3 July 2021 • A letter from the President of Corpus Christi Watershed:

ORE THAN ONE YEAR has elapsed since I asked you for financial assistance for our 501(c)3 Church music organization. (If you're already a monthly donor, please ignore this appeal.) I admit that I used to **dread** asking people for money—I found it to be an embarrassing experience. But I realized something: I believe so strongly in what we're doing, I'm no longer ashamed to beg for money!

Broken Cable • About 160 years ago, a telegraph cable was laid underneath the Atlantic ocean. That's correct: slightly before the Civil War broke out in 1861, they figured out how to place an iron cable from Newfoundland to Ireland—more than **2,000 miles across the ocean!** But it wasn't a success at first. They had massive problems, such as the heavy weight of the cable being carried by the boats. Their first attempt in 1857 was a failure because the cable broke!

NEVER GIVE UP • Similarly, we have obstacles as Church musicians. And these are not small. But at Corpus Christi Watershed, we will continue forward—as long as we have your support. We feel like we're just getting started.

WHAT WE NEED • Over the last year, we received approximately **1,500,000** page views. But to continue our work, we must obtain 150 new monthly donors. That is, we need to find 150 readers willing to give \$5.00 per month. (Alternately, we could suffice with 75 willing to give \$10.00 per month.)

What We Offer • I sent a letter to all our donors, asking them for permission to post their name on a special "thank you" website. Some told me they prefer to remain anonymous.

Here are some items we offer, in no particular order:

- 1. extremely rare Catholic hymnals we've painstakingly scanned & uploaded (approximately 20,000 pages), which can provide much inspiration;
- 2. various collections of practical musical scores, along with rehearsal videos for each individual voice;

- 3. article formatting that's elegant and dignified, with no advertisements ... ever ever ever;
- 4. carefully-researched articles by leading scholars such as Dr. Alfred Calabrese, Richard J. Clark, Fr. David Friel, Dr. Lucas Tappan, Keven Smith, and *many many* other powerful authors;
- 5. religious artwork, as well as ancient Catholic manuscripts;
- 6. amazing polyphonic scores (Guerrero, Palestrina, etc.) we transcribe from original manuscripts;
- 7. hundreds of free scores for the Ordinary Form, with harmonies;
- 8. staggeringly rare Gregorian chant accompaniments you won't find anywhere else;
- 9. recordings for all the Gregorian chant propers for all the Sundays of the year, alongside "printable" vocal scores and organist scores;
- 10. something which (incredibly) has never been done before: viz. rehearsal videos providing individual SATB parts for Catholic hymns, offered completely free;
- 11. that which we offer—more valuable than anything else, I feel—is *inspiration and encouragement*. Please close your eyes and imagine if Corpus Christi Watershed no longer existed. Is that worth \$5.00 or \$10.00 per month to you?

Please help us meet our goal:

CCWATERSHED.ORG/HELP/

Sincerely, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

Jeffrey M. Ostrowski, President Corpus Christi Watershed

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