



Secretariat of Divine Worship

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September 20, 2013

Mr. Daniel Craig

Dear Mr. Craig:

Thank you for your letter of September 11 by which you raise questions about Monsignor Hilgartner's response to your earlier correspondence with me and other members of the Committee on Divine Worship.

I can assure you that the Committee on Divine Worship is very much aware of the binding nature of the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal* and we take very seriously our responsibility to teach and uphold the liturgical norms contained therein. I believe you misunderstood Monsignor Hilgartner's explanation of the current state of the process of approval of music for use in the Sacred Liturgy as a direct contradiction with the law. His explanation was merely an attempt to explain to you why the sometimes delicate process of upholding the liturgical law has taken time. As to the question arising out of the quote of the correspondence of November 20, 2012, I simply point out that this particular statement was not intended as a statement of policy.

The Committee on Divine Worship continues to examine how best to oversee the process of approval of sacred music for use in the Liturgy, but given the amount of music that is composed for use in the Liturgy, the number of composers (some of whom are parish music directors composing settings of liturgical texts for use in their own parishes), and the number of parishes in the United States, you can appreciate that such a process takes time. We are in a far better place today in this regard than we were 30 years ago when the similar norms were in force (as contained in the 1969 *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*). There is still more to be done, however, as your questions attempt to point out, and the Committee and the staff of the Secretariat are wholeheartedly committed to that work.

May the Lord bless you in your dedication to the Sacred Liturgy.

Wishing you God's blessings, I am

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Archbishop of New Orleans
Chairman