

## **Mass Settings for the Revised Roman Missal, 3rd Edition** **Thoughts and Suggestions from the Office of Worship, Diocese of Belleville, Illinois**

A small team of area liturgical musicians had several meetings, consultations with other musicians in the diocese and abroad, and with information from similar groups in the country arrived at the following information.

First, the various needs of our faithful and Churches in the diocese were listed:

1. Is it better to do a revised (familiar tunes, new texts) or a completely new mass setting?
2. Various accompaniments: organ / piano / guitar / ensembles
3. Is the Gloria through-composed (without refrain) or with refrain
4. Bi- or multi-lingual settings need to include the new English texts
5. Can it be led by (one) cantor alone?
6. Are there choral parts / harmonies for those groups?
7. Can we mention both metrical and chant settings?
8. What is the tone of the mass - festive / solemn / etc.?

We also thought we should include which mass setting(s) might be chosen for Cathedral Diocesan Episcopal Liturgies (ordinations, Chrism Mass, etc.). It was determined that for Cathedral liturgies, the mass setting should be one that uses to good advantage all the resources at the Cathedral: the organ, the Schola, cantors, assembly, instrumentalists. Consequently, it may not be a setting that many parishes would choose to use. But to use a setting in the Cathedral that can be used in the majority of parishes would not be using the Cathedral resources well. Some settings, of course, are usable in a variety of situations.

Regarding reasons to and not to do both revised and new settings, we recommend thinking very seriously about the following concerns. Do not look at this list for justifications for decisions already made:

Reasons to do Revised Mass Settings (and avoid new):

- Congregations' familiarity, for the most part - a familiar musical setting may give those who don't like change a little stability to hang on to in the midst of many new texts.
- Accompanists and cantors who can't or don't want to learn much new material - many may not have the time or resources at their parish or school to learn completely new settings.
- For those who switch mass settings frequently, you may not wish yourselves or your congregations to learn so much new music in short order.

Reasons to do New Mass Settings (and avoid revised):

- Hearing old familiar tunes may make congregations sing old familiar words.
- Some new music (i.e. call-and-response) can aid learning new texts.
- Attempting to embrace the new texts and tunes shows a willingness to think with the mind of the Church; it also moves everyone toward where the Church is now liturgically.
- Give no support to those who simply want to "dig in" and refuse to change.

Parish clusters - or other institutions which share clergy - may wish to collaborate on choosing mass settings.

Also, we all should be aware that as many settings as there are available now, an avalanche of settings will be coming our way over the next few years - these recommendations are not the "be all, end all" of the topic. Efforts were made to determine which settings would appear in popular hymnals such as *Breaking Bread (OCP)* and *Gather (GIA)* as well as which settings are presently used in the diocese. Cost of music was also considered. Also, samples of both score and recordings are available at many publishers' websites, including:

- <http://giamusic.com>
- <http://ocp.org>
- <http://wlp.jspaluch.com>

With all this in mind, our annotated recommendations follow.

## REVISED SETTINGS

### **Mass of Remembrance - Haugen (GIA - [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com))**

Written for the Diocese of Belleville, and ably revised by Marty Haugen. This setting still can find a home in a variety of settings - various accompaniments and performing ensembles. Because of immense familiarity, congregations may wish to not use the mass until a few months into the new texts.

### **Heritage Mass - Alsott (OCP - [ocp.org](http://ocp.org))**

Most melodies are preserved, and this common setting sounds as if composed for the new texts. Most at home with organ and choir, but other performing forces can be successful. A bit more stately than many settings.

### **Mass of a Joyful Heart - Angrisano/Tomaszek (OCP)**

The revisions are not public yet, but this is a well known mass, especially among youth. Features contemporary music, rhythms, and energy.

### **Mass of Redemption - Janco (WLP - [wlp.jspaluch.com](http://wlp.jspaluch.com))**

This is a strong, direct setting, updated with a through-composed gloria. Can be sung in unison or 3 parts, and equally at home on piano or organ.

## NEW SETTINGS

### **Mass for a New World - Haas (GIA)**

While not perhaps his best setting, the gospel themes are catchy and enjoyable. Mixed meter in the Alleluia is both filled with life and potentially tricky.

### **Mass for Joy and Peace - Alonso (GIA)**

Quite lyrical and approachable, easy accompaniment but not simplistic sounding. Alonso learned much from Haas and is creating his own voice in liturgical music. This setting can be learned quickly and feel quite natural.

### **Mass of Christ the Savior - Schutte (OCP)**

Schutte has kept composing since his St. Louis Jesuit days; his music has grown and updated with the times quite well. This too is a lyrical setting with much choral interest and keen attention to the natural stresses of the text.

### **Mass: Ever Ancient, Ever New - Johnson (self-published, [orinjohnson.com](http://orinjohnson.com))**

This setting comes from Orin Johnson, coordinator of music and liturgy at the Shrine. It is the only free setting recommended outside of chant. It has been composed for either piano or organ, many or few voices, and has instrumental parts as well. Included settings of dialogues as mentioned in *Sing to the Lord*.

### **Mass of Wisdom - Janco (WLP)**

Positively previewed by those at the Priests' Convocation, this setting is very consistent with musical ideas and can be used in a variety of settings.

### **Mass of Our Lady - Warner/Kirner (WLP)**

Samples not available online, but bits were mentioned in latest *Pastoral Liturgy* and the setting looks promising.

### **Mass of Resurrection - DeBruyn (OCP)**

Based on the hymn tune *Duke Street* ("I know that my redeemer lives" etc.), this setting sounds splendid with organ, instruments, choir and cantor.

## CHANT SETTINGS

### **Roman Missal**

While not perfect, much thought went into the text and chants in the new missal. Congregations may want to familiarize themselves with the dialogues especially for use in larger, more universal gatherings of the Church.

### **Any Latin Setting**

The Latin texts are not changing, so any familiar Latin setting is still quite usable, for instance *Missa Jubilate Deo*.

## BI- and MULTI-LINGUAL SETTINGS

While many settings do include bits of Latin and Greek, few are available now with Spanish or other languages.

### **Misa del Pueblo Inmigrante/Mass of the Immigrants - Hurd (OCP)**

This revised setting allows the English to flow more naturally with the Spanish (which is of course not changing presently). The language options allow some diverse communities to worship side-by-side as the Body of Christ.

### **Mass of Renewal - Kaufman/Gokelman ([massofrenewal.com](http://massofrenewal.com))**

Winner of the 2010 NPM New Mass Competition. Straightforward and singable for a variety of ensembles. This setting is either English or Spanish, not truly bilingual. Lyrical and quite consistent movement to movement. Not as reflective and calm as much of Kaufman's other music.