

Don Juan de Oñate - His Charity

When Don Juan de Oñate, Orden de Santiago, died on June 3, 1626 or just before, at his home in Guadalcanal, Spain his mining enterprises were producing a great amount of wealth.

Don Juan de Oñate left a fifth of his total wealth, inside and outside Spain, to the Colegio Imperial. Don Juan de Oñate left 10,000 *ducados* for a chapel in the new church which was being constructed alongside the Colegio Imperial and stipulated that, when possible, his remains should be brought from Guadalcanal and interred in this chapel with the Oñate coat of arms on the wall and that this chapel would be the burial place for his heirs and descendants.

Don Juan de Oñate left 200 *ducados* for a *capellania*, which permitted three masses weekly in the Oñate chapel at the discretion of the Jesuits of the Colegio Imperial.

Don Juan de Oñate left 4,000 *ducados* were donated to a Jesuit "Colegio de Pasantes," a bequest to religious students in convents who finished their studies and assisted a professor. One or two halls were to be constructed at a site the director of the Colegio thought the best location for lodging forty Collegiates. Five Jesuit "Collegiate religious" were to be maintained. These men must be capable persons so when their *pasantes* completed their training they would be able to teach in and outside Spain. *Tenpasantes* were to come from the province of Toledo, five from Castile, five from Andalusia and five from Aragon, and if a new province were added the proportions would remain the same, with Toledo always having ten. Candidates would be chosen by the leading Jesuit in the province after consultation with the director of the Colegio Imperial. Typical of Jesuit tradition, these students would receive meals, clothing, books, and round-trip transportation. The duration of studies would be five years, and at the completion of this training the students should be able publicly to debate philosophy and theology. Attendance at all college functions would be a requirement, and each day all must attend a mass in memory of Oñate and his descendants, as well as one in memory of Vicente de Zaldívar, his children, and descendants.

Don Juan de Oñate left 4,000 *ducados* given for a "Colegio de Estudiantes Seglares" for religious students who did not live in the convent. A hall near the Colegio Imperial would be purchased for thirty "*colegiales seglares*." Twelve of these would be chosen by the director's examination, would have completed studies in humanities and theology, and would bring references from a university or a Jesuit college in Spain. The curriculum of the *seglares* would be similar to that of *pasantes*. The remaining eighteen students would have good voices and would be examined by the *maestros* of the Capilla Real,

Convent of Descalzas Reales and convent of Encarnacion, with final approval given by the director of the Colegio Imperial. In addition to taking classes, these eighteen students would attend mass on Sundays, holidays, and on those days when a sermon was given in the church of the Colegio Imperial. They would also assist with mass and with high mass on the day before a holiday. Altogether, they would have ten years of college—three of grammar, three of humanities, and four of theology. Several other characteristics of the school for the *seglares* are of note. For example, this college would give special veneration to the Virgin Mary, and the main door would display the Oñate coat of arms. The dress for all *colegiales* would be a dark violet robe. The descendants of Oñate and Zaldívar, and the latter's children, would be given preference in the examination for entry. After termination of classes each afternoon, the eighteen "*colegiales musicos*" would say a "*salve cantada*" with a prayer for Oñate and a high mass on the days before a holiday and on holidays. A high mass in memory of Oñate would be said on the day after the Immaculate Conception feast (December 9) and was to be attended by all the *colegiales*, as well as the Jesuits of the Colegio Imperial to help insure his memory and that of his descendants,

Don Juan de Oñate had considerable wealth in Cartagena, where he generally heard mass at the Church of Nuestra Señora. Oñate made provisions for this church as well as for the San Isidro Convent and the San Sebastian Church.

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