

EPISODE 13 – Music and the Mass (Part 2)

1. What distinguishes "sung dialogues" from the singing of hymnody?
 - These are rather tough questions and not totally in line with the video or the summary. I had to look up the definition of "hymnody". What I found in the Catholic encyclopedia was:
 - *Hymnody, taken from the Greek (hymnodia), means exactly "hymn song", but as the hymn-singer as well as the hymn-poet are included under (hymnodos), so we also include under hymnody the hymnal verse or religious lyric. Hymnology is the science of hymnody or the historico-philological investigation and æsthetic estimation of hymns and hymn writers.*
 - From this definition I would say that hymnody are the bulk of the songs we sing from the hymn book at Mass. Songs from the tradition and our culture. Sung dialogues would be putting the prayers and responses of the people to music and song. The difference would then be that the sung dialogues are singing that which is an integral part of the Mass, while hymnody would be an expression of praise and worship by the people. The sung dialogues would be fixed in content but the music could vary. The hymnody would not be restricted and would seek to capture the love of the people for their God.
2. What is the difference between "singing the Mass" and "singing at Mass"?
 - My answer is in my response in the last bullet of the first question.
3. Why does the Church give "the main place" to Gregorian Chant?
 - Gregorian Chant is a simple and solemn way of praying. Instruments are not needed and the most basic chant can be learned by anyone. It is not "trendy" or "hip" in any way and so does not distract away from the sacred words being sung. Gregorian Chant focuses on the text and is really meant to highlight the beauty of the word itself. In that way, it is designed to point us all to the Word Himself, Jesus Christ ([click here](#) to learn more).