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The Catholic Journal.

VOL. I, NO. 9.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1889.

PRICE, 5 CENTS.

CHURCH-MUSIC.

Paper Read before the Catholic Congress
by Prof. Herman Allee, of Chicago.

What is church music? Is it the music we hear everywhere around us, and called "church music" merely when it is sung in churches, or is it a style of music peculiarly designed and adapted for the church, the house of God? A visitor to one of our Catholic churches, who had not given any thought to the subject, might answer "the former," for he would hear there precisely or almost precisely the style of music he may have heard the evening before in the concert hall, the theatre, or the opera house. But is this church music? Was it this music which Jesus and His disciples sang, as St. Mark tells us, before they went forth to the Mount of Olives? Surely not. It would be blasphemy for us to say so, and we cannot even entertain the idea of it for a moment.

What then is church music? Are there rules which prescribe what music shall be sung in the church; and are there marks by which we shall know it? There are both rules to teach and marks to guide us. At first any rule must have been unnecessary, so long as the memory or tradition of that heavenly hymn was preserved among Christians; but, as the peoples became lukewarm, and more of "the earthly earthly" so music degenerated more and more. But these beginnings of abuse in her music did not escape the watchful eye of our mother—the Church. She preserved, and will ever preserve, the divine traditions handed down by the successors of Jesus and His disciples; namely, her Popes and Bishops, and she began early to reform, "Lavare quod est sordidum regere quod est devium," and to prescribe rules for the guidance of her children. And she has never wanted in children who were ready to follow and teach her rules. Witness the labors of St. Athanasius and of St. Ambrose in the fourth century, of St. Gregory in the sixth, and of those illustrious reformers of the sixteenth, who gave us the heavenly music of Palestrina and his school, as a complement to that inspired music, the only music which the Church claims as her own, the Gregorian. And now we are in the midst of perhaps the most important, widespread reform of all: That great movement inaugurated twenty years ago by the Cecilia Verein, in Germany, and afterward by the Cecilia Society, in America. The following beautiful thoughts on our subject are from the pen of the zealous and gifted president of the American Cecilia Verein, Cavalier John Simmonberger:

"Church music is a prayer—the prayer of the church in the solemn form of song; the liturgical prayer, not the prayer of sentiment or of any individual member of the church. As the liturgy is dictated by the Holy Ghost, so is the prayer and the melody of the prayer in the liturgy. And this prayer we must take and sing in the spirit and with the sentiments of the church. The church must be our teacher in this regard, as in everything else. She, therefore, gives no rules, which we are bound to obey as well as any other of her rules. The Protestant cannot, like the Protestant, interpret these rules in his own way. If we do not follow the church, we are not good children of the church. No one is exempt from obedience. But in fact, these rules are so natural, so apparent and so necessary, that a true Catholic would hardly fail to know them even

if they had never been formally declared. If there were more true faith in our times, there would be more obedience to the church and a better church music; and, therefore, to reform and cultivate church music is to make Catholics more faithful and more obedient to the church, to enable them better to understand and live up to the spirit of the church and of the ecclesiastical year, and, as Bishop Marty has said, "to make the divine service more useful to them to work out the salvation of their souls." On the other hand, to indulge in music which is not church music, and to tolerate abuses because some are accustomed to them, and like them, is to work against the will of the church, and, therefore, against the salvation of our souls. McMaster has said that "much so-called church music is indeed devil's music."

True church music is, therefore, the music which the church approves of, recommends, or permits. No other music, however beautiful or faultlessly composed, can claim the title of church music.

Now the church approves most emphatically of Gregorian music; she recommends Polyphonic music *Alla Palestina*, and permits modern music in so far as it obeys her regulations, laid down at different times.

Among these regulations are the following important ones: (a) The words of the text must come in the order which is given in the missal, or graduate. (b) In a musical phrase, the sacred text must not be shortened, or transposed, or lengthened by too frequent repetitions. (c) No word is to be added to or left out of the text. (d) Arias, duets, trios, etc., are forbidden, as also recitative. (e) It is forbidden, where it is possible to avoid it, to sing different words at the same time, at Mass or at any other service; for the words must be distinctly heard. (f) It is forbidden to introduce into a church composition any gay or lascivious music, music of the concert hall, the theatre or the opera house. (g) No instruments but the organ are allowed, unless by the consent of the Bishop.

It remains for us to decide which style of music obeys these regulations and which does not, and then we shall know what is the true church music. No one can deny that the Gregorian chant obeys them in every particular; and again and again has the church claimed this as her own and favorite music.

After quoting many eminent opinions on Gregorian music, Prof. Allee discussed the beauty of the music of Palestrina. After making a vivid comparison between masses sung to operatic and Gregorian music, the paper closes as follows:

"Very few, however, really think that this mathematical music is appropriate, and, if conceded, they would confess that the music prescribed by the church was the true music. But some like the operatic style, however they are not spiritual, and do not like spiritual things; others, who might have influence, are afraid to use it, and finally, much of the indifference to church music is due to the deplorable neglect of it in Catholic schools and seminaries. Our children and students should hear it, and sing it every day, and our Sunday school children should be taught to sing it at school after Sunday Mass."

Meanwhile it is a curious and moving fact, that while there is at present scarcely one large Catholic church in the West in which the church music is liturgical, or makes any pretense of being so, there are twenty-two choirs, composed of boys and girls in Episcopalian churches

in the dioceses of Chicago, alone, and these, while they have no Palestrina, no Orlando Lasso, no Franz Witt—priceless treasures which we have, and do not value—do have an immense catalogue of serious and devout music, and this they study carefully, singing it in their services, and in converts, in which latter sometimes many choirs unite. The congregations are proud of them, and keep their ranks filled from their families.

Let those pious souls, who say so many prayers and offer so many Masses for their own spiritual and temporal necessities and those of dear friends, pray also for these intentions of the church, not forgetting that incalculable influence for good will come with liturgical and edifying music in the churches; that faith, hope and charity will grow firmer and warmer.

Instances of English Liturgy.

AROUND THE GLOBE.

What the Church is Doing in this and Other Countries.

Rev. Francis Carrucci, an apostate priest, has publicly recanted at Port Italy.

There will be a Mexican pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe on the 12th prox.

Rev. S. Verlin, S. J., of St. Louis University, is dead at the age of 67 years.

St. Paul's new church, at Toronto, Ontario, will be dedicated on December 8th, by Rt. Rev. Bishop O'Malley.

Dr. Egan, of University College, Dublin, has been appointed Bishop of the united diocese of Waterford and Lismore.

The students of Manhattanville, N. Y., celebrated in their hall there the opening of the American Catholic University Nov. 19th, at 4 p. m.

Rev. John H. Green, of St. Xavier's (colored) Church, Baltimore, Md., is the editor and publisher of *St. Joseph's Advocate*.

Rev. Anthony Poerker, pastor of St. Joseph's church, at Racine, Wis., is dead. He was ordained by Archbishop Henni, June 29, 1863.

Rt. Rev. Bishop Mac recently dedicated the new church of St. Anthony for English speaking Catholics, at Bellevue, Ky.

It is rumored that Mrs. Leeland Stanford will shortly erect a monument at San Jose to Father Junipero Serra, the discoverer of California.

Rev. Father Henry, for 26 years pastor of Kilkenny, Limerick county, Ireland, is dead. He was 61 years old.

Cardinal Furstenberg, Prince-Archbishop of Olomut, has just come back to Vienna keeping the national sacristy of St. Cyril and Methodius with its dependencies at Velebit.

Rev. W. H. Reed, of Pittsburgh, is one of the new Catholic colored priests in the United States. Three years ago he was sent to the Propaganda by Bishop Pfleim to continue his ecclesiastical studies. He was ordained recently and will return to Pittsburgh.

A successor to Monsignor Von Steichholz, in the Archdiocese of Munich-Freising, has been appointed in the person of Monsignor Thomas Bishop of Passau. He was born in 1829, and ordained at Freising in 1853.

Cardinal Haynald, Archibishop of Kalocsa, Hungary, on the celebration of his golden jubilee in the priesthood, gave five million florins for charitable purposes. His Eminence is known, far and wide, as a great benefactor to the poor.

The Ursuline Nuns of East Morrisania, N. Y., are going to build a new convent. It will be a handsome structure of brick and stone, with a frontage of 250 feet and a depth of 168 feet, and will cost a quarter of a million.

Last week Most Rev. Archbishop Gross of Oregon, conferred the sacred order of deaconate upon four Redemptorist students in the college chapel at Rochester, Md. They were: Rev. James Faenot, Quebec, Canada; John Meier, Switzerland; Francis Marion, Montclair, N. J.; Conrad Kraus, Baltimore, Md.

Very Rev. Denis O'Conor, D. D., president of Assumption College, Sandwich, Ill., has been appointed administrator of the diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana. The diocese was recently created by the late Pope Leo XIII.

DIOCESAN NEWS.

What is Going on in the Parishes outside Rochester.

Mr. John Costello and Miss Anna Schirmer were married at St. Patrick's church, Mr. Morris, last Friday morning, by the Rev. Charles Flaherty.

John Burns, of Rochester, and Anna Cook of Garfield, were married last Friday morning by the Rev. A. M. O'Neill, of Scottsville.

John Gleason and Miss Kate Brown were married last week at St. Francis de Sales church, Geneva, by Very Rev. Monsignor McManus, V. G.

On Tuesday morning, Joseph J. Derweth, of Coldwater, and Miss Anna Witzell, of Churchville, were married at the latter place by Rev. Dr. Curran.

Edward Necham and Miss Maude Murphy, both of Pithole, were married in St. Francis' church, Webster, afternoon at 4 o'clock, by Rev. J. P. Nolligan.

The net receipt of St. Mary's church fair at Genesee last week will be about \$1,150, which will leave an indebtedness of about \$1,000 on the new church. The dedicatory service will take place tomorrow at 11 a. m. Bishop MacLachlan officiating.

Masses for the deceased, now numbered in the Sunday bulletins, have been said there two weeks. From the day these were said, the new church, a simple stone structure, will take place, and the choir will be improved by adding four new voices.

On Wednesday evening St. Francis' Dramatic Society, of Pittsburg, will render "Little Brown Jug." The cast includes T. S. McElroy, John J. Anill, John S. Hardin, M. T. O'Brien, J. T. Fitzgerald, Rev. Michael J. O'Callahan, Rev. Michael J. O'Farrell.

On Wednesday evening, Nov. 27, the funeral of the late Miss Elizabeth Edelmann occurred from St. Paul's church, one hour, and was conducted by Rev. Dr. O'Farrell. Miss Edelmann, mother of the deceased, is very ill, and, as the writer, it is feared, she cannot reach the funeral.

The funeral of Miss Julia Ladd occurred from St. Paul's church, one hour, and was conducted by Rev. Dr. O'Farrell.

Mrs. Daniel McNamara was seated an elegant chair on Wednesday evening on a Thanksgiving table, Mrs. Jeremiah O'Connor, during the meeting of the Knights of Labor, in Atlanta, Ga.

Edward Doyle and Miss Sullivan were united in marriage at St. Mary's church during the course of the past week.

Thanksgiving was appropriately observed in Oswego. At All Saints' church Mass was celebrated in the morning.

Father Mathewiness, assistant pastor of St. Paul's church, celebrated Mass at St. John's church last Saturday, Father Buckley being absent in Ogdensburg to assist in the dedication of the new church there.

The Catholic fair was concluded Tuesday evening after a session of one week and one day. The grand watch was awarded to Peter McDonald. The counts totalled \$1,000.

Miss Mary Sullivan, daughter of Patrick Sullivan, died Nov. 21st. She was about 15 years of age, and was buried in the Catholic cemetery at St. Paul's church, Oswego.

The receipts of the fair were \$1,000, and the expenses \$900.