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Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



VOL. 13 NO. 3 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2008

EVENING PRAYER & SOCIAL

Celebrating St. Cecilia

Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington, DC.



Each November, pastoral musicians across the United States gather to sing, pray, and socialize in honor of St. Cecilia, patron of musicians. For this, our seventh year, we gather for Evening Prayer at the mother church of Washington, and hope to have our Archbishop, Donald Wuerl, as president. A reception in the Great Hall will follow, with treats prepared from recipes in the NPM Cookbook: *With Lyre, Harp, and Spatula*.

The Cathedral is located at 1725 Rhode Island Ave, NW – just off the intersection of Connecticut Avenue, Rhode Island Avenue, and M Street. Take Metro to Farragut North or Dupont circle. Some on-street parking is available, and there are several parking garages nearby.

There is no charge for this event. To insure adequate refreshments, however, an RSVP would really help. Just call 301-384-5796 or e-mail mcdorrian@yahoo.com.

"WITH JOYFUL VOICE"

An Event for Young Pastoral Musicians



On **Saturday, February 7, 2009** NPM/DC offers a special event for children, the next generation of pastoral musicians. Ms. Donna Kinsey* will lead a workshop for young singers and their directors. **REGISTRATION FORMS** will be available soon.

Contact Mary Beaudoin (mary.beaudoin@stpetersoloney.org) for information.

Please put **"WITH JOYFUL VOICE"** on your choir calendar. We would love to welcome all or some of your children's choir for this day of music, fun, friendship, and liturgy.

Date: Saturday, February 7, 2009

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Place: Saint Peter's Parish

2900 Olney Sandy Spring Road, Olney MD 20832

*Donna is familiar to many who have attended an NPM Convention; she is a frequent presenter for conventions and institutes. A handbell teacher and conductor at the national level, she is also music specialist with the Monongalia County Schools in West Virginia. Donna is a sought-after teacher and clinician for children's voices, handbells, and music educators. She also serves as pastoral musician at St. Francis de Sales Parish in Morgantown. In 2001, she was named NPM Music Educator of the Year.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER *from Arlington* "Sing to the Lord"

On October 18 more than 70 people attended a workshop on *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, presented by Dr. J. Michael McMahon which our two chapters sponsored. I'm sure all who attended this fantastic event came away with a renewed vision of the importance of what we do in our ministry. Our goal is nothing less than the full, conscious and active participation of all the baptized not just in the liturgy. Everyone should have a copy of this critically important document. *Sing to the Lord* is available in booklet form on the NPM website, www.npm.org, for \$9.95. There is also a discount for bulk purchases.

The website is also an important resource for all that we do and are as pastoral musicians, so do visit it often!

Two other recent publications are also of interest. In 2007 Paulist Press published the first volume of its new series *Rediscovering Vatican II*. In *Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium*, author Rita Ferrone presents a fresh look at the Constitution on the Liturgy, the foun-

dational document issued by the Council in 1963. Ferrone discusses the background and the composition of document, and cogently surveys its content and implementation. Finally Ferrone presents her view of the current "State of the Question."

Also in 2007, the Liturgical Press published *A Commentary on the General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, edited by Edward Foley, Nathan Mitchell and Joanne M. Pierce. The GIRM, promulgated in 2002 by Pope John Paul II, is the official document governing our celebration of the Eucharist, and this new volume is an essential tool for a full understanding of what the document is saying. Each of its eleven chapters is written by a noted liturgical scholar (or pair of scholars) and comments directly on the text of the GIRM. The text of the GIRM itself is presented above the commentary throughout the volume in both English and the original Latin. This itself is a valuable resource and provides insight on many points.

David Mathers
NPM/Arlington Chapter Director

ONE MUSICIAN'S TAKE ... on "Sing to the Lord"

Musicians are only human. Let's be honest. Changes in *what we do* are not usually welcome. Didn't we groan when word came that some of our repertoire will be outdated? Didn't we ask *why?* – when we heard that a few words make a difference in what we believe?

Yes, yes, yes, we know: *Lex orandi, lex credendi* – we end up believing what we pray – but a few words here and there? Well, further study reveals that, yes, a few words do make a difference in what we believe.

Many of us approach new guidelines with trepidation. That's why it was so reassuring to hear Mike McMahon's explanation of the document. *Others who, like Mike, were present at the bishops' deliberations have explained in print and at the conventions that the work of Vatican II is not being undone. The new document is a refinement. After 40+ years, it's time to take a closer look at some translations.*

Maybe it's better to think of this as a time of **growth**, not change.

Dr. McMahon asked us to keep in mind that:

- ... *Sing to the Lord* does not negate past documents on liturgical music.
- ... Enabling assemblies to sing the liturgy is our most important task. We shouldn't underestimate their ability.
- ... It will probably be Advent of 2011 before the updates are ready for parishes.
- ... Parishes will be given plenty of time to prepare assemblies for the updates. (Preparations are under way to provide an inspirational, informative video, a Power Point Presentation, and bulletin inserts.)

AND – for many of the Mass parts, we can continue using the settings we have. But parish musicians need to avoid the temptation to fiddle with the music. We would end up with thousands of "tweaks" in established music, trying to fit in the new text. Instead, we need to be patient and wait for the composers themselves to make changes in their music.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE PEW...

This is the last in a series of articles – for those who are new to Pastoral Music Ministry. The articles have focused on the music used at Mass – no matter how large or small the assembly. They have included: Who Makes Decisions & Parish Repertoire ... Mass Settings ... Psalms ... Hymns & Songs ... Triduum & the Parish ... And Using Worship Aids Well.

Following are some final thoughts.

1. Full, active and conscious participation of the assembly is assisted by good music. To continue the tradition of good music, we must always be looking to replace ourselves. Attracting new, especially young, musicians to our ministry is an on-going task. And it can't be tackled by any one person. It has to be a parish-wide effort. The priests, the office staff, leaders of other ministries need to be aware of our needs, to be on the look-out for prospective members, and to be cheerleaders for our ministry.

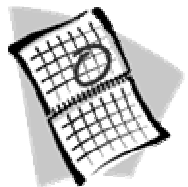
It may sound trite, and maybe a tad blasphemous, but if we musicians don't appear to be having a good time, why should anyone join us? One of the greatest benefits to the collaboration that has been encouraged in this series of articles is that when all the musicians of a parish are on the same team and are supportive of one another, it will show at weekend Masses.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love is not just the title of a song, it's the best recruiting tool we have.

Of course, we want to sound good, but we're not a choral society, we're leaders of sung prayer. Our music at Mass must encourage assembly participation – you know that, of course – but sometimes we need to remind ourselves of the fact.

2. If we are visible to the assembly during Mass, are we ever a distraction to them? Fidgeting around, whispering, juggling music can hamper our best efforts.

3. And finally, if we ever think that what we do is not important, consider the texts of the music we sing. Music stays in people's memories. The message of our hymns and songs will be remembered long after a particular class or homily is forgotten.



Events ... FROM ALL AROUND TOWN

Friday, November 7, 7:30 p.m.

Service of Remembrance - The deceased of our parish community, family,

and friends will be remembered in prayer and music. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra will present the Requiem by Maurice Duruflé. The Bells of Blessed Sacrament will also be featured. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community, 1427 W. Brad-dock Rd., Alexandria, VA - 703 998-6100 ext. 13

Sunday, November 9, 6 p.m. -

Evening Prayer Featuring the Poetic and Musical Works of 12th Century Mystic Hildegard of Bingen at Church of the Resurrection, 3315 Greencastle Rd., Burtonsville, MD

Monday, November 10, at 8:15 p.m. -

Ecumenical Taizé Service at St. Mary Parish in Fredricksburg, VA (1009 Stafford Ave.) for Christian unity. All are welcome. Please call David Mathers at 540-373-

6491 x 217 for more info. **This is a reoccurring event on every 2nd Tuesday of the month.**

Friday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Concert featuring the Adult Choir of St. Jane de Chantal Church. They will perform Cherubini's, Requiem in C Minor, as a memorial for a long-time music minister of St. Jane's, Leisa Ketchum; and other parishioners who died this past year. Free admission. For more information: Henry Bauer at 301-530-1550. St. Jane de Chantal Church, 9601 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, MD.

Sunday, November 16, 2 p.m. - St. Jane de Chantal Concert and Arts Series will present the **Belle Voix Vocal Ensemble**. This choral group, directed by one of our Baltimore NPM Chapter members, Beth Pugliese, performs music accompanied and a cappella. The ensemble is based in Hanover, PA. For more information please contact Henry Bauer at 301-530-1550.

S T U F F ...

D.M.M.D. LUNCHEONS

The **Director of Music Ministries Division** (DMMD) includes professional pastoral musicians who hold or share the primary responsibility for music in a variety of settings - parish, diocesan, and other church institutions. For nearly twenty years DMMD has provided a network of support for professional directors and addressed their particular needs in the areas of education and professional concerns.

Local members of DMMD meet on the third Tuesday of each month to have lunch and discuss issues related to our profession. In October Paulist Father Steve Bossi spoke on "Paul in the Parish: Realizing the Charisms of St. Paul in Parish Liturgy, Ministry, and Community."

If you are a person responsible for directing the music in a parish either full-time or part-time, you are welcome to join us.

If you are a person responsible for directing the music in a parish either full-time or part-time, you are welcome to join us. Occasionally, speakers are brought in to talk to us about pertinent issues, e.g. new liturgical translations.

The next lunch is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, 12 p.m.— 2 p.m.

To receive information about luncheon meetings, email Henry Bauer at Hbauermus@aol.com

ENVISIONCHURCH –

Art, Architecture, Liturgy and Spirituality in the Catholic Tradition

Visit www.envisionchurch.org, and discover a forum for learning and networking for anyone who is interested in

- the construction, renovation, and/or design of worship spaces
- the creation of artwork
- the enhancing of spaces for the liturgical seasons and other occasions
- the celebration of liturgical rites
- the interrelationship between art, architecture, liturgy and spirituality, and much more!

Be sure to register for our monthly newsletter!

Supporting memberships are also available for professionals who offer services/products in church construction, religious artwork, worship space design, liturgical celebrations, etc. You can become part of the growing global EnVisionChurch community.

COME TO HIS/HER AID, O SAINTS OF GOD

Did you know ... that you may use and print the Dennis Smolarski's **Song of Farewell** (set to the OLD HUNDREDTH tune) without obtaining permission? This setting, sometimes listed as Come to His/Her Aid is generally found in the OCP worship aids, such as *Breaking Bread*, *Journeysongs* and *Word & Song*, and is particularly useful at funerals where people of many denominations may be present.

Dennis C. Smolarski, SJ is a Professor in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department at Santa Clara University. Simply typing his name on your computer will get you to his home page. He generously gives anyone permission to use his setting in worship aids without contacting him first. Of course, as responsible musicians, we always include the copyright information!

Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



NPM/DC — 14727 WEXHALL TERRACE — BURTONSVILLE, MD 20866
<http://www.npmdc.org>

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.

UPCOMING NPM/DC CHAPTER EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDARS

Details in future newsletters

Friday, November 21, 7:30 ... **St. Cecilia Evening Prayer & Social** at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in DC.
Saturday, January 24, 11:30 am - 3 pm ... **Southern Maryland Neighborhood Meeting.**
Saturday, January 31, 9:30 am & 1 pm ... **Cantor Workshop(s)** at Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington.
Saturday, February 7 10:30 am - 6 pm ... **Children's Choir Workshop** at St. Peter Church in Olney MD.
Saturday, February 21 ... An **Organ Event** at St. Patrick's in the City — French Liturgical Music
Tuesday, February 24 ... **Shrove Tuesday Lunch** in Arlington. Sponsored by NPM/Arlington.
Saturday, March 14, 9 am ... **Lenten Retreat**
Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 pm - **A Hymn/Song Festival** at St. Luke's in McLean, VA.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Our chapters depend on dues to function. The minimal fees charged for an event barely cover its cost. Please renew your membership today. It's only \$15 for an individual; \$55 for a parish.

For your convenience, we have included the membership forms in the newsletter again. If you haven't already done so, print it out and renew your membership!

Not sure if your membership has expired? Just e-mail jlo@umd.edu (DC) or trudychoirdir@aol.com (Arlington) for confirmation.

REMINDERS:

... **Newsletter deadline** — 15th of the month, but it's never too early to submit an item. Please send them to mcdorrian@yahoo.com, mary.beaudoin@stpetersolney.org or dmathers@stmaryfred.org.

... **Electronic Newsletter** — Help us save a bit of \$\$\$ and subscribe to the newsletter electronically. Each month a PDF copy of the newsletter is emailed directly to you electronically, please e-mail your request to: jlo@umd.edu.

... <http://www.npmdc.org> — Check us out!