

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

Governing Policy (Section 1): Ends

1.0: Global Ends

Approved: 10/8/2018

Revised: 11/4/2019

The Catholic Church in the United States sings the praise of God through divinely inspired musical worship.

1.1: Skills and Knowledge for Leadership

Approved 4/16/2020

Persons entrusted to lead the faithful in musical worship in dioceses of the United States are equipped with the musical, liturgical and pastoral skills and knowledge necessary to provide excellent leadership in service to the Church. (see *Sing to the Lord* 48-51)

1.1.1: Roles in Ministry

Approved 7/30/2020

Directors of music ministry and those responsible for choirs and ensembles, as well as clergy, vocalists, instrumentalists, and all involved in music ministry are well served by NPM programming.

1.1.2: Places of Ministry

Approved 7/30/2020

NPM members serve the Church in parishes and cathedrals, schools, seminaries, religious houses, and other Catholic institutions.

1.1.3: Three Judgments

Approved 7/30/2020

NPM members are musically proficient, knowledgeable of liturgical documents and tradition, and demonstrate wise pastoral judgement that is rooted in their baptismal call to discipleship. (see *Sing to the Lord* 50)

1.1.4: A Fully Integrated Spirituality for Ministry

Approved 10/14/2021

Pastoral musicians grasp the centrality of worship in Christian life, and embrace a spirituality that “involves the whole person: intellect and emotion, spirit and body, action and contemplation, individual and community, secular and sacred.” (*Plenty Good Room* 82)

1.2: Liturgical Song

Approved 4/16/2020

Liturgical song holds a preeminent place among the liturgical arts. (*Sacramentum Caritatis* 42)

1.2.1: Active Participation Shown in Singing

Approved 7/30/2020

“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.” (*Musicam Sacram* 16)

1.2.1.1: Baptismal Call

Approved 10/14/2021

It is in and through the Sunday celebration of the liturgy that the faithful enact their baptismal identity, offering their lives with Christ as head of the body, a living sacrifice of praise. As articulated in the Catechism, “the celebrating assembly is the community of the baptized” (CCC 1141), and “for the purpose of assisting the work of the common priesthood of the faithful other particular ministries also exist” (CCC 1143).

“In the celebration the sacraments it is thus the whole community that is leitourgos, each according to his function, but in the “unity of the Spirit” who acts in all.” (CCC 1144)

1.3: Sunday Eucharist

Approved 4/16/2020

The faithful encounter the mystery of the triune God through their participation in the Sacred Liturgy, most especially the sung celebration of the Sunday Eucharist.

1.3.1: Beauty as Evangelization

Approved 7/30/2020

“The Church evangelizes and is herself evangelized through the beauty of the liturgy, which is both a celebration of the task of evangelization and the source of her renewed self-giving.” (*Evangelii Gaudium* 24)

1.3.2: Diversity of Gifts

Approved 5/24/2021

“To be Catholic is to be universal. To be universal is not to be uniform. It does mean however that the gifts of individuals and of particular groups become the common heritage shared by all.” (*What We Have Seen and Heard*, 4) Those gifts, including songs, rhythms, instrumentation, and movements, form the fabric of Sunday celebrations throughout the universal Church.

1.4: Clergy

Approved 3/9/2022

Clergy, especially bishops and pastors, recognize music as essential to the celebration of the liturgy and to vibrant parish life. They lead “by [their] own example,” encouraging congregational song through their own singing (see *Sing to the Lord* 16, 19).

1.4.1 Competent Leadership

Approved 3/9/2022

Because quality music in parishes depends on competent leadership, clergy prioritize the hiring and formation of trained musicians.

1.4.1.1 Seminaries

Approved 3/9/2022

Bishops pay “careful attention to the musical training of future priests and deacons” (SttL 16), and ensure that seminaries form future clergy “to sing with confidence and to chant those parts of the Mass assigned to them” (SttL 20).

1.4.2 Collaboration

Approved 3/9/2022

Clergy and musicians collaborate in the preparation of liturgies, keeping the lines of communication and dialogue open.