

resist the most frightful iniquity, may be condemned by men, but cannot be by God.

I was not suspended on the 19th of August. Then, I could exercise the next day and every day following the holy functions of my ministry ; then, the excommunication based upon my disobedience of a sentence which has not been pronounced is invalid. It is the Church which assures me of this by its great theologians.

It would not suffice me even to say My God ! My God ! in order to be saved, neither would it be enough to cry “ you are lost, you are lost ! ” to make it so.

The son of God who gave his life to save the human race, has given us a thousand proofs, that the salvation of our souls has a base more certain than the capricious will of a man. He has not given any one the power to save or damn us at his pleasure. If some Bishops and good priests believe that, it is not the faith of the people of Chicago, of Kankakee, of Manteno, or of St. Anne, nor is it the faith of the Catholic Church.

I would, in conclusion, repeat what I have already said. Although I have never said, nor have I mentioned to any one that you encouraged me to assume the position in which I am—on the contrary, I have always declared that you exhorted me to forsake my brethren of St. Anns and go and labour elsewhere—I was well convinced, and you have said so by words of mouth, as well as by writing, that my unmerciful persecutors know too much what you think of the iniquities they have committed against me, not to make it appear that you are compromised in order to use you to strike me. I will say to you, then, dear Mr. Brassard, strike me, that shall not hinder me from loving you . . . strike me, strip me of the little honour with which my