

who loved you as only the Catholic Shepherd of the true fold of Christ loves his little ones ; who bore all things, hoped all things, and endured all things for your sake, and who, like St. Paul, would gladly be anathema all his life, in order to win you and secure you for the Heavenly fold above. As your beloved pastor loved you, and was faithful to you, and devoted to you to the end, so be it said to your honor that you have been faithful to him, and devoted to him and loyal to him in life and death. What the people of Corinth were to St. Paul, be you to your beloved and much regretted father. What is his living epistle, his certificate of character, his best letter of recommendation to God and men ? Now, bowing down before the Will of the Most High, who called unto Himself the holy priest, whom he had lent you for a time, make a generous sacrifice, and in your deep affliction submit, without a murmur, to the inscrutable designs of Divine Providence. A good and zealous priest is the greatest blessing that Heaven can bestow on a parish. May you then, by your fidelity in corresponding with the grace of God, continue to deserve in future the same favor. Though death has struck down your lamented pastor, as it were before his time, and torn him momentarily from your view, yet, in point of fact, he is not dead : he was only fatigued and worn out with his labors. As the Good Shepherd he consumed his life for his flock. God said it was enough and gave him a sweet repose. His body is now at rest ; it is but slumbering until the Archangel's trumpet shall summon him and us. Yes, like the great Apostle, he has fought the good fight ; he has finished his course ; he has kept the faith ; and, as to the rest, there is laid up for him a crown of justice which the Lord shall render to him at that day. Yes, though he is now in the midst of the shadow of death, he shall fear no evil, for God is with him,—“for if any one will keep my words,” says the Lord, “he shall not die forever, and he shall be in everlasting remembrance.” O God hear our fervent prayers ; look upon