

Church of the Resurrection

Policy on visiting Musicians

As you prepare for the upcoming Liturgy that you will be providing music for at Resurrection Parish, we ask you to please review the following guidelines and statement of the parishes policy on Liturgical music.

Liturgical Statement

The planning of music for any Liturgy (Funeral, Wedding, Sunday Liturgy) should follow the principles of Liturgical music. These principles are based upon three judgments found in the document “Music in Catholic Worship” and cited in “Liturgical Music Today,” written and endorsed as normative by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. They are Liturgical judgment, the Musical judgment and the Pastoral judgment.ⁱⁱⁱ These judgments are the basis for the following guidelines and policies regarding music selection and visiting musicians.

The Liturgical Judgment: Is the music’s text, form, placement and style congruent with the nature of the liturgy? Does the music express praise of God and the Sacramental encounter with Christ? The music chosen should not interrupt or delay the rite.

The Musical Judgment: Is the music technically, esthetically and expressively good, irrespective of the musical idiom or style? Does it move the congregation to prayer? The music should be expressive, but not showy, or overly sentimental to the point that it draws attention away from the Liturgical action.

The Pastoral Judgment: Does the music fit this place, this congregation, this Event? Will it help this assembly to pray?

Sometimes families may want to include popular songs or theatrical instrumental works in a Liturgy. Music composed for social entertainment is not “congruent with the nature of the liturgy.” This music may have a “catchy” tune, be well known to the assembled congregation, and contain attractive or sometimes emotional affections. Even if certain pieces have “special meaning,” they are inappropriate when thoughtfully and carefully considered against the liturgical judgments. The Constitution on Sacred Liturgy states that “The texts intended to be sung must always be in conformity with catholic doctrine; indeed they should be drawn chiefly from holy scripture and from liturgical sources.”^{iv} Usually texts in popular music are not drawn

from Holy Scripture and liturgical sources. These texts violate the form of liturgical language, since they neither represent God speaking to humans, nor humans addressing God.

Pre-recorded Music: The use of recorded selections reduces the gathered assembly to observers not fully engaged in the prayer of the moment. It replaces the music minister(s), the cantor, soloist, organist or instrumentalist with impersonal electronic devices. Pre-recorded music can never become a substitute for the community's song.

Guidelines for Visiting Musician

- 1) All music must follow the three judgements and MUST be Liturgical. No Secular Music is allowed.
- 2) The use of outside musicians or non liturgical musicians, does not mean the family or musicians are exempt from following these guidelines and liturgical directives.
- 3) Musicians should keep in mind that the Mass is not a time or place for a concert.
- 4) The music should accompany some type of action or event taking place during the Liturgy. When the action stops, so should the music, in a reasonable and timely fashion.
- 5) The Parish Director of Liturgy and Music will be at all Liturgies. All guest musicians are under his/her direction.
- 6) Please remember that the celebrating Priest will decide which Mass parts are sung or spoken. The Director of Music and Liturgy will advise you of his decisions on this matter.
- 7) Instrumentalists are not allowed in the sanctuary. They should be positioned in the choir loft or next to the Baptismal font.
- 8) Vocalists may sing from the choir loft or the lectern on the right hand side of the sanctuary.
- 9) Guest musicians must keep in mind that they are not here for entertainment purposes and should not attract attention to themselves. They must also dress appropriately and modestly.
- 10) All music must be submitted to the Director of Liturgy and Music for final approval.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Director of Liturgy and Music, Mr. Joseph Viserta via email at jviserta@resmusic.org