

INTRODUCTION

*If the psalm prays, pray; if it cries, cry;
if it gives thanks, rejoice; if it hopes,
hope;
if it fears, fear.*

(St. Augustine - On Psalms)

In the neocatechumenal way, we see today coming to light the humble service of the cantor.

In this itinerary of initiation to Faith, the cantor has the mission of helping to create the liturgical community, or, still better, of recreating it; of transforming often what appears as a plurality into a unity of worship: into only one voice, with one heart and one soul. This spiritual worship is expressed in the liturgical action of the community. Spiritual worship which, along our journey grounded in history, is the inexhaustible source of what is most deeply innocent: that is today the awareness of our sin enlightened by the ineffable love of someone who loves us in such a way, who loves us though we have been his enemies; source of conversion, source of Faith.

The aim of this book is not only to spread the songs, but to offer to the cantors of the Neocatechumenal communities the original texts and musical cords, so that they can in a better way be faithful to the oral tradition that they have received. For this reason, we thought it suitable to present them in a progressive order following the steps of the way, in the very same manner in which they came to light along the years, in which they led us on our way, from the initial catechesis through the various passages.

Also, we have divided the song cards with different colors to give an indication of this gradual advancement, marked by the different scrutinies in which some songs are "handed over:"

- 1 - beige cards for liturgical functions;
- 2 - gray cards for the songs of the breaking of the bread
- 3 - white cards for the songs of the Precatechumenate;
- 4 - green cards for the songs of the Catechumenate;
- 5 - blue cards for the songs of Election;

In order to find the songs easily, there is a general index (where we have put more than one title for each song, according to what has already been confirmed by a certain tradition), a biblical index (since practically almost all our songs are taken from the bible), and another one according to the different liturgical seasons and moments of the celebrations and especially the Eucharist.