



NEWSLETTER

COMING EVENTS FOR THE YEAR 2014!

*Be sure to join us for all the exciting events planned
for your local NPM Chapter in 2014!*

And thanks for being part of all the activities in 2013!

January 25, 11:30am - 3pm

Annual Gathering of Southern Maryland Musicians
Breton Bay, Leonardtown, MD

March 4, 12noon

Shrove Tuesday Lunch
Brion's Grill, Fairfax, 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

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BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Let the Liturgical Renewal Continue!

We should all recognize and celebrate December 4, 1963, exactly fifty years ago, when Pope Paul VI and the world-wide body of bishops assembled at the Second Vatican Council promulgated the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, *Sacrosanctum Concilium* (SC). The Constitution provided a rich statement of what liturgy is and does, and it framed a plan for a reform of our common worship so that it would more clearly and vigorously affect the lives of those who take part in it.

Looking ahead, it's apparent that Pope Francis is intent on strengthening two ideas presented by SC that have suffered in recent years: authentic interior participation in the liturgy and the collegial relationship between the Holy See and the conferences of Bishops.

Ars celebrandi ("the art of celebrating") has by now almost reached buzzword status. In its best sense, it means a healthy attention to the manner in which we celebrate the liturgy. It values such ideas as beauty and faithful adherence to the liturgical norms. However, in valuing an abstract aesthetic sense, or in merely "praying the black and doing the red," there is a strong tendency, which we witness all too often today, to stay on the surface of mere performance. This Ars celebrandi has little regard for the liturgical requirements, flowing from SC, of going deeper into why we do what we do and letting that discernment influence how we celebrate the liturgy within a particular Christian community with its own values and needs. The surface approach to Ars celebrandi has liturgy-as-ceremony as its own end and cannot have full, conscious and active participation of the faithful as its ultimate purpose.

On the other hand, Pope Francis's washing the feet of women on Holy Thursday is an example of authentic Ars celebrandi. That may seem ironic, since some would argue that this was at least a

technical "violation" of the liturgical law. But SC demands that we look not only at the ceremonial rubrics but also to the reality of what is being celebrated, and then to how the concrete community at hand can most effectively experience what is being celebrated. This fuller sense of Ars celebrandi is the path toward a more authentic interior participation in the mysteries being celebrated.

So even saying the Holy Father stretched the rubrics is not correct. He acted on the totality of the liturgical requirements: the rubrics on the page of the missal and the theology of SC that underlies them! And that illustrates the critical difference in liturgical thinking championed by the Council from the rubricism of the past. The church is not built up by an unwavering adherence to the surface of the rituals described in the official books, "a mere observance of the laws" (SC 11). Rather SC invites a continuing search for how to adapt the celebrations given to us so that they truly have their intended effect on the people celebrating them (SC 37-46). And that is the true Ars celebrandi.

This approach to liturgy can only truly work in an environment of greater mutual reinforcement and collegiality and trust between the Holy See and the Conferences of Bishops so that local celebrations that are more meaningful to those who take part in them, and therefore better achieve their purpose, can develop. The good news is that Pope Francis seems headed toward reigniting this collegiality in the form it took in the years immediately after the Council. More reason to celebrate!

*David Mathers,
Director, Arlington, VA Chapter*

Annual Gathering of Pastoral Musicians of Southern Maryland

Saturday, January 25, 11:30am - 3:00pm
Ann Duchesne's Home on Breton Bay
Topic: Let's Catch Our Breath

*2014 marks the 10th year that Musicians of Southern Maryland
have gathered at the Duchesne Home at the end of January.
In some years, the agenda included a look ahead at what was coming;
others looked back at where we've been.*

This time we'll do both!
We will review some of the areas covered in the past,
and (in the words of NPM/DC's Post-Convention Dinner)
consider
"Liturgy in a Franciscan Pontificate."

* * * * *

As always, Ann will prepare a delicious lunch, and there is no fee.

Please call Ann (301-475-6915) by January 20 for directions

There is no official registration for this gathering,
but your call tells her how many are coming.

**If you can, borrow a copy of your parish's hymnal or other worship aid for the afternoon.*

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



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.



The **National Catholic Youth Choir** is now accepting applications from high school singers for their June 16-July 1, 2014 camp and multi-state concert tour.

The Choir (based at Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota) sings music of various Christian traditions, ranging from medieval Gregorian chant to twentieth-century music.

Catholic high school students from across the United States entering grades 10, 11, and 12 are eligible to participate. Applications for the summer program are accepted through mid-March.

Application and audition information can be found at the website:

www.CatholicYouthChoir.org.

Thanks to All Who Paid Their Chapter Dues!

Your membership keeps our chapters alive. Haven't signed-up/renewed yet? It's never too late. Just go to our websites: NPMarlington.org or NPMDC.org. Just contact a member of either the DC or Arlington Boards (details in the newsletter and on the websites).

Please note

1. *The Arlington Chapter has amended its Parish Membership option.*
2. *The DC Chapter now has "rolling membership." Rather than working within a specific September-August frame, your renewal date depends on your enrollment date. The Chapter Treasurer keeps email newsletter recipients informed of their status; hard copy recipients can find the date at the top of their mailing label.*

NPM Arlington/DC On the Web!

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

You will also find updated Chapter Membership forms at each site.

www.npmdc.org
www.npmarlington.org

Organ and piano accompanist position available January 2014 St. Patrick's Catholic Church 4101 Norbeck Rd. Rockville MD 20853

Responsibilities: providing music for three Sunday masses; accompanying traditional and contemporary choirs on Wed. and Thursday evening; funerals, weddings and select holy day liturgies. Bechstein grand piano and Allen organ. Competitive wage following AGO guidelines.

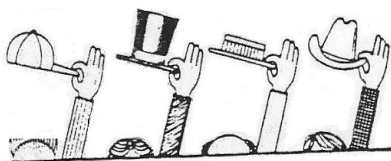
The job can be broken into two positions:

Wed. evening rehearsals + 11:00am and 12:30pm Masses

Thursday evening piano/contemporary rehearsal + 9:30am Sunday Mass

Resume should be sent to stpatrick@verizon.net.

For further information, contact Marion Spahn, Music Director via email mspahnmusic@verizon.net.



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.

J. Kemp Cook 4th Degree Men's Choir, Knights of Columbus, Archdiocese of Washington
 St. Mary Piscataway Parish Traditional Choir, Clinton, MD
 St. John Academy School Choir, McLean, VA

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