

## Day 2

### *Journey Through Life*

#### **A Journey of Trip**

##### **St-Jean de Brébeuf:**

"The Fathers and Brothers whom God will call to this holy mission among the Wendats must carefully weigh all the work, the sufferings, and dangers which they must face on this journey, to resign themselves from the very outset to whatever may happen to them.

We must love these people with our whole heart, looking on them as redeemed by Blood of the son of God, and as our brothers with whom we will be spending the rest of our lives.

To get along with them, be careful never to keep them waiting when they want to set out.

You should bring along a flint or a concave mirror or both, so that you can enable them to light their tobacco during the daytime, and their fire at nightfall when you stop for camp. Little services like this win theirs hearts.

(...)

You do not need to stand on ceremony with the natives; just accept whatever they offer, such as a cozy part of the cabin. The greatest comforts are still filled with discomfort, and any fuss annoys them.

In the canoe be careful not to get in anyone's way with your hat. It is better to wear your nightcap; the people do not insist on formal dress.

Do not undertake anything you do not intend to continue doing. For example, do not begin to paddle if you do not intend to paddle all day. From the outset take the place in the canoe that you want to keep; do not lend them your clothes if you are not willing to let them have them for the whole trip. It is easy to refuse from the beginning than to ask for them back, or change your mind or cease to do so later on.

Finally remember that these people will retain the same opinion of you when you reach their country as they did on the journey, and anyone

who has been cantankerous or hard to get on with will have all sorts of trouble later on in trying to get them to change their opinion. You are dealing not only with those in your canoe, but with everyone in the country; you are meeting some of them today and others tomorrow. You can be sure that other natives will not fail to ask the ones who are taking you along just what sort of a man you are. It's amazing how they notice and remember the very least fault. When you meet a native along the way, since you cannot as yet greet them with kindly words, at least smile at them and show that you are bearing up joyfully under the wearisome journey. If you have gained their affection, you have profited from the hardship of the trip and have already made considerable progress.

Here is a lesson that is easy to learn but very hard to practice."

### **Scripture Passages for Personal Prayer Time:**

"When you come to a town or a village, go in and look for someone who is willing to welcome you, and stay with him until you leave that place." (*Matthew 10.5-15*)

"I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the Lord's house. And now we are here, standing inside the gates of Jerusalem!" (*Psalm 122*)

### **Possible Questions for Personal Reflection:**

1. What is the meaning of my life today?
2. Why is it so important to spend time alone with God?
3. Do I allow myself to be challenged by the invitation of Jesus to make me someone else's neighbor?
4. How do we learn to trust God?
5. Can I retrace my spiritual journey?