# **Wedding Worship Aid Considerations**

## **Purpose**

A worship aid helps the members of assembly to participate in the celebration.

## **Forms of Worship Aid**

### **Hymnal**

The hymnal is perhaps the most common form of worship aid. The hymnal is used to provide the music and lyrics for what is sung at a particular celebration. Most hymnals also contain the spoken responses for common celebrations.

### **Slide Projection**

Some parishes use power point slides instead of a hymnal to project the lyrics to the songs on a large screen. Slides can also be used to give the texts of spoken responses if the members of the assembly do not know them.

### **Booklet**

A booklet can be a simple order of service that supplements the hymnal/power point slides or a more complete stand-alone worship aid that includes the music and some of the responses.

## **What Kind of Worship Aid Should I Use?**

### **Hymnal/Power Point Only**

For a wedding at which most of the guests are practicing Catholics or especially if they are from the same parish, the parish hymnal/power point should be sufficient as a worship aid. The members of the assembly would participate in the same way that they do at a regular Sunday celebration.

### **Hymnal/Power Point & Booklet**

If guests are from different places and especially if there will be many guests who are not practicing Catholics, a simple booklet with the order of service and some explanation of what is occurring can help guests follow the movement of the liturgy and participate more fully. Templates are available from the Office of Liturgy.

### **Booklet Only**

If the church does not have hymnals or the music chosen does not all come from the same hymnal, a booklet that includes the music in addition to the order of service and any explanations can be very effective.

## **How Do I Make a Worship Aid?**

### **How to Use a Hymnal for Your Wedding**

* If there is a hymn board, put up the hymn numbers
* A simple pamphlet with the order of service can include the hymn numbers
* A leader of song can announce the hymn numbers

### **How to Prepare Slides for Your Wedding**

* Take a minimalist approach so the slides do not distract from the ritual action
* Only project texts that people are meant to sing or say
* Do not include images or explanations of the action on the slides.
* The projection should be off or blank except when the text is needed.
* Copyright law applies to slide projection

### **How to Prepare a Booklet for Your Wedding**

* The booklet should include what guests will need to participate. It should not be a script of everything that is said. Liturgy is not only text, but ritual action also.
* If your guests will not know the responses, you may wish to include more of this in the booklet; you will need to include copyright permissions.
* If you print music in the booklet, you will need to include copyright permissions.
* Booklet templates in MSWord are available from the Office of Liturgy
* Only include the text of the readings if they are going to be proclaimed in a language that not everyone will understand. For copyright, check the lectionary or bible from which the passage is taken and contact the person who owns the copyright.

### **What about Copyright?**

* Consult the diocesan copyright guideline for specific instructions.