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Module

**SELECTING MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY
THE SEASON OF LENT**

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PRIMER ON LENT

What is the season of lent all about?

The **LENTEN SEASON** is a profound period of preparation and reflection, leading up to the celebration of Easter, the resurrection.

Two-fold Characters of Lent

- A. **PENITENTIAL** - Lent is a time for repentance and seeking forgiveness for sins. This is expressed through practices such as fasting, abstinence, and confession.

The 3 Pillars:

- a. Prayer - helps deepen one's relationship with God.
- b. Fasting - the quiet offering of our senses, a gentle letting go so the soul can listen more deeply.
- c. Almsgiving - Acts of charity and helping those in need are emphasized, reflecting the call to love and serve others.

- B. **BAPTISMAL** - The Lenten season reminds us of our Baptism: just as Christ died to take away our sins, we are called to die to sin; and just as he rose from the dead, we rise with him to a new life.

Disciplines of Lent:

CONVERSION: Lent is a journey of turning back to God with all one's heart. It is a time to examine one's life, recognize areas needing change, and commit to spiritual growth.

SACRIFICE and SELF-DENIAL: By giving up certain comforts or pleasures, the faithful are reminded of Jesus' sacrifice and are called to unite their own sacrifices with His.

RENEWAL and TRANSFORMATION: The ultimate goal of Lent is to prepare for the celebration of the Resurrection. This involves a renewal of faith and a transformation of heart and mind.

SUMMARY:

Lent serves as a period of spiritual preparation for both new converts and long-time believers. Through the Lenten liturgy, catechumens are guided through the stages of initiation, while the faithful are called to remember their Baptism and engage in penitential practices, all leading up to the celebration of the Paschal Mystery at Easter.

Lent is a time of spiritual renewal, inviting the faithful to grow closer to God through prayer, penance, and acts of charity.

PRIMER ON THE PARTS OF THE MASS

The Proper of the Mass

The PROPER OF THE MASS or Mass Proprium are the parts of the Mass that can be altered and changed, provided that it adheres to the liturgical norms.

ENTRANCE HYMN or Introit

- The purpose of this chant is to open the celebration, foster the unity of those who have been gathered, introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical season or festivity, and accompany the procession.
- The tempo can be a little slower for lenten season and slightly faster and majestic during easter season. It should accompany the procession of the priest and ministers.

PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS AND THE ALTAR

- is bringing forward or setting aside and placing on the altar of the bread and wine for the Eucharist.
- The presentation song is for the bread and wine, and not offering of the self – mind, soul, and body, but rather point to works of one's labor, hence, the various gifts offered for the use of the Church and for the poor, and
- This part is especially of the bread and wine which will become the Lord's Body and Blood.

COMMUNIONSONG

- The purpose of the Communion Song is to express the communicants' union in spirit by means of the unity of their voices, to show the joy of heart
- highlights more clearly the "communitarian" nature of the procession to receive communion
- The theme of the hymn is always focused on Christ as the Bread of Life, or the faithful as the Body of Christ. In general, songs should be Eucharistic in character
- The hymn may likewise be based on the readings of the day.
- The hymn should aid in the meditation and personal thanksgiving of the faithful. Therefore, tempo and music should be contemplative, soothing and calm not hurried nor excited.

RECESSIONAL SONG

- The theme should be of gratitude to God and sending forth of the people or maybe a song based on the theme being celebrated.



HOW TO SELECT MUSIC FOR THE CATHOLIC LITURGY

Our Eucharistic Celebration

Musicam Sacram No. 9 | DOP Liturgical Music Guideline No. 25:

In selecting the kind of sacred music to be used, whether it be for the choir or for the people, the following must be taken into account:

- a. The capacity of those who are to sing the music;
 - b. It corresponds to the spirit of the liturgical celebration (appropriate for the season);
 - c. It corresponds to the nature of its individual parts (appropriate for the specific part of the Mass);
 - d. It does not hinder the full and active participation of the people.
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STEP 1: Get a clear understanding of the liturgical season and the particular part of the Mass where the song is intended to be sung. (see attached primer on SEASON OF LENT and THE PARTS OF THE MASS – THE PROPER OF THE MASS)

STEP 2: Analyze the song's text and melody, and determine if they correspond to the liturgical season and to the particular part of the Mass where the song will be sung.

Examination:

- a. Does the central message of the song resonate the meaning of the season?
- b. Does the mood of the music appropriately reflect the emotional tone of the liturgical season?
- c. Does the song fulfill the liturgical and functional requirements of the designated Mass part?
- d. Is the text appropriate for the individual mass part?

STEP 3: Identify your stakeholder and their capacity to sing. (Can your stakeholders sing the selected songs comfortably?)

In the liturgical music ministry, we have (4) four:

1. The Choir
2. The Congregation
3. The Ministers (lay servers)
4. The Priest Presider

COMMON RANGE (PITCH) CONGREGATIONAL SINGING

B3 to C5



A RELIABLE METHOD TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO JOIN IN THE SINGING DURING MASS:

1. Choose songs with simple and familiar melody
2. Always teach new songs and/or rehearse a song or a chant before the mass
3. Give a short encouraging catechesis before teaching new songs or rehearsing songs for congregational singing eg. "The liturgy belongs to the people, and when everyone joins in the singing, it creates a truly uplifting and inspiring experience."
4. Using a consistent music lineup throughout the entire parish—including the chapels—helps people grow familiar with the songs, making them more comfortable and confident to join in the singing.
5. Create and share vocal guide recordings—especially when introducing new songs and share with your lay liturgical ministers. This helps the congregation become more familiar with the music as they hear the ministers confidently participating in the singing.
6. Sing in unison and avoid adding harmonized voicing, as multiple parts can make the melody harder to follow and may discourage the congregation from participating in the singing.
7. Refrain from using too many instruments or overly complicated accompaniments, as these can distract the faithful and lose their focus