

When the Count of Mondova became Viceroy of Mexico, in 1686, and found that the French under La Salle had attempted to gain a foothold on the coast, he appointed Captain Alonzo de Leon, Governor of Coahuila, and ordered him to establish a military post there. When this was accomplished, he pressed toward the coast to drive the French from their post on Lavacca river. He arrived at the ruins of Fort St. Louis early in the year of 1689. On his return trip he visited the villages of the Cenis Indians, where he found some of La Salle's colonists captives, recovered them, and humanely returned them to their own country.

In 1690 de Leon again visited Texas. At that time he founded the mission San Juan Bautista, on the lower Rio Grande, near Presidio. It was the first mission, and there, on May 25, 1690, the first Mass was celebrated in Texas.

The same year de Leon also projected a mission at the ruined Fort St. Louis, to be called San Francisco, yet on account of the hostilities of the Indians, it was never built.

When Domingo Teran superceded de Leon in command in 1691, he manifested great interest in Texas, and penetrated into the country as far as Red river. He proposed to form many settlements and missions, but the greater number of his plans were never carried into execution. The La Trinidad mission was the only one that was ever established, on what is now the Trinity river, the river taking its name from the mission.

The Indians however, were troublesome, and the place was in the very heart of the wilderness, subject to overflows and malignant fevers. The causes soon determined the Fathers to remove their establishment to the vicinity of Nacogdoches.

The next mission established in Texas was the Alamo. The location

of this mission, as also its name, was changed frequently. It was founded in 1700 by the Franciscan friars of the Apostolic College of Queretero, and was first located in the valley of the Rio Grande, under the invocation of San Francisco Salano. In 1703 it was removed to a place called San Ildephonso, but for what reason does not appear, and even tradition is silent upon this subject. Then it was moved back to the Rio Grande, and re-invoked under the name of San Jose. Here it remained under the spiritual guidance and temporal care of the good Father Jose de Soto until in May, 1718. Then on account of the aridity of the land, and several dry seasons, it was moved to San Pedro Springs, near the present city of San Antonio where it was given the name of San Antonio de Valero from St. Anthony of Padua and the Duke of Valero, then Viceroy under Spain in Mexico. In 1729, the Indians, having been stirred up by outside influences, were threatening the safety of the mission, and it was again removed "to a place better suited for the defense against hostile approaches." The spot chosen was between San Antonio river and San Pedro creek, "with open space around, over which the approach of the enemy could easily be seen, and the garrison put in readiness to repel assaults."

About this time sixteen families, sent out by order of the King of Spain from Canary Islands, arrived in Texas, and joined the colonists on San Antonio river. This new colony laid the foundation and built the church of San Fernando which, as time passed, and the need required, was rebuilt and enlarged, and is now the Cathedral of that diocese.

As the locality, however, settled up with new colonists from Spain and Mexico, who put the land into cultivation, the Fathers of the Valero Mission began to feel crowded, and concluded to move