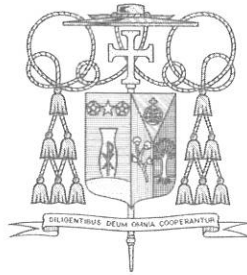


## Diocese of Beaumont

Mail: Post Office Box 3948  
Beaumont, Texas 77704-3948  
Location: 710 Archie Street at Forsythe  
Beaumont, TX 77701-2802



Office of the Bishop

Telephone: (409) 924-4310  
Bishop Fax: (409) 924-4399  
Catholic Pastoral Center Fax: (409) 838-4511  
Email: bishop@dioceseofbmt.org

### Policy re Music Certification Program

I am issuing today a written policy regarding the Music Certification Program begun by the Office of Worship in March 2011, at my request, and having been required at that time of parish Directors of Music, Choir Directors, Cantors and Organ/Keyboard Accompanists.

I have informed Rosalind Sanchez, Director of the Office of Worship, that all parish Directors of Music Ministry, Choir Directors, Cantors and Organ/Keyboard Accompanists are required to participate in the Music Certification Program, designed as an ongoing education and formation tool for the benefit of the participants, their ministry and liturgical celebrations. This program is a three-year program that can be completed at one's own pace because it is offered each year. Participants are also required to attend various liturgical workshops. Once the process has been completed, participants are to attend a yearly group gathering for updating.

The benefits of the Music Certification Program are many. Music ministers share experiences with the broader local church beyond their own parish. They study and discuss the theology of the liturgy and how the ministry of music impacts and enhances liturgy. They explore the elements of the Mass and how it has evolved over the centuries. They learn ways to emphasize Scripture which threads throughout the entire Mass, while becoming more deeply formed in Scripture themselves. They study the liturgical documents, especially those relative to music in liturgy, and share ideas on forming, developing and maintaining choirs. They discuss various genres of music, incorporating bilingual music, presenting new music to the assembly and the use of instrumentation. And they discuss how music can be transformative, not only at Mass but very profoundly at funeral and wedding liturgies.

"[Christ] is present when the Church prays and sings. . ." [SC7b] "In the liturgy, by means of signs perceptible to the senses, human sanctification is signified and brought about in ways proper to each of these signs. . ." [SC7c] Music, especially the singing by the assembly, manifests the strong presence of Christ. Music is indeed perceptible to our senses and has the power to bring about sanctification. *Sing to the Lord* tells us "of all the sounds of which human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, are capable, voice is the most privileged and fundamental [86]. With such affirmation, such responsibility, can we do no less than continue to grow in our ministry, our gift of music?"

This policy will be accessible on the Diocese of Beaumont website under the **Worship** link.

Most Rev. Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., D.D.  
Bishop of Beaumont

1-13-15

Date