

What are the penalties for making unauthorized copies of copyrighted music?

Embarrassment at first. Additionally, the law provides for the owner of a copyright to recover damages for unauthorized use of copyrighted music. These damages include the profits of the infringer and statutory damages ranging from not less than \$500 to not more than \$100,000 **per infringement**. There have been cases where entire dioceses have been sued because of copyright infringement at the parish/school level.

Some may be familiar with the phrase “fair use” but no music may be reproduced for use in the church under this clause.

If you have questions about music copyrights, contact the music publisher or the Office of Worship at 831-8194.



Archdiocese of Santa Fe
Office of Worship
and Christian Initiation

4000 St. Joseph's Place NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
505-831-8194
worship2@archdiocesasantafe.org

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Liturgical Music Publishers

- GIA Publications
7404 South Mason Ave.
Chicago, IL 60638
1-800-442-1358
www.GIAMusic.com
- Oregon Catholic Press (OCP)
5536 NE Hassalo
Portland, OR 97213
1-800-548-8749
www.ocp.org
- World Library Publications (WLP)
3708 N. River Rd.
Franklin Park, IL 60131
1-800-866-6150
www.wlp.jspaluch.com
- Church Music Publishers Association
www.cmpamusic.org

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Basic Music Copyright Knowledge

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What does copyright mean to me?

Copyright law gives to the copyright owner the exclusive rights to their original material. Copyrighted texts and melodies of liturgical music are the property of copyright owners. Pastors, parish musicians, school principals, and liturgists should know boundaries and legal responsibilities of photocopying music. If in doubt, contact the publisher. The primary Catholic liturgical music publishing companies and their contact information are included on the back page of this brochure. Obtaining copyright permission is playing fair. It justly compensates artists for their work and time. Quality liturgical music can only continue to be published when composers are remunerated for their talent. Unauthorized copying and use of these materials is not only a legal matter, but also an issue of social justice. As liturgical ministers, we must abide by the laws of the church and the state. "Thou shall not steal". (*Exodus 20:15*)

What type of copyright license does a parish need?

Several different levels of copyright licenses are available from all the major publishers. They vary in price and in scope. There are annual, selected, one-time, and seasonal licenses to name a few. All of these licenses are for WORDS and MELODY ONLY, nothing else.

How do I format a worship aid?

If you have a license to copy the words and melody line for one time use, or through parish reprint license, the specifics are directed by the music publisher. There are regulations as to how to notate that the music is being copied with permission. Always check with the publisher to assure accuracy when producing worship aids.

How do I get copies of accompaniment, harmonies, and guitar chords?

Always go to the publisher first! Choral octavos may be available for a specific piece of music. If a selection is part of a music collection, permission may be obtained from the publisher to make individual copies for musicians for a small fee.

What about copies for ease of use?

A choir member may enlarge a purchased piece of music to aid in reading that music. Also, to facilitate an awkward page turn, a photocopy may be made from original purchased music. If in doubt, call the publisher.

If the music I need is no longer in print, can I make copies? (What about "Public Domain")

No, not without permission from the publisher. They can give permission for a

small fee to photocopy these pieces. Public domain is defined by Dictionary.com as "the status of publications, products and processes that are not protected under patent or copyright".

Do I need permission to print "just the words"?

Yes, absolutely! The words as well as the music are protected under copyright laws. Also, words cannot be changed without permission.

Do I need permission to make a transparency?

Yes. Under most parish copyright licenses, words and music can be copied in various formats. It is important to review the parish copyright license, and/or check with the specific publisher before proceeding.

Can we use music books year after year like *Breaking Bread 2005*?

No. Parishes pay copyright for those music books **only for the year indicated**. After that year the books must be discarded and new music books purchased. If parishes wish to use the same music book year after year, they should purchase a hymnal, not an annual music book.

What if our parish/school already has copied music?

Destroy unauthorized photocopies and recordings, and replace them with legal editions. Possession of any illegal copies is the same as harboring stolen goods.