

* Notice there was an effort made by certain parties in **1991** to distort the Word of God by eliminating all references to “he” and “him” and “his” (see below). Cardinal Ratzinger seems to have been involved in shutting down that nefarious plot.

The NEW AMERICAN BIBLE—at least when it comes to the psalms which certain parties have been selling (!) for decades—does not seem to be a candidate for copyright, as it “borrows” or “steals” or “rearranges” so much material from other translations, especially the 1939 translation by Father Lattey:

1939 Father Cuthbert Lattey	1950 (or earlier) New American Bible	1970 New American Bible	1991 New American Bible	Revised (?) New American Bible	So-called Abbey Psalms & Canticles
..... To thee do I call, my rock: Be not deaf to me: To you, O Lord, I call; O my Rock, be not deaf to me, To you, O Lord, I call; my Rock be not deaf to me, To you, O Lord, I call; my Rock do not be deaf to me, To you, LORD, I call; my Rock, do not be deaf to me, To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me.
Lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like To those who go down to the pit.	Lest, if you heed me not, I become one of those going down into the pit.	Lest, if you heed me not, I become one of those going down into the pit.	If you fail to answer me, I will join those who go down to the pit.	Do not be silent toward me, so that I join those who go down to the pit.	I shall go down to those in the pit; if you are silent to me.
2 Hear the voice of my supplications When I cry to thee,	2 Hear the sound of my pleading, when I cry to you,	Hear the sound of my pleading, when I cry to you,	2 Hear the sound of my pleading when I cry to you,	2 Hear the sound of my pleading when I cry to you for help	Hear the voice of my pleading as I call to you for help,
When I lift up my hands, O Lord, Towards thy holy shrine.	lifting up my hands toward your holy shrine.	lifting up my hands toward your holy shrine.	lifting my hands toward your holy place .	when I lift up my hands toward your holy place.	as I raise my hands toward your holy place.
Drag me not away with the wicked, And with the wrong-doers,	3 Drag me not away with the wicked, with those who do wrong,	Drag me not away with the wicked, with those who do wrong,	3 Do not drag me off with the wicked, with those who do wrong,	3 Do not drag me off with the wicked, with those who do wrong,	Do not drag me away with the wicked, with those who do evil,
Who speak peace with their neighbours, While evil is in their hearts.	Who speak civilly to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.	Who speak civilly to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.	Who speak peace to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.	Who speak peace to their neighbors though evil is in their hearts.	who speak words of peace to their neighbors, but with malice in their hearts.
4 Give them according to their work, And according to the evil of their deeds.	4 Repay them for their deeds, for the evil of their doings.	Repay them for their deeds, for the evil of their doings.	4 Repay them for their deeds, for the evil that they do.	4 Repay them for their deeds, for the evil that they do.	Repay them according to their deeds, according to the evil of their actions.
Give to them according to the doings of their hands: Return their dealings upon them.	For the work of their hands repay them; give them their deserts.	For the work of their hands repay them; give them their deserts.	For the work of their hands repay them; give them what they deserve.	For the work of their hands repay them; give them what they deserve.	According to their handiwork, repay them; render them their due reward.
5 Because they regard not the Lord's works, Nor the doings of his hands,	5 Because they consider not the deeds of the Lord nor the work of his hands,	Because they consider not the deeds of the Lord nor the work of his hands,	They pay no heed to the Lord's works, to the deeds of God's hands.	5 Because they do not understand the Lord's works, the work of his hands,	For they ignore the deeds of the Lord and the work of his hands.
He pulleth them down, and doth not build them up.	may he tear them down and not build them up.	may he tear them down and not build them up.	God will tear them down, never to be rebuilt.	He will tear them down, never to rebuild them.	May he ruin them and never rebuild them.
Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard The voice of my supplications.	6 Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleading;	Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleading;	6 Blessed be the Lord, who has heard the sound of my pleading.	6 Blessed be the Lord, who has heard the sound of my pleading.	Blest be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my appeal.
7 The Lord is my strength and my shield:	7 the Lord is my strength and my shield.	the Lord is my strength and my shield.	The Lord is my strength and my shield,	7 The Lord is my strength and my shield,	The Lord is my strength and my shield;
In him my heart trusted, and I was helped,	In him my heart trusts, and I find help;	In him my heart trusts, and I find help;	in whom my heart trusted and found help.	in whom my heart trusts. I am helped,	in him my heart trusts. I was helped;
and my heart exulteth, And with my song I thank him.	then my heart exults, and with my song I give him thanks.	then my heart exults, and with my song I give him thanks.	So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God. so my heart rejoices; with my song I praise him. my heart rejoices, and I praise him with my song.
8 The Lord is a strength unto his people, A saving refuge for his anointed.	8 The Lord is the strength of his people, the saving refuge of his anointed.	The Lord is the strength of his people, the saving refuge of his anointed.	Lord, you are the strength of your people. the saving refuge of your anointed king.	8 Lord, you are a strength for your people, the saving refuge of your anointed.	The Lord is the strength of his people, a saving refuge for his anointed.
9 Save thy people, And bless thy possession:	9 Save your people, and bless your inheritance;	Save your people, and bless your inheritance;	9 Save your people, bless your inheritance;	9 Save your people, bless your inheritance;	Save your people & bless your heritage.
Shepherd them and bear them up for ever.	feed them, and carry them forever!	feed them, and carry them forever!	feed and sustain them forever!	pasture and carry them forever!	shepherd them and carry them forever.

ITS 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/>