

Oddwalk

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"One of the missions of Oddwalk is to help people to know Who they receive at Mass and reflect the presence of Christ when they go out into the world," said Mr. Cerneka. "That's what a lot of our music points to."

Mr. Johnson is director of music and liturgy at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Ill. He and Mr. Cerneka have

been entertaining and evangelizing at youth-oriented events such as the National Catholic Youth Conference; diocesan high-school and junior-high youth rallies in the Jefferson City diocese; and currently at the 2009 Confirmation Reflection Days in Jefferson City.

In 2006, Mr. Cerneka sent samples of their work to GIA Publications, not yet knowing that a new hymnal was in the works.

"Within a couple of weeks — which is remarkably fast in this industry — they got back to me," said Mr. Cerneka. "They liked a lot of our stuff."

"I wound up having an extensive conversation with their editorial manager," Mr. Cerneka said. "She told me a new hymnal was starting to take shape. They were looking for new fresh liturgical music with a contemporary feeling."

With that purpose in mind, a committee of distinguished pastoral musicians evaluated each musical submission, based on variety,

the Liturgy of the Eucharist."

GIA Publications has been sending Mr. Cerneka and Mr. Johnson to conferences and conventions for people involved in music ministry and youth ministry.

Their job is to generate interest by performing and leading their own songs as well as pieces by other composers in the hymnal.

"From what we can tell, the music is being received very well," said Mr. Cerneka, adding that audiences have taken a particular liking to a song by Chris de Silva.

"I believe the marks of good music are that it is liturgically appropriate and Scripturally, theologically sound, and that the congregation can pick it up and sing it — or at least the chorus," said Mr. Cerneka. "With the music we've been featuring from this hymnal, that is definitely the case."

He said opinions about new liturgical music tend to move by word of mouth. Eventually, parish music directors and youth ministry coordinators will get copies of *Cross Generation* and try out some of the songs, he said.

The people in the pews will decide whether it's a success.

Mr. Cymbala, who has been working for GIA for 22 years, said it will be interesting to see which of the new Catholic compositions in *Cross Generation* become revered classics for generations yet to be born.

"I believe some of them definitely will," he said. "But only time will tell."

www.giamusic.com

<http://oddwalkministries.com>

Start Here:

New Cross Generation hymnal includes songs by Cerneka, Johnson of OddWalk Ministries

By Jay Nies

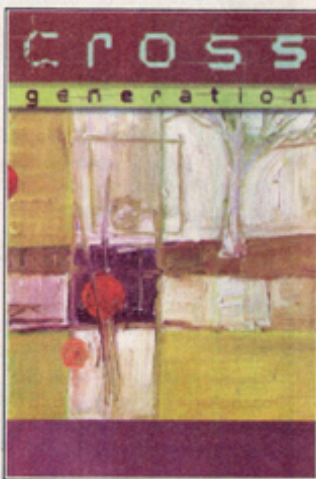
Jefferson City

A new Catholic hymnal features 11 original songs by Oddwalk Ministries, a youth-oriented musical duo with strong ties to the Jefferson City diocese.

Oddwalk members Shannon Cerneka, who is youth ministry coordinator for St. Peter parish in Jefferson City, and Orin Johnson of St. Louis have headlined numerous youth ministry events in this diocese and beyond.

Their work now joins that of such well-known contemporary Catholic composers as Steve Angrisano, John L. Bell, Rory Cooney, David Haas and Marty Haugen in GIA Publications' new *Cross Generation* hymnal.

"It's a broad range of contemporary music drawn from many sources," said GIA Executive Producer and Marketing Director Michael Cymbala. "It includes some



great music by Shannon and Orin and other newer composers as well, what the editors deemed to be among the best of the songs that have come into popular use in the recent decade."

Cross Generation is designed not to stand on its own but to help parishes supple-

ment the music they currently use for Mass. It contains 300 songs ranging from contemporary to traditional "with a little bit of chant and even some Taizé," said Mr. Cerneka.

"It definitely leans toward contemporary, but they went out of their way to make it so that a 15-year-old and a 95-year-old would both feel comfortable holding it in their hands," he said.

Oddwalk's songs in *Cross Generation* are also featured on the duo's latest CD, "Walk Away Different," which has a heavy emphasis on being changed by the Eucharist.

Please see *Oddwalk*, p. 6.



Songs by Shannon Cerneka and Orin Johnson of Oddwalk Ministries are included in GIA Publications' new supplemental hymnal, *Cross Generation*.