

St. Francis Xavier, to walk in whose footsteps is our heartfelt desire and sole ambition.

CONFESSORS OF THE FAITH

« *The Exiles of Siberia* »—*Sufferings of Polish Priests in the Slave Gangs of the Muscovite* — *Memoirs of an Escaped Convict.*

A series of interesting biographical memoirs of the one hundred and sixty Polish priests exiled to Siberia by the Russian Government, appears from the pen of one who escaped, in the *Souvenirs de la Sibérie*, from which we make the following extracts :

« Words fail to sufficiently extol the virtues of the distinguished captive ecclesiastic, the abbe Onufry Syrwid. He is an old man, past the age of three score and ten, but from his appearance one would readily take him to be at least twenty years younger. He is mild, peaceful and amiable and his reputation for learning (he was educated at the University of Wilna) seems but to increase his remarkable humility. A few incidents of his life will better serve to make known the reasons for the esteem and admiration in which he is held by all who have the happiness of knowing him.

« In the year 1863, at the time of the Polish insurrection, he filled the post of parish priest at Wasiliczki, department of Lick, and read publicly from his pulpit the ordinance of the National Polish Government, which enfranchised the serfs and constituted them the owners of the land which they then occupied. For this act he was arrested by the Muscovites, tried by a court-martial, and condemned to be shot. The abbé Iszora had already been sent to his death for a similar offense. The news of his condemnation spread through-