

# WEDDING MUSIC/LITURGY GUIDELINES

While you are planning the selection of music for your wedding, please keep in mind the following excerpts from the Wedding Liturgy Guidelines prepared by the Music Committee and the Liturgy Commission in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, published with the approval of Bishop Murphy, and should be regarded as policy in the diocese.

“The marriage of two Christians is at the same time a personal and ecclesiastical event. The wedding liturgy is primarily a worship service ... the worship of the God of love who manifests His presence in the marriage covenant of a particular couple. All the elements of the liturgy should reflect in a tangible way what is taking place: a sacramental encounter with Christ in the midst of the assembly.”

“...Opportunities should be given for congregational participation in song.”

## **Three Important Questions:**

1. Is the music technically, aesthetically and expressively good?
2. Is the music's text, form, placement and style congruent with the nature of the liturgy?
3. Will this music help the assembly to pray and to celebrate what the church is celebrating?

“Music, instrumental or vocal, by the text or context that does not speak to the religious dimension, or even negates it, is *inappropriate*. The text of songs used in the liturgy should support the meaning of the rite, and be *grounded in scriptural themes*. Of primary importance is what we are celebrating: the mystery of God's love and human love in a covenant relationship. For this reason, popular songs are not permitted in the wedding liturgy.”

## **How many selections do I need to choose?**

Please use the Wedding Music Guide and the Wedding Music Selection Form to make the choices below:

For a ***Ceremony***, the following applies:

1. Entrance March for the Bridal Party
2. Entrance March for the Bride
3. Responsorial Psalm
4. Song during the lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
5. Recessional March

For a ***Nuptial Mass***, the following applies:

1. Entrance March for the Bridal Party
2. Entrance March for the Bride
3. Responsorial Psalm
4. Song during the lighting of the Unity Candle (Optional)
5. Presentation Song
6. Communion Song
7. Recessional March