

Music for Year of St. Joseph

Most of us are aware that this liturgical year has been proclaimed the Year of St. Joseph by Pope Francis. Pope Francis chose this year as it is the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being the Patron of the Universal Church. This year we are encouraged to know St. Joseph better and learn from his virtues.

It is a great time to sing hymns about St. Joseph. However, there aren't many St. Joseph songs in the average hymnal. Choir ensembles will be singing a hymn to St. Joseph by Oreste Ravanello, an Italian composer who lived at the turn of the twentieth century. "Te Joseph Celebrent" is a three-part hymn of praise to St. Joseph.

Te Joseph Celebrent

Latin text

Te, Joseph, celebrent agmina caelitem
Te cuncti resonent christiadum chori
Qui clarus meritis junctus et inclytae
Casto foedere Virgini.

Tu natum Dominum stringis ad dexteris,
Aegypti profugum tu sequeris plagas:
amissum Solymis quaeris et invenis,
miscens gaudia fletibus.

Nobis Summa Trias parce precantibus:
da Joseph meritis sidera scandere,
ut tandem liceat nos tibi perpetim,
gratum promere canticum.

English translation

Let the hosts of heaven celebrate you, Joseph,
Let all the choirs of Christendom resound you
who, famous for your merits,
was joined to the glorious Virgin in chaste
wedlock.

You did embrace the new-born Lord,
and to the furthest Egypt coasts you followed
Him in exile,
Lost in Jerusalem, you sought and found Him,
mixing joy with tears.

Spare us, highest Trinity, as we pray,
Grant that through Joseph's merits we may rise
to heaven,
So that at last we may offer perpetually
our grateful songs.

Thank you, St. Joseph, for inspiring us with your obedience to God and your love and protection of the Blessed Mother Mary and Jesus Christ our Lord.