

Shannon & Cerneka Orin Johnson

Sample Music and Liturgy Workshops and Retreats



TOP 10 TECHNIQUES FOR GOOD ENSEMBLE MUSICIANSHIP

We know, sometimes it seems it's all we can do to make sure our liturgical ensembles are literally all on the same page. But there are several simple, approachable, and successful techniques that any director and ensemble musician can and should know to really help a group of liturgical musicians sparkle, and so help the assembly engage that sung prayer.

Shannon, and Orin bring decades of experience to this topic and will guide attendees through a Top Ten list of tips and techniques, each with realized examples, and then work through "live" putting these techniques into action with suggested hymns from those gathered. This truly will be a session of practical, do-not-miss ideas and suggestions that can return home with you and be put into immediate use!

BROKEN UNITY, UNITY IN BROKENNESS

Christ prayed that all may be one, just as the Holy Trinity is one, a communion of relationship and self-giving. It seems that the fractures in our Church and communities are deeper and broader than ever, and often these divisions are most significant between those who ought to be most closely united. Through scripture, music, story, and small group discussions, discover how our own brokenness and scars are themselves signs of God's unity, and how Christ, broken on the cross, is the same Christ of the Last Supper, each eucharist, and the eternal banquet in heaven.

GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST: A THOMISTIC APPROACH TO COMMUNICATION AND TRUTH

In the parable of wheat and the weeds, the master instructs that the weeds be left growing until harvesttime, lest the wheat also be uprooted. It is far too easy for us to see persons around us as weeds when in reality we all are wheat which God has planted and is to be returned to God in humble sacrifice. In pursuit of the Book of Wisdom's admonition that "those who are just must be kind," an exploration of the Thomistic maxim "Seldom affirm, never deny, always distinguish" can bring us to a helpful approach to pursuing truth and relationship with all those around us, especially those who help us create and execute our public worship. Our eucharistic liturgy is most formational to our beliefs and unity; let us explore ways to join with one another more truthfully, more intentionally, and more fully with the help of St. Thomas Aquinas, scripture, and music.

LITURGICAL MUSIC AND PREACHING: CONNECTIONS AND INSIGHTS

It is the very nature of the liturgy and each of its elements to be interconnected and to strive for a common purpose. In many ways, the music of our liturgies and liturgical preaching have much to learn from each other: word choice, composition, function, and delivery styles all play roles in both which help them achieve their goals. Join Orin and Shannon as they spend some time exploring the interconnectedness of music, preaching, and The Word within our Christian lives and liturgies, and shares some insights as to what can be gained from such a study and the impact these insights have on our living and sharing The Word.