

never, perhaps, done before, even for persons of the highest rank; and thus you have been able to cause the Savior to repeat in heaven what he said upon earth: *Confiteor tibi, pater*, etc. — “I thank you, my father, that you have communicated your spirit to the good servants of my mother, by inspiring them to admit savages, the least of mankind, to participation in their prayers and suffrages, to the exclusion of so many other persons whose wisdom and fine talents the world admires.” I would be afraid, Gentlemen, of offending your modesty were I here to speak further of the honor that you merit for having consented to lower yourselves to this association in prayers and spiritual gain with poor Savages. I am sure that you do not care so much to know the esteem that is felt here for your virtue and your merits, as to learn the honor that has been rendered to the holy relics that you had the goodness to send us; it is this that I am about to relate.

Being convinced of the worship that ought to be rendered to the true relics of the Saints and to the principal tokens of our redemption,—such as the cross on which the Savior died, and the chemise that the Virgin wore when he was born,—we tried to omit nothing of all that was in our power, the first time when we exposed to public veneration the silver chemise and the relics that you had the goodness to send us. This, then, is what we did: Some days before All Saints’ Day, we announced to both the French people and the Savages that your illustrious Company had sent to the infant church of the Hurons a rich gift, with a number of relics, which we would display and honor on the day of that feast. We ornamented our altar as well as we could, and