

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

After a few months being in Santiago de Cuba, on March 25, 1851, His Excellency Mon. Claret answers Mon. José Caixal saying: “... I think it's good that they come when there is an opportunity of good company, embarking, if possible get ready to sail in the month of November, to get accustomed with climate ... do not come loaded with woollen clothes because they could neither take them... I say this not to mortify, but out of necessity. It seems to me that when they come they can live in a rented house and earn a living with ironing and frying, and start teaching... and in meantime God will provide. I will favour them as much as possible, but I am not in a mood to founding a convent and maintaining them, because I have to support all my companions; there are many poor people ...”

"I received this letter as an express call from God, because as he had assured me that this Holy Man would give me his hand to found the first house of the Order. So I did not doubt at all that it was this New World, where God Our Lord had determined to begin his Work. And no matter what difficulties of this dreadful trip would be for a woman, nothing daunted me, always trusting in the grace of God who can do all and everything is subject to his power, both the sea and the land. This letter calmed the worries..."(París Aut 127). "God Our Lord ... wants and commands me to tell how he has protected, guided and governed me, since his powerful hand took me out of the convent of Tarragona, until he led me to this new world, the city of Santiago de Cuba; with so much security in the midst of lot of impending risks, that only your infinite power could save my life oh God". (París Aut 93)

On August 15, 1851, while waiting to sail, before the altar of María, in the Cloister Chapel of Tarragona Cathedral Antonia, Florentina, María Gual, Antonia Gual and Josefa Caixal offered themselves to God with the desire to cross the seas and go to any part of the world without dividing among them, and they offer to undergo any work for the love of Jesus Christ. María Antonia says: «The day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I brought together the young women whom I had admitted as companions... offering ourselves to God with a vow to cross the seas and go anywhere in the world without dividing ourselves, or deviating in any way from the opinion of our Superior. And... then I had no Superior other than my confessor” (París Aut 121).

This first vow of fraternal union opens a decisive stage in the formation of the future Institute. The first five members were united and ready to carry out the divine plans, as it was manifested. "This vow was made by me, and I proposed it ... for two purposes: the first and foremost was to ensure these young women's vocation through Holy Obedience ... only in it a work much higher to my weak strength could lie. The other was to assure them that I would never abandon them” (París Aut 123).