



Although sharing much common ground when it comes to philosophy and ministry, often Mary and Bob find themselves approaching ministerial concerns from different angles... *He said - She said* is a venue to share differing perspectives and provide food for thought.

++ Mary will be taking some time off from blog writing over the next few months. However, Bob will continue adding his two cents to the He Said – She Said blog as scheduled - with maybe a few surprises in store! ++

Reinventing Ones' Self?

Bob's Perspective:

Mary and I surfaced this topic a few months ago...and I've been pondering, and pondering and pondering. And when I was through pondering, I pondered some more! I'm not so sure that 'reinventing' is the correct word in this instance. I like to think more in the lines of 'evolving' as opposed to 'reinventing.' As times and circumstances change around us, we don't change who we are or what we do. Rather, we more often utilize our talents and resources by evolving (growing) them in different ways in order to achieve the desired result.

To be successful, the trick is to not rest on our laurels. Education and practice are essential elements to growing or honing our talents. In addition, we need to keep a sharp lookout and constantly gather resources that will ever increase our potential for success.

In the case of Liturgy and Music (although this principle can be applied in other areas as well), it never hurts go back to the basics. The Liturgy of the Word as it is practiced in the Church offers an interesting model. Note that the readings are proclaimed cyclically. In the case of Sunday, they are repeated every three years. The wisdom here is that as we evolve, our understanding of the scripture as it relates to our life changes or at least is nuanced. Applying this to our ministry, why not read the Liturgical documents on a cyclical basis?

Reading just a couple short passages of the documents on a daily basis as part of my regimen keeps me sharp, reinforces my knowledge base, and opens my mind to gain new insights. Here's my suggestion – (I actually follow this pretty closely):

Year I – Sacrosanctum Concillium (the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy)

Year II – The General Instruction of the Roman Missal



Year III – Sing to the Lord & the other documents.

Although I have been doing this for a number of years, I'm always pleasantly surprised to discover a fact or nuance that is worth exploring or implementing into my work.

Just as a side note, all of the above mentioned documents and more can be found in *The Liturgy Documents, Volume One: Fifth Edition* from Liturgy Training Publications.

Evolving also demands time to relax and regroup ourselves. This can take form in a number of ways. I enjoy conventions. They provide fertile ground for knowledge building, recreation and relaxation. The National Association of Pastoral Musicians and the American Guild of Organists both provide yearly conventions at which can be found a variety of workshops, concerts and recreational activities. Another idea would be to take advantage of your local retreat house. Many times just taking a week (or at least a few days) on a regular basis at which you can relax in a more prayerful setting can be very helpful. If a retreat house isn't your thing, how about a trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains, or one of the other beautiful and peaceful National Parks for a self-directed retreat?

Then again, there's always Vegas!