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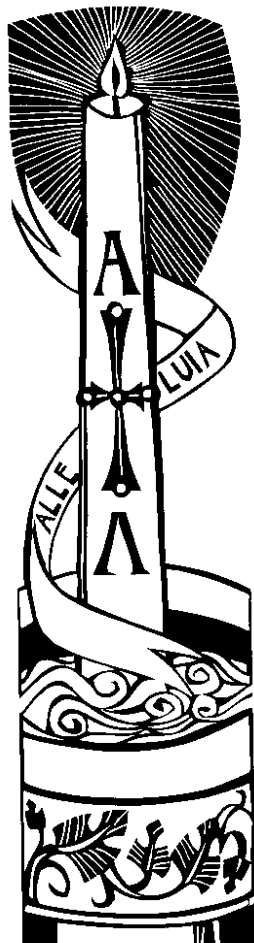
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VOL. 12 NO. 8 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

AND NOW WE CELEBRATE THE 50 DAYS!

*What Pastoral Musician does not heave a sigh of relief on Easter Monday? We survived!
And for a few days we may even rest.*

Then we look ahead to the rest of Springtime



1. Have you made plans to attend the **ORGAN RECITAL** by Dr. Charles Callahan on Friday, April 11 – 8 p.m. – at St. Thomas More Cathedral, 3901 Cathedral Lane in Arlington? There is no charge for the concert.

2. Are you free on Saturday, April 12 – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon – to attend one of the **LITURGICAL MUSIC WORKSHOPS** at St. Thomas More?

- * Dr. Callahan will lead one for organists.
- * Timothy Reno will lead one for vocalists.

There is a \$10 charge for members; \$15 for non-members – and you can still sign up, but please do so a.s.a.p. Send a check payable to Arlington Chapter NPM. to: Bob Malinowski, 7920 Lobelia Lane, Springfield, VA 22152.

3. How about that first weekend in April? The **CANTOR WORKSHOP** at St. Mary of the Mills, April 3 & 4 may be sold out by the time you read this – but, then again, it wouldn't hurt to check. Please call Gina Marie at 301-725-3080, ext. 212.

4. St. Jane de Chantal Parish in Bethesda is presenting concerts on April 6, April 20 and May 6. See page four for details.

5. Director/composer **CHRISTOPHER WALKER** will be in Virginia on May16-17 for a free Friday night concert at St. Francis de Sales in Purcellville, and a CANTOR WORKSHOP on Saturday at St. John Neumann in Reston. Details on both events on page four.

Mission Statement: *The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) fosters the art of musical liturgy. The members of NPM serve the Catholic Church in the United States as musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders of prayer.*

DIRECTOR'S CORNER *from VA*

A Mystagogical Moment

Mystagogia is the process of deepening one's awareness of and entry into of the mysteries or sacraments. In the Paschal season,



the neophytes (newly baptized) enter a particularly intense period of mystagogia as they reflect on what they have just experienced. All of us, however, are in a continual mystagogical mode. This was brought to me strongly at our recent Easter Vigil when we baptized 22 new Christians. After each baptism we sang a setting of one of the acclamations that the rite of baptism proposes for that moment. This is something I have done at other parishes, but never with so many being baptized. This particular parish had not sung a baptism acclamation in anyone's memory, and I was worried that with 22 it might get pretty repetitive, so I felt we were "pushing the envelope" a bit. Yet, with a sense of, "it's in the rite, so let's do it," we went ahead with it.

After three or four times singing, "You have put on Christ, in him you have been baptized, alleluia," I sensed a change. The baptisms were no longer a series of single events, but one large event punctuated or given rhythm by the assembly's singing. Rather than 22 individual baptisms, it was now a "rite of baptism" for the Church. Baptism was no longer an event between just the priest and the catechumen, but a sacrament of the whole Church. The assembly was no longer an aggregation of spectators, but participants in the rite, affirming what was happening and involved in the movement of the ritual.

Two thoughts. First, while I might have read about this in a book or heard someone talk about in a workshop, without the doing, I could not have known what a community baptismal rite could be. It is only in the experience of a ritual that the possibilities for deepening spiritual awareness can be realized. Second, the rites given to us have a great deal to reveal to us. Often we want to form the rites into what we want them to be. But when we receive them and carry them out honestly,

richly, and with love, they can speak to us in unexpected ways. Then, as we reflect on our sacred rituals in a spirit of mystagogy, they form us.

David Mathers
Arlington Chapter Director

NPM REGIONAL CONVENTION DISCOUNTS

Have you decided which of the three fine regional conventions you will attend this summer? Did you know you can receive a special discount by registering through your local chapter? Any chapter that sends ten or more NPM members as full conference participants to one of the **NPM 2008 REGIONAL CONVENTIONS** – *Cleveland, OH (July 8-10)*, *East Brunswick, NJ (June 30-July 3)*, and *Los Angeles, CA (August 5-8)* – will save those members 10-25% on their registration fee.

The discount increases with the number of chapter members who register together as a group. For this discount NPM/DC and NPM Arlington count as one chapter. (Yes, you can register for any one of the three regional conventions.) Encourage others to join you, especially those who have never attended an NPM convention. If you have not received a registration form, contact the NPM National Office. Information about the conventions is also available at www.npm.org.

To receive this discount you must send your completed registration form and fee to the coordinator before May 15. **How it works ...**

- * You must be a member of NPM (national) as well as one of the local chapters (NPM/DC or NPM Arlington). Either or both of these can be parish memberships.
- * Complete a convention registration form in full.
- * Send your convention registration form and fee to the address below by May 15. (All the registration forms with one check will be sent to the national office on May 20.)
- * Enclose your check for \$230 (plus fees for any extra events you are attending).

Make the check payable to "NPM/DC." Send to: Mary Beaudoin, 10114 Portland Place, Silver Spring MD 20901-2116 To inquire about chapter reservations, send an e-mail to: beaudoinm@stpetersolney.org.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PEW

A series of articles – for those who are new to Pastoral Music Ministry – focusing on the music used at Mass – no matter how large or small the assembly. Included in the series: An Introduction ... Who Makes Decisions & Parish Repertoire ... Mass Settings ... Psalms ... Hymns & Songs ... **Triduum & the Parish** ... Using Worship Aids Well ... Some Final Thoughts

Part 6 - *The Triduum and the Parish*

[It's coincidental that we have space for this article at the time parishes are evaluating their celebration of Triduum '08. It is hoped that some of these points will help with that evaluation.]

In the best of all possible worlds, the entire parish shows up for the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. But even if they were so inclined, how many churches can hold the whole parish? So, year after year, we encourage people to attend these three holiest days of the year, knowing that a small fraction of the parish will attend, and – if truth be known -- relishing the fact that those who do are the people who will sing their hearts out and participate with gusto.

Why do we consider the Triduum in the context of this series of articles? Because what we do during these three days should affect what we do throughout the year.

HOLY THURSDAY —

- ... The Gloria - Is it the setting sung on all major occasions in the parish at all the Masses? Is it one the parish knows and loves?
- ... Psalm 116 - Do we also use it on the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (a.k.a. Corpus Christi)?
- ... During the Washing of Feet – Do we sing a song of service that can be used at other times?
- ... Pange Lingua - Do we do justice to this ancient chant, reminding us that we have a wonderful history of church music that needs to be preserved?

GOOD FRIDAY —

- ... Do we include music that has been used throughout the year and is well known?
- ... Do we choose music for Palm Sunday that will also be used on Good Friday? For those unable to come on Good Friday, the previous Sunday may be the only time they can experience this exceptional music.

EASTER VIGIL —

- ... Have we chosen psalm settings that are used at other times of the year, so that they are well known?
- ... What about the music accompanying the RCIA rites? Do we use some of it for Baptisms and other celebrations throughout the year?
- ... Is the music used for the Sprinkling Rite used at all Masses throughout the Easter season?
- ... And finally, what about the Communion Hymns? Are they well known and loved, and used often at all Masses throughout the year?

Triduum music matters, even if only a fraction of the parish sings it on those days.

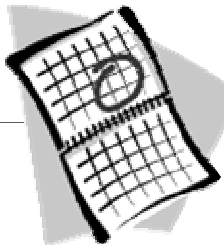
SPEAKING OF THE TRIDUUM

What happened in your church?

David's column on page two gives a wonderful insight into the effect a rite and its attending music can have on an assembly. As he mentions, we can read about these celebration in books and magazines, but few of us get to experience them from the pew, or see how things are done in other parishes.

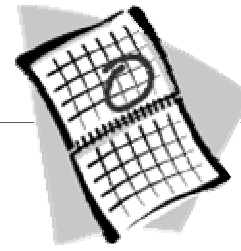
How about sharing what works well in your parish during the Triduum? You may hesitate to share an idea because it seems so simple, you're sure everyone does that. Not necessarily so. Something you do or music your assembly sings may be just the missing link in another parish's celebration.

Please e-mail your ideas to mcdorrian@yahoo.com ... jot them down and mail them to NPM Newsletter, 15300 Graaf Place, Silver Spring, MD 20905 ... or call 301-384-5796 and tell us about them.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for these upcoming events ...



CONCERTS AT ST. JANE FRANCES DE CHANTAL

9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD 20814.

A free-will offering is taken up during the concert and a reception follows.

- Sunday, April 6, 2 p.m. — **ORGAN CONCERT** by Julie Evans, an active recitalist and featured soloist with The Washington Bach Consort, Bach Sinfonia, and Masterworks Chorus.
- Sunday, April 20, 2 p.m. — **A FORTIES CONCERT** by the delectable voices of "*Seraphim*." Join us as we remember our men and women serving in the armed forces overseas.
- Sunday May 18, 2 p.m. — **The Psalter: Our Common Prayer Book.** Further details next month.
- Sunday, June 1, 2 p.m. — **Julliard Reunion Concert;** Artists of Today and Tomorrow. Further details next month.

Friday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. — **"Rise Up And Sing"** presented by St. Francis de Sales Music Ministry (Purcellville, VA). The evening will feature the Schubert "Mass in G" in a concert of music performed a combined choir of singers from local parishes. The concert will be directed by noted composer Christopher Walker. Admission is free! Goodwill offering at the door. Please call Cindy Cummins (540-338-6381) for more info.

Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. — **Cantor Workshop** with Christopher Walker at St. John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyer's Road, Reston, Virginia 20191. Lunch will be provided. For registration information please call Mary Martin (703-938-4728) or Nikki Rosengren (703-598-0110).

Saturday, May 31 — **Organ Recital** by Michael Burkhardt at St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg. Further details next month.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Director of Music, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, Reston, VA. Staffed by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. Responsibilities include leading 2 choirs and a strings/woodwind ensemble, cantor and accompanist training, playing for 3 masses each weekend and holy days, and leadership and oversight of the entire music program which includes a bell choir, 3 children's choirs, a Women's Ensemble, and a Contemporary Ensemble, each of which have their own directors. Direct inquiries to Fr. Tom Murphy, 703-860-8510.



Arlington Washington D.C.
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