

eral and individual, that were given to the inhabitants of this village [76] by the Fathers of this Residence, according to the order mentioned in chapter 2nd, the first of the Catechumens who declared himself convinced, and determined to follow the Call and invitation of the Holy Ghost, and who, consequently, earnestly desired Baptism, was a good old man about 70 years old, named Aochiati.

It did not take long to recognize that he spoke in earnest, what he said, and that he really believed and purposed all that was necessary in order to receive Baptism. And although we therefore had reason to hope that he would not do less than he promised, yet his Savage character forbade us to be hasty in this matter, and to give him satisfaction as soon as he desired it. But—as he had little time before departing for the trade, in which he must pass three months with many dangers to his life—he redoubled his entreaties, praying that this consolation might be given to his soul, which could not otherwise, said he, remain at peace, since after death those who were not baptized went into fires which were never extinguished.

Notwithstanding all these entreaties, they considered it wise to put him off, and contented themselves with instructing him thoroughly and teaching him the act [76 i.e., 77] of contrition, and this for excellent reasons and considerations. But it seems that divine Providence wished to make us see clearly that it had destined him from all Eternity to be the first foundation stone of the new Church of this village. For, two days after his departure, he was overtaken by so bad weather, and warned by so many persons regarding ambushes of the enemy, that he