

Memo

To: Parish Musicians/Organists
From: Fr. Jonathan Gaspar
Date: 5/9/2011
Re: Music for the REVISED ROMAN MISSAL

It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you these past few weeks at the Roman Missal training sessions that have been taking place throughout the Archdiocese. These sessions have been a great opportunity to answer the common questions and to address the concerns associated with the Revised Roman Missal. I'm happy to say that these workshops have gone extremely well and that the new translation is being well-received.

During these workshops we have been sharing the resources and best practices that will be helpful in the parish implementation of the Roman Missal, which we will start using on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. One very important suggestion has to do with the music for the Roman Missal: We are strongly encouraging every parish throughout the Archdiocese to use the ICEL chants that will be found in the Missal and in every participation aid that is being published for use in the Liturgy. These beautiful chants are easy to sing and are readily available online at ICEL's website: www.icelweb.org/musicfolder/openmusic.php

The ICEL chant setting will be the official Mass setting for use throughout the Archdiocese of Boston. You may choose to use another musical setting of the Mass from one of the major publishers, but we would kindly ask you to begin by using the ICEL chants in November and to introduce other settings later on in the Liturgical year. The ICEL chants put the emphasis on the words, and it would be pastorally beneficial for us to choose the setting that is as uncomplicated as possible, so that the words we pray can become the focus. Upcoming opportunities for musicians throughout the Archdiocese to learn these settings will be announced in the coming weeks.

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians has done a wonderful job of recording these Mass settings and has posted these audio files on their website: www.npm.org/Chants/index.html The resources on this page are designed for priests, deacons, and musicians to learn and/or teach the music found in The Roman Missal. For each sung part of the Mass, you will find a recording in MP3 format and a PDF of the text with musical notation. You may freely download and use the files on their page for your own parish or personal use.

Additional information is available on our Archdiocesan website for the new Missal: www.bostoncatholic.org/newromanmissal. I also encourage you to contact my office with any questions you may have.