

abundant sap from it and thus share its vitality. Consequently the favorable answer was not long in coming.

But then, why had they waited nearly eighteen months before taking this step? Had the confraternity, like everything else in the religious world of Quebec, felt the unfortunate

mark, to meet the exceedingly great needs of those times. And even when numbers of vessels of price belonging to the confraternities that had been allowed to subsist, were taken to provide for such necessities, ours were never touched nor were our silver vessels, as we learn from the letters patent of our aforesaid kings who declare it was never their intention to think of abolishing so pious and so devout a confraternity which we maintained with much zeal and piety, begging us to continue to pray for their majesties and declaring also that as to our vessels of silver, they neither wished nor intended that they be touched in any manner whatsoever.

With respect to our great St. Anne, our patroness and protectress, as the mother of the most Blessed Virgin the mother of our Saviour, and his grand-mother according to the order of nature, she will have great power in interceding for us to her Grandson and the most Blessed Virgin, on seeing her intercession will not forget us. We afterward have recourse to her in all our public prayers and offices that are celebrated throughout the year in our chapel and in private prayers in addition to those to our Author. Such are the true details of all the results of our pious confraternity.

As to the prayers that are said by the brethren, especially in our chapel, I think that you are not ignorant of them; some of you may have had an opportunity of observing them. Besides the day itself and the vigil of our great festival, a mass is said every Sunday during the year with the *Inviolata* aloud and the orison at the beginning of mass in honor of the most Blessed Virgin; a *requiem* mass on the first Monday of each month with three grand services: one on the day after the feast of St. Anne; the second on the feast of St. Roch and the third on all Souls' Day, provided it be not on a Sunday in which case it is postponed to the following Monday. The benediction of the Blessed Virgin on the feast of St. Thomas, apostle . . . with the seven psalms, *Exaudiat* and prayers for the king.

Desiring to give you a faithful report of everything, to tell you what you may judge best; wishing you all peace and guidance from our sovereign Lord Jesus Christ — may the Father and the Holy Ghost bless you for ever.

These presents written by our hands in Paris, on Sunday the last day of March one thousand six hundred and fifty nine, in the chamber of our community by me Guillaume Venial, principal of the council, and in presence of Pierre Sisonge, Jean Guérin, Claude Brunette, the younger, and Gilles Voyer, masters, and of Claude Bergenac, François Collet, François de Saint-Blimont, Philippe de la Croix, gentlemen of the confraternity of the guild of the gentlemen joiners of this city of Paris and others.

And if you desire anything further, you have but to write and we shall do our best to satisfy you.

(Signed) C. Dupré, principal, C. Brunette, Philippe de la Croix, E. de Saintive and Venial.