

I.

The Arrival of the First Jesuits

Legaspi formally organized Manila as a Spanish city on June 24th 1571 and died on August 20th 1572 and was buried in the Augustinian church. He was succeeded by Guido de Lavezares (1572-1575). In writing to the king on June 29th 1573, he said, (Blair and Robertson, *The Philippine Islands*, vol. III, p. 185)

"It will conduce much to the conversion of these natives to have some religious of the Society of Jesus and friars of the order of St. Francis come to these districts; because it has a most edifying influence upon the covetous disposition of the people, to see that those Fathers do not receive or have anything to do with money—which will be a good example to them."

And again on July 30th 1573 (Colin-Pastells, *Labor Evangelica*, T. I., p. 166, note),

"There is great necessity here for religious; Franciscans, Dominicans, Theatines (misnomer for Jesuits) and clerics for the conversion of these people, and especially Jesuits."

The Viceroy of Mexico and Philip II of Spain petitioned Fr. Everard Mercurian, general of the Society, for men for the Philippines. Under date of January 31st, 1579, Father General acknowledged the petition. Thus when Domingo de Salazar, O.P., the first bishop of Manila, asked for Jesuits he found the authorities favorably disposed. Father General sent orders to the Province of Mexico that men of known virtue and learning should