

PREFACE

The number of existing Catholic hymnals is certainly not small. If, nevertheless, I venture to add this new hymnal to their number, I wish to explain that I have been moved to do so by the following powerful motivations:

The younger generation in practically all of our German-speaking parishes can no longer read German. It was found necessary, therefore, to discard the beautiful German hymns in such cases, and to replace them with others taken from an English hymnal. This has caused keen regret, not only to music-lovers, but especially to the older generation, whose members miss the hymns they had sung and loved from their childhood.

Then, too, I have often heard singers, in my parish and in others, express their dissatisfaction with hymnals then in use. They liked best the few hymns adapted from German sources. This gave me the idea of making a selection of the more beautiful German hymns and supplying them with an English text, which I prepared for use in my own parish and missions only. The result has exceeded all expectations. Not only have my parishioners been enthusiastic about these hymns, but many visitors have inquired about them. Therefore, from many sides and, in particular, from the clergy of other parishes, I was urged to publish these hymns in the compact form of a hymnal.

This I have done. From the rich treasures of Catholic hymnody of several centuries I have endeavored to choose the best. To this precious legacy from our forefathers I have added many hymns from more recent composers. I have resisted the temptation of including certain hymns which, although very popular, have melodies or texts of inferior character, such as the hymns *O du mein Heiland hoch und hehr*, *Es blüht der Blumen eine*, *Geleite durch die Wellen*, etc. Wherever possible, I have added the Latin text to the English with the hope of extending the repertoire of hymns and motets with the hope of extending the repertoire of hymns and motets which could be used at High Mass. Latin hymns for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament commence with hymn No. 160 on page 172 and will, no doubt be appreciated, particularly in convents, seminaries and boarding schools where Benediction is very frequent.

A word of sincere thanks is due here, first to my collaborator, Mr. Hubert Wachendorf of Aachen, Germany, who has succeeded in producing a fine accompaniment to most of these hymns; to Sister Pauline, S.P.S.F., of St. Clare Convent, Hartwell, Cincinnati, Ohio, who has made excellent translations for most of the German hymns; to Dr. Eugene Lapierre of Montreal, Canada, for the accompaniments to the Gregorian chants; to Frederick Pustet and Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, for their kind permission to use texts from a number of hymns in *Saint Caecilia Hymnal* and *Salve Regina*; to the Herder Book Company of Saint Louis, Missouri, for kind permission to use the words of many of the hymns contained in the *Hymnal and Prayer Book* and *Cantemus Domino*; to Saint Mary's Seminary

of Techny, Illinois, for the same kind permission regarding three hymns from *Cantate*.

Special thanks are also due Rev. P. Habets, O.M.I., for much practical advice and assistance in the research work; also to Mr. John Richrath and Mr. Cornel Laschet, organists and music teachers, who have given me much valuable help and advice.

May this new hymnal find its way into many parishes and convents in Canada and the United States, and may it help to enrich and embellish the divine service as well as family prayers in the home. Should any of these hymns thus resound in our Catholic homes in such a way as to enliven the faith and deepen the piety of the family, which in turn enhances the honor and glory of God, the editor shall consider this to be the richest reward of his efforts.

A.K.

Christ the King Parish
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