

Inspiring Children to enjoy Catholic Sacred Music

He who sings well prays twice. Saint Augustine

The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, greater even than that of any other art. . . . The treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care. . . . Great importance is to be attached to the teaching and practice of music in . . . schools. Sacrosanctum Concilium, Pope Paul VI, 1963, 112, 114-115

- ♪ Teaching Scripture verses and the psalms with the tools of melody and musical rhythm increases retention of the text.
- ♪ Music of a sacred nature elevates awareness and hunger for the spiritual, even in children.
- ♪ Children hear so much worldly, profane music. They are accosted by it on television, in stores, and in restaurants. Sacred music helps to counteract the effects of the unhealthy music children are exposed to. Dare to give them something different – they will surprise you, as you hear them humming it later.
- ♪ Music can help instill a sense of solidity and integrity in a child's faith, by helping to make them aware of the Church's great legacy and commitment to beauty and art.
- ♪ Children become aware of the Church's vitality through both the timeless classics, as well as in the on going gifts of the Holy Spirit through newly composed Catholic music.

"The faith of countless believers has been nourished by melodies flowing from the hearts of other believers ... In song, faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love, and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God." Letter of His Holiness Pope Blessed John Paul II to Artists, April, 1999, 12

Teaching Musical Moment: Choose a Psalm from *the quiet place*, such as, "Taste and See the Goodness of the Lord" or "He Heals the Brokenhearted" and write the main theme on the board. The children can join in each time it is sung, and by the end of the song, they have gently memorized a Psalm verse. You could use the Psalm as copywork. Remind the children that repeating of the Psalm verse also occurs during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass during the Responsorial Psalm. *the quiet place* features *Psalms 23, 25, 34, 42, 59, 62, 84, and 147*

How good to celebrate our God in song;
how sweet to give fitting praise.
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem,
gathers the dispersed of Israel,
Heals the brokenhearted,
binds up their wounds,
Numbers all the stars,
calls each of them by name.
Great is our Lord, vast in power,
with wisdom beyond measure.
The LORD sustains the poor,
but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
with the lyre celebrate our God,
Who covers the heavens with clouds,
provides rain for the earth,
makes grass sprout on the mountains,
Who gives animals their food
and ravens what they cry for.
Ps 147:1-9



THROUGH SACRED MUSIC you can bridge the transition from outside distractions, to priming the children's minds, ears and awareness to be open and ready for their lessons.

Teaching Musical Moment: Have the music playing all the time - anytime. For example; getting ready for the day, in the car to and from activities, in the school room to begin the class period, during dinner preparation time, and getting ready for bed before evening prayers. Permeate the air waves with positive faith-filled melodies.

SALVE REGINA, MATER MISERICORDIAE,
VITA DULCEDO ET SPES NOSTRA SALVE.
AD TE CLAMAMUS EXSULES FILII HEVAE.
AD TE SUSPIRAMUS GEMENTES ET FLENTES,
IN HAC LACRIMARUM VALLE.
EJA ERGO ADVOCATA NOSTRA,
ILLOS TUOS MISERICORDES OCULOS AD NOS CONVERTE.
ET JESUM BENEDICTUM FRUCTUM VENTRIS TUI
NOBIS POST HOC EXSILIUM OSTENDE.
O CLEMENS, O PIA, O DULCIS VIRGO MARIA.

Teaching Musical Moment: Teach some of the Latin traditional hymns. "Salve Regina" is a prayer often sung at the end of Holy Hour. Divide prayer into simple short lines, such as "Salve Regina, mater misericordia" typed in large font on a 3" by 5" card along with the English translation, and number the cards with 1, 2, 3, etc., for each line of the prayer. Give a card to each child (you may have to team up the children if you more children than cards) to take home for the week, with the assignment to learn the words, not by memory, but just the pronunciation. The next week, arrange the children in groups, according to the prayer line they were assigned. Have each group recite their line, in order. Then, play the recorded version and each group can sing along with *The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary*.

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, MOTHER OF MERCY!
OUR LIFE, OUR SWEETNESS, AND OUR HOPE!
TO THEE DO WE CRY, POOR BANISHED CHILDREN OF EVE;
TO THEE DO WE SEND UP OUR SIGHS,
MOURNING AND WEeping IN THIS VALLEY OF TEARS.
TURN, THEN, MOST GRACIOUS ADVOCATE,
THINE EYES OF MERCY TOWARD US;
AND AFTER THIS OUR EXILE SHOW UNTO US THE
BLESSED FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS.
O CLEMENT, O LOVING, O SWEET VIRGIN MARY.

THROUGH SACRED MUSIC you can gain a deeper understanding of the Sacraments of the Church, in particular the Holy Eucharist. Music glorifies them.

To contemplate Christ involves being able to recognize him . . . in the living sacrament of his body and blood. The Church draws her life from Christ in the Eucharist. . . The Eucharistic Sacrifice makes present not only the mystery of the Savior's passion and death, but also the mystery of the resurrection which crowned his sacrifice. It is the living and risen One that Christ can become in the Eucharist the "bread of life", "the living bread." . . . In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into his body and blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and food for the journey. . .
Ecclesia de Eucharistia, Pope Blessed John Paul II,

April 17, 2003, 6,14,62

Beautiful Jesus

Beautiful Jesus, Adorable Babe
The Seraphim sing your glory
Infant King the Father gave
born of gentle Mary.
Beautiful Jesus, glorious child
boy with wisdom wondrous
you labored with joy at Joseph's side
the Word made flesh dwells among us.

Refrain:

*If God could be born of a virgin maid
to die on the cross and breathe again
then God can change manna to Him
Living Savior, beautiful Jesus.*

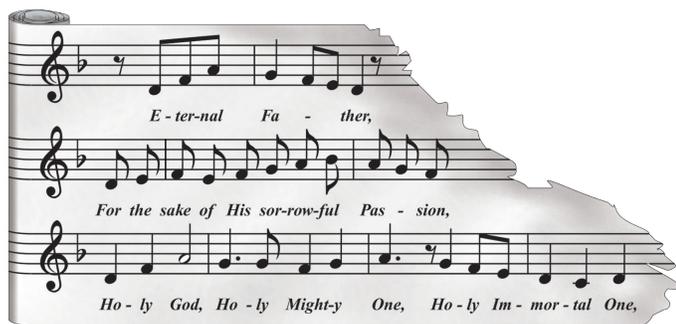
Beautiful Jesus, magnificent Man
in Heaven you reign victorious
The gift of your life is given again
in this Body of Christ now before us.
Merciful lamb, this vintage you pressed
your blood from the cross outpoured
into the chalice of the blessed
is your precious blood now adored.

Words of "Beautiful Jesus" from *The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary* © 2000 Nancy Scimone
www.nancyscimone.com



THROUGH SACRED MUSIC you can develop devotion to Jesus and the Blessed Virgin Mary through songs of love that can help stir the imagination and create a more personal relationship. The prayers of the Church can be learned through music, including the prayers of the Most Holy Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Teaching Musical Moment: Teach the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. Play one decade of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy from *Time for Mercy*. Have the children form two groups. Listen and meditate on the Scripture passage said by the reader, and then the children respond in song. Group one sings “For the sake of His sorrowful Passion,” while group two sings “Have mercy on us and on the whole world.” This one decade prayer is less than 5 minutes. Consider opening your day, class, or meeting in prayer and singing. Combine Divine Mercy prayer with praying one decade of the Most Holy Rosary, the Fifth Sorrowful Mystery, The Crucifixion, and the children will begin to understand Jesus Christ’s ultimate sacrifice at the 3:00 hour.



Divine Mercy Sheet Music (in PDF format) available at www.sufferingservant.com

Teaching Musical Moment: Teach the Most Holy Rosary. Play a decade of *The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary* and have the children join in praying the second half of the Hail Mary. “Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.” A Rosary on CD can also be played as background music/prayer during activities, such as, drawing. Pray while you work. Certainly, pray the Rosary, while driving in your car, to and from activities.

The Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace . . . to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord’s life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the Lord.
Marialis Cultus, Pope Paul VI, Feb, 1974, 47

Retreat Idea (such as, Confirmation): Using a Scriptural Rosary prayer book, such as, *Psalter of Jesus and Mary*, pray five decades of the Most Holy Rosary. Then play and/or sing a song after the mystery. During a longer day/weekend retreat, you could schedule the five decades during five different times of the day.

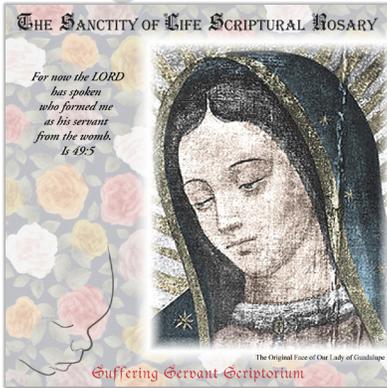
Or, for a short meeting, start your catechetical activity with one decade and one song (takes about 8 mins.)

Some recommended mystery and song pairings are:

Mystery of the Most Holy Rosary <small>(Only sample representation - not all mysteries listed.)</small>	Song Name	CD
First Joyful Mystery The Annunciation	“Ave Maria”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Second Joyful Mystery The Visitation	“Magnificat”	<i>The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary</i>
Third Joyful Mystery The Nativity	“Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Third Luminous Mystery The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God	“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Fifth Luminous Mystery The Institution of the Holy Eucharist	“Beautiful Jesus”	<i>The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary</i>
	“Panis Angelicus” “Agnus Dei”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Fifth Sorrowful Mystery The Crucifixion	“He Heals the Brokenhearted “	<i>the quiet place</i>
	“Thy Heart Immaculate”	<i>Time for Mercy</i>
Second Glorious Mystery The Ascension	“In the Loveliness of the Dwelling Place”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Fourth Glorious Mystery The Assumption of Mary into Heaven	“Soul of Mary”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>
Fifth Glorious Mystery The Crowning of Mary Queen of Heaven and Earth	“Salve Regina”	<i>The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary</i>
	“Gate of Heaven”	<i>Best of Sacred Music</i>



Recorded Prayers on CD



The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary

2 hrs and 21 mins on double CD
7-83707-78282-0

\$17.50

Like a conversation with God, His message

from over 200 specially selected Sacred Scripture verses is intertwined with the prayers of the Most Holy Rosary. God's message of the dignity and sanctity of life evokes a profound understanding and belief in His promise of eternal life. Gentle, meditative piano music enhances meditation. Also, includes 4 meditation songs by Nancy Scimone. Includes 16 page booklet with complete selections of the Sacred Scripture verses.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SCRIPTURAL MESSAGES OF LIFE FOUND IN THE ROSARY MYSTERIES?

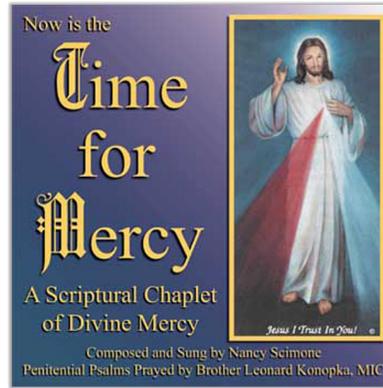
The Joyful Mysteries focus on choosing life and how "In [God's] hand is the soul of every living thing" *Job 12:10* and "the fruit of the womb [is] a reward" *Ps 127:3*

The Luminous Mysteries focus on living the Catholic Sacramental Life - we meditate on the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Holy Orders during the Fifth Luminous Mystery - Do this in memory of me." *Lk 22:19* and "You are a priest forever." *Heb 7:17*

The Sorrowful Mysteries give us the strength and courage to accept God's will in suffering and death, when we say like Christ did in the Garden of Gethsemane - "still, not my will but yours be done" *Lk 22:42*

The Glorious Mysteries allow us to hope in God's promise of eternal life - "Remain faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." *Rv 2:10*

Companion product *Hand-Tied Rosary by Alison* - page 24



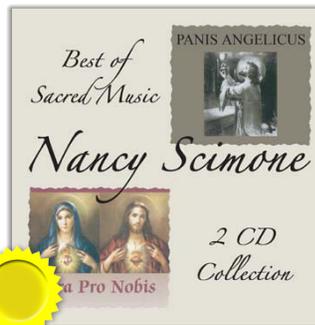
Time for Mercy A Scriptural Chaplet of Divine Mercy

60 mins
7-83707-66872-7

\$15.00

Nancy Scimone sings to her originally composed melody of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, while

Brother Leonard Konopka, MIC, prays the Seven Penitential Psalms. An instrumental Scriptural Chaplet of Divine Mercy is also included. Includes meditation song "Thy Heart Immaculate".



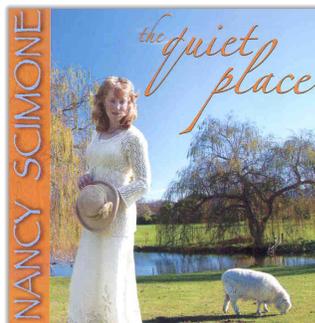
Best of Sacred Music

by Nancy Scimone
CD1-15 songs, 45 mins
CD2-15 songs, 41 mins
6-59696-19972-9

\$17.50

CD 1 - PANIS ANGELICUS
Songs of Love to Our Eucharistic Lord

CD 2- ORA PRO NOBIS Songs of Love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary
WINNER of UNITY Awards Sacramental Album of the Year



the quiet place

by Nancy Scimone
10 songs, 48 mins
7-83707-80402-6

\$15.00

Psalms and original lyrics arranged for orchestra in a gentle blend of inspirational and jazz styles.

Listen to sample selections from all CDs at www.sufferingservant.com

"Sing Well, Pray Twice" CD Collection

\$35.00

[\$50.00 when products sold separately]

The Sanctity of Life Scriptural Rosary
Time for Mercy A Scriptural Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Best of Sacred Music

