

Rocking out with Ray Herrmann and St. Alphonsus



Ray Herrmann waves at the end of an Aug. 14 concert in Baltimore. (CR Staff/George P. Matysek Jr.)

In this week's Catholic Review, you'll meet Ray Herrmann - a talented member of the rock group, 'Chicago,' and a devoted Catholic who is involved in quite a remarkable religious music project.

Over the last few years, Herrmann has produced three CDs of the musical works of St. Alphonsus Liguori. The great saint and founder of the Redemptorists was an accomplished composer, but his works have largely gone unnoticed and unheard since the 18th century.

Working with Redemptorists of the Denver Province, Herrmann put together a very moving collection of the saint's music and prayers. The collection is focused on the rosary, the Seven Sorrows of Mary and the Way of the Cross. The most recent CD also features Liam Neeson reading some of St. Alphonsus's prayers with the saint's music serving as an underscore. (Read the CR story about the St. Alphonsus project [here](#)).

Here's a sample of "To Jesus in His Passion," one of St. Alphonsus's compositions as arranged by Herrmann: