

HYMNS FOR THE FEAST OF SAINT DOMINIC¹

SEBASTIAN CARLSON, O.P.

GAUDE MATER ECCLESIA

Rejoice, dear Mother Church, who now
Singest to heaven in accents gay,
For these thy sons *he* brought whom thou
Lovingly call'st to mind today.

The leader of the Lord's dread hounds,
Dom'nic, our guide and father blest,
Revered throughout the earth's vast bounds,
In God's own Home has found his rest.

Gone is the body's prison gloom,
Come the Light of eternity!
Garments from an angel's loom
Replace the rag of poverty.

The sacred fragrance from his grave
And myriad signs wrought through his name
In clamorous joy give judgment brave:
Another Saint doth God proclaim!

¹ From the Dominican Breviary.

HYMNUM NOVAE LAETITIAE

Brothers, now in our Father's praise
Sing a new hymn of sanctity.
Sweetly the chant of gladness raise,
Hymn in music has gaiety.

Behold, to souls enchained of sin
Comes a herald of liberty;
And though the world black night shuts in
Brightly this Star shines o'er the sea.

To spread abroad the Gospel seed,
Preach the Cross to the farthest land,
Rescue Truth in her sorry need,
He sends his own-begotten band.

This indeed is that narrow burn,
Increased to a mighty river's grace,
That seeks to give to hearts that yearn
Unending life and God's embrace.

NOVUS ATHLETA DOMINI¹

Of Dominic, who following
The Gospel-message, straight became
As Christ-like as his name is — sing
Of God's strong Wrestler! And proclaim

His virgin purity, preserved
Unstained; and how he fiercely burned
With love for sinners, whom he served
And saved for Christ. He spurned

The world; he hath put out his hands
To strong things. Stripped of self, his face
He sets against the foe, and stands
Victorious; for his arms are grace,

The word of God, and wonderous signs,
And Brethren scattered through the world.
Before the altar and the shrines
Of Saints, he pours his prayers empearled
With tears. —Soon may our Father's prayer
Bring us to Heaven's endless days.
And may our humble voices dare
To pay the triune Godhead praise.

—Amen.

¹ By permission of *St. Albert's Guild*.