



MEMO

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To: All Pastors and Music Ministers
From: Office of Liturgy
Subject: Music Resource Update
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Hymnals

The national hymnal of Canada is the *Catholic Book of Worship III (CBWIII)*. A national hymnal does not exclude the judicious use of other material but it does support the development of a common repertoire throughout the country. As the current national hymnal is now out of print, our national liturgy office is planning for a new edition in the future. Other hymnals approved by other conferences of bishops are also permitted. In those cases, it is important to note where the liturgical norms expressed differ from those for Canada.

Mass Settings

Both the National and Diocesan Offices of Liturgy strongly encourage all parishes to supplement whatever hymnal they use with *Celebrate in Song* and learn at least one of the three mass settings by Canadian composers or the ICEL chant setting contained therein. Newly composed settings or those that have been updated with the revised translation are also permitted when approved by a Bishop's Conference or the local Ordinary.

The choice of settings should take into consideration the nature of the assembly that will be singing them and the skills of the musicians leading. It should also balance the introduction of new settings with the development of a common repertoire in the diocese and country. It is not required that all Mass ordinaries be taken from the same setting at a given Mass. Use musical and pastoral judgement to determine which music facilitates the prayer of the assembly.



Psalmody

Currently, there is only one musical resource available for the Responsorial Psalm taken from the Canadian Lectionary, the collection from Gordon Johnson *Psalms for the Liturgical Year* available from Novalis. These same settings are in the *Living With Christ* missalette and the *Sunday Missal* from Novalis. Other resources for the Responsorial Psalm are expected soon. Even a simple melody for the refrain can be paired with the verses chanted on a single tone by a psalmist.

Although the diocesan office has previously insisted upon the text coming from the lectionary, the priority for Sunday Masses is that the Responsorial Psalm be sung rather than recited. Therefore, other translations may be used but all reasonable efforts should be made to use a text for the Responsorial Psalm that comes from the Canadian Lectionary. For assistance, please contact the Office of Liturgy.

- *Psalms for the Liturgical Year* by Gordon Johnston available through Novalis: <http://www.novalis.ca/products.aspx?title=psalms>
- Sound recordings of the Johnston psalm settings can be accessed via the Celebrate! Magazine website: <http://www.celebrate-liturgy.ca/index.php?id=219>