

November 2007 “Action Item” by Bishop Donald Trautman

The Second Action: Approval of an Emendation to GIRM, nos. 48 and 87

In the course of the development of *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, a difficulty with the USCCB adaptations of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* came to the attention of the Subcommittee. GIRM, nos. 48 and 87 deal with what is to be sung at the entrance and during the procession to receive Holy Communion. Consisting largely of the same language used in the 1970 adaptation of similar numbers in the previous edition of the *Sacramentary*, both sections provide for the sung use of the introit and communion antiphons from the Roman Missal.

Recent research, confirmed by unofficial discussions with officials of the Holy See during the past several years, has made clear that the antiphons of the Order of Mass were never intended to be sung, but are provided without notation to be recited whenever the *Graduale Romanum* or another song is not sung. The antiphons of the *Missale Romanum*, which differ substantially from the sung antiphons of the Roman Gradual, were never intended to be sung.¹

As a result, the subcommittee suggests a separate action, by which the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, nos. 48 and 87 are emended, as follows:

GIRM, no. 48: The singing at this time is done either alternately by the choir and the people or in a similar way by the cantor and the people, or entirely by the people, or by the choir alone. In the dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Entrance Chant (song): (1) the antiphon ~~from The Roman Missal or the Psalm~~ from the *Roman Gradual*, with or without its Psalm, as set to music there or in another musical setting; (2) the seasonal antiphon and Psalm of the *Simple Gradual*; (3) a song from another collection of Psalms and antiphons, approved by the Conference of Bishops or the diocesan Bishop, including Psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) a suitable liturgical song similarly approved by the Conference of Bishops or the diocesan Bishop

Cf. GIRM, no. 87: In the dioceses of the United States of America there are four options for the Communion chant (song): (1) the antiphon ~~from The Roman Missal or the Psalm~~ from the *Roman Gradual*, with or without its Psalm, as set to music there or in another musical setting; (2) the seasonal antiphon and Psalm of the *Simple Gradual*; (3) a song from another collection of Psalms and antiphons, approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops or the diocesan Bishop, including Psalms arranged in responsorial or metrical forms; (4) a suitable liturgical song chosen in accordance with no. 86. ~~This is sung either by the choir alone or by the choir or cantor with the people.~~ This is sung either by the congregation or choir and congregation or by the choir alone.

Like the first action, the emendation of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* requires approval by two-thirds of the Latin Church Bishops and subsequent confirmation by the Holy See.

¹ Cf. Adalberto Franquesa, OSB, “Las Antifonias del Introito y de la Comunion en las misas sin canto,” *Notitiae* v.6, pp. 213-221, Citta del Vaticano: Sacra congregatio pro cultu divino, 1970.

ACTION #1: Do the Latin Church members of the USCCB approve *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* for use in the dioceses of the United States of America?

ACTION #2: Do the Latin Church members of the USCCB approve an adaptation of paragraphs 48 and 87 of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal*?

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