

2016 New Hymnals at Holy Trinity - Our Story 2017

After over 12 years of use, multiple repairs, and two sets of new covers, our green *Gather Comprehensive* hymnals were finally declared "worn out". Bindings continued to break, and many pages were torn, soiled, or missing. Perhaps more importantly, our hymnal's Mass prayers and music had not been useable since the new Mass translation was introduced in Advent 2011. In order to maintain a vibrant, current liturgical experience, our hymnals had to be replaced. So, on the weekend of January 23-24, 2016, fundraising for new hymnals was announced to the members of Holy Trinity Parish. Donations were set at \$25 per hymnal, and were accepted via cash, check, or online contributions. Individuals were able to donate and dedicate (in memory/honor of deceased loved ones, family members, or friends) as many hymnals as they wished.

Our hymnal fundraising goal was \$21,000 by August 15th. Through the magnificent generosity of Holy Trinity parishioners, we not only topped, but exceeded our goal by the end of May (!), with a grand total of \$26,760 received by the beginning of July.

Our order for new hymnals (*Gather, Third Edition*, GIA Publications Inc.) was placed on June 2, 2016. On June 22, the publisher called Music Director Chloë Stodt to say that they were planning to publish a revised, second edition of *Ritual Song*, their "other" hardbound hymnal. Since Dr. Chloë was told that *Ritual Song 2* (pictured)



would contain ALL of the new Mass settings on our projected teaching list, she canceled our order to wait for a review copy of this newer hymnal, sometime in the Fall (still 2016). This change in plans was announced to the parish on July 5th, with a projected new order date of Spring/Summer 2017 if it was decided that *RS2* better suited our parish needs.

Ten review copies were ordered when those books became available. On February 28, 2017 our Hymnal Committee met to look at the pew edition of *Ritual Song 2*. Members were able to take copies home for a longer period of reviewing the hymnal's contents. Some weeks later, the Committee's consensus was to approve the purchase of *Ritual Song 2*, once the various editions that we needed came into publication.



On June 21, 2017, our new hymnal order was placed, with an arranged delivery date of July 31st. Several volunteers came early, and were able to remove Mass supplements from the old green hymnals and place them on the pew seats before the UPS Freight truck arrived. As our bevy of eager volunteers awaited, the truck pulled in promptly at 10:00am as scheduled! One hundred and twenty-seven boxes of hymnals were stacked on two skids, weighing in at a total of 3,720 pounds. Our exceptional driver offered to wheel the skids into the church lobby, meaning that volunteers would then only have to carry boxes a few feet into the Social Room, instead of moving them inside from the sidewalk.



Once inside, the boxes were unwrapped and inspected before being hand carried, one by one, from the lobby into the Social Room. After all were received and signed in, we welcomed the new hymnals, remembering the place of music in our parish's prayer life, and thanking God for all the donors and for all those who were memorialized in our green *Gather Comprehensive* hymnals and in our new red *Ritual Song 2* hymnals.



Volunteers then quickly went to work, opening boxes, and preparing each hymnal with its donor or



memorial bookplate, vocations prayer, vinyl cover, and hymnal supplement (back insert). By the end of our workday that Monday, ALL of the green hymnals had been boxed inside the church, new red hymnals had been placed, two per pew rack, inside the church, and ALL of the remaining bookplates had been affixed.



That was a great place to stop, and what a truly outstanding accomplishment for just one day!

Tuesday, August 1st, was mostly hymnals were placed in pew racks, were wheeled over to the school the CGS Atrium in the Father



were then nave, and, few that were Chapel, were the Social



another “moving day” - more newly prepared rounding out the distribution. Choir editions music ministry classroom, and pew copies to Quigley building. All of the green hymnals taken out of the church with the exception of a taken to the Stone placed on/under tables in Room where parishioners



are being welcomed to take a copy donated to a new home. Quitting time? **11:00am!!!** Finished - in just a day and a half!!!

Patience indeed has its sweet reward - now, after our long wait, Holy Trinity has a new parish “Mass book” - with current liturgical translations and both familiar and new music that will provide the



foundation for “musical liturgy” in our parish for years to come. This is the good fruit borne of an active faith community living its witness in the world. We thank all donors past and present, and we remember all those memorialized as members of the Holy Trinity communion of saints. As we use these hymnals, let us keep these many names close in our hearts as we strive always to mirror the eternal exchange of love that is the Triune God. Fr. Mike will



lead us in dedicating our new hymnals at the 4:00pm Mass on Saturday, August 26. *Soli Deo gloria!*

August 2, 2017
Holy Trinity Catholic Church
Lenexa, Kansas