

Tridentine Community News

October 25, 2020 – Christ the King

Gregorian Chant Pioneer Ted Marier

This column has many times made mention of the remarkable music program offered at St. Paul Parish in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Music in that acoustically marvelous church is supplied by the St. Paul Choir School, formerly known as the Boston Archdiocesan Choir School, America's only full-time Catholic boys' choir school. The school began in the early 1960s as an outgrowth of the choral training program at the parish initiated by its longtime music director, Dr. Theodore Marier.



This writer knew Ted Marier from his time at Harvard, 1979-82. Ted was an engaging, preternaturally upbeat individual, whose signature greeting was, "A cheery good morning to you!", an expression that was surprisingly sincere.

Ted was one of the era's lone, yet most effective, promoters of Gregorian Chant and sacred polyphony. He himself had been a student of the late Cambridge, England chant scholar Dr. Mary Berry. In the turbulent years after Vatican II, Ted was one of the sole voices promoting traditional sacred music, and doing so enthusiastically and energetically.

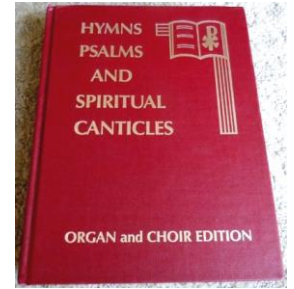


The Sunday 11:00 AM Choir School Mass at St. Paul's was standing room only, a Novus Ordo Mass supported

by Latin and English Chant, two pipe organs, and the most ebullient organ playing and congregational singing this author has ever experienced. Their singing of *The Lorica of St. Patrick* and *Lift High the Cross* knew no equal. Mass settings alternated between Chant Masses and polyphonic ones. As a student, this writer would run off to Boston record stores to purchase LPs of Charpentier, Couperin, and Vienne sacred music after hearing them at St. Paul's. More often than not, the recordings were disappointing compared to the Choir School's skill. They now sing the occasional Extraordinary Form Mass as well, as was featured in Episode 2 of *Extraordinary Faith*. A visitor to Boston will find it well worth the time to experience this yourself at their Sunday 11:00 AM Mass or Monday-Friday 12:10 PM Mass.

Having served as one of the editors of the *Pius X Hymnal* (no relation to the SSPX) in the 1950s, Ted went on to self-publish, at

his own expense, *Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Canticles*, the Choir School's own hymnal, in 1972. A second, larger edition came out in 1983. In addition to an impressive collection of hymns, that hymnal became known for two things: An English chant setting of the Novus Ordo Mass, and English chant settings of the Responsorial Psalms. The organ accompaniment to the people's chant responses that metro Detroit choir director Wassim Sarweh uses was inspired by the accompaniment he heard at St. Paul's.



The Sign of the Cross 1

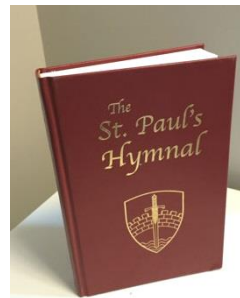
At the conclusion of the Entrance Song, all remain standing and make the sign of the cross as the Celebrant sings the following:

Cel. In the name of the Fa-ther, and of the Son, and of the Ho-ly Spir-it.

All A - men.

A handful of musically sophisticated parishes across North America purchased the hymnal, but upon Ted's passing it went

out of print. Of significant interest, Ted's immediate successor Music Director of the Choir School, John Dunn, recently announced he will be publishing a Marier Psalter, using an updated English translation of the texts, as Marier's psalm settings are unique and deserve to live on.



Under a subsequent music director, John Robinson, St. Paul Choir School published a replacement hymnal, the *St. Paul's Hymnal*, which this writer has not yet seen. Others have noted this book sadly includes little of Marier's work.

After retirement from St. Paul's, Ted went on to make recordings with the nuns of the Abbey of Regina Laudis in Bethlehem, Connecticut. A video of a chant lesson he taught there is available here:

<https://abbeyofreginalaudis.org/video&chant.php?mediaID=2&autoplay=1>

An article was published recently at Corpus Christi Watershed about the legacy of Ted Marier. He trained scores of today's music directors. Without his hard work and dedication to excellence, chant might not be enjoying the extensive resurgence it is today. Read more at:

<https://www.ccwatershed.org/2020/09/08/installment-7-catholic-hymnals-richard-j-clark/>

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 10/27 7:00 PM: Low Requiem Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

Sat. 10/31 8:00 AM: Low Mass at *Miles Christi* (Saturday of Our Lady)

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org.