



# NEWSLETTER

## CONVENTION 2013 WASHINGTON, DC APPRECIATION EVENT

### *Liturgy in a Franciscan Pontificate –*

This could sound like a stuffy topic, but that was not the case when area musicians gathered at Our Lady of Mercy Church on October 18. The dinner was planned as a wrap-up of this summer's convention, and featured talks by Rita Ferrone (convention keynote speaker) and Sr. Cynthia Serjak (composer of convention prayers and texts). Fr. Virgil Funk, who founded the National Association of Pastoral Musicians in 1975, was in town for the celebration of the 50th anniversary of his ordination and honored us with his presence.

Rita reminded participants of the goals of the Second Vatican Council, and encouraged us to keep an historical perspective. We are part of a continuum, and while we are privileged to be living in an exciting time, humility is always needed because these times will change too.

Sr. Cynthia challenged us to ask whether or not our work enables people to do liturgy throughout the week, not just to be participants at weekend Masses. She reminded us of the power we can exert by our example, and cautioned that we use it well. And finally, she drew our attention to the way Pope Francis perceives the world and invites us to look with new eyes at those whose lives we thought we already knew and understood.

The Kick-Off event for the 2013 NPM Convention took place in October of 2012. Since then, hundreds of people joined together to make a common effort to host and be the Church for the more than 2000 musicians who participated last summer. This was an evening to give thanks for the friendships that were made and to look forward to the future!

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER



For Catholics (and other Christians), November is a time to bring this liturgical year to a close, to focus on eschatological matters, and, for Americans, to give thanks as that big national holiday approaches. It's a very pleasant time of year.

Music ministers have already jumped ahead and are rehearsing Advent and Christmas, juggling that old dilemma of how much of the old will be expected by our assemblies, and how much of the new we dare to include. We know it's not an either/or situation, and balance is the hallmark of our breed. But the dilemma still exists. People want to look forward to Advent and Christmas as times of tradition and comfort. Yet some of the finest music being published today looks beyond the manger and the angels and the shepherds, and calls us to pay attention to deeper meaning of the Incarnation.

Perhaps we can be comforted by the words Pope Francis spoke at the recent World Youth Day in Brazil. "I want to tell you something. What is it that I expect as a consequence of World Youth Day? I want a mess. ... I want to see the church get closer to the people."

Of course, a mess is not we want in our seasonal liturgies, but change is hard. Adding music that challenges us to receive the Christ who has already come and who wants to be fully part of our lives can be messy in some instances. Are we up for it?

*Charlene Dorrian,  
Director, Washington, DC Chapter*

Be sure to visit the Washington, D.C. and Arlington Chapter Websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings, registration forms, and events:

[www.npmdc.org](http://www.npmdc.org)  
[www.npmarlington.org](http://www.npmarlington.org)



Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter.

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month.

Please email Jim Wickman directly at [jaw249@georgetown.edu](mailto:jaw249@georgetown.edu).

# Spanish Music Workshop

## *Report on the workshop*

When the history of the Diocese of Arlington is written, this historic event will be noteworthy, said Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde in his welcoming remarks at the Spanish liturgical music workshop held at St. Thomas More Cathedral on a beautiful September morning this Fall. God comes alive with the beauty of music in the Liturgy, he continued, we become recommitted and re-energized so that music in the Liturgy is transformed into a wonderful song of praise and thanks.

More than 125 people, including music and choir directors, cantors, choir members, instrumentalists, priests, guitarist and organists, people of every age, speaking various languages, gathered to learn how all music ministers and clergy can learn from and work with one another successfully and beautifully. This workshop focused on effectively aligning Spanish and bi-lingual Masses with contemporary liturgical practices.

John Miller, Director of Music Ministries, and Olfary Gutiérrez, Coordinator of Hispanic Music Ministry, from the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey, began with bi-lingual Morning Prayer, demonstrating an appropriate integration of English and Spanish into a liturgical service. They then gave a joint presentation on incorporating bi-lingual hymns and service music into the parish repertoire, starting with songs that both English and Spanish congregations know, and later encouraging them to meet on common ground through bi-lingual versions of the presented pieces. The participants then broke into two groups for targeted workshops in both English and Spanish.

The high attendance reminded at least one participant of thirsty people gathered at an oasis in a parched land. The enthusiastic participation surprised even the presenters who went away determined to perform similar presentations in their home diocese. As Jesus says in John's gospel, "a prophet has no honor in his native place," but we were honored to take part in this inspiring workshop recommittting and re-energizing us to our ministry.

Thanks to all who conceived of this workshop, and helped to make it happen!



Workshop participants gather at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More in Arlington for the workshop

Workshop presenters John Miller and Olfary Gutiérrez with Arlington Bishop Paul Loverde



## Upcoming Concert Opportunities

### **November 8 (Friday), 2013, 8:00p.m. • Blessed Sacrament Church**

*1427 W. Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA, contact 703 998-6100 ext 103*

Service of Remembrance - The deceased of our community will be remembered in prayer and music at this annual service. The Blessed Sacrament Adult Choir and Festival Orchestra will present the Requiem by Gabriel Fauré. The Bells of Blessed Sacrament will also be featured.

### **November 15, 2013, 7:30p.m. • All Saints Church**

*9300 Stonewall Road, Manassas, Virginia, contact: 703-393-2146*

The Manassas String Quartet: The beautiful sounds of the Manassas String Quartet will fill the sanctuary of All Saints Church on Friday, November 15. Join string players from the Manassas area for this special evening of music by this talented group of local musicians.

### **December 6, 2013, 7:30p.m. • Georgetown University at Holy Trinity Church**

*36th Street, Between N and O Streets, NW, Washington DC*

The Annual Lessons and Carols presented by the music ministry groups of Georgetown University. Join us for this popular annual event. Music features the University Chapel Choir, the University Contemporary Choir, and the University Gospel Choir, as well as brass quartet, piano, organ, and other instrumentalists, under the direction of Dr. James Wickman.

### **December 15, 2013, 3:00p.m. • Our Lady of Mercy Church**

*9200 Kentsdale Drive • Potomac, MD, contact 301-365-8311*

The Choirs of Our Lady of Mercy Church, Brass Quintet Handbells and organ, will lead the singing of familiar Advent and Christmas carols, with scripture readings and anthems of the season. The program concludes with a secular Christmas Carol sing-a-long. Admission is free.

## Another Successful Cantor Workshop!

The cheer and enthusiasm of the 19 musicians who came to the Cantor Workshop on October 12 was a sharp contrast to the dreary, rainy weather of the morning. Parishes from all three counties of Southern Maryland were represented, as well as four from Montgomery County.

Thanks to the leadership of facilitator, Mary Beaudoin, each participant was given individual attention; and thanks to the hospitality of Immaculate Heart of Mary music director, Mary Stevens, there was space for the needs of both new and experienced cantors to be addressed.

Most chapters around the country struggle to serve the parishes on the outskirts of their region, and the DC Chapter is sensitive to the distance some of our members must travel to attend our functions. It was a joy to be able to offer the workshop in the heart of Southern Maryland.



## Annual Mass and Dinner

**Members of the Arlington and Washington, DC Chapters met on September 20 to start the year with the annual Mass and dinner. Led by Arlington Chapter Chaplain Fr. Don Rooney, and with the Gospel Choir of St. Joseph Church, the Mass was a prayerful and joyful way to start the new year. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the evening!**



Arlington Chapter Chaplain Fr. Don Rooney delivers the homily at the annual chapter Mass on Sept. 20 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alexandria, Va., as parishioners Deacon Al Anderson and altar server Anthony Johnson look on.

The St. Joseph Gospel Choir provided music for the liturgy during the Arlington chapter's annual Mass on Sept. 20 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alexandria, Va.



Arlington Chapter Chaplain Fr. Don Rooney celebrates annual chapter Mass on Sept. 20 at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Alexandria, Va. He was assisted by the parish's Deacon Al Anderson.

## Membership Renewal Time

Have you renewed your membership  
or newly signed on?

Have you encouraged anyone  
else to join?

Just a quick reminder

We depend on your dues to stay viable  
as chapters.  
Every penny goes to covering expenses,  
which we keep to a minimum

Suggestions on how the chapters  
can better serve you  
and your parish are always welcome.

Feel free to contact any member of either  
the DC or Arlington Boards.

## 2013 Calendar

*See this newsletter for more information on these events*

**November 22, 7:30pm**  
**75th Anniversary of Cathedral**  
**St. Cecilia Celebration**  
Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA

## 2014 Calendar

*Details for all events will appear in future newsletters, early  
enough to get top billing on your calendars, of course!*

**January 25, 11:30am - 3pm**  
**Annual Gathering of Southern Maryland Musicians**  
Breton Bay, Leonardtown, MD

**March 4, 12noon**  
**Shrove Tuesday Lunch**  
Brion's Grill, Arlington, VA

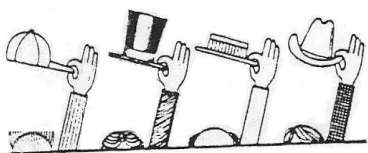
**March 8, 9am - 2:30pm**  
**Lent Retreat with Fr. Jim Greenfield, OSFS**  
Theological College, Washington, DC

**May 2, 7:30pm - 9:30pm**  
**The Music of the Psalms with Michel Guimont**  
St. Luke Church, McLean, VA

*Details for all events will appear in future newsletters,  
early enough to get top billing on your calendars!*

**Open Position: Director of Music Ministry/Organist**  
**Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church**  
**46833 Harry Byrd Highway**  
**Sterling, VA 20164, Tel: 703 430 0811**  
**Patrick.Cogan@ctrcc.org - website: www.ctrcc.org**

Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church in Northern Virginia seeks a new Director of Music/Organist. Principal responsibilities include music for 4 weekend English language liturgies (and holydays), and director/coordinator of several choirs. Also required is availability for weddings, funerals and Sunday afternoon baptisms. Workweek is 40 hours. Musical resources include a Rodgers/Ruffatti organ with 16 ranks (installed 2000), Kawai Grand piano (2000) and the Gather III hymnal. Salary: based on education and experience. Christ the Redeemer parish has a long history of a vibrant music program in collaboration with a supportive ministry team. A more complete position description is available.



## HATS OFF!

As always, we are grateful to the musicians who generously provide music for the TV Mass for Shut-Ins, celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW TV each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul Parish Praise & Celtic Worship Band, Damascus, MD  
Sacred Heart Parish Gospel Choir, LaPlata, MD

*Hosting a concert, performance, or special event at your parish, church or institution?*

*For inclusion in this newsletter, send a note to Jim Wickman*

[jaw249@georgetown.edu](mailto:jaw249@georgetown.edu)

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