

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
... regarding the Saint Jean de Brébeuf Catholic Hymnal

Q. My friend who's a Protestant said the Catholic Church originally stole the idea of hymn singing from Protestants. Is this true?

What your friend told you is false.

Protestants actually stole the idea of hymn singing from Catholics. Some hymns in the *Brébeuf Hymnal* were written more than 1,000 years before Martin Luther was born. Moreover, Catholics began translating hymns from Latin into the vernacular about 400 years before the Protestant Revolution. For example, ancient Catholic hymns are given in both Latin **and in the vernacular** in “Cotton MS Vespasian D XII,” a manuscript from approximately 1043^{AD}.