

## INTRODUCTION

This brochure has been prepared to fill the pressing need of a detailed, complete and authentic narration of the efforts made by the first members of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines to establish a college in Manila for the education of youth.

Every account which has come to the attention of the writer, which purports to explain the inauguration and development of educational institutions in Manila, has presented a garbled and erroneous narration of the Jesuit institutions.

One of the most common and serious errors is the confusion of the College of Manila and the College of San José. This is chiefly due to the fact that the available material is composed of brief and scattered paragraphs which have to be carefully read and correlated to obtain a clear idea of what was actually accomplished. It is believed that such a compilation is to be found in the following pages, although it is not claimed that it is faultless.

The College of Manila was instituted by the Society of Jesus with a royal subsidy. It passed out of existence and its property was taken by the Spanish government when the Society was expelled from the Philippines in 1768. The College of San José was instituted by the Society of Jesus without any subsidy. It became an *Obra Pia*, was declared to be so by a decision of the Supreme Court of the Philippine Islands, and as an educational entity is still in existence.

No personal opinions are set forth in the following pages. All the evidence produced is documentary and most of it has already appeared in print, but, as we have said, scattered. The new evidence consists of some excerpts from and references to the Roman Archives of the Society of Jesus.

It is hoped that, in the not too distant future, similar accounts will be given of the institution and early development of the College of San José in Manila and of the College of St. Ildefonso in Cebu.