

VI. USA

Liturgical and Musical Renewal in the Province of St. Joseph

Since the close of the Second Vatican Council, the Province of St. Joseph has experienced several overlapping stages of liturgical and musical renewal: 1) the adoption of the English language and reformed liturgical books for the Divine Office and Mass; 2) the incorporation of aspects of pre-existing English liturgical resources, especially those from the Anglican tradition; 3) the reincorporation and adaptation of elements of the Dominican chant tradition within the context of a primarily vernacular liturgy; and 4) the reincorporation of the pre-conciliar Dominican rite into the pastoral and devotional life of the Province.

In the first decades after Vatican II, Dominican communities throughout the Province gradually adopted the vernacular language in the liturgy, making use of the 1967 Irish Dominican breviary and later of the English translations of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. In the process of adopting the English language, many communities drew on hymns and modes of singing psalmody found in other traditions, for instance by adopting Anglican psalm tones for the singing of the *Benedictus* and *Magnificat* canticles. In contrast to the widespread pre-conciliar practice of singing most hours of the Divine Office *recto tono*, a repertoire of simple two-line psalm tones was gradually developed that were used for the recitation of the psalms.

Over time, certain chants of the Dominican tradition, especially Compline chants such as the *Salve* and *O Lumen*, were gradually reincorporated into the liturgy. Certain chants of the Dominican tradition were adapted into English versions; of particular note were widely used adaptations of the Dominican chant tones for the Passion according to St. John, the Lamentations, the Prayer of Jeremiah, and the *Te Deum*. These projects were developed especially at the formation communities of Dover, MA and Washington, DC, and aspects of those renewals gradually spread throughout the Province.

In the early 2000s, new projects were undertaken to reincorporate further aspects of the Dominican chant tradition into the daily liturgy of the friars of the Province. On a local level, friars in Cincinnati, OH, produced various books to provide resources for this task, including a 2003 *Compline* book, the 2007 *St. Gertrude Choirbook* (providing a variety of hymns and liturgical texts for the Mass and Office), and the 2009 *Hymnarium*, providing hymns from the Dominican chant tradition in Latin and English versions. In Washington, DC, local adaptations of these projects continued to flourish, including several editions of the chants for *Compline*. In 2013, the Liturgical Commission of the Province of St. Joseph published a province-wide edition of the *Hymnarium*.

Following the promulgation of Pope Benedict XVI's *Summorum pontificum* in 2007, interest in utilizing the pre-conciliar Dominican rite began to develop, both as a mode of responding to the pastoral needs of individuals attached to the *usus antiquior* and as a mode of deepening awareness of the liturgical patrimony of the Order. In 2010, the Liturgical Commission of the Province of St. Joseph produced a training guide for the Dominican rite. In 2014, the Provincial Chapter of the Province of St. Joseph ordained (§33) that friars who desired should be offered training in the Dominican Rite. At the present time, Dominican rite Masses are offered on an occasional (not regularly scheduled) basis at various priories and parishes within the Province, while the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite remains the dominant form of the conventual and parochial liturgy offered by members of the province.

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« O Lumen » from the Correctorium Humberti, 1254¹

Liturgy between Tradition and Actuality

¹ CD-Rom: Ecclesiasticum Officium secundum Ordinem Fratrum Praedicatorum in hoc volumine per quatuordecim libros distinctum hoc ordine continetur: Ordinarium. Martyrologium. Collectarium. Processionarium. Psalterium. Breviarium. Lectionarium. Antiphonarium. Graduale. Pulpitarium. Missale Conventuale. Epistolarium. Evangelistarium. Missale minorum altarium. 1254, 297r.

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