

The Nine Acts in Western Abenaki and Penobscot

1832 & 1856

[Sources:

1. The Native texts below are probably translations of a French original much like that given here, which is taken from <https://www.paroissestjoseph.org/prieres/extrait-du-catechisme-de-l-eglise-catholique/64-les-9-actes>.
2. Western Abenaki text from: Desfossés, Basilide. 1832. *Kagakimzouiasis ueji Uo'banakiak adali kimo'gik aliuitzo'ki Za Plasua*. (Small catechism for Abenakis who are studying in a place called St. Francis.) Quebec: Fréchette.
3. Penobscot text from: Vetromile, Eugene. 1856. *Indian good book: For the benefit of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, St. John's, Micmac, and other tribes of the Abnaki Indians*. New York: Edward Dunigan & Brother.]

Note: The original Abenaki and Penobscot texts are given first under each heading, between angled brackets <...>. A retranscription and literal English translation follow.

1. Acte d'adoration – Act of adoration

Mon Dieu, je vous adore et vous reconnais pour mon Créateur, mon souverain Seigneur et pour le maître absolu de toutes choses.

[My God, I love you and recognize you as my Creator, my sovereign Lord, and the absolute master of all things.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 12.)

<Kuesihiuan. Negichiniuasukkom keguessihol ta kegahalomnaualmel ali kiziihiiaza negin-
/jamessem nezôgmom, nôguihi tebal-/daman meziui kagui.>

K^wæssihuan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, kək^wæssihol tta kəkahaləminək^waləməl ali-kisihiyaza,
nəkinəcaməssəm nəşəkəməm, nənək^wəci-təpalətaman məsiwi kak^wi.

[Honoring. My God, I honor you and know you with certainty as my creator, my king and my
lord, who alone are the master of everything.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 35)

<Kussichanne. N'kitchi Niwèskum k'kussihole tè kulanmèwèlmel èli kisihiaza, n'kindjè-
/messeum n'sangmànm nèkwitchi tèpèlta-/man messiwi kègwi.>

K^wæssihan. Nəkihçi-niweskom, kək^wæssihol tte koləmweləməl eli-kisihəyaza, nəkinəçeməssəm
nəşəkəməm, nek^wəçi-təpelətaman məssiwi kek^wi.

[Honoring him. My God, I honor you and I know you with certainty as my creator, my king and
my lord, who are the sole master of everything.]

2. Acte de foi – Act of faith

Mon Dieu, je crois fermement tout ce que la sainte Église catholique croit et enseigne, parce que
c'est vous qui l'avez dit, et que vous êtes la vérité même.

[My God, I firmly believe all that the holy Catholic Church believes and teaches, because it is you who have said it, and you are the truth itself.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 12.)

<Uelômaualdamuôgan. Negichiniuasukkom kuina nolômaual-/damen meziui toni Uuasi nalui Aiami-/hauigamiuk ali uelômaualdamuik ta ali kimuaik uezômi kia sasaginnouian kegizi moskihadon.>

Wêlamawalêtamêwâkan. Nêkihci-niwaskom, k^wina nolâmwawalêtamên mésiwi tâni wawahsi-nalêwi-ayamihawikamikok ali-wêlamawalêtamêwik tta ali-kkimêwaik wêsami kia sahsakinnêwian kékisi-moskihaton.

[An expression of belief. My God, I genuinely believe everything that is believed and taught in the holy Catholic Church because you who are always truthful have brought it to light.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 34)

<Ulanmeweltemwangan. N'kitchi Niwèskum, kwina n'ulanme-/wêltamen messiwi tanni wèwèssi nalwi ayamièwigamigook èli ulanmèwêltamwik tè èli aghèkimuhèhwik uzanmi kia sasag-/hinouyan kisi moskihatone.>

Wêlamewelêtamêwâkan. Nêkihçi-niweskom, kwina nolâmwewelêtamên mèssiwi tâni wewehsi-nalêwi-ayamihewikamikok eli-wêlamewelêtamêwik tte eli-akehkimêwewik wêsami kâya sahsakinêwêyan kékisi-moskihaton.

[An expression of belief. My God, I genuinely believe everything that is believed and taught in the holy Catholic Church because you who are always truthful have brought it to light.]

3. Acte d'espérance – Act of hope

Mon Dieu, j'espère avec une ferme confiance que tu me donneras, par les mérites de Jésus Christ, ta grâce en ce monde et, si j'observe tes commandements, le bonheur éternel dans l'autre, parce que tu l'as promis et que tu tiens toujours tes promesses.

[My God, I hope with firm confidence that you will give me, by the merits of Jesus Christ, your grace in this world and, if I observe your commandments, eternal happiness in the other, because you have promised this and you always keep your promises.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 12)

<Nkauatzouôgan. Negichiniuasukom, nezôbaldamônssi-/nal kegatamuauôganal ta odabinôgzou-
/ôganal Poluakhoguak, nenespi nkauatzi melik sôbalgauôgan aliji milian, uelihoua-/uôgan uaji
tebaskozia kedachuagida-/muôganal udali kik, ta uaji anawitôgaa tali kedak ki.>

Nkawatəsəwəkən. Nəkihci-niwaskom, nəşapalətaməhsinal kekehtaməwawəkənal tta
wətapinək^wəsəwəkənal Poləwakhok^wak, nənəspi-nkawatəsi-məlihki-şapaləkawəkənal ali=ci -
milian, wəli-wawəkənal waci-təpaskosia ketacəwakitaməwəkənal yo tali kkik, tta waci-
anawihəkəaa kətak kki.

[An expression of hope. My God, I firmly believe in your rewards and, through the merits of our Savior, the hopeful and strong conviction that you will give me, along with the grace to heed your commands in this world and to be rewarded in the other world.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 36)

<Nekettetehantamwangan. N'kitchi Niwèskum nesanbèltamansi-/nal neghèttèmuhananàl, tè utepinankus-/wànganal polwèkolaku nespiu nekettèta-/hantamen meliki sanbèlkèwangan èlita milian ùliwèwangan wètchi tebaskosia kedatchwi èlaghitamwanganàl yu tali kik tè wètchi enawittanga tel ni ketàk kik.>

Nəkehtetahətaməwəkan. Nəkihči-niweskom, nəsapelətaməhsinal nəkehteməwəkanal, tte wətepinək^wəməwəkanal Poləwekholak^w nəspiw nəkehtetahətamən məlihki-səpeləkəwəkan eli-tte -miləyan wəli-wəwəkan weči-təpaskosəya kətahčəwi-əlakitaməwəkanal yo tali kkik tte weči-enawihtəka tal ni kətak kkik.

[My expression of hope. My God, I firmly believe in my hopes, and through the merits of the Savior, I hope as well that you will give me strong conviction, along with the grace to heed your commandments here in this world and to be rewarded in the other world.]

4. Acte de charité – Act of love

Mon Dieu, qui êtes digne de tout amour, à cause de vos perfections infinies, je vous aime de tout mon coeur, et j'aime mon prochain comme moi-même pour l'amour de vous.

[My God, who are worthy of all love, because of your infinite perfections, I love you with all my heart, and I love my neighbor as myself for the sake of you.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, pp. 12-13)

<Kezaôssouôgan. Negichiniuasukkom ketabinôgzin meziukezaôssouôgan ueji kebakinnou ô-
/gan, ta nedalalmô niji alnôba tahôloui niatta ueji ali kezalmôlan.>

Kəsaəssəwəkan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, kətapinək^wəsin məsiwi kəsaəssəwəkan wəci
kəpahkinnəwəkan, tta nətələmə nīci-alənapa tahəlawi nia=tta wəci ali-kəsələməlan.

[An expression of affection. My God, you are worthy of all affection because of your perfection as a being, and I love my fellow man like myself because of the way I love you.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 36)

<Kesansswangan. N'kitchi Niwèskum, ketepinankusine messiwi kesansswangan wètchi kepekki-
/nuàngan, tè netalèlman nitchi Alnanbè tahanlàho nyattè wètchi ali keselma.

Kəsəssəwəkan. Nəkihçi-niweskom, kətepinək^wəsin məssiwi kəsəssəwəkan wəçi
kəpehkinəwəkan, tte nətələləmə niçi-alənapə tahəlaw nəya=tte wəçi-ali-kəsələm[əl]a.

[An expression of affection. My God, you are worthy of all affection because of your perfection as a being, and I love my fellow man like myself because of the way I love you.]

5. Acte de contrition – Act of contrition

Mon Dieu, j'ai un extrême regret de vous avoir offensé, parce que vous êtes infiniment bon, infiniment aimable, et que le péché vous déplaît; pardonnez-moi par les mérites de Jésus-Christ mon Sauveur: je me propose, moyennant votre sainte grâce, de ne plus vous offenser et de faire pénitence.

[My God, I am deeply sorry to have offended you, because you are infinitely good, infinitely worthy of love, and sin displeases you; forgive me by the merits of Jesus Christ my Savior: I propose, by your holy grace, no longer to offend you and to do penance.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, pp. 12-13)

<Onadahômzouôgan. Negichi niuasukkom kuina nojidahô-/zin ahali palilauaholan uezômi pôbaamiui koliai ta pobaamiui kegezalmeguezi ta uezômi saaguakôzuogan kebalilauakô-/gon, ueji anahaldamauina odabinôgzouô-/ganikok Sazos Poluakuakhoguak koli hiuauôgan nespi kuaguaji ôda mina piba-/lilauaholo ta dônalzi.>

Ånatahãmësəwəkan. Nəkihci-niweskom, k^wina nocitahəsin ahali-palilawaholan, wəsəmi papaamiwi koli-ai tta papaamiwi kəkəsələmək^wəsi tta wəsəmi saakwahkəsəwəkan kəpali-lawahkəkon; wəci anahalətamawina wətapinək wəsəwəkanihkok Sesohs Poləwakhok^wak; kolia-wəwəkan nəspi kwakwaci ąta mina [ke]pipalilawaholo tta [nə]təneləsi.

[Humility. My God, I am very deeply troubled that I have repeatedly offended you, because you are exceedingly good and exceedingly beloved and because sin displeases you; forgive us on

account of the merits of Jesus our Savior; with your grace I will try not to offend you again and I will do penance.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 37)

<Anètahanmswangan. N'kitchi Niwèskum kwina n'utchita-/hansine èli palilawahòla wèsanmi panbè-/mi kulihahi, tè panbèmi kusèlmokùssi, tè wèsanmi sagawèkanswàngan kepalila-/wèkangòne wètchi anehèltamawinè ùte-/pinankuswànganikook Zezus polwèkolaku kuliwèwangan nespi kugwètch anta mina kepepalilawahòlo, tè ntanelè sine.>

Ànetahaməsəwakan. Nəkihçi-niweskom, k^wina nočitahasin eli-palilawahola wəsami rapemi koli-ayi, tte rapemi kəkəseləmək^wəsi tte wəsami sakawehkəsəwakan kəpali-lawehkəkon; weçi-anehelətamawine wətepinək^wəsəwakanihkok Sesuhs Poləwekholak^w; koli-wewakan nəspi k^wakweč ata mina kəpepalilawaholo, tte nətaneləsin.

[Humility. My God, I am very deeply troubled that I have offended you, because you are exceedingly good and exceedingly beloved and because sin displeases you; forgive us on account of the merits of Jesus the Savior; with your grace I will try not to offend you again and I will do penance.]

6. Acte de remerciement – Act of thanksgiving

Mon Dieu, je vous remercie de tous les biens que j'ai reçus de vous, principalement de m'avoir créé, racheté par votre Fils et fait enfant de votre Église.

[My God, I thank you for all the benefits that I have received from you, especially for your having created me, redeemed me through your Son, and made a child of your Church.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 13)

<Alamisuôgan. Negichiniuasukkom kedalamikadol ueji meziui ualigek kakasi oji mezinma kiak, pita naua ueji ali kizihiaza ta oji poluakhian kenamô alinnouit ta lihian uaji kedaiamihawigamigui auôssisuiia.>

Alamisəwəkan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, kətalamiḥkatol wəci məsiwi walikək kakahsi-wəci-məsənəma kiak, pihta=nawa wəci ali-kisihiyasa tta -wəci-poləwəkhian kənamə alinnowit, tta lihian waci-kətayamihawikamik^{wi}-awəssisəwiya.

[Gratitude. My God, I give thanks to you for all the good that I have plentifully received from you, and especially for the fact that you created me and set me free, through the person of your son, and transformed me so that I am a child of your church.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1856: 37)

<Alamiswangan. N'kitchi Niwèskum k'talamisuhamel wètchi messiu ùlighèk kakessi hutchiu mesenma kia, pitta nawa wètchi eli kisi-/hiaza tè hutchiu polwèkiane, kenèman èlinwit, tè elihiane wètchi ketayamièwigamigwi awanzissuyan.>

Alamisəwəkan. Nəkihči-niweskom, ktalamisəwaməl wəči məssi welikək kakehsi-wəči-məsənəma kəya, pihta=nawa wəči eli-kisihəyasa tte -wəči-poləwekhəyan kənəmən elinəwit tte -əlīhəyan wəči-kətayamihewikamik^{wi} awəssisəwəya.

[Gratitude. My God, I thank you for all the good that I have plentifully received from you, and especially for the fact that you have created me and set me free, through the person of your son, and transformed me so that I am a child of your church.]

7. Acte d'offrande – Act of oblation

Mon Dieu, j'ai tout reçu de vous; je vous offre mes pensées, mes paroles, mes actions, ma vie et tout ce que je possède, et je ne veux l'employer qu'à votre service.

[My God, I have received everything from you; I offer you my thoughts, my words, my actions, my life, and all that I possess, and I want to use these only at your service.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 13)

<Pagitnigan. Negichi niuasukkom meziui kagui noji mezinmen kiak; kia naua kaktolan ne-/debidahôzuôganal, negelozuôganal, nede-/lalokauôganal, nebemôuezouôgan ta me-/ziui kasilauigia ta nedachualdamen ne-/dalihadon kia kedalokawôganek negui-/chiui.>

Pakitənikan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, məsiwi kak^{wi} noci-məsənəmən kiak; kia=nawa kaktolan nətəpitaḥəsəwəkanal, nəkəlosəwəkanal, nətəllohkawəkanal, nəpəməwəsəwəkan, tta məsiwi kəsilawikia; tta nətəḥcəwalətəmən nətəlīhaton kia kətəlohkawəkanək nək^wəciwi.

[Veneration. My God, I have received everything from you, so it is to you that I offer my thoughts, my words, my actions, my life, and all of my riches; and I want to act solely in accordance with your work.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1857: 67)

<Pokitnigan. N'ketchi Niwèskum messiu kègu notji messenmen kia, kia nawa kiktùlen n'te-
/pitahanswanganàl, nekeloswangan, n'te-/lalokkèwanganàl, nepomanhuswàngan, tè messiwi
kessi alituhannil, tè n'tatchwel-/damèn ntelia-ton kia ketalòkkèwanganèk nekwitchihu.>

Pakitènikan. Nèkihçi-niweskom, mæssiwì kek^w noçi-məsənəmən kia, kia=nawa kəkiktolən
nətəpitahəsəwəkanal, nəkəlosəwəkanal, nətəlohkewəkanal, nəpəməwəsəwəkan, tte mæssiwì
kehsi-alihtawənil; tte nətəhčəwelətamən nətəlihaton kia kətəlohkewəkanək nəkwihčiw.

[Veneration. My God, I have received everything from you, so I offer to you my thoughts, my words, my actions, my life, and whatever things that that I make; and I want to act solely in accordance with your work.]

8. Acte d'humilité – Act of humility

Mon Dieu, je ne suis que cendre et poussière; réprimez les mouvements d'orgueil qui s'élèvent dans mon âme, et apprenez-moi à me mépriser moi-même, vous qui résistez aux superbes et qui donnez votre grâce aux humbles.

[My God, I am only ashes and dust; suppress the movements of pride that arise in my soul, and teach me to despise myself, you who resist the elevated and who give your grace to the humble.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 14)

<Puihozuôgan. Negichiniuasukkom kia channôan pô-/linnouit ta milôan uelihouauôgan piual-
/zit, kia tapsenman omamôjuôganouol kazalzjik kia adali uanôgian nejejakok ta alagakimian uaji
keneskalzia nia akiuia ta paguiuia.>

Piwihosəwəkan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, kia canənaŋan pałinnowit tta miləan wəli-wawəkan
piwaləsit, kia tapsənəman wəmaməçəwəkanəwəl kasaləsicik, kia atali-wanəŋian nəçəcahkok tta
alakahkimian waci-kənəskaləsia nia ahkiwia tta pagwiwia.

[Humility. My God, it is you who resist the proud man and give grace to the humble man, you
who cut through the agitation of the prideful, you who arise in my soul and teach me to consider
myself insignificant; it is I who am dust and ashes.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1857: 60)

<Pwihozwangan. N'ketchi Niwèskum kia k'tchannan tanne panlinwit, tè milwàn ùliwewàngan
tanne piwèlsit, kia k'tapsenmèn amant-/swàngannwəl kessèlsidjik kia tali unan-/ghian
n'tchetchahkook tè èlaghèkimiàn wètchi keneskelsia nya ekuya tè èpokuya.>

Piwihosəwakan. Nəkihçi-niweskom, kəya kəčanənan tan palinəwit tte milan wəli-wəwakan tan piweləsit; kəya kətapənəmən amačəwakanəwal keseləsicik; kia tali-wənakəyan nəčəčahkok tte elakehkiməyan weči-kənəskeləsəya; nəya ehkəwəya tte pekəwəya.

[Humility. My God, you resist the proud man and give grace to the humble man; you cut through the agitation of the prideful; it is you who arise in my soul teach me to consider myself insignificant; it is I who am dust and ashes.]

9. Acte de demande – Act of petition

Mon Dieu, source infinie de tous les biens, donnez-moi tout ce qui m'est nécessaire pour la vie et la santé de mon corps, mais surtout la grâce de faire en toutes choses votre sainte volonté. Par Jésus-Christ Notre-Seigneur. Amen.

[My God, infinite source of all good things, give me all that is necessary for the life and health of my body, but above all the grace to do in all things your holy will. By Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.]

Abenaki (Kagakimzouiasis, p. 14)

<Uikodmauôgan. Negichiniuasukkom, ôda mimatanas-/ki, omouinnok meziui ualigek, mili tîni achuitbak ueji pemôuezouôgan ta ki-/gauôgan pita naua uelihouduôgan uaji alokôdama kolaldamuôgan ueji meziui kagui. Sôbiui Sazosek Nezôgmônok. Nialach.>

Wihkotəmawəkan. Nəkihci-niwaskom, ąta mimahtanaski-wəmawinnok məsiwi walikək, mili tani ahcəwi-təpahk wəci pəməwəsəwəkan tta kikawəkan, pihta=nawa wəlihotəwəkan waci-alohkətama kolalətaməwəkan wəci məsiwi kak^{wi}. Səpiwi Sasohsək Nəsəkəmənok. Ni alac.

[A request. My God, from whose never ending superior personage all that is good (comes), give me what is necessary for life and health; especially, as well, the blessing by which I can do your will in everything. Through Jesus our Lord. So be it.]

Penobscot (Vetromile 1857: 67)

<Wikotmwangan. N'ketchi Ni wèskum, anta metanaski-/tahanskowina messiu wèlighèk, mili tanni etchwitpàk wètchi pəmanhuswàngan tē kighèwàngan pitta nawa ùlihotwàngan wètchi alokantama kulèltamwàngan we-/tchi messiu kegu sanbiwi Zezussèk N'sang-/manmenòk. Nialetch.>

Wihkotəmowəkan. Nəkihči-niweskom, ąta mehtanaskitahaskowina məssiw welikək, mili tani ehcəwi-təpahk wəci pəməwəsəwəkan tte kikewəkan, pihta=nawa wəlihotəwəkan wəci-alohkətama kolelətaməwəkan wəci məssiw kek^w. Səpiwi Sesuhsək Nəsəkəməmənok. Ni aleč.

[A request. My God, who never ceases to be concerned with all that is good, give me what is necessary for life and health; especially, as well, the blessing by which I can do your will in everything. Through Jesus our Lord. So be it.]