

St. Anthony of Padua R.C. Church

160 Court Street, Buffalo, New York

TRADITIONALLY SPEAKING by S. Casarotto 1/4/09

CHURCH MUSIC - Chant is not just one of the many styles of music, nor one choice among many of church music. It is the only music of the liturgy itself. For almost 2 thousand years, the Church has sung the mass, not during mass! Traditionally, chant is the singing of texts of the mass. It sung *a cappella* but organ may be used to support the choir for more difficult parts or the singing of the congregation. Some parts are called *Propers* because they change with the mass of the day (*Introit, Gradual, Offertory, Postcommunion*). There are also *Ordinary* parts which are regular texts of the mass (*Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei*). The music of the ordinary parts is structured to be sung by the congregation. Vatican II did not do away with chant as it did not do away with Latin. In fact, various church documents keep reminding us that chant is still the privileged music for liturgy. It is a tragedy that 2,000 years of musical tradition has been practically eliminated. There are 8 tunes for the psalms and 18 tunes for the Ordinary parts, but, unfortunately, only a few tunes are actually used even in traditional circles. Clergy, musicians, singers and lay people should appreciate chant and use it in the liturgy. They must give time, talent and money to pre-serve this treasure of the Church. No special permission is needed to do the right thing. It is ironic to notice how easily people are dismissing chant simply because it's considered "old stuff" while accepting any "tonus peregrinus" of modern music, no matter how inappropriate the text and poor the music may be. One should wonder whether the proliferation of pop music in the liturgy has helped Eucharistic devotion and participation. On the other hand, it should be no surprise that some 10 years ago *Chant* was the best CD seller of the year. This past year, *Chant: Music for the Soul* has been among the top 10 CDs in several European countries and is climbing the charts worldwide.

THE HOLY ROSARY - Between 1850-1855 in the northern Italian town of Stresa, three men were meeting every night: the priest/philosopher Blessed Antonio Rosmini and writers Alessandro Manzoni and Ruggero Bonghi. After long discussions on many subjects, keeping an eye on the clock, Rosmini used to stop. "It's time for prayer!" and they were saying the Rosary together. The holy rosary is also a beautiful family prayer. "I am happy; every night I pray to Our Lady of the Rosary. My family is with me. In this world so gray there still is much joy. I feel it near me in these moments when my prayer rises to-ward Mary and the stars answer, shining more vividly on my home in Nevada." These words were written by Bing Crosby to a long time friend, Msgr. Patrick Peyton. The actor was one of a group of Hollywood artists (another was Loretta Young) who had been won over by Fr. Peyton to his Rosary Crusade. One of Peyton's mottos was, "A world which prays is a world at peace". Another was "The family that prays together, stays together."