

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER - APOSTLE.

ON TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK, APRIL SEVENTH, 1506, WAS BORN UNTO THE LORD OF XAVIER CASTLE THE SIXTH AND LAST OF HIS CHILDREN. THE BOY WAS BAPTIZED AT THE ANCIENT FONT, IN THE LITTLE CHURCH, OUTSIDE THE CASTLE WALLS, AND GIVEN THE NAME OF FRANCIS^C_A. THE BROTHERS MIGUEL AND JUAN CHOSE THE MILITARY CAREER; OF THE SISTERS, ANNA MARRIED, MARY ENTERED A CONVENT IN PAMPLONA; MAGDALEN, A LADY OF THE COURT OF QUEEN ISABELLA, JOINED THE POOR CLARES OF GANDIA; WHEN PECUNARY^N_X DIFFICULTIES AT HOME PROMPTED THE INMATES OF JAVIER TO RECALL FRANCIS FROM HIS STUDIES AT PARIS, IT WAS MAGDALEN, NOW ABBESS OF GANDIA WHO ADVISED AGAINST SUCH A STEP, BY WRITING TO MIGUEL: "DO NOT CEASE TO SUPPORT HIM IN HIS STUDIES, FOR I ENTERTAIN THE HOPE THAT HE WILL BE, ONE DAY, A PILLAR OF THE CHURCH." ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER THIS ADVICE WAS GIVEN, THE CHURCH CONFIRMED THE PREDICTION OF MAGDALEN, BY RAISING FRANCIS TO THE ALTAR AND PROCLAIMING HIM THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT OF GOD IN BRINGING TO THE FOLD OF THE CHURCH THE VAST REGIONS OF THE INDIES. ON THE SECOND DAY OF THIS MONTH, A YEAR BEGAN WHOSE COMPLETION WILL MARK THE FOURTH HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF THE APOSTLE OF THE INDIES. IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE CHURCH, LET US RECALL TO OUR MIND THE APOSTOLIC LABORS OF THIS APOSTLE, IN ORDER TO IMITATE THE EXAMPLE OF HIS VIRTUES, UT CUJUS GLORIOSA MERITA VENERAMUR, VIRTUTUM QUOQUE IMITEMUR EXEMPLA.

SOCOTORA - THE GALLEON COULAM, ON WHICH FRANCIS WAS SAILING TO GOA TOUCHED AT THE ISLAND OF SOCOTORA. SOME SAILORS ALIGHTED FOR A SUPPLY OF FRESH WATER: FRANCIS LANDED FOR SOULS.