

REPRODUCING COPYRIGHTED MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS

Rather than purchasing a hymnal, many Churches find it convenient to reprint weekly service bulletins which include both lyrics and music or just lyrics of songs for the liturgy. Doing so facilitates the full, conscious and active participation of the faithful by providing them a resource which can aid their musical expression of faith. However, it is important to understand that music published for use in the liturgy is owned by copyright holders, who alone can give permission for the use of their work either with a fee or without one. Liturgical composers and liturgical music copyright holders have a legal and moral right to compensation for use of their intellectual property. In order to stay within the confines of U. S. law and the standards of Christian morality those who reproduce music and/or lyrics for use in the liturgy may obtain an annual reprint license to cover their reproductions. Most Churches who need to reproduce music for the liturgy can safely do so with one or both of the following reprint licenses.

1. Onelicense.net. This company licenses music for the primary Catholic liturgical music publishers:

GIA Publications, Inc. (publishes the *Gather* and *Ritual Song* hymnals),

Oregon Catholic Press, Inc. (OCP, publishes *Breaking Bread*, *Glory and Praise*, *Spirit and Song*, *Journey Songs*, et al.),

World Library Publications, Inc. (publishes *We Celebrate*, *People's Mass Book*, *One Faith, Word and Song*).

Good for the Soul Music, Inc., the publisher of "Mass of Renewal," is covered by Onelicense.net.

2. Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI): much of the type of music being used in Churches today called "Praise and Worship" or "Contemporary" music is licensed by this company.

What type of reproductions require reprint licenses?

Weekly or Seasonal Service Paper Bulletins: these must be discarded after use and cannot be reused.

Transparencies.

Computerized Projections.

Compilation of A Hymnal for Use at a Particular Church.

These are the most common types of reproductions done in Churches, but the list is not exhaustive.

What may be reprinted?

Reprint licenses only permit the reprinting of a melody line with lyrics. Harmony and instrument accompaniments may not be reprinted for congregational use.

When purchasing music, such as choral music, for a choir or contemporary ensemble, how much do I need to buy? Can I buy one copy and reproduce it?

Legally and morally the answer to the second question is “no.” When buying music for a choir or ensemble you have to buy for every member. It is not permitted to buy one copy and reproduce it.