

Letter of Father Jean de Brébeuf to the Very Reverend Father Vincent Caraffa, General of the Society of Jesus, at Rome.

VERY REVEREND FATHER IN CHRIST,
Pax Christi.

I think it altogether superfluous to write to Your Paternity concerning the state of this our Huron mission: since Reverend Father Paul Ragueneau, our superior, has officially and fully, as I suppose, discharged that duty. Now, in one aspect, the condition of our affairs appears to be most excellent,—because at home the utmost peace, union, and tranquillity flourish among ours and those of our household, and all apply themselves most diligently to piety, virtue, and perfection; and because the interests of Christianity make very satisfactory progress, the Christians increasing more and more, not only in number but also in virtue. Moreover, so many opportunities for promulgating the gospel have disclosed themselves, far and wide, that in a short time the faith would make great progress, did not the extreme dearth of laborers hinder our desires, efforts, and opportunities. For this reason, we urgently request that the Reverend Father Provincial send many laborers to cultivate this vineyard,—which, if ever before, seems now to be growing even white for harvest. I further note, as tending to the stronger condition of our spiritual affairs, prosperity in things