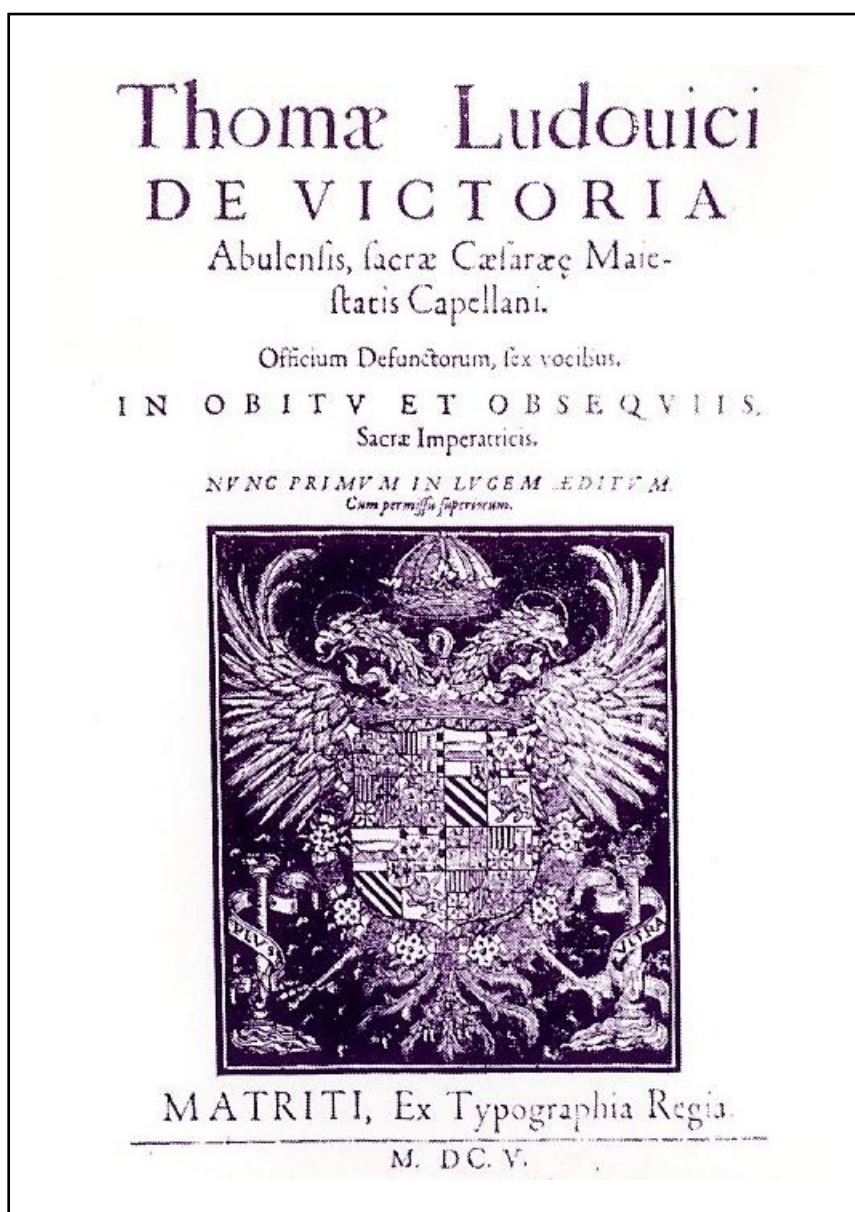


Reflections for All Souls'



Officium Defunctorum was composed for the funeral of the Dowager Empress Maria, sister of Philip II of Spain and daughter of Charles V. The Empress died on February 26, 1603 and her burial 3 days later was a simple affair.

Tomás Luis de Victoria, who had been employed as the Empress's personal chaplain from 1586 to the time of her death, composed this Requiem for the great obsequies (funeral rites) performed nearly 2 months later.

Tonight we sing the full Mass and the concluding motet, but omit the final Absolution.

