

needed each other. The Jesuits opposed the impending establishment in England of a competing Catholic clergy to be headed by a bishop. Jesuit priests had been missionaries in England, despite many dangers, for sixty years. In fighting this threat to their position, they sought the support of the English Catholic nobility, whose households had been the Jesuits' refuge and the centers of their work. Lord Baltimore needed missionaries to serve his colony and the active support of a Catholic hierarchy if Catholics were to be persuaded to join a risky adventure. The two struck a bargain. George Calvert helped to kill the plan for a Catholic English bishop and Blount began the long process necessary to secure permission to send out priests and establish a Maryland mission.<sup>21</sup>

There were many reasons besides this marriage of convenience for the Jesuit interest in Maryland. The idea of a mission to the Indians attracted men of the Jesuit temperament. They had, in the words of historian John Bossy, "a thirst for grand spiritual adventures . . . and for the opportunities of traveling to far away places." The French Jesuits were already active in Canada, and their English counterparts welcomed the possibility of following the French example.<sup>22</sup> The Jesuits may also have hoped that in Maryland they could exercise some of the privileges that the Catholic church enjoyed in Catholic countries. At the very least, the Jesuits would be serving an English Catholic community in which concealment was no longer necessary.

The question of how to maintain the Jesuit mission in Maryland presented an early obstacle. The Jesuits failed to persuade Lord Baltimore to support it either from his own pocket or by taxation of his colonists. The first