

A typical hymn from the *Saint Basil Hymnal*, a book which Jeff Ostrowski considers to be “kitschy, sentimental, and horrifying”—although it was quite popular in its day. It is said that Abbat Joseph Pothier (d. 1923) was scandalized when he was shown music from certain Catholic hymnals popular in his day.

Play through it, and see if you agree:

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SACRED HEART.

O SACRED HEART—CONTINUED.

2 O Sacred Heart! O Sacred Heart!  
So spotless and so pure:  
Our weakness and our misery,  
May rest in Thee secure.

3 O Sacred Heart! O Sacred Heart!  
Consumed with purst fires,  
The cross, the thorns, the open wound,  
Reveal Thy fond desires.

24—Upon the Altar, Night and Day.

*Moderato.*

1 Up-on the Al-tar, night and day, The Heart of Je - sus lies, And  
2 Be-neath a crown of cru - el thorns, Thy Heart is all on fire; And  
3 We of - fer Thee our hum-ble gifts, For poor they are and small, Our

night and day throughout the world, Do men Its claims despise;  
brightly shines from out Its flames, The cross of Thy desire.  
hearts, our souls, our little lives, Dear Heart! we give Thee all;

For by their cold ungrateful lives, They pierce It through and through, And  
CHORUS—Oh draw us close to Thee, sweet Lord! And burning zeal impart, To  
If pure and true must be the soul, That fain would hide in Thee, Oh!  
And joyous victims we shall be, Consumed before Thy throne, If  
CHORUS—Then draw us closer still to Thee, O Sacred Heart divine! In

*The Father John Brébeuf Hymnal* “has no parallel and not even any close competitor.”

<https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

— Author for the *Church Music Association of America* weblog • 10 June 2022