

## A Few "Notes" From Your Music Minister

First and foremost, I want to thank the St. Ann community for being a welcoming, vibrant, and exciting place to serve. It is an honor and a privilege to lead the music ministry here.

Over the past few months I have received a few questions, and I would like to address them:

### *1. Now that we have a piano, are we still replacing the Clavinovas?*

I am incredibly thrilled and equally grateful for our beautiful, baby grand piano. Though nothing can replace the look, the feel, and the sound of an acoustic piano, there are several features that a Clavinova has, that a piano does not. Therefore, it is my intention to continue raising money to replace both Clavinovas with new models. As soon as we have the funds to replace both Clavinovas, we will do so.

### *2. Are drums allowed in church?/Is it "liturgically acceptable" to use drums during mass?*

One of the manuscripts that governs liturgical music is *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*. When addressing instruments other than the organ and the piano, it states,

*"...God's people have, in various periods, used a variety of musical instruments to sing his praise. Each of these instruments...has given voice to a wide variety of forms and styles through which Christ's faithful continue to join their voices to his perfect song of praise upon the Cross. (89)*

*[Many instruments enrich] the celebration of the Liturgy, such as wind, stringed, or percussion instruments... "provided they are truly apt for sacred use or can be rendered apt. (90)"*

Therefore, any instrument that enhances the celebration of the Liturgy is acceptable for use during mass.

### *3. When are we changing the mass parts?*

We will be using a new mass setting at the starting on November 26, 2016.

### *4. Why are we changing the mass parts? Everyone knows them and sings them!*

As proud as I am that everyone is singing Dan Schutte's (Revised) Mass of Light, we have been using the mass setting for nearly three years. At the start of the new liturgical year we will begin using Kathleen Demny's Mass of Joy. The Mass of Joy is an upbeat mass setting that is easy-to-sing. We will be teaching the new parts throughout the month of November, but for those who want to get a head start, you can listen to the recording posted on the Music Ministry webpage ([www.saint-ann.net/music-ministry](http://www.saint-ann.net/music-ministry)).

*5. Why are we singing "Bridges" songs?*

Firstly, "Bridges" is the name of the contemporary group that performed at the church last Easter through Pentecost. The name Bridges has no bearing on the songs that are printed in the booklets. The songs featured in the Bridges booklets are contemporary Christian hymns that were chosen by the Bridges group.

I have introduced these hymns to create a well-rounded worship service. Each mass, I try to incorporate a mix of traditional hymns, contemporary hymns, and everything in between. It is my hope that there is something that everyone can enjoy, sing, and relate to musically at each mass.

*6. I hear these contemporary songs on the radio. Is it okay to sing them in church?*

The hymns that are featured in the Bridges booklet are published by major publishers such as Oregon Catholic Press (OCP) and GIA Publications. They have been approved for use by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and are being used in churches throughout the United States.

*7. How do you choose the music for each mass?*

As I mentioned earlier, I do my best to create a well-rounded worship service that includes songs everyone can enjoy, sing, and relate to musically. The songs also reflect the liturgy's readings, reinforcing the themes explored and the lessons shared. I often consult a variety of resources to aid in liturgical planning.

*8. How can I get involved in the music ministry?*

If you are a musician of middle-school age or older and looking to get involved, I encourage you to join St. Ann's Contemporary Music Ensemble (CME). If you're a vocalist, I encourage you to join one of our three choirs: The Children's Choir, Junior Choir, and Adult Choir. If you are thinking about serving in a musical capacity, but are unable to do so currently, I encourage you to continue to sing out from the pews each week, and pray about joining one of our ministries.

Again, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve here at St. Ann's. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to stop by the piano after mass, or send me an e-mail ([stanmd@saint-ann.net](mailto:stanmd@saint-ann.net)). I look forward to hearing your voices.

In Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Louis F. Castano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "L".

Louis Castano