

# Hoban Bans 21 Hymns at Services

By  
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The Cleveland Diocese, acting to bring sacred music here into accord with modern developments in Catholic worship, has outlawed use of 21 old hymns at mass and also at devotional services.

Also banned—as being of operatic rather than of liturgical nature—are Schubert's and Rosewig's "Ave Maria."

The list is contained in regulations released yesterday by the chancery. Included are such familiar favorites as "Mother Dear, Oh Pray for Me," "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother," "Hide Thou Me" and "Good Night Sweet Jesus."

**THE INSTRUCTION** stressed that the list of 21 was not intended to be complete but was "merely a sampling of the more common offenses. All other hymns of which the melodies are musically unsuitable, are in a style unsuited to liturgical use or of which the texts are theologically unsound or based on unbecoming senti-

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## OTHERS RECOMMENDED

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mentality, are likewise forbidden in the Diocese of Cleveland."

Also included in the instruction is a list of "specially recommended hymns." Many of these have been introduced into Catholic worship comparatively recently. Some are of Protestant origin.

Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, in a letter to priests and church musicians which accompanied the regulations, said he asked the recently established Diocesan Commission of Sacred Music to prepare the two lists.

"We RECOGNIZE a greater need for good hymns in our time, and recognize also that there is still considerable abuse in the matter of hymn

selection," he wrote.

The archbishop specified that "observance of these provisions is mandatory in our diocese: the list of condemned hymns carrying the force of law, while the list of recommended hymns is, of course, by its very nature, commendatory rather than peremptory."

THE INSTRUCTION also repeats the ban of many years standing against the use of the march, "Pomp and Circumstance," as well as the wedding marches from "Lohengrin" and "Midsummer's Night's Dream." It also forbids use of masses based on folk song, jazz and spirituals. A "jazz mass" in English written by a Cincinnati priest is currently a popular selling record in this country.

Including in the list of recommended hymns are 27 selections. Those which have long been popular in Protestant hymnals include "Praise to the Lord," "Now Thank We All Our God," "For All the Saints," "Holy, Holy, Holy," and "O Food of Exiles Lowly."

IN ADDITION marches by Carlo Rossini, Bach, Purcell, Franck and Nieland and the Gelineau Psalms, musical settings for the Biblical poems composed a decade ago by a French Jesuit priest, were recommended.

Archbishop Hoban emphasized that in a pre-eminent manner, Gregorian chant is the official music of the Catholic Church. However, he said he wanted it understood

that music in measured style could be used if melodies and lyrics were suitable to the liturgy.

OTHER HYMNS ON the banned list include:

"Bring Flowers of the Rarest," "Mary Dearest Mother," "Queen of the Holy Rosary," "I'll Sing a Hymn to Mary," "'Tis the Month of our Mother," "Daughter of a Mighty Father," "Mother at Your Feet Is Kneeling."

"Just For Today," "Mother Beloved," "To Jesus Heart All Burning," "Little White Guest," "Mother Dearest Mother Fairest," "Agnus Dei" (Bizet), "The Rosary" (Nevin), "Our Father" (Malotte), "Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling" and "Ave Maris Stella" (traditional.)

# Timely Change

Many Roman Catholic laymen undoubtedly regret the banning of 21 old hymns by the Cleveland diocese even though the ruling is certain to raise the standard of Catholic music here.

Some of the most familiar hymns were among those banned, including "Mother Dear, Oh Pray for Me," "On This Day, O Beautiful Mother," "Bring Flowers of the Rarest," and "Hide Thou Me."

Many of the banned hymns appeared on an unofficial list published previously by the Gregorian Society of America.

Reasons for the banning are because the hymns are artistically unsuitable, the texts are theologically unsound, or because of excessive sentimentality.

In recommending more extensive use of Gregorian Chant, Archbishop Hoban has recognized the need of making sacred music complement and conform to modern developments within Catholic worship.