



NEWSLETTER

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DC LENTEN RETREAT AT THE ABBEY

The DC Chapter's annual Lenten Retreat was held on March 4 at St. Anselm's Abbey in Washington, DC, under the direction Brother Ignacio Gonzales, OSB. The day focused on types of prayer, private and public. During the morning sessions we explored the history and unique attributes of *lectio divina* (divine or sacred reading) and the biblical foundations for most of the mysteries of the Rosary. At noon participants joined the monks in the chapel for Midday Prayer where they could appreciate the simplicity of chanting a psalm *recto tono* (reciting tone or monotone). We then had a brief tour of the Abbey's beautiful public spaces.

While all of Brother Ignacio's presentations were from a Benedictine perspective, after lunch he gave special consideration to the Benedictine way of life, under the motto, *ora et labora* (pray and work). We were encouraged to notice how different our prayer becomes when the words are prayed aloud; to slow down and become aware of our breathing; and to relax and focus on just one word or phrase as a means of contemplation.

At the end of the retreat, Brother Ignacio asked us to consider how to make room in our busy lives to focus on prayer for just 15 minutes each day.



We pray for a prayer-filled, musical Triduum celebration at your parishes, and well-deserved Easter rest the week after. May these final days of Lent be a source of renewal for you and your families.



CINCINNATI, OHIO

JULY 10 - 14, 2017

Make your plans to travel to Ohio!

See page 3 for complete Convention registration information.

Director's Corner

I played a part in what I thought was some sort of wild, nightmarish experiment 50 years ago this spring: It was decreed that my high-school senior classmate, Frank O'Reilly, and his electric guitar would join me and my pipe organ for the hymns during our weekly Friday school Mass. No guitar strains screaming out of an amplified speaker could partner with my highly ranked (pun intended!) Möller "king of the instruments," I countered. But by 1967 rock music had also been crowned king, and the musical implements of the secular world were poised to enter our "one, holy, catholic and apostolic" church.

Alas, I didn't have a clue back then about the products of the Second Vatican Council (1962-65), among them the December 1963 *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy) and the March 1967 *Musicam Sacram*, the constitution's implementing instruction. Article 14 of the 1963 document proclaimed that "Mother Church earnestly desires that all the faithful should be led to that fully conscious and active participation in liturgical celebrations."

Then the 1967 instruction put forth circumspection: Its Article 116 "acknowledges Gregorian chant ... should be given pride of place in liturgical services. But other kinds of sacred music, especially polyphony, are by no means excluded from liturgical celebrations." In addition, "the pipe organ is to be held in high esteem, ... But other instruments also may be admitted for use in divine worship."

On March 4, Pope Francis, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of *Musicam Sacram*, acknowledged "the importance of the participation of the entire assembly of faithful defined as 'active, conscious, full' and reflected "on the renewal of sacred music and its precious contribution."

The pontiff then called for a two-fold mission for the Church to follow: "On the one hand ... safeguarding and enhancing the rich and manifold patrimony inherited from the past, balancing it with the present and avoiding the risk of a nostalgic or 'archaeological' outlook. On the other hand, it is necessary to ensure that sacred music and liturgical chant be fully 'inculturated' in the artistic and musical language of the current time; namely, that they are able to incarnate and translate the Word of God into song, sound and harmony capable of making the hearts of our contemporaries resonate, also creating an appropriate emotional climate which disposes people to faith and stirs openness and full participation in the mystery being celebrated."

In this regard, I'm reminded about what our outgoing NPM president, Msgr. Rick Hilgartner, told our local NPM faithful in his Fall Liturgy Day 2015 address in Arlington: "I want all of it. I want chant, I want early sacred polyphony, I want highly classical, I want the pipe organ. And I want

talented contemporary musicians; I need (the) drum kit. I want all of it."

And I'm sure our incoming NPM president, Steven Petrunak – himself an accomplished guitarist, guitar instructor and studio musician, and guitar method-book author – will contribute more to this ongoing discussion on proper music in the liturgy. And I'll be prepared, with new appreciation, to embrace Frank and his guitar later this year at our 50th high-school class reunion.

Eugene Harper
Director, Arlington Chapter



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Due to the Church's observance of the Sacred Triduum April 13-16, the deadline to submit items for the May newsletter has been pushed back to April 20, 2017. Please submit events, concerts, and other announcements to Claire Scheppe at clmcaruso@gmail.com. or to Tim Lewicki at tlewicki@allsaintsva.org. Thank you and Happy Easter!

We hope to see many of you in Ohio this summer! For full convention details see the digital [Convention Brochure](#). Details about the Chapter Dinner will be in the May Newsletter.

Is an NPM Convention for you?

Yes! If you are a pastoral musician: director of music ministries - psalmist - cantor - bishop - priest - deacon - seminarian - choir director - ensemble leader - organist - keyboardist - guitarist - player of another instrument - youth pastoral musician - music educator - or anyone seeking time away in a retreat environment filled with prayer, filled with music, filled with the support of other ministers.

Is there a local Chapter member discount?

Yes! Before you send in that registration form, we hope you will consider registering through the local chapters (Arlington & DC are considered as one). The Chapter Discount is the **best available**, even

better than the \$295 early bird fee:
\$293 - for 10-19 members
\$276 - for 20-29 members
\$259 - for 30+ members

Please note:

1. Again this year there is a **\$20** discount if you choose an Electronic Program Book
2. Registrant must be a parish/individual member of both National AND the local chapter (Arlington/DC).
3. Only one discount per registrant (e.g. cannot be combined with Clergy/Musician Duo)
4. Chapter discount is not available on Youth, Daily, Companion, or Child registrations



Formed as One
UNION OF VOICES
UNITY OF HEARTS



Here's what to do:

1. Complete a [registration form](#).
2. Make a check payable to NPM/Arlington (\$293* - plus any extras you've chosen)
3. Mail both to Anne Shingler, 3146 Woodland Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309 by Friday, **May 15**.

**If 20 or more sign up with us, you will receive a refund in the mail.*

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS
40TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
CINCINNATI, OHIO
JULY 10 ~ 14, 2017**

Questions, including how to join your local chapter?
Please email arlingtonnpm@gmail.com (Arlington) or mcdorrian@yahoo.com (DC)

A Look Around Our Chapters



The Adult Choir at Saint Mary Church (Fredericksburg, VA) recently went on pilgrimage to Rome. Here they are pictured at Saint Peter's Basilica at the Altar of the Chair.



The Saint Joseph Church Gospel Choir (Alexandria, VA) (top two photos) perform at a concert (left) and lead sung music during Mass with Bishop Burbidge (right). The Ghana Catholic Community Choir (Diocese of Arlington) performs in a Christmas concert at Queen of Apostles Church (Alexandria, VA).

An Evening with John Walker

NEW DATE! Wednesday, April 26, 2017
7:30 PM
Cathedral of St. Thomas More



Come join Dr. JOHN WALKER, past president of the American Guild of Organists, for an evening of conversation and renewal as he discusses Alec Wyton's

Institute at John Hopkins University, and is Minister of Music emeritus at Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. As we celebrate the

three attributes of the church musician: PASTOR, EDUCATOR, and PERFORMER. Dr. Walker currently serves on the faculty at the Peabody

Easter season, take the time to pause and reflect with him on the church musician's role as educator for choir members, congregants, and community.

3901 Cathedral Lane
Arlington, VA 22203

Admission is free. Following the presentation, a light reception will be held in Burke Hall to meet Dr. Walker.

Co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Chapter of the AGO and the Arlington NPM Chapter.

Questions? Contact us: arlingtonnpm@gmail.com or novaago@gmail.com.



Upcoming Events



Friday, April 21, 2017
7:30pm
Front Royal Presbyterian Church
115 Luray Ave.
Front Royal, VA 22630

Sunday, April 23, 2017
4:00pm
Opequon Presbyterian Church
217 Opequon Church Lane
Winchester, VA 22602

Tuesday, April 25, 2017
7:30pm
All Saints Catholic Church
9300 Stonewall Rd.
Manassas, VA 20110

BLUE RIDGE SINGERS
Dr. Jeffrey M. Alban
artistic director & conductor

FREE CONCERT
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*To submit a job posting, classified, or event posting, please send the information, formatted as seen on this page, to Claire Schweppe (clmcaruso@gmail.com) or Tim Lewicki (tlewicki@allsaintsva.org) by the 15th of the month for the following newsletter (i.e. by August 15 for the September newsletter). Please let us know when the position has been filled or your items have been sold/donated.
Thank you.*

Introductions, Modulations, and Cadences

As a regular feature of the newsletter, we will recognize those who begin new positions, are new chapter members, or retire from positions. If you, or someone you know, begin a new position, retire, or move away, let us know.

Welcome . . .

*to **Mike Langlois**, newly appointed Director of Music at Saint John the Apostle Parish, Leesburg, VA, and new NPM Arlington Chapter member.*

Congratulations . . .

*to **David Mathers**, newly appointed Director of Music at Saint Bernadette Parish, Springfield, VA, and **Cindy Cummins**, newly appointed Director of Music at Sacred Heart Parish, Manassas, VA.*

Best Wishes . . .

*to **EJ Cochran**, who, after more than 20 years of service to Sacred Heart Parish (Manassas, VA) has retired.*

2016 - 2017 Calendar of Events

April 1, 2017
Children's Choir Event with Mr. Tom Shelton, President of ACDA and professor at Westminster Choir College. (Joint Arlington/DC)
Our Lady of Mercy Church, Potomac, MD

April 26, 2017
An Evening with John C. Walker, past president of AGO (Co-Sponsored by NPM Arlington and NOVA AGO)
Saint Thomas More Cathedral, Arlington, VA

July 10-14, 2017
NPM National Convention
Cincinnati, Ohio

Your local chapters are now on Facebook! Find us and like us today!

[Arlington, VA Chapter](#)
[@NPMARlington](#)



[Washington, DC Chapter](#)

Check our pages regularly for updates on events, the Convention, and other items of interest for our members.

Hats Off!

The following choirs have provided music for the TV Mass for Shut-ins recently. Mass is celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW-TV (DCW50) each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Check your local cable or satellite provider's listings.

Our Lady of Vietnam Youth Choir, Silver Spring, MD
St. John Paul II Seminary Choir, Washington, DC
Theological College Schola, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC



Bless us, O Lord, who lead your praise.
 What we sing with our lips help us to believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts help us to practice in our lives; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

A Prayer for Choristers

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS
 Members of the Board - Arlington, VA and Washington, DC

ARLINGTON VIRGINIA CHAPTER

Eugene Harper, Director
gwppapi@gmail.com
 703-862-7822

Fr. Donald Rooney, Chaplain
frdonrooney@stbernpar.org

Richard Gibala,
 Diocesan Music Coordinator
rickpgibala@gmail.com
 703-524-2815

Anne Shingler, Secretary
anne@gs-cc.org
 703-360-8029

Bob Malinowski, Treasurer
bob.malinowski@verizon.net
 703-569-4092

Tim Lewicki, Newsletter Editor
tlevicki@allsaintsva.org
 703-393-2146

E.J. Cochran, Membership
ejcochran@aol.com
 703-590-0030

Claire Schweppe, At-large
clmcaruso@gmail.com
 703-430-0811, ext. 123

David Mathers, Past Director
dmathers@stbernpar.org
 703-451-8576, ext. 112

WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER

Charlene Dorrian, Director
mcdorrian@yahoo.com
 301-384-5796

Henry Bauer, Treasurer
Hbauermus@aol.com
 301-530-1550

Mary Ann Evan, Secretary
maevan@erols.com
 202-966-2448

Remi Bauer,
 Membership Coordinator
remibauer@gmail.com
 301-926-7263

Joan Laskey, Prayer Coordinator
joanlaskey@verizon.net
 301-441-1168

Susan DeCamp,
 Hospitality Coordinator
smdecamp@yahoo.com
 301-622-1122

Carol Engle, Webmaster
juluka@verizon.net
 301-994-3959

Mary Stevens, So. MD Coordinator
kbstevens@verizon.net
 301-862-4713

Monique Walton, At-large
mawsings@aol.com
 301-437-3024

Amy Massey, At-large
music@mothersetonparish.org
 301-924-3838

Tom Stehle, Past Director
tvst@tidalwave.net
 202-587-5141

Mary Beaudoin, Past Director
m.beaudoin3@verizon.net
 301-762-2143