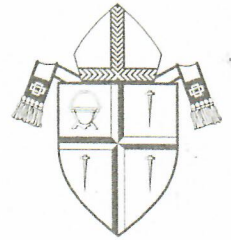


MEMORANDUM

To: Pastors and parish music ministers
 From: Office for Civil Affairs *J.M.H.*
 Re: Copyright requirements for liturgical music in live-streamed Masses
 Date: April 30, 2020



Office for Civil Affairs

Performing copyrighted music in a “public performance” ordinarily requires a license. An exception exists for performance of copyrighted music during services at a place of worship, for which no license is needed. The exception does not cover that same performance if the service is live-streamed or broadcast online, or taped for later re-broadcast and posted on the parish website via podcast. For this, a special livestreaming license is required for all music not part of the public domain.

Parishes that livestream or podcast their services which include performance of copyrighted music have a couple options to remain compliant with copyright law:

1. Choose only music that is in the “public domain” and therefore not covered by copyright law. For a list of hymns and other church music in the public domain, please see the Church Music Association of America website: <https://musicasacra.com/music/english-hymns-in-the-commons/> Gregorian chant settings are also in the public domain. This option will generally be unavailable, however, as most music used by parishes for Mass parts (e.g. Holy Holy Holy, Memorial Acclamation, Amen, Lamb of God) are recently published and covered by copyright.
2. Obtain the required livestreaming license. Many parishes will have obtained a license for reprinting copyrighted music in worship aids used for special liturgies, like Christmas. Livestreaming requires a separate license, typically referred to as a podcast license.
 - a. The required license for virtually all copyrighted music used in Catholic parishes can be obtained from One License. Information and license applications are available at: <https://onelicense.net/>
 - b. In addition to purchasing the license, parishes are reminded to add, at the beginning or the end of the podcast, the required acknowledgments of their licensure with One License, and to report periodically to One License the titles of songs used in podcasts and worship aids and the dates of usage. Details about these and other licensing requirements can be found on the One License website and the license agreement.

The above copyright concerns do not apply if the parish elects to place on its website a hyperlink to a YouTube video of a Mass performed by another parish or diocese. Such links do not require a license, and do not infringe on the copyright interests connected with the performance.