

Letter of Father Mathurin le Petit to the
Reverend Father Franciscus Retz, General
of the Society of Jesus, at Rome.

. . . AFTER many rumors, we have at last been informed that Father Antoine Senat has been rewarded for his generous charity by the glorious crown of martyrdom, on the very day (Palm sunday in the year 1736) when he was captured by the savage enemies of our nation, commonly called Tchikakas.¹ At early morn he had fallen into their hands; toward evening he perished in the flames. He might easily have saved his life as soon as he saw our frenchmen, whose Missionary he was, captured by the enemy or taking to flight; but he preferred to brave the fury of the savages rather than leave without spiritual aid the souls of the captives so dear to his Zeal. The opportunity to assist them, for which he had Hoped, was not wanting. Together with 23 or 24 frenchmen, he was immediately led to a prominent hill in the center of the village, where the savages, infuriated by the loss in battle of many of their companions, attacked them with reproaches, insults, and clubs, and ignominiously stripped them of their clothing. Yet they were left to themselves, so to speak, until a double pile of wood was being raised, not far away, and in plain view, for the purpose of burning them.

There is no reason to doubt that Father Antoine