

TESTIMONIALS • Brébeuf Hymnal

What people are saying:

I HAVE NEVER encountered such a prolific and astoundingly interesting hymnal, that includes researched and annotated writings as the Brébeuf hymnal. I just read it for an hour and I've barely scratched the surface. I'm hanging on every word. It is just as much a lesson in theology, Christian tradition, the history of sacred hymnody, and inspiring Christian bio-epic of the North American martyrs as it is a hymnal. It could easily stand as a primary text to a course, and is almost overkill as a pew aid.

—Catholic Organist Group

Full thread: <https://www.ccwatershed.org/2020/02/07/catholic-organist-group-im-hanging-on-every-word/>

WHEN EXAMINING the hymnals from the early to mid 20th century one finds that they have a lot of similarities. This is not the case with the *St Jean de Brebeuf Hymnal* that was published in 2018. The historical commentaries and fine reproductions of early manuscripts won't be found in any other hymnal. This is also the case with many of the hymns and melodies, some of which are ancient and quite beautiful, which makes this book an important addition to anyone's musical library.

—PARISHIONER (from a Parish with the Brébeuf hymnal)

WHEN WE SING the hymns in the *Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal* each Sunday, we are rediscovering the treasures of Catholic tradition, in all their variety and beauty. The unique structure of the book allows us to trace the history of certain texts, which were adapted to different tunes over the years. It is as much a hymnal as a history book!

—PARISHIONER (from a Parish with the Brébeuf hymnal)

LEARNING from the *Saint Jean de Brebeuf Hymnal* has been an absolute joy and pleasure. It is easy to follow and the texts are superb. When I sing out of that Hymnal it is evident to me that I am honoring God as He deserves, if even just a little while.

—PARISHIONER (from a Parish with the Brébeuf hymnal)

I WISH ALL CHURCHES would have the *Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal*. This hymnal is truly a labour of love. The selection of hymns presented in this hymnal are so rich in Catholic Theology, and the melodies of the hymns contained within are so exquisitely beautiful that I feel that they are the only hymnal that truly helps me to give the most pleasing worship to God through song. Even the words of hymns that have been carefully translated from Latin, capture the essence and flow of the original Latin with touching poetic beauty. There are so many hymns in this hymnal that have helped me to grow in my faith and in my understanding and awe of the Mass, of the Sacraments and our Holy Catholic Church. The hymns and the prayers contained within this hymnal truly help to lift souls up to God.

—PARISHIONER (from a Parish with the Brébeuf hymnal)

THE Brébeuf Hymnal is not only a fantastic musical resource, it's also a great literary achievement: the diverse translations therein are accompanied by glosses filled with names, dates and analysis, reminding us of the richness of our Catholic tradition. As a lover of history, language, and poetry, I always enjoy comparing translations to see how these ancient prayers have evolved and how they've stayed the same. This hymnal fuses Faith and history in a detailed, eloquent and exhaustive (but concise) way.

—PARISHIONER (from a Parish with the Brébeuf hymnal)

JUST wanted to let you know that a friend of mine got a Brébeuf Hymnal and is thrilled with it. She texted me: "I can't stop looking at the contents"—and she had an emoji of a person happily dancing on a keyboard.

—ANONYMOUS

CHURCH musician friends; Buy yourselves a copy of the Saint Brébeuf Hymnal. This is a revolution in Catholic hymnody. I am astounded into silence at the care put into this hymnal—its simplicity, its theological depth, everything. Just buy and swim in the theology!

—ANONYMOUS

MUSIC AT MASS should be an opportunity for worshiping God. May I suggest a movement to get the *Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal* (published 24 December 2018) into your parish? I bought a copy because as a teen I was in five choirs: three constantly, two when they needed the young soprano. I love to sing. I had friends who graduated with degrees in sacred music/church music. I have sung a LOT of amazing church music, and the Catholic Church may be the One True Church but the hymnals...sigh! Sorry I probably sound like a commercial, but this hymnal is the most amazing one I have ever had my hands on, and I have a fair few on my bookshelves. It is designed to be a Catholic hymnal; the texts are theologically fabulous (I have a Masters in Theological Studies and am a Bible loving geek); and this is awesome—like having a catechism in the music! I also have a teaching certification, and this music would help teach the faith to children in a way they will never forget! "Sung learning" is internalized deeply as it is heard, read, and physically sung—so it sticks. This hymnal is full of SINGABLE tunes, many of them very old. The lyrics are translations of traditional songs that go way back—like 4th century—and they are just beautiful. The Latin is there, side by side with a more literal translation for understanding, and it tells you what tunes will fit the Latin. There are also carefully selected English translations—all footnoted so you can do research if you want—but there, and clear, and orthodox, and gorgeous! They limited the total number of tunes used to help a congregation to master the singing, so that they can gradually come to where they no longer have to struggle because the tunes will become familiar! This is better than any of the protestant hymnals. I keep spreading the word: THIS should be the hymnal in every Catholic parish; and just do all the singing from it! Everyone who is capable of singing will WANT to sing these songs.

—ANONYMOUS

THE *Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal* is quite unlike any other (allegedly) Catholic hymnal you've ever seen. Because it actually is a Catholic hymnal—(so far as I know) no other so-called "Catholic hymnal" that's currently published consists solely and exclusively of music that's actually fully and completely Catholic in both origin and expression. Hymns selected from the Church's wonderful tradition and glorious treasury of sacred music, dating back through the centuries to the time of Ambrose and Augustine. [...] And alongside these beautiful Latin hymns are printed—and designated as "Assistance for comprehension"—the best literal English translations of these hymns I've ever seen. By these criteria, no other Catholic hymnal of which I'm aware comes close to the new standard set by the Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal.

—ANONYMOUS

Outstanding! From cover to cover is just phenomenal.

—ANONYMOUS