

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

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

On September 3, 1852, Claret returned to Santiago de Cuba to comfort the people, afflicted by the earthquakes, and that same day he went to visit the Sisters. He received them, as Antonia writes, with great pleasure and told them that he would return very soon to discuss “our business”. This was followed by many other interviews in which, little by little, the Foundation began to take shape.

In Spain, the religious Institutes were not free for their expansion and apostolate, and the legislation made it almost impossible to found a new Institute. Father Claret entrusted to the Provisor, Don Juan Nepomuceno Lobo, who, according to him, understood more about these things, the request for the foundation, while he continued the pastoral visit. The Provisor made the situation extremely difficult for the sisters, to which Antonia responded: «these things made no impression on me, that I was not afraid to die and that for whom I could die better than for my Lord Jesus Christ, but that I was looking even for this. My only desire in coming to this land was to fulfill the Divine Will and I had to know this through my prelate... So, I told him to tell the Archbishop, to declare without any “respeto humano” if in the presence of God, he knows that it was pleasant to Him to go on (with the foundation) or if, because of the present event, he sees that it is God’s will to go back to Spain, that the same spirit that brought me here would take me back to my country. The procurator left after promising me that he would speak to the Archbishop in those terms. After a few days, he sent me the rough draft of the petition to know if I agreed...» (París, Aut 177).