

..... de S. José

1 Largo das Portas da Cruz

22 August 1871

Dear Revd. Mother, (St. Casix Vidal - 1809-1873)

By this post you will receive the invitation signed by our Bishop consistent with his duty to the Government of the country he could not do it in any other way; and many good persons thought he would not accede at all to my request - now I suppose there will be nothing to prevent you sending me some of your good sisters but they must be prepared for much poverty - the school is very badly mounted and deficient in many things which are most necessary such as Globes, pianos, models for lessons on objects, etc. the furniture very old and poor. Then they may expect much opposition and remarks, but as we shall keep very quiet and not take any notice perhaps they will soon tire. If they could be in time to come with Father Miel it would be a great advantage and also perhaps it would be well if they were here before His Lordship takes possession of the diocese in order not to give occasion to anyone to say that he bought them with them. I should like them to spend a few days in Lisbon to get acquainted with the customs here by conversing with the nuns who have come over from England and France. A clergyman told me today that the nuns must come well disguised. The Sisters of Ste. Dorothea were here for years wearing loloured dresses (even yellow!!) but now I think they dress in black. The sisters of St. Dominic wear when in the street black dresses, black ~~Calimpe~~ capes, some wear cloaks, black small silk bonnets, parasols. As there will be so many coming together the less remarkable the dress will be the better. It is better to bring their luggage with them. It would come cheaper by sea, but then it would be sent to the customs house here and be inspected by all those officials employed in it, while by bringing it with them it will only be examined at the station.

Now may the Almighty take us all under His Protection and bless what we are about to do for the glory of His Name and the salvation of souls.

Your ever affectionate and grateful

Margaret

