

Guidelines will assist in selection of wedding music

By Sharon A. McDaniel
For the Courier-Journal

Planning a wedding is a tough job, even if you have worked with caterers, florists, and seamstresses before. And unless you know music, you may have trouble deciding on selections for your wedding. "About 99.9 percent of people have never planned a liturgical celebration. They have no idea what they are supposed to do or can do," explained John Kubinieć, associate director of liturgical music in the diocesan Liturgy Office.

Engaged couples are not the only ones perplexed by liturgical norms for wedding music; frequently, parish musicians themselves have trouble offering advice. "Sometimes the parish musician can talk very naturally with the couple, explaining the role music serves and where it fits into the ceremony," explained Janie Marini, chairwoman of the Diocesan Music Committee. "But more often, the couples understand too little about the wedding service." Without a common basis of understanding about the ceremony from which to work, musicians are hard pressed to advise couples.

As a result, parish music ministers asked the diocese for some written guidelines that couples could read and discuss, to clarify their thinking about wedding music before they even met with the musicians. This became a high-priority task for the Diocesan Music Committee.

The five-page draft, *Music Guidelines for the Marriage Liturgy*, received approval from Bishop Matthew H. Clark only last week. The guidelines will soon be published in pamphlet form by the diocesan Liturgy Office and distributed to priests, deacons, and musicians for use by couples planning weddings later this year.

The guidelines were written by two Diocesan Music Committee members — folk musician Todd Flowerday and Dr. William Greene, who serves as organist at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The two authors each worked in their own areas of expertise. Flowerday, who will soon receive his master's degree from St. Bernard's Institute, concentrated on the liturgical considerations. Dr. William Greene, who teaches music at Nazareth and Ithaca colleges, focused on musical considerations.

Working from models provided by the guidelines of other dioceses in New York and throughout the United States, Flowerday and Greene began work on the pamphlet in September, 1987. After the drafts were revised by the entire music committee, the guidelines were also reviewed by the diocesan Liturgical Commission, before being submitted to the bishop.

Music in Catholic Worship, a 1973 document published by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, served as a starting point for the pamphlet. This

document states that music for liturgical use should be judged by three criteria. From a liturgical standpoint, the document asks whether the music fits the liturgy and reinforces its meaning. Next, from the musical perspective, it asks whether the music is really good, worth singing or hearing. Finally, from a pastoral viewpoint, the document asks whether the music will be appropriate to the congregation and nurture their faith.

This commitment to quality music, the
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St. Mary's duo offers planning class for couples

By Linda Quinlan
For the Courier-Journal

When you're getting married, says prospective bridegroom Doug Aleanell, "there are so many plans to make that . . . sometimes you don't think about some of the smaller details."

One of those details is the wedding music. In the experience of longtime parish organist Phil Lioi, many engaged couples have little idea of what is available and appropriate for their wedding ceremonies. "They follow the ritual — perpetuate the traditions — often with no idea why they're doing what they are doing or what (the traditions) mean," he says.

Enter Darlene Flynn, cantor, soloist and music minister at St. Mary's Church, Rochester. Lioi and Flynn work together at St. Mary's and decided "something should be done to awaken couples," Flynn recalls. The result was a one-night course entitled, "Planning Session for Engaged

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File photo

St. Mary's organist Phil Lioi practices for an upcoming Mass.



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