

others take their Rosaries, and, with hands joined and knees on the ground, follow word for word everything that he who recited the prayers was saying; that was done composedly, in a tone without artifice, without airs, without affectation; in accents entirely simple and artless, and replete with devotion. The Father was surprised,—he no longer recognized the prayers which he had taught them; they were in the style and in the purity of their own language; they were increased by many orisons to Jesus Christ, to the blessed Virgin, to her glorious Spouse saint Joseph, to the Guardian Angel, to the saints whose names they bear; in a word, they made it appear that these prayers proceeded from a spirit higher and more sublime than that of men.

[199] After the prayers, he who had charge of intoning their spiritual Hymns raised his voice, and each one followed him; and all with common accord sang the praises of God without turning their gaze to one side or the other; their modesty supplied the most delightful tokens of the attentiveness of their hearts. “I took good care,” said the Father, “to have them recite their prayers on the days following; I could not have approached all that they were saying. I contented myself with giving them a little word of instruction, which those good people heeded with matchless eagerness; they resemble those who, not having eaten for a long time, devour everything which is offered them; but one cannot surfeit these good Neophytes, so famished they are for the bread of the children of God.”

After they had all, individually, satisfied their consciences, and had derived new strength from the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, the Father inquired