

Arlington & DC

Bimonthly Newsletter

September-October 2026





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Photo Credits

Cover: Recommissioning Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC. during the NPM National Convention (July 23, 2026). Credit: National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). Other photos in this issue courtesy of NPM and NPM members.

Director's Corner

Happy September, NPM! What a summer it's been! Many of us are still recovering and remembering our wonderful convention—I certainly am. Events like this don't just happen—they are the fruit of so many hours of meetings and preparations, practice and patience. On behalf of my co-chair, Katie Evans, thank you to all who contributed to this work: from the golf cart drivers to the registration workers to the equipment managers and everyone in between. I'd like to mention by name those who chaired a committee, and a few others:

- **Bob Malinowski**, Registration
- **David Mathers**, Art and Environment—and especially **Fr. Don Rooney** for his creative poster designs that reminded us that we can all sing with a little help!
- **Rosemarie Spollen**, Communications
- **Amy Massey**, Volunteers
- **John Henderson**, Pre/Post Convention Events—and **Remi Bauer** for her detailed research on the DC Monuments tour and the Canteen!
- **Feargal King**, a member of NPM Baltimore, who drove all over the state of Maryland to pick up (and return!) sound equipment from parishes willing to help—so many microphone cables and stands, mixer boards, and extension cords!

In addition to serving as co-chair with Katie, we each headed a committee. Katie took on Facilities/Equipment, and I served as the Liturgy Committee chair. The highlight of my week was the opportunity to conduct our NPM Eucharist Choir at the closing Mass of the Convention. Singers from parishes across the DMV came together and made wonderful music—it was truly prayerful music-making.



Timothy Lewicki
Arlington Chapter Director

As we all return to our parishes and begin the new choir seasons, I'd like to share part of a reflection from Pope Leo XIV that he gave as part of his series of Wednesday audience catechesis about Sacrosanctum Concilium (The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy). He said, "Indeed, music is part of the liturgical action and is not merely a decorative part of the celebration. To sing and play music during the liturgy is to pray, attuning one's heart to that of our sisters and brothers and to God, through active participation in the mystery being celebrated." I encourage you to [read his full remarks](#).

This sentiment is certainly at the heart of what NPM strives for: the art of musical liturgy in which all fully, actively, and consciously participate in the singing of the Mass. It is most certainly what happened at that closing Mass on a hot Thursday afternoon in DC—the choir had their role as leaders of song, and the gathered assembly sang!

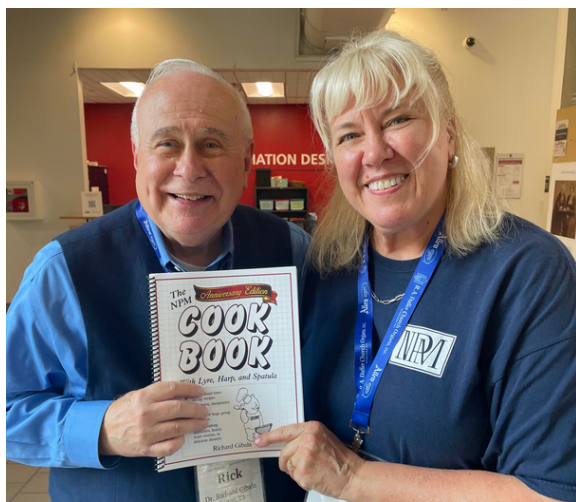
NPM Reflections

In this issue, we're sharing reflections from chapter members who attended the 48th Annual NPM National Convention. Between inspiring workshops, powerful moments of shared worship, and conversations with fellow musicians from across the country, the convention offered plenty to carry back to our own parishes. Read on for some of the highlights and takeaways from this year's gathering.



How fortunate we were to joyfully celebrate NPM's 50th anniversary with those who were there, sharing how NPM came into being. How beautiful to be at the Basilica for the closing liturgy with the current generation of music ministers. Our NPM community offers social, educational, and spiritual opportunities for personal enrichment and professional growth. Also gratifying was being able to give back to my local chapter and support our national association. Congratulations to our leadership for an outstanding conference!

Diane Yendrey
NPM DC Chapter Secretary



Rick Gibala and Diane Yendrey with a copy of *The NPM Cookbook*.

As co-chair of the NPM Convention, a lot of what I managed was the equipment and facilities on campus, working in collaboration with Catholic University. This began months ago with the help of my colleague, Feargal King (Baltimore Chapter), who assisted in preparing spreadsheets and gathering equipment and usage data from the three chapters. Then, we coordinated two large moving vans, identified additional people to help, and secured a dedicated equipment storage room on campus. The load-in on Friday was long and grueling, but we had the help of one of Feargal's fellow parishioners—and plenty of smiles along the way! We also had our Convention Manager, Nicole, and her husband, Nick, to help haul equipment from the loading dock up the elevator to our third-floor storage room in the Pryz.

On Sunday, our Arlington Chapter colleagues joined us with the second truck and an enormous amount of equipment and decor. David Matthers worked closely with Fr. Don Rooney on the Liturgical Environment. Thankfully, Fr. Don still had the large baptismal font and Paschal candle from our 2013 Washington Convention in storage, and we were able to resurrect it! Fr. Don also created the NPM-themed singing Founding Fathers images, which turned out to be a hoot and an amazing success! I will be forever grateful to Feargal and Casey McKinley (Los Angeles), who worked alongside me to troubleshoot and address equipment issues for the on-campus sessions held in four buildings.

Katie Evans
Convention Co-Chair
NPM DC Chapter Chair



NPM Reflections



I've started and stopped this reflection many times. How do I compress my thoughts? Do I focus on the mechanics needed to plan and execute a successful convention? What about the history, music, and spiritual elements we experienced each day? I could give you a list of accomplishments and challenges the Core Team and attendees faced, but I don't think that is the true heart of this special year. Although I do have some thoughts about Wi-Fi.

Each of us had our reasons to gather in Washington, DC during a hot July. I truly enjoyed hearing some of them from you, my sisters and brothers. The most profound reasons for me were being with "my people" and refreshing my heart and spirit. Walk with me as I share my thoughts with you. During the entire week, one theme kept buzzing in my head. No, it wasn't "Your Living Instruments," although I did hum it more than once during the week. What struck me was how similar the convention and weekend liturgy preparations are. It may seem obvious, but hear me out.

We plan to the best of our ability and try to factor in all the possible curveballs thrown by the Holy Spirit, our pastor, and the weather. I'm talking to you post-concert thunderstorm! Walking in, we bring our stories, our history, if you please. Some of them are known. Others we hold deep inside.

As we meet and greet each other at the registration table, we extend our community. Conversations start and weave connections throughout our time together and, hopefully, beyond. In our welcoming, voices rarely, or never, heard are brave enough to open themselves to us. That is quite an honor, in my

opinion. We share our travel war stories and know there's a confession in our future for language used before we FINALLY get to our rooms.

Each day we gather as a whole or in groups during the Plenums, sessions, and meals. Sharing said meals opens us to newer encounters and future warm memories. I found every session I attended or supported as a volunteer opened a wider circle of friends and colleagues. And oh, did your profound insights fill my soul!

And then there is the music, our heartbeat. Have you ever heard such a beautiful sound during our concerts, Anniversary Mass, or morning and evening prayer? To be able to give that gift to each other during the week is life-giving.

In the background of all of this, the NPM Staff, Core Team, and volunteers served you as you serve your congregations. Keyboards here, AV set up there, our time-generous golf cart drivers. It takes more than one person or a singular team to pull this off. I am truly grateful for all of them and for you, my dear colleagues, as we all came together to celebrate an incredible milestone.

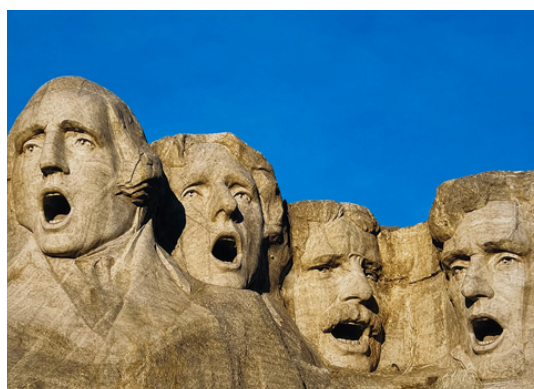
I leave you with what is in my heart. Keep opening and growing in your ministry and your spirit. NPM has lasted this long because of everyone's dedication to excellence in liturgy and determination to train and pass the baton to the next generation. I pray we meet again soon, and *Forever We Will Sing the Goodness of the Lord*.

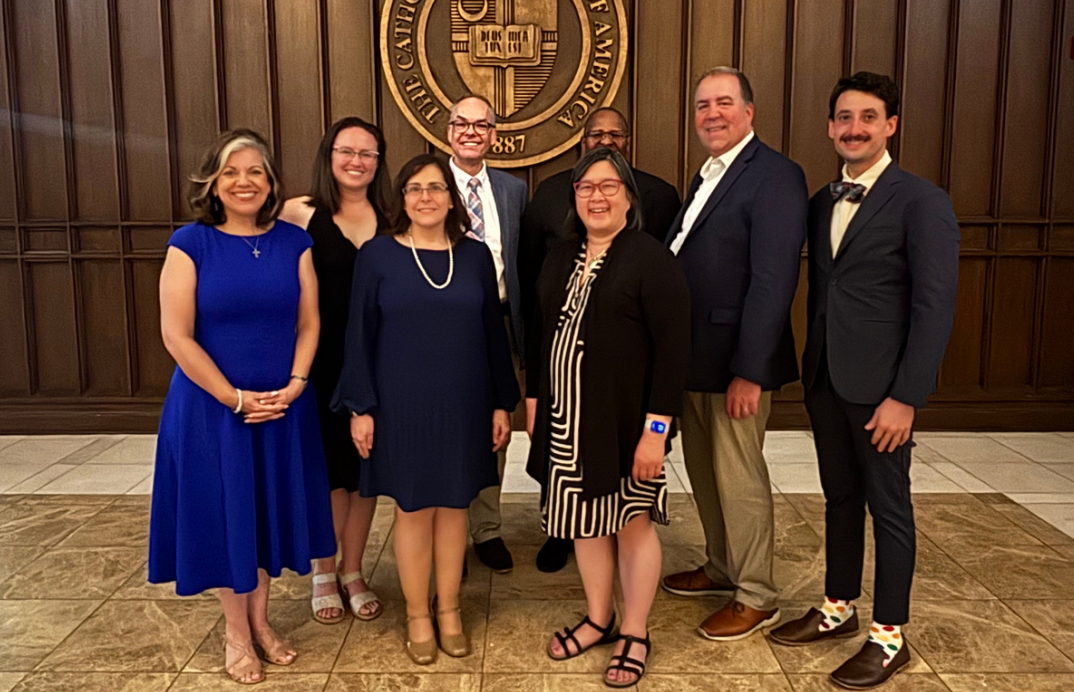
Teresa M. Guion
Baltimore Chapter



Convention Moments







NPM Arlington & DC

Mass and Dinner

Join fellow pastoral musicians and friends for worship and fellowship at our annual Mass and dinner as we thank all those who made our 50th Anniversary Convention a success!

Date: Friday, September 18, 2026
Place: St. Luke Catholic Church
7001 Georgetown Pike
McLean, VA 22101
Time: Mass 7:00 pm in the main Church
Dinner 8:00 pm in the parish hall
Cost: \$35.00 per person
Free for convention volunteers!

Menu

- Baguettes w/whipped sweet chive butter
- Arugula salad w/balsamic vinaigrette dressing
- Green beans w/almonds
- Scalloped potatoes w/Gruyere cheese
- Beef bourguignon
- Coq au vin
- Asparagus and red pepper quiche
- And dessert!

Payment

Cash or check accepted at the door or ask us how to pay digitally.

Pay Ahead

**Make checks payable to
NPM Arlington and mail to:**
NPM Dinner
c/o Bob Malinowski
7920 Lobelia Lane
Springfield, VA 22152

RSVP

Scan the QR code by
Sept. 11 to RSVP

Questions?

Email us at
arlingtonva@npm.org

**SCAN ME
TO RSVP**





CATHEDRAL of
ST. MATTHEW the APOSTLE
WASHINGTON, DC

1725 Rhode Island Ave NW
Washington, DC 20036
stmatthewscathedral.org

Upcoming Events

Labor Day Mass

September 6, 2026
11 am–12 pm

Please join Cardinal McElroy and the Catholic Labor Network for a Labor Day Mass.

Organ Recital

September 16, 2026
12:45 pm–1:45 pm

Come enjoy a beautiful organ recital by Francesca Cho.

Mass for the Solemnity of St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

September 20, 2026
11 am–12:15 pm

Join us as we observe and celebrate our patronal feast at a bilingual Mass.

Mass to Commemorate the World Day of Migrants and Refugees

September 27, 2026
5:30 pm–6:30 pm

Join us in solidarity and prayer for migrants and refugees, listening to and honoring their stories and experiences.

74th Annual Red Mass

October 4, 2026
9 am–10:45 am

Join us to invoke God's blessings on those responsible for the administration of justice and all public officials.

Organ Recital

October 25, 2026
3:30 pm–4:30 pm

Come enjoy a beautiful organ recital by John Henderson.

Concert of Remembrance

November 1, 2026
7:30 pm–8:30 pm

The Schola Cantorum will offer a concert of remembrance.

Care for Creation Mass

November 22, 2026
11 am–12:00 pm

Please join Cardinal McElroy for the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Mass.

Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 13, 2026
7:30 pm–8:45 pm

The Schola Cantorum and Festival Singers join Cathedral lectors in telling the story of the joyful anticipation of those awaiting the Messiah. Followed by Christmas caroling.



ST. JOSEPH'S ON CAPITOL HILL ORGAN CONCERT SERIES 2026

featuring the fully restored 1891 Hook & Hastings Op. 1487

by the David E. Wallace & Co. LLC Pipe Organ Builders



SUNDAY, JANUARY 11, 2026 - 4PM

REDEDICATION CONCERT

*Maria Balducci, director of music, St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill
with the St. Joseph's Festival Choir & Brass*

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Ben LaPrairie, associate director of music, Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Richard Spotts, organist, Doylestown, PA; author of
"Charles Tournemire's L'Orgue Mystique: La Haute Mission"*

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026 - 4PM

Ronald Stolk, organist, St. Patrick's Church, Washington, DC

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Marian Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

SUNDAY, JUNE 14, 2026 - 4PM

*Todd Fickley, organist, National Presbyterian Church,
Washington, DC; founder of "The Bach Project"*

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2026 - 4PM

*Kevin Birch, organist, St. John's Catholic Church, Bangor, ME;
Director, St. John's Organ Society; Faculty, University of Maine*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026 - 4PM

*Paul Hardy, organist, Cathedral of St. Matthew,
Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

*Adam Chlebek, assistant director of music, Basilica of the
National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 - 4PM

*Samuel F. Rowe, director of music, Basilica of the
Assumption, Baltimore, MD*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026 - 4PM

*Daniel Sáñez, director of music and organist,
Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Richmond, VA*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2026 - 4PM

Annual Lessons & Carols Concert

Maria Balducci, organist, with the St. Joseph's Choir

for program information, please visit the St. Joseph's sacred music website

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM



*The Regional Council of
IVC National Capital Area cordially
invites you to support our mission at*

Dan Schutte

in Concert

**4:00 pm in
the Nolan Center**

Following the Concert in the Fisher Gymnasium ~

In Celebration & Appreciation
for **Mary McGinnity**
and 20 Years in Service to IVC

Kathleen Curtin Spirituality
in Mission Award
presented to

Sr. Mary Berchmans Hannan, VHM

President Emerita, Georgetown Visitation

Georgetown Visitation

1524 35th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007

Register: www.ivcusa.org/ncaeog26



National Capital Area

Concert Tickets Only: \$25.00

**Concert & Celebration Tickets:
begin at \$175.00 per person
(dinner, concert and donation)**

sponsorships available

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH

PRESENTS

TOM KENDZIA

IN CONCERT



OCTOBER

16

7:30 PM

Join us for a concert with composer and liturgist Tom Kendzia, whose music you'll recognize among the church's most beloved pieces. The concert is free, with donations taken at the door. Bring your family and friends for an uplifting, spiritual evening of music.



St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church
11701 Clopper Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD



Remi Bauer
Director of Music
rbauer@strose.com

Adam Chlebek

FALL 2026 ENGAGEMENTS

***Solo Organ Recital* • AUGUST 30, 6pm**

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

***Solo Organ Recital* • SEPTEMBER 13, 4 pm**

St. Joseph's Catholic Church,
Washington, DC

***Music at Midday* • OCTOBER 2, 12:15 pm**

National City Christian Church,
Washington, DC

***Solo Organ Recital* • OCTOBER 16, 7 pm**

St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
Alexandria, VA

***Choral Concert for All Souls* • NOVEMBER 2, 6 pm**

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC

***Solo Organ Recital* • NOVEMBER 15, 3 pm**

Grace United Methodist Church,
Hagerstown, MD

***Choral Concert for Christmas* • DECEMBER 19, 6 pm**

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, DC





Chapter News

Pipe Organ Available

The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity have a pipe organ currently in their former seminary and the former St. Luke building. They are willing to offer it to a parish or a religious community that may want to use it for their space. There is no cost except for moving it.

Anyone interested should contact Father Michael Barth, S.T. at 240-303-8540 or email at fr.michaelbarth@trinitymissions.org.

Description

Moller Pipe Organ 1966, 15 Ranks (opus 10119)

Located in Silver Spring, MD

Manuals : 3

Divisions: 5

Stops: 15

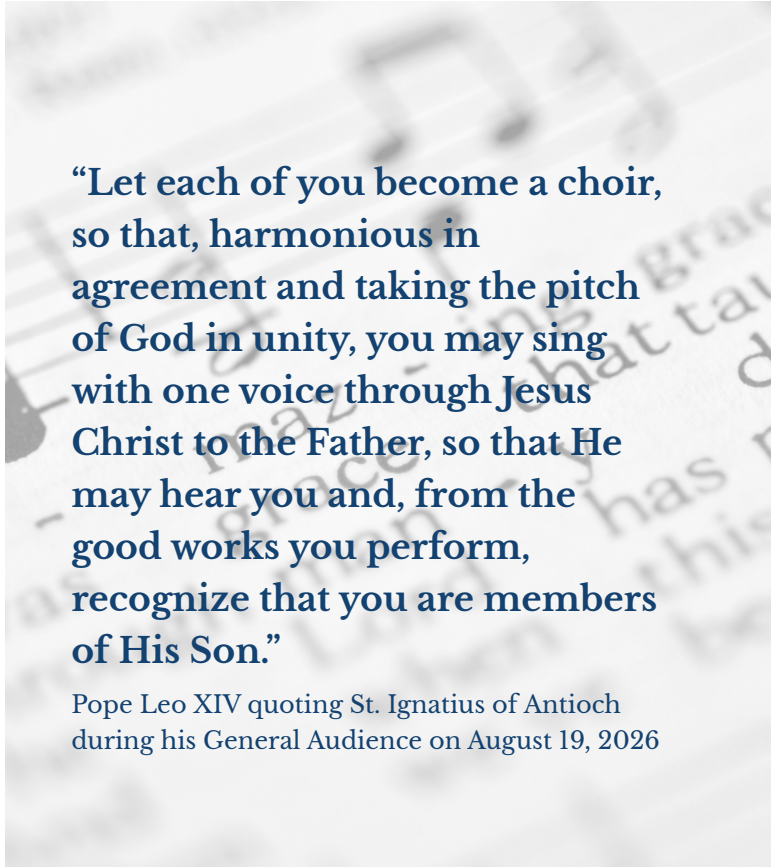
Registers: 41

Pedal Compass: 32

Console Style: Traditional style with roll top

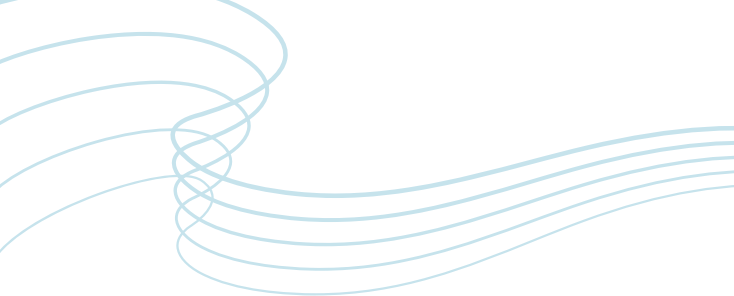
Precious Blood Catholic Church Retreat

Fr. Ignacio Gonzalez from St. Anselm's Abbey will be leading a morning retreat on Saturday, October 24, at Precious Blood Catholic Church in Culpeper. We will begin with mass at 8:30 am followed by a light brunch before beginning the retreat. All are invited and donations to benefit the Abbey are greatly appreciated. Please contact hmasson@pbcconline.com for more information or to RSVP by Oct. 17.



“Let each of you become a choir, so that, harmonious in agreement and taking the pitch of God in unity, you may sing with one voice through Jesus Christ to the Father, so that He may hear you and, from the good works you perform, recognize that you are members of His Son.”

Pope Leo XIV quoting St. Ignatius of Antioch during his General Audience on August 19, 2026



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Bob Malinowski	Treasurer	rlm7680@gmail.com
David Mathers	Membership	dmathers@stbernpar.org
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Eugene Harper	Past Director	music_director@stjosephva.org
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Fostering the Art of Musical Liturgy

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