

Sing to the Lord!

We have gathered and prepared ourselves. We have followed a leader and are standing at the ready. Now, ***Let us sing!*** This week's piece on singing will be easy to write, as I will simply take from what our U.S. Bishops say in their document *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, the first section of which is even titled *Why We Sing*. The bishops write: "God, the giver of song, is present whenever his people sing his praises. A cry from deep within our being, music is a way for God to lead us to the realm of higher things. St. Augustine says, *Singing is for the one who loves*, and *The one who sings, prays twice*. Music is therefore a sign of God's love for us and of our love for him. By its very nature song {like God's love itself} has both an individual and a communal dimension. Singing together in church expresses so well the sacramental presence of God to his people. As we gather in liturgical assembly, week after week, we sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in our hearts to God. This common, sung expression of faith within our liturgical celebration strengthens our faith and draws us into the divinely inspired voice of the Church at prayer. Faith grows when it is well expressed in celebration. Good celebrations can foster and nourish faith. Poor celebrations may weaken it. Good music makes the liturgical prayers of the Christian community more alive so that everyone can praise God more powerfully, more intently and more effectively. In human life, signs and symbols occupy an important place. As a being at once body and spirit, man expresses and perceives spiritual realities through physical signs and symbols. Inasmuch as they are creatures, these perceptible realities can become means of expressing the action of God who sanctifies men, and the action of men who offer worship to God. This 'sacramental principle' is the consistent belief of the Church throughout history. So, in Liturgy, we use words, gestures, signs, symbols, *and song* to proclaim Christ's presence and to reply with our worship and praise."

Please let us know what else about our faith tradition you'd like to find out more about. Contact our Council for Catechesis at tkautza@saintmaryhc.org.