

PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION
MANY THE VOICES

YET ONE NAME
(Revised)

**Cantor/Unison/Congregation
and
Keyboard
with
Optional
SA and TB Decants
and
Instrumental Descant**

Congregation Part

*Composed for the Third Precious Blood Congress
University of Dayton, Ohio
August 1-4, 2005*

**Text and Music
by
RALPH C. VERDI, C.PPS.**

PRECIOUS BLOOD FOUNDERS HYMN COLLECTION

MANY THE VOICES

On the occasion of the Third Precious Blood Congress held at the University of Dayton on August 1-4, 2005, a meeting of Roman Catholic religious communities founded upon devotion to Jesus Christ under the aspect of the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, I was asked by the liturgical planning committee of the sponsoring organization, the Precious Blood Leadership Conference (PBLC), to provide a unifying congress theme song.

It became apparent that while many knew and worked with various members among the distinct Precious Blood families of the PBLC, there was not any widespread or great depth of knowledge about the historical details of the founding of all of these families, nor was there any devotional tool or hymn which at that time attempted to encompass the rich insights and spiritual heritage among the various founders.

The task was to provide a corporate hymn expressing who the Precious Blood communities have become in Christ under the aspect of the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, while at the same time incorporating the many spiritual insights imparted to the various founders in their spiritual journeys of establishing new religious communities for the spread of the Gospel. It became obvious that the only way to do this within the expanse of a single hymn was to take each of the founders at their own word and to use those words as the basis of revealing unity in their devotion to Christ in the shedding of his Most Precious Blood, and also at the same time as a way to highlight their rich diversity of unique spiritual insights within that same devotion.

In order to accomplish this, I needed to acquaint myself more thoroughly with the history and traditions of each founder and their respective communities. With the assistance of the various historians and librarians of these Precious Blood communities, I was privileged to come to know the spiritualities of the founders and some of the traditions that developed from the spiritual heritage they left behind. Choosing what seemed most characteristic of their personalities as revealed in their own words, or in the sayings and traditions they left behind when exact words were not available, I was able to craft a responsorial hymn with a unifying theme for the refrain expressing common identity as Precious Blood families, and a key but distinct spiritual insight of each founder in the verses. The result was *Many the Voices* which follows herein.

It is hoped that this hymn will help express who we are in Christ as we work together in the Precious Blood Leadership Conference for the spread of the Gospel: "Saved by the Blood spent with love supreme!"

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Rev. Ralph C. Verdi, C.P.P.S.
February 13, 2006

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MANY THE VOICES, YET ONE NAME - Revised
 Cantor/Unison/Congregation and Keyboard with Optional SA and TB Decants
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Text: Refrain: RCV; Verse 1: based on Gaspar del Bufalo; 2: Maria de Mattias;
 3: Maria Anna Brunner; 4: Theresa Weber; 5: Francis Pfanner

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WITH JOY ♩ = 120-130

Cantor/All

The musical score is written for a single staff in treble clef, 3/4 time, and B-flat major. It begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The lyrics are: "Refrain: Man - y the voi - - - ces, yet one name! Man - y the pla - - - ces, yet one and the same: Where Je - sus calls us to heal and re - deem. Saved by the blood spent with love su - preme!". The score includes measure numbers 5, 9, 14, 19, 25, and 29. A final note at measure 29 is marked with an asterisk (*). The piece concludes with a double bar line.

VERSES (Cantor/Unison):

1. O for a thousand tongues to praise the price poured out in Christ's blood!
 We cannot, we must not, we will not be silent about the great love of our God! (*Refrain*)
2. Praise the Providence of our God that filled our needs in the past!
 God still provides, and will provide for all that is yet to come! (*Refrain*)
3. Fill your hearts with the love of Christ! Shed blood's the sign of God's love!
 Now fill your hands with gifts for God's poor: of such is the Kingdom of God! (*Refrain*)
4. Precious as the blood of Christ, so is each soul to our God
 who fills our hearts with riches from Christ, and supplies for us all of our needs! (*Refrain*)
5. Flame of your zeal, let it soar for God who's honored by unbounded trust!
 To love, and serve the One who loved us so much that he died for us all! (*Refrain*)