



FIRST QUARTER

WEEKS ONE TO NINE

The songbook, *We Sing and Chant*, can give your student an opportunity to learn music and to sing songs suitable for Catholic children in a time when there is a serious lack of good music for children. The fact is that the music produced by Christians for the purpose of expressing worship of God, or expressing Christian doctrine, or expressing our feelings about our Christian beliefs has produced the greatest music in the world. If Jesus had not been born, lived, worked miracles, taught truths, suffered and died, and risen from the dead, the great music of the world would not exist. The teachings and the life of Jesus have inspired people to write and sing the greatest music on the earth. Perhaps the greatest and most beautiful piece of music is *Ave Maria*, the Hail Mary put into song.

Point out the angels on the cover of the songbook. The angels are blowing into a sort of trumpet or horn. Some interpret the use of these loud instruments as not only praise to God but also a recognition of His power and might.

The Bible is filled with references to music and even music from heaven. We can be sure that there will be music in heaven so wonderful, no one on earth can even begin to understand how beautiful it will be.

We constantly read in the Bible about music as a form of praise to God by the Hebrews of the Old Testament and the Christians of the New Testament.

One of the most famous passages of the Bible concerning music is from the Book of Daniel, Chapter 3, when King Nabuchodonosor made a statue of gold of himself and wanted everyone to adore his statue. Obviously, music was involved in the adoration, because the Scripture reads in verse 5: "In that hour you shall hear the sound of the trumpet, and of the flute, and of the harp, of the sackbut, and of the psaltery, and of the symphony, and of all kind of music." When all the pagan people heard the music, they knelt down and adored the statue. Anyone who would not adore the statue at the sound of the music, was to be put in a burning furnace.

There were three Jews who obeyed the laws of God, which said they should worship only the one true God. They would not worship the statue. The three Jews were Sidrach, Misach, and Abdenago, who refused to obey the king's command. If you read this chapter in the Bible, you will be surprised how often the musical instruments are mentioned!

The three Jews told the king that "Our God whom we worship is able to save us from the furnace of burning fire, and to deliver us out of thy hands, O king."

The king was so angry, that he insisted that the "furnace should be heated seven times more than it had been accustomed to be heated." The three men were bound and were cast into the furnace of burning fire. But instead of burning to death, they were seen walking around. Verse 24: "And they walked in the midst of the flame, praising God and blessing the Lord."

For the rest of the chapter, we can read the details of the prayer, which was likely to have been a song. Some of the verses are the following: All ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever. O ye angels of the Lord, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever. O ye heavens, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him above all for ever. O all ye waters that are above the heavens, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him for ever. O ye sun and moon, bless the Lord, praise and exalt Him for ever."



At the end of the prayer, the Jews walked out of the furnace, and the king converted. He ordered that all his citizens believe in the one true God of the Jews.



ST. CECILIA

St. Cecilia is considered the patron saint of music and musicians. St. Cecilia was martyred by the cruel Romans when she was very young. Her body remains incorrupt in a church in Rome. When you see paintings of her, she is usually portrayed with musical instruments and sometimes surrounded by angels playing musical instruments. If you are taking music lessons, be sure to ask St. Cecilia to pray for you.

THE SONGBOOK

Take some time to look over the songbook *We Sing and Chant*. We are very fortunate to have such a nice Catholic songbook. Notice the very first page has a treble clef. All the songs in this book have only the treble clef because we usually sing the higher notes rather than lower notes. For your information, the following is taken from the web site, datadragon.com. However, if you look under clefs, you will find several web sites of interest.

There are 2 basic kinds of clefs. The clef you will see on your music depends on what instrument you play.

Treble Clef	
Bass Clef	

You might wonder why there are 2 different clefs. The reason is that most instruments using the bass clef usually have a lower pitch (sound) and regularly play low notes. If they were to use the treble clef, the notes would appear so far below the staff it would be hard to read.

Here are the names of the notes for both clefs. Although you only really need to know one or the other, it is good practice to know both.

The treble clef:



A musical staff with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: C (middle C), B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G, F, E, D. Each note is labeled with its letter name below the staff.

The bass clef:



A musical staff with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are: E, D, C, B, A, G, F, E, D, C, B, A, G, F. Each note is labeled with its letter name below the staff.

Look at the title page of your songbook. Notice that the book was published for Catholic schools. Notice also that the main author's name is Sister Cecilia, who was a supervisor of music in a Catholic school long ago. The publisher no longer exists. Notice to whom the book is dedicated. Read over the Table of Contents. Isn't it wonderful that we have so many songs dedicated to the feasts and seasons of the liturgical year?

Turn to the back of the book. See the piano keyboard and the identification of the notes. If you have a piano or even a keyboard, we hope you will take the time to learn the notes, and play them. Look over the Alphabetical Index.