

A Music Director's Prayer – 20 June 2014 ([CCWATERSHED.ORG](http://CCWATERSHED.ORG))

**M**Y GOD, YOUR CREATION of the universe was not done as a requirement for Your happiness. You were perfectly happy before You brought me into existence, and You might have chosen 1,000 other human beings (instead of me) as music director for this parish. You have chosen me, dear Lord, for reasons I don't fully understand. I'm sure my service will be imperfect. I know my choirs will sometimes hit wrong notes. I realize that my conducting and organ playing will be flawed.

And yet, O Lord, mothers and fathers are also imperfect, but—in a mysterious way I don't fully understand—You entrust them with Your precious, innocent, & beautiful children. In fact, parents generally have more of an influence on a child's spiritual life than anyone else. Moreover, children's comprehension of Your Nature & Existence is often “brought home” by their relationship with their parents. Therefore, my God, throughout my tenure as music director, help me realize the dignity of my office. Make me submissive to Your Divine Will and give me strength when I become discouraged.

My God, I have already acknowledged that Your ways are mysterious. You have often chosen sound when moving the hearts of men. You chose various sounds & singing for the miracle of Luigi Comollo, as Don Bosco and twenty witnesses attest. You chose sound at Pentecost (Acts 2:2). Help me make the parish understand that music is a special gift from God, and can play a role in our salvation.

In today's “video game” world, O Lord, everyone is a skeptic, and nothing is serious: not even our salvation. Men laugh at anyone who dares to contemplate what happens after death. In our age, sacred traditions are mocked, and shallow thinking rules the day. Help us to heed Cardinal Newman, who pointed out that “all shallows are clear.” Mark Twain even denied Your existence, saying, “If I were God, I wouldn't have created flies. Therefore, God does not exist.” He failed to look at things on a deeper level. For one thing, even a house fly is such a complex being, no human could ever create one. Moreover, flies spend their time doing something every human being dreams of: flying! Help us, therefore, never to be arrogant & shallow, like Mark Twain. Help us remember that *our ways are not Your ways*, and always to look deeper.

FINALLY, O LORD, help us never to get discouraged in an age that does not appreciate sacred music. Help us remember that right is still right if nobody's right; and wrong is still wrong when everybody's wrong. This is seen clearly when we consider Your holy teachings on sexuality, which are true and right even though so few pay them heed. When we complain, remind us of the sufferings undergone by Your servants in times of old; before the advent of modern medicine, plumbing, electricity, and modern conveniences. Amen.