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Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



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CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2007

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING REVIEWS

Upper Montgomery Co.

A very successful evening. We met in the choir area in St. John Neumann Church, Gaithersburg. Music sent by OCP and WLP was well received. We were glad there was a multi-lingual psalm in the packet, because the directors of the Spanish Choir were present. After Evensong, with Linda May presiding, discussion of several upcoming NPM events, and sharing of music, we retired to the church lobby for delicious home-baked cookies, cake, biscotti and relaxed conversation.

Downtown DC

Musicians from St. Dominic's, St. Joseph's, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Matthew's gathered at the Cathedral on January 29 for the DC Neighborhood Meeting. The evening began with refreshments and social time in the Choir Room, and continued upstairs in the Cathedral with Evening Prayer. The Evening Prayer selections were designed to be accessible to a wide range of parishes; they used materials drawn exclusively from the Worship and Gather hymnals. After Evening Prayer, participants enjoyed reading through the packets supplied by OCP and WLP, and several participants found pieces of interest and usefulness in their home parishes.

Southern MD

For the third year Ann Duchesne provided a delicious buffet lunch at her home on Breton Bay, as folks from St. Mary's and Calvert County met on Saturday, January 27. Our director, Mary Beaudoin was able to come and present the benefits of belonging to NPM at the national and chapter levels. Several parish music leaders shared

hymns and songs that are either well-known or readily accessible to the assembly. These selections, along with those chosen from the OCP & WLP packets, emphasized ways for choirs and ensembles to embellish the singing in the pews.

Lower Montgomery County

The meeting at St. John the Evangelist in Silver Spring provided an opportunity to make new friends and for some old friends to reconnect. The church was a lovely setting for Evening Prayer. We read through much of the music from OCP and WLP – sometimes with beautiful results, occasionally with a good laugh. As usual, the social time was filled with some lively discussions, the great bonus of belonging to NPM.

College Park

A good crowd was present for this event (despite it being "Super Bowl Sunday"). They were very pleased that the pastor, Fr. George, came to welcome everyone and lead them in prayer. Choir members, directors, and accompanists from each church helped to present their own "song that worked well." The pastor stayed for part of the music sharing to affirm our work as pastoral musicians! Before the hymn singing, Joan presented the information about the remaining event...and handed out season brochures. The afternoon began promptly at 4PM and ended just as promptly at 5:30PM, just in time Super Bowl parties to begin. Everyone sang well and seemed to enjoy the event.

The Neighborhood Meeting at St. John the Evangelist in Clinton, MD took place on February 27, after our newsletter deadline. That report - next month.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Remembering the Covenant through the Psalms of Lent

The Hebrew Scriptures make the amazing statement that God loves us and desires a covenant with us. This Lent (Year C) the first reading on each Sunday before Palm Sunday recalls God's covenant with the Israelites. God desires to make a covenant with us, too, right now. In a sense, Advent is when we wait for God, while Lent is when God waits for us. This desire on the part of God is beautifully told on the Fourth Sunday of Lent in the story of the wayward son and his waiting father.

Many parishes use the Year A readings on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent because their baptismal themes correspond with the Scrutinies. Nevertheless, pastoral musicians can still incorporate the Year C Lenten psalms into the liturgy. Remember that psalms are always a great choice of music for the Communion Procession and the Preparation of Gifts. The Year C Lenten psalms also make excellent prayers during music rehearsals. They have a "take home" quality, with antiphons that are brief and memorable. By placing ourselves in the stories and singing the psalms from our own life experience, we can be renewed in faith.

1. Like the Israelites, afflicted and oppressed in Egypt, we cry out to the Lord who frees us from slavery. With them we sing, ***"Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble."***
2. Just as Abram recognizes God's presence in the fire, we realize that God is present and active in our lives. We sing, ***"The Lord is my light and my salvation."***
3. Moses was sent by "I AM" to bring comfort and courage to the afflicted people. With them we sing ***"The Lord is kind and merciful."***
4. Like the Israelites who finally eat the yield of the land of Canaan after years of wandering in the desert, we sing, ***"Taste and see the goodness of the Lord."***
5. Like Isaiah who proclaims God's love shown by water in the desert for the chosen people to drink, we sing our praise: ***"The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy."***

If we pastoral musicians prepare these ancient songs well, they will serve as a treasury for our assemblies, a musical reminder to live this Lent as a covenant people.

Wishing you a blessed Lent,
Mary Beaudoin
NPM/DC Chapter Director

POTPOURRI

ALL-CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL

Come out and enjoy fantastic young voices in a wide-ranging repertoire of choral music at the 8th Annual All-Catholic High School Choral Festival on Tuesday, March 6, 7:30 p.m., hosted by Gonzaga College High School at St. Aloysius Church.

Choirs from Gonzaga, Stone Ridge, Bishop McNamara, St. John's, DeMatha, and Elizabeth Seton will perform individually and in combination. St. Aloysius Church is located at 19 Eye Street in Northwest Washington (at N. Capitol and Eye Streets, NW, in the 900 block of N. Capitol; for directions see <http://www.stalschurchdc.org/directions.htm>).

Free parking in Gonzaga's on-campus lot is available. Admission is free for elementary and middle school students. Suggested donation of \$5 for adults and \$3 for high school students w/ID. For more information, contact Jeremy Young, Director of the Gonzaga Chamber Choir, at jyoung@gonzaga.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

On the 19th of May, Archbishop Donald Wuerl will preside at the dedication of a new Allen 345, 3-manual French console organ at St. John Neumann Church in Gaithersburg. Please mark your calendars and watch for further details.

DC CHAPTER ELECTION

If you know someone who might be willing to serve on the Chapter Board (or if you might be willing to serve yourself), please contact Tom Stehle (tstehle@olom.org) by March 15.

Nominees will be published in a ballot in the April newsletter.

JOB VACANCY

Organist, St. Mark the Evangelist Church (Hyattsville, Maryland). Play for three Sunday morning Masses, holy days, accompany choir at weekly Thursday rehearsal (September-May). Weddings/Funerals extra. Contact Jeannette Oliver (301-405-5565 work; 301-890-8223 home; jlo@umd.edu).

WWW.NPMDC.ORG

Check us out ... we're LIVE on the web!

INDIANAPOLIS 2007: "THAT ALL MAY BE ONE"

March is the time to make your summer travel plans. Be sure to include the NPM National Convention in Indianapolis on July 9–13. Encourage others to join you, especially those who have never attended an NPM convention. If you have not received your registration form, contact the NPM National Office. Information about the convention is also available at www.npm.org.



Register for the Convention with the Chapter and Save! If you register for the NPM National Convention through your NPM/DC and NPM Arlington chapter, you will receive a discount of 10–25%! In order to receive this discount you must send your completed registration form and fee to the coordinator before May 15.

Here's what you need to do:

- 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.
- You must complete and 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.)
- You must send all these items to the following address: Mary Beaudoin, 10114 Portland Place, Silver Spring, MD 20901-2116. Please make checks made payable to NPM/DC.

Here's the deal:

- Send your completed convention registration form to Mary with a check (made out to NPM/DC) for just \$230 (plus fees for any extra events you are attending). If 20 or more members register, NPM/DC will send you a refund check of \$13, \$26, or \$39 -- or we will apply (some of) the refund to your 2007-08 local chapter dues – your choice.
- OR ... Register for the convention on your own and pay \$255 (or \$230 for clergy/musician duo).

Rules of the game:

- This discount cannot be combined with Parish or Clergy/Musician Duo Discounts.
- No discount on Youth, Daily, Companion, or Child registrations.
- If you are registering as a new member, enclose a separate check and your completed new member application form.

In the unlikely event that less than 10 people participate (DC and Arlington chapters combined), you will need to pay the extra \$25. ***In 2006 convention registrants saved \$37 each!***

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 3 - Mass Settings

The basic questions are: How many Mass settings are well known (or “owned”) by parishioners? Which ones are sung at the various Masses? And are they seasonally planned?

Gone is the time when there were traditional Mass settings and folk Mass settings, and never the twain shall meet. Composers are now sensitive to the fact that, if a parish is to “own” a Mass setting, it must be work at 7:30 in the morning with cantor and organ as well as 10:30 where there may be a full choir and orchestra. There are Masses which only work (or work best) at one or the other, and they are fine for occasional use. But the whole parish needs to know well some good Masses.

It's important for leaders of groups/choirs and anyone responsible for the music at various parish liturgies to meet, discuss what Masses work best in their situations, and decide what will form the core of their repertoire. Their next task (and this can be the hard one) is to decide on what Masses will be embraced by all to expand that repertoire.

Selecting Masses for specific seasons is a good way to define a season. That means one each for Advent/Christmas, Lent, Easter/Pentecost, and perhaps two or three others to be spread out for winter, summer and fall Ordinary Time. In time parishes may be comfortable with six or seven Masses. We don't have to abandon favorites, just rotate them among the Lectionary's three year cycle.

In the quest for full, conscious and active participation in our parish's liturgies, what better place to concentrate than on the robust singing of the Eucharistic Acclamations and Gospel Acclamations!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

GREGORIAN VESPERS – Sunday, March 18 - 7:30 p.m. Please join the Schola Cantorum of St. Matthew's Cathedral for its annual Gregorian Vespers for Laetare Sunday. The liturgy will be sung entirely in Latin, and complete texts and translations will be provided. Location: 1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, convenient to the Red/Orange/Blue Metro lines. For more information, please call 202-347-3215l ext. 520. or bculver-house@stmatthewscatherdral.org.

Come deepen your Lenten experience with the timeless beauty of Gregorian Chant.

NPM CHOIR DIRECTOR INSTITUTE ... comes to the Washington, DC/Arlington area, **July 16-20, 2007** at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria VA. The Institute begins Monday at 9:00 a.m. and ends Friday at 12:00 Noon.

Faculty will be:

Rob Glover - Choral ... Paul French - Choral ... Kathleen De Jardin - Choral ... David Philippart -Liturgy

Watch future newsletters and the NPM website for details.

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.*