



PRESIDENTIAL MEMORANDUM • 19 JUNE 2020

My fellow Catholics,

Corpus Christi Watershed will never be the same. We are taking a huge step forward, and we're so pleased to have you alongside us. You will be hearing a lot more about this over the next few months. As you know, I've been a volunteer since 2013—along with everyone else at Watershed. We have been a fully volunteer organization for seven years. But a few weeks ago the Board of Directors had a meeting. (I am not a member of the Board of Directors.) Due to decisions made during that meeting, we are in the process of transitioning Watershed from being a completely volunteer organization to an organization which can pay to have certain tasks done. This is a huge step for us, and it's basically because we have received reports of web traffic—*and our traffic for the last few years has been astronomical*—really high! <sup>1</sup> We are having an impact on the Catholic Church I never realized.

It's kind of hard for me to believe, but people all over the world **deeply appreciate** what we offer for free, such as: the extremely rare sacred music books we have scanned (approximately 80,000 pages); the various collections of practical musical scores; the carefully-researched articles; the religious artwork; the rehearsal videos; the amazing Guerrero scores we transcribe from original manuscripts; and so much more! It turns out there is nothing quite like Watershed, and good folks from all over the world love using our stuff. We have spent *hundreds of thousands* of man-hours volunteering to make all this possible; but the recent Board decision means we can begin to offer even more!

**So many of you have supported us in very generous ways**; and we can't thank you enough. Now we will offer even more, and we believe you will love it! One of the first things we'll do is list the names of the donors on a special page, so they can get some recognition. Another crucial task will be to (attempt to) convert as many donors as possible to CORNERSTONE, since PAYPAL takes a high percentage. In other words, if we can convince enough people to switch, we'll save tons of money—and “a penny saved is a penny earned.” (Cornerstone is also a less immoral company than PayPal.)

---

<sup>1</sup> Until we had “computer” people such as Mrs. Veronica Brandt and Mr. James Doherty assisting us, I was too stupid to figure out how to interpret the web analytics. I am flabbergasted by the high number of visitors we get!

We have so many new contributors—more are on the way!—and new projects we want to do; I look forward to sharing as much as possible with all of you soon.

\* \* \*

Today is the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Church invites us to focus our attention upon the **LOVE** which Jesus Christ has for each of us. Today is a particularly fitting Feastday for the “new beginning” of Corpus Christi Watershed, because so many of the ancient hymns of the Church speak of this love: e.g. v2 of *Jesu Nostra Redemptio* and v2 of *Creator Alme Siderum*. A very special hymn that speaks of Our Lord’s love is **Cor, Arca Legem Continens**. It would seem part of Divine Providence that I write you today, because (something I forgot) that same hymn is assigned to the Feast of the Sacred Heart! That hymn speaks not only of Christ’s love (*Quis non amantem redamet...*); it also speaks about—and literally uses the very word—*ictus* (“blow, stroke, or stab”) speaking of how Our Savior’s side was pierced (“opened”) with a soldier’s lance, although musicians know the *ictus* from a musical standpoint. Could there be a more appropriate day? After all, Watershed was named in honor of that *ictus*—our name literally means: “Water which was Shed from the Body of Christ.” (*Corpus Christi* means “Body of Christ” in the Church’s official language.)

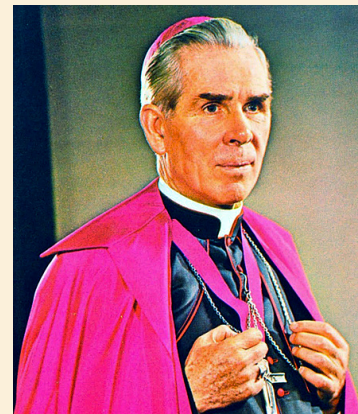
You would probably agree that most of us don’t possess the love for Jesus Christ that we should. Rather than falling into despair, let us remember our “older brothers and sisters in the Faith”—viz. *the saints!* Let us imitate them and their love for Christ. Consider Saint Jean de Brébeuf:

Just as he tried to divert attention from himself in the sacrifices he endured in helping others, so likewise Father Brébeuf concealed as best he could the penances he performed in private for his own sanctification. According to his spiritual director: “To the continual sufferings which are inseparable from the duties which he had in the Missions, on the journeys, in whatever place he was; and to those which charity caused him to embrace, often above his strength, although below his courage, he added many voluntary mortifications: disciplines every day, and often twice each day; very frequent fasts; haircloths and belts with iron points; vigils which advanced far into the night. **And after all these, his heart could not be satiated with sufferings, and he believed that he had never endured aught.**”

Church musicians have a difficult vocation these days; there’s no question about that.

But if we imitate Father Brébeuf, we will embrace any sufferings that come our way. I'm excited about the future of Corpus Christi Watershed, and feel like we're just getting started. I'm so honored and pleased that you are working alongside us and supporting this holy mission...this Church music "apostolate."

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen once said: "Some people are never so happy as when they are revealing a scandal." Sheen was very wise, and he knew that *gossip sells; slander sells; scandal sells; irresponsible speculation sells; arguments sell; insults sell*. We at Corpus Christi Watershed have made it our mission to be "**Double P**"—that means **Perennial** and **Positive**. Most of our articles are just as valuable now as they were five years ago because they contain (perennial) rare books, or (perennial) rehearsal videos, or (perennial) musical scores, or (perennial) rehearsal tips, and so on. We could easily get 100x more "clicks" if we focused on gossip and scandal—but gossip is not perennial, and scandal is not positive.



From my heart—on behalf of the entire team—I thank you for joining us on this journey! Authentic sacred music *will* be heard again. Reverent liturgy *will* return to our churches. Our children *will* learn the perennial songs of the Catholic Faith. We *will* join the holy saints, such as Saint Noël Chabanel, in praising God in a dignified way.

Sincerely, in our Lord Jesus Christ,

*Jeff Ostrowski*

Jeffrey M. Ostrowski, *President*

CORPUS CHRISTI WATERSHED

*Email: jeff@ccwatershed.org*