



BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA DI GENOVA – PERCORSI TEMATICI

UNIVERSALITAS & PERVASIVITAS

IL COSTITUIRSI E DIFFONDERSI DELLA S.J. E SUOI ECHI (1540 - 1773)

di A. Pisani

Schede autori Attività missionaria

Francisco Lainez

Francisco Lainez (o Laynes), il cui vero nome era Francisco Troyano, nacque ad Oporto nel 1656. Entrò a far parte della Compagnia nel 1672 e fu inviato in missione sulle coste del Malabar nel 1681. Sbarcò a Goa e si stabilì a Catur. I suoi confratelli sostennero che, durante la sua lunga missione (22 anni), officiò 13.600 battesimi. Nel 1703 tornò a Roma, dove fu elevato all'episcopato di Sao Thomé de Meliapor (oggi quartiere di Chennai, capitale del Tamil Nadu). Nel 1708 ripartì per l'India e arrivò a Goa il 25 settembre 1709. In seguito a conflitti con le locali autorità civili si ritirò in una residenza della Compagnia a Chandemagore, dove morì l'11 giugno 1715. Vi sono sospetti che la sua *Defensio Indicarum missionum Madurensis* sia stata stampata clandestinamente in India e non, come riportato sul frontespizio, a Roma.

Cfr.: si consiglia l'interessante articolo di Paolo Aranha (Istituto Universitario Europeo, Firenze) *Sacramenti o samskarah? L'illusione dell'accommodatio nella controversia dei riti malabarici* "Cristianesimo nella Storia" 31 (2010) p. 621-646.

Who in that company of evangelists was nobler than Francis Laynez, a hundred times confessor, and all but martyr ? He was accustomed to say, in allusion to his own immense labors, that " there was a time for sowing and a time for reaping ;" and he would often refer to the early history of the mission of Madura, where some years elapsed without their making a single convert. He loved solid foundations, and was no hasty builder ; yet in 1700 he baptized five thousand catechumens with his own hand, every one of whom had been instructed by himself. Again, in the following year, partly through the persuasive converse and example of these first converts, he admitted to the same sacrament between the months of January and September, four thousand seven hundred and twenty-five pagans ! During thirty-two years he witnessed for Christ through all the trials and sufferings which can befall the disciple of a Crucified Master. Once he was mangled in every part of his body by the teeth of a crew of pagan fanatics, who rushed upon him like wild beasts, and would have torn him to pieces. When in 1704 they sent him to Home, to answer the calumnies which the Evil One had again spread abroad against himself and his brethren, he had already converted forty thousand souls. It was to Clement XI. that his celebrated memorial, *Defensio Indicarum Missionum*, was presented. By the command of the Pontiff it was printed at Rome, in 1707, and won for its author the uncoveted dignity of the episcopate, from which he vainly entreated to be relieved. Consecrated in 1708 at Lisbon, he returned immediately to India, where he continued the same almost incredible austerities, and persevered in the same patient toil, as if he had been the humblest of the flock committed by the Supreme Pastor to his oversight. In 1712, he visited Calcutta, where he was received with the highest honors by the English governor ; and in 1715 he died, after an apostolate of more than thirty years, during which he had converted to God upwards of fifty thousand idolaters.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS: THEIR AGENTS, AND THEIR RESULTS. BY T. W. M. MARSHALL. - VOL I. - NEW YORK: D. & J. SADLER & CO., 1864.

http://dcommon.bu.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/2144/689/christianmission01marsrich_djvu.txt?sequence=2