



“...ut venientes ungerent Jesum, alleluja.”

John Paul II Institute for Liturgical Renewal

Owasso, Oklahoma 74055

Re: Accompaniments for Brébeuf Hymnal

Laudetur Jesus Christus!

The most reverend Bishop Slattery granted IMPRIMATUR to the Jogues Missal five years ago on **March 25th**. The next day, our institute officially began preparations for the Brébeuf Hymnal. Since that time we have striven to give customers fully accurate information about its publication. The project was delayed owing to serious illness on the part of one of our partners, but the pew book began shipping in December of 2018. We had promised a hymnal unlike any other and informed critics have declared our book to be nothing less. One of my favorite comments came from a customer who declared, “the entire hymnal was worth it for the Stations of the Cross alone!”

Before I can provide an update on the Brébeuf accompaniments, all must understand the date of **March 25th**. I mentioned already that Bishop Slattery gave the Jogues Missal IMPRIMATUR on that day. **March 25th** was likewise the Treaty of Saint-Germain-en-Laye (1632), which returned Canada to French control after the English had seized it in 1629, a huge development for Brébeuf and his companions. But **March 25th** is significant for a deeper reason; and I encourage all to read the footnote on page 921 of the Brébeuf Hymnal. Suffice it to say that Cardinal Ratzinger’s “Way of the Cross” was first prayed on Good Friday of 2005, **March 25th**. An ancient Christian tradition assigns the first Good Friday to **March 25th**, the day we celebrate the Incarnation, and artists throughout history have explored the powerful connection between these two Events. Good Friday and the Annunciation (**March 25th**) coincide but a few times each century. They coincided in 1622, the year St. John Brébeuf was ordained, and he offered his first Mass on the (transferred) feast of the Annunciation. I learned earlier today that St. John Brébeuf was born on **March 25th**; I am not joking.

We felt strongly the Brébeuf accompaniment books would be available sometime in February of 2019. At this point, it seems March 2019 is more likely. Out of respect for our customers we make every effort to meet our deadlines, even though we realize other companies are comfortable being untruthful with theirs. We are not; we strive to give accurate projections. On the other hand, we would never dream of rushing a project of this significance. The hymnal has already taken five years to produce and a few more weeks will not matter since everything proceeds according to God’s most holy will. On the other hand I find it extremely unlikely the complete accompaniment volumes will not be selling by March 25th.

My own personal belief is that the complete set will be available before March 25th; however, we still need proofreaders. I invite anyone who wants to help to kindly email me. (see below)

Our customers will be amazed when these accompaniments are released. They use a technique that can only be described as thrilling. They are splendid. They will be welcomed by organists and singers. Careful consideration was given to the vocal ranges, especially the bass voice, whereas in other publications scant attention was paid to this supremely important aspect. At the same time, our editors gave thought to the congregation's range. Of course, organists remain free to use whatever harmonizations match the tune; and the footnotes at the bottom of each page in the Brébeuf Hymnal point towards other possibilities. We encourage and endorse individual choices in addition to what we will soon provide.

Because the Brébeuf Hymnal is unlike any other hymnal, we purposefully released our pew book in advance of the accompaniments to allow customers to acclimate. The indices were placed in the middle of the book, since whatever is used most frequently belongs in the center of the book. That is why the Ordo Missae is unfailingly placed in the center of the Missal and not towards the beginning or end. (It has to do with how difficult it is to access pages which occur at the very end of a thick book.) Today, I can also announce that impactful items are forthcoming. There will be charts to assist choir directors in choosing appropriate hymns. There will be video demonstrations; and we have entered into an agreement with CCWatershed for these. We are even preparing a fascinating compendium on hymn harmonization. Stay tuned!

Sincerely yours, in Christ our Savior,



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