

Excerpt from: “American Catholic Hymnal”

Imprimatur 25 April 1991 by the Archdiocese of Chicago

{ *Some have called that book “the most progressive hymnal ever published” ...* }

At Sunday Mass

Many hymns and metrical Psalms in this book are five verses or less. If the texts are considered as prayer, a part of the liturgy, and if the melody is attractive, people will be happy to sing all the verses of the song. In this case, the hymn or metrical Psalm is sung for its own sake, not to accompany another action, such as the entrance rite. In songs of five or six verses, it may be effective to alternate verses, for example, between the men and the women or between the choir and the people.

During the Preparation of the Gifts. Instrumental music, a choral motet, or silence are all appropriate. On solemn occasions, especially with a procession of the gifts or a second collection, a hymn may be useful. It need not speak of offering or of bread and wine. (*General Instruction, #46*)

During Communion. If the people are asked to sing the verses, a metrical hymn or Psalm may not be effective during the procession. Instead, the people should ordinarily just sing a refrain that can be easily sung from memory, such as *Alleluia*. A leader should sing the verses of the song. (*Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy, Music in Catholic Worship, #62*) **The congregation remains standing all during the procession; they do not kneel down.** (*General Instruction, #21*)

After Communion. In lieu of silence, a hymn or metrical Psalm can be appropriate. **The people remain standing.** (*General Instruction, #56, 21*)

Recessional. An instrumental or choral setting is appropriate, especially if a song was used after Communion. Otherwise, the recessional song may be relatively brief.



ONE OF THE main authors for the Church Music Association of America’s blog declared (6/10/2022) that the *Father Brébeuf Hymnal* **“has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”** That author also said (6/10/2019) the *Brébeuf Hymnal* is “hands down, the best Catholic hymnal ever published. [...] It is such a fantastic hymnal that it deserves to be in the pews of every Catholic church.” • <https://ccwatershed.org/>