

# NPM Organist Colleague (CAGO) Certificate Liturgy Exam Study Guide

## Liturgical Knowledge

Complete a written exam on church music and liturgy. This test will be emailed to all applicants on the specified dates. See <http://www.npm.org/Sections/Cantor/cantorcertification.htm> for more information. Each applicant will have 3 hours to complete the test and email it back. Two questions will be given from each component from which the candidate will answer one.

### Component I: Sunday Celebration of the Eucharist

- *Introductory Rites*
- *Liturgy of the Word*
- *Liturgy of the Eucharist*
- *Concluding Rite*

The liturgy committee of your parish has asked you to help them examine the musical elements in the celebration of the Sunday Eucharist. Take each of the four parts of the liturgy listed above, and help them to study and evaluate the musical elements of each part of the Eucharistic liturgy. Make use of appropriate texts from the *Roman Missal* and *Lectionary for Mass*, as well as pertinent liturgical documents. Take into account the following aspects for each of the four parts of the liturgy:

- Relationship of Music to Ritual Action and Text
- Musical Form
- Participation of the Assembly
- Role of Priest, Deacon, Psalmist, Choir, Cantor, Instrumentalists, Director

### Component II: Seasons of the Liturgical Year

- *Advent*
- *Christmas Season*
- *Lent*
- *Easter Season*
- *Ordinary Time*

Be prepared to respond to the following with regard to each season:

1. Are there elements of the Sunday Eucharist that are to be omitted or highlighted during this season?
2. How would the celebration of this season affect the shape of each of the major parts of the Eucharistic liturgy: introductory rites, liturgy of the Word, liturgy of the Eucharist, concluding rite?
3. What musical elements should be highlighted or downplayed (even omitted) during this season?
4. Which of the psalms might be sung during this season during the entrance rite, after the first reading, and/or during communion? What musical settings of these psalms would you choose, and why?

5. What items of ritual music might be used throughout this season (e.g., acclamations, responses)? What hymns or songs?

### **Component III: Rites of the Church**

- *Easter Vigil with Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation*
- *Celebration of Infant Baptism at Sunday Mass*
- *Celebration of Baptism Outside of Mass*
- *Celebration of First Eucharist (at Sunday Mass)*
- *Anointing of the Sick at Sunday Mass*
- *Communal Penance Celebration (Form 2) during Advent or Lent*
- *Celebration of Marriage during Mass*
- *Celebration of Marriage between a Catholic and an Unbaptized Person*
- *Funeral Rites: Vigil, Funeral Liturgy, Committal*
- *Confirmation*

Be prepared to contribute to the preparation of the liturgy for each of the above situations, taking into consideration the following questions:

1. What are the most important musical elements of the rite: acclamations, processional songs, blessing prayers, dialogues, responses? How are these tied to the major ritual actions?
2. What would be appropriate choices for psalms, hymns and songs for this rite?
3. How could choral and instrumental music be used to support the celebration of the rite?

### **Suggested Reading to prepare for the Liturgical Knowledge exam**

#### **Liturgical Documents**

Candidates should be familiar with the following liturgical documents and with their implications for the role of music and of music ministry in the liturgy.

- Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (1963)
  - *Musicam Sacram* (1967)
  - Directory for Masses with Children (1973)
  - General Instruction of the Roman Missal (Current English Translation Promulgated for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, November 27, 2011)
  - *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (NPM, 2007)
- The Rites of the Catholic Church, Vol. 1 (The Liturgical Press, 1991)

#### **Other Reading**

Candidates should also be familiar with the following books available from NPM Publications.

- *Seven Sessions: The NPM Study Guide to Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*
- *Singing Our Worship: A Pastoral Musician's Guide to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal*
- *Singing the Year of Grace*

Candidates will also find it beneficial to refer to the Lectionary and to have access to a hymnal of their choice, which has Mass settings, hymns, and psalms.