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# Arlington Washington D.C. Newsletter



VOL. 11 NO. 9 CHAPTER NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2007

## HERE WE COME ! THE NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS JULY 9-13

### *Update on the National Convention - July 9-13*

- \* 28 members took advantage of the Chapters Discount!
- \* A van has been rented and all the seats taken!
- \* Dinner is planned for DC & VA convention attendees!

During a hectic convention week, it's always refreshing to "get off the merry-go-round" and join with other NPM members from our DC and VA Chapters for dinner.

The restaurant selected for this year's chapter dinner comes highly recommended by our colleague, Tom Nichols, who is Music Director at St. John's Church near the Convention Center. Tom frequently eats there, and hopes to join us for dinner.

If you are going to the National Convention and would like to participate in this dinner, here are the details:

**When:** Wednesday, July 11, 6 p.m. - before the Eucharist

**Where:** Pullman's Restaurant - right across the street from the Convention Center

**Cost:** \$30.50 per person (includes cost of dinner, tax, and gratuity)

**Menu:** Choice of Grilled Salmon or Grilled Filet of Pork for entree. Dinner will include house salad, baked potato, vegetable, Turtle Cheesecake for dessert, and beverage.

**Reservations:** Indicate the number of guests and their choice of entree; include a check (made payable to NPM Arlington); and mail

Bob Malinowski  
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Springfield, VA 22152-3137

Call Bob if you have any questions ...703-569-4092

*See you in Indianapolis!*

**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.*

## THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER ... FROM ARLINGTON

### SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS

Though hardly light reading, here are a couple of books that you don't want to miss:

The Second Vatican Council set the church on a new course for inter-religious understanding, cooperation and love. One of the greatest fruits of this new course has been the Catholic Church's acknowledgment of the Jewish people as continuing to be chosen and blessed by God.

A recent book, *Preaching without Contempt: Overcoming Unintended Anti-Judaism*, by Marilyn Salmon (Fortress Press, 2006), renews the call to examine our understanding of the role of the Jewish people in salvation history and their historical relationship to the early church. Salmon addresses such topics as the Pharisees in first-century Judaism, the meaning of the Gospel of John's continual references to "the Jews," and supercessionism, the false teaching that somehow the Church has replaced the children of Israel as God's chosen people.

Salmon is an Associate Professor of New Testament Theology at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and has a Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College. Her book is a must-read not only for homilists but all who study the Christian scriptures.

Although out for several years now, Peter Ackroyd's biography *The Life of Thomas More* (Doubleday, 1998) is a tour-de-force study of this compelling man and of the social and religious circumstances in Catholic England when the medieval gave way to the modern. Ackroyd brings out the complexity in More's character: pious Catholic yet fascinated by humanism, devoted to both church and nation when the two were tearing apart. The portrayal of More's deep love and care for his family is unexpectedly poignant. A truly inspiring account of this great saint's life and death, you won't be able to put it down.

*David Mathers*

NPM/Arlington Chapter Director

## TENTATIVE PLANS FOR OUR CHAPTER IN 07/08

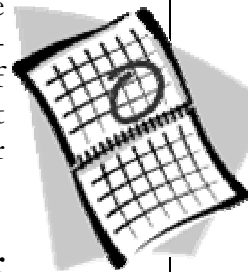
**July 16-20** — NPM Choir Director Institute

**September 14** — The Arlington Chapter will begin its 20th Anniversary Year with Mass and Dinner hosted by St. John Neumann Parish in Reston on Friday, September 14, the feast of the Holy Cross, with Mass at 7 p.m. and a catered dinner (for a reasonable cost to be determined) immediately following right there at the parish. Members of either chapter, family and friends are most welcome. Full details in the September newsletter.

**Late September or early October**

— Organ Crawl & Improvisation Expo at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

**October 2** — GIA-sponsored Choral Event at St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington



**November 30** — St. Cecilia Celebration (Vespers and Social) with Archbishop Wuerl at Immaculate Conception Church, Eighth and N Streets, NW, Washington, DC

**January** — The ever popular Southern Maryland Neighborhood Meeting

**February or early March** — Lenten Retreat at Our Lady of Mattaponi Retreat Center, Upper Marlboro

**April 11 & 12** — Liturgical Music for Everyone - On Friday, April 11, internationally heralded organist and composer Charles Callahan will perform a recital at St. Thomas More Cathedral in Arlington as part of St. Thomas More's annual concert series.

The following morning, Saturday, April 12, Charlie, as we affectionately know this wonderful musician, will give a workshop using the cathedral's wonderful 54 rank pipe organ. Sessions are also being scheduled for cantors and ensemble musicians. Stay tuned for more information about this incredible event.

## 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 5 - HYMNS & SONGS

If we've tackled the Mass Settings and Psalms that are to be core to the parish repertoire, looking at the hymns and songs should be easy. Well, maybe that's an overstatement. One's person's favorite sends another into orbit. It's not just musical taste; we're dealing with a person's history, the warm fuzzies of childhood, important moments in a person's life, etc. Here we draw on a reserve of humility, trust in the editors of hymnals, and work toward consensus.

There are, of course, the basic judgments we all know from *Music in Catholic Worship*, the musical, liturgical and pastoral. There may be a piece that you'd love to see done at Mass, but if it doesn't measure up to those criteria, it should be reserved for other occasions, so long as it's not promoting heresy.

The major publishers do a good job of assigning hymns and songs to specific seasons. We should trust them. If we sing three or four pieces on fifty-two Sundays a year, we're singing 156-208 pieces a year, not counting holy days. That's quite a feat! So we take a look at things seasonally.

- Can we identify the basic, golden oldies and ascertain whether or not they are being sung at all the Masses so that our assemblies can come together with familiar music?
- Where are the "holes" in our program and what pieces best fit them?
- What is being used at some Masses that should be used at all Masses?
- How can we set up a plan by which new music is selected, tested, and added to the parish repertoire?
- It's good to note that so much of beloved Christian hymnody is based on folk tunes of long ago. That realization helps traditional musicians sing folk songs and folk musicians sing hymns.
- A good tune is a good tune – no matter its origin!

Some may fear that we're trying to make all the Masses sound the same, and many parishes cherish a diversity of worship styles. First, considering the various talents we bring to our liturgies, there's little danger of us all sounding alike. Second, establishing a parish repertoire doesn't mean that all the hymns & songs are the same at all the Masses. We're only guaranteeing that there is a core repertoire for the parish.

## CHOIR DIRECTOR'S INSTITUTE

*at Bishop Ireton High School in Alexandria, July 16-20.*

This Institute has something to offer all participants—from the experienced, full-time director to the newly appointed one. Most directors are proficient in some areas but need to develop in others.

The Choir Director Institute includes daily liturgy of the hours, choral warm-ups to begin the day, practice and score study time, large- and small-group opportunities to conduct, new choral music, octavo reading sessions with a free packet of material from various publishers, extensive singing and conducting in a variety of styles and voicings from easy to difficult, music planning and rehearsal planning sessions, opportunities for preparation and participation in all liturgical ministries, Scripture and liturgy sessions, spiritual care of the conductor or music director, and care of the voice. It also includes time for large and small group instruction, conducting practice, music preparation, octavo reading sessions, shared meals and conversation, and recreation time.

Registration and one-on-one dialogues begin on Monday at 8 a.m. The Institute begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes on Friday at 11:30 a.m. Meals include Monday lunch through Friday breakfast.

Please check the NPM website ([www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org)) for further details.

## MISC ...

### JOB AVAILABLE

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. Please contact Jeannette Oliver (301-405-5565 - work; 301-890-8223 - home; jlo@umd.edu).

### LOOKING AHEAD

St. John Neumann (Gaithersburg) will be hosting the Choir of Limburger Cathedral in concert in October (Date TBA). Choir is made up of 50 young men between the ages of 10 and 19.

### REMINDERS

→ You can check out the DC Chapter at its website for archived newsletters and more !

<http://www.npmdc.org>

→ Some folks choose to receive this newsletter via e-mail (and it is on-line at the NPM/DC website). If you would rather not receive a hard copy in the mail (saving paper and postage), simply let us know (301-384-5796 or mcdorrian@yahoo.com), and we'll comply with your wishes.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

At this time of year, Pastoral Musicians often take stock, asking questions such as: how can I recruit more tenors? will I insult the sopranos if I try to sweeten up their sound? which anthems do I want to retain, and which deserve a well-earned rest? how can I expand my list of substitutes? All important questions, but may we suggest another set to ponder?

1. How are the Mass settings we use being received by the assemblies at our various Masses? Are they easy to sing, with memorable tunes?
2. The Church has designated certain psalms as "Common Psalms." Does our parish have a good setting for each? Could the people sing the antiphon if they just hear the words?
3. When something special is happening at a weekend liturgy, is it reflected in the music at all the Masses, so that everyone in the parish knows about it, can pray about it, and celebrate it?
4. What's the state of the parish repertoire? Is it easy to choose music for the Triduum, Confirmations, funerals, etc. because we sing a basic repertoire throughout the year?
5. As we ponder how the musicians sound, do we give thought to how the assembly sounds?
6. And finally, the scariest question: If no musician showed up for Mass, could the people sing anyway? If they can't, have we really done our job?

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