## Helio

An original anthem about Helio, an early Hawaiian Catechist Words & music by Robert M. Mondoy



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## Helio 2000 Ballon Ballon

- You heard the call of Christ, your love,
   A whisper from your heart within,
   And sought the bearers of the Gospel so to hear first-hand where to begin.
- Refr. E Helio ē, e Helio ē, Ka 'elele no ke aloha o ke Akua. (Helio, the messenger of God's love)
- At Honolulu's dusty plain
   You stayed and studied many days,
   First felt, then knew, then trusted God
   whose love had graced and blessed your stay.
   *Refr.*
- 3. The God of love took you for his employ and returned you to the people of your land, So that Hawai'i nei would know God's love and share your joy that all be one in Christ as God had planned. *Refr.*

- 4. Unable to contain your joy, the love of Christ compelled you home to Maui's shores; among your own, the Gospel of love there you first sowed. *Refr*
- 5. *(Choir: Eō i kou inoa ē)* God called, you answered with all of your soul and your journey brought the Good News from afar. You shared with us the gift of Christ and brought to us the joy, the wonder and the glory of God's love.
- 6. You simply told of God's great love And showed God's peace and loving ways, A gentle life of love and faith and hope that ended its days at Wailua Bay.

Refr. E Helio ē, e Helio ē, Ka 'elele no ke aloha o ke Akua.

The first Catholic evangelical efforts in Hawai'i appeared in Honolulu on July 1827 with the arrival of six missionaries (three of them priests) of the Sacred Hearts Congregation, the group being headed by Fr. Alexis Bachelot, the apostolic prefect, and first began baptizing Hawaiians in 1828-1829. Chiefly and Protestant opposition to the Catholic presence eventually led to the expulsion of the Catholic clergy in December 1831. Five years later (1836), Fr. Walsh arrived,, followed by Frs. Bacheot and Short in April 1837 and Frs. Murphy and Maigret in September 1837, only to have all but Frs. Walsh and Murphy (British subjects) remain, severely restricted by a December 1837 edict banning the teaching and practice of Catholicism in the Hawaiian kingdom. Two early native converts to Catholicism in the 1830's years were brothers named Helio and Petero. Helio was baptized in Honolulu and returned to Maui as an itinerant preacher, traveling from place to place talking to people. So successful were his efforts in East Maui that he became known as "The Apostle of Maui." By the time the first official Catholic priest arrived in 1846 in Lāhainā, a large Catholic following was already on the island. A tale goes that in the height of active persecution of Catholics in Hawai'i (1839) by chiefly converts and their supporters, a judge in Wailuku, Maui ordered a round-up of Catholics who continued to practice their faith. Men were deputized to arrest them and bring them in for trial in Wailuku. More than a month was spent tracking them down, and to manage their catch, the deputies tied them together with ropes and marched them along the Pi'ilani Highway through all the districts of Kahikinui, Kaupō, Hāna and Nāhiku, Ke'anae, Kailua, Ha'ikū and Pā'ia, all the way to the government seat in Wailuku. Helio and Petero were at the head of the line, which became known as the Pa'akaula ("the tying with ropes"). A funny thing happened as the parade of prisoners walked along. Friends and family of the men joined in and marched with them in support, even though they were not Catholics themselves. By the time the parade arrived in Wailuku, there were several hundred marchers. The judge took one look at them and dismissed the case. There were too many heretics to sort out, put on trial, and sentence. Helio and Petero led their people home, preaching as they went. The result of that fiasco was a tripling of the number of converts to Catholicism on Maui. The official ban on Catholicism was lifted later in 1839



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