

The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal provided—for the first time in history—a literal English translation of Archbishop Peckham’s magnificent (and lengthy) hymn to the Holy Eucharist. The Brébeuf Hymnal also provides numerous musical settings for it, as well as various “singable” translations by Catholic priests and bishops. **Here is a short excerpt:**

HIC Jesus veráciter
Duplex est natúra; *n3*
Non est partiáliter
Nec solum figúra:
Sed essentiáliter
Caro Christi pura
Latet integráliter
Brevi sub clausúra.

7. Here in truth is each
of Jesus’ two natures; *n3*
nor is Christ’s pure flesh
present only in part
or figuratively:
but in its essence
it lies hidden in completeness
beneath a slight enclosure.

CAELO visibíliter
Caro Christi sita:
Forma panis áliter
Latet hic vestíta;
Solutus novit quáliter,
Hanc qui ponit ita:
Potest hoc facíliter
Virtus infiníta.

8. The flesh of Christ
is stationed visibly in heaven:
here, by contrast, it lies hidden,
clothed with the appearance of bread;
only he knows how
who proposes thus:
Boundless power
can easily do this.

[1] *Scrinium*, literally a chest or casket, cf. “shrine.”

[2] Cf. Jn 6.32 “wayfaring provision”: viaticum.

[3] “Each...natures”; literally “the twofold nature of Jesus.” God the Son possesses his divine nature from eternity and assumes his human nature in time.

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