

# How to Start a (Real) Choir

While it might seem a daunting task, in our experience in Religious Life, things were far easier than we thought.

Really, all we started with was one man who had musical training/education. That one person then taught/raised up a real choir of men singing true, authentic Sacred Music for The Mass.

And, this last part needs to be said in this crazy hijacking of “active participation” world that we live in, where the deepest, most interior “action” of our existence here on earth has been turned into a capfire sing-a-long by our worldly, uneducated bishops:

A good Rule of Thumb is, **You Want to Use Real Sacred Music and Sing It Well.**

Thus, although this will be totally counter-cultural in virtually any parish you go to today:

IF YOU DON'T HAVE REAL SACRED MUSIC, OR CANNOT PERFORM IT WELL, ***DO NOT USE ANY MUSIC.*** HAVE A "READ" MASS (see Vatican II Instruction Musicam Sacram, 28!!!! This is The Real Vatican II!) WHERE EVERYTHING IS SPOKEN!

## The Method to Form a Choir

- 1) Begin with singing “One-part” Sacred Music – Gregorian Chant. All persons in the choir are singing the same notes. Continue this mode until the group grows, or gains more confidence.
  - 2) Then, The Lord blesses you with the members and the talents and the desires, move to “Two-part” pieces. Two groups singing different notes.
  - 3) Move/grow to “Three-part” pieces, and possibly “Four-part” pieces.
  - 4) \* What our Choir Master did for us was to lead practice for the different sections of the Choir on different days or at different times; and then we would have a practice for the whole choir later in the week.
- Obviously, this is not going to be possible for every person, for every parish. But, I must say this: in this world we live in, where the music sung at Mass is so bad and so childish and militates against everything sacred and exalted and God-centered, this IS a worthy goal. A small taste of it quickly helps a person understand and experience deep inside just exactly why the Church teaches and Vatican II re-affirmed, "The musical tradition of the universal Church is a treasure of inestimable value, *greater even than that of any other art.*" (Sacrosanctum Concilium, no. 112).
  - It will be worth your effort