Singing of the liturgical texts themselves—such a direct participation in the liturgy of the day is obviously the ideal. However, the practical difficulties involved in teaching everyone the words, and the unfamiliar musical setting which is often the only thing available for the texts, require that the program be fairly well launched before anything of this sort is attempted.

Whatever the time schedule and order under which the various elements of the program are introduced, the following practical observations will perhaps be useful:

1. There is no need to create too much apprehension concerning the program which is being introduced. The various things it requires of the people are easy enough, and with cooperation and effort, they will be quite familiar and even automatic in a few weeks' or at the most a few months' time.

2. The one thing the program requires above all others, especially during its initial stages, is forceful, enthusiastic leadership. The priest himself should be entirely sure of what it is the parish is about to do, and he should be quite convinced in his own mind that the objectives that can and will be achieved are entirely worth the effort. His enthusiasm and determination should show themselves in the way he is careful to foresee difficulties, quick to spot areas in which performance might be getting sloppy, and patient in bringing up again a prayer or song that was mastered once but is now causing difficulty again. For any program, no matter how well it is introduced, will require constant attention if it is not to lose its meaning and polish.

3. Concerning the singing, it should be noted that metric hymns are ordinarily easier to learn and sing than nonmetric ones. Also, any really good hymn will usually have only one or two places in it that will cause any difficulty. These are the places that should be practiced, while only a few lines of the hymn as a whole need be sung before

the people have caught the basic melody. Experience has shown that it is as easy to over-rehearse as it is to under-rehearse, and equally destructive to a program of participation. The priest should realize that even a congregation with several years' experience with a program of participation will not do too well the first time a hymn is introduced. But the actual singing of the hymn at Mass throughout a liturgical season is itself practice, and before too many Sundays have passed the new hymn has become a familiar one.

4. The priests must be very careful to let the people see that the Mass program is not something that he is telling them to do but something they are working out together because it is worthwhile. It is most important that he identify with his people in the efforts they are making, admitting that he too finds much of it strange and a little awkward but adding that he is convinced that the goal to be achieved is worth the common effort.

NOTE FOR THE FOLLOWING CHART

The pattern given in this chart is intended for full participation in low Mass on Sundays, feastdays, and whenever it is possible to achieve this measure of activity. It is entirely flexible and circumstances will determine how much of it is possible at daily Masses when the congregation is limited in numbers.

Although the low Mass (recited, spoken Mass) is considered directly, it is easy to adapt the pattern to sung Mass, in which the people should, generally speaking, sing the parts which they recite at low Mass. At sung Mass there is less flexibility with regard to the proper chants, and the low Mass hymns or other songs (entrance, between the lessons, etc.) are replaced by the liturgical texts appointed for the Mass of the day.

A PATTERN FOR PARISH LOW MASS

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
JUST BEFORE MASS BEGINS		• reads necessary announcements • leads practice of new hymns, etc. • introduces theme of day's Mass			• practice new hymns, etc.
ENTRANCE RITE	• enters in procession (after entrance song is begun)	• invites people to stand	• enters in procession, places book on lectern on Gospel side	• enter with celebrant	• stand

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
	• says prayers at foot of altar quietly with ministers • reads Introit or recites with people	• leads entrance song		• answer prayers at foot of altar quietly	• sing entrance song and/or recite Introit with celebrant
KYRIE	• alternates invocations with people	• gives brief introduction to Kyrie			• alternate invocations with celebrant
GLORIA	• begins Gloria and leads people in recitation				• recite* Gloria with celebrant

* In some places, as an effective means of taking part in the "ordinary chants" at low Mass, brief songs paraphrasing (or related to) the corresponding text are sung by the people.

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
COLLECT*	• greets people and waits for their response • invites people to pray (Oremus) pauses for summary • prays Collect	• gives summary of collect			• respond to celebrant's greeting • pray silently • ratify Collect with Amen!

* Should there be more than one Collect, the same pattern is repeated from the Oremus.

EPISTLE	• waits for people to be seated (and for introduction) • proclaims Epistle to people (in absence of lector)	• invites people to sit • may introduce reading	• waits for people to be seated (and for introduction) • proclaims Epistle	• respond at end of reading	• sit • listen to reading
GRADUAL, TRACT and ALLELUIA (songs of meditation and response)	• recites verses (quietly if responsory is sung)	• leads people in brief song, or in recitation, etc.			• sing brief responsory, or recite verses, etc.

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
GOSPEL	• waits for people to stand (and for introduction) • recites opening dialogue with people • proclaims Gospel (quietly, if in Latin)	• invites people to stand • may introduce reading	• (if celebrant reads in Latin:) after opening dialogue, proclaims Gospel	• respond at end of reading	• stand • recite opening dialogue • listen to reading

	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
HOMILY	• waits for people to be seated • preaches God's Word • (leads prayer of faithful, if any)	• invites people to sit			• sit • listen to Homily • (respond to prayer of faithful, if any)
CREED	• waits for people to stand • begins Creed and leads people in recitation	• invites people to stand			• stand • recite* Creed with celebrant

* In some places, as an effective means of taking part in the "ordinary chants" at low Mass, brief songs paraphrasing (or related to) the corresponding text are sung by the people.

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
OFFERTORY RITE	• greets people • recites offertory antiphon (quietly, if hymn, etc., is being sung) • receives gifts, etc.	• invites people to sit • introduces offertory, leads people in song		• assist celebrant as usual • receive gifts from representatives of people and bring them to altar • respond to Orate fratres quietly	• respond to celebrant's greeting • sit • sing hymn or psalm, recite, etc. • (representatives) bring gifts to sanctuary

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
SECRET (Prayer over the Gifts)	• waits for people to stand and for summary of Secret • prays Secret(s), pauses after "Amen"	• invites people to stand • gives summary of Secret during Orate fratres			• stand • ratify Secret with "Amen"
PREFACE	• waits for introduction • greets people and recites opening dialogue with them • prays Preface	• introduces Preface			• respond to celebrant's greeting • recite opening dialogue with celebrant

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
SANCTUS	• leads people in recitation of Sanctus				• recite* Sanctus with celebrant
CONSECRATION		• if necessary, invites people to kneel before Consecration • invites people to stand after Consecration			• kneel at invitation or bell • stand after Consecration
CONCLUSION OF EUCHARISTIC PRAYER	• raises voice to invite people's response	• may give reminder to people just before end of Canon			• ratify eucharistic prayer with solemn Amen

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
LORD'S PRAYER	• pauses for introduction • recites invitation ("*Oremus . . . dicere*") and leads people in recitation • prays Libera nos and invites people's response	• introduces Communion rite			• recite Lord's Prayer with celebrant • ratify Libera nos with Amen
AGNUS DEI	• greets people • leads people in recitation of Agnus Dei				• respond to celebrant's greeting • recite* Agnus Dei with celebrant

* In some places, as an effective means of taking part in the "ordinary chants" at low Mass, brief songs paraphrasing (or related to) the corresponding text are sung by the people.

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
COMMUNION	• after his own communion, leads people in Domine non sum dignus • distributes communion with "Corpus Christi" • recites prayers and cleanses chalice quietly	• invites people to kneel after celebrant's communion • after Domine non sum dignus, invites people (if necessary) to come forward • leads people in communion song			• kneel • recite Domine non sum dignus with celebrant • come forward to receive communion ' respond Amen • sing communion hymn or psalm
POST-COMMUNION	• reads communion antiphon (quietly, if hymn, etc., is being sung) • greets people and waits for their response • invites people to pray (Oremus), pauses for summary • prays Post-communion	• invites people to stand after Communion antiphon • gives summary of Post-communion			• may recite Communion antiphon with celebrant • stand • respond to celebrant's greeting • pray silently • ratify Post-communion with Amen

Action	CELEBRANT	COMMENTATOR (Leader of Song)	LECTOR	SERVERS	PEOPLE
BLESSING *and* DISMISSAL	• greets the people and waits for their response • dismisses the people (Ite missa est) • recites Placeat quietly • blesses people	• while priest says Placeat, invites people to kneel and respond to blessing			• respond to celebrant's greeting and words of dismissal • kneel • respond to blessing with Amen

CONCLUSION	• recites opening dialogue with servers • reads last Gospel quietly • leaves in procession	• leads people in closing song	• leaves with celebrant	• recite opening dialogue with celebrant • respond at end of Last Gospel • leave with celebrant	• sing closing hymn or psalm