

# Reflections from the Upper Room:

**for the Pastoral Musician**

Sunday, May 17, 2020

## Reflections for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

By: Miguel A. De Jesús, *Director of Sacred Music, Our Lady of Mount Virgin, Middlesex*



In this time while most people are required to stay at home, for those of us who temporarily forget to put our hope in the risen Lord, it may feel like we are being abandoned by God. Especially because of the sacramental nature of our faith, we temporarily do not get to see, touch, feel, experience Christ present in the sacraments. We may feel like the people of the first reading in Samaria before the arrival of Philip, but we must remember Jesus's promise to us that he "will not leave you orphans."

While we may not be exorcists like Philip to the Samaritans, we have the ability as musicians to bring hope and joy to the hearts of many. In the last few weeks, I have seen many ways in which people have spread that joy without making music alongside a congregation at mass. There are some who are getting together to virtually play and sing polyphonic works. There are others who have gone to hospitals putting themselves at risk in order to give concerts to those who are ill in order to provide hope and joy. Still others are joining together to pray together virtually.

I have joined friends of mine to chant Compline (Night Prayer) daily. Every night as we sing the solemn version of the Regina Caeli, Queen of Heaven, I am reminded of the joy we must share with the Blessed Mother knowing that her Son is no longer dead but risen and in our midst in the words "Resurrexit sicut dixit" (He is risen as He said). It is in this joy that we must accept and love the Logos, the Word of God, and be obedient to Him just like the Samaritans. It is only then that He will send his Holy Spirit to dwell with us and be our comfort.

So even though we may feel lost and abandoned like the apostles did after Christ's death and less so His Ascension, let us not forsake our joy of the Resurrection for Pentecost is coming soon. Let us remain faithful and keep His commandments. It is only then, that he will give us the Comforter.

## Selected Reflection Music

**Regina Caeli – Antífona - Modo VI**

**Performed By: Schola Antiqua**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-17hJJE4q00>

**If Ye Love Me**

**By: Philip Wilby**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PMAc-OwyigY>

## **Contributor Introduction**

Miguel A. De Jesús, is the Director of Sacred Music at Our Lady of Mount Virgin in Middlesex. He earned his BM from Westminster Choir College. He has served as a cantor, director, organist, and teacher across NJ and Philadelphia. He also is the current conductor of the Northern Jersey Catholic Chorale.

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