

GUIDELINES FOR LVCCM SERENADE LEADERS Revised December 2012

The psalmist writes “It is good to praise the Lord and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night, to the music of the ten-stringed lyre and the melody of the harp” (Psalm 92:1-3, NIV). Praising our Lord through music (including the Serenade during the evening meal on Saturday) is an important dynamic of every LVCCM Weekend. For most, the Saturday Serenade is a very memorable experience (for the Candidates, the Team, and the community), but we must remember that it is just one dynamic of the Weekend.

The Serenade is an enhancement of the total message of the Weekend. It should not detract from or interfere in any way. It is recommended that songs from the LVCCM Songbook be selected because the Serenade comes at a point in the Weekend when the Candidates are familiar with those songs and they are becoming part of the meaning of the weekend. It is also important that the men or women who have come to sing are able to sing them well. Songs that the Serenade Leader really likes, but that are not easy to sing, are not the right songs for the serenade.

Plan the Serenade so that the total length is about twenty minutes. Time the Serenade in advance so you know how long the Serenade will last. It may be effective to link songs together (for example, singing two to three songs in a row before stopping for applause) and to not wait for applause to end before starting the next song. It is effective to begin distributing flowers after the last song by immediately transitioning to “Alleluia”.

It is recommended that the serenaders not leave the dining room and then return. This takes more time and can bring attention on the serenaders rather than on the atmosphere and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

An extra step of preparation may be a great investment. Have a conversation with the Head Server (or the person having that role for the Saturday evening meal) so that you understand logistics. Remember this is the first time that person has been a head server. Encourage them to be sure that the community is reminded that community behavior can be a distraction even though they are not seen.

Share this with participants at pre-serenade practice:

1. We will return to _____ (this location?) for prayer and stay prayerful until the candidates have returned to the Rollo Room.
2. Turn off electronics such as cell phones, pagers, etc.
3. Smile. Smile. Smile when you enter, sing, and pass out flowers.
4. No talking during serenade – we are to be a blessing not a distraction.
5. Do not hug candidates – if a candidate gets up to hug you, get them seated as soon as possible.
6. All sheets distributed must be returned after the serenade to abide by copyright law.
7. No one who has a spouse on their original weekend should go out in the dinning area. It is recommended that fiancés should refrain from doing the same. Those who wish can sing from some location where they are out of sight.
8. All participants must be 18 years old or older and have been on a VdC or similar weekend.
9. PHONES OFF. SMILE!