

Focusing on the weekend from the perspective of lost people means . . . “It’s the Music!” The weekend experience should be a form of transportation, taking the participant on an emotional, intellectual, and ultimately spiritual journey to the higher things of God. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ *Sing to the Lord* says,

*God has bestowed upon his people the gift of song. God dwells within each human person, in the place where music takes its source. Indeed, God, the giver of song, is present whenever his people sing his praises. A cry from deep within our being, music is a way for God to lead us to the realm of higher things.*

We like to say that music is the water on which the experience sails. “Music does what words alone cannot do. It is capable of expressing a dimension of meaning and feeling that words alone convey.” More than any other element in the church’s weekend experience, it is the music that can touch and change people’s hearts – for better or for worse.

In our parish the music program included some musical options: three weekend masses were designated as “cantor and organ,” one as “choir”, one “folk”, and, blessedly, one was “quiet”.

The folk mass was far and away more popular than the other musical choices, perhaps because it was easiest to listen to or the easiest to tune out. The group tried their best, but they struggled. Their presentation was flawed and the music they played was dated and uninteresting. At the other masses, the music was worse – far, far worse.

**Taken from: *Rebuilt*, by Fr. Michael White and Tom Corcoran.**