

Later that month I went to the Somerset village of Mells to take leave of Monsignor Ronnie Knox who was dying of cancer. We had never been close friends but rather more than acquaintances. **He was perhaps the greatest figure in the Church of the twentieth century.** As a writer he was admired not only by his fellow Catholics and former colleagues of the Anglican Church but by all connoisseurs of stylish prose. His greatest contribution to literature was his translation of the bible into contemporary English. To this monumental task he brought not only his wide learning but an extraordinary capacity for assembling critical views of his draft translation to enable him to produce a final polished version. A notoriously shy man he might have been expected to work in scholarly solitude but he sought the help of the widest possible range of students, young and old, famous and obscure. All were invited to give their criticisms and suggestions. He was overwhelmed by the number of those who offered advice. After the publication of his translation he thanked all those who had written. Then (typically) he could not forbear to thank 'still more' those who did not proffer help. **Although renowned as a preacher and scholar his real greatness lay in his holiness of life.** He was very near death when I visited him but he received me with great courtesy and thanked me for coming to take leave of him. Being a genuine intellectual he had an essentially simple faith. He was what we now call an old-fashioned Catholic. He loved the *Imitation of Christ* of which he left an excellent but unfinished translation (published posthumously).

**I**TS EDITORS LEFT NO STONE unturned in their quest for the best versions of these ancient Catholic hymns, combing through centuries of English translations from the sixteenth century to the present day. In the process, they have revealed much little-known material, and some that is published in a hymnal for the first time. [They] navigate this difficult terrain with assurance; indeed, the editors' explanation of the Urbanite reform and its impact on English translators is a model of clarity, and contains information this reviewer has not encountered elsewhere.

—Dr. Aaron James: 2019 review of the *Brébeuf Catholic Hymnal* in the *Journal of the Society for Catholic Liturgy* • <https://ocwatershed.org/hymn/>