

Interview with Patty Gorman, Director of Music Ministry/Liturgy at St. Leo the Great

When did you begin thinking about working in the Church?

I knew I wanted to lead choirs in church when I was 10. My parents brought us to church weekly and on Holy Days, and I loved the music and liturgy (although I didn't know it was called Liturgy at that time). I was already taking private music lessons by then.

Who was involved in your considering lay ecclesial ministry?

My mother, Fr. Klocek, and my piano teacher who was a devout Christian. Also, my Deacon, Jim Steiger.

What is your title and what do you do?

Music and Liturgy Director. I direct a Worship Group, Festive Choir, Children's Praise Choir, Resurrection Choir, and Cantors. In addition, I oversee the Hand Bell Choir. I am also in charge of all liturgical happenings and liturgical purchasing, such as hosts, candles, banners, flowers, and anything related to Mass. I do staff duties, too.

How did you prepare for your role? What training did you receive – from where? From whom?

I majored in Music at Roberts Wesleyan University. I also majored in Business at Bryant & Stratton. Then I went to St. Bernards for Pastoral Music and Liturgy. I also attended many, many Pastoral Music Conventions in many states, thanks to Fr. John Glogowski.

Did you feel confident that you were up to it, or did it take some time to become comfortable?

I felt comfortable teaching, as I've been a private piano/accordion teacher for years, but it took time to learn the Liturgy and each priest's ways. I also had to adjust to teaching adults who are older than me.

Did you start in your current role, or did it change over time?

I've been Director for 36 years at St. Leo's. I started singing and helping at St. Leo's when I was in 7th grade. When I was in college, I sang at Mother of Sorrows, too.

What is your advice to others thinking about a similar path?

Pray about it, volunteer first like I did, and shadow people in the music or liturgy area at church. The pay isn't for the faint of heart, and the work calls you to go above and beyond. If you decide to go in this direction, I suggest that you attend Pastoral Musicians conventions (many) like I did. I learned a lot at the conventions and met composers and liturgists of all kinds. I also learned the rules of the church.