

Claret and Antonia París committed to giving birth to a “New Order”

BEING IN SANTIAGO... THE INTRICATE WAYS TO THE FOUNDATION...

On April 30, 1854, the royal permission favourable to the foundation arrived, although it expressly requested that the superior of the house had to be a professed nun from the Convent of the Teaching of the Society of Jesus in the city of Tarragona. The Provisor thought that nothing was needed for ecclesiastical approval, since Maria Antonia had been a novice of the Society, but the M. Foundress had already noticed this and her autobiography reflects that “when the Royal permission came from Madrid, the Archbishop and the procurator saw the mistake that they despised before as the advice of - in their opinion – an ignorant and hallucinated woman” (París, Aut 203).

On July 1, 1854, Claret informed Caixal that the approval of the Queen had arrived, but with some conditions: “... we have the permission of the Superior Government of Madrid... we have some difficulties that have us somewhat perplexed; among others, that “the foundress should be a professed sister of the Convent of Tarragona”. Throughout this whole process of correspondence, permissions and setbacks, Claret realises that “without the authorisation of the Roman Pontiff it seems to me that the thing cannot go well, and for this there is no little work”, as Antonia had already foreseen.

En efecto a los pocos días, escribe María Antonia: «El Provisor vino a leerme el Real permiso, al locutorio, y sin parar atención a las leyes, fijó el día de mi profesión, más yo sin contradecirle me reía interiormente porque, aunque no tengo letras, ya Dios me había dicho cómo habían de andar estas cosas, y estaba cierta que mi profesión dependía o había de venir de Roma, pero para el Provisor era una herejía» (París, Aut 204)

In fact, a few days later, Maria Antonia writes: “The procurator came to read the Royal permission to me in the parlor and, without paying attention to the laws, he fixed the day for my profession, but I, without contradicting him was laughing inside, because even though I am unlearned, God had told me already how they had to proceed in these things and I was sure that my profession depended on or had to come from Rome, but this, in the opinion of the procurator, was a heresy” (París, Aut 204).