

*Abstract* – In continuation of an analysis of the Council of Trent’s decree on the invocation of saints, the veneration of relics, and the sacred use of images (P.-A. Fabre, *Décréter l’image?*, Paris 2013, Italian translation in preparation) and after recalling how the decree constitutes a compromise in Trent between a reformist party and a party primarily concerned with maintaining tradition, a new perspective is introduced here. This is an exception to the silence of the sources on the development of this Council: two letters by Guglielmo Sirleto, librarian of the Vatican Library, addressed to Giovanni Morone, the papal legate at Trent in 1563, in which the Roman scholar calls the Tridentine prelate’s attention to the Byzantine heritage in the worship of images before the backdrop of a longing for the unity of the churches of Rome and Byzantium, which sounds slightly odd at a time when the old medieval *christianitas* seems to us dominated by the trauma of the Reformation.