

# JOURNAL QUESTIONS FOR PASTORAL MUSICIANS FOR THOUGHT AND PRAYER ABOUT INSTRUMENTALISTS AND PRIESTS

## INSTRUMENTALISTS

The next time you are fortunate enough to have an instrumentalist ministering near you, watch that person's fingers. See the gift that God has given this musician. How does this gift enhance your community's liturgy?

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Really listen and pray with the music the next time you have an instrumentalist at Mass. What is your response to this instrumental prayer? Take a minute and thank this minister for the gift of time and talent.

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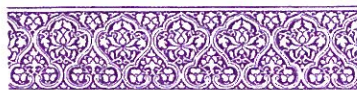
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Do you know someone—perhaps a high school or college student—whom you could encourage to play at Mass? Take a minute and introduce this person to your music director.

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“The primary role of the organist, other instrumentalists, or instrumental ensemble is to lead and sustain the singing of the assembly and of the choir, cantor, and psalmist, without dominating or overpowering them” (*Sing to the Lord*, 41).



## PRIESTS

Priests lead a very “public” life. Do you do your best to respect their privacy during “off” times?

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We are experiencing a shortage of priests in our country. Have you asked your priest how you can help in these difficult times?

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Next time you talk to your parish priest, tell him: “Thank you!” List some reasons for thanking this ordained minister. Ask him what he did today; you may be surprised!

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“No other single factor affects the Liturgy as much as the attitude, style, and bearing of the priest celebrant, who ‘prays in the name of the Church and of the assembled community.’ ‘When he celebrates the Eucharist, . . . [the priest] must serve God and the people with dignity and humility, and by his bearing and by the way he says the divine words he must convey to the faithful the living presence of Christ’” (*Sing to the Lord*, 18; internal quotes from GIRM, 33, 93).