

## **Mother Thouret to Mgr. Lecoz, Archbishop of Besançon – Naples 2 April 1811**

*In the first part of the letter, Jeanne-Antide entrusts to the archbishop the numerous problems created to the community of Regina Coeli on behalf of the management of the superintendent Dumas, who with the permission of minister of the interior of Naples would have integrated the French sisters. In turn, the sisters are fully committed even more than expected, in their discovery and hospitality of the Neapolitan context:*

“ ... Monsignor, I am taking the opportunity of a Lausanne coachman returning to send back Sr. Melanie back to Besançon. She came to be my companion on the return. She has been ill almost the whole time. The climate does not suit her at all, and I am afraid that the heat of this region will weaken her to the limit. As for me, I see that, for every reason, I may not yet leave these two new-born establishments. There is still much to be done to consolidate and support them. Alas! How common here is the spirit of robbery, deceit and the most frightful depravity! (...)

Monsignor, on the night of the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> of this month, several men came to rob our church. They had already removed the lock of the first iron gate and were trying to break a small padlock which was all that remained. Luckily, a neighbour heard them and cried out Help! The thieves ran away and people gathered. Alas! Had they entered, they would have come into our house. This is a country full of assassins and robbers. You have to travel by day. You do not know, so to say, whom to trust – people of all ranks are rascals. As soon as it becomes possible, I shall have the honour to ask you for a colony of our Sisters who can depart during the month of May”.

## **Mother Thouret to the minister of the Interior of the Kingdom of Naples - 31 January 1813**

*It consists of a detailed report to the minister G. Zurlo regarding the needs of the poor in Naples, to whom the French sisters – already working with the sick in the hospital of the Incurables – suggest to respond to the schools for poor girls and the home service of the sick poor. At the end, for the first time is mentioned the hopeful opening to the Neapolitan aspirants:*

(...) We greatly desire and we have complete confidence, that Your Excellency will enable us to serve the poor even more, by giving us the means and the funds to increase our numbers. (...) This is the third year of our presence here; we are known and will continue to be known: and good young ladies could well get the idea of offering themselves if they had that lively faith and ardent charity which inspired the three Wise Men to follow the star of their vocation and overcome so many hardships and difficulties. The star of our vocation is at their door and above their house. If they have eyes and good will they will see it and will understand whether their will to follow it is not just velleity but leads to serious steps to make themselves worthy not only of having the good name of Sisters of Charity but also of rising to the solid and constant accomplishment of all the duties it entails ...”.