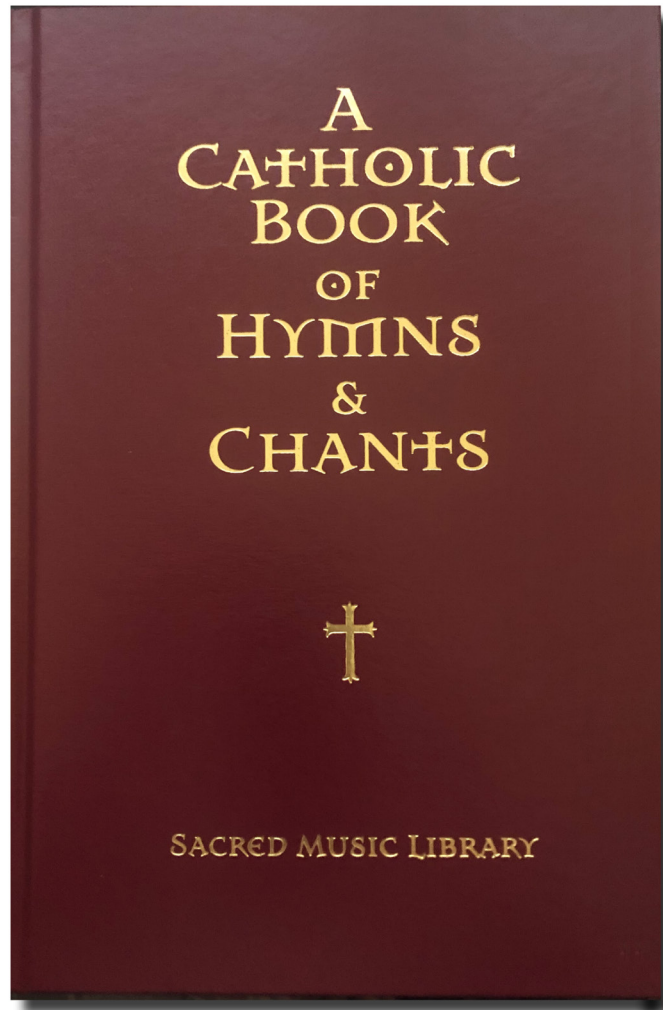


# A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS



## SERIES CATALOG

# A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

This hymnal is created in the traditional style and music found in Catholic hymnals for the last 200 years, exclusively in the music and lyric styles common priore-Vatican II.

It contains 295 hymns sung in English-speaking Catholic parishes.

In addition, all of these hymns are in full four part SATB harmony. Catholic choirbooks for centuries were in SATB but not pew books, as the people rarely sang at Mass. It was felt that melody or words alone were enough for pew books.

## LONGEVITY

Our hardbound hymnals are printed on an offset press, meaning the ink is in the paper, rather than lying on top of it like toner. It has a Smyth-Sewn binding.

The high-quality paper is from Canada, the hymnal is printed and bound in Michigan in the USA.

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Questions?  
Noel Jones, AAGO  
noel@sacredmusiclibrary.com

Call us:  
606 756-7979  
423 333-0947 cell

# A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS

## QUESTIONS MOST FREQUENTLY ASKED

1. *How did you find all these hymns?*

A survey of Catholic musicians in English-speaking countries around the world followed by evaluation prior to the final decision of what to include. It was a great challenge!

2. *At funerals I get requests for hymns that I can only find here. Is buying the hardbound hymn my only choice?*

- FREE - download the free PDF of the hymnal and use it freely in your parish.
- Many organists, choir directors and singers are not paid and they deserve the best music of the church for what they do..

3. *I'm tired of all the paperwork and hassle involved in filing for copyright permissions, podcasting, and streaming music. I spend more time doing that than practicing!*

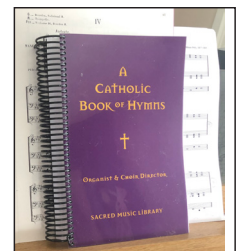
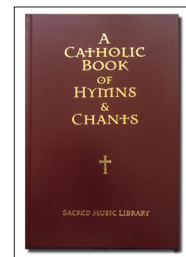
- Our music frees you of all that with no permissions or payments ever needed to print any of our music
- You are also free to podcast and stream as well without paperwork or filing online reports.

4. *I am not sure exactly what we need, I really like the book and I'd like to show these books to our musicians and get their thoughts, is this possible? Like a trial run?*

\$69.95 Basic Parish Package - 30 day trial run • Full refund if not satisfied

\$69.95

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| • Organist & Choir Director Edition        | Spiral Bound |
| • Pew Edition - for cantor                 | Hardbound    |
| • Printable PDF for congregation and choir | Download     |



5. *Someone described this as a sort of Hybrid hymnal. What's that mean?*

We developed a useful way to add temporary pages to a hymnal so that you may insert up to 16 pages of Mass settings and Readings as you like.

6. *Where are your chants taken from?*

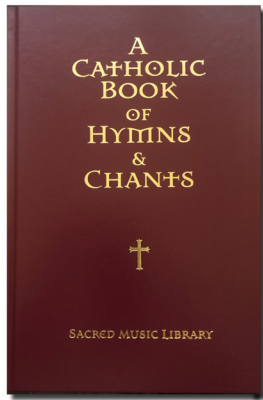
More and more parishes are singing Latin Gregorian chants at Mass. We have included congregational chants from A Parish Book of Chant, created by **Church Music Association of America**, with their permission.

**Our books and music are also on AMAZON and KINDLE worldwide.**

**Hardbound Hymnals are shipped from the USA. Ask us for a quote from other countries.**

## THE ENTIRE COLLECTION

- Pew Editions - *Is there a Catholic Hymnal in full choral harmony SATB for our congregation? They love to sing!*



- **CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS & CHANTS**

Volume 1

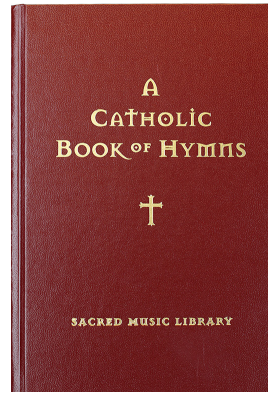
295 Hymns

Gregorian Chants including Masses\*

Hardbound \$19.95

Paperback \$14.95

Download \$0.00 FREE



- **A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS**

Volume 2

295 Hymns

Hardbound \$16.95

Paperback \$14.95

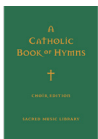
Download \$0.00 FREE

\*SEE LIST OF ALL CHANTS ON PAGE 20 • PRICES MAY VARY. CONTACT US FOR BULK ORDERS

- Vol. 3 Choir Edition - *Our choir area is dark, is it also in larger print for singers and those with limited vision?*

\$24.95

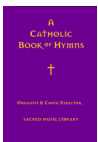
This is the PEW Hymnal edition enlarged in size making it easier to read



- Vol. 4 Organist & Choir Director Edition - *Is there a Biblical Reference to Hymns available?*

\$29.95

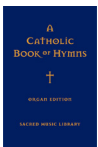
Includes an expanded index of Scriptural References to Hymns - adding an additional 100+ pages.



- Vol. 5 Organ Edition *I've never had the opportunity to take organ lessons and I am really uncomfortable playing hymns.*

\$24.95

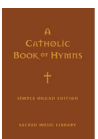
These are the same notes the singers sing, but have longer notes replacing often repeated notes, giving a fuller richer sound, just like the way professionally-trained organ play them.



- Vol. 6 Simple Organ Edition - *Am I the only person recruited from the pews when Father heard I play piano?*

\$24.95

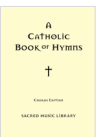
You are not alone, these settings are easier to play so you may play with confidence.



- Vol. 7 Chords Edition - *As a priest sometimes I have people willing to play but they can only play with chords!*

\$24.95

Chords are fully chosen to work with all the hymns and the Simple Organ Edition



PEW HYMNAL PEW 6" by 9" • hard-bound or paperback

ORGANIST & CHOIR 7" BY 10" • plus greatly expanded hymn index

CHOIR 7" by 10" • also for those with limited vision

1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man - ger - bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger rude and bare;

## ORGAN

1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man - ger - bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger rude and bare;

7" by 10"

Reset for organ as an advanced organist would play the hymn for the best, fullest sound of the organ for accompanying singing.

## SIMPLE ORGAN

1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man - ger - bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger rude and bare;

7" by 10"

Easier to play while still supporting the harmonic structure of the SATB harmony.

## CHORDS

G D G C G D G  
1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing star be - hold;  
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped To that low - ly man - ger - bed,  
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At that man - ger rude and bare;

7" by 10"

Simple Organ version with the addition of chord names, carefully chosen to support the SATB singing.

## Many Catholic churches are desperate for organists.

People who have had basic beginner piano lessons are ideal candidates using this edition as all the hymns are in C.

Keys exist to keep the hymn in the middle range of all voices, and comfortable to sing.

16% of active organists responding to our survey admitted they avoid playing hymns in difficult keys. They also said that their organ or piano has a transposer.

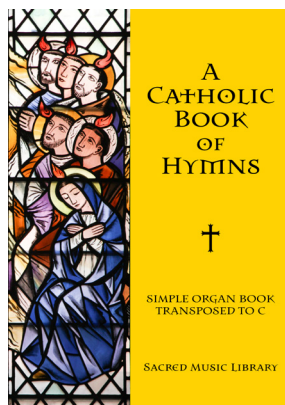
**How does a transposer make it possible to play any hymn in any key?**

- We publish a hymnal with hymns in C.
- The organist sets the transposer as indicated in the music for each hymn.

**TRANPOSE: +3 Eb**

- The transposer automatically then plays the organ in the correct key.
- When the hymn is finished the organist simply resets the **Transposer to 0** again.

Suddenly this has the potential to open the door to many new organists. The more confident they are, they may gain interest in expanding by learning organ music in other keys.



Price: \$24.95

## When you play this:

1

### Abide With Me

10 10 10 10

EVENTIDE

WILLIAM H. MONK, 1823-1889

TRANPOSE: +3

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark - ness deep - ens;  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; Earth's joys grow dim, its  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour. What but thy grace can

Lord, with me a - bide. When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts  
glo - ries pass a - way. Change and de - cay in all a - round I  
foil the tempt - er's power? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can

## All hear the Organ playing this:

1

### Abide With Me

10 10 10 10

EVENTIDE

WILLIAM H. MONK, 1823-1889

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide; The dark - ness deep - ens;  
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day; Earth's joys grow dim, its  
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour. What but thy grace can

Lord, with me a - bide. When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts  
glo - ries pass a - way. Change and de - cay in all a - round I  
foil the tempt - er's power? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can

• Vol. 9 Organ Preludes on Hymns Edition - *I can't find organ preludes on Catholic hymns!*  
\$24.95

295 very playable pieces, mostly manuals, only three with pedals - and those just one note! These give you a variety of pieces to play to teach new hymns "by ear" by letting the people hear them weeks in advance of first singing played as organ pieces. Good to fill time with after the hymn is sing and after Mass. Suggested organ registrations available. Recordings of all 295 are free on our website.

## 13 As With Gladness Men of Old

77 77 77

DIX

The musical score is written for organ on two staves, treble and bass clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is primarily in the treble staff, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes and occasional moving lines. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

CONRAD KOCHER, 1786–1872  
ARR. BY NOEL A. JONES, 1947–

ORGAN PRELUDE EDITION

A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS • 15

A  
CATHOLIC  
BOOK OF HYMNS



ORGAN PRELUDES ON HYMNS

SACRED MUSIC LIBRARY

A Catholic Prayerbook of Hymns Edition - *I'd like to "pray" these hymns, but the music notes distract me!*

\$14.95

For prayer, meditation and adoration chapels.

### As with gladness men of old

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light,  
Leading onward, beaming bright;  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped  
To that lowly manger-bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Him whom heav'n and earth adore;  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek thy mercy seat.

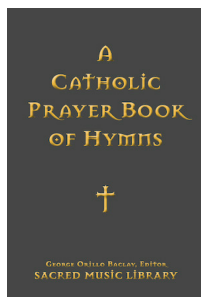
As they offered gifts most rare  
At the manger rude and bare;  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King.

Holy Jesus, ev'ry day  
Keep us in the narrow way;  
And, when earthly things are past,  
Bring our ransomed souls at last  
Where they need no star to guide,  
Where no clouds thy glory hide.

In the heav'nly country bright  
Need they no created light;  
Thou its light, its joy, its crown,  
Thou its sun which goes not down;  
There for ever may we sing  
Alleluias to our King.

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

A CATHOLIC PRAYER BOOK OF HYMNS • 13







SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

From the Vatican, 26 August 2021

Dear Mr Jones,

His Holiness Pope Francis has received your letter and gift. He appreciates the sentiments which prompted you to share your work with him.

Assuring you of a remembrance in His Holiness's prayers, I am

Yours sincerely,

  
Monsignor L. Roberto Cona  
Assessor

---

Mr Noel Jones  
Sacred Music Library  
636 Old 19  
Augusta, KY 41002  
USA

*This was the very kind  
response to our decision to mail  
A Catholic Book of Hymn Pew Edition  
to the Vatican for His Holiness.*



**ROGER JOSEPH**  
**BY THE GRACE OF GOD**  
**AND THE FAVOR OF THE APOSTOLIC SEE**  
**BISHOP OF COVINGTON**  
**IMPRIMATUR**

Whereas Mister Noel Jones, a resident of the Diocese of Covington, has requested permission for the publication of A Catholic Book of Hymns, a book of hymns for the public use of the faithful (c. 826 §3);

Whereas the Very Reverend Father Ryan L. Stenger, J.V., *censor librorum* of the Diocese of Covington, has reviewed the book in question and submitted to me in writing his opinion that no doctrinal or moral error stands in the way of its publication (c. 830 §3);

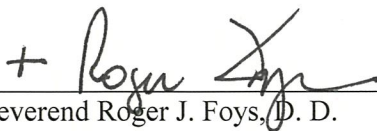
Whereas I concur with the judgment of the censor and, according to my own prudent judgment, do not believe that any other circumstances are present that would render the publication of the book inopportune or unsuitable;


Therefore, in accord with canon 830 §3, I hereby grant permission for the publication of A Catholic Book of Hymns.

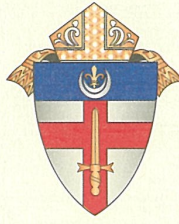
This permission is valid only for the original text, but not for any new editions or translations (c. 829).

Notice of the *nihil obstat* and this *imprimatur* is to be included in the published text (c. 830 §3).

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Covington on the twentieth day of January in the two thousand twenty-first year of our Lord.

+   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D. D.  
Bishop of Covington

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs. Jamie N. Schroeder  
Chancellor



DIOCESE OF COVINGTON  
Tribunal

February 2, 2021

Mr. Noel Jones  
636 Old 19  
Augusta, KY 41002

Dear Mr. Jones,

I am pleased to inform you that Bishop Foys, after careful consideration, has granted his *imprimatur* to your hymnal, A Catholic Book of Hymns. The *imprimatur* is an official declaration that a text may be published because it is free of doctrinal or moral error. This approval allows for the hymnal to be used in the public prayer of the faithful.

Notice of this approval is to be printed in the published material. Enclosed with this letter is the text that is to be included.

With gratitude for your devotion and service to Christ and His Church, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Ryan L. Stenger, J.V.  
Censor Librorum

Enclosures (2)



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## “Sacred Music Library’s A Catholic Book of Hymns is an excellent collection of orthodox, inspiring, and beautiful hymns.”

*A Review by Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka*

The collection contains many well-known and beloved English-language hymns, as well as a plethora of hymn tunes and texts which might be unknown to Catholics, but which deserve to be known and loved.

The solid hymns that Catholics love can be found in their best-known tunes, and a number of these texts have been included in additional tune options, allowing parishes to broaden the musical horizons of congregations.

Hymns for many devotions are available: Our Lady, Star of the Sea, the Sacred Heart, Our Lady of the Rosary, general hymns for patronal saints, prayers for the pope, etc.

Several excellent adaptations of sequence texts, music for Benediction, and the most beloved Christmas carols make the volume extremely useful for parish use.

As the Introduction to the volume makes clear, the book’s value is in complementing the integral music of the Roman rite (the propers and ordinary of the Mass, and the Latin hymnody of the Office), and this volume would be the perfect complement to something like the Parish Book of Chant, where one could find the Ordinary texts of the Mass (EF and OF), chants of the Kyriele, and other Gregorian chants for a congregation.

For this reason, A Catholic Book of Hymns sets forth a truly Catholic understanding of the role of hymnody in parish devotions, in the home, and as a possible addition to the integral music of the Mass in the Roman rite.

Beautifully typeset with lovely fonts, the layout is eminently readable and pleasing to the eye. Typically, three verses of a hymn are set within the musical staves, and extra verses are listed in text-only below. (An exception to this comes in hymns of four verses where all the verses are set in the musical system.)

The hymns appear in alphabetical order, and traditional, time-tested poetic renderings of texts appear in their original wording. Hymns which have appeared in multiple keys in common hymnals are usually included in the higher of the typical keys.

The volume is lightweight, but still possessing a large number of hymns on sturdy, mostly-opaque paper. The binding is strong, laying open nicely in the hand of the parishioner.

Parishes looking for an excellent collection of English-language hymnody will find in this volume a book which raises Catholic congregations’ expectations for the beauty of hymn tune and text.

Too, pastors of souls will find in this book hymns which lead the hearts and minds of their flock, through the beauty of poetry and melody, into the heart of the Catholic understanding of the mysteries of the Trinity, the Eucharist, the life of grace, Our Lady’s loving care for her children, the Church as the mystical body of Christ, and great cloud of witnesses in the communion of the saints.

*Jennifer Donelson-Nowicka is an associate professor and the director of sacred music at St. Joseph’s Seminary (Dunwoodie) in New York, where she also teaches sacred music courses in the St. Cecilia Academy for Pastoral Musicians.*

*Donelson-Nowicka has been named as a Consultant to the USCCB’s Committee on Divine Worship and serves on the Archdiocese of New York’s Liturgical Music Commission.*

*She also co-hosts a podcast entitled “Square Notes: The Sacred Music Podcast.”*



# Why “A Catholic Book of Hymns” Makes a Great Resource for Parishes

## *Review:*

The Catholic Book of Hymns (2020) brings together 295 English Christian hymns from both the Anglican and English Catholic musical traditions into a handy, beautiful volume.

What do the Anglican hymnals The Hymnal 1982 and The New English Hymnal and their predecessors the Hymnal 1940 and The English Hymnal (among other hymnals of the Anglican patrimony!) all have in common?

- Theologically & literarily rich hymn texts
- Beautiful music (both the melodies and harmonizations)
- High-quality binding
- Elegant font
- Thorough indices

Thankfully, a plethora of very good hymnals for English-speaking Catholics have been released over the last 10 years, ever since ICEL (the International Commission on English in the Liturgy)’s new, more accurate and poetic 2011 translation of the 3rd Edition of the Roman Missal was released. Here, however, I seek to call particular attention to A Catholic Book of Hymns, first published in 2020.

A Catholic Book of Hymns exhibits all five of the aforementioned qualities. This hymnal draws strongly from both the Anglican and English Catholic hymn treasuries.

In this way, this hymnal unites these parallel-running, cross-pollinating, English Christian musical traditions.[a] This unification of patrimonies forms the basis of the benefit of an Ordinariate member owning this hymnal. An owner of any of the aforementioned Anglican hymnals will of course already possess the Anglican patrimony but will likely be unfamiliar with some (or more) of these English Catholic hymns. An owner of A Catholic Book of Hymns will not only acquire more English Catholic hymn repertoire but will be able to see how the English Catholic and Anglican hymn patrimonies interact - topically, Scripturally and seasonally.

A Catholic Book of Hymns includes the original hymn texts, unmodernized. This is patrimonially helpful - when folks know a text a certain way, it is disruptive and disrupting when a text is arbitrarily altered. This hymnal leaves the familiar, personal pronouns (“thee”/“thou”/etc.) intact, which anyone who appreciates more antiquated English grammar will appreciate.

Unlike some similar competitors on the market, A Catholic Book of Hymns is very well-edited and typo-free, and it does not reharmonize hymns arbitrarily. Indeed, the harmonizations in this hymnal will be familiar to any user of, for example, The Hymnal 1940. The hymnal’s serif fonts are entirely pleasing to the eye.

Finally, the inside of the book does feature an imprimatur, a feature that will be appreciated by many Ordinariate members, as they have sought the authority of the Catholic magisterium in their journey from Anglicanism to the Catholic Church.



Sarah Dzialo completed a Bachelor's in Music at Vassar College before completing a Master's in Religion & Music through Yale's Institute of Sacred Music.

She lives on her cellist/bee-keeper's husband's family farm in South Glastonbury, CT and works as an organist and singer for churches all over CT and MA.

Rollin Smith

---

January 13, 2022

Mr. Noel Jones  
636 Old 19  
Augusta, KY 41002-9296

Dear Mr. Jones,

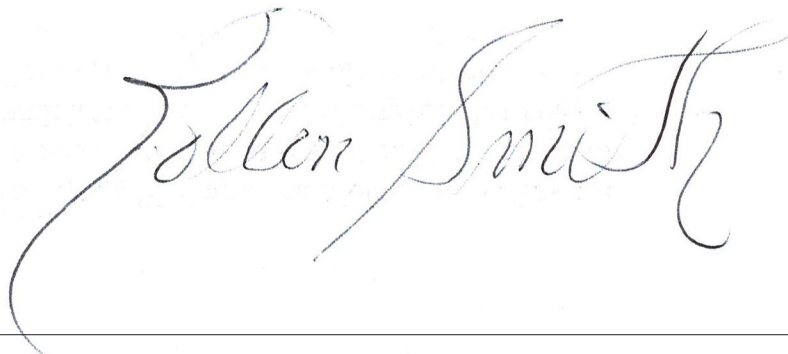
What a pleasant surprise to receive your *Catholic Book of Hymns*. It really is a great selection of quality hymn tunes with a nice balance between “traditional” tunes and great music. Your three tunes are especially fine; you seem to have a real talent for writing memorable hymns. I think you should get in touch with OCP or GIA; they could certainly use your superior abilities in crafting music for the 21st-century Church.

I noticed you included my favorite Montani hymn, “O Come and Mourn,” as well as one by J. Lewis Browne. The latter was quite a character (he fired several bullets at his pastor in Atlanta) and was indicted for “assault with intent to murder.” I did up his biography for *The Tracker* in 2016. He organist at Wanamaker’s in Philadelphia for several years but was addicted to spirits and they had to let him go. He seemed to have cleaned up his act and remained in Chicago for many years.

I, too, met you years ago, I think around 1968 or so when Gil Adams and some friends came to St. Theresa’s (Under the Bridge) to buy an Odell console that had been hooked up to the Jardine organ.

Thanks very much for the hymnal and believe that it will receive some good use, not just from me but the many people who now have it.

All the very best for 2022.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rollin Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the letter.

**There is much to be said about this essential work.**

Just a note to say that the Catholic Book of Hymns in its three versions arrived today.

What a wonderful publication and, finally, a Catholic hymnal that collects the best of tunes and texts consistent with the tradition unapologetically, poetically, and pragmatically with no unproven "filler" standing in the way and fattening the publication!

Would that I were still reviewing.

There is much to be said about this essential work. But suffice it to add that I wish you great success with it and I offer my sincere and humble thanks for the copies that you have shared with me!

Cordial greetings,

**Haig Maridosian • Reviewer, The American Organist Magazine, Retired**

I wish my parish was in the market for a new hymnal. This would be perfect.

**Henry Gaída**

I looked through this hymnal, and I love it! I've been looking for something like this, where I don't have to go searching through several different hymnals to find what I need. It's hard to find a hymnal that combines selections that are traditional in the United States and the beautiful British hymns that have good (not sappy) English texts. . . . [This] also has hymns that are good for Roman Catholic devotions.

**Kaoru Tamura**

Thank you for creating this resource. It's comforting to see the proper texts and not what seems to be the rage lately, of changing the text to suit the mood of the day.

**Michael Keefe**

On the whole, a very impressive list. A fine work indeed!

**M. Jackson Osborn**

Thank you so much for this wonderful compilation. The whole website is a great contribution to Catholic music.

**Daniel Arberg**

Many of the songs we sing today found in "Catholic" hymnals are not congregational friendly and are set in to low of a key. It's only when you pick up a hymn book like "A Catholic Book of Hymns" that you want to start singing hymns again.

**Don Howe**

The parish got\_\_\_\_\_a few months ago, I was uninformed and unaware of how amazing this hymnal would be. I purchased some copies for my reference. I am certain they will become my "go to" books in many cases.

They are beautiful and well edited. The four part harmony even in the congregational books really set them over anything else out there! I hope this book is used widely!

Thanks, Noel Allen Jones, for such a fine contribution to Catholic liturgical music!

**Matt Spencer**

Today received the copy of A Catholic Book of Hymns. The inlaid cover is beautiful, the binding is solid, and the paper is good quality. Thank you so much! Having now seen the book, it is now my favorite Catholic hymnal particularly because it includes the whole hymn, harmony and all. A perfect book to hand to any young aspiring church musician.

**D.O.**

I use it as a reference for me for unfamiliar Catholic Hymns. I am a convert and have found this hymnal very helpful.

I purchased the hardcover, the online copy to print out copies for cantors and a copy with spiral binding. I used this many times while we had just a cantor. I haven't used it yet now the

choir has returned but plan to for upcoming liturgical feasts.

I like the selection of hymns very much. I found a hymn to St. Joseph I had not found anywhere else that I used several time during the year of St. Joseph.

**Catherine • Our Lady of Mount Carmel St. Francisville, LA**

Got my copy of the hymn book with chords. It's gorgeous! So many old hymn tunes we don't hear anymore.

**Mike García**

By the way, my organ student, who typically plays block chords for hymn accompaniment, has really benefitted from your simple organ accompaniments. He is able to read the three parts and is starting to sound like a professional (at 13!) Thank you!

**Organ Teacher**

In June 2020, Noel put out a questionnaire on MusicaSacra regarding a new Catholic hymnal containing SATB hymns for a singing congregation. I was happy to contribute a few hymns (Hail Glorious St Patrick and Great St Joseph, which are great favourites in many parishes in Australia). I also suggested alternate hymn tunes aligning with the Australian/Anglo-Irish tradition, and I was pleased that a few hymns have appeared in this hymnal with both the American and English tunes.

It is encouraging to see many classics from the Westminster Hymnal making a resurgence. Many parishes continue to use these old hymns from the UK and Ireland, which are contained in the old words editions of The Living Parish and New Living Parish Hymnals (unfortunately out of prints) or local parish hymnals/print outs. These have not appeared in the newer Gather/As One Voice hymnals, which are dominated by American OCP/GIA. It is good to see them coming back, (with notation!!!), considering the Australian church mu-



sic heritage has historically come down from the UK and Irish hymn traditions, until the recent influx of American hymns.

Therefore, this English language hymnal has a more international and less Americentric flavour. One example of a classic hymn that's returned in this hymnal is Fr Stanfield's Sweet Sacrament Divine, a hymn that many congregations know but have never encountered before in musical notation.

Great job Noel and to all involved putting this together.

**Matthew Ramirez**

I sing a TLM once a month (a-cappella chant) in a parish where some families have interest in organizing a weekday "sing along of hymns" to foster singing in their homes. I am trying to convince them to adopt the Book of Hymns as "common book". Towards a catholic 21st century version of the shape note "schools of singing"?.. I told the parishioners that this type of singing is very much a US tradition... Let's make it a US Catholic one..

**Herve Blanquart**

Today received the copy of A Catholic Book of Hymns. The inlaid cover is beautiful, the binding is solid, and the paper is good quality. Thank you so much!

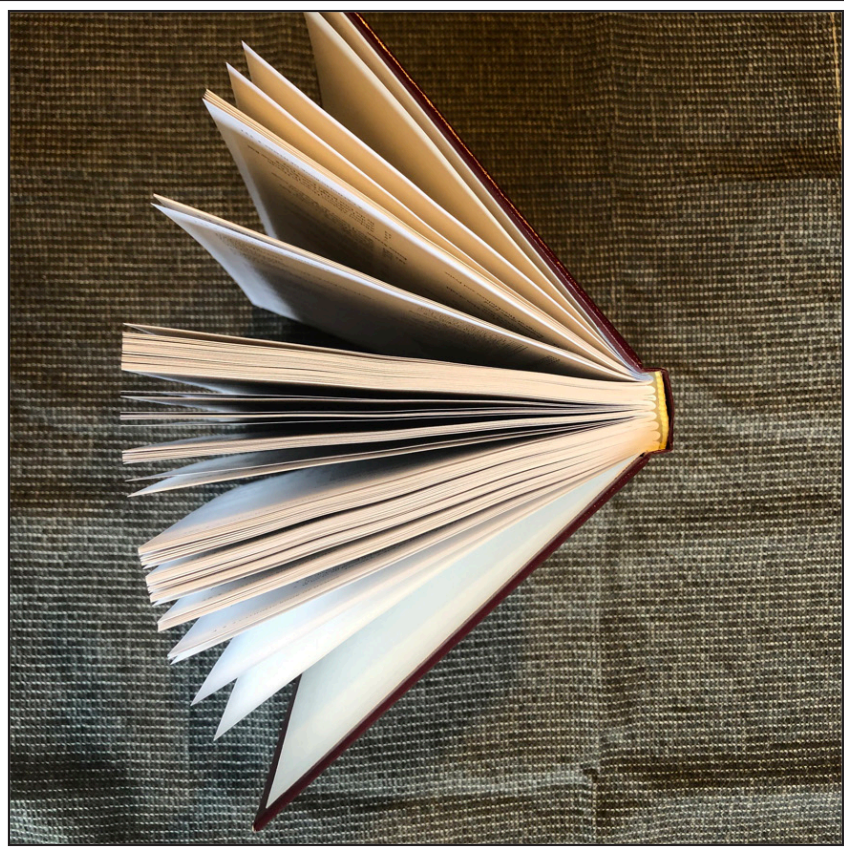
Having now seen the book, it is now my favorite Catholic hymnal particularly because it includes the whole hymn, harmony and all. A perfect book to hand to any young aspiring church musician.

**D.O.**

Thank you for sending the five copies of the hymnal. They look beautiful. Everything is well done, cover to cover. I gave a copy to my pastor tonight after Vespers. He was very interested and impressed.

**Peter Meggison**

[www.catholicdevotionalhymns.com](http://www.catholicdevotionalhymns.com)



## OUR HARDBOUND PEW EDITION

What is Smyth-sewn binding?

Smyth sewing is a method of book binding where groups of folded pages (referred to as signatures) are stitched together using binder thread.

You may view them above attached to the yellow spine fabric.

Each folded signature is sewn together individually with multiple stitches and then joined with other signatures to create the complete book block. If you page through a Smyth-sewn book, you may see the thread stitches in the center fold of each signature.

Smyth-sewn binding is associated with durability and quality, and is able to stand up to years of wear and tear. The 100 year old St. Gregory Hymnal on our desk proves this.

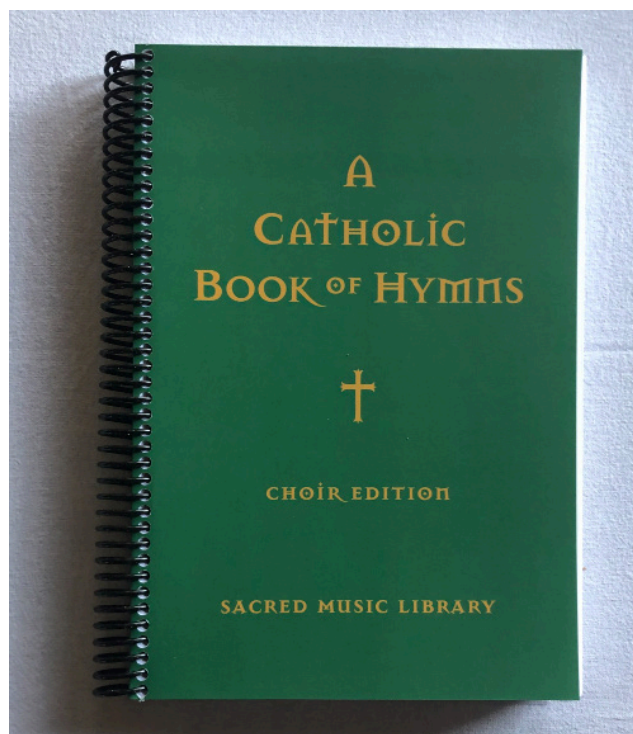
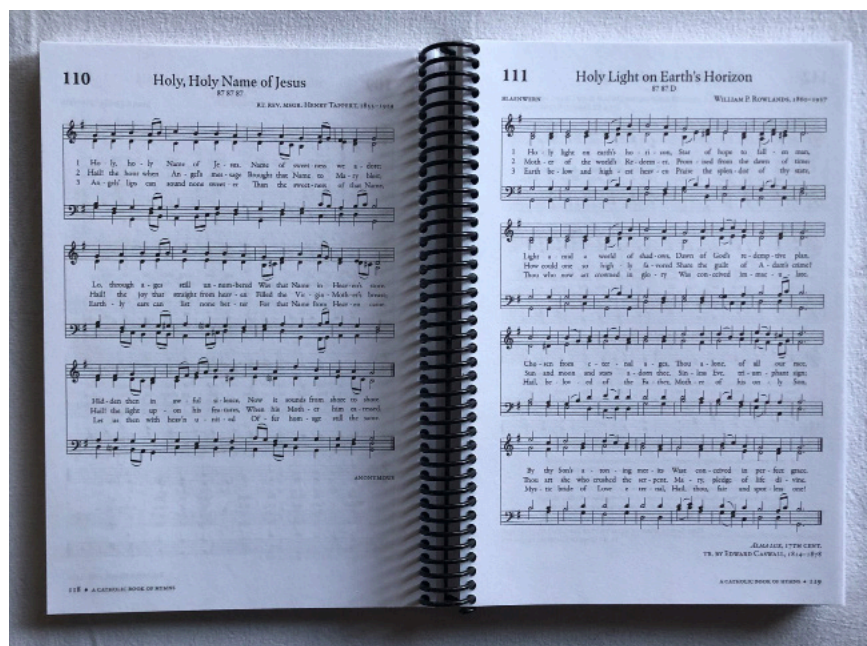
Canadian acid-free offset paper and a durable Skivertex® cover, which is water-proof, combined with Smyth-sewn binding creates a hymnal with great longevity.

The hymnal is offset-printed and bound in Michigan by an experienced printing company more than 100 years old.



All of our books are prepared for affordable local spiral binding.

They have been laid out with clear space at the spine for binding.  
The cost at your local office supply shop in the USA is about \$5.



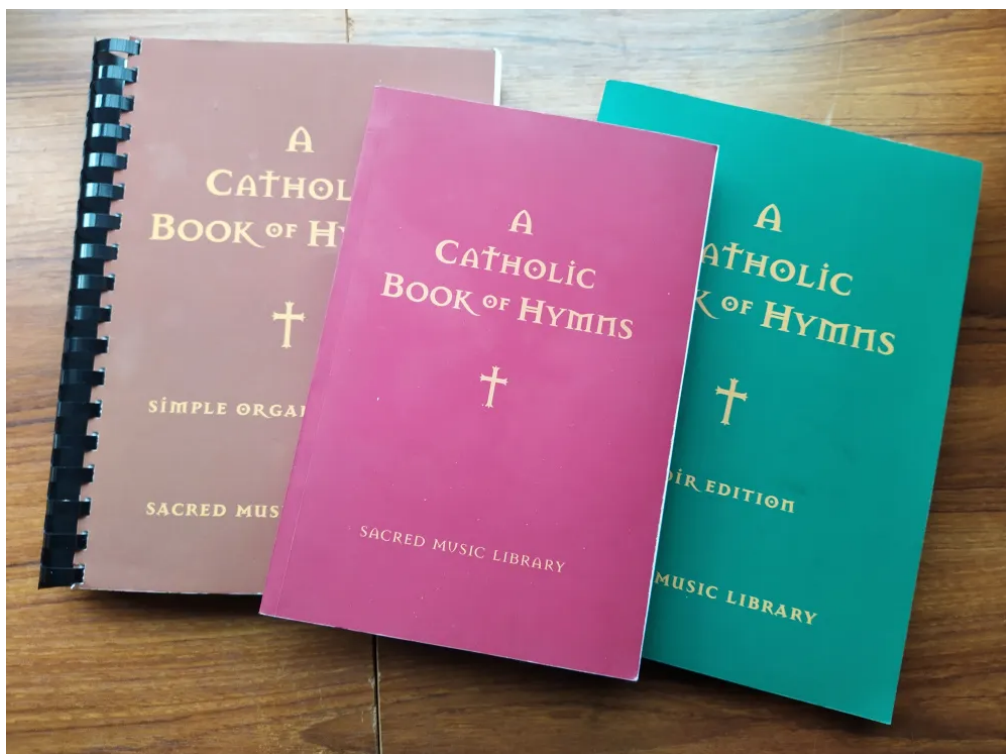
# CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED

*"What earlier generations held as sacred, remains sacred and great for us too..." Pope Benedict XVI (7 July 2007)*

[ABOUT](#)[SYMPOSIUM](#)[HYMNAL](#)[JOGUES MISSAL](#)[SITE MAP](#)[DONATE](#)

*Veronica Brandt · May 24, 2022*

Noel Jones has published a rather solid hymnbook at a very competitive price. Drawing on the wealth of freely available public domain hymns, he has assembled a great collection in a compact paperback or hardback pew book with matching editions for choir and organist.



I don't want to say that the price of the hymnal should be the chief determining factor. Buying the cheapest hymnal can be hazardous, as I'm sure many readers will agree. In my local parish, there is a misconception that the cheaper approved hymnals are more down to earth, practical and accessible. I say this is a misconception as the music contained in these little books is synthetic, mass manufactured imitation pop music which contributes to the absence of reverence for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. There are cheap hymnals which contain ideas like termites eating away at any residual Catholic devotion in the hearts of the faithful. However, A Catholic Book of Hymns sticks to tried and true, old hymns which are also clear of copyright restrictions.

	A Catholic Book of Hymns	Adoremus Hymnal	Gather 4th ed	Brebeuf Hymnal
Pew Book	\$14.95	\$18.95	\$20	\$29.99
Choir Book	\$24.95	\$24.95	\$32	\$29.99
Organ Book	\$24.95	\$29.95	\$140	\$149.99

But even with this comparison, the amazing thing with A Catholic Book of Hymns is that you can buy the PDF and it is cleared for printing to your heart's content. A \$5 PDF could be all you need!

If, on the other hand, your parish prefers more durable, hardback pew books, these are also available (\$18.95).

In most respects this is a fairly normal hymnbook. The hymns are arranged alphabetically. There are three indices in the pew book: by first lines, by tune name and by meter. The Choir Director's edition adds three more indices: liturgical, topical and scriptural. If these were not enough, they have also [reproduced the indices online](#) for easy searching. The one index they lack is one by author, translator or composer.

A really interesting feature is the Simple Organ edition, which reduces the usual four parts down to three. Generally this is based on deleting the tenor line with some alterations. Repeated notes are often elided to simplify the rhythm. It has opened up many more tunes for me. Sometimes I have struggled with playing the full SATB tune, turned to the simplified three part version, then returned to the full version. Amazing things happen when you practise.

I've mentioned a few of the different editions here. The complete list as of writing this article is:

- Pew paperback
- Pew hardback
- Organ edition
- Simple organ edition
- Choral edition
- Organist and Choir Director

So, A Catholic Book of Hymns would probably be classed as another Adoremus 50 hymnbook. I would argue that this is not necessarily a bad thing.

The Latin hymns are few and far between, but they are there, including:

- Panis Angelicus
- Tantum Ergo (2 tunes)
- O Salutaris Hostia (2 tunes)
- O Sanctissima

A parish might look into other books for Gregorian chant resources.\*

There are some unusual and very Catholic titles in the list:

- Long live the Pope!
- O Queen of the Holy Rosary
- O Godhead Hid, Devoutly I Adore Thee (The Gerard Manley Hopkins translation “Godhead here in hiding” is not included)
- Michael, Prince of Highest Heaven

Many much-loved Catholic authors are included: Fr Faber, Fr Caswall, Fr Ronald Knox, and Blessed Cardinal Newman.

Right now the current threats to Church music do not come from hymns like All People That On Earth Do Dwell but rather new music like Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees, and All Are Welcome. The more robust, triumphal hymns of Westminster Abbey would be a welcome change from the dribble in some hymnbooks.

Some hymnbooks take the liberty of “updating” the texts. This book, however, faithfully sticks to the earliest versions, including in the music.

Many parishes use financial strain as an excuse to invest in substandard music. Noel Jones’ book, especially the PDF availability, undercuts them all. There is no excuse now to fall back on cheap folk music. There’s even a chord edition for the guitarists and autochord keyboardists.

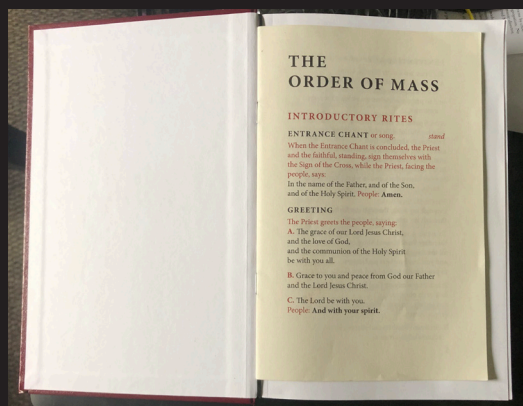
*Opinions by blog authors do not necessarily represent the views of Corpus Christi Watershed.*

\*Editor: this comment was influential in our creation of the A Catholic Book of Hymns & Chants.  
Pricing of all hymnals quoted may have changed since this article appeared.

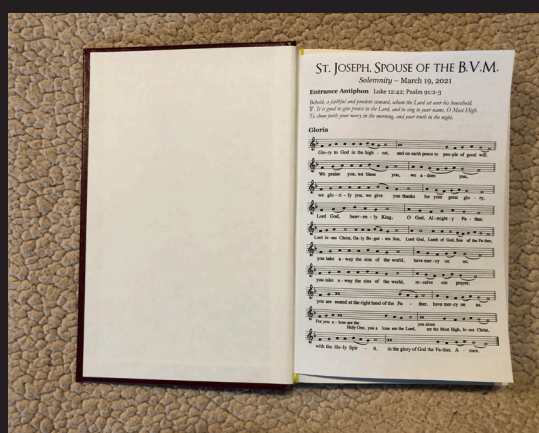


# OUR AFFORDABLE HYBRID HARDBOUND HYMNAL OPTION

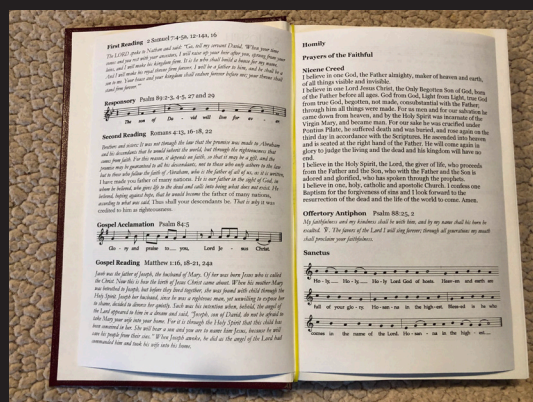
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INSERTS MAY BE QUICKLY REMOVED AND REPLACED

Taking control of your music and liturgical program means **not** being tied to one book for everything.

Print Mass Readings and the sung Psalms and Ordinary settings, fold and insert them in a hymnal. Avoids them being left scattered in pews or, even worse, stepped on when dropped on the floor.

A comprehensive source for copyright-free Psalms and Ordinary Mass settings is [CorpusChristiWatershed.com](http://CorpusChristiWatershed.com)

The band utilized is Latex free. Contact us for availability and cost. [noel@sacredmusiclibrary.com](mailto:noel@sacredmusiclibrary.com)

A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS & CHANTS EDITION

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III  
K Y-ri- e \* e- lé- i- son. *ijj.* Chri- ste e- lé- i- son. *ijj.* Ký- ri-  
e e- lé- i- son. *ijj.* Ký- ri- e \* e- lé- i- son.

380 AVE MARIA, *in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

I  
A -ve Ma- rí- a, \* gra-ti- a plena, Dóminus te-cum, bene-dícta tu  
in mu-li- é-ri-bus, et bene-díctus fructus ventris tu- i, Je- sus. Sancta Ma-  
rí- a, Ma-ter De- i, o-ra pro no- bis pecca- tó-ri-bus, nunc et in ho- ra  
mortis nostræ. Amen.

358 *Final Commendation (or at the Burial)*

VII  
I N pa-ra-dí-sum \* dedúcant te Ange-li: in tu-o advéntu suscí-pi-  
ant te Márty-res, et perdúcant te in ci-vi-tá-tem sanctam Je- rú-sa-lem.

359 *Final Commendation (or at the Burial)*

VIII  
C Ho-rus Ange-ló-rum te sus- cí-pi- at, et cum Lá-za-ro quondam  
páu-pe- re æ-térnam há-be- as réqui- em.

# A CATHOLIC BOOK OF HYMNS

**“Music and silence—how I detest them both!”**

**--Screwtape, under-secretary to the devil, *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis**

It's easy to see why the enemies of mankind would hate and fear both sacred silence and sacred music. Both bring joy, spur contemplation, and draw the soul nearer to the Lord. Both have been part of our private prayer as well as our communal liturgy for thousands of years.

The Psalms--biblical songs of praise, supplication, and wonder--have been sung for three thousand years. Naturally, Jesus, His disciples, and later the early Christian community also sang hymns (from the Greek word meaning “songs of praise”), as The New Testament makes clear.

We sing because we love, and sung praise elevates our words, takes them out of the realm of the commonplace, and increases our joy. The holy pleasure of singing to God involves the entire person--spirit, heart, mind, and body--and unites us not only with the Divine but also with one another as a worshipping community. This collection of hymns for the singing Catholic congregation exemplifies the best of the genre. These songs are religiously orthodox, beautiful, sacred, and--for the most part--familiar. But here you will also find worthy hymn tunes and texts that are new to you.

We present this book to propose not that hymns replace the proper chants for a particular day's Mass\* but live happily alongside them. In most instances the proper chants for processions are the prerogative of cantors and choirs and, as the texts change with every Sunday and solemnity, it's not practical for the congregation to learn and sing them.

Hymns, on the other hand, belong to all the faithful and serve as a key means of the “active participation” spoken of in Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy. Moreover, sung hymns have been an important part of the Liturgy of the Hours for century upon century, so they are nothing new, although singing them at Mass is relatively recent.

*“To promote active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs, as well as by actions, gestures, and bodily attitudes. And at the proper times all should observe a reverent silence.”* --*Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II, 1963), Paragraph 30*

In a parish where the Scriptures are sung, the introit will accompany the procession of the ministers and the cross. Clergy, choir, and people can then sing a congregational hymn if desired. The same is true at offertory and Communion: hymns can follow the proper chants, time permitting. The pastor and/or music director will make the decision whether and when to sing hymns.

And at the conclusion of Mass, a suitable hymn can send the people forth with the praise of Almighty God on their lips.

**May this book bring joy to all who sing from it!**

**Mary Weaver, Editor**

*What is the source of the sung antiphons—the proper texts—for the Roman Mass?*

*The antiphons (in Latin) may be found in the Graduale Romanum, and numerous English settings of these texts are available--many at no cost. The antiphons from the Roman Missal, third edition, may also serve as proper texts. For more information, see*

- *Sacrosanctum Concilium (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, Vatican II, 1963)*
- *Musicam Sacram (Instruction on Music in the Liturgy, 1967) and*
- *The General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2010.*