



Sunday Eucharist – Some Further Notes



Special issues need to be taken into account:

- ***Place for musicians:*** The choir and other music ministers should be provided with a space that is integrated within the assembly and that allows ample room for instruments so they can truly lead the people in song. It is important that each musician be able to participate fully in the celebration of the Eucharist.
- ***The human voice:*** The human voice should always hold a primary place in the music-making of the Church. Recorded music never replaces the human voice in liturgical celebrations.
- ***Sing the entire song:*** Every hymn that is sung during the liturgy gives voice to the prayer of the assembly. The verses of most hymns are written in sequence, so that the sentiments expressed in the first verse lead to subsequent verses and are brought to conclusion in the final verse. In order to respect the integrity of the text, it is important to sing the song in its entirety.

Sometimes the verses of a particular hymn may be independent of each other. In such a case, because of the length of the song and the ritual element which it accompanies, it may be appropriate to omit some verses. However, this should always be done with great care.

- ***Solo singing:*** Solo singing which does not permit the participation of the assembly is strongly discouraged.
- ***Texts:*** Only texts which have the approval of the Conference of Bishops may be sung during the liturgy.
- ***Secular music:*** Songs from secular sources and religious songs which do not express the faith of the Church or engage the assembly in giving voice to its prayer are not permitted during the liturgy. Some songs may be inspiring and of good musical quality. At the same time, however, their texts may not be directed to God or express the Church's faith. For these reasons they are inappropriate for liturgical prayer.
- ***Instruments for the liturgy and instrumental music:*** Any instrument that can support the song of the assembly, enhance their prayer even through meditative pieces, or add dignity to the rites may be used in the celebration of the Eucharist and the other rites of the Church.

When accompanying sung prayer, the instruments should support the singing and not obscure the words being sung. This is especially important to keep in mind when instrumentalists are accompanying the presider who sings the Eucharistic Prayer. Normally, “while the Priest is pronouncing them (‘presidential’ parts), there should be no other prayers or singing, and the organ or other musical instruments should be silent.”

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