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## Universa Laus



I have been elected a Co-President of the international study group "Universa Laus".

Universa Laus studies the role of music in liturgy in the light of the second vatican council.

It was founded by several periti of the council over 45 years ago.

One of its founders was père Joseph Gelineau...most famous for the "Gelineau Psalms" who died only two months ago.

Universa Laus holds an international study congress every year, this year it was near Ghent, next year it will be in Italy. Each national group holds its own meetings during the year.

For the next three years we will be looking at how music in the liturgy includes people into the celebrative life of the church and thus actualising them as part of the mystical body of Christ present to the world.

The first year of this cycle of study will be on drawing children and young families into the Church, the second year will focus on Youth and the "disaffected" catholic, and the third year on RCIA.

The papers that are presented are discussed and used to share ideas.

There is usually one paper on the theology of the topic in hand, one on the music and one on pastoral issues associate with the topic.

It is not a music summer school as such to learn new music, that is done at national level.

It is as it says a study group that grapples with issues concerning pastoral ritual music.

Along side this work the new Presidium will be looking to broaden the appeal and base of UL and to relaunch its web site.

I am very honoured to have been made a Co-president of UL and hope I can help it over the next few years. It is a society of friends; musicians, theologians, pastors, from all strata of the church Cathedral organists, professors of theology and of music, parish musicians and parish priests and interested laity etc.. and to have been elected by acclamation rather than vote to this office was rather overwhelming at the time.

Please pray for me to have the wisdom and insight to steer this group over the next few years.

Aidan Peter CJ