

claimed for the Roman system. A revolt about 1690 reversed this trend a bit but by 1690 the famous priest Kino was at work in New Mexico and Arizona with considerable success. The Alamo was founded in 1718. By 1769, following efforts of the Jesuits, San Diego had been founded and there was a considerable work in southern California.

c. Catholic Missions in the Mississippi Valley

(1) The great work by Marquette in exploration was followed by Jesuit fathers and Franciscans with mission stations from northern Illinois to Mobile and Louisiana by 1702. How is that for brevity of information and skimpiness of detail.

d. Summary:

It is interesting how many of the early explorers marked their industry with a "faith in God." Columbus was primary among these and with this group in general there seems to have been a profound interest in the "faith" and its applications to the indigenous population. Certainly many of the early priests, monks, etc., were motivated by religious zeal more than any other single factor.

The efforts of this group were seriously hampered by the adventurers, fortune seekers, and enslavers. Working within tyrannical frameworks the church was often a servant of the governmental authorities and while it decried abuses was often not in a position to do anything positive about them. This explains much of the ecclesiastical conditions of central and south America in the past centuries. North America, as noted several times, was spared much of this due to the lack of immediate pursuable fortune. Hence the missionaries were largely free to do their works with less interference of the monetary worshippers. It meant that what work was done was better done and more solidly established.

Maybe one of the greater weaknesses in the Roman missions, however, was in the binding of the converts to a party, and a foreign party at that, rather than to the Gospel and the saving message. In some places syncretistic moves were made in the development of converts and this always results in a weakening of the Christian position with eventual deplorable results. The Roman emphasis on mystery was ideal for reaching Indian converts and easily assimilated some original beliefs. But in time this aspect shrouds a faith in the unknown and the unknowable.

The Roman Catholic parties were also hindered in North America by the continual change in foreign leadership. While much of the territory was always in one hands or another, shifts in influence from England to France, and vice-versa, materially