

The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal (<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>) explains, by means of detailed color pictures, why it is that the “Pre-Urbanite” hymns differ from the “Urbanite” hymns—those modified and corrupted by Pope Urban VIII. **The following is from the “Antiphon” Journal, published by the Society for Catholic Liturgy:**

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combing through centuries of English translations from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the process, they have revealed much little-known material, and some that is published in a hymnal for the first time. Anyone who has engaged seriously with the texts of the ancient Office hymns knows the great confusion that can be generated by multiple versions of the same texts (particularly as a result of Urban VIII’s 1631 reform of the breviary, which rewrote the hymns to match the Latin prosody of pre-Christian antiquity). The editors navigate this difficult terrain with assurance; indeed, the editors’ explanation of the Urbanite reform and its impact on English translators is a model of clarity, and contains information this reviewer has not encountered elsewhere. This detailed exploration of classic Latin hymnody and its English translations is not only a labor of love, but an original contribution to research, and I hope that the results of this research project are shared more widely for the use of musicologists and liturgical historians. It would be delightful to see the release of a “hymnal companion” to this publication along the lines of those released for many mainline Protestant hymnals, one that provided full bibliographic information on the hymnological sources consulted for this project and described the historical background to the texts and tunes in greater detail; this information would be of great value to researchers, but so far it has only been released in small tidbits through postings on the Corpus Christi Watershed blog.

Although the *Brébeuf Hymnal*’s focus on ancient Catholic material has been emphasized most strongly by the book’s

The Father John Brébeuf Hymnal **“has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”**

<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

— Author for the *Church Music Association of America* weblog • 10 June 2022