



the Desk of Father Peter

Mass—Why We Sing

Someone once said, “Why is it that you Catholics don’t worship?” By that she meant, why don’t we sing like they do in their church?

Getting immersed in the songs with body and spirit, I suppose!

Our lives are filled with song, from the lullaby, to campfire songs, sing-alongs, kindergarten ditties, the current entries in the “Top 40,” songs from “our time,” songs from a Broadway musical and songs to sing in the shower, operas and great chorale works of art, little tunes we sing to ourselves when happy or sad—there’s hardly a time or situation in life in which we do not put our words into music.



Gathering at Church is no different.

Here we are, ready to celebrate the

greatest gift of God and so we break into song. As the bishops’ document on Music in the Liturgy tells us, “the entrance song should create an atmosphere of celebration. It helps put the assembly in the proper frame of mind for listening to the Word of God. It helps people to become conscious of themselves as a worshipping community.” No. 16.

And yet, many Catholics still remember the days when all the music was done either by the priest or the choir. But for many years now we have been urged to break into song and praise. This is a privilege not

*reserved for the elite singers,
but a privilege for us all,
whether we sing like Luciano
Pavoratti, Keith Urban,
Beyonce or Carrie
Underwood—or like Aunt
Prunella for that matter.
Whether we warble or croak,
or half carry a tune, it is our
duty, our joy, our privilege to
PRAISE GOD IN SONG. Make
no excuse for your voice. If it
is “bad,” sing anyway! For it
was God who gave you that*

*voice and He understands
(and yes, enjoys) every sound
of praise you make! Let the
words of these sung-prayers fill
you up and come out of your
mouth, having first touched
your heart and mind.
Standing stone-faced and
looking uninvolved does little
to build up the People of God
as we gather to worship. Smile!
Sing! Praise God as we
celebrate our greatest
prayer—the Mass!*



*Peace and love to all,
Fr. Peter Enyan-Boadu*