

confidence. I had occasion to admire all that I had heard and read of in the lives of the most eminent for sanctity in the society.

We lost during the winter father Guénier,<sup>38</sup> of the province of france. We still deplore his loss, and if the sanctity of his life did not inspire us with the utmost confidence that he is now engaged praying for us in heaven, we should give a freer vent to our tears.

He was a man of unwearied zeal and of great mortification and prayer. He had a most tender devotion to the blessed Virgin, and it might be said that it was in some sort his very devotedness to the mother of God which was the cause of his death. Worn out with fatigue and labors, persuasion was used to induce him to take some rest and to intrust to another the duty of preaching on the feast of the assumption of our lady. But he gave for reason of his persistent desire to preach that he believed that it would be the last sermon of his life, and that he would be happy before dying to give once more some further proof to the blessed virgin of his devotion and love. I had the happiness of listening to him, two days after we landed, and it was one of the best delivered, most Beautiful, and impressive sermons that I ever heard. It was indeed the last he preached, and during the short time he passed on earth after it, he set us the example of every kind of virtue. It was my privilege to watch at his bedside for two nights during his last illness, and consequently to be witness of the Admirable sentiments to which he gave expression. They were such, my reverend father, as we read of in the lives of St. Louis de Gonzague [Aloysius] and St.