

1. Letters of Archbishop Leonardo Mellano on March 4, 1889: letter No. 1¹

Mananguay, 4 March 1889.

your Excellency,

Conforming myself to your Excellency's order, I have great pleasure to give you the statement on the Third Order of Discalced Carmelite nuns of Coonaminas founded by my Predecessor Mgr: Bernardinus of St. Teresa, in the year 1566 -

- 1) The first-foundresses of this Monastery were (1) Sr: Elizabeth, (2) Sr: Teresa (3) Anna, all three Latins
- 2) From the beginning, founded in the house and Compound of Sr: Elizabeth, and her daughter Sr: Anna, they added to the afore-said money their own money immovable goods and money worth about Rs 10000.
- 3) * My venerable predecessor, Mgr: Bernardinus, desiring (as it should be supposed) that of such a benefice also

¹ ASJVB, Letters and documents.

that-devot-Syrians might-enjoy, admitted, as I also continue to admit, some of the Syrians, but without ever coming my mind, that from such a step it could cease to be considered as a Latin Institution.

4) But as the former place was just one of habitation which was not suited to the end in view, my Predecessor naturally thought to build a monastery somewhere in the vicinity of the first, so that the nuns might live there in better health, and for that he supplied the necessary money as it is evident from the accounts written by him, which sum totals over Rs 8100. Nevertheless I would not deny that, the Rev: Fr: Leopold, who was in charge of the building, has received alms from Christians of both rites. The compound, however, of the said monastery, that is

(3)

where it was built, was bought with that money of the three afore mentioned foundress I afterwards have built the school for girls, and the walls around etc.

5) To this monastery a big orphanage was annexed in 1879 for the poor neglected women who were educated by the same nuns; and this orphanage was built by me with the money got "ad hoc" from a pious Italian theatrem.

6) Lastly to better the place around the school for girls, this building was separated from the monastery at the beginning of the gate from the wall of their compound.

This being pure truth, and I having had the spiritual and temporal care of it from the very beginning through one of my missionaries, whatever might be supposed about the alms received, it can "never be deduced without an open injustice" that it does

(4)

not belong to me, and to cede this monastery to others seems to me quite a novelty most fantastic, not to say worse. And it is also necessary to observe, that a change as is contemplated by some audacious men who work most hard to seize this monastery, and make it pass as a Syrian thing, cannot but cause a most grievous scandal to the public, and incite the people to create some revolution, and perhaps worse than that is expected with regard to the Coonamara Convent, from which let the Lord avert us.

With my deep sentiments of esteem and veneration;

I have the honour to be

F. Fr: Leonardo, O. S. B., O. C. S. I.

Versus Concordat cum originali

To: Mgr: Aiyte,
Archbishop and Delegate
Afr. of the East India.

Fr: J. G. Cheramal
Secretary of the Archbishop of Verapoly,
Cottaiam - (27-0111-37)

Printed version

Mangumey; 4 March 1889.

Your Excellency,

Conforming myself to your Excellency's order, I have great pleasure to give you the statement on the Third Order of Discalced Carmelite nuns of Coonemnavo, founded by my Predecessor Mgr: Bernardus of St. Theresa, in the year 1866.

1. The first foundresses of this Monastrey were (1) Sr. Elizabeth, (2) Sr. Thresia (3) Anna, all three Latins.
2. From the beginning, founded in the house and compound of Sr. Elizabeth, and her daughter Sr. Anna, they added to the afore-said money their own immovable goods and money worth about Rs. 10000.
3. My venerable predecessor, Mgr: Bernardus, desiring (as it should be supposed) that of such a benefice also that devote Syrians might enjoy, admitted, as I also continue to admit, some of the Syrians, but without ever coming my mind, that from such a step it could cease to be considered as a Latin Institutions.
4. But as the former place was just one of habitation which was not suited to the end in view, my Predecessor naturally thought to build a monastery somewhere in the vicinity of the first, so that the nuns might live there in better heath, and for that he supplied the necessary money as it is evident from the accounts written by him, which sum totals over Rs. 8100. everthless I would not deny hat, the Rev. Fr. Leopold, who was in chare of the building, has received alams from Christains of both rites. the compound, however, of the said monastery, that is where it was built, was bought with that money of the three afore mentioned Foundress. I afterwards have built the school for girls, and the walls around etc.
5. To this monastery a big orphanage was anneked in 1879 for the poor neglected women who were educated by the same nuns; and this orphanage was built by me with the money got "ad hoe" from a pious Italian Meatrem.
6. Lastly to better the place around the school for girls, this building was seperated from the monastery at the beginning of the gate from the wall of their compound.

This being pure truth, and I having had the priritual and temporal care of it from the very beginning through one of my missionaries whatever might be supposed about the alms received, it can "never be deduced without an open injustice" that it does not belong to me, and to cede this monastery to others seems to me quite a novelty most fantastic, not to say worse. and it is also necessary to observe, that a change as is contemplated by some audacious men who work most hard to size this monastery, and make it pass as a Syrian thing, cannot but cause a most greivous seandal to the publec,

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Mgr: Aiujte

Archbishop and Deligate Aps. fo the
East India

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Fr. Leonardo, Millano, O.C.D.

Versius Concordal cum originali

Fr. J. G. Cheramal

Secretary of the Archbishop of
Verapoly

Ernakulam – (27-VIII- 37)

