

NOTES ON MUSIC FOR CONFIRMATION

revised 4/09

Some calls come into the office each year as parishes begin planning Confirmation and the following is offered as a reference for that time.

Glory to God: If celebration is on a weekday, Glory to God *may* be sung or it *will be* omitted.

Music during Confirmation: The bishop likes to confirm 2 or 3 candidates before any music begins, so that the dialogue between him and the candidate is heard. There may be music during the remainder of confirmations. Please take care, however, to keep the music somewhat soft so that the bishop and candidate can hear each other in the dialogue accompanying the sacrament. If there are only a few candidates (less than 15) it might be best if no music accompanied the ceremony. That way, everyone can hear the words of the bishop and the candidates.

Selection of music: A word of caution about choice of music for Confirmation: the best planning for the celebration of the sacrament involves the candidates; however, it is important to remind them that this will be a community celebration - not just their own celebration. That means that the music chosen (text *and* music) must:

- 1) be appropriate for the action at the moment, e.g. entrance, communion . . . that is, it must be fit as part of the liturgy;
- or**
- 2) speak to this particular celebration regarding the Holy Spirit;
- or**
- 3) be an authentic expression for the whole community because it is the whole community celebrating this sacrament.

The choice of a song because "we did it on retreat and it's really special to us" doesn't call the group to a thoughtful selection for the sake of the whole community. A song of this type could be played for the group as they gather before the celebration of the Sacrament or be played in the reception area just after liturgy. A song that's "really special to us" *and* that would be appropriate for everyone in the pews is a fine choice.

Further reference: Remember to review "Confirmation" in the diocesan [Sacramental Guidelines](#) for General Liturgical Principles and for Liturgical Principles for Celebrating the Rite of Confirmation. Also review the pages "Summary of Pastoral Notes for the Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation".

Please be reminded that Bishop Vann requests that a copy of the Liturgy plan including music and readings be sent to the Office of Worship (dwarner@fwdioc.org) two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled date of Confirmation.

There may still be questions not covered here. If so, call me and let's talk it over.

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