



August 27, 2020

Parish Music Directors and Choir Directors,

First of all, thank you for your ministry to your parish community, especially during this time when we are facing the COVID 19 virus. I am sure you have given an uplifting spirit to all of your parish's liturgical celebrations in the midst of the challenges we are facing. I encourage you to continue raising up your parishioners spirit of devotion.

Permit me to remind you about the procedures that are in place until the protocols stemming from coronavirus are lifted.

Only one instrument and no other instruments should be used at all liturgical celebrations. This is not the time for orchestras and/or smaller groups or individuals to play their instruments at liturgical celebrations.

Use only one cantor at all liturgical celebrations.

This would have been the time when you would begin the use of your Choir. Presently, this is not possible due to the easy spread of the virus when one is singing.

Parishioners are not encouraged to sing during the coronavirus period. Thus, please do not distribute printed materials or project music and words for hymns.

We have all moved through these months of reopening with much spirit, thanksgiving, and prayer. I express great gratitude for faithfulness in full cooperation with the universal wearing of masks, six-foot social distancing and frequent sanitizing. Also, now is the opportunity to stir hope. We anticipate the day when we all will sing, and instruments will sound our unending praise of God and his goodness. In the meantime, may blessings be upon you and your ministry of song and music.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard E. Pates".

Most Reverend Richard E. Pates
Apostolic Administrator
Diocese of Joliet

cc: Pastors, Parochial Vicars, Deacons of the Diocese of Joliet