

## 1. Account of Clorivière's vocation

*Retrospective account written for the Provincial of England in 1766, in his 3rd year, 10 years after the events, which occurred on February 23, 1756.*

Clorivière, *Notes intimes*, p. 39 - 40

"I fell into the hands of an excellent secular priest under whose advice and direction I made a retreat. I had entered my twentieth year and my conversion was then complete. From that time I was quite another man. I began to give myself heartily to mental prayer and to feel an ardent desire for Holy Communion and as God's grace constantly increased in my soul, I got permission to receive communion every day during more than a year.

It was then that with the approval of my confessor, I made a retreat of ten days. At the close of the exercises I felt that God called me to the priesthood, which was to me a great comfort. My confessor told me the attraction came from God and bade me prepare myself for the ecclesiastical state towards which from that time all my thoughts turned.

On February 23, 1756, contrary to my custom, I went to hear mass at the novitiate. After my communion and thanksgiving, I was leaving the church when a person followed me to the door and said to me in these words:

*"God calls you to be under the protection of Saint Ignatius and Saint Francis Xavier. This is the novitiate: enter it. You will be a Saint Ignatius or a Saint Francis Xavier. The Lord gave me to understand His will the moment you entered the church"*

This person then asked for my prayer and went away. I had listened to her in the greatest calm and, as soon as she left me, I returned to the church and I prayed there with the greatest fervor. The effect of this prayer was the conviction that God indeed called me to the Society of Jesus.

I resolved, however, to do nothing except in accordance with the advice and direction of my confessor. I made him aware of what had happened to me and of the new desire that God inspired in me. He took several weeks to reflect about this and test my vocation. He then gave his consent, which filled me with great joy.

I found our Fathers (the Jesuits) willing to receive me, but I could get the consent of my parents only after a delay of several months. "