

An Exhortation to Sing

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What is the purpose of Music in our St. Thomas More community? In my first meeting with Father Elmer about the Music Ministry, he gave as the priority getting the congregation to sing together. This has become our **Prime Directive**: *Is what we are doing encouraging people in the Congregation to sing?*

That leads to many things musically. We want to prepare music that is fun for the congregation to sing, that inspires and draws you into the Liturgy, and that leads to a prayerful participation in Mass.

It also leads to a definition of Music in our church. The center of the Church is the Liturgy, and music is an integral part of that in both the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. What we have been trying to concentrate on in our ministry is practicing and renewing those parts of the liturgy that are music. **We want to raise the bar**. No matter what form the music takes, be it a simple cantor, a full choir, an organ, a rock and roll band, all is towards the same aim: *the Glory of God*. Everything is towards bringing us ALL together to praise him.

The congregation can join in with this effort. **Please sing with us!**

And let me reveal something here, a fervent belief on my part. *God hears the music of our hearts*. He doesn't mind an off key voice here or there. He doesn't mind if anyone is tone-deaf. Singing out of tune is not a sin. In our ministry we will have times when things will be off, when a voice here or there will stick out, sound strident, or hit a wrong note. *God hears the music in our hearts*. Even more, God sends his Holy Spirit to foster the music in our hearts. How can we not burst forth in song to praise him???

So as you attend church, let your voice ring out. We here in the music ministry invite you to sing, we want you to sing, we beg you to sing! Father Elmer and Father James want you to sing. Don't worry about whether you get it right. Let all of us join as a community to raise our voice in praise of our God!

As the Church has sung for centuries: ***Cantate Domino***.

- Ren