



**BOSTON COLLEGE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY
PARTNERS WITH MAJOR U.S. LITURGY MUSIC PUBLISHERS TO DEVELOP NEW PROGRAM TO SUPPORT
MUSIC MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH**

The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM), in partnership with J.S. Paluch, Liturgy Training Publications and Oregon Catholic Press, is establishing a new graduate level program that will focus on music ministry in the Church. The new Music Ministry program will be housed as a specialization within the STM's current Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry degree.

This 35 credit graduate degree program will be offered exclusively as part of the STM/IREPM Summer Institute and will focus on preparing pastoral musicians for the worship life of local faith communities. Students enrolling in the program will already have had music training. In addition to core courses in liturgical foundations of music ministry, students will complete coursework in theology, liturgy, scripture, spirituality and religious education. Graduates of the program will be well prepared to establish liturgical music programs, direct choirs, and lead music and hymnody for worship that is pastorally engaging, personally enriching, and socially responsible in its theology and spirituality.

"Few things are more important to a faith community's worship life than the music it sings and prays," said Dr. Thomas Groome, Chair of the School of Theology and Ministry's IREPM department and Professor of Theology and Religious Education. "Liturgical music, and the community's participation in it, engages our hearts, informs our minds, and shapes the subsequent work of our hands. When seen in this light, it becomes clear that liturgical music is a constituent of worship – indeed of Christian faith – that can serve as a powerful catechetical resource and opportunity. Clearly, parishes must shape their music ministry with great pastoral responsibility."

"Pastoral musicians who facilitate the sung prayer of the assembly serve a vital role in the community's faith formation and celebration," adds Fr. Richard Clifford, S.J., Dean of the School of Theology and Ministry. "Recognizing this, increasing numbers of musicians have embraced music ministry as a vocation. In order to provide effective leadership to the people they serve, many pastoral musicians are seeking formal opportunities to improve their theological knowledge and pastoral competencies. In service to the Church, Boston College is proud to be able to respond to this need."

The School of Theology and Ministry will launch its new Music Ministry program during its 2009 Summer Institute and expects to attract liturgical musicians from throughout the world. The program will be completed over the course of six summers and through the generous support of J.S. Paluch, Liturgy Training Publications, Oregon Catholic Press, and Boston College, significant scholarship and tuition remission will be offered to all students accepted into the program. For more information regarding the Church Music program, please contact Fr. John Baldovin, S.J., Program Director and Professor of Historical and Liturgical Theology at john.baldovin@bc.edu or Sean Porter, Assistant Dean and Director of Admissions, at sean.porter@bc.edu. Information is also available via telephone at (617) 552-6501 and at www.bc.edu/stm.

The Boston College School of Theology and Ministry (STM) was formed on June 1, 2008, when the former Weston Jesuit School of Theology and the Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry joined to offer a full array of ministerial and theological courses and degrees. Both a graduate divinity school and an ecclesiastical faculty of theology regulated by the Apostolic Constitution Sapiientia Christiana (1979), the school offers both master and doctoral degrees, civil and ecclesiastical degrees, and a wide variety of continuing education offerings, including online programs through C21 Online. The STM has quickly become an international theological center that serves the Church's mission in the world as part of a Catholic and Jesuit university. Through the fostering of Christian faith and the promotion of justice and reconciliation, the school prepares its students for ministries that are as diverse as the composition of the student body – Jesuits and other candidates approved for ordination studies, women and men for lay ecclesial ministries and for service rooted in faith. The STM is committed to the Catholic theological tradition, rigorous academic inquiry, interdisciplinary study, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, and the engagement of faith and culture.