



Newsletter

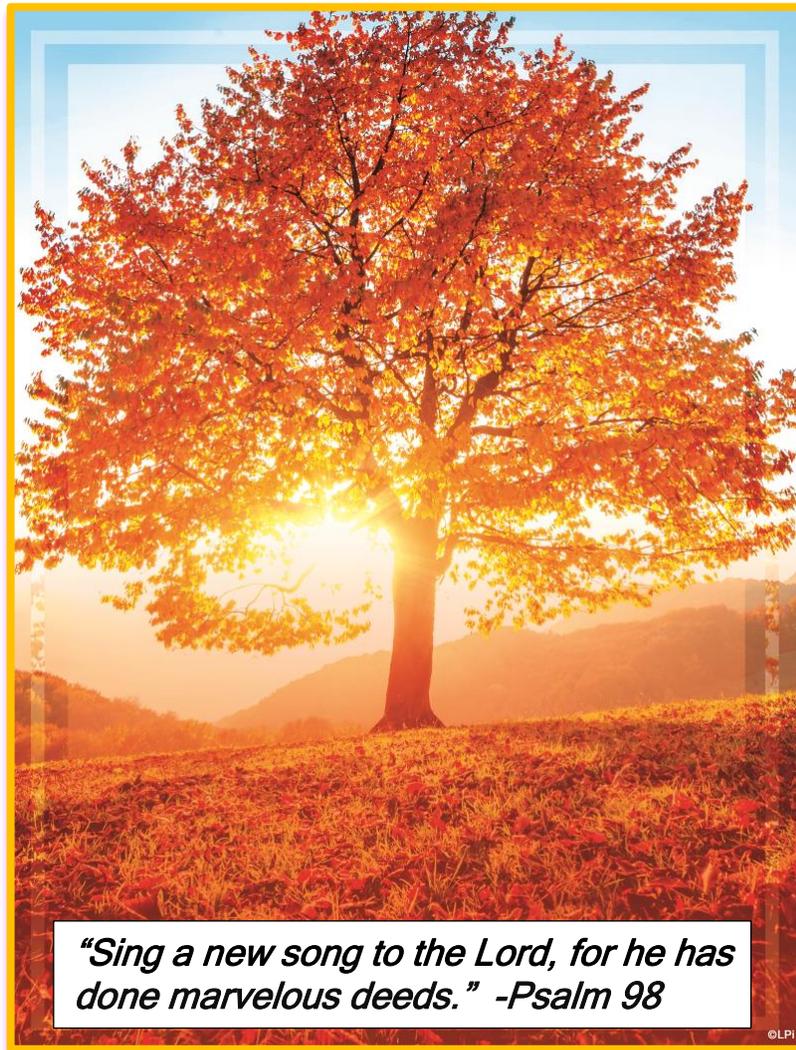
The monthly joint publication of the NPM Arlington and DC chapters
Fostering the art of musical liturgy

IN THIS ISSUE...

2. Director's Corner
3. Convention Inspiration
4. Calendar of Events
5. Annual Mass & Dinner
6. NPM Workshops
7. Membership
8. UPDATED Board Member List



St. Cecilia, pray for us!



"Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has done marvelous deeds." -Psalm 98

Article submissions:

Do you have an event, article or idea to share with other Chapter Members? Please submit all articles and inquiries by the 15th of the month to: Katie Evans at music@ccjgs.org. All submissions subject to review. Thank you.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER:



There's a saying, want to make God laugh? Make plans! I'm not sure if anyone, God included has laughed a great deal these last 18 months, maybe only to prevent yourself from crying. Here we are entering the second school year and fall choral season during the pandemic. When I started making plans in earnest for the fall return of choir, it was June. Covid numbers were low, vaccination numbers were high, state restrictions were being lifted. Now things are different again.

As a child, my family always had a vegetable garden. My parents planted all the standards - green beans, tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchini. In more recent years, it's included butternut squash, purple "green" beans, and eggplants too. My wife and I, with our then 2 ½ year old, moved in the middle of the pandemic last June - talking about God laughing! In our new yard we have room for a garden; in fact, the previous owners had a nice raised bed all set. Half of the raised bed was planted with strawberries while the other half reserved for the summer vegetables. A garden is full of great activity for a toddler, and a great way to show him how food is grown. In our first planting this spring, we dove off the deep end and planted pumpkin seeds, which we saved when carving pumpkins last year. If you're a gardener or have been to a pumpkin patch, I don't need to tell you how the vines go everywhere! There's feet and feet of vines, tons of blossoms, and 3 pumpkins. The better of the three have grown themselves into and around the tomato cages! Not as planned, but good results, nonetheless.



Sometimes ministry is like gardening. You do your best at the start of each season: thoughtfully planning out the hymns, antiphons, and Mass settings; scheduling the rehearsals with the cantors, choirs, and instruments; meeting with your pastor or liturgy committee to discuss major liturgies; maybe even a decent practice schedule for yourself. Then amid the live music making, anything can happen. When's the last time you had an (uninterrupted) hour to work on piano or organ repertoire or your open score reading? Maybe there's an out-of-control pumpkin vine in your music ministry - cantors who suddenly can't sing when they're scheduled or a new pandemic related restriction on singing or the number of people permitted in the church. If you stop and breathe, you might just find a pumpkin in an unexpected place. Maybe you can laugh to yourself and get to harvesting.

We're excited to have some in-person offerings available this season. If we need to, we can shift to a hybrid or virtual model. I hope to see you at Arlington's first event this year, our Annual Mass and Dinner, on Friday, September 24 at St. Paul VI High School in Chantilly. See page *p.5* for all the details.

- Tim Lewicki, Arlington Chapter Director

CONVENTION INSPIRATION

Broken, Shared, Sent - Inspiration for Our Journey

I participated in the 2021 NPM Convention “Christ Broken, Shared, and Sent” virtually. While nothing like being present in New Orleans, joining the convention from afar was the next best thing. The convenience of watching events when my schedule allowed was great. And, with the convention content available through September 30, I can continue to check in and choose additional sessions that are of most interest to me. Below is a synopsis and some comments on the four plenum addresses - in reverse order.

Each of the four plenum speakers approached the convention theme in a unique way. Dr. Ansel Augustine spoke of the experiences of Black Catholics and how all of us are sent to encounter people and communities on the fringes - not to save them, but rather to encounter and journey with them. His co-presenter, Dr. Richard Cheri, brought with him the Archdiocese of New Orleans Gospel Choir so all could experience their gift to the Church. NPM recognized Cheri with the Pastoral Musician of the Year award.



In his presentation, Fr. J.T. Lane combined music and his theological reflections on “living as a Eucharistic people.” Focusing on the Fraction Rite, he reminded us that in the Eucharist **we** are broken, **we** are changed. It is this breaking open that allows the Holy Spirit into our lives so that we can be shared and sent forth.

Fr. John Baldovin entitled his presentation “Singing the Lord's Song in Time of Trouble: How Can the Eucharist Be a Celebration of Reconciliation, Hope and Joy?” He tackled the issues of how we as a Church and as pastoral musicians will recover from what the coronavirus has wrought; how the Eucharist can be a means of reconciliation in an American culture that is currently fractured by so much civil discord; how our liturgical celebrations can address the persistent, sinful and endemic racism that pervades our society; and how we can avoid making the Eucharist a battleground for the culture wars that characterize the Catholic Church, especially in the United States today. (Be sure to go back to see/hear this presentation if you missed it.) Baldovin is the 2021 NPM Jubilate Deo award recipient for this year.

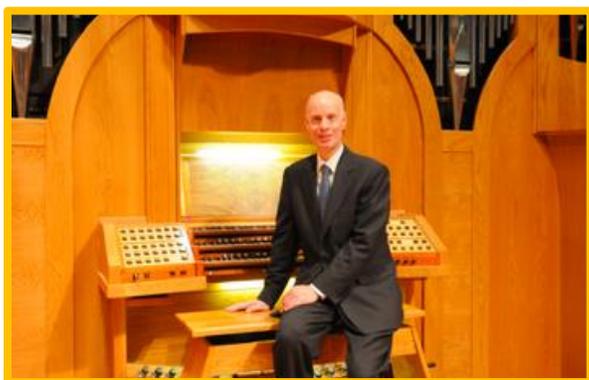
The first convention plenum set the tone for the whole week. Sr. Helen Prejean shared the story of her journey from bystander to one who chose to be close to those who are suffering. She reflected on the role music has played in her own life from childhood through the present, including when she has accompanied people to execution. She affirmed that we need music more now than ever before. Music, she said, takes us to a place in our hearts we don't even know we have - deep soul, our encounter with the Divine. She thanked pastoral musicians for their work as servants of deep soul connections, a service that is often shrouded in mundane and hard work. Sr. Prejean speaks with authority and from experience when she says that all who come to liturgy bring their broken-ness; there we share it, and we are sent. Pastoral musicians have a sacred mission and provide an indispensable service to the Christian community.

-Mary Beaudoin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday, September 24, Annual Mass and Dinner, Saint Paul VI High School, Chantilly, VA (to register: <https://forms.gle/vM3i3hhGYiDbakSz7>)
- Saturday, October 23, Liturgy Day, Dr. John Romeri, presenter on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA

Congratulations Dr. Skevington on your retirement!



We send congratulations and best wishes to Dr. Paul Skevington who has recently retired from his position as Director of Music and Liturgy at Saint Luke Church in Mclean, VA after more than 28 years. Dr. Skevington has been a presenter at regional and national NPM Conventions and workshops. At St. Luke he was responsible for the installation of the 61 rank Steiner-Reck organ, the establishment of the popular Music in Mclean concert series, and the vibrant music ministry at the parish. We wish him all the best in his next chapter!

Over the summer, Dr. James Starke, the Director of the Office of Divine Worship for the Diocese of Arlington left his position to become Assistant Professor of Systematics and Director of Liturgy at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, MD. We thank Dr. Starke for his years in the diocese, especially for his leadership and knowledge.

Rev. Michael D. Weston, formerly the Director of Liturgy at the National Shrine of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, was appointed the new **Director of the Office of Divine Worship** by Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge. Welcome, Fr. Weston!



Arlington Chapter Annual Mass and Dinner

*Join fellow pastoral musicians and friends for worship
and fellowship at our annual Mass and dinner.*

Our annual event returns in-person!

Appropriate Covid-19 mitigation will be in place.

Date: **Friday, September 24, 2021**

Where: **Saint Paul VI High School**
42341 Braddock Road
Chantilly, VA 20152

Mass: 7:30 PM, in the Chapel

Dinner: 8:30 PM

Cost of dinner: **\$30.00 per person**

Menu: Catered dinner with desserts
baked by Rick Gibala!

Deadline to receive RSVP and payment is
Friday, September 17

Payment (cash or check) accepted at the door!

Make checks payable to **NPM Arlington**,
and mail to:

NPM Dinner c/o Bob Malinowski
7920 Lobelia Lane
Springfield, VA 22152



*Scan the code (left) or click below to RSVP!
Questions? Email us arlingtonva@npm.org*



NPM OPPORTUNITIES



Teresa Cobarrubia Yoder will present “FUNdamentals of Basic Theory for the Choir and Cantor” specifically for anyone who wants to improve and grow their knowledge of the language of music.

Tuesdays in September 8-9:15pm

Registration fee: \$50 for NPM members
(*Standard and Premium Members receive additional discount*)

Share this opportunity with your choir members and cantors!

[Register here](#)

In the Midst of Our Storms

A Virtual Retreat for Cantors

Through music, art, poetry, and reflection, Roc O’Connor, SJ, leads cantors in a three-part retreat exploring who they are in the presence of God, the cantor’s invitation to encounter the risen Christ, and finally how through their ministry they grow to become contemplative disciples who accompany others on the journey of faith.

Presenters: Roc O’Connor and Timothy Johnston

Dates: November 9-11, 2021

[Register Here](#)



Liturgical Music Intensive *Spiritual Formation, Music Ministry, and the Psalms*



NPM is pleased to announce a joint program with Loyola University, New Orleans! This 4-week, online intensive links Scripture--particularly the Psalms--and music ministry with spiritual formation. This opportunity is aimed at liturgical musicians, especially cantors and music directors, because prayer and Scripture form and guide them and their ministry that in turn forms the gathered ecclesial community.

[Register here](#)

Presenter: Dr. Dan Girardot

Dates: September 28-October 25, 2021





[#166: Fall Formation: Liturgical Formation \(with Michael Ruzicki\)](#)

[#167: The Faces of Mary \(REPLAY\)](#)

To Subscribe, [click here.](#)

Lunchtime Concert Series:



Every week, NPM holds Thursday Thoughts at 3! Here are the latest and greatest in case you missed it! The videos are also archived and can be viewed [here.](#)

[Ministry Monday #165: Fall Formation Part 1 \(with Teresa Cobarrubia Yoder\)](#)

[Ministry Monday #163: Caring for the Voice after COVID \(with Dr. Lynn Eustis\)](#)



MEMBERSHIP



Which membership is best for you?



BASIC The BASIC membership is \$39. This is also a good option for those who feel philanthropic about our organization and want to continue supporting us.

STANDARD The STANDARD membership is \$119. For those planning liturgies, professional growth opportunities, receive *Pastoral Music* magazine, and are likely to want a discount on attending conferences.

PREMIUM The PREMIUM membership is \$169. For Directors of Music Ministries Division (DMMD). They receive all the above-mentioned benefits, as well as access to more premium content and the colloquium, among other professional events.

It is vital that you choose your local chapter in order for us to be notified of your registration and receive a portion of your dues to support local events.

We encourage you to take the leap and register for your national membership at www.npm.org/membership.



A Prayer for Refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors, Long have we known That your heart is with the refugee: That you were born into time In a family of refugees Fleeing violence in their homeland, Who then gathered up their hungry child And fled into alien country. Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: “Will you let me in?” Give us hearts that break open When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry. Then surely all these things will follow: Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices. Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat. Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate. And hands will reach out—working for peace in their homeland, working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven. Lord, protect all refugees in their travels. May they find a friend in me And so make me worthy Of the refuge I have found in you.

Prayer courtesy of Catholic Relief Services Copyright © 2021, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

National Association of Pastoral Musicians

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