

To :

Archbishop Gregory Michael Aymond

From :

Daniel Craig

11 September 2013

Dear Committee on Divine Worship,

I have asked your Committee on Divine Worship to respond to the same question four (4) times:

(a) 24 April 2013 (b) 19 June 2013 (c) 15 July 2013 (d) 24 August 2013

Bishop Serratelli, a member of your Committee, kindly wrote me on 27 August 2013:

I am sending you a copy of the letter that Monsignor Hilgartner wrote to you on my behalf on June 25, 2013 in which he answered your question.

Therefore, I assume that Msgr. Hilgartner's letter of 25 June 2013 (sent "on behalf of the Committee") is my answer. Here's what he said:

The challenge we face in regard to the approval of music is the vast amount of music that is used across a broad spectrum of cultures and languages that make up the Church in the United States. It may be helpful to point out in a response to your questions that the Bishops of the United States also approved, in 2006, the *Directory for Music*, which addressed more specifically the process for approval of music for use in the Liturgy. That document was submitted to the Holy See for approval to become particular law for the Dioceses of the United States, and it is still awaiting that approval. This document will make clear whose responsibility it is to approve music or collections of music. Until such time as that comes into force, **the situation remains somewhat complicated because of the lack of a centralized process and the customs that had been in place** prior to the *Roman Missal, Third Edition* (2011), and the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (2003). [e.m.]

Canon lawyers consider the G.I.R.M. to be binding. The Secretariat's written statements (**see Page 2**) are in direct contradiction to the G.I.R.M., which has remained constant on this point since the 1970s. It is very difficult for me to understand why your Committee does not consider the G.I.R.M. to be binding.

For your convenience, I have typed out again the question I've asked four times (**see Page 2**).

Sincerely yours,

Question

On 20 November 2012, the Secretariat of Divine Worship confirmed that “local musicians” are allowed to replace the *Entrance Chant* with an alternate text and/or melody under the 4th Option of the G.I.R.M. even if this text/melody lacks approval *so long as it does not appear inside a collection.*

That contradicts the current G.I.R.M. which says the *Entrance Chant* can only be replaced with “another liturgical chant . . . **approved by the Conference of Bishops or the Diocesan Bishop.**”

— Which statement are we bound to follow as Catholics?

REMINDER:

The current GIRM (§367) says: In choosing the chants between the readings, as well as the chants at the Entrance, at the Offertory, and at Communion, the norms laid down in their proper places are to be observed (cf. nos. 40-41, 47-48, 61-64, 74, 86-88).