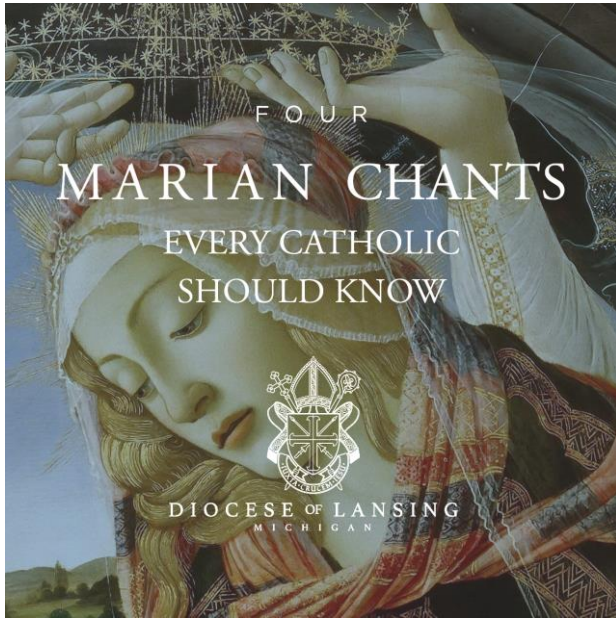


Tridentine Community News

April 21, 2024 – Third Sunday After Easter

Four Marian Chants Every Catholic Should Know *Part 1 of 2*

Will Bloomfield, son of metro Detroit Latin Mass stalwarts Debbie and Deacon Richard Bloomfield, penned the following article, originally posted on the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan's Facebook page. It is reprinted with Will's permission.



Every night, before bed, Catholics should sing the seasonal Marian antiphon, writes Will Bloomfield, General Counsel of the Diocese of Lansing, who is also a husband, father of six, and a devotee of Gregorian Chant, having led several chant scholas over the years.

So, what are the Seasonal Marian Antiphons?

Will continues: The seasonal Marian antiphons are four beautiful and ancient prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary. They are sung nightly following Compline. Compline is Night Prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours. It's obligatory for priests – and recommended for the rest of us.

The Marian antiphons are “seasonal” because they shift according to the liturgical seasons of the year. From Advent through Candlemas (February 2), Alma Redemptoris Mater is sung. From the day after Candlemas (February 3) through the end of Lent, Ave Regina Coelorum. From Easter through Pentecost, Regina Coeli. After Pentecost (Ordinary Time), Salve Regina.

I expect that many Catholics remain familiar with the text of at least two of these antiphons: the Salve Regina is the “Hail Holy Queen” that we recite at the end of the Rosary; and the Regina Coeli replaces the Angelus during the Easter Season. Sadly, the Gregorian chants for even these familiar texts are seldom known; and outside of Extraordinary Form parishes, it's unusual to ever hear these chants.

For each of the four Marian antiphons there is a simple tone Gregorian melody that accompanies the Latin text. (Each antiphon also has a more complex Gregorian melody called the solemn tone. Religious orders may also have their own chant melodies.) It is these simple tone Marian antiphons that I propose every Catholic should know and sing nightly. ... YouTube videos for all four simple tone chants are below [Ed: Links in next week's column].

Why We Should Sing the Seasonal Marian Antiphons:

We should sing them, of course, because they are beautiful prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

I am promoting these antiphons now as one small step toward the restoration of Catholic culture. Catholics need distinctive and shared practices to bind us together as Catholics. Prayers in Latin achieve this in a particular way because they allow Catholics from around the world to pray together; they also unite us with Catholics from ages past. Chanting prayers in Latin goes farther by uniting Catholics in both word and song, thereby giving us a shared musical heritage and a foundation for our culture. Therefore (although it has been ignored in many places), it is unsurprising that Vatican II's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy described Gregorian chant as a “treasure of inestimable value” that is to be given the “first place” in our liturgies.

The four seasonal Marian antiphons are ideal Gregorian chants for all Catholics to learn. The melodies are simple; the texts are short; they don't take long to sing; they can be learned one at a time as each new liturgical season commences; and both children and adults can easily learn to sing them by heart, i.e., without hymnals, music, or accompaniment. And let me stress the importance of learning these chants by heart. The chants should reside within you, where they will become part of you—and not just part of you personally, but also part of your family members, friends, and fellow parishioners. Not only does this give you something in common with all of these people, which is itself beneficial, it also allows for the singing of these chants at any time or place: in our homes, churches, and schools; in processions through our parish neighborhoods; and even abroad as we travel.

And singing the Marian antiphons is something concrete that we can begin immediately in our own homes. It requires no gradual or elaborate implementation. You can start tonight. Once you and your family have mastered these chants, you can begin sharing them with others.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Tue. 04/23 7:00 PM: High Requiem Mass at *Holy Name of Mary, Windsor* (Daily Mass for the Dead)

Sun. 04/28 9:00 AM: High Mass at *OCLMA/Orchard Lake Shrine Chapel* (Fourth Sunday After Easter) – First Mass of Fr. Paul Ward as new OCLMA Chaplain