



“Sing Praises to Thy Name Most High” (Psalm 92)

An Instruction on Sacred Music within Divine Worship in the Diocese of Marquette

The psalms from the Old Testament give witness to the human expression of faith through Sacred Music that manifests the beauty of God. It is our joy to give God the best, most beautiful musical expression that we can offer him as we *sing the Mass*.

In my previous instructions on Sacred Music, *Sing to the Lord All the Earth*, and *Let us Go to the Altar of God*, I set forth steps to be taken to implement the teaching and directives of my esteemed predecessor, the Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample, in his pastoral letter entitled, *Rejoice in the Lord Always*. Since my previous instructions set forth steps to be taken through December 2020, it has been deemed opportune to revise *Sing to the Lord All the Earth*. This new instruction, *Sing Praises to Thy Name Most High*, is to be seen in continuity with the previous instructions, though it revises and replaces them.

The following basic steps that were indicated in the previous instructions can be taken by the smallest parishes in the diocese. Thus, all parishes and schools are to continue to follow these directives.

- All parishes and schools will learn to chant the Ordinary parts of the Mass in English that are found in the *Roman Missal*, and they will be sung by the congregation some of the time throughout the year.
- All parishes and schools will learn to chant the *Kyrie*, *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei* from the *Missa Iubilare Deo*, and they will be sung by the congregation some of the time throughout the year.
- All parishes and schools will learn to chant the Communion Antiphon in English, and the Communion Antiphon will be sung at every Sunday Mass. A hymn may be sung after the Communion Antiphon while the congregation is receiving the Blessed Sacrament.
- The Hymnal of the Diocese of Marquette must be used for all congregational singing. No other hymnal may be used.
- Permission from the Diocesan Bishop is required to utilize Sacred Music for congregational singing that is not included in the Hymnal of the Diocese of Marquette.

All requests must be submitted through the Sacred Music Request Jotform. Please allow at least one month for a response.


- Permission of the Diocesan Bishop is not required for the use of Mass settings and musical settings for the psalms that are not found in the hymnal. All musical settings for the psalms and the Mass are to use the officially approved liturgical texts.
- Permission of the Diocesan Bishop is not required for choral music, preludes, postludes and instrumental music. Pastors are enjoined to take great care to ensure the doctrinal integrity of the choral music, preludes and postludes used in their parishes. To assess the doctrinal integrity of the choral music, pastors are to utilize the document of the USCCB Committee on Doctrine, *Catholic Hymnody at the Service of the Church: An Aid for Evaluating Hymn Lyrics*, which can be found on the diocesan website, as well as the USCCB website. Moreover, they are to take great care that instrumental music befits the dignity of the worship of God.
- Solicitude is to be taken in the formation of parish and school musicians in collaboration with the Diocesan Director of Sacred Music.


In addition to these directives, the following steps are highly recommended.

- It is highly recommended that parishes and schools learn to chant the Entrance Antiphon in English and that the Entrance Antiphon be sung at every Sunday Mass. A hymn may be sung prior to the Entrance Antiphon which would then be sung when the ministers reach the sanctuary. Regarding the Entrance Antiphon, the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (48), states: "This chant is sung alternately by the choir and the people or similarly by a cantor and the people, or entirely by the people, or by the choir alone."
- It is highly recommended that parishes and schools learn to chant the *Gloria*, and *Credo* from the *Missa Iubilare Deo*, and that they be sung by the congregation some of the time throughout the year.

May our voices be raised in song and may we give fitting praise to the Lord.

Given at the Chancery, in Marquette, Michigan, June 1, 2021.


Most Reverend John F. Doerfler, STD, JCL
Bishop of Marquette


MaryAnn Bernier, Vice-Chancellor