
Document 1667A

Letter from Fr. Sanvitores to Fr. Salgado, dated Ma[nila] 27 April 1667

Sources: Original ms. now at ARSI; copy in Martyrs' Museum, Nagasaki, Japan.

Note: There is a possibility that this letter was sent from Marigondon, not Manila.

Letter giving thanks for a gift of food supplies and announcing his departure for the Ladrones

Original text in Spanish.

Mi Padre Francisco Salgado

Pax Christi &a.

De quantas maneras [h]a de ir a Ladrones V[uestra] R[everenci]a! y de quantos generos [h]a de ser esta su caridad. El Padre Diego de Sanabria y yo que nosotros [no somos] dos Diegos agradecemos mucho a V. R^a la caridad y limosna de los ajos y cebollas y el cuidado de enviar por ellas y embiarlas, &c. y no menos el plantel de cañas que esperamos proseguira a su cuidado despues y aun añadimos en agradecimiento de buen dador, el que se sirva V. R^a de mandarsenos prevenga cantidad de pescado[,] que pueda ir para matalotaje[,] seco y aliñado en unas tinajas si las hubiere ay [=allí], sino en chinchotes [h]asta Cavite donde se acomodara. El viage nuestro dicen sera en todo Junio y assi a mediado [de] el, bastara que este en Cavite, con que aquel otro genero que V. R^a dice y a embiado otras veces, sera asta se pueda convenir en este del pescado. Y todo final[men]te ira a nuestra cuenta de Ladrones, qual sera ella! el dia del Juicio se vera. Y quien tubo mas parte en las almas que iran a gozar de Dios de aquellos pobres. &a.

No [h]a sido malo el susto de mudança de ministerio: todo creo que redunde en bien de Ladrones porque con tal ayuno y mortificacion es mui buena la oracion que V. R^a hace. Yo sospeche algo, y esperando saçon que aprovechase mi

mi casaca a grande collando auyf adia rogando a dñe modo,
 al fin me mandaron decir hiponuer / dñe supuesta de vna y dñe
 ofensiva (h dñe. con) no emento decir mas aha. sino q' se dñe
 Dñe q' dñe dñe y guando la regla en el modo de pponer no
 faltara supelidina (aridad) se. Dñe vna emadida mola cora.
 q' upenba q' dñe. supla pponofuse a ladones, tan bueno dñe q'
 hna q' aine in uigof. hola y anda atento. El p. Juan Meland
 avia de estar en Mangand y con pueblo de fogalor. con una elthna
 po q' dñe quinon elh enon mnditios supla mnditio y o entadia,
 aia q' supla dñe pñe modo. y elh enon hna en pñe dñe dñe
 y el pñe modo de ir. y q' dñe enon pñe. apñe q' hna enon
 aia dñe pñe pñe (aia no es dñe dñe dñe pñe. con)
 pñe hna no mnditio el dñe. hna enon q' a mnditio enon pñe
 pñe pñe q' dñe dñe y hna enon pñe mnditio pñe pñe
 pñe pñe pñe q' dñe enon dñe enon dñe enon
 hna y dñe dñe. Si hna enon pñe dñe, mnditio hna.
 pñe enon con hna, no pñe. hna a dñe, hna pñe q' pñe dñe
 in q' dñe y dñe enon dñe. aquellos pñe fogalor y algunos q' a
 dñe mnditio de pñe pñe dñe y dñe pñe pñe y un.
 cñe dñe q' dñe dñe. enon mnditio dñe y q' pñe.
 aia pñe, apñe pñe pñe. Ma y Ma 27 dñe

con los q'
 dexaron
 el p. Savi-
 bria aha

Si enon dñe

+ Diego Luis S. Vitorica

mi cucharada, aguarde callando aunque a Dios rogando de su mal modo. Al fin me mandaron decir mi parecer sobre su propuesta de V. R^a, y dixe lo que sentia in dro.[=derecho] con que no e[s] menester decir mas a V. R^a, sino que se fie de su Dios que obedeciendo y guardando la regla en el modo de proponer no faltara su fidelissima caridad &a.

Dixe a V. R^a en una destas malas cartas que experaba que V. R^a suplira por otro que fuesse a Ladrones, tan bueno es Dios que hara que acierte un ciego que habla y anda a tienta. El Padre Juan Melendes avia de estar en Marigondong y otros pueblos de Tagalos, con que V. R^a estara el tiempo que Dios quisiere este en estos ministerios suplira mejor que yo entendia, [h]asta que su Magd. disponga otro modo, y estamonos siempre en pura voluntad de Dios que es el perfecto modo de ir, y quedar en todas partes.

Espero que nos veremos antes de la partida, pues desde Cavite no es dificultoso dar un curso [tranco] por este convento pero si en esto nos mortificare el Sor. nos veremos quisa[s] mejor en otra parte[.] poco falta de aquel vida y hara menos quanto mas se dilatare para acompañar mas almas de pobres que alaben a nuestro buen Dios eternamente. El nos abraze en su amor y g[uar]de a V. R^a, &a.

Si hubiese ocasion me puede V. R^a remitir una petaca vacia con llave, no para llevarla a Ladrones, sino porque yo pueda llevar las que tengo y dexar en la de V. R^a. aquellos papeles tagalos y algunos quisa de mis otras pieças de papeles (con los que dexara el Padre Sanabria a V. R^a) para si alguna vez volviese que los pueda leer, y con [un] cierto deposito que a Dios desee, estubiese en poder de V. R^a, y qual pense se avia perdido, a parecido para prendas &a.

Ma[ñ]ila] y Abril 27 de 667.

Siervo de V. R^a

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores +

Translation.

My dear Father Salgado

Peace of Christ, etc.

One way or another, one must go to the Ladrones, your Reverence! and with how many **goods** can your charity show itself. Father Diego de Sanabria¹ and I, the two Diegos, we thank your Reverence's charity very much for the gift of garlicks and onions and for the care taken in sending for them and for sending them, etc., and no less the cane plantation² which we hope will continue in your care afterwards, and we even dare to thank you, the good giver, in advance for a quantity of fish that your Reverence should send to us, that could serve as food supplies for the voyage, dried and salted, inside some jars, if available there, otherwise in "chinchotes" as far as Cavite where it will

1 Ed. note: Fr. Sanabria was assigned to the residence of Silang, Philippines, in 1655, with three dependent villages: Silang, Indan, and Marigondon (B&R 36:54).

2 Ed. note: Perhaps a sugarcane field.

be taken care of. This our voyage will be [made ready] for the whole of June and thus by the middle [of the month] it will be OK for any other goods that your Reverence says he sent on other occasions, at one of which the fish question will be settled. Finally, everything will be charged to our Ladrone Island account, whatever that can be! We'll see on Judgment Day whom God will reward the most for the souls of those poor ones. &c.

The shock occasioned by the changes in the assignments of ministries has not been bad; all of that has to do with the good of the Ladrones, because with such a fast and mortification, your Reverence's request is a very good one. I suspected something, and hoping to get my own spoonful eventually, I keep quiet, although praying to God, about his bad proceeding. In the end, they asked me to give my opinion about the proposal of your Reverence. I said what I had a right to say. With that, it is not necessary to say more for now, except that you should trust in your God that, by obeying and following the standard procedure, your most faithful charity will not fail, etc.

I told Y.R. in one of those bad letters that I expected Y.R. to stand in for one who might be going to the Ladrones, God being so good as to let a blind man do the talking and the groping in the dark. Fr. Juan Melendes should be in Marigondon or some other Tagalog village;¹ and Y.R. with him, because God wishes him in those ministries [and] will find a replacement better than I can. And until His Majesty should arrange for it somehow, we are in the care of God's providence, which is the perfect way to go, and abide by anywhere.

I hope that we will see each other before the departure, since it is not difficult from Cavite to make a run to this convent, but if the Lord should mortify us in this, we shall meet perhaps better somewhere else. This life is short, but it would be no less acceptable alongside poor ones to praise our good Lord, so it is that we'll meet within his love and I wish for Y.R., etc.

If there should be an opportunity for Y.R. to send me an empty trunk with a padlock, not to take to the Ladrones, but in order to send it back to Y.R. with some papers in Tagalog and perhaps some other papers of mine (with those Y.R. will pass on to Fr. Sanabria), in case some may show up, as they might, along with a certain deposit (which I thought was lost) that I wish to God will end up in the hands of Y.R.; it could be used for clothing, etc.

Ma[nila], 27 April 1667.

Y.R.'s servant,

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+ Diego Luis S. Vitores +

1 Ed. note: Fr. Juan Melendez was still ministering among the Tagalogs in 1698. He was then said to be very proficient in that language (B&R 42: 47).