



NPM Rapid City Diocese Spring Newsletter

February/March 2015

Spring NPM Event

Saturday, March 14, 2015

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Martin, SD



Schedule for the Day (tentative)

9:30am - 10:00am	Registration/Donuts/Coffee
10:00am - 10:15am	Welcome & Morning Prayer
10:15am - 11:15am	Developing Strong Music Ministers with Limited Resources
11:15am - 11:25am	Break
11:25am - 12:15pm	Developing a Good Working Relationship Between the Pastor and the Music Ministers
12:15pm - 12:45pm	Lunch
12:45pm - 1:00pm	NPM Spring Business Meeting
1:00pm - 1:50pm	Planning for Weddings - A Panel Discussion
1:50pm - 2:00pm	Closing Prayer

Please RSVP (for lunch count) by **Monday, March 9, 2015** to:

Kathy Little [\(605\) 484-7817](tel:6054847817) or lovingtrust@live.com



Calling for NPM Memorabilia

NPM Historian, Kerry Peters, is working to fill in the gaps of our NPM Rapid City Chapter Scrapbook. She is especially in search of items from 2010, 2011, and 2012. If you have any pictures, handouts, or award information from any year from our NPM meetings or celebrations, please mail or email them to: Kerry Peters, NPM Historian, P.O. Box 255, Hot Springs, SD 57747 or imagebykerry@hotmail.com

National Pastoral Musicians Benefit from Colleagues' Expertise

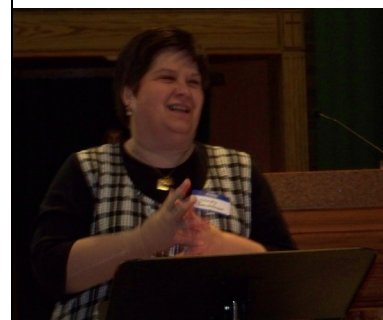
St. Anthony's Church in Hot Springs hosted the January 31st NPM meeting that featured excellent program content. Specifically, we had the honor of learning from three music liturgy leaders.

From her years of experience as a music liturgist and music educator, Christy Leichtnam provided tips on conducting from the keyboard. She humorously described 12 pointers to increase one's effectiveness in this role.

Centering on younger parish community members, Teresa Spiess talked about youth in music ministry. Having learned from her years of work with very young children through teenagers and in varied sized parishes, Teresa focused on the need to involve youth in music so that they feel engaged and motivated to continue their faith commitment into adulthood.

Jackie Schnittgrund shared her organizational proficiency as she described her strategies for music ministry planning. Jackie detailed planning for the year, considerations in planning, growth goals and utilizing publishing company resources.

All music ministers and clergy in the Rapid City Diocese are encouraged to attend NPM meetings. Education, prayer and fellowship are the focal points of our meetings. Our next meeting will be Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Martin. Educational topics include: developing strong music ministers with limited resources, cultivating a good working relationship between the pastor and the music ministers and a panel discussion on wedding planning. If you plan to attend the March 14th meeting, please contact Kathy Little at 605.484.7817 or lovingtrust@live.com by March Monday, March 9th to confirm your complimentary luncheon reservation.



Upcoming Events

Summer NPM Event at OLPH in Rapid City SD - June 12 & 13, 2015

We Will Raise Our Voices in Song

On the evening of June 12 and 13, a 13th music festival from all over the Rapid City diocese will take place at the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit in Rapid City. The event is directed by Vella and Clayton Southwick, music teachers at St. Elizabeth's High School. The festival will feature a variety of musical styles, including a variety of contemporary styles and difficulty. The festival will run concurrently with the Stewardship Summit at the Cathedral. Proceeds from a free will offering will be shared between NPM and the Stewardship Summit. Music ministers interested in rehearsing in their deaneries prior to the Choir Festival are asked to contact Jackie Schnittgrund at 390-7748 or JSchnitt@rap.midco.net. Let's all join together and share our God-given talents to make this musical event a truly spectacular display of our diocese's musical talent and beauty.

National NPM Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan - July 6-10, 2015

Called to Joy and Hope: Let the Servant Church Arise. See NPM website for more information: www.npm.org

Out of Self and Into Service

by Dr. Sandra Fico. From February 2013 NPM Interest Section for Cantors. Reprinted with permission.

While traveling recently on business, I had the opportunity to visit another parish for Sunday Mass. The cantor was obviously a trained professional vocalist. As she stood at the ambo and proclaimed the psalm, her voice soared. Her vocal technique was flawless. Her operatically trained voice filled the room as all eyes were fixed upon her and her lovely presence. She was magnificent. Yet, I could not understand a word of what she was singing! Although all eyes and ears were upon her, very few in the assembly responded when it was time for them to sing. It was a wonderful performance moment. But it was not a prayerful moment.

This is the conundrum that every cantor faces. How do we differentiate the very fine line between "performing" vs. "performing the word of God?"

As cantors it is important to put aside a "sense of self" when ministering to our assembly. This can be a challenging task, especially when proclaiming the psalm from the ambo. All eyes are upon us. People are not just listening, but also noticing our appearance, how we are dressed, our gestures, our expressions, how we walk and even our hairstyle! We are placed in a very vulnerable position and are under scrutiny that can be distracting from "the word". Yet our very human reaction may sometimes cause even further distraction. We want to present ourselves as perfectly as possible. We want to sound our best. We want to look our best. It is tempting enter into "performance mode". However, in doing so, we are stepping out of "prayerful mode."

One of the hardest things to overcome in our spiritual development is our discomfort with sometimes having to sacrifice vocal quality and technique. As singers we are tempted to try to make our voices sound as "beautiful" as possible. But that does not always result in the assembly being able to clearly understand our text. Vibrato, drawn out and dramatic phrasing, over-emphasized vowel sounds and sustained notes are acceptable embellishments for performance, but they can detract from the text of sung prayer. They can also distract the assembly from conscious and active participation.

So how is a cantor who is versed in performance able to arrive at a place where they are comfortable singing in a way that is conducive to prayer? The words of Saint Augustine come to mind: "Do not allow yourselves to be offended by the imperfect while you strive for the perfect."

Sometimes it is necessary to step out of one's own ego and comfort zone in order to enter into a position of "service". When I am walking toward the altar to proclaim the psalm at the ambo, many times I will pray, "O God, please help me to remember that this is not about me, how my voice sounds, what I am wearing or even whether I am having a good hair day today. Help me to remember that when I present myself to you with all my human imperfections, that your word is always perfect."

May we always find the ability as cantors to step "out of self and into service." Amen.



Rapid City Chapter

Jackie Schnittgrund
c/o Blessed Sacrament Church
4500 Jackson Blvd.
Rapid City, SD 57702

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Miscellaneous Item	<p>Please email <i>Jessie Hicks</i>, Assistant Director for Recruitment at jessie5268@aol.com with:</p> <p>- any updates to your contact information</p> <p>or</p> <p>- if you have music events or information that you would like to be included in our NPM newsletter or on the Rapid City NPM Chapter website.</p> <p>THANK YOU!!</p>
Visit us on the Web	<p>Rapid City NPM Chapter Website www.npmrc.org</p> <p>National NPM Website www.npm.org</p> 