Over the past several months, the Archdiocesan Music Committee, in collaboration with more than sixty parish music directors, has been in the process of reviewing and evaluating Mass settings in order to provide parishes with a reduced list of recommended settings, along with some settings that would be recommended for use by the entire Archdiocese of Cincinnati. After several reading sessions with the Music Committee, parish music directors, parish cantors and choirs, the following four Mass settings were chosen, along with the ICEL chant setting, as the Mass settings that each parish would commit to learning for the sake of the full, conscious and active participation of the people of God in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The hope is that we have settings that everyone will know, particularly as they go to other parish churches for sacramental celebrations such as weddings, first Communions, Confirmations, funerals, etc.

Along with the people’s texts and chants provided by ICEL, we chose two revised settings and two new settings to be placed in the diocesan worship resource:

**Revised Mass Settings**

**Mass of Redemption** – Steven Janco, World Library Publications

The *Mass of Redemption* was the top choice of parish music directors and ranked highly with the Archdiocesan Music Committee. This particular setting was used at the 2003 NPM National Convention in Cincinnati and has been used in a number of parishes in the Archdiocese since then. It is very accessible and adaptable to a variety of parish situations. It will work well in both a traditional setting and in a contemporary setting, using either organ or piano, with or without an ensemble, with a choir or with a cantor alone.
Community Mass – Richard Proulx, GIA Publications

The Community Mass is a well-known Mass setting in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. It has served as a Mass setting for diocesan liturgies and has been a part of our repertoire for many, many years (in other words, it has stood the test of time). While this Mass setting is more traditional in composition, it will not be “new” to many people since it is part of the collective memory of the Church in the United States as this setting was first composed shortly after the Council (1971).

New Mass Settings

Mass of St. Francis Cabrini – Kevin Keil, Oregon Catholic Press

The Mass of St. Francis Cabrini was the second choice of parish music directors and also ranked highly with the Archdiocesan Music Committee. It is very accessible and adaptable to a variety of parish situations. It will work in a traditional setting and in a contemporary setting, using either organ or piano, with or without an ensemble, with a choir or with a cantor alone.

Mass of Wisdom – Steven Janco, World Library Publications

The Mass of Wisdom was one of the top picks of the Archdiocesan Music Committee and it was also very well-received by parish music directors. Once again, this particular setting is very accessible and adaptable to a variety of parish situations. It will work well in both a traditional setting and in a more contemporary setting, using either organ or piano, with or without an ensemble, with a choir or with a cantor alone.

NB While these are the chosen settings that will appear in the worship resource for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, it is worth noting that other settings had many strengths and would work in a variety of parishes. Hence, posted on the Worship Office website is a list of the top ten Mass settings along with the “top five” from each of the major publishers. Also included on this list are recommended specialized settings for particular needs (i.e. gospel settings, chant setting, contemporary setting, and bilingual settings).
What’s Next?

The Worship Office is working with the publishers and ICEL to obtain the appropriate copyright permission/licensing for a diocesan worship aid. We have secured initial bids from printing companies and will soon begin the process of creating our “Archdiocesan Mass Setting Worship Resource.” It will include the following:

- The Order of Mass with all of the people’s spoken parts.
- Roman Missal Chants accompanying these texts will also be provided.
- Four Mass Settings (listed above)
- The Order of Mass with all of the people’s spoken parts.
- Roman Missal Chants accompanying these texts will also be provided.
- Four Mass Settings (listed above)
- The Latin *Sanctus* and *Agnus Dei*

The booklets will be extremely competitive in terms of pricing. Final costs will be made available as soon as publishers give us their final royalty costs.

In addition, parishes may want to order the necessary accompaniments and octavos of these Mass settings for their musicians and choir members.

The Music Committee will be providing workshops in late summer to talk about how to introduce these new settings in the parish, processes for introducing singing of new Mass texts, and what to do musically for Advent and Christmas as we implement the new translation of the Third Edition of the Roman Missal.