in B&R 2:102-103 as follows.

Summary by Robertson

Port of Navidad, 1564.—In a letter to the King dated 18 November, Legazpi announces that he has taken over “two large ships and two pataches, and one small brig” in which are 150 men, 200 soldiers, and six religious of the order of St. Augustine, the leader of whom is Father Fray Andrés de Urdaneta; in all, the number of souls, counting servants, amounts to 380. “I shall leave this port, please God, our Lord, tomorrow... and will display, on my part, all possible diligence and care, with the fidelity which I owe, and which I am under obligation to have.” He hopes for a successful voyage. He begs the King to keep them in mind, and send aid “to us who go before” and to commit to one who has care and diligence “as a matter that concerns greatly the service of God, our Lord, the increase of his Holy Catholic faith, and the service of Your Majesty, and the general good of your kingdoms and seignories.”

He asks the King to grant the requests he had made to the Viceroy, and which the latter had sent to Spain; for the preparation for the voyage has taken all his possessions.