

**Religious Education Congress 2017**  
**Michael Mangan**  
**Let the Children Come: Preparing and Celebrating**  
**Family-friendly Liturgies**  
**Session 3-16**

**Let the Children Come:**  
**Family-Friendly Liturgy**  
**Michael Mangan & Anne Frawley-Mangan**  
**Selected Quotes**

**CSL / SC – Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy / Sacrosanctum Concilium**  
**STL – Sing to the Lord DMC – Directory for Masses with Children**  
**MCW – Music in Catholic Worship**

**Liturgy - Full, Conscious, Active Participation**

*...the whole public worship ...performed by the Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, that is, by the Head and His members. (CSL 7)*

*The Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations which is demanded by the very nature of the liturgy. In the reform and promotion of the liturgy ... full and active participation by all the people is to be considered before all else. (CSL 14) (STL 11)*

*To promote active participation, the people should be encouraged to take part by means of acclamations, responses, psalmody, antiphons, and songs as well as by actions, gesture and bearing.... (CSL 30)*

**Liturgical Adaptation**

*Provisions shall also be made, when revising the liturgical books, for legitimate variations and adaptations to different groups, regions, and peoples, especially in mission lands, provided that the substantial unity of the Roman rite is preserved; and this should be borne in mind when drawing up the rites and devising rubrics. (CSL 38)*

**Music in Liturgy**

*Singing is one of the primary ways that the assembly of the faithful participates actively in the Liturgy. (STL 26)*

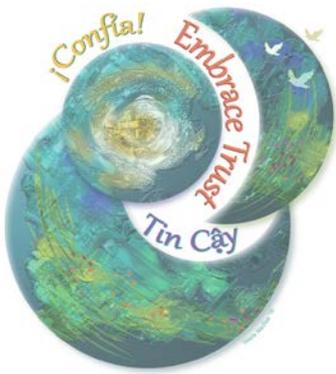
*Liturgical music must always be chosen and sung "with due consideration for the culture of the people and abilities of each liturgical assembly". (STL 58)*

*Sacred music is to be considered the more holy in proportion as it is more closely connected with the liturgical action, whether it adds delight to prayer, fosters unity of minds, or confers greater solemnity upon the sacred rites. (CSL 112)*

**Masses With Children**

*There is a fear of spiritual harm if over the years children repeatedly experience in the Church things that are barely comprehensible. (DMC 2)*

*From the beginning of liturgical reform it has been clear to everyone that some adaptations are necessary in these Masses (with children). (DMC 20)*



*The principles of active and conscious participation are in a sense even more significant for Masses celebrated with children. (DMC 22)*

*The contents of the directory are intended to help children readily and joyfully to encounter Christ together in the Eucharistic celebration and to stand with Him in the presence of the Father. (DMC 55)*

### **Children & Music**

*Singing must be given great importance in all celebrations but it is to be especially encouraged in every way for Masses celebrated with children in view of their special affinity for music. (DMC 30)*

*The use of musical instruments can add a great deal in Masses with children, especially if they are played by the children themselves. (DMC 32)*

*In view of the nature of the liturgy as an activity of the entire person and in view of the psychology of children, participation by means of gestures and posture should be strongly encouraged in Masses with children. (DMC 33)*

### **Children & Liturgy of the Word**

*If three or even two readings appointed on Sundays or weekdays can be understood by children only with difficulty, it is permissible to read two or only one of them, but the reading of the gospel should never be omitted. (DMC 42)*

*When the text of the readings lends itself to this, it may be helpful to have the children read it with parts distributed among them, as is provided for the reading of the Lord's passion during Holy Week. (DMC 47)*

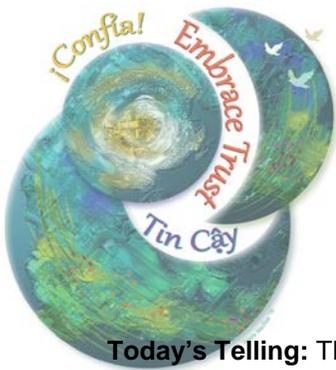
*The homily explaining the word of God should be given great prominence in all Masses with children. Sometimes the homily intended for children should become a dialogue with them (DMC 48)*

*With the consent of the pastor ... one of the adults may speak to the children after the gospel, especially if the priest finds it difficult to adapt himself to the mentality of children. (DMC 24)*

### **Scripture Drama Genres**

**Chorus Play:** A narrator tells a story and the chorus comments on key parts by using repetition, questions, exclamations, etc. accompanied by movement and/or actions. The role of the chorus is to help connect the audience to the story and to ask questions that they might have.

**Heightened Text:** Key words or phrases are chosen from the original text and repeated to emphasise them. When presented for an audience, these texts are further heightened by their very enthusiastic and expressive delivery. Each time the text is repeated, a different vocal and physical expression is employed. Elements of clowning or physical theatre may be utilized.



**Today's Telling:** The original text is interspersed with contemporary reflections, comments, challenges or scenes. The participants will ask themselves questions such as, 'What does this text say to me today? How do I fit into this story? In what ways is this message still relevant today?'

**Echo Drama:** A narrator leads the telling of the story by proclaiming the words with a corresponding mimed action. The rest of the group echoes back the words and the action.

**Flashback:** One or more characters from the story recall their memories of the events. These reflections are interspersed in the proclamation.

### Anne's Scripture Drama Resources

- ***Let Your Light Shine*** 24 Scripture Dramas from Matthew's Gospel
- ***Mark My Words*** 24 Scripture Dramas from Mark's Gospel
- ***Good News*** 24 Scripture Dramas from Luke's Gospel
- ***The Star*** (with Michael Mangan) A Christmas Musical Play
- ***That We Might Live*** (with Michael Mangan) An Easter Musical Play

### **All Available from WLP at Booth 500**

#### The "S" List

- **Sermons** Brief ... words which set hearts on fire... using the language, signs, symbols and questions of actual people... positive, offering hope, not negativity. (*Joy of the Gospel*)
- **Scripture** Prayerfully, expressively & engagingly proclaimed.
- **Smiles** If a person doesn't feel welcomed, nothing else about the parish, no matter how wonderful, will matter.
- **Songs** Well chosen, well prepared, well led, liturgically appropriate, vibrant, inclusive, engaging.



## Liturgical v Catechetical v Inspirational Music

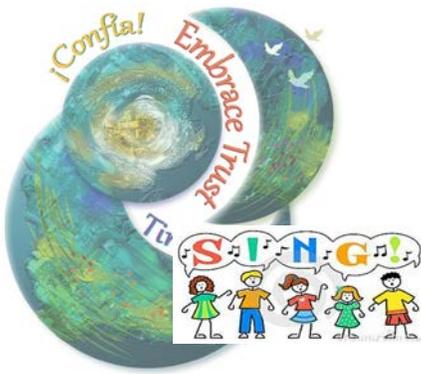
Not all "God" songs are meant for Liturgical use

### 3 Judgments for Liturgical Music (STL 126-136, MCW 25-41)

- **Musical:** Is the music technically, aesthetically & expressively good?
- **Liturgical:** Does the piece fit this celebration and fulfil the liturgical needs of the different parts of the ritual? Is the music within the capabilities of the Assembly?
- **Pastoral:** Does the music in this celebration allow these people to express their faith in this place, in this age, in this culture?

### Why Music?

- **Celebration / Unity** Music creates a sense of celebration & shared song unifies the assembly as one voice.
- **Sets Tone & Mood** Music & song can easily set and change the tone & mood of liturgical celebrations.
- **Heightens Texts** A musical structure allows us to repeat and highlight key words, phrases & scriptural texts.
- **Reinforces Themes & Symbols** Music & song can help unlock and reinforce the meanings of symbols within a celebration.
- **Highlights important Parts of Liturgy** Within Eucharistic Liturgy music is used to highlight the important parts of the Liturgy, especially through the Acclamations.



# Let the Children Come

## Songs for Masses with Children by Michael Mangan

*“The principles of active and conscious participation are in a sense even more significant for Masses celebrated with children.” DMC 22*

*“Singing must be given great importance ... in Masses celebrated with children, in view of their special affinity for music.” DMC 30*

**Song Collections:** **Let The Children Come** LCC      **1,2,3 God Love Me** GLM  
**This We Believe** TWB      **True Colours Shine** TCS  
**Mass Jubilee** MJ      **This Is The Time** TT  
**Forever I Will Sing** FWS      **Setting Hearts On Fire** SHOF

| Gathering Songs                        |      | Communion Songs                    |      | Acclamations / Mass Settings    |     |
|--|------|------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|-----|
| Celebrate, Let's Celebrate             | TWB  | Given For You                      | SHOF | GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS:            |     |
| Come Gather                            | GLM  | In Memory of Me                    | LCC  | Advent Alleluia                 | TT  |
| Come, Live Life                        | LCC  | In The Body Of Christ              | LCC  | Lenten Acclamation              | TT  |
| Come Together                          | GLM  | One Body In Christ                 | TWB  | The Holy Word of God            | GLM |
| Gather In Jesus' Name                  | LCC  | Take And Eat                       | TT   |                                 |     |
| God Is Great!                          | GLM  | Taste And See (Ps 34) The          | FWS  | COMPLETE MASS SETTINGS:         | MJ  |
| Hearts On Fire                         | SHOF | Bread Of Life                      | SHOF | Mass Jubilee                    |     |
| Let The Children Come                  | LCC  | We Come, We Come We                | TWB  | •Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy,        |     |
| Shout Out With Joy                     | LCC  | Remember You                       | LCC  | Penit. Act                      |     |
| Stand Up!                              | SHOF |                                    |      | •Gloria, Gospel Acc, Lenten     |     |
| The Family of God                      | GLM  | <b>Recessional / Sending Songs</b> |      | Acc                             |     |
| We Are The Church Of God               | GLM  | Chosen And Sent                    | LCC  | •Holy, Mystery of Faith,        |     |
|  |      | Do To Others (The Golden           | GLM  | Amen                            |     |
| <b>Responsorial Psalms</b> (Children's |      | Rule)                              |      | •Lamb of God                    |     |
| Lectionary)                            | LCC  | Do What Jesus Did                  | GLM  | Mass of Celebration             | LCC |
| All The Ends Of The Earth (Ps 98       |      | God's Plan                         | LCC  | •Kyrie, Lord Have Mercy,        |     |
| Christmas)                             | LCC  | Hearts On Fire                     | SHOF | Penit. Act                      |     |
| Be Merciful (Ps 51 Lent)               | LCC  | Live God's Dream                   | LCC  | •Gloria, Gospel Acc, Lenten     |     |
| If Today You Hear His Voice (Ps95      |      | Make A Little Difference           | SHOF | Acc                             |     |
| Ord Time)                              | LCC  | Sing New Songs Of Joy              | FWS  | •Holy, Mystery of Faith,        |     |
| The Lord Is My Light (Ps 27 Ordinary   |      | The Jesus Song                     | GLM  | Amen                            |     |
| Time)                                  | LCC  | Taking It To The Streets           | TCS  | •Lamb of God                    |     |
| This Is The Day (Ps 118 Easter         |      | True Colours Shine                 | TCS  | •Extra Acclamations for         |     |
| Season)                                | LCC  | We Are The Church Of God           | GLM  | Eucharistic Prayers for Masses  |     |
| To You, O Lord (Ps 25 Advent)          |      |                                    |      | with Children                   |     |
| (Also see 18 Paraphrased Psalms in     |      |                                    |      |                                 |     |
| FWS)                                   |      |                                    |      |                                 |     |
| <b>Offertory / Prep of Gifts Songs</b> | LCC  |                                    |      | 24 Advent, Christmas, Lent,     | TT  |
| Blessed Be God                         | LCC  |                                    |      | Easter Songs: This Is The Time  |     |
| We Bring These Gifts                   |      |                                    |      | collection.                     |     |
|  |      |                                    |      | <b>Available from WLP BOOTH</b> |     |
|  |      |                                    |      | <b>500</b>                      |     |