

## Hints on Using the Ambo Microphone

The microphone on the ambo that you use for the Mass readings and announcements is very good at reproducing readers' voices. However, there are a few characteristics to keep in mind for maximum clarity and hearing.

**IT IS DIRECTIONAL:** The microphone is designed to pick up the speaker's voice when directly in front of the microphone, but minimize noise from the side. This means that voice pick-up drops off quickly if your mouth is not in front of the microphone. In fact, if your mouth is beside or beyond the face of the microphone, you will be almost inaudible, even when the microphone is almost touching your cheek. For best pick-up, bend the flexible microphone holder so that the microphone is aimed directly at your mouth.

**POPPING:** When we speak certain letters, such as *T* and *P* while standing close to the microphone, the listeners hear a loud, annoying "pop" from the speakers. The microphone picks up this "pop" from all sides. This effect drops off as we back away from the microphone. This effect is loudest directly in front of our mouth and also drops off as we turn our heads slightly away from the microphone or, alternately, move the microphone to the side while keeping it aimed at our mouth. (Remember, don't turn your head too far or your volume will drop off as well.)

**PROJECTING:** When we speak softly, our voices take on a slightly muffled quality. This means that the listeners will not be able to hear you clearly. To overcome this effect, speak up to **project** your voice. If you have a soft voice, it is recommended that you practice before or after Mass by having a friend sit in the fifth row to determine whether you can be heard at that range without using the microphone. Practice speaking loudly enough for your voice to reach the fifth row and then always use this level of projection when using the microphone.

### **MICROPHONE PLACEMENT GUIDELINES:**

- **For Strong Voices:** Stand so your mouth is about 8-12" from the microphone. Popping is not a problem at this distance.
- **For Moderate Voices:** Place your mouth 5-8" from the microphone. Be aware of popping and back away or turn your head slightly if it occurs.
- **For Soft Voices:** Place your mouth 3-5" from the microphone. Be aware of popping and back away or turn your head slightly if it occurs.
- **Minimum Distance for all Voices:** Do NOT place your mouth closer than 3" from the microphone!
- **Rule of Thumb for all Voices:** Aim the microphone toward your mouth and aim your mouth slightly to the side of the microphone.

**The Holy Spirit has chosen your voice to proclaim God's Word. It is important that you be heard loudly, clearly and distinctly.**