

OFFICE FOR WORSHIP

September 2016



The Ministry of Music

We, music ministers, like all people in ministry, are busy people, with too much to do, too much to think about, and too much to juggle in our parallel lives of parish, home, family and musical interests. Much is asked of us, by our pastors, choir members, fellow music ministers, and by the parish at large. We lead music at multiple liturgies each weekend; manage, plan and direct rehearsals during the week; attend more meetings that we care to admit to; and meet with at least one or two engaged couples to plan their wedding liturgy. The RCIA director or parish catechetical leader wants us to lead music for a formation evening, and the youth minister has a Mass with the teens coming up and needs our help. And if that wasn't enough, there is a funeral that just got scheduled in an already over-scheduled, overwhelming week. Many of us music ministers are only "part-time" or "volunteer" musicians and we are pulled in any number of directions from our full-time job to our elderly parents, our children's sports schedules, and other demands of family life.

Does this sound like you??? Often our schedules pull us in so many different directions that it is difficult to embrace our deeper calling to be ministers of music – a calling that is grounded in our baptism and illuminated through our musical gifts and craft. The question and the challenge that is before many of us is how do we maintain a sense of mission and ministry in all that we do and are as ministers of music.



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When we use scripture as a source of reflection and prayer, juggling our schedules and balancing ministry vs. performance, becomes much more manageable. When I am firmly rooted in the Word of God, I find myself navigating the challenges of the world with greater ease and an increased sense of peace. As a music ministry, the decisions I make regarding song choices have a greater connection to the Sacred Liturgy and better illuminate the scripture proclaimed during the Liturgy of the Word.

I invite you to spend some time in reflection. The following process of Lectio Divina can be used with any passage of Sacred Scripture. I might suggest engaging in this process before sitting down to plan music for Sunday's Mass. As you grow in the process, notice how much more manageable your schedule will become and how much more rooted your ministry will be.

Lectio Divina

After allowing your mind and heart to become silent...

STEP 1: Begin with the text. Read it slowly... gently... contemplatively...

Don't let the length of the text scare you! Don't set a goal of using, or "covering" the entire text. The amount of text that you use for this prayer is in God's Hands, not yours. Savor each portion of the text, constantly listening for the "still, small voice" of a word or a phrase that somehow says, "I am for you today." In Lectio, God is teaching us to listen. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you.

STEP 2: Read the text again, taking the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize it... slowly repeat it to yourself... allow it to interact with your thoughts...

Do not be afraid of any distractions that may come your way. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during lectio divina, are asking to be given to God alone with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.

STEP 3: Read the text a third time. Speak to God.

Whatever you want to say—whether you use actual words, or simply ideas or images—interact with God as you would with one who you know loves you, accepts you, and forgives you. Give to God what you have discovered during your rumination on the word or phrase that God is speaking to you.

STEP 4: Read the text a fourth time. Rest in God's compassionate and merciful embrace.

When God invites you to return to your contemplation of his word or to your inner dialogue with him, do so. Learn to use words when words are helpful, and let go of words when they are no longer necessary. Simply rest in the knowledge that God is with you in both words and silence, in spiritual activity and inner receptivity.

Contact the Worship Office

Have a liturgical question? Contact

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Visit us on the web at
www.dmdiocese.org

Important Dates

Celebrating the Order of Matrimony, 2nd Edition Workshops

Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016
8:30 a.m.— Noon
St. Pius X Parish
3663 66th Street,
Urbandale, IA 50322

Liturgical Spirituality: Praying the Mass

Thursday, Sept. 29, 2016
7:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish
7075 Ashworth Road
West Des Moines, IA 50266

Pray for Trevor Chicoine
who will be ordained to the
Diaconate on **Thursday,**
September 29, 2016 in
Rome, Italy.

Cantor Workshops—Online!

One of the most common requests I receive in the Office for Worship is to host a cantor workshop—and there is one planned for this winter! In the meantime, I recently received the following message from the National Association of Pastoral Ministers about a series of workshops about the formation of a cantor:

NPM and LTP are excited to bring NPM members a new series of online *Virtual Workshops*[™].

The parish cantor will gain valuable **liturgical knowledge**, engage in **spiritual growth**, and develop or enhance the **musical skills** needed to lead the assembly in prayer and song.

Participants are invited to **actively engage** with presenters (including **John Angotti, Louis Valenzi, Berta Sabrio, and Daniel Girardot**) and with each another as they provide feedback, reflect on the topic at hand, and discuss strategies for increased engagement in their ministry.

This method of formation is extremely affordable and convenient. Each workshop is only **\$10 per computer per session**, or register for **all three for just \$25**. Parishes can gather cantors together and train everyone for mere cents per person, or cantors can register and participate from the comfort of their own home. Sessions are offered at 7:30 or 9:30 pm (Eastern) **6:30 or 8:30 p.m.** on September 26, October 24, or November 21. For complete information check out the website for the National Association of Pastoral Ministers at www.npm.org.

Session Topics:

The Cantor's Tune-Up: Vocal Skills for the Liturgical Singer
September 26, 2016

The Cantor as Psalmist:

A Spiritual and Technical Approach to Preparing the Psalms
October 24, 2016

The Cantor as Animator of the Assembly:

The Order of Celebrating Matrimony, Second Edition Ritual Books & Other Resources

On February 2, 2016, Archbishop Joseph Kurtz, president of the USCCB, issued a Decree of Publication for the English translation of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony. He wrote that the ritual text “may be published and used in the Liturgy as of September 8, 2016, the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and its use is mandatory as of December 30, 2016, the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. From that day forward, no other English edition of the Order of Celebrating Matrimony may be used in the dioceses of the United States.” The Spanish language edition of this rite, Ritual de Matrimonio, had already been published by the USCCB in 2010.

Ritual Books

Because of the revisions to the Order of Celebrating Matrimony, parishes will need to purchase new ritual books. Those books may be ordered from three different publishers:

- The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: Washington D.C.
- The Liturgical Press: Collegeville, Minnesota
- The Catholic Book Publishing Corporation: Totowa, New Jersey

The Liturgical Press is the only publisher at this time that publishes a bilingual edition. Parishes who order their ritual books through the Diocesan Office for Worship will receive a discount on the price of the book.

Liturgy Preparation Resources

The revision of the commonly used resource to help plan wedding liturgies, *Together for Life*, by Joseph Champlin, published by Ave Maria Press, will not be available for purchase until October 24, 2016. In the meantime, the website, Together for Life Online (www.togetherforlifeonline.com) can serve as a resource for couples.

The Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) has published a resource called *The Gift of Love: A Bride and Groom's Guide to Preparing the Wedding Liturgy*. It is available at fdlc.org for \$9.99. This is an excellent resource.

The Office for Worship is anticipating having a liturgical planning resource available in the coming weeks that will be accessible on the Diocesan website.