

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

The attendance for the Sunday Vigil Mass and Eucharistic procession last Saturday was inspiring! There must have been around 50 members of our parish who were there. I would say it's just the right number of people considering also the safety measures we should observe inside the church..... I received pretty positive feedbacks with regards to the procession. Some said that it's uplifting to see; some say it reminds them of their childhood. So, I guess we should continue doing it every Saturday until the snow comes. God willing, by then, the pandemic has already subsided and is under control. I promise to shorten by homily on Saturdays so as not delay too much family dinner time..... We would like to thank Anne del Mundo and Kitin Cayona for being the cantors for the Mass every Saturday and for leading us in the singing of the hymns for the Benediction; our appreciation also to Jewel White for leading the Rosary during the procession. Our gratitude also to Bert Rabina, Gary Haggerty, Blair Friesen and Cypher Cayona for holding the church doors open for the faithful joining the procession..... Some people expressed that they were touched by the Latin hymns used during the exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The first hymn that was sung, when the priest takes the Blessed Sacrament out from the tabernacle and puts it in the monstrance is titled "O Salutaris Hostia". In English, the song is rendered thus: *"O saving Victim, opening wide, / The gate of heaven to man below! / Our foes press on from every side; / Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow. / To Thy great name by endless praise, / Immortal Godhead, one in Three; / Oh, grant us endless length of days, / In our true native land with Thee. Amen."* Note the inspiring references to our Lord's saving mission in reconciling us to His Father, and thus opening for us the gates of heaven through his Passion. We are invited here to ask for His help in persevering in our often difficult journey towards our true native land - heaven! I would like to encourage everybody to learn the hymn by heart, but the Latin version, of course!

That is the original version composed by no less than St. Thomas Aquinas when the feast of Corpus Christi was established in 1264. It is actually the last two paragraphs of a much longer hymn. I am attaching to this post a link to the video of the lyrics and tune of O Salutaris. Next time, I will talk about the other hymns.

https://youtu.be/liViDZ8UJ_4