

# **ENGLISH CHANT**

Resources for Singing  
the Propers and Ordinary of the Roman Rite  
Mass in English

Presentation by  
Steven W. Medicis, Director of Music, Saint James Church, Syracuse, New York

# The Role of Chant in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy](#) ([Sacrosanctum Concilium](#)), one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council solemnly promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963,

- 116. The Church acknowledges Gregorian chant as specially suited to the Roman liturgy: therefore, other things being equal, it should be given pride of place in liturgical services. But other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded from liturgical celebrations, so long as they accord with the spirit of the liturgical action...
- 117. The typical edition of the books of Gregorian chant is to be completed; and a more critical edition is to be prepared of those books already published since the restoration by St. Pius X. It is desirable also that an edition be prepared containing simpler melodies, for use in small churches.

# The *Roman Gradual*

- The “typical edition” specified in Article 117 is the *Roman Gradual (Graduale Romanum)*, available in hardcopy form from several Catholic publishers of sacred music including [CanticaNOVA Publications](#), [GIA Publications](#), and [OCP](#).
- The *Roman Gradual* is the primary official book of liturgical music for the Roman Rite.
- First published in 1908 at the request of Pope Saint Pius X by the Benedictine monks of [Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes](#) in France and revised in 1974 following the issuance of the *Roman Missal (Missale Romanum)* of 1970.

# The *Simple Gradual*

- The “edition...containing simpler melodies, for use in small churches” specified in Article 117 is the *Simple Gradual* (*Graduale Simplex*), available in paperback form from several Catholic publishers of sacred music including [CanticaNOVA Publications](#), [GIA Publications](#), [OCP](#).
- Like the *Roman Gradual*, the *Simple Gradual* is an official book of liturgical music for the Roman Rite.
- First published in 1967 at the request of Pope Paul VI by the Benedictine monks of [Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes](#) in France and revised in 1975 following the issuance of the *Roman Missal* (*Missale Romanum*) of 1970.

# The *Roman* and *Simple Graduals*

- Both Graduals contain rubrics and music for the Proper of the Seasons, Common Masses, the Proper of the Saints, and Ritual and Votive Masses as well as appendices of hymns, litanies, and other supplemental chants.
- The proper music for each listed Mass usually includes an Entrance antiphon and Psalm (Introit), Gradual Psalm or Canticle, Alleluia verse (Tract during Lent), Offertory antiphon, and Communion antiphon and Psalm.
- Both include a Kyriale of chant settings of the ordinary music of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei), chant settings of the Nicene Creed, and music for the sprinkling of blessed water (Asperges Me and Vidi Aquam).
- Both Graduals are published entirely in Latin.

# The *Roman* and *Simple Graduals*

- Because the Graduals are the official musical resources of the Roman Rite, parish directors of music should own a copy of each and be aware of the Church's intention in terms of Scripture reference for the Entrance, Offertory, and Communion songs of a particular Mass for which they plan music.
- Useful English chant resources tend to be based on the music and texts of the *Roman Gradual* and *Simple Gradual*.

# The *Gregorian Missal*

- The *Gregorian Missal* contains side-by-side Latin and English texts for the complete celebration of Mass, with Gregorian chant propers from the *Roman Gradual* for all Sundays and solemnities and for those feasts which take precedence over a Sunday. Scriptural references to readings of the Liturgy of the Word have been given.
- This missal was published in 1990 by the Benedictine monks of [Abbaye Saint-Pierre de Solesmes](#) in France.
- The [Gregorian Missal](#) is available free of charge online from [MusicaSacra](#), the website of the Church Music Association of America (CMAA), at <http://musicasacra.com/2009/01/21/gregorian-missal-online/>. It is available in hardcopy form from several Catholic publishers of sacred music including [CanticaNOVA Publications](#), [GIA Publications](#), and [OCP](#).
- All chants including the complete Kyriale are presented in Latin as in the *Roman Gradual*. While not a resource for English chant music, the *Gregorian Missal* is easier to use as a music-planning resource than the *Roman Gradual* because it contains English text translations beneath the Latin music and text.

# The Role of the English language in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [\*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy \(Sacrosanctum Concilium\)\*](#), one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council solemnly promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963,

- 36.1. Particular law remaining in force, the use of the Latin language is to be preserved in the Latin rites.
- 36.2. But since the use of the mother tongue, whether in the Mass, the administration of the sacraments, or other parts of the liturgy, frequently may be of great advantage to the people, the limits of its employment may be extended. This will apply in the first place to the readings and directives, and to some of the prayers and chants, according to the regulations on this matter to be laid down separately in subsequent chapters.
- 36.3. These norms being observed, it is for the competent territorial ecclesiastical authority..., to decide whether, and to what extent, the vernacular language is to be used; their decrees are to be approved, that is, confirmed, by the Apostolic See. And, whenever it seems to be called for, this authority is to consult with bishops of neighboring regions which have the same language.
- 36.4. Translations from the Latin text into the mother tongue intended for use in the liturgy must be approved by the competent territorial ecclesiastical authority mentioned above.



# The Role of the English language in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy](#) ([Sacrosanctum Concilium](#)), one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council solemnly promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963,

- 54. In Masses which are celebrated with the people, a suitable place may be allotted to their mother tongue. This is to apply in the first place to the readings and “the common prayer,” but also, as local conditions may warrant, to those parts which pertain to the people, according to the norm laid down in Art[icle] 36 of this Constitution.

Nevertheless steps should be taken so that the faithful may also be able to say or to sing together in Latin those parts of the Ordinary of the Mass which pertain to them...

# The Ordinary Chants in English: ICEL

- The [International Commission on English in the Liturgy \(ICEL\)](#), while working on an English translation of the third typical edition of the *Roman Missal* (2002), assembled a small group of expert musicians to prepare musical settings of the English texts of the ordinary chants of the Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei, et alia).
- The Commission approved settings for those parts of the Order of Mass that received *recognitio* from the Holy See in June 2008, and made these settings available online at <http://www.ichelweb.org/musicfolder/openmusic.php>.
- The English chant settings are largely based on their Latin counterparts in the *Roman Gradual* and *Simple Gradual*.

# The Ordinary Chants in English: ICEL

- In keeping with the mark of universality of the Catholic Church, it is expected that all English-speaking Catholic clergy and congregations will be able to sing the Catholic Mass using the ICEL-approved English chant settings.
- To further promote the use of these chants in the United States of America, the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#) has mandated that a common Order of Mass including the ICEL-approved English chant settings be published in all Catholic missals, hymnals, and other liturgical guides.

# The Ordinary Chants in English: CMAA

- The Church Music Association of America (CMAA) provides full downloads to the ICEL-approved English chant settings and video tutorials on its website at <http://musicasacra.com/music/rm2011/>.
- Sound and musical-score files of unofficial CMAA-edited English-language adaptations of complete Mass settings, settings of the Nicene Creed, and individual ordinary chants (Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei) from the *Roman Gradual* and *Simple Gradual* are available at <http://musicasacra.com/music/english-chant-ordinary/>.

# The Proper Chants in English: The Church Music Association of America

- In addition to the previously-cited resources, the Church Music Association of America (CMAA) website hosts or links to many other free English chant resources online at <http://musicasacra.com/music/>.
- Most of the chant resources are complete texts for free download.
- While some were published in the 1960s or earlier, several are current and relevant to the present *Roman Missal*, including the *Simple English Propers*, *Lalemant Propers*, *American Gradual*, *Anglican Use Gradual*, *Laudate Dominum Communion Antiphons*, and *Communio with English Verses*.
- Even the older texts can be of use as most of the chants appointed for use with the *Roman Missal* of 1962 appear in the present *Roman Gradual*.

# The Proper Chants in English: *The Simple English Propers*

- Adam Bartlett's project and book provides beautiful, accessible, and complete Entrance, Offertory, and Communion propers in English with psalms in modal chant. The project was sponsored and in 2011 published by the Church Music Association of America.
- The *Gregorian Missal* is the composer's point of reference for the development of these chants.
- The [Simple English Propers](http://media.musicasacra.com/books/simple_english_propers.pdf) are available for download free of charge at [http://media.musicasacra.com/books/simple\\_english\\_propers.pdf](http://media.musicasacra.com/books/simple_english_propers.pdf).
- The modes from the Gregorian original are wholly preserved to capture the sound and feel of the *Roman Gradual* proper chants.
- Twenty-three melodic formulas are employed including eight unique melodic models, one in each Gregorian mode, designated for three proper genres: Introit, Offertory, and Communion (no Mode VII Offertory formula exists as no Mode VII Offertory is found in the *Gregorian Missal*).
- Music is published with square-note neume notation.
- Organ accompaniment is available.
- Hard-copy versions of all editions are available for purchase.
- Antiphon text translations in English are from the Gregorian Missal. Psalm verses are taken from the [Revised Grail Psalms](#).
- This resource is intended for use in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.
- The proper chants of the Mass are available for all Sundays, Feasts and Solemnities of the Lord, and Solemnities of Saints, as well as for the Funeral and Nuptial Ritual Masses.

# The Proper Chants in English: The *Lalemant Propers*

- This collection edited by Jeffrey M. Ostrowski of [Corpus Christi Watershed](http://www.cwatershed.org) contains very simple settings in English of the Mass propers.
- The [Lalemant Propers](http://www.cwatershed.org/pdfs/7585-lalemant-propers-391-pages-simple-english-psalm-tones/download/) are available for download free of charge at <http://www.cwatershed.org/pdfs/7585-lalemant-propers-391-pages-simple-english-psalm-tones/download/>.
- Gregorian Psalm tones are designated for each proper genre: Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Tract, Offertory, and Communion.
- Music is published with square-note neume notation.
- No organ accompaniment is available.
- Hard-copy versions is available for purchase.
- Antiphon text translations in English are from the Gregorian Missal. Psalm verses are taken from the [Revised Grail Psalms](#).
- This resource is intended for use in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.
- The proper chants of the Mass are available for all Sundays, Feasts and Solemnities of the Lord, Solemnities of Saints, and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day).
- Many bonus features are included, such as proper hymns, the Good Friday Reproaches, and forty-five complete Psalms pointed musically.

# The Proper Chants in English: *The American Gradual*

- Bruce E. Ford's adaptations of the chants of the *Roman Gradual* were first published in 2001 and revised in a second edition in 2008.
- The [American Gradual](http://media.musicasacra.com/books/americangradual1.pdf) is available for download at <http://media.musicasacra.com/books/americangradual1.pdf>.
- Music is published with modern notation.
- No organ accompaniment is available.
- Texts are drawn from the 1979 *American Book of Common Prayer* and the *Revised Standard Version* English translation of the Bible.
- This resource is intended for use in liturgies of the Roman Rite, Anglican personal ordinariates in communion with the Holy See, and the Episcopal church.
- The proper chants of the Mass are available for most Sundays and some Solemnities of the Lord.
- The *American Gradual* is a worthy effort at an English language adaptation of the Roman Gradual; however, most directors of music may find the chants too complex to teach to a volunteer choir on a weekly basis.



# The Proper Chants in English: The *Anglican Use Gradual*

- C. David Burt's adaptations of the chants of the *Roman Gradual* were first published in 2004 by Patridge Hill Press in Mansfield, Massachusetts. A second edition was published in 2006.
- The *Anglican Use Gradual* is available for download at <http://anglicanhistory.org/music/gradual/gradual.pdf>.
- Music is published with square-note neume notation.
- No organ accompaniment is available.
- Texts are drawn from the 1928 United States edition of the *Book of Common Prayer*. As such, the language may be considered worthy by some and antiquated by others.
- This resource is intended for use in Anglican personal ordinariates in communion with the Holy See, but suitable for use in the Roman Rite.
- The proper chants of the Mass are available for all Sundays, Feasts and Solemnities of the Lord, and Solemnities of Saints.
- The *Anglican Use Gradual* closely follows the structure of the *Roman Gradual*, but in most cases not the chants themselves. The chants are simpler than those in the *American Gradual*, but the language is more archaic.

# The Proper Chants in English:

## *Laudate Dominum Communion Antiphons*

- Andrew R. Motyka composed simple, modal melodies for English paraphrases of the Communion antiphons of the *Roman Gradual* to be sung responsorially during the Communion procession, when it is inconvenient for communicants to sing hymns that require them to carry a hymnal or missal.
- The [Laudate Dominum Communion Antiphons](http://www.comunionantiphons.org/) are available for download at <http://www.comunionantiphons.org/>.
- Music is published with modern notation.
- Organ accompaniment is available.
- Each antiphons is set in the same Gregorian mode as the corresponding antiphon in the *Roman Gradual*. These are accompanied by English *Revised Grail Psalm* verses as referenced in the *Roman Gradual* set to the Saint Meinrad Psalm tones.
- This resource is intended for use in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.
- The proper Communion chants of the Mass are available for all Sundays, all Feasts and Solemnities of the Lord, and most Solemnities of Saints, as well as for the Funeral and Nuptial Ritual Masses.

# The Proper Chants in English: The *Communio with English Verses*

- Richard Rice's edition of *Communio* with Latin Psalm verses was published in 2007 by the Church Music Association of America in Richmond, Virginia. The edition with English-language Psalm verses was printed in 2009.
- The [Communio with English Verses](http://media.musicasacra.com/books/communio_english.pdf) is available for download at [http://media.musicasacra.com/books/communio\\_english.pdf](http://media.musicasacra.com/books/communio_english.pdf).
- Music is published with square-note neume notation.
- No organ accompaniment is available.
- Communion antiphons are given using the original Latin text and Gregorian music from the *Roman Gradual* with English-language text-only translations. These are accompanied by English Psalm verses as referenced in the *Roman Gradual* set to the Psalm tones of the Divine Office.
- English texts of the Psalm verses are drawn from the Douay-Rheims translation of the Latin Vulgate.
- This resource is intended for use in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite.
- The proper Communion chants of the Mass are available for all Sundays, Feasts and Solemnities of the Lord, and Solemnities of Saints.
- Chants are presented alphabetically by the first few words of the Latin text of the antiphon, although a liturgical index is provided.

# Other English Chant Resources: Saint Meinrad Chants

- Father Columba Kelly, O.S.B., and [Saint Meinrad Archabbey](#) in Saint Meinrad, Indiana, provide several English-language chant resources at <http://www.saintmeinrad.edu/the-monastery/liturgical-music/downloads/> (select the “Fr. Columba” category).
- Father Kelly has adapted the chants of the *Roman Gradual* to the text of the English translation of the *Roman Missal* and its Antiphony to provide propers (Introit, Responsorial Psalm, Verse before the Gospel, and Communion) and Psalm verses for the Masses of Advent, Christmastide, Lent, Eastertide, Ordinary Time, Solemnities during Ordinary Time, the Nuptial Mass, and the Funeral Mass.
- Although the third typical edition of the *Roman Missal* makes provision for singing the antiphons of the *Roman Missal*, these antiphon texts often differ substantially from those found in the *Roman Gradual*—especially during Ordinary Time—and according to the 1975 American adaptation of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* of 1970 were originally intended to be spoken by the priest and assembly during Masses without a choir (“Masses without singing”).
- Father Kelly also makes available the [Saint Meinrad Kyriale](#) of ordinary chants in English. However, some of the English chants in this Kyriale conflict with their official versions as found in the *Roman Missal*.
- Music is published with square-note neume notation.
- No organ accompaniment is available.
- Psalm tones, an English-language setting of the Exsultet, and Verses before the Gospel for the liturgical year are provided as well.

# Other English Chant Resources

- The [Proper of the Mass for Sundays and Solemnities](#): Father Samuel Weber, O.S.B., Director of the [Benedict XVI Institute for Sacred Music and Divine Worship](#) in the [Archdiocese of San Francisco, California, Office of Sacred Worship](#), adapted the chants of the *Roman Gradual* to the texts of the *Roman Missal* and *Roman Gradual, Lectionary for Mass*, and Douay-Rheims translation of the *Latin Vulgate* to provide settings of the Introit, Responsorial Psalm, Verse before the Gospel, Offertory, and Communion in several degrees of difficulty. is available in hardcopy form from [Ignatius Press](#) at <http://www.ignatius.com/IProducts/278599/the-proper-of-the-mass-for-sundays-and-solemnities.aspx>.
- [By Flowing Waters: Chant for the Liturgy](#): Paul F. Ford's English-language adaptation of the *Simple Gradual* was published in 1999 by the Order of Saint Benedict in Collegeville, Minnesota. It is available in hardcopy form from [Liturgical Press](#) at <http://www.litpress.org/Detail.aspx?ISBN=0814625959>.

# Other English Chant Resources

- [The Chant Café](#), a project of the [Church Music Association of America](#), is a liturgy blog for Catholic musicians.
- [Corpus Christi Watershed](#) offers thousands of Responsorial Psalm scores, MP3 sound files, and practice videos, including the [Saint Noël Chabanel Responsorial Psalms](#), all of which are available for free download. Much of the music is English-language chant.
- [CanticaNOVA Publications](#) bills itself as a provider of “traditional music for the contemporary church”. Its [online catalog](#) contains many examples of English-language chant settings of the proper and ordinary of the Roman Rite Mass.

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# Other English Chant Resources

- These are but a small sample of the English-language chant resources that exist online and elsewhere.
- Directors of music should take time to explore the wealth of resources available to them by taking a more active approach to liturgical music-planning instead of limiting themselves to music and planning resources supplied by one particular publisher of Catholic liturgical and sacred music.



# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [\*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy \(Sacrosanctum Concilium\)\*](#), one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council solemnly promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963,

- 14. Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious, and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. Such participation by the Christian people as “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a redeemed people (1 Pet. 2:9; cf. 2:4-5), is their right and duty by reason of their baptism.

In the restoration and promotion of the sacred liturgy, this full and active participation by all the people is the aim to be considered before all else; for it is the primary and indispensable source from which the faithful are to derive the true Christian spirit; and therefore pastors of souls must zealously strive to achieve it, by means of the necessary instruction, in all their pastoral work.

Yet it would be futile to entertain any hopes of realizing this unless the pastors themselves, in the first place, become thoroughly imbued with the spirit and power of the liturgy, and undertake to give instruction about it. A prime need, therefore, is that attention be directed, first of all, to the liturgical instruction of the clergy...

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy \(Sacrosanctum Concilium\)](#), one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council solemnly promulgated by His Holiness Pope Paul VI on December 4, 1963,

- 114. The treasure of sacred music is to be preserved and fostered with great care. Choirs must be diligently promoted, especially in cathedral churches; but bishops and other pastors of souls must be at pains to ensure that, whenever the sacred action is to be celebrated with song, the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs...

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

- Article 14 has been widely misunderstood to mean that the congregation must sing every sung part of the Mass.

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

- Article 114 clearly distinguishes between the role of the choir and the role of the congregation.
- This means that at times the congregation and choir may sing together, at times the choir and congregation sing in dialogue with one another, and at times the choir sings alone.
- Unless an easy to remember and repeated proper antiphon is used responsorially at Entrance, Offertory, or Communion, it is allowable for a choir to sing alone as needed during these processions as long as the congregation can participate exteriorly in song at other times during the Mass.

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

- The “fully conscious and active participation” clause of Article 14 has also been commonly misinterpreted by many who understand participation to be visible and external in nature.
- The Church, however, recognizes the need for both internal and external participation.

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [Musicam Sacram](#), [Instruction on Music in the Liturgy](#), the last authoritative document regarding sacred music promulgated by the Sacred Congregation of Rites on March 5, 1967,

- 15. The faithful fulfill their liturgical role by making that full, conscious and active participation which is demanded by the nature of the Liturgy itself and which is, by reason of baptism, the right and duty of the Christian people.

This participation

(a) Should be above all internal, in the sense that by it the faithful join their mind to what they pronounce or hear, and cooperate with heavenly grace,

(b) Must be, on the other hand, external also, that is, such as to show the internal participation by gestures and bodily attitudes, by the acclamations, responses and singing.

The faithful should also be taught to unite themselves interiorly to what the ministers or choir sing, so that by listening to them they may raise their minds to God.

# The Role of the Faithful and the Choir in the Roman Rite Liturgy

According to the [Musicam Sacram, Instruction on Music in the Liturgy](#), the last authoritative document regarding sacred music promulgated by the Sacred Congregation of Rites on March 5, 1967,

- 16. One cannot find anything more religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than a whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song. Therefore the active participation of the whole people, which is shown in singing, is to be carefully promoted as follows:
  - (a) It should first of all include acclamations, responses to the greetings of the priest and ministers and to the prayers of litaney form, and also antiphons and psalms, refrains or repeated responses, hymns and canticles.
  - (b) Through suitable instruction and practices, the people should be gradually led to a fuller—indeed, to a complete—participation in those parts of the singing which pertain to them.
  - (c) Some of the people's song, however, especially if the faithful have not yet been sufficiently instructed, or if musical settings for several voices are used, can be handed over to the choir alone, provided that the people are not excluded from those parts that concern them. But the usage of entrusting to the choir alone the entire singing of the whole Proper and of the whole Ordinary, to the complete exclusion of the people's participation in the singing, is to be deprecated.

# Singing the Propers

- The Church herself encourages the singing of the propers.



# Singing the Propers

According to the English translation of the [General Instruction of the Roman Missal](#) (third typical edition) of 2002,

- 47. When the people are gathered, and as the Priest enters with the Deacon and ministers, the Entrance Chant begins. Its purpose is to open the celebration, foster the unity of those who have been gathered, introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical time or festivity, and accompany the procession of the Priest and ministers.
- 48. This chant is sung alternately by the choir and the people or similarly by a cantor and the people, or entirely by the people, or by the choir alone. In the Dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Entrance Chant: (1) the antiphon from the Missal or the antiphon with its Psalm from the *Graduale Romanum* as set to music there or in another setting; (2) the antiphon and Psalm of the *Graduale Simplex* for the liturgical time; (3) a chant from another collection of Psalms and antiphons, approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop, including Psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) another liturgical chant that is suited to the sacred action, the day, or the time of year, similarly approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop...

# Singing the Propers

According to the English translation of the [General Instruction of the Roman Missal](#) (third typical edition) of 2002,

- 74. The procession bringing the gifts is accompanied by the Offertory chant..., which continues at least until the gifts have been placed on the altar. The norms on the manner of singing are the same as for the Entrance chant (cf. above, no. 48). Singing may always accompany the rite at the offertory, even when there is no procession with the gifts.
- 87. In the dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Communion chant: (1) the antiphon from the Roman Missal or the Psalm from the *Roman Gradual* as set to music there or in another musical setting; (2) the seasonal antiphon and Psalm of the *Simple Gradual*; (3) a song from another collection of psalms and antiphons, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop, including psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) a suitable liturgical song... This is sung either by the choir alone or by the choir or cantor with the people.

# Singing the Propers

- “It is proper to sing the propers.”
- Notice that at Entrance, Offertory, and Communion, the first option for song is always the proper antiphon and accompanying Psalm or canticle of the Mass.
- Most congregations exclusively use the fourth, last option—“a suitable liturgical song”—when singing during these processions. This exclusive insistence on the use of the last option runs contrary to the reason that the Church provided options in the first place. It does not seem to be the intention of the Church in the celebration of the Roman Rite. A more rich and varied celebration of the Mass is envisioned.

# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- There are many ways to incorporate English-language chant propers and Psalms into the celebration of Mass without excluding the people from singing as is their duty and right.
- Sing a joyful psalm instead of “Sing a New Song”. Most congregations are used to singing a Responsorial Psalm at Mass. They could similarly repeat a simple antiphon between verses of a Psalm sung by a cantor or choir.
- This would be especially beneficial to encourage congregational singing during the Communion procession, when it is cumbersome for people to carry music books and sing a hymn while walking and receiving Holy Communion.

# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- For the congregation that has no experience with English chant, it is best to begin by teaching a setting of the ordinary of the Mass, as this can be repeated each week.
- The implementation of the English translation of the third typical edition of the Roman Missal provides an opportune time for the introduction of English-language chant as congregations will be required to learn new settings of the ordinary of the Mass.
- It is the desire of the bishops of the English-speaking world that all English-speaking congregations should learn the [ICEL](#)-approved [English chant settings](#) of the Roman Rite Mass.
- Other English-language chant settings, like the [Mass of Saint Agnes](#) from [CanticaNOVA Publications](#), will become available in the near future. These ordinary settings will add a sense of simple solemnity to the sung prayer of the Mass.

# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- Congregations, particularly those with choirs, can also introduce English-language chant into the Mass by singing the propers: Entrance (Introit), Offertory, and Communion.
- The singing of the propers of the Mass has been the Tradition in the Roman Rite for hundreds of years. But it has not been our tradition or experience to sing them in the years following the Second Vatican Council.
- A lack of official resources made available in a timely fashion combined with confusion about the roles of the choir and the congregation in the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite have led to disuse of the sung propers.

# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- Congregations often sing several hymns or songs during the Communion procession, especially when the procession takes a long time to complete. Directors of music might consider replacing one of these songs with the Communion antiphon and Psalm of the Mass to be sung by the choir alone or by the choir with the congregation responding.

# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- The Entrance hymn might be replaced seasonally with the Entrance antiphon and sung by the choir alone or by the choir with the congregation responding.
- This can be particularly effective during Advent and Lent.



# Incorporating English Chant into Parish Masses with a Congregation

- There are many other resources and ways to enrich a congregation's experience of the Roman Rite of the Mass with English-language chant.
- The implementation of English translation of the third typical edition of the Roman Missal provides directors of music with an unique opportunity to improve the quality of sacred music in parishes throughout the Diocese of Syracuse, New York, and play an important role in the liturgical catechesis of congregations.
- English-language chant is an important means by which the propers and ordinary of the Roman Rite Mass may be sung more solemnly and easily.