



DIOCESE OF BELLEVILLE

OFFICE OF WORSHIP

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To: Pastors, Administrators, Deacons, Parish Life Coordinators,
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Gradual Introduction of Musical Settings of New Roman Missal Starting in September

On June 16, 2011 during the U.S. Bishops Spring Assembly it was announced that diocesan bishops may permit the gradual introduction of the musical settings of the people's parts of the Mass from the new "Roman Missal" in September. Primarily this affects the Gloria, the Holy and the Memorial Acclamation.

In the Diocese of Belleville, Bishop Braxton has given permission for the gradual introduction of these musical settings.

The Office of Worship has prepared the following questions in an attempt to address the concerns parishes may have regarding the early implementation.

When can we begin using the new Mass settings?

The new Mass settings for the Gloria, Holy, Memorial Acclamation *and* Great Amen can be used for the first time on September 4, 2011, the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Is it mandatory that we use the new Mass settings beginning with this earlier implementation date?

No. If parishes already have a plan for implementation and don't want to begin singing the Mass settings early, they do not have to do so. This would be for those parishes who want to begin on an earlier date. However, the date of the First Sunday of Advent, November 26-27, 2011 is still the date on which the full English translation of the *Roman Missal* is to be used in all parishes of the United States. After that date, this will be the only one approved for use at Mass.

If we are not prepared to sing the texts, may they be spoken?

No. The news release from the bishops' conference notes that musical settings (and not spoken texts) may be part of the gradual introduction. It further notes that this "primarily affects" the Gloria, Holy and Memorial Acclamation. Bishop Braxton has given permission to also learn the musical setting to the Great Amen as that completes the set of prayers. This permission has been given so that when the full Missal is implemented on the First Sunday of Advent, the congregation will have already become familiar with certain *sung* prayers and acclamations.

Do we have to learn all of the suggested prayers?

No. There are other options.

- a) One option is to spend time with your congregation during the month of September and October teaching only the Gloria and then to sing it for the first time on the Feast of Christ the King on November 20. It could be sung again on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8. The congregation would then have the opportunity to sing it twice before the Christmas Masses.
- b) If parishes consider using a Gloria that is sung responsorial style, it will be easy for the assembly to learn just the one line and then, at least in the beginning, let the musicians sing the verses. Over time (months and years), the people will add the verses to their singing as has happened with other responsorial settings in the past, with no need of rehearsal.
- c) Acclamations within the Eucharistic Prayer, especially the Mystery of Faith, can not only be rehearsed in November, but can be sung initially in a call-response or sing-echo fashion (*Mass of Creation* is written this way but not all places continue to sing it that way) that can be dropped once the setting is known.

What are some other ways for parishes to gradually introduce the new texts/music to the people?

Following are some suggested ways of teaching and learning new music:

- a) Play the tune as instrumental music prior to Mass as prelude or processional music to “set the tune” in the minds of the faithful.
- b) Hold brief rehearsals of new music before and after Mass
- c) Consider using various pieces of new settings at other kinds of gatherings the parish may have e.g., evenings of reflection, committee meetings, parent sacramental meetings, town hall gatherings, etc.

Even if a parish decides not to begin the new musical settings at Mass in September, there is no need to wait until November to begin teaching new music and acclamations.

Is it better to do a revised (familiar tunes, new texts) or a completely new Mass setting?

Assuming not everyone will begin in September, the Office of Worship would like to suggest that parishes use a NEW Mass setting rather than a revised setting until Advent. Using revised settings could cause a lot of confusion between parishes using the old and new words to the same tunes. Hearing old familiar tunes may make congregations sing old familiar words.

Parish clusters – or other institutions – that share clergy may wish to collaborate on choosing Mass settings.

Thoughts and suggestions from the Office of Worship regarding the revised and new Mass settings for the *Third Edition of the Roman Missal* can be found on the Office of Worship [website](#).

Do parishes have copyright permission to reprint the new musical settings?

It is very important each parish and institution understand that they will need to obtain legal copies to use or obtain a license or licenses to reprint the music. Missalettes and other annuals and seasonal booklets will not have the settings in print form until the Advent 2011 publications. License agreements do not permit early use of publications with use dates just as they do not permit use beyond the ending date. Parishes will need to buy cards or pay weekly reproduction fees to the copyright holder.

What else should we be doing to teach the congregation about the changes?

This is a wonderful opportunity to not only teach the new music and words, but to include catechetical and theological formation for the people in regard to the sung prayers, acclamations and response. Consider a coordinated effort in introducing the new music:

For instance, on the day that a new setting of the Gloria may be used (as a prelude or during the Mass), the pastor might preach on the texts of the new setting. The Gloria might then be used, again, as a postlude. Finally, on that same weekend, a bulletin article or insert that addresses the Gloria or the new text could be used. This can be done with all the pieces of the new settings (Gloria, Holy and Memorial Acclamation).

What about the new musical settings for the Act of Penitence and the Lamb of God?

It would be the recommendation of the Office of Worship *not* to use versions from the new settings on the First Sunday of Advent simply because nothing is different in the translation for these. This will allow the entire assembly time to concentrate on the pieces with new texts. Once parishioners become familiar with these, then new settings of the litanies can be introduced.

As a way to help the faithful ease into the changes of new missal words and notes, one option is to wait until the First Sunday of *Lent* to introduce new musical settings for either the Act of Penitence or the Lamb of God.

I hope this information has been helpful. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact my office at 235-9601 ext. 1442.