Suggested Revisions to Problematic Verses in
Lord of the Dance

Troublesome Verses:
Verse 2 portrays Pharisees as categorically opposed to Jesus (contrary to the 1985 Notes on the Correct Way to Present Jews and Judaism in Preaching and Teaching the Roman Catholic Church, III. Verse 3 says that it was “the holy people” who flogged and crucified Jesus because he healed on the Sabbath, thereby ignoring that crucifixion was a Roman form of execution and that Jesus was so executed as “king of the Jews,” a charge based on Jesus’ proclamation of the Kingdom of God.

2  I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee
   But they wouldn’t dance and they wouldn’t follow me
   I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
   They joined the dance and the dance went on.

3  I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame
   The holy people said it was a shame
   They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
   And left me there on the cross to die

Suggested Revisions:

2.  I danced for my people and cured all who came
    I healed the blind and the leper and the lame
    I danced for the fishermen, for James and John,
    They joined the dance and the dance went on.

3.  I danced for God’s kingdom which is over all,
    But the Roman rulers said I broke their law
    They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
    And left me there on the cross to die.