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THE CHAPEL OF DON ANTONIO JOSÉ ORTIZ

By COL. JOSÉ D. SENA

It appears from an instrument, which has been in the vault of his Excellency Archbishop R. A. Gerken that, in the year 1797, Don Antonio José Ortiz, a resident of the city of Santa Fé, in the Kingdom of New Mexico under the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Durango, petitioned his Lordship Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel de Oliváres y Benito, then bishop of Durango, for permission to erect at his home and residence in Santa Fé, a chapel so that he could comply with his religious duties of hearing mass on Sundays and feasts of obligation, because, owing to his infirmities, he was unable to attend at the parroquial church.

In the petition which was corroborated by the Reverend Fathers Fray Buenaventura Marino, Fray José Rubio, and Fray Francisco de Hocio, they state that Don Antonio José Ortiz, had been and was a very devout Catholic, contributing with his means to the support and betterment of the churches in Santa Fé. It is stated further that, at one time, the parroquial church had fallen down completely, and that it was Don Antonio José Ortiz who, out of his own money and completely at his own expense, rebuilt the church and added to it a beautiful and roomy chapel, dedicated to St. Joseph, and had placed in it a statue of St. Joseph. He had also added a chapel dedicated to our blessed mother, making the church then in the form of a cross. In this chapel were placed statues of our Lady of the Holy Rosary, pictures of our Lady of Guadalupe, and one of San Miguel. The reverend fathers testified also that he had contributed largely to the repair of the chapel of San Miguel when in a state of deterioration, and that all this was done at his own expense. It was further stated that he paid for the wax and wine for the celebration of holy mass.

Due to all these acts of devotion and his pious character and Catholic devotion, his Lordship Bishop Oliváres y Benito granted the permission, on condition that the chapel should be separate from the rest of his domicile and with an entrance to the street. He also stipulated that the chapel should have a bell to gather the faithful to the holy services.

It appears that, upon a later petition and due to the chronic illness of Mr. Ortiz, an additional grant was given him, namely, that the chapel might be connected with his residence, so that he could be brought in to the services and not be exposed to the inclemency of the weather. His Lordship also granted the permission that if Don Antonio José Ortiz provided a tabernacle according to the rubrics of the church, the blessed sacrament might be kept constantly in the chapel, and the sacraments be administered from the said chapel to the faithful, as well as to the members of his family and servants. It appears that at that time the blessed sacrament was kept only in the said chapel, and that from there all services were performed, even to administering the last rites of the church. During all this time, Don Antonio José Ortiz continued providing all that was necessary, the vestments, holy vessels, hosts, wax, wine and other necessities for the divine service. His Lordship also granted, on petition, that the bodies of Don Antonio José Ortiz, the members of his family, and some other persons, who were pleasing to Don Antonio José Ortiz might be buried there. It was provided, in the grant of permission, that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass should be celebrated at the said chapel, daily, by one of the fathers of the parish.

There appears a letter to Don Antonio José Ortiz, from his Lordship which is signed by Don José Aguilar, secretary to his Lordship, in which he states, that his letter was not answered by his Lordship Bishop Oliváres due to his infirmities and his advanced age, but that he instructs the secretary to write in his name, renewing his heretofore granted concessions, and imparting his Apostolic Benediction and

wishing him many, many more years of life to be dedicated to the service of God and His church on earth.

The document contains eleven different paragraphs or it might be said eleven different steps in the matter of the permission asked and the concessions granted.

Don Antonio José Ortiz is the great-grandfather of the Ortiz family. One of his sons, Don Juan Felipe Ortiz, at the time of the arrival of Bishop J. B. Lamy, was vicar apostolic of the Province of New Mexico. Don Antonio José Ortiz was married to Doña Rosa de Bustamante, and to her (as appears in a letter from Don Santiago Baca y Ortiz, a cleric of first tonsure then at Chihuahua and also a grandchild of Don Antonio José Ortiz) were renewed all the concessions previously granted by His Lordship Bishop Oliváres. This was done on January 12, 1813, by Don Francisco Fernandez y Valencia, administrator of the vacant see of Durango.

As nearly as can be ascertained, the residence of Don Antonio José Ortiz and the chapel here spoken of were located on San Francisco Street, where it joined the former Rosario Street, where the D. & R. G. railroad tracks now are.

The Catholicity of the people which was instilled into them from their mother country and by the efforts of the early friars still remains alive and continues to show itself, with very few exceptions, as something that goes deep into their hearts. May God grant that the faith so instilled into the hearts of the Spanish-speaking people may take a renewed life, and be joined in by our brothers in faith of Anglo-Saxon descent.

* * *

TRANSLATION OF THE CONCESSIONS MADE TO DON ANTONIO
JOSÉ ORTIZ BY THE BISHOP OF DURANGO, GRANTING PER-
MISSION TO BUILD AN ORATORIO IN HIS HOME, AS A
MISSION TO BE LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF
SAN FRANCISCO AND ROSARIO STREETS, IN
SANTA FÉ, NEW MEXICO

FIRST:

We, Dr Don Francisco Gabriel de Oliváres y Benito, of the council of His Majesty, and bishop of Durango, etc.

Whereas in a memorial which was presented to us by Don Antonio José Ortiz, together with the certification accompanying it, from the Reverend Fathers, Fray Buanaventura Marino, Fray José Rubí, and Fray Francisco de Hocio, he has informed us that, at the parish church of Santa Fé, New Mexico, he has erected, at his own expense, a chapel, beautiful and roomy and in the form of a cross; that he has placed in the said chapel the statues of St. Joseph, and has likewise repaired the four district chapels, which were almost in ruins; that he has installed sanctuaries, and canopies; that he contributes all the wax, wine and hosts which are needed during the year, as well as all other necessities for the proper and decent service of divine worship, in the almost ruined missions in which mass is to be celebrated; that he has paid for masses and other ceremonials as well as for benediction with the Blessed Sacrament; has placed statues of Our Lady of the Rosario, Our Lady of Guadalupe, San Miguel, and St. Joseph; and ends with the request to us that we be pleased to grant our permission, in order that in this said chapel of St. Joseph; it be permitted that his body be buried as well as those of the members of his family, and some other persons of liking and appreciation. In what pertains to us, as to these presents, taking into consideration his pious zeal and devotion to the Divine services, we are pleased to grant, to the said Don Antonio José Ortiz, our full permission and license, so that there may be celebrated in the said chapel the sacrifice of the mass, and that the bodies of himself, the members of his family, and such others of his predilection and friendship as he may desire, may there be buried.

Given at our Episcopal Palace at Durango, and signed by us, with our seal and Coat of Arms, and countersigned by the secretary of our Canonical Government, on the 27th day of the month of December in the year 1797.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

By order of his Lordship.
Registered in Book I of Acts, folio 114,
by Father Pedro Millan Rodriguez.

* * *

SECOND:

We, Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel de Oliváres y Benito, by the grace of God and the pleasure of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Durango, of the council of his Majesty, etc.

Whereas, Don Antonio José Ortiz, resident of the City of Santa Fé, in New Mexico, in a petition, presented to us, has made us acquainted with his chronic illness which prevents him from complying with the obligation of hearing Mass and attending to his duties, on Sunday and Feasts of obligation, during the year, and ends with the request that we be pleased to grant him our permission and license to construct an oratory, in which the holy sacrifice of the Mass may be decently celebrated, offering, at the same time to provide the said chapel with holy vessels, vestments, altars, and all other necessaries for the decent needs of such sacred mysteries. In the light of these presents, and giving our attention to the just cause of his petition, as well as others which have moved our mind, and using the Apostolic faculties, for our part, we grant our license and permission to the said Don Antonio José Ortiz, so that he may, in the house of his abode, construct and build a public oratory, with a door to the street, and a bell over the same, which shall serve to convene the people and faithful to hear the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We order the said Don Antonio José Ortiz to construct the said oratory apart and free from all other rooms of his domicile, and when it is concluded and decently adorned, and with all the necessary appurtenances, we hereby empower the parish priest of Santa Fé, New Mexico, or some other priest who may have the proper licenses, that he may bless the said oratory, in the form directed by the Roman Ritual, and when blessed, the Holy Mass may be and must be celebrated every day, as well as to administer the Holy Sacraments of penance and Holy Eucharist, by any priest, secular or religious, who has been duly approved by our bishopric, with all our due good will and approbation, without any prejudice to the parroquial rights.

Given at our Episcopal Palace at Durango, and signed by us, with our seal and Coat of Arms, and countersigned by our Canonical and government secretary on the 16th day of the month of June, 1798.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

By order of His Lordship the Bishop
my Lord. Pedro Millan Rodriguez,
Secretary. Recorded in Book 1 of Government
page 23.

* * *

THIRD:

We, Dr Don Francisco Gabriel de Oliváres y Benito, by the Grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Durango, of the council of his Majesty, etc.

Whereas, due to the memorial presented to us by Don Antonio José Ortiz, resident of Santa Fé, New Mexico, by which it is evident, that he has already built and adorned, in his house and domicile a public oratory, in one of his offices, with a door to the street in the hallway of the house, in order to avoid many inconveniences that have come up, in order to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of Mass; therefore, by these presents we grant our permission and license, so that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass may be celebrated and will be celebrated in the said oratory, by any priest, secular or religious, who has been duly approved by us or from any other province and Vicar General, on every day of the year, with the express condition, that he must place a bell over the wall of the said oratory, toward the street, which may gather the faithful to hear the Mass on Sundays and other days of obligations, and that they may comply, in the said oratory. And in the same manner, each one who may hear the bell, will gain, forty days indulgence, which we have been pleased to grant, and another forty days indulgence, which we have been pleased, to all such who will attend the recitation of the Holy Rosary in the said oratory, on every day of the year, as also forty days indulgence to each person who may attend each one of the feasts of Our Lady the Blessed Virgin Mary, and who may recite with devotion, once, the Salve Regina. We order the said Don Antonio José Ortiz, to maintain the said chapel with all the corresponding decency and adornment: That the secular or regular priest who may say Mass in the said chapel, on Sundays or other feast days, shall explain some point of the Christian doctrine, which may be of instruction to the faithful and that no priest, regular or secular, shall suspend the license and permission, even though he may exercise the function of Pastor Vicar, without first, notifying us. That this shall be valid in all due respect, and with our whole will;

Given at our Episcopal Palace at Durango, and signed by us and sealed with our seal and Coat of Arms, and countersigned by our undersigned, secretary, canonical and governmental on the 8th day of October, 1799.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

By order of his Lordship my Lord,
 Pedro Millan Rodriguez, Secretary.
 Recorded Book 1 page 106.

* * *

FOURTH:

Don Antonio José Ortiz— My Dear Sir: His Lordship, my lord, owing to his advanced years and continuous complaints, does not answer in person, your respectful letter of the 14th of November last, and I do it in his name and by his order, saying that he cannot grant the faculty of blessing the chalice, to the pastor of the village, nor to any other priest, for the reason, that the blessing of it is not a blessing proper, but a consecration in which must be used the sacred unction, and therefore, the power to grant this does not exist in his Lordship, and that if it did, he would at once grant it as he grants the permission to bless bells, vestments, crosses, and all that which does not involve the sacred unction. He grants the power to the said pastor, and in his absence to any other priest, to celebrate two masses, one at the Parish church, and the other one in the neighborhood chapel, on feast days, only. — May God grant you many years to your life. Durango February 6, 1801. Your humble and faithful servant in our Lord.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.
 José Aguilar, Secretary.

* * *

FIFTH:

Don Antonio José Ortiz: Answering your letter of the 31 of March, and after extending you my thanks, for your carefulness in regard to divine cult, I will say that I grant my permission the exposition in your chapel, maintaining it with its due decorum, relative to the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Regarding the exception of the duties of dues of graves, with the obligation of opening and closing the same, I grant the same to you and your family. Regarding the consecration of the chalice and the altar stone, we will consider the best way, as these are things reserved only to the Bishops.

God grant you many years of life. Durango May 3rd, 1800.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

* * *

SIXTH:

We, Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel, Oliváres y Benito, by the Grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic see, Bishop of Durango, of the counsel of his Majesty, etc. Whereas, we have been informed that Don José Antonio Ortiz, resident of the city of Santa Fé, in the Province of New Mexico, maintains, continuously, at his own expense, in the public oratory which he has in his house, the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and that they also take from there the Holy Viaticum to the sick, by the parish priest of the said city, which redounds to the benefit of the neighborhood, as well as to their spiritual advantage. Therefore, and in regard for the expense of the oil, which is sold at a high price, in said Province, and which he has to provide, by these presents we grant him the favor, that there may be sung, on every Thursday during the year, the mass of renovation, in the said oratory, by its chaplain, or any other priest, secular or regular, who is registered or approved by this our bishopric. And also on the feast of his patron saint and on some special festivities during the year. But we do prohibit, that there may be masses sung, on the said days, and any others, by requests of any other faithful, which are not of devotion, and which are for a stipend given by other faithful, who must pay the parroquial dues. And we order the parish priest, who is now or may hereafter be, in the said city, that he shall not require parroquial dues, for the masses of devotion by the said Don Antonio José Ortiz, due to the merits he has already acquired but to require them for masses that may be sung on stipends given by other persons. Given at our Episcopal Palace at Durango, on the 7 day of February, 1804, signed by us, and countersigned by our undersigned secretary of canonic and government. We also grant to the said Don Antonio José Ortiz, the permission, that he and the members of his family, may receive the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist at their oratory, excepting the compliance with their Easter duty, which must be done at the Parish Church. We further grant the permission, that he and the rest of the members of his family, may be buried in said oratory without damage to the parroquial dues, and all baptisms, marriages and burials that are not of the members of the family, must be had in the parish church. Signed, sealed as above.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

By order of his Lordship, the Bishop my
Lord, José Antonio Aguilar, Secretary.

* * *

SEVENTH :

We, Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel de Olivár y Benito, by the Grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Durango, of the counsel of his Majesty, etc.: Whereas, Don Antonio José Ortiz, resident of the city of Santa Fé, in New Mexico, moved by his pious and extreme zeal, has tendered to the parist priest of the city, the use of his oratory which he has, that there might be celebrated, the divine offices, for the reason of the parish church having fallen in ruins, and that he has reconstructed the same at his expense, employing in the said work the sum of 5,000 dollars. Therefore, in order to remunerate in some manner, the benefit which he has done to the said city, in having reconstructed the parish church at his own expense; By these presents, we exempt him, from now and for the future, from the payment, not only of Parroquial dues, but also from the dues for all the Masses either law or sung, and all other functions, which due to his devotion and those of his family, are celebrated in his said oratory, all of which shall be made known to the parish priest and his successors, so that with this understanding as to this determination, they may obey and comply with them as it is customary.

Given at our Episcopal Palace at Durango, on the 25th day of the month of September, 1804. Signed by us, and sealed with our coat of arms, and countersigned by the undersigned our office and governmental secretary.

Francisco, Bishop of Durango.

Before me,

José Aguilar, Secretary.

* * *

EIGHTH :

Your Lordship: Up to now, I have no notice whether your Lordship has received a young Indian and other things, which I sent you last year with my son Miguel, who told me before his death, he had sent from Chihuahua as I have before expressed to your Lordship, requesting, that you again tell me, whether I have to pay the dues to the church, for the burials in the chapel, which by your concession, I have in this parish and city. for I have just paid for the burial of my deceased son, José Miguel. Not desiring to bother your Lordship, with my repeated requests, and repeating my true blind love, that I know your Lordship has for me, informing you again that the parish church in this city, after it had fallen down the first time, six years ago, I

undertook by myself to reconstruct the same, and in fact I placed the same ready for the vigas last year, owing to the damage of lightning which struck, I was obliged to tear it down again and to enlarge it ten varas. From the foundation up I extended it 8 varas and reconstructed its walls, and I have it now ready nearly up to the placing of the vigas, there missing four rows of adobes in order to be able to roof it. The sanctuary and high altar have been renewed by me, also the chapel of our Lady of the Holy Rosary and the chapel of St. Joseph, in which your Lordship has granted me the privilege and grace to have, all, from their foundations to their conclusion, sanctuary, and other ornaments have been placed by me. The sanctuary of the chapel of St. Michael outside of the Parish I made myself. I have given various jewels to the parish church, not only in adornment but in services to the Mission of San Diego at Tesuque, I have made the principal sanctuary at the mission of our Lady of Guadalupe at Pojuaque. Today, by virtue of the concession made to me by your Lordship, there is no other tabernacle in this city, than the one that is maintained in my oratory, from which come all the viaticums given in the neighborhood of this city and for the troops of the garrison. On every Thursday, I pay for the mass of renovation all of which are performed with the greatest devotion and solemnity, and many other things that I omit, so as not to importune your Lordship. Therefore I pray your Lordship to grant me, if it be your pleasure, that pious grace of exception and distinction that your lordship may deem proper to grant to me. I also pray that you grant me the concession of an oratory, for my private use, in order that I may prepare and adorn the room, which I shall dedicate to Our Lady of Guadalupe, at my ranch and home at Pojuaque, to which I always retire so as to breathe the fresh air of the country, for the relief of my ailments, and in which I may be able to hear the holy mass, together with those of my family and servants. If I should merit this grace with the favor of your Lordship, I pray that it be extended permanently and also to my successors, after my death, which will be taken care of by one of my sons who will remain at the said ranch. I am aware, Sir, that the parish priest, Don José Maria Bivian de Ortega, who was the parish priest in this city, with knowledge of this concession, did all in his part to prevent me from burying therein all my children and other persons of my liking and appreciation. God Our Lord, give pros-

perity to your important life, and grant to your Lordship many years to live as I desire for you, for the help and consolation to me and your entire flock. At the feet of your Lordship, I remain, most revered sir; Antonio José Ortiz. To the Very Reverend Bishop of Durango, Francisco Gabriel de Olivares, Durango, January 25, 1805. Having received this request, and being aware, from information, which we have received that all that which is alleged, is certain as expressed in the petition, of the expenses made and incurred for the divine cult of God, we grant with all our will, everything which is asked for, with the exception of the oratory on his ranch at Pojuaque, which must be public, and in which all that is required, is that the room designated for divine service, have a door to the street, and that the faithful be called to mass, when it should be celebrated, by a small bell rung in the due and customary form in said oratory. It was so decreed, ordered and signed by his Lordship the Bishop, to which I testify. Before me, José Aguilar, Secretary.

* * *

NINTH:

We, Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel Olivares y Benito, by the grace of God and the favor of the Apostolic See, Bishop of Durango, and of the counsel of his Majesty, etc. By these presents we grant a plenary indulgence to all the priests who may celebrate Mass in the altar of the oratory of Doña Rosa Bustamante, resident of the city of Santa Fé, in New Mexico, on the feast of our Lady of Guadalupe, as also to all those present of either sex who may hear the mass, and on the rest of the days of the year, forty days indulgence, so much so to the priest who may celebrate the mass as to the faithful who may assist at the same. Given at our Episcopal palace at Durango, signed by us, and countersigned by the undersigned, secretary of office and Government on the 13th day of December 1807.

Francisco Bishop of Durango.

By order of his Lordship, the
Bishop my Lord, José Aguilar,
Secretary.

* * *

TENTH:

Mrs. Rosa Bustamante: His Lordship my lord, grants to you the grace which is requested through the Rev. Parish Priest of this city, or any other priest who may be there, to celebrate the Holy Mass on feast days, in your oratory that

you may have the joy of complying with the precept of the Church, and that by showing this to the Parish Priest of the city, Fray Francisco de Hocio, or to the one who due to his absences, sickness or death, may be acting as Pastor, he may without any scruples, use this privilege and requested grace. God may grant you many years of life. Durango, January 13, 1807. José Aguilar, Secretary—(what is scratched out does not count).

* * *

ELEVENTH:

Sir Provisional Judge and Capitular Vicar;—Don Santiago Baca y Ortiz, a cleric of the first tonsure, from this domicile, coming from the village of Santa Fé in New Mexico, before your lordship, in the best that may be, that Doña Rosa Bustamante, writes from that Capital, she having been the wife of Don Antonio José Ortiz, deceased; both of them my grandparents, to whom, due to their known piety, his Lordship my Lord, whom God rest in peace, Dr. Don Francisco Gabriel de Oliváres y Benito, granted the grace of having, in their home, an Oratory, for public use, wherein the Holy Sacrifice of Mass might be celebrated; and they having constructed and adorned the same to the benefit of many souls who enjoyed it, all having been done at the expense of my said grandparents, and who, also, besides this grace, obtained from the piety of His Lordship the privilege of having therein, the Blessed Sacrament in the Tabernacle, and that all the sacraments might therein be administered except during the time of Easter, at which time, they were to comply with their Easter duties at the parish church, but the owners and family and servants might comply with the duties of the church at the Oratory, but none others. For such concessions, it was natural that they should pray for the soul of the deceased prelate. But due to an erroneous occurrence, these privileges have not been renewed, therefore, I come before you in person and for others, that you may be pleased to renew the said privileges and concessions conferred, and in the meantime, that I may be enabled to examine the original papers, in order to present them to your Lordship, making at present this petition, in precaution that the parish priest, might stop the functions in the said Oratory, with just reason, already indicated to you. I pray your Lordship, to be pleased to accede to my present solicitude, supplication and petition for which I pray your grace and grant. I swear, etc.

Santiago Baca y Ortiz.

Durango, January 12, 1813: These presents having been presented, and in consideration of all that has been expressed by the petitioner, using the faculties existing, I give permission and license so that in the said public Oratory, mentioned, the holy Sacrifice of Mass may be celebrated, as also to administer therein the Sacraments, under the condition, that with the least delay possible, there be remitted to this tribunal, the licenses granted by the deceased Prelate, that upon their examination, we may proceed to their renewal, in such manner as we might feel convenient, as only in order that there might not occur any damage, do we accede to the said petition, provisionally, and in particular not to cause any damage to the parroquial rights.

By Dr Don Francisco Fernandes, Valencia, Dean of the Cathedral Church, Synodal Examiner, Provisional Judge, and Capitular of the vacant see, so decreed and signed, before me, as to which I testify: Fernandez, Before me, José Miguel de Irigoyen, Secretary of Government.

Santa Fé, N. M.