

# DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION CHRISTCHURCH

## NEWSLETTER No.19 – MAY 1999

To Priests and Pastoral Assistants  
Parish Liturgy Committees  
Parish Councils  
Directors of Religious Studies  
Religious Houses  
Principals, Catholic Schools  
***All Parishioners***

*This paper is prepared as a basis for discussion at the  
Annual General Meeting of Priests in May 1999*

## MUSIC AND COPYRIGHT

- The Diocesan Liturgical Commission wishes to address the complex issue of **Copyright** as it relates to Church music. This newsletter is offered to parishes and Catholic institutions to assist them in observing the moral and legal implications of copyright.
- The Church believes that composers of words and music, publishers, musicians and technicians involved in recording are entitled to recompense for their works in keeping with the principles of social and moral justice. It also recognises that the laws regarding the unauthorised copying of hymns and music must be observed.
- The owner of a copyright (the author or composer) has the exclusive right to do, and to authorise the doing of, certain acts, including:

- a) the right to reproduce the work
- b) the right to publish the work
- c) the right to perform and adapt the work.

The owner may assign (or sell) the copyright to another party who becomes the new owner. In the music industry it is common for composers to assign their rights to certain organisations to facilitate the commercial marketing of their works. Generally, copyright remains for 50 years after the composer / text writer's death when it then expires.

### **WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?**

Canon Law (#517) states that the parish priest is called to respect the law and be vigilant in justice. This would indicate that he has the ultimate responsibility for observing copyright laws as they relate to Church music in his parish. He shares this with his assistant, secretary, musicians and liturgists.

Unfortunately, many parishes are using Church music from a wide variety of sources, and rarely are they covered by a copyright licence. The freedom to choose music from various sources, composers and publishers involves a corresponding responsibility of copyright obligations and payment.

### **COPYRIGHT LICENCES**

From among copyright agencies offering annual licences for the copying of printing copyrighted material for use in parishes, parishes can make contact with:

**WORD OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL**

**PO Box 2322**

**Burleigh M.D.C.**

**Queensland 4220**

**AUSTRALIA**

**Phone: +61-7-5526 0200 Fax: +61-7-5575 2004**

The following is a summary of what this agency can offer:

## 1. **An Annual Restricted Copy Licence**

- a) It's fee scale of \$100 to \$400 relates to average weekly attendance.
- b) This annual licence allows copying of music lyrics on paper, slides or transparencies. Melody lines may be reproduced, but not guitar chords or choir parts.
- c) The full title and composer's name must appear above each hymn; and a copyright notice must be printed below.
- d) Word of Life International will provide a list of all titles (about 13,500) at the commencement of the licence; plus a list of publishers and composers whom they represent.
- e) Word of Life International agrees to indemnify licence holders against any claim provided they are complying with licence conditions.

## 2. **An Annual Restricted Music Copyright Licence**

(This licence is separate from the Annual Restricted Copy Licence.)

The following is a summary of the Terms of Licence:

- a) The licence is for the copying of music only (for keyboard, guitar, harmony or choral or instrumental parts).
- b) The full title and composer's name must appear above each song; and the copyright notice must be printed below.
- c) The fee scale is:

Parish with up to 750 attendees per week : \$100  
Parish with over 750 attendees per week : \$200

- d) Word of Life International's licence covers all titles and the publishers they represent.
- e) The licence holder is required to provide at the end of each licence period a list of all works copied – on the Statistical form provided (on computer disk).

### 3. **Song Title Listing on Computer Disk (3.5)**

(Compatible with Windows, DOS or MacIntosh)

- a) Cost : \$50
- b) This enables accessible list of titles covered under the licence and maintenance of titles copied; and add new titles as they become available.

#### **PENALTIES**

Parishes and institutions which do not use copyright are liable to substantial fines.

Please send comments or questions to:

***The Secretary  
Diocesan Liturgical Commission  
PO Box 4544  
CHRISTCHURCH***

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