

# DISCIPLES ON THE WAY

Spiritual Support During  
the COVID-19 Outbreak



Diocese of  
Green Bay

## MUSIC COPYRIGHTS

**St. Augustine said, “When you sing, you pray twice.”**

**It is hard to imagine a Sunday Mass without music. As we reach for technology to maintain some sort of normalcy in our worship, we must keep in mind the beautiful music we offer when we worship is the work of human hands. When worship music is used without permission or copyright license, we not only dishonor the God-given talents of the writer/composer, but we deny them the means to make a living.**



**Here are some things to keep in mind as we live stream, podcast, or upload Mass:**

### **WHEN DO I NEED A COPYRIGHT LICENSE?**

Any time you reproduce music or lyrics that are covered by copyright laws, a license is required. This includes videos or lyrics downloaded without the express permission of the originator.

### **WHAT IS A COPYRIGHT LICENSING AGENT?**

A copyright licensing agent is an entity which contracts with publishers for the compensation of the reproduction of their clients' original work.

### **IS ALL MUSIC COVERED BY COPYRIGHT LAWS?**

No, music considered in the public domain is not copyrighted. Copyrights lasts for 70 years after the originator has died. The music is then public domain and may be reproduced without permission.

### **WHAT DOES REPRODUCED MEAN?**

1. Any music or lyrics that are printed on paper, such as worship aids or song sheets
2. Any music or lyrics displayed on a screen
3. Any music or lyrics displayed in a live-stream, podcast, YouTube video, or other internet platform
4. Instrumental music played in the background
5. Pieces sung by one individual not part of a choral piece

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### **WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I GET A LICENSE?**

This means that any music that you reproduce will be compliant with copyright law and the creator of the piece will be compensated. You report the songs you reproduce to the licensing agent. This allows them to make payment to the publishers and the publishers will reimburse the originator of the music.

### **AM I IN VIOLATION OF COPYRIGHT LAWS IF I USE MUSIC FROM THE INTERNET SUCH AS YOUTUBE VIDEOS?**

Unfortunately, yes. According to YouTube, you must acquire permission from the video owner in order to use their content for public viewing. Most licensing agents do not cover content downloaded from the internet. This includes lyrics you may want to download to display on a screen or video. For more information on using YouTube videos, you can read more here: [www.youtube.com/copyright](http://www.youtube.com/copyright).

### **WHAT IF I PRINT JUST THE LYRICS?**

It is a misconception that printing just the lyrics of a song does not violate copyright law. You must have a license to print any music or lyrics. However, just listing the song title and artist is not a violation. If you play or sing the piece, you must have a license to avoid copyright infringement, unless the piece is an already purchased choral, choir, or orchestral arrangement.

### **HOW DO I GET A LICENSE?**

The two licensing agents that the Diocese of Green Bay uses are One License and CCLI:

- One License covers most traditional music you would find in parish songbooks. Right now they are offering a gratis license for streaming and podcasting until April 15, 2020. For more information, see their website at [www.onelicense.net](http://www.onelicense.net).
- CCLI covers modern praise and worship music. They are offering streaming licenses at a discounted price. Their website also offers free tips for streaming your Mass. For more information on their services, visit their website at [www.CCLI.com](http://www.CCLI.com).