

LETTER FROM THE GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS TO THE KING OF PORTUGAL

26.2.1607

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Lord

†

S.C.R.M.

With all humility and reverence I kiss the hand of Your Majesty (in gratitude) for the very great confidence you show in the Society, for although we are unworthy of such favour, we are indeed all dedicated to the service of Your Majesty with complete enthusiasm and willingness. In the [letter] that Your Majesty did me the favour of writing, you command me to accept the responsibility of the Seminary which Your Majesty, with such holy zeal for the honour of God and desire for the propagation of the Catholic faith in all your Kingdoms and States, has ordered to be built in your City of Lisbon, in order that youths from Guinea and sons of the Portuguese who live in those parts, may be taught and educated in this city, and afterwards become ministers of the Holy Gospel to those nations and to their natives.

And that similarly I should accept the favour of initiating the College which Your Majesty wishes to found in Cape Verde. All [together] these are very outstanding favours that Your Majesty is rewarding us with.

However, since some arguments with regard to this occur to me to present to Your Majesty, not to hinder the fulfilment and execution of Your service but in order that the matter may be carried through to the greater glory of God, which I am certain is Your Majesty's principal intention in everything, I ask and

hope, (believing) in the clemency and benevolence of Your Majesty, that you will grant me the favour of having them heard by the Padre Provincial of Portugal, or by Father António Collaço, the Procurator of that Province and resident at that Court, to which persons I entrust this process. I am nevertheless most ready and prepared for whatever shall be Your Majesty's will to decide and to command me.

May Our Lord prosper in all things Y.S.C.R.M.,⁽¹⁾ for the benefit and increase of his Holy Church and of all your Kingdoms and States.

From Rome, 6 February 1607.

[Autograph] S.C.R.M.

D.V.M.

Very humble Servant
Claudio Acquaviva.

(1) Y.S.C.R.M.: Your Sacred Caesarian Royal Majesty.



