



CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED
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6 January 2018 — *Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ*

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Dear { name }

St. Jean de Brébeuf (1593-1649)—because of his humility—did not feel worthy to become a priest. He initially asked only to serve as a Jesuit Lay Helper; but his superiors prevailed and he was ordained. Then he chose to give up the life of a college professor and become a Missionary. I cannot describe to you the sufferings he underwent, but here's a short excerpt, written by Brébeuf himself, about the Hurons (whom the Jesuits tried to evangelize):

When they capture some of their enemies, they treat them with all the cruelty they can devise. Five or six days will sometimes pass in assuaging their fury and in burning them at slow fires. Not satisfied with roasting their skin, they slash the legs, the thighs, the arms and the fleshiest parts, and thrust glowing brands or red-hot hatchets against them ... After having finally killed the victims, they tear out their hearts if they were brave men, roast them on the embers, and distribute pieces of them to the young people.

When we read such descriptions—in spite of everything we suffer as Church musicians—how dare we complain? How dare we say our sufferings are too much? Let us invoke the intercession of the Eight Jesuit Martyrs of North America and continue to serve **JESUS CHRIST** at every moment. When we are tempted to “throw in the towel,” let us call to mind what St. Jean de Brébeuf underwent.

Yours, in Christ,

Jeff Ostrowski, *President*
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P.S.

We are so very grateful for your generosity.

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