

Guidelines

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second criterion, is very important, Marini stressed. "Consider the source of the service; the readings are from the Bible. In that setting, second-rate music is inappropriate," she remarked.

Yet even when measured against this standard, a wide range of musical styles are suitable. Depending on how large or formal the wedding will be, couples can choose music that is appropriate to the setting and also suits their individual tastes.

Marini emphasized that the pamphlet will give couples a positive perspective on the wonderful, exciting wedding ceremony. It will explain the parts of the wedding ceremony, the order of the Mass, where music fits in, whom to ask for advice about music and how to select what will be performed. It also describes what kind of music works best in each section of the service.

Since music is an integral part of liturgical celebrations, it is important to select wedding music that "lets everyone attending the celebration feel that the spirit of Christian love is present in the assembly and in the bride and groom," Marini said.

She emphasized that the music "brings the congregation closer to the couple, expresses Christianity and the presence of the Lord. Before the couple suggests a selection to the parish musician, they should ask themselves if the music they

want serves this purpose?"

"The wedding is not just for the couple, but also for their families and friends to worship together in a nurturing assembly," Kubinieć added. Because of the emphasis on community celebration, vocal solos are appropriate for some parts of the service, while in other parts the congregation should be encouraged to in the singing, taking an active role in the wedding.

Furthermore, because the wedding Mass has a certain rhythm of its own, music inserted at the wrong points can interrupt rather than complement the ceremony. And too much music can make the service seem unusually long.

To assist couples in selecting their wedding music, the pamphlet contains a two-page list of vocal and instrumental music suitable for the various parts of the service. "Personalizing the ceremony is easy with music for organ, voice, guitar or brass quintet," Marini suggested.

The pamphlet also suggests a time line for choosing wedding music and working with the musicians. Marini pointed out that it is important to plan ahead. "As a performing musician, I have dates for several summer weddings on my calendar, and I'll meet with those couples within the next month," she remarked.

Kubinieć feels that the new guidelines will get long-term use. "I'll look for feedback, to make sure that the pamphlet helps couples." He also plans to keep improving the guidelines better and to continue updating the music list.

Cenacle offering retreat for married couples

The Cenacle Center is offering an overnight retreat for married couples February 27-28. The retreat, entitled "Is the Heat On in Your Marriage?," will be

presented by Sister Margaret Mayk, r.c., and Don and Rosemarie Schaeffer. The offering is \$60 per couple. For reservations or information, call (716)271-8755.

St. Mary's

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Couples"

Among more than a dozen couples attending the course last month were Aleanell and fiancé Laurie Morrison, who are planning a May 20 wedding at St. Mary's. Aleanell found the course very helpful. "Now we can get a say in what's happening and personalize the ceremony," he remarked.

"I wanted to be able to have some input," says bride-to-be Suzanne Schultz, who will wed David Geisler in ceremonies July 30 at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece.

Schultz attended the course in hopes of learning about music so that she could work better with the parish music staff. "I'm not very musically inclined," Schultz says, "but I wanted to be able to talk music to our organist."

An organist for more than three decades, Lioi has been playing at weddings for at least 16 years. Frequently, he says, couples come to him with no ideas for their wedding music or "with something they've heard on the radio." Yet there are so many other options, he remarks. Moreover, he believes that many elements of the wedding ceremo-

ny have become routine. "They have no connection to the couple — to what came before the liturgy and to what's coming after," he asserts.

In their course, Flynn and Lioi focused on 12 key elements in the wedding ceremony — from the prelude to the recessional — giving musical suggestions at various points. Their suggestions ranged from a Shaker hymn entitled "Simple Gifts," to the traditional "Bridal Chorus" from Lohengrin.

But they didn't just discuss music. Flynn and Lioi guided the couples, who had come from throughout the Rochester area, through the entire wedding liturgy, offering suggestions and alternative ideas along the way.

Take, for instance, the entrance processional. "The way it is conducted says a lot about where the couple has come from," Lioi observes. Is the bride "given away" to her groom when she reaches the end of the aisle? Or does the entire wedding party march in together, with the bride and groom each escorted by their parents?

Such helpful input was greatly appreciated by the couples that participated. In fact, the feedback on the class has been so positive, Flynn says, that she and Lioi hope to repeat the program at least once a year.

Reflection series planned by Sisters of St. Joseph

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester invite women of all ages and backgrounds who are interested in exploring spirituality to one of two reflection times. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 23, and will be repeated on Friday, March 11, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave., Rochester. The first

programs begin at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

Speakers for the evening discussions will be Sisters Mary Lourdes McCarthy, SSJ, Eileen Conheady, SSJ, and Marilyn Pray, SSJ.

Call Sister Barbara Lum at (716) 586-1000, ext. 28, for information.

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