

## P R E F A C E

The title of this work witnesses to our goal. For a long time now we have cherished the idea of coming out with a study on the contributions that our Jesuit missionaries in the Philippines have given for the total development of the country. These are contributions that are spread throughout four centuries and cover the entire archipelago. That goal is, indeed, today both in theory and in practice something that the times call for.

We take it for granted that the primary purpose of the activities of these Jesuits was apostolic and missionary. That aspect of their work has already been written on and widely commented upon by many historians.

Now we would like to stress the cultural and socio-economic aspects that the Post Vatican Church strives to promote. From the first days of the Gospel this social aspect, as well as that of mutual help in the spirit of charity formed part of the apostolic program.

The contribution of individuals to the common fund of the first Christian community as well as subsidies which the faithful gave to the Church of Jerusalem are but indicative of the double multiplication of the bread and the countless cures on behalf of the sick performed by Christ himself: "what you freely received, freely give away."

What we offer here is but a sample of what the Jesuits have carried out in the Philippines, activities that have been surpassed in many ways by the other religious orders that have from the beginning and without interruption laboured in this vineyard of Christ in the Philippines.

We have chosen some topic that are within the reach of our research efforts. No doubt, much more could be done in this aspect of research both in quantity and in quality. We present this field to our young researchers who will find in it pleasant and stimulating historical surprises between the pages of musty records.

Our goal also has been in part to honor the memory of these silent heroes and retrieve from oblivion what those valiant missionaries have achieved for the Church and for the Philippines, moved primarily by apostolic spirit. We would like to show how they were able to incarnate themselves in this new land and adapt their lives to its circumstances so as to empty for its people the entire message of the Gospel of Christ as they saw it.

Times change and continuously. They do not develop. Everything in the world moves forward. The Church itself wants to ever renew itself so as to better work in this world she seeks to sanctify.

The prudent apostle of our days knows how to discern the many stages of history, examining attentively what each has to offer as well as what it demands of the individual that lives in it. That apostle does not judge yesterday's events with today's criteria. Each epoch of the history