

**Father Lasuen's letter to governor Diego de Borica informing him about the founding
of Mission San Fernando***

It affords me great pleasure to inform Your Lordship that today, the solemn feast of the Nativity of Most Holy Mary, I blessed water, the grounds, and a large cross which we venerated and erected in a beautiful region known as *Achois Comihabit* by the natives, and located between the Missions of San Buenaventura and San Gabriel. I was assisted by Reverend Father Fray Francisco Dumetz who has been assigned to this mission, and by the troops assigned to guard it, in the presence of many pagans of both sexes and of all ages who showed themselves much pleased and satisfied. I immediately intoned the Litany of All Saints, and following this I sang the Mass, preached a sermon during it, and brought the function to an end by solemnly singing the *Te Deum*.

When breakfast was over, the pagans offered ten of their children, five of each sex, to be baptized, and in the little *enramada*, in the very place where the holy sacrifice of the Mass had been celebrated, I blessed the baptismal font and baptized them solemnly. Thanks be to God.

Thus was possession taken of this site dedicated to the glorious St. Ferdinand, King of Spain, and thus was begun the mission with this holy title in accordance with the superior orders of His Excellency the Marqués de Branciforte, Viceroy of New Spain, and of Your Lordship.

May God Our Lord, etc.

Incipient Mission of San Fernando, September 8, 1797.

Lasuén, Fermín Francisco de; Kenneally, Finbar (1965). *Writings of Fermín Francisco de Lasuén*, Academy of American Franciscan History, Washington D. C. Volume I, page 44.

* Lasuén and Borica came both from Vitoria-Gasteiz, in the Basque province of Araba.