



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Secretariat of
Divine Worship

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December 2, 2025

Dear Colleague,

Greetings from Washington, DC. I hope this note finds you well.

Attached to this letter you will find a *Request for Proposal* for a publishing project that is of great importance to the USCCB Committee on Divine Worship. We are sending this invitation to several publishers.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need clarification about anything that is described below. Some aspects of the request for proposal are flexible, and we welcome your perspective, experience, and judgment about a publishing project of this nature.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Dustin P. Dought".

Rev. Dustin P. Dought
Executive Director
ddought@usccb.org



Request for Proposal

Musical Settings of *The Liturgy of the Hours*, Second Edition

December 2, 2025

Background

The Holy See confirmed the texts of the second edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* on October 18, 2025, and the USCCB President issued a decree of promulgation with a first-use date of February 10, 2027, and a mandatory-use date of December 3, 2028. At its November 2025 meeting, the Committee on Divine Worship determined to entrust the approval of all subsequent publishing proposals for the second edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* to the Chairman of the Committee and the Executive Director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship. **Proposals for musical settings are sought by Friday, January 16, 2026.** Publishing in digital and audio formats are being considered in a separate proposal.

Anticipated Publication and Implementation Process for Musical Settings of the Breviary

The table below is the publication timeline for various print editions of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, second edition:

Work	First-sale date
Volume II (Lent-Easter)	January 2027
Volume III (Ordinary Time, Weeks 1-17)	April 2027
Volume IV (Ordinary Time, Weeks 18-34)	July 2027
Volume I (Advent-Christmas)	November 2027
Major Extracts (e.g., Christian Prayer)	May 2028
Minor Extracts (e.g., Shorter Christian Prayer)	Variable from January 2027 – May 2028

The publication of a musical setting may not occur before the first-sale date of the printed volume in which that text is found. For example, settings for antiphons and responsories of Lent may be distributed in January 2027, but those for Advent may only be distributed in November 2027. In general, the Secretariat intends to make available in advance of the first-sale date of each printed volume no more than certain texts of the Ordinary, antiphons, short responsories (i.e., those for Lauds and Vespers), the four-week psalter, the complementary psalmody, and Compline. Verses and long responsories for the offices of the Sacred Paschal Triduum and for the Office of Readings on the Nativity of the Lord (Christmas) may also be requested. Regarding the hymns of the second edition, see Attachment A below.

continued



The Secretariat will coordinate with the selected publishers to determine the contents to be set to music. After a mutual agreement and the execution of a license, the Secretariat will deliver a manuscript with the specified contents. The texts of Volume II will be delivered no earlier than July 2026, Volume III no earlier than October 2026, Volume IV no earlier than December 2026, and Volume I no earlier than April 2027. Certain aspects of the above may be adjusted in light of publishers' feedback.

Project Description

The *Liturgy of the Hours*, second edition, is an English translation of the *editio typica altera* of the *Liturgia Horarum*, promulgated by the Holy See in 1985. While the *editio typica altera* is not substantially different from the *editio typica* which preceded it (the base text of the current U.S. *Liturgy of the Hours*), it does include some new material, for example, a three-year cycle of antiphons for the Benedictus and Magnificat. In addition to new material from the *editio typica altera*, the *Liturgy of the Hours*, second edition, will also include all changes to the universal calendar through the present and the proper texts for the dioceses of the U.S.

What the USCCB Will Offer

The USCCB will be ready to offer a publication copy in Microsoft Word format.

The copyright for the texts is held by ICEL, the CCD, and the USCCB, and the publisher will need to obtain the appropriate licenses under the usual terms.

The USCCB intention is to offer this material to a number of publishers for a three-year period or until such a date as the edition's texts change.

Key Proposal Information

While more robust proposals with sample pages may be submitted, a simple letter of interest will suffice. Your letter might also briefly address the following aspects of the project, as well as any other information that the publisher feels might be relevant:

- **Contents.** Describe the days, hours, and elements which you plan to include.
- **Marketing, publication, and distribution.** Information about customer base and market reach should be provided. Details about past experience setting musical texts in a professional manner.
- **Timeline.** The publication of a musical setting may not occur before the first-sale date of the printed volume in which that text is found. The Chairman and the Executive Director will determine appropriate dates for the publication of minor extracts from January 2027 through May 2028.

You are welcome to inquire further if you have questions. Please submit proposals to Rev. Dustin P. Dought, Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship, by January 16, 2026. Proposals may be submitted by email (ddought@usccb.org) or by mail at the address on the letterhead on page 1. Thank you for your service to the Church.



Attachment A
Copyright Permissions on *The Divine Office Hymnal*
(excerpt from the *Newsletter* of the Committee on Divine Worship,
May-June 2023)

The International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) holds the copyright to many of the liturgical texts used in the Roman Rite in the United States. Publications produced for sale that make use of these texts are typically subject to a royalty or flat fee. In addition, it is the policy of ICEL that publications using their texts in this country must also be approved by the USCCB Secretariat of Divine Worship. This helps ensure the accuracy and appropriate use of the material, and also affirms the principle that a Conference of Bishops should have oversight of the Church's liturgical texts in its territory. The English translations of the hymns found in *The Divine Office Hymnal* – which will also appear in the forthcoming *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* – are among those liturgical texts owned by ICEL.

In arranging for the publication of these hymns in the United States, two factors were particularly important in the planning of the Secretariat, undertaken with the support of the Committee on Divine Worship. First, since these new hymn translations will not be familiar to users of the new edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* when it is published in a few years, the Secretariat was of the mind that the entire corpus of hymns with musical settings needs to be available to the Church in the metrical and plainsong versions prepared by ICEL. The Secretariat was certainly aware that few communities will ever make use of all this material. For example, the Office of Readings is probably prayed in common rather infrequently. Or as another example, it is quite possible that many communities will choose to use only the metrical or only the plainsong settings. Nevertheless, as a matter of principle, the Secretariat wanted to have every hymn of the forthcoming *Liturgy of the Hours* available with both styles of musical settings.

Second, most of the hymns of the Divine Office are in a regular meter, which means that they can be set to any number of existing or newly composed melodies, in either a metrical or plainsong style. While this opens the door to creativity on the part of musicians and composers, it might also create a challenge in finding a common “musical language” to use when people begin to pray with the new edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. The Secretariat believed, therefore, that establishing a sort of common repertoire, using the melodies proposed by ICEL, in the period immediately before and after the publication of the new *Liturgy of the Hours* would help encourage unity among those who pray the Divine Office and thus make its adoption easier.

Since the USCCB has ceased its own internal publishing operations, GIA Publications, Inc. has been entrusted with this project. To facilitate the two factors just described – making the entire body of hymns available in both metrical and plainsong versions, and encouraging a common musical repertoire for these hymns – and considering the investment required to prepare a hymnal of this nature, the Secretariat negotiated a “limited exclusivity” with GIA for the use of this material. In other words, the USCCB will not permit other publications of ICEL's copyrighted hymn translations in its territory except as follows:



- Before the *Liturgy of the Hours, Second Edition* is published and for one year after its use becomes mandatory, at the discretion of the USCCB it will be possible for other publishers to publish up to ten of the hymns with the same melodies as found in *The Divine Office Hymnal*, or up to twenty of the hymns using other melodies.
- Beginning one year after the new edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* becomes mandatory, the USCCB has the discretion to permit other publishers to use up to fifty of the hymns with the same melodies found in *The Divine Office Hymnal*, and any number of the hymns using other melodies.
- Five years after the mandatory use date of the new breviary, GIA Publications' period of exclusivity will end.

GIA is not only producing the complete pew version of the hymnal but is also offering an accompaniment version, using musical settings prepared by ICEL. The hymns will also be available to communities via OneLicense, which should prove to be very useful in the preparation of worship aids for special events.

Note that this exclusivity only pertains to hymn texts with musical settings. Subject to the usual permissions of ICEL and the USCCB, there is a possibility for hymn texts without music to be published. Furthermore, as a general rule, ICEL does not assess a royalty and permission is not required for non-commercial publications created for specific events; see the ICEL website (ICELweb.org/copyright.htm) for more information.

As individuals and communities, musicians and composers all gain experience with these new hymn translations and settings during the coming years, it is to be expected that there will be other ideas for ways to publish this material. For example, it may become evident that there is a market for a hymnal that focuses on Sundays and Solemnities, or for a hymnal that uses only plainsong melodies. Perhaps composers will prepare new tunes to accompany these texts, or editors will wish to use other melodies than those suggested by ICEL. Publishers and composers are welcome to contact the Secretariat to discuss possible projects, considering the conditions described above.