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## **Parishes introduce the new Roman Missal musical settings**

Katie Bowar

With the full implementation of the new Roman Missal fast approaching, several parishes throughout the diocese have begun a gradual introduction of various musical settings. The new Roman Missal will be implemented in the United States on the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27.

Starting in September, parishes had the opportunity to begin teaching the "Gloria," "Holy, Holy, Holy" and Memorial Acclamations. This approach allows parishioners to learn the different parts in a timely fashion and at an even pace.

Angelique Savageau, liturgy and music director for St. Michael's Church, Grand Forks, said the parish has started using the new "Gloria" from the "St. Frances Cabrini" Mass setting. It was introduced two weeks before Bishop Samuel Aquila had suggested in hopes of familiarizing people with the new parts.

The parish's strategy for implementation includes several phases. The first week, the accompanists play it through while the congregation follows along in the worship aids. The second week, the cantors sing through it once and the congregation joins in for the second verse. In addition, they practice and sing the new music before each Mass. This same process will continue as they begin using the "Holy, Holy, Holy" and other musical settings.

Overall, Savageau senses people are apprehensive about the change, but believes they are accepting of the new musical settings. "This is an exciting time of renewal in the church that will give us a chance to grow closer to Christ. It is a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to reach a deeper understanding of what the Mass really means," she said.

Father William McDermott, pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Langdon, said the parish purchased brochures that clearly explain the major changes being brought about by the new Roman Missal. CDs were also sent home with every family. The roughly 45-minute discs allow individuals to listen at their leisure and take time to reflect on the words they say every time they participate in Mass.

The choirs at St. Alphonsus are all using the same music until Christmas. At that time, each choir will have the opportunity to choose what they prefer and expand on it. "I was very encouraged by the way folks at the nursing home were open to accept the change and how smooth the transition is going," Father McDermott said. "It is very easy for people to adapt to."

At St. Leo in Casselton, they are in the process of catechizing the people and implementing the revised musical settings, said Sue Knoll. "We are blessed with several excellent musicians who will be able to smoothly teach the music and lead the people through the revisions," Knoll said. "Many smaller parishes are challenged to provide music for their liturgies each week, and learning new or revised Mass settings will need to be a slow and steady process."

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