



CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED
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21 January 2019 — *Feast of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr*

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Dear friend,

Saint Charles Garnier (d. 1649) was a colleague of Saint Noël Chabanel:

Father Francis Bressani (who had suffered greatly when captured by the Iroquois, and had his fingers gnawed off) relates that **FATHER CHARLES GARNIER** thought nothing of walking thirty or forty miles on the hottest summer day to baptize some dying Indian, when the woods were infested with Iroquois. On such errands he would sometimes pass the night alone in the forest in the dead of winter, reclining on pine branches. The “Relations” depict him carrying sick people on his back—and he was not the strongest of men—for distances of up to six miles to gain the opportunity of baptizing them. Far from dreading an encounter with the Iroquois, **“he often told us,”** says Father Ragueneau, **“that he would be quite content to fall into the hands of the Iroquois and remain their prisoner if, while they were torturing him, he at least had a chance of instructing them as long as his torments lasted.** If they allowed him to live, it would afford him a golden opportunity to work for their conversion, which was now impossible, since the gateway to their country was closed as long as they were our enemies.”

The world in which we live is full of “talkers”—people who speak nonsense, without honesty. But those of us who have studied Father Garnier’s life realize that what he said was not said idly. There is a comparison to be drawn, when it comes to your financial donations to CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED. You are giving *money*, not words. Your support cannot be questioned. And we can’t thank you enough.

Yours, in Christ,

Jeff Ostrowski, *President*

Corpus Christi Watershed

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