Document 1665E

Letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Provincial, dated 15 June 1665

Sources: Original ms. kept in the Jesuit Novitiate at Loyola, Spain; partly quoted in Fr. Risco's book: Apostle of the Marianas.

Notes: Fr. Risco says that this letter was, in 1935, kept under glass as a relic in one of the corridors of the Novitiate of Loyola. Fr. Sanvitores wrote it on the paper or envelope of another letter addressed to him. Fr. Risco says that the Provincial of the Jesuit Province of the Philippines was then Fr. Ezquerra, but he became Provincial only in 1666. Hence, the year of this letter could be 1666.

Letter to Fr. Domingo Ezquerra, dated Manila 15 June 1665

[In answer to a set of instructions, now lost, on how to administer the Mariana Mission, Fr. Sanvitores tells him that he will guide himself in accordance with the norms formulated by Fathers Acosta¹ and Montoya for the missions of Paraguay, and also...]

...The admonition which Your Reverence gives me in your letter, whose contents I keep and will keep by the grace of God. For this is the procedure I have seen followed also in the missions of Spain, that outside of the general instruction which is kind of public, private admonitions are enclosed in ordinary letters as does Your Reverence... in which you enjoin me that I take care of my health and that I now take charge of the temporal affairs of the Mission and that we do not move from one island to another until we have the faith well planted and rooted in the first.

¹ Ed. note: A reference to Fr. José de Acosta's book entitled "De procuranda Indorum salute" (see p. 390).