

7. LETTER TO ANTOINE DURAND

Antoine Durand entered Libermann's novitiate in 1845. Two years later he went to Africa with Bishop Truffet. Having completed his studies there, he was ordained a priest in 1850. He died in Guiana in March of 1865.

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*Encouragement of a missionary at the painful moment of his first departure.*

*April 11, 1847*

*Vol. 9, p. 113*

Dear Friend:

I did not doubt in the least that you were suffering all sorts of painful emotions at the moment of your departure [for the African mission]. I know how extremely sensitive you are. This is what we get in this world: endless trouble, endless separations. God alone remains with you! Let us always be happy when we can sacrifice ourselves for His glory.

Be faithful to the grace of the Divine Master; be full of confidence in Our Lady, and you'll be certain that you are serving God in accordance with His good pleasure. Try to keep your soul in peace amidst all the emotions you are feeling.

After your arrival over there, you will most certainly suffer somewhat from weariness; you might even suffer severely from it, for your sensitive nature does not permit you to stop half-way whenever you are under the influence of an emotion. Draw profit from everything for your advancement. The more sensitive we are, the more we suffer in this

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world, but at the same time the greater will be our progress in the way of perfection provided we remain faithful.

Courage therefore and perseverance! All will work out well according to God's wishes and for the sanctification of your soul.

When you are afflicted by some trouble or difficulty, you can have recourse to the Bishop who is so good to you. Follow faithfully the wise advice he'll give you.

Entirely yours in Jesus and Mary,

FRANCIS LIBERMANN

priest of the Holy Heart of Mary

P. S. Tell Mr. Germain that I do not forget him before God.