

OUR MUSIC, OUR FAITH

I will pray with the spirit, but I will also pray with the mind. I will sing praise with the spirit, but I will also sing praise with the mind. 1 Corinthians 14:15

Dear friends in Christ,

I write to you this week with an update on our liturgical music and music ministry. As scientific studies and evidence concerning the novel coronavirus emerge and evolve, so does our approach to liturgical music and music ministry. The CDC has finally acknowledged potential transmission of the virus via aerosols, small particles that may linger in the air for minutes or hours and can travel much further than six feet, and it has cited singing specifically as an activity that can produce these aerosols. The data from scientific research and advice from the Archdiocese continue to emphasize the fact that minimizing group singing can help keep congregations safer.

With that in mind, we do have opportunities to join in limited song at times when the singing will not be neither boisterous nor lengthy and is appropriate for the liturgy. I wish to share with you what we will be singing at Mass every week so that you might join in singing what music we are able to do at this time. I have outlined below the parts of the Mass where we normally expect singing to take place; the sung parts of the Mass Ordinary will be from Marty Haugen's *Mass of Creation*, which I believe many of you will know well or at least be familiar with. Those parts of the Mass that call for active congregational participation are indicated in bold, but I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the entire outline.

Entrance of the celebrant: antiphon sung by the cantor

Gloria: spoken by the congregation

Psalm: sung as a response by the congregation with verses sung by the cantor

Alleluia: sung by the congregation with Gospel Acclamation sung by the cantor

Offertory: antiphon sung by the cantor

Sanctus (Holy, Holy): sung by congregation (*Mass of Creation*)

Memorial Acclamation ("When we eat this bread..."): sung by the congregation (*Mass of Creation*)

Amen following the doxology intoned by the celebrant: sung by the congregation (chanted)

Lamb of God: sung by the congregation (*Mass of Creation*)

Communion: antiphon sung by the cantor, followed by a familiar hymn to be sung by the congregation

Recessional: A familiar hymn with an introduction to be sung by the congregation

While the music at Mass still is far from what we might consider "normal," the above outline shows that we have a number of opportunities to sing the Mass along with some limited hymnody. Even when we are not actively singing with our voices, we can still sing with our minds and our hearts. As a professional musician, these musical limitations are quite difficult for me to accept, yet I know they are but a small cross to bear in comparison to the suffering of others throughout the world over the past seven months. Let us continue to pray for the safety, health, and wellbeing of each other and for all those who have been impacted by the pandemic.

AMDG,



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