

year 1763 [*sc.* 1743?] he had devoted himself to the Illinois mission.⁸⁸ Called to more honorable and easier positions, he had remained with his savages; and by his constancy he had preserved religion, which had become much unsettled in that nation; he had even greatly revived their fervor by his untiring application to all the exercises. Finally, four years before his death, afflicted by a partial paralysis which rendered him incapable of movement, and feeling a great weakness in his chest,—an old trouble, which left him hardly enough strength to make himself heard,—he did not cease receiving at all times his dear neophytes, who came from a long league's distance to be instructed. He catechized them, exhorted them, and heard their confessions; he prepared them for the communion; and, in the capacity of superior of the house, he used his power to relieve their poverty. Does not a man so faithful to his ministry up to the last day of his life make it presumable that, among the Jesuits established amid the Illinois, there remained some zeal and care in regard to their missions?

At one and one-fourth leagues from the village of the Illinois savages, there was a French village also named Cascakias; for 44 years there has been in this village a parish, which has always been governed by the Jesuits. Now, we dare to repeat here, regarding those who were charged with this employ, what has been said above of their associates in general,—that there is hardly any province in France where there are not still witnesses of the exactness of these curés in discharging their functions, that is, in visiting the sick and in relieving the poor. These too are witnesses of their assiduity at the