

Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship

Reflecting on my experience in music ministry

From *Sing to the Lord*:

8. The Paschal hymn, of course, does not cease when a liturgical celebration ends. Christ, whose praises we have sung, remains with us and leads us through church doors to the whole world, with its joys and hopes, griefs and anxieties.¹⁸ The words Jesus chose from the book of Isaiah at the beginning of his ministry become the song of the Body of Christ. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."¹⁹

9. Charity, justice, and evangelization are thus the normal consequences of liturgical celebration. Particularly inspired by sung participation, the body of the Word Incarnate goes forth to spread the Gospel with full force and compassion. . . .

18 See Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World)* (GS), no. 1, in *Vatican Council II: The Conciliar and Post Conciliar Documents*, new revised edition, ed. Austin Flannery, OP (Northport, NY: Costello Publishing, 1996). All subsequent Second Vatican Council passages come from the Flannery edition.

19 Lk 4:18; see Is 61:1-2, 58:6.

What is Evangelization?:

1. To bring about in all Catholics such an enthusiasm for their faith that, in living their faith in Jesus, they freely share it with others. [Starts with our own enthusiasm!]
2. To invite all people . . . whatever their social or cultural background, to hear the message of salvation in Jesus Christ so they may come to join us in the fullness of the Catholic faith. [Welcoming others]
3. To foster gospel values in our society, promoting the dignity of the human person, the importance of the family, and the common good of our society . . . transformed by the saving power of Jesus Christ. [Living the Gospel, Justice, and Charity]

(U.S. Bishops, *Go and Make Disciples*, no. 89, 104, 117)

What About Me?

"Each and every time you open that responsorial psalm as a cantor, take your breath, and begin to sing the sacred words, yours is no less a deeply ecclesial ministry of evangelization than the ministry of Pope Francis. Each and every time you pick up your flute, your oboe, your guitar, your drumsticks, your violin, your handbells, as you prepare to inspire God's people with the gift of music, yours is no less a deeply ecclesial ministry of evangelization than the ministry of Pope Francis. Each and every time you work for hours on end to shape a choral sound that brings beauty and dignity to the liturgy, yours is no less a deeply ecclesial ministry of evangelization than the ministry of Pope Francis. When the hymn is announced and you are at the ready with your hands and feet positioned to begin the introduction at the organ or piano, what you are about to do is no less a deeply ecclesial ministry of evangelization than the ministry of Pope Francis."

(Jerry Galipeau, National Association of Pastoral Musicians Convention, July 2014)

I am a music minister. I am an evangelizer.

1. When have I had an experience as a music minister where my own faith was energized?

*You may wish to consult the following sections of Sing to the Lord: **Progressive Solemnity and Parts to Be Sung** (nos. 100-118) **Music and Structure of the Mass** (nos. 137-199)*

2. When have I had an experience as a music minister where I/we helped others feel welcome in my parish, in my choir? Or we helped others want to be at Mass?

*You may wish to consult the following sections of Sing to the Lord: **Gathered Liturgical Assembly** and **Ministers of Liturgical Music** (nos. 24-47), **Leadership and Formation** (nos. 48-53), **Instruments** (nos. 86-94) and **Location of Musicians and Their Instruments** (nos. 95-100) **Three Judgments** (nos. 126-136)*

3. When have I had an experience where I felt our music inspired worshipers (and maybe me!) to take up the church's mission of in the world? To "make a difference": e.g. in seeking justice, charity, peace, human dignity (treating others better), etc.

*You may wish to consult the following section of Sing to the Lord: **Why We Sing** (nos. 1-14)*