

19 years in the Society, with very great edification.

Father Jean de Brebeuf was the first who carried the Gospel to those regions; and having found at his arrival not one Christian, at his death he left more than 7 or 8 thousand. He went thither for the first time in the year 1625, and spent a Winter in the woods with the Montagnais people near Kebek, in order to learn their language; then, with great labor, humility, and patience, gave himself, among the Hurons, to the study of the Huron language until the year 1629, when he was carried back to Europe by the English. But in 1633 he returned thither anew, in order gloriously to end his life there. He was a man of eminent virtue, and—although endowed with great gifts from God, also with those which the world most admires—he was so eager to suffer for God, that he not only gladly embraced, but sought crosses; and one day resolved to make a vow in these terms:

*Quid retribuam tibi, Domine mi Jesu, pro omnibus quæ retribuisti mihi? Calicem tuum accipiam et nomen tuum invocabo. Voveo ergo in conspectu Aeterni Patris tui, Sanctique Spiritus, in conspectu Sanctissimæ Matris tuæ, castissimique ejusdem Sponsi Josephi, coram Angelis, Apostolis, Martyribus, Sanctisque meis parentibus Ignatio, et Francisco Xaverio. Voveo inquam, tibi, Domine mi Jesu, si mihi unquam indigno famulo tuo martyrii gratia à te misericorditer oblata fuerit, me huic gratiæ non defuturum, sic, ut in posterum licere mihi nunquam velim, si quæ sese offerent moriendi pro te occasiones declinare (nisi ita fieri ad majorem gloriam tuam judicarem) aut jam inflictum mortis ictum non acceptare gaudenter. Tibi ergo, Domine mi Jesu, et sanguinem, et corpus, et spiritum meum jam ab hac die gaudenter offero, ut pro te si ita dones moriar, qui pro me mori dignatus es. Fac ut sic*