

Best Practice Strategies for Teaching the New Mass Settings

NOTE ABOUT EARLY USE OF NEW SUNG MASS PARTS:

Parish implementation for the new translation of the Roman Missal begins in our diocese on November 27, 2011. Bishop Doherty has not authorized use the new acclamations/texts from the translation prior to the First Week of Advent 2011. However, the text of the **Gospel Acclamation**, **Great Amen**, and **Lamb of God** have not changed, therefore, it is acceptable to introduce a new melody of a Mass setting at any time during Ordinary Time for those parts **ONLY**.

Teaching Music Ministers

1. Read the lyrics aloud prior to listening to the music.
2. Teach music in small sections; start with most difficult passages first.
3. Rehearse all musical ensembles together at least once.
4. Be consistent with musical values. Make sure all musicians rehearse music the same way.
5. Make sure the MUSICIANS know the music extremely well. One cannot teach what what one does not know!
6. Use the technology tools available. CD's, on-line websites with recordings, mp3 recordings, iTunes are possibilities for your musicians.
Repetition is the mother of learning!

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Office for Worship & RCIA
Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Principles for Teaching the Assembly New Music

1. Create a scripted teaching format for the song leader/cantor that includes dialogue and procedures to teach the new music. Be very specific and consistent.
2. Introduce new melodies to the assembly early. Play/sing as prelude music or play as instrumental music for Preparation of Gifts.
3. Practice the new parts before Mass with the assembly through Ordinary Time to prepare for Advent.
4. As part of your parish catechesis, include the website with audio recordings of the setting you are using in your church bulletin for parishioners to listen to on their own.
5. Don't teach all parts of the Mass at once! Break it up over Ordinary Time and don't forget to review what was learned the previous week.
6. Using an "echo" can be a great teaching tool. Have the assembly repeat (echo) the acclamation/refrain that you are using (i.e. echo Gloria refrain or Memorial Acclamation after cantor) when actually starting to use the new settings during Mass.
7. Ensure that all members of the assembly have the music in front of them. Pew cards or Participation Aids with music settings are available from the publishers. Printing your own participation aid/pew card is also an option, but make sure you have the **appropriate copyright permission**.
8. Be positive!