

he was to be trained to a religious and an apostolic life. The two remarkable days of his life were the 24th May 1883, when he was admitted to the religious profession and the 4th October 1892, when he was ordained priest. During his studies he had acquired solid sciences and afterward made himself useful as professor of the fourth Latin class at the Juvenate, then as a missionary in our house of Tournai. The apostolic career smiled upon him; he successfully preached a retreat at the College of St. Louis and also some missions in Hainaut. However a dangerous hemorrhage put an end to the efforts of the young missionary who was unable to gather in the ample harvest he had dreamed of. It seemed as if it were God's will to be satisfied with his desires. Generous and joyful while in good health, Reverend Father Stafford was gentle and resigned amidst the trials of suffering. He was soon compelled to lay down his arms, and on the advice of his physicians, he was sent to Canada, to our house of Ste Anne in Montreal. There, ever active and zealous, our patient prepared to preach to the Irish in the parish, and even proposed to preach to the English pilgrimages at Ste Anne de Beaupré.

How often did he not express his joy at being in the very shrine of St. Anne, that place of pilgrimage where so many sick came to pray for their cure. For his part, he also prayed with confidence to the great Thaumaturga of Canada. She obtained for him a favor more precious than health, that of preparing for a holy death. He begged the physician not to conceal his condition from him, but to tell him frankly of it. « If I know that I am dying, he said, I can better prepare myself. » Thereupon, the physician told him that the air of his native country could alone restore his health. Then, Reverend Father Stafford, resigned to God's will and to that of his superiors, was attached to our house of Frederiksted at Santa Cruz, and he proceeded there. His father's words had come true: « When you are a priest you will return here. » Alas, it was but for a few days. However he was happy, after an absence of 15 years, to observe the prosperous condition of the Catholic religion; the improvements in the church; the flourishing state of the confraternities of the Sacred Heart and