

## Question and Answer Box

CONDUCTED MONTHLY BY THE EDITOR

September, 1937

*"Is it permitted to sing any part or all of the Ordinary of the Mass in Latin (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei) at a Low Mass?"*

A. Yes, it is permitted to sing the parts mentioned in Latin. With regard to the Gloria the Roman decision remarks "that the intonation should be sung by the choir".

*"Is it permitted to sing the same parts in English at a Low Mass?"*

A. No, it is not permitted to sing these parts in the vernacular. Holy Church demands that the liturgical parts be sung in the liturgical language, which is "Latin".

*"Is it permitted to sing any or all of the variable chants of the Proper (Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Offertory, Communion) in Latin, at a Low Mass — in English?"*

A. Any parts of the Proper may be sung in Latin, but not in English, for the reason mentioned above. Low Mass is a liturgical function. If you select parts of the liturgical musical belonging to Holy Mass, the same must be sung in Latin.

*"What, then, may be sung during a Low Mass?"*

A. We have before us the "Liturgical Monthly" (*Ephemerides Liturgicae*), published at Rome by the Fathers


of the Congregation of the Mission. In the year 1912 the editor (*page 748*) answered the question in the following manner:

"During a Low Mass the people or the choir may with the Bishop's permission sing prayers <sup>(1)</sup> or hymns composed in the vernacular in honor of the Saint or Mystery celebrated on that day, but it is not allowed to sing in the Vernacular the "Te Deum" and such hymns which always must be sung in Latin. (Tantum ergo, O salutaris, Veni Creator, the Sequences.)"

The principal source from which to draw the music for a Low Mass is the Diocesan Hymnal or any Hymnal which has been approved by a Bishop. The country is flooded with so-called "sacred songs"; every music store keeps in stock a large supply of religious and sacred songs. These are the hymns used by the 150 or more non-Catholic sects. It will be seen at once that the musical legislation of Holy Church had to extend to every musical piece sung in connection with liturgy, for the words must contain sound Catholic doctrine, and the melody must be prayerful.

*"In a case where an Introit Procession is held, would it be permissible to add several verses of the Introit Psalm before the Gloria Patri and repeated Antiphon? Might the Offertory and*

<sup>1</sup>We presume, that by "prayers" (*preces*) are meant those general hymns of Adoration, Faith, Love, Praise, Thanksgiving, etc.

 Send your Questions to Very Rev. Gregory Hügle, O.S.B., Prior, Conception Abbey, Conception, Mo. They will be answered in this column, without reference to your name.

*Communion be prolonged in the same manner?"*

A. In the preface of the Vatican Gradual provision has been made for a solemn entrance procession. It has been suggested that the antiphonal part of the Introit, i.e. the part from the beginning to the Psalm verse, be repeated two or even three times, viz. after the Psalm verse, after the Gloria Patri, and after the *Sicut erat*. With regard to the prolongation of the Offertory it may interest the readers of *Caecilia* that the firm Desclee & Co. at Tournay, Belgium, printers to the Holy See, has published quite recently a volume of 186 pages, entitled "*Offertoriale sive Versus Offertoriorum*", Offertory-Book, containing the Offertory verses in Gregorian Chant notation. The mere fact that "printers to the Holy See" have published this volume is a tacit approval of this ancient revival. With regard to the Communion we have not come across a similar edition.

*Formerly during Low Mass we sang as many as fifteen stanzas of a hymn; for it was the choirmaster's policy to require the entire hymn; he used to say "a hymn represents a piece of Christian doctrine, and we cannot stop until we have reached the end." Is this the correct viewpoint?"*

A. From a doctrinal point of view this seems to be the correct view. Upon close study you will find that a good hymn sets forth the Catholic doctrine, appeals to the human heart and concludes with appropriate petitions. Being a prayer, a hymn should be sung in its entirety. An exception however should be made in the case of certain interminable pilgrim songs; in fact, they are not intended to be sung during a Low Mass. From a practical standpoint we would suggest to vary the singing of long hymns by changing between upper and lower voices, or even by devout recitation of an occasional stanza.

## Special Literature

### Kyriale

Accompaniment by Achille Bragers, the Latest and Best — Spiral Binding ....\$3.00

### Sacred Music and The Catholic Church

Father Predmore's authenticated guide book for choirmasters, Diocesan Commission members, etc. (cloth) ..... \$2.50 net.

### Text Book of Gregorian Chant

Gregory Sunol, OSB ..... \$1.50  
Latest work—according to Solesmes Theory.

### Short Treatise On The Accompaniment of Gregorian Chant.

Achille Bragers ..... \$2.50  
The latest book on the subject.

### The Spotlight On Catholic Church Music.

V. Rev. Gregory Hugle, OSB... \$ .75  
Most Common Questions and Answers on Subject. Determined By Two Years' Conduct of Question Box.

### History of Church Music

Dr. Karl Weinman ..... \$1.50  
Concise summary of various periods.

### The Training of Catholic Choirs

Donald J. S. Edeson..... \$1.00  
Paper-covered book, unexcelled for practical use.

### Religious Music

Rene Agrain ..... \$2.00  
An old favorite work of real value to Catholic Church Choirmasters.

### Essentials In Sight Singing

Nicola Montani ..... \$2.00  
Volume II "The Art of A Cappella Singing". Exhaustive and specific suggestions from an expert of many years' experience as a choir-master.

These are but a few of the books we recommend. The above are the most practical, and helpful for present-day conditions. Tell Us Your Needs!

The above are the publications of various houses, hence cannot be sent "on approval", for more than five days. As we have to order these books from the publishers, to keep up our stock, CASH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL ORDERS. If books found unsatisfactory, are returned five days after receipt, Remittance will be refunded in full, less postage charges, of course.

McLAUGHLIN & REILLY CO.  
100 Boylston Street - - Boston, Mass