

The Hymns of
Fr. Theodore A. Metcalf

Hymn for the League of the Sacred Heart 1

May Hymn 3

Hymn to the Sacred Heart 5

Ave Maris Stella 6

Hymn of Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart 8

O Core Jesu 10

Compiled from the
"Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart"
magazines from 1888 - 1894
by
Don Howe
2-14-2020

Preface

In my own observations of pre-Vatican II Catholic hymnals, many do not list the composers and authors of hymns. There are exceptions such as the 1864 *“Crown of Jesus Music”*, the 1905 *“Arundel Hymnal”*, the 1933 *“Catholic Church Hymnal”*, and a few others that give the names of the musicians and hymn writers. The hymns of Fr. Theodore. A. Metcalf are no exception and I'm sure there are many Catholic church musicians who have never heard of him or of his contributions to Catholic music.

I used to sing two of these hymns with St. Mary's Choir of Akron, Ohio. However, I have not heard them in church for more than twenty years. Both of these hymns have appeared in Catholic hymnals over the years. One in particular is often accredited to Fr. Metcalf, *“Hymn to the Sacred Heart (O Sacred Heart! O Love Divine!)”*.

O Sacred Heart! O Love Divine! was a very popular hymn at St. Mary's, especially during the month of June. We would sing this hymn sometimes before Mass, at Offertory or during Communion. Historically, this hymn was a favorite of the Sacred Heart League, often sung during benediction services and pilgrimages to shrines which were attended by thousands. It was also one of about 100 hymns selected by WWII Chaplains that resulted in *“spontaneous congregational”* singing during chapel services by the service men and women.

The other hymn, *“Hymn of Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart (Heart of Jesus, we are grateful, For Thy answer to our prayers)”*, does not

give any attribution to the author or composer. The hymn appears in the 1890 edition of the *"Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart"*, an American magazine published monthly by the League of the Sacred Heart. The hymn was written in 1889, in thanksgiving for extraordinary favors obtained from the Sacred Heart. The composer is listed as Zanardini and I believe this to be Angelo Zanardini (1820-1893) but this is just a guess. This hymn appears only in American hymnals including the *"St. Basil's, St. Joseph's, Hymns Used by the Pupils of the Sisters of Notre Dame, and The Catholic Chapel Hymnal"*, dating from around 1897 to 1958. This is a beautiful hymn that gives thanks to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Recently, I discovered new information that gives us a glimpse into the life and times Fr. Metcalf. The following is a brief chronology and a list of hymns that can be correctly attributed to him.

Fr. Theodore A. Metcalf is a convert to Catholicism. He was baptized in the chapel of Holy Cross College, Worcester, Mass., when he was boy by Bishop Fitzpatrick on Oct. 2, 1851. He became a priest in May of 1868 and was assigned to the new Cathedral Chapel of the Holy Cross¹. As a seminarian completing his studies in Rome and as the Vice-president of the American College², he had the honor of attending the first Vatican Council acting in the role as a transcriber³. He returned to the Boston Diocese and was appointed pastor of St. Mary's Church, Charlestown in 1874, succeeding Fr. William Byrne⁴. He was for a time Chancellor of the cathedral and conducted some of the most important ceremonies the church had witnessed such as the dedication, the conferring of the pallium on the Right Rev. John J. Williams, and the solemn requiem for Pope Pius IX⁵.

In 1881, Fr. Metcalf was appointed as the third pastor to Our Lady Star of the Sea in Marblehead, Mass., While he was there the Young Men's Catholic Temperance Society

¹ Vol. 59, "Sacred Heart Review", March 9, 1918, Number 10, pg. 2

² "Sadliers' Catholic Directory, Almanac and Ordo", publ. 1872 New York, pg. 130

³ Gateway of Heaven Parish History, www.gateofheavenstrigid.org/66, pg. 4

⁴ Vol. 3, "The Memorial History of Boston", ed. by Justin Winsor, 1882, pg. 609

⁵ Vol. 3, "The Memorial History of Boston", ed. by Justin Winsor, 1882, pg. 609 footnote

was formed.⁶ In 1886 he was appointed pastor to the Gate of Heaven Church in South Boston where he served for four years. During his pastorate at Gate of Heaven Church, he led a successful protest against a text book used in the public schools containing misstatements regarding the Catholic Church.⁷ He also organized a branch of the Sacred Heart League which was the first and largest in diocese of Boston.⁸ In addition to organizing the Sacred Heart League, Fr. Metcalf authored, arranged and composed at least six hymns:

Hymn for the League of the Sacred Heart (Form your ranks, oh! all ye Leaguers of the Heart Divine)

May Hymn (Welcome dearest, Mother, this beautiful Mayday)

Hymn to the Sacred Heart (O Sacred Heart! O Love Divine!)

Ave Maris Stella (Hail, thou star of ocean! Portal of the sky!)

Hymn of Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart (Heart of Jesus, we are grateful, For Thy answer to our prayers)

O Cor Jesu (Cordis Jesu dulcis, Amor sacratissime!)

All of these hymns can be found in the monthly editions of the "*Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart*", magazines (publ. 1888-1894). In 1890, he retired from the Gate of Heaven Church because of poor health. During his lifetime Fr. Metcalf gained a reputation as an effective

⁶ Vol. 1, "History of the Catholic Church", by Rev. Wm. Byrne, D.D., publ. 1899 Boston, pg. 305

⁷ Vol. 1, "History of the Catholic Church", by Rev. Wm. Byrne, D.D., publ. 1899 Boston, pg. 96-97

⁸ Vol. 4, "Little Messenger of the Sacred Heart", publ. 1888, pg. 141

preacher drawing many from all parts of the city to listen to his sermons. Fr. Metcalf died in the 1920's.

Hymn for the League of the Sacred Heart.

Music from ZANARDINI.

Arranged by Rev. T. A. METCALF.

p

1. Form your ranks, oh! all ye Leaguers of the Heart di vine; Fight your
2. Chris tian men and Christian maidens and ye faith- ful all, Come and

p

battles with the mighty arms of pray'r; And your conquering hosts shall gather round the
worship the sweet Heart of Christ our King; See how Jesus has repaired the guilt of

ho - ly shrine, Crowned as vic - tors by the King, Whose love we
Adam's fall, And the glo - ry of such love, we'll grate - ful

share. } Heart of Je - sus, with love for us burning, Make us
sing. }

Copyright, 1888, by Rev. R. S. DEWEY, S. J.

The League.

love Thee more and more with ev - er - y day. Heart of

The first system of musical notation for 'The League'. It consists of a vocal line on a single staff and a piano accompaniment on two staves. The vocal line begins with the lyrics 'love Thee more and more with ev - er - y day. Heart of'. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Je - sus, with love for us burning, Make us

The second system of musical notation. The vocal line continues with 'Je - sus, with love for us burning, Make us'. The piano accompaniment continues with a similar rhythmic pattern, including some sustained chords.

love Thee more and more with ev - er - y day.

The third system of musical notation, concluding the piece. The vocal line ends with 'love Thee more and more with ev - er - y day.'. The piano accompaniment concludes with a final chord.

3.

Lo! Thy Heart, O dear Redeemer, is a furnace fierce,
Ever burning with the fire of love divine!
Grant that ever through our hearts this heavenly fire may pierce
And transform them into loving hearts like Thine.—CHO.

4.

How ungrateful we have been in all the years gone by,
For Thy mercies and Thy graces freely given!
Heart of Jesus Which so often we have caused to sigh,
Add repentance as our final gage of heaven.—CHO.

May Hymn.

Music by PINSUTI.

Words and Adaptation by
Rev. T. A. METCALF.

1. We come, dear-est
2. Our hearts, dear-est
3. Ah, when, dear-est

Mother, this beau-ti-ful May-day To sing at thy al-tar our
Mother, are fill'd with de-vo-tion; Thy beau-ti-ful im-age ex-
Mother, thy sweet month is end-ing, And days we have lov'd so, are

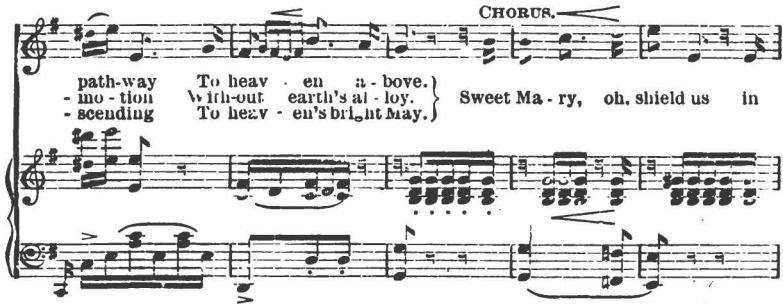
hymns full of love: Dear Mother, oh, hear us, and show us the
- cles all our joy: Oh, make us, dear Moth-er, to feel love's e-
fad-ing a-way, Oh, take us, dear La-dy, with an-gels as-

Copyright, 1888, by Rev. R. S. DEWEY, S. J.

May Hymn.

CHORUS.

path-way To heav - en a - bove.
- mo - tion With-out earth's al - loy.
- scending To heav - en's bright May.) Sweet Ma - ry, oh, shield us in



moments of dan-ger, Oh, give us thy blessing, sweet Moth-er of



love; Com-mend us to Je - sus, thy Babe of the



manger, And bring us in safe - ty to heav-en a - bove.

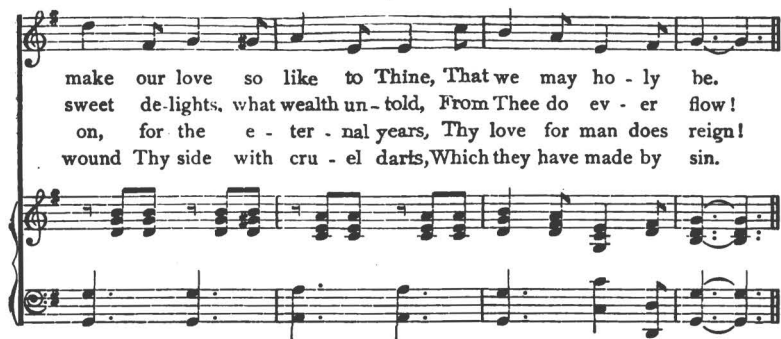


Hymn to the Sacred Heart.

Words and Music by Rev. THEODORE A. METCALF.



1. O Sa - cred heart! O Love Divine! Do keep us near to Thee; And
2. O Tem - ple pure! O House of gold! Our heav en here be - low! What
3. O wound - ed Heart! O Font of tears! O Throne of grief and pain! Where -
4. Un - grate - ful hearts, For - get - ful hearts, The hearts of men have been, To



make our love so like to Thine, That we may ho - ly be.
sweet de - lights, what wealth un - told, From Thee do ev - er flow!
on, for the e - ter - nal years, Thy love for man does reign!
wound Thy side with cru - el darts, Which they have made by sin.



Heart of Je - sus hear; Listen to our prayer;
O Heart of Love Divine! Make us always Thine.

Copyright, 1888, by Rev. R. S. DEWEY, S. J.

Ave Maria Stella.

Music from ZANARDINI.

Arr. by REV. T. A. METCALF.

Hail, thou star of ocean! Portal of the sky! Ever Virgin Mother of the Lord

p

This system contains the first line of music. It features a vocal line in G major, 3/4 time, and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Hail, thou star of ocean! Portal of the sky! Ever Virgin Mother of the Lord". A piano dynamic marking (*p*) is placed below the piano part.

most high! Oh, by Gabriel's Ave, Ut-ter'd long a - go, E -

This system contains the second line of music. The lyrics are: "most high! Oh, by Gabriel's Ave, Ut-ter'd long a - go, E -".

va's name rever-sing, 'Stablish peace be - low! Break the captive's fetters; Light

pp

This system contains the third line of music. The lyrics are: "va's name rever-sing, 'Stablish peace be - low! Break the captive's fetters; Light". A piano dynamic marking (*pp*) is placed above the vocal line.

on blind-ness pour, All our ills expell-ing, Ev - 'ry bliss im-plore.

This system contains the fourth and final line of music. The lyrics are: "on blind-ness pour, All our ills expell-ing, Ev - 'ry bliss im-plore."

Copyright, 1888, by Rev. R. S. DEWEY, S. J.

Ave Maris Stella.

First system of the musical score. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and contains the lyrics: "Show thyself a Moth-er; Of-fer Him our sighs, Who for us in - carnate, Did". The piano accompaniment consists of two staves, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a bass line.

Second system of the musical score. The vocal line starts with a dynamic marking of *pp* and contains the lyrics: "not thee despise. Vir - gin of all vir - gins! To thy shelter take us;". The piano accompaniment continues with a dynamic marking of *sf* in the right hand and *f* in the left hand.

Third system of the musical score. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Gentlest of the gentle! Chaste and gentle make us. Thro' the highest heaven, To". The piano accompaniment continues with a dynamic marking of *f* in the right hand and *f* in the left hand.

Fourth system of the musical score. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "the Al - mighty Three, Fa ther, Son, and Spir - it, One same glory be." The piano accompaniment concludes with a dynamic marking of *p* in the right hand and *f* in the left hand.

The League.

Dedicated to Paray-le-Monial.

Hymn of Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart. *

Words and adaptation by Rev. T. A. METCALF.

Music by ZANARDINI.

Moderato.

i. Heart of Je - sus, we are grateful, For Thy

answer to our prayer; We have sought Thee ev - er hopeful, That Thy

blessings we might share. Thou hast heard us in - ter - ced - ing, With Thy

love which is un - told; And in an - swer to our pleading, Lo! Thy

* Written in thanksgiving for extraordinary favors obtained from the Sacred Heart.

October, 1889.

The League.

p CHORUS. *cres.*

treas - ures do un - fold. Heart of Je - sus we do thank Thee, We do

Ped.

dim.

love Thee more and more: Heart of Je - sus, we do

D.C.

praise Thee, And we thank Thee o'er and o'er. . .

cres. *Ped.* *D.C.* *

2 Heart of Jesus Thou hast taught us
 How to seek and how to find;
 And that lesson now has brought us,
 To Thy Heart so sweet and kind.
 What we ask with faith believing,
 Thou hast pledged Thy word to give,
 And Thy word is not deceiving,
 But the truth by which we live.—CHORUS.

3 Heart of Jesus, whilst we waited,
 For the favors now obtained,
 Not a moment have we doubted,
 That by prayer they would be gained.
 Thou hast told us that our treasure
 We must seek in Thy dear Heart;
 And we know that without measure,
 Thou dost all Thy gifts impart.—CHORUS.

O Cor Jesu. *

(As Sung in Boston College.)

Music arr. by Rev. T. A. METCALF.

Words by Rev. J. A. BUCKLEY, S. J.

p

1. Cor - dis Je - su dul - cis, A - mor sac - ra - tis - sime! Fac sint
2. Pro - cul a - mor mun di Sor - des at - que vi - tia; Im - ple

cor - da nos - tra Tu - a ho - di - e: Linguæ canent nostræ Do - na Tu - a,
men - tes nos - tras Tu - a gra - ti - a: Sint la - bo - res nostri Cur - æ at - que

Do - mi - ne! Sem - per fi - xa man - ent Nos - tro pec - to -
stu - di - a, To - ta Cor - di Tu - o Us - que praes - ti -

Copyright of Words, 1892, by Rev. F. X. BRADY, S. J.

* This is the Latin version of Father Metcalf's popular Hymn, "Form your ranks."

CHORUS.

re. }
ta. } O Cor Je - su! Cor mi - hi a - ma - bile! Fac ut

cres - cat a - mor om - ni di - - e. O Cor

Je - - su! Cor mi - hi a - ma - bi - le! Fac ut

cres - cat a - mor om - ni di - - e. . . .