

7 Talks for the Extraordinary Music Workshop 2023 **– Fr James Junípero Moore, O.P.**

July 3, 2023 – The Need for Beauty and Music in Evangelization

Lisening: Ave Dulcissima Maria! By M. Lauridson

From the Song of Songs –

¹⁰ My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away.

¹¹ For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;

¹² The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;

¹³ The fig tree putteth forth her green figs, and the vines with the tender grape give a good smell. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

I'm from a very small and isolated town in a VERY different part of California – when I was 12 years old, our parish organist died and I had just enough keyboard skills to be dangerous. My dad wanted to get me inspired and so he took me to a concert at the Cathedral in San Francisco. Now, this organ concert had a Vespers service before it and we went. I don't remember a thing about the organ recital. I remember every single detail about the Vespers. It was the first time I had really heard a liturgy with a choir as well as congregational participation and great organ playing. It was not a particularly important feast day – it was just that I'd never heard this kind of mixing of great art music with the church's liturgy before!

I count this as the beginning of my adult faith life.

Now – this might seem strange that a Dominican had his conversion over an incident filled with great art and music. Most Dominicans would have their conversions due to reading and studying correct?

Well – I think that I was for sure lead to do that!! I studied and did apologetics and did different types of work in accord with my station in life. However, to pick up my book and study – to do better catechesis – to be a better preacher of God's word, I first had to be evangelized!!! This was part of my adult evangelization!!

In this reading from the Song of Songs – we hear that God really wants us to open up our hearts because HE SEEKS US FIRST!!

Christians do not have to go on some sort of vision quest. We do not have to climb to the ends of the earth to find enlightenment. GOD COMES TO US BECAUSE HE IS MADLY IN LOVE WITH US...

And that is the message we need to get out – the message to help evangelize!!

Now – I’m embarrassed to say the next part...I didn’t know the distinction between teaching and evangelization when I was first ordained. Now maybe this is good in a sense – we Dominicans are supposed to be doctrinal preachers – that is we should preach homilies that have catechetical moments in them. However, when I was ordained, there was a very good Dominican priest who was explaining the RCIA process to me. I was a cradle Christian Catholic and didn’t really have experience as to the process of people converting. However, my brother priest told me that in the RCIA, there is an assumption that people have been evangelized before we catechize them – and he wondered if this was happening. I sheepishly then asked him to explain this difference to me...

Again – Dominicans often evangelize while we catechize – this isn’t a hard and fast distinction...

But I asked my brother if the story of St. Dominic staying up all night to convert the innkeeper was evangelization? He told me no...

But the issue here is that the inn keeper was already evangelized. However, he was a heretic. He already had a living faith in Jesus Christ – he just had some odd conclusions...

In our day and age, we have a lot of people who are catechized but not evangelized...

I remember once talking to a cousin about the Eucharist. This cousin and his wife were Catholics in name – but didn’t go to Mass on most Sundays. I described the Eucharist. Walked them through the Church’s teachings on it...they believed it all!

Then I asked – well, shouldn’t you come every Sunday then at least to receive Him? His response “no – I know he’s there if I need him but I don’t normally need him...”

He was totally catechized and not evangelized...however, me being evangelized and having a relationship with Christ Jesus, I couldn’t wait to be with the Lord in the Eucharist!!

We have a daunting task ahead of us. We live in a world that is incredibly secular. Church attendance is WAY down across the board. Also we see a corresponding drop off in belief (again – catechesis and evangelization often go together). 70% of self-identifying Catholics

don't believe in the Catholic belief in the Eucharist and regard it as a mere symbol. Even up to 37% of those who go every Sunday don't believe!

To increase this belief – and to make NEW converts – because after all, we are called to preach the Gospel to ALL peoples...we must evangelize as well as catechize!!!

This is where Sacred Music comes in!!

Yes – we can read ourselves into the Church. Yes we can even be evangelized by reading or by even solitary means (by ourselves). God can work all sorts of miracles!

Yet we are composite beings – we are both body and soul! That means the experience of a liturgy where all 5 senses are engaged (yes including smell!) can really pierce the heart in incredible ways!!!

e.g. – I can give you the statement – he ascended into heaven. Ok – I can understand that. He is no longer here but was taken up in his body and soul. And he now has also raised our human nature to the throne of God. Wow – ok that is an incredible doctrinal statement!!! However, if I want to enflame my heart more about this mystery, we can add music.

E.g. from Mass of the Angels

e.g. from Missa Solemnis by Beethoven

In music we can add a completely new dimension that speaking alone cannot do!

I can take the text “ave dulcissima Maria” – ok – hail O most sweet Mary! That is a beautiful antiphon. But when Morten Laruidson takes it and makes an incredibly beautiful setting., our heart melts. It can become an incredible experience of prayer!

Also, it's for all male voices. Our Dominican Sisters remind me that for us Dominican men, when we sing about Mary or to Mary, it's like a love song for our wife – for the woman in our lives!!

A guy can profess his love for the girl – but when he goes through all of the trouble to write a song, it is even better received. When he writes a song that is good, the whole world can take notice! How MUCH more important is it for us to proclaim the love that God has for His people?

We need to help pierce the world by Love! And the more we can clothe the liturgy with beauty, the greater will be the chances of opening a person's heart to receive the message – and to get them excited about the liturgy as well!

Our job is to help people get to heaven!!! Also people ought to see that life is beautiful and that the way to becoming a saint is not drudgery but is absolutely.

God is madly in love with His creation and seeks us out to become Saints! Will we respond?
Will we help others respond???

In the end, there is really only one tragedy in life, to fail to be a Saint!!!

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST!!! NOW AND FOREVER!!!

July 4, 2023 – Spirituality of the Church Musician – Liturgical Piety

Listening – *Albricias mortales*

From Psalms:

*Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
³ He is like a tree
planted by streams of water,
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.*

In the late 1990's, All Souls' Day fell on a Sunday. Our parish choir in San Francisco was going to do the Faure Requiem as the setting of the Mass for that day. I was finishing college, so I invited my family to come up and go to this Mass. This included my Grandfather. And he was very moved by this experience – especially the way the words and the music fit together.

However, this might come as a surprise to some people...

You see...

My Grandfather was not an educated man – in fact very few of my family were educated beyond high school until my parent's generation. He did like languages, but had only studied Spanish formally. Yet, he and a bunch of other farmers had come together in the early 1930's when their parish was established to form a choir. Of course the only language in the liturgy at that time was Latin with the exception of some pious hymns. So they set about learning some basic chant and Mass parts.

They really were never able to get into too complex chants, but one set of texts they all learned was the Requiem Mass because you repeated these chants over and over again for funerals. Also these chants are relatively easy. And because of their modal ambiguity, some musicologists actually think they might be some of the most ancient chants in the repertoire... My grandfather learned these texts by heart and what they meant. This affected his piety. Whenever he thought of someone dying, the first thing he went to when praying for them was “requiem aeternum dona eis Domine!”

I would argue that a lot of his own piety (and he wasn't a super pious man) was actually liturgical – because this is how he loved to praise God!

Today I want to talk about this idea of developing a liturgical piety. I think it SHOULD be important for all Christians, but should be ESPECIALLY important for us who love the sacred liturgy.

History of “liturgical piety”

Patristics

Medieval times – Dominican Spirituality? A life lived...

Departure in renaissance times (Oratorians and Jesuits) in favor of more popular devotions only

Recovery in the 19th century

Attempt at extending this to the church in the 20th century

How we can develop it in our own time

When you pray, get a Magnificat or a Roman Missal to see all of the propers – also get a Gregorian Missal or a Graduale Romanum

Try and learn some Latin – even basic Latin – it can really help!

Spend time with these texts, get to love them – pray with them!

Try and commit time in a holy hour to getting to know them!!

NOTE – the focus on the propers is incredibly important – and it is NOT ALWAYS THEMATIC!!! ☺

Unfold the riches of these propers

July 5, 2023 – The Faults or Sins of the Church Musician

Musical Piece: Para dar luz immortal

From the Gospel according to Luke:

⁹ He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and despised others: ¹⁰ "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank thee that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week, I give tithes of all that I get.' ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted."

A few years ago when I was still in formation we were getting ready to sing for Christmas. So our schola was practicing up a motet. As we were practicing, the brother in front of me corrected me. "Br. James you're singing the wrong note on this chord and it's hard to sing against you since you are such a loud singer!"

I thought – what a JERK!!! How DARE you...I have two degrees in music! Also – this happened to be a brother that NOBODY liked!! I thought – you jerk, I'm going to destroy you and have a good time doing it! So then I looked at my score and thought – oh no...I actually WAS singing the wrong note...

YUCK – I had to apologize to that brother, mark my score, and sing it correctly the next time around.

Humility is a DIFFICULT virtue to practice sometimes – and if you pray for humility, God might give you plenty of opportunities to be humbled...

As musicians – the better we try to be at being musicians, the more at risk we are of pride. It is necessary to keep this in perspective as we try and grow in virtue.

Take the Pharisee in this Gospel – he's doing everything right! He clearly has a relationship with God, he clearly is doing what the law commands!!! But then he becomes proud when he interacts with others...and this ruins all.

Pride is a very tricky sin because it's often the devil's backdoor way to get at us when we've done something good!

Now we all value excellence – and we should! In order to evangelize others, we need to make the most beautiful sound to the Lord as possible. This means hard work at teaching and practicing! These are good things!!!

However – when we put so much energy into something, it can mean that we will go to the wall to fight for it. It is kinda like our child almost for an artist...when we hear someone say that it was too loud or they didn't like it or that it was too difficult for people to understand – it's kinda like saying to us "YOUR BABY IS UGLY!" Of course we'd flip out!

VIRTUE to counter – Humility – true self-knowledge...we need to know where we can operate with a rational mind about this stuff and when we fly off the handle...

We need to be able to cope with someone's disapproving comment!

Egotism – as artists we seriously put our entire selves into our work! We can sometimes self-identify with our work. It's not only our baby that the person who disapproves of our music, it's actually US that the person hates!

This can REALLY be a source of frustration!

Virtues needed – detachment – especially if we are never gonna see the person again.

Virtues needed – friendship – especially if we have to work with the person – I'd like to speak more about this when I give my talk on priest-musician relationships...

Out of control passions – musicians are usually very passionate, passionate people! Our passions run high – and that's what makes us good artists!!!

The best artists often learn how to order their passions – especially to their art. E.g. Bach – he was really able to channel his emotions and order them with reason to produce incredible music. e.g. Hayden, Bruckner, Divorgrock, Durufle – incredible Catholics – they had their lives in order and their passions in order too (and they tended to live longer than composers whose passions were out of whack...

Issues with passions going out of whack – anger, rage, alcoholism, drug addiction, sexual immorality...these are issues that routinely really mess with musicians...and we need to stay close to the sources of Grace on this...

Strategy – FREQUENT confession – and NOT TO YOUR BOSS!!! Find a parish that is staffed by a religious order. If you already work for one, find a place that is staffed by different religious – or Opus Dei – or other movements like that...

Frequent confession can help in our lives too...

Here is the thing – we need conversion too – we also need God's grace – and it can be super difficult especially to maintain our faith especially when we work so close to the sausage being made...

We have lots of scholar and preacher saints...

We have a growing number of husband/wife saints!...

We have a few artist saints...

Let's get more musician saints...

STARTING WITH US!!!

July 6, 2023 – The Virtues of the Church Musician – Contemplation and Teamwork

Listening – Terra Tremuit – William Byrd

From the Acts of the Apostles:

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; ¹³ and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. ¹⁴ All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

In 2014 the CRCCM was coming to Washington DC – the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians. This was a very big deal. This small conference in the United States brings together some of the best professional musicians the church has to offer. These are often people who have paid choirs – or at least some paid singers. They do a lot of choral repertoire every week. When they came to Washington, they heard two choirs – the all professional chorus of the Basilica of the National Shrine – which is an INCREDIBLE choir – one of the best in the nation and probably the best at a Catholic Church. They heard them give a great concert – and they heard us – our little Dominican Schola.

So of course I was nervous and worked the schola VERY hard. We had a program of 3 motes – one renaissance, one 19th century and one 20th century – in 3 languages.

Then almost as an afterthought, one of the Dominicans – a guy whose name has been brought up a few times here by Fr. Robert, Br. Innocent Smith (one of the leading experts in Dominican chant) said “why don’t we do some chant for them?” Oh – good idea I thought. Ok. Let’s sing the O spem miram – that is an antiphon that we often sing to St. Dominic after the Salve Regina at compline. It’s melismatic enough and cool. That’s a good addition. We sang through it ONCE just so the guys could get used to me doing a little conducting at the end of the piece.

GUESS WHICH PIECE THE CONFERENCE LIKED THE MOST?!?!? The chant...they hardly made any comments about the polyphonic works that we’d worked so hard on other than to say “sure they were good!” Instead they asked questions like....

- 1) How did you get them to sing on the square notes?
- 2) How did you get them to sing such a line?
- 3) HOW DID YOU DO THIS WITH SUCH LITTLE CONDUCTING?!?!?

My answer – well – we do this literally ALL THE TIME...we sing constantly together without a conductor.

They were blown away by this...

I told them that Gregorian chant wasn't just one more style of music for us – it was kinda a way of life that we breathed in and out...

Like the moral life – music is not just something we do – it's a way of life!

Yesterday I spoke about some of the vices of the church musician – today I want to speak about some of the virtues – some of the things that we should be able to slip into in our work...

The importance of a GROUP – or the CHURCH!!!

In this reading we just heard we hear of the time right after the ascension – the Lord didn't leave us a book, he didn't leave us a game plan or a strategic plan – not even the roman missal or the catechism or the Graduale Romanum!

HE LEFT US A CHURCH – and gave us the Holy Spirit to animate that Church – which is why we must do this all together!!!

And put the apostles and Mary at the center...

Teamwork or Group Effort - Fr. Robert [Mehlhart O.P.] eloquently described chant as a group effort – and I really believe this is so. Even when we are in choir singing the divine office, we learn how to do this.

As a religious we learn to sing! When we enter the Dominican Order, if we can't sing, we work hard at it until we actually can sing. We have very few brothers who don't sing at all. We come together 5 times a day to sing and we just learn by doing. We have a rhythm which just gets things done.

In our current age, whenever we do music we often need a director – however – if you put together a really great choir, they won't need much of a director. Often times I'll just start the brothers if they know something very well and won't direct until the end or at critical spots...

In our current age there is constant emphasis on “team building” – well, if you ask me, one of the best things a pastor can do, especially if he has a good choir, is to ask the choir director for help in building up a team!

Attention to Detail in a Sloppy Society – One of the things that I pointed out yesterday was the musician’s drive for excellence – which can sometimes get us into problems...

However, we should DRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE – especially in our age of mediocrity!

People hear recorded music all the time – which means we can’t get away with sloppy stuff. People can hear good recordings and wonder why we are so bad! This should make us strive for greatness in our own choirs.

NOTE – I actually believe in listening to many many recordings of the works I’m doing. Some people say they don’t like to listen to them because they want to make the work their own. Fair enough – but there are some REALLY great choirs out there and I want to use their ideas to help my own direction!!!

NOTE 2 – the need for continuous improvement – we need to keep learning and training our ears! This is why I think we need to keep going deeper – listening to music – contemplating choices...

If our pastors want to make their parishes awesome, they should come talk to us about attention to detail and making things truly great!

Our Art Ought to Lead to Contemplation – the benefits of singing chant!

Chant is a way of life! It can take a LONG time to get into chant. For me it took a number of years to really get into the spirit of the chant. It has a different sense than automatically triggering our senses. Fr. Robert made a great distinction between the chant Resurrexi on easter morning vs. the Halleluiahs Chorus. Which should you do? Both of them!!!

Chant can pull us back into a contemplative mode and a contemplative space...

It’s also a meditation on the word – but not always the most obvious meditation on the word. Sometimes it moves away from the most immediate or obvious way of looking at something and makes us pull back into a more contemplative space.

In our day and age when everything is sensory overload – when we are trying to add more bells and whistles to everything – to try and make everything blatantly obvious – it is good to struggle a little to get into the contemplative mode. It involves a stepping back and singing.

Not always the easiest thing...

Teaching your choir chant will 1) Help them to learn to sing a line well – this transfers into other aspects of music as well 2) build up a team – you have to learn to sing together before you can sing separately and 3) It can lead to a contemplative space that is VERY different from the noise of this world!

If a priest is serious about advancing the prayer lives of his parishioners...he should talk to us!

Let us be people who work together – let us be people who strive for excellence, but above all, let us be people who strive for holiness through contemplation of God – so that we might help form the next generation of Saints!

July 7, 2023 – Dealing With the Clergy

Listening – Deus in adjutorium meum intende...Monteverdi

From the Gospel of St. Matthew

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

Now you might think that this talk is going to mainly rip priests up...and to be honest with you, that was my initial thought. I am now in the administration of the Dominicans – of other Priests – and I have to say, my mind has focused on problematic Priests the past few years! However, then I thought, wait – I should be giving this talk to Priests and not to musicians! They are the ones who need to hear of their faults and what they can do to correct them.

But then I began to think back to 7 + years ago when I was still working in Church music and I began to think – wait, there are plenty of things that we can do as Church musicians as well to help with this often contentious relationship...

Two days ago we spoke of some of the sins of church musicians...so we know the issues from our side..

So I'm proposing two parts to this talk

- 1) Background as to why I think some Priests have such problems with their musicians and church music in general and
 - 2) Some solutions....because it's best to have a few solutions...
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PROBLEMS from the PRIEST Side

- 1) Clericalism – In the wake of all of the clerical abuse stuff, one of the items that has surfaced again in our church is the angry face of Clericalism.

When I was in college, Clericalism was referred to as something of the past – it was something that “conservative” or “traditional” Irish monsignors foisted about their congregations. These pastors were the kings – and this was associated with the bad old “tridentine church.”

However, I started seeing in the 1990's the heavy hand of some Priests with regard to their parish.

A pastor I know has one of the longest offertories in Christendom. He has people put objects to be blessed all over the altar. It's a heavily Hispanic parish so there are lots of articles every week...he would first bless them, then sprinkle them with holy water, and then anoint them with oil that smelled like chrism but that actually wasn't...

Of course, this needlessly extended the offertory and in this little parish church the offertory was often longer than ours at the national shrine of the immaculate conception!

I asked him about this one time and he said, "you have never been a pastor, you are an academic – you don't know what you have to do in a Parish." I responded, "breaking liturgical law or doing things not envisioned in the liturgy does not have to be part of a pastoral plan."

I later found out that this guys liturgical training consisted of trying to invent rites that would be meaningful for people. The rite he invented was blessing objects at the offertory with an oil with scent added to it to make it smell like Chrism...perhaps a creative thing but strange none the less.

He really had no clue that this was weird!

Also part of this is stubbornness...these Priests were formed in such a way as so make things up with regard to the liturgy, and they keep at it..."That's the way I was taught" is really the issue!!!

PRIDE – which is btw one of our sins too...no wonder this can be such a mess!

YOU ARE THE ONLY PART OF THE OUTWARD "CHURCHINESS" of your STAFF THAT HE IS LESS OF AN EXPERT AT – With regard to outward parts of the sacred acts of a church, theology, philosophy, history, etc. – the only part of the whole Mass that he is not an expert is – is music!!! This can lead to real problems if the guy is insecure at all...

The difficulty of Celibacy and Clericalism – One of the blessings of celibacy is that you are really freed up to be a member of every family, yet belonging to none. In a marriage, the one person who can always call out her husband is the wife – and the one who can call out the wife is the husband! A Priest fundamentally does NOT have to share his room with another person. In the end, he does not have to make peace with someone else who can call him out...this is where a good Priest will have good brother priests, friends, or relatives who will call him out.

But...this leads to the next problem with Priests today...

- 2) Lack of Human Formation – A Priest learns a LOT about how to be a Priest from his family. Think about it – the family is where a Priest learns to interact with others, how to talk to others, how to formulate an opinion, how to argue a point, how to love other people, and above all, learn how to pray. However, with the messedupness of the family today, many Priests simply do not have this!!

Priests often do not have the basic tools to be a human person when they come to the Seminary.

Then they do not have to answer to someone else in the micro-parts of their days. *A Seminarian is obedient in the big things, but in the small details of his life, he is in charge. He lives those small moments however he wants.*

This is problem that happens when girls date ex-seminarians...these guys can be incredibly selfish in the small details – and very inattentive.

If your Priest treats people in an odd way, this might be the result of a stunted HUMAN formation on his part...

The “Preacher’s Temperament”

Priest needing to be loved and a lack of formation – often times Priests get high praise from people who surround them too – this can lead to **pride**. Whenever someone questions a Priest then, it can be “how dare you question me???” Again – having a good family would call someone like that out. My own mom would publicly correct me if she ever heard of me treating someone like that! But if a Priest had a coddling mother and lack of a father, he might be more prideful...

- 3) History of dealing with incompetence – many Catholic churches are run on volunteer help. Also hired staff often tends to be incompetent. This often comes because of a **misguided vision of charity on the part of the parish**. Catholic Parishes are much more apt to not firing people because they don’t want to put hard standards in place.

N.B. – I am NOT saying that volunteer help is incompetent!!! What I’m saying is that often incompetence, whether hired or volunteer is often allowed to fester...

The AMAZING PARISH program is striving to rectify this. The thinking behind this movement is that this kind of lame hiring and keeping on bad employees would never be tolerated at Amazon or Facebook. Yet how more important is our message and our mission than that of Amazon or Facebook? Yet we tolerate junk – we tolerate lame and incompetent staff on and on and on!

Everybody knows about *the angry difficult parish secretary* who nobody likes but who has survived pastor after pastor who is unwilling to fire her or him => N.B. this is the WORST because often these the first person anybody encounters – including those who might be coming to the faith or maybe trying to renew their faith! At St. Dominic’s in San Francisco we recently hired a different kind of receptionist – it’s *her give back job*.

What this does is create an atmosphere where the way a Priest interacts with staff is to be very detached and when he is uncomfortable with something instead of addressing the issue directly, he just acts *passive aggressive* or tries to find other ways to get the person out...

Story of Holy Spirit Parish where the Priest put something in at the last minute because he was worried that the “director of liturgy” vetoing the idea...

Solutions

- 1) Do stuff together – men love to do stuff with others. Have a beer with them if you are a guy. If you are a girl, have a beer with both you and your husband!
- go hiking (or a walk if possible)
- 2) make friends with priests in general to see how we think – note this may not be a friendship with your boss
- 3) pray for him!!! Especially pray the rosary for him!!

We need musicians who want to be saints – but we also need Priests who want to be saints!!! So critical!!!

PRAISED BE JESUS CHRIST NOW AND FOREVER!!!

July 8, 2023 – Evangelizing Fellow Musicians

– the need for good friendships – this can spur us on to make greater music!!!

From Sirach

- ¹⁴ A faithful friend is a sturdy shelter:
he that has found one has found a treasure.*
- ¹⁵ There is nothing so precious as a faithful friend,
and no scales can measure his excellence.*
- ¹⁶ A faithful friend is an elixir of life;
and those who fear the Lord will find him.*
- ¹⁷ Whoever fears the Lord directs his friendship aright,
for as he is, so is his neighbor also.*

Story of Paul and myself

What we often mess up when it comes to friendships –

- 1) jealousy – wish the good for the other
- 2) unnecessary comparison – I actually am good and I’m doing good – it might be different from my neighbors good but is still a good
- 3) Putting myself down – instead listen to the voice of God that He loves me and wants me to be a Saint!!! Silence the lies of satan...

What Friendship Can Do!

- 1) Networking – this isn't a bad thing! It's really good because it actually puts us in contact with other musicians around the world.
JESUS LEFT US A CHURCH!!
- 2) Helps strengthen our own music program – what I learned from Peter Latona and Ben LaPrarie
- 3) Helps CONVERT OTHERS – and ourselves too! We've had conversions of musicians!!!

We are called to evangelize the world and that includes ourselves and our fellow musicians.

Prasied be Jesus Christ...now and forever!!!

July 9, 2023 – Evangelizing the World – Going Forth and Preaching the Gospel

Listening – *El cantico del alba* – Frank LaRocca

From the Gospel of St. Matthew

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Christendom vs. Apostolic – how to make sure we know what we are doing...the church's job is not to be the curator of museums but to preach the Gospel. However, from the earliest times she has incorporated music into her attempts to preach. We do so today as we lead the apostolic endeavors...

Reminders as we go forward:

- 1) Keep up a good prayer life – daily Mass if possible but NEVER EVER missing Sunday or a Holy day unless we are really sick, daily Rosary, daily office if possible. Confession at least monthly. MEDITATING UPON THE PROPER TEXTS AND READINGS for the Mass
- 2) The need for each other – we are a church and we must act like a church. For us as a subset of the church – as her musicians – we need to know and love and help each other out – working through problems together, sharing ideas, etc.

N.B. – we have a Dominican network – let's try and do it in the Dominican way and in conjunction with OP's around the world!

- 3) Be creative!!! It is important to have treasures BOTH old and new! I've tried to play some music ancient and some new. We need to be very grounded in our tradition – and we need that tradition to speak today – particularly to those who have never heard of the tradition!!!

FINALLY – DO NOT BE AFRAID!!!

“Do not be afraid. Open, I say open wide the doors for Christ. To His saving power open the boundaries of states, economic and political systems, the vast fields of culture, civilization, and development.”

Later, the pope said again at World Youth Day in 1993:

“This is no time to be ashamed of the Gospel. It is the time to preach it.... Do not be afraid to break out of comfortable and routine modes of living in order to take up the challenge of making Christ known in the modern metropolis.”

And finally:

“Do not be afraid. Do not be satisfied with mediocrity. Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.... I plead with you--never, ever give up on hope, never doubt, never tire, and never become discouraged. Be not afraid.”