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Editor
Our Sunday Visitor
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Dear Editor:

In regard to Mark Sullivan's fascinating February 1, 2009 article, *Enchanting Influence*, one can't help but notice a huge disconnect between Pope Benedict XVI's understanding of the principles of Catholic Church music versus its practice in vast numbers of American parishes. Most of them, it is true, are wholly devoted to Fr. Joncas's great Catholic hit, *On Eagle's Wings*; a song, I believe, much better relegated to the Catholic radio stations, where it belongs.

On Eagle's Wings celebrates *us* (you), not God, who receives a perfunctory nod. As such, I believe it is inappropriate for use in Catholic Churches, which ought to be about the business of worshipping God, and Him Alone. It is this which Pope Benedict is so concerned about.

Just as Pope St. Pius X deplored the use of the theatrical opera music of his times, so now he would deplore the use of the opera music of our times, *film music*. The sweeping expansiveness of Father Joncas's song, which *gathers the community* in a near cathartic, self-congratulatory unity, has far less to do with the worship of Almighty God than of a community's sensuous, narcissistic enjoyment.

For readers who might desire an explanation, I would invite them to make a comparison for themselves by listening to and viewing the texts of hymns from my collection, *Gate of Heaven* at the Nicholas-Maria Publishers website at www.nicholasmaria.com.

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