



Newsletter

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

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St. Cecilia, pray for us!



A display from the recent NPM Arlington Mass/Dinner.
 See more on page 7.

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@ccigs.org. All submissions subject to review. Thank you.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



March 2020: The month when everything shut down and the job description for every liturgical musician instantly changed. I will never forget the experience of the deafening silence at Mass in those early weeks of the quarantine. An unwelcome, forced silence which came from no one being allowed in the church during streaming Masses to eventually only a few being permitted in the church, but were still asked to remain silent. Over time, I allowed myself to welcome the silence and space, both during Mass and in my day-to-day life. In many ways, these quiet moments were a gift, especially for a church musician who in normal circumstances would have anything but silence and space on a weekend. What was Christ proposing to me in these unprecedented times? This is the question I continually asked myself in order to move forward with the hope that we would be able to sing together again, see our friends and loved ones again, and gather with no restrictions or fear of passing along a potentially fatal virus.

At that time, I prayed the virus would only be then for a few months, nineteen months later pandemic which our music ministries of the pandemic has become find. Indeed, the reality as the noise of relentless and trying to navigate new school and continued to get back to a exhausting both psychologically.



Courtyard at the Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve Visitor Center. New Orleans, LA

that the effects of the felt for a few weeks, and yet here we are some still facing the reality of a continues to intrude upon and our lives. The stress remains, but the silence increasingly harder to opposite seems to be the the world can appear overwhelming. We are all realities for children in restrictions as we attempt normal routine which is physically and

I find myself yearning for the silence of those early days during the pandemic. Now, I once again need to seek out the silence in my daily life and ask what Christ has for me today in this stressful and difficult time of transition. While visiting New Orleans during the NPM Convention, I was reminded during several sessions that we as pastoral musicians can also offer silent moments in our liturgies. This ever-present theme of silence seemed strangely placed in a city that is filled with music, so I took notice and realized this message was for me. Do we look for these moments and present them when possible? A moment of collective silence as a congregation is just as important as a moment of full-throated singing – something we often forget as it is in our DNA to support the Mass with music and song.

Let us work to find those moments for silence in our personal and communal prayer lives as they are comfort for a weary soul, especially when many are anxious and fearful.

- Amy Massey, DC Chapter President

BROKEN, SHARED, SENT

Inspirational Convention Testimonials from those who traveled to New Orleans.

“Freda Kratochvil was our long-time liturgy director and organist who really was the mother of our music ministry here at Precious Blood. She would attend NPM Conventions and bring back her inspirations and excitement to our parish. In 2017, we began a scholarship in her honor to bless young pastoral musicians to be able to attend the National Convention and be inspired like she was. She died last year after we had awarded the scholarship to three wonderful young ladies whom you will hear from below. We hold our monthly Open Mic Nights to help raise money for the Freda Kratochvil scholarship fund to attend NPM.”

- Hannah Masson, Arlington Member at Large to the Board, Precious Blood Church, Culpeper, VA

First, I would like to thank Freda Kratochvil (may she be peacefully resting in God’s glory) and those helping distribute the scholarships on her behalf for young pastoral musicians, so that they may find a greater appreciation for and understanding of their ministry and talents.

I absolutely loved everything about the convention, from the music to the talks, it was impossible to leave a session without coming back bearing an impactful experience in your mind and heart.

One thing that stuck with me was this quote by a sister-in-Christ who was trying to kindly guide a lady on how to effectively, and humbly, deliver her service as a singer. To paraphrase, she said:

“[...] you need to create a connection with the congregation to better understand their needs because you’ll never know if someone is on the edge of their faith— so whatever you send out may either drive them out or invite them to connect with God again.”

After getting used to the routine, most musicians and singers (including myself) become guilty of falling into the trap of complacency to the point where we fail and/or cease to recognize the great gift and responsibility we have as musicians to our fellow brothers and sisters. Understanding our intentions and how we execute it, can help musicians learn how to facilitate a brother or sister reach “deep soul,” a profound and moving spiritual experience with God, as Sister Helen mentioned at an NPM session.

I learned that one could learn all the great and healthy techniques of any instrument in the world, but if the musician’s soul lacks spiritual nourishment and intention, everything is done in vain. I think NPM did such an amazing job at inviting musicians from around the nation to understand our calling and the great power our musical gifts can be for other people. (con’t next page)

Pictured from left: Emily, Cornell Williams (bass player), Tania, and Lauren.



I would like to say thank you to Hannah, Emily, and Lauren for making the trip even better. When I say we ran around aimlessly in the heart of Louisiana and danced carelessly like kids, I mean it. I think I'm speaking for all of us when I say that our trip has truly brought us closer together than ever before.

- Tania Chinchay, singer/guitarist, Precious Blood church, Spanish and Bilingual Choir



Pictured from left: Emily, Valimar Jansen, Lauren, and Tania.

"I decided to join the Children's Choir when I was in the third grade and the teen choir "One Voice" when I was in sixth grade. I never thought that I would fall more in love with music until I had the opportunity to go to New Orleans and attend the NPM convention. To be in a room with talented people was such an amazing experience. One thing I learned was if we had no music in our lives it will be nothing but silence. Music makes our lives bright. I cannot explain how every morning during Mass it sounded like the choir of angels singing. It was amazing how many of us would sing four different voices and sound so unique. This was my best experience ever and hopefully in the future I will get to live out more moments like these!"

Emily Castro, singer, Precious Blood church, now attending Virginia Commonwealth University

I had an amazing time at the NPM convention in New Orleans this year, I would say it has been one of the best trips I've had. I learned a lot about the music ministry, the importance of the music ministry, and the diversity in the music ministry. The talk that Sister Helen gave to us opened my eyes and made me realize how much the music we play/sing helps the people who walk into church not doing that great. It made me realize the importance of our role as instrumentalists and singers and how we shouldn't take things for granted because it's helping more than one person in the community. The diversity in our music ministry from church is important because there are so many people from different races, ethnicity's, gender, and age and to me it is important to include people and make people feel included, so they don't get discouraged. Overall, I would rate my experience a solid 10 out of 10, because not only did I learn a lot it also made me have fun because I laughed A LOT!! .

- Lauren Herrera, keyboard/accordion, Precious Blood church, Spanish choir and teen group choir One Voice



44TH NPM ANNUAL CONVENTION • NEW ORLEANS • JULY 27-30, 2021

CHRIST
BROKEN ✦ SHARED ✦ SENT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fall Liturgy Day Saturday, October 23, 9:30a.m.-12:00p.m.

Refocusing our Ministry!

Dr. John Romeri, presenter on *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington, VA

More details see page 6 or [Register Here](#)

"This speaker is in my top 5 of all time for me! Very personable, a wonderful event!"
Diane Yendrey, St. Mary's, Barnesville, MD

"Very engaging and a really nice guy!" Jayne T. Rose, Our Lady of Mercy, Potomac MD



DC Chapter Happy Hour

October 29, 5:30-7:30pm Denizen's Brew Co.

1115 East-West Hwy, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Come for a night of merriment and networking! Some special guests will be joining us! Free Appetizers provided by the Chapter first come first served! Please RSVP so we can plan for you!

We recommend the Kennett Street Garage on the corner of Bottleworks Lane and Kennett Street. It's only a block away from the brewery and free after 7 PM and on the weekends.

RSVP Here: <https://forms.gle/VEhAQVBHrooq9bQw7>

In Memoria: Carol Johnson

Carol Johnson was an active member of St. Mary's Church, Bryantown, MD for 44 years. She had a passion for music and enjoyed playing the organ and piano for parish liturgies, weddings, funerals, and school functions. Carol shared her talent by teaching piano lessons at St. Mary's school and gave private lessons from her home. Her musical creativity also included writing songs. She combined several pieces into one liturgy she refers to as the *Mass of the Holy Spirit* for the St. Mary's Parish Bicentennial Mass celebrated in 1993. Carol authored many songs; several were published and recorded on two albums, *Amazing Grace* and *The Work of the Master's Hand*. She was the Foundress and Director of the Gloria Dei Singers, a talented choir that provided music for special events in the Archdiocese of Washington including the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.



Carol passed away two years ago this month, and her final request was for her music to be distributed free of cost. A file of her music has been created by her close friend William Gallagher, and is available by contacting him at wgrn67@gmail.com

Annual Liturgy Day

Approaching the 60th Anniversary of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*

Refocusing our Ministry!

As we approach the 60th Anniversary of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium), we have another opportunity to revisit the intentions of the Second Vatican Council and explore how we as a church have done in fulfilling its vision. In looking at the church that was, the church that is, and the church for which we hope in the future, today's workshop will begin with a careful assessment of the document. In the second half of the presentation, we will examine some creative ways to further realize the intent of this groundbreaking document.

*Join **Dr. John Romeri** for an informative and fun event!*

This workshop is for Music and Liturgy Directors, Choir Directors, Cantors, Choir Members, Priests, and Deacons.

Location: Cathedral of St. Thomas More
3901 Cathedral Lane, Arlington

Date: Saturday, October 23, 2021
9:30 AM - 12:00 NOON
registration begins at 9:00 AM

Cost: \$10 for members
\$20 for non-members

Dr. John Romeri, most recently Director of Music at Christ Cathedral in Orange, CA, joins us to lead the morning's discussion.

Register by scanning the QR Code (left).

ARLINGTONVA@NPM.ORG • WASHINGTONDC@NPM.ORG



ARLINGTON MASS AND DINNER PICTURES

St. Paul VI High School in Chantilly, VA, where the Mass took place.



On left Fr. Stephen Schulz, chaplain at St. Paul VI High School. Pictured below, Fr. Don Rooney, pastor of St Bernadette Church and Chaplain of NPM Arlington.



NPM NATIONAL

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](#)



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 to St. Joseph, Defender of Life

Dearest St. Joseph, at the word of an angel, you lovingly took Mary into your home. As God’s humble servant, you guided the Holy Family on the road to Bethlehem, welcomed Jesus as your own son in the shelter of a manger, and fled far from your homeland for the safety of both Mother and Child. We praise God that as their faithful protector, you never hesitated to sacrifice for those entrusted to you. May your example inspire us also to welcome, cherish, and safeguard God’s most precious gift of life. Help us to faithfully commit ourselves to the service and defense of human life —especially where it is vulnerable or threatened. Obtain for us the grace to do the will of God in all things. Amen.

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