

Saint Antoine Daniel (†1648) translated into Huron rhymes the Catholic teachings:

small fry of Huronia. The youngsters would gather in groups about the village, vying with one another in making the sign of the cross or in **chanting the rhymes they had learned**, to the amusement and satisfaction of the priests.

Father Jean de Brébeuf and his confreres visited the sick each day, comforting them and instructing them in the truths of the Christian faith. As often as possible they gathered together the children of the village and sat them down in the cabin. **Father Brébeuf would put on a surplice and biretta and chant the Our Father, which Father Daniel had translated into Huron rhymes**, and the children would chant it after him. Next, he taught them the sign of the cross, the Hail Mary, the Apostles' Creed, and the Commandments. Briefly recalling the contents of the previous instruction, he would explain some new point in the Faith to the children, then question them upon their understanding of it. Two little French boys, who had been brought to Ihonatiria, would sum up the lesson and put questions to each other, a performance which filled the Indians with delight. When the session was over, Brébeuf would present them with a few beads, raisins, or prunes, and dismiss them.

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with them and made striking headway in acquainting them with the elements of Christianity. Having taught them to sing, he proceeded to train the children to **chant the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Commandments, which he had rendered into Huron rhymes**. Formed into a choir, they added beauty and solemnity to the chapel services and attracted great numbers of their elders to Mass. The children did not restrict their singing to the chapel. They chanted and sang in their own cabins, and many Indian adults learned from their children Christian truths which they refused to hear from the missionaries.

Daniel's success with the young Indians was so marked that when the Jesuit superior in Quebec decided to establish a school for Huron boys there, Daniel was selected as its director. His Jesuit confreres in Huronia were loath to lose him, for he

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party paddled by an Algonquin settlement, the people would chant these litanies at the top of their voices. **Natives who could not be persuaded by any inducement to say prayers, Daniel discovered, would sing these same prayers with gusto if set to rhyme and music**. None of the other Jesuit missionaries could match Daniel's success in this department.

When Father Antoine reached Ihonatiria at last, gaunt, emaciated, more ghost than man, he was relieved to learn that his confreres were alive and free and that the storm of resentment against their imagined mischief had subsided.

