



NPM Rapid City Diocese Spring Newsletter

February/March 2016

Spring NPM Event

Saturday, March 5, 2016

9:30am-2:00pm

Sacred Heart in Philip, SD



Topics:

- “Where Sacred Music Should Lead Us” by Fr. Kevin Achbach
- “Sight-reading OCP Selections” (with complimentary OCP music packets)
- “Tips on Incorporating Various Instruments in the Liturgy: A Musical Enhancement and Effective Recruiting Tactic” by Jackie Schnittgrund

Please RSVP (for lunch count) by **Monday, February 29, 2016** to:

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

Stay Up-to-Date on NPM Rapid City Chapter News

NPM Rapid City Chapter Website
www.npmrc.org

National NPM Website
www.npm.org

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www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter

Upcoming Summer NPM Events

**NPM Summer Event -
Choir Festival**

Cathedral of OLPH, Rapid City, SD
June 10-11, 2016

**39th Annual National NPM
Convention**

Houston, TX
July 11-16, 2016

Letter from the Co-Directors

Dear Fellow NPM members,

Yes, it was a leap of faith and optimism that we scheduled a January NPM meeting in Lead where the average January snowfall is 24 inches. The roads were dry, the sun was out, and so were about 35 NPMers!

I had never been to St. Patrick's Church and was impressed by the architecture of the church that was built to echo the buildings of Lead's historical gold mining days. I was also touched by the fact that beautiful stained glass from the original church has been incorporated in the current structure.



After a welcome from Fr. Leo Hausmann and Morning Prayer, we got down to business. In small groups, we talked about what we learned from the October 16 – 17 Lee Gwozdz Workshop and how we might use these lessons learned in our own parishes. Please see the following page for what we learned from the Lee Gwozdz Workshop.

And around and around we went. Singing rounds, that is. Common rounds, who-knew-you-could-sing-this-as-a-round rounds, and rounds for various times of the liturgical year. Demonstrating these round selections were musicians from St. Francis of Assisi in Sturgis, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City, St. Patrick in Lead and Blessed Sacrament in Rapid City.

Not to sound disrespectful, but we learned that there are many ways to skin a cat, or in this case, sing a Mass setting. I was fascinated as we sang along with these settings: Chant (St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis), Heritage (St. Joseph, Spearfish), Christ the Savior (Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rapid City), Creation (St. John the Baptist, Custer), and Renewal (St. Patrick, Lead).

Okay, a little trivia. Our March meeting is the birthplace of one of three Medal of Honor recipients born in South Dakota, Maj. Gen. Patrick Henry Brady. And the hometown of Olympic Bronze Medal wrestler Lincoln McClravy. Give up? We're meeting in Philip on March 5th at Sacred Heart Church. Fr. Kevin Achbach will give us a priest's perspective on the direction sacred music should lead us. And we will sing, sight-reading a selection of OCP music. Even better, we get to take an OCP packet home with us—no charge! Lastly, Jackie Schnittgrund will provide some tips on incorporating various instruments in the liturgy—a musical enhancement and an effective recruiting tactic.

June—the perfect month for a choir festival. And so we'll have one in Rapid City at Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Friday, June 10th and Saturday, June 11th. Clayton and Nelly Southwick will bring out the musical best in us. Save the date!

Looking forward to seeing spring and you.

Carman Timmerman on behalf of
Jackie Schnittgrund and Carman Timmerman
Co-directors Rapid City NPM Chapter



Small Group Discussion Questions & Responses: What We Learned from Lee Gwozdz Workshop 2016 Winter NPM Meeting

January 23, 2016 St. Patrick's Church, Lead SD

Q.1 What take-aways from Lee Gwozdz will you or have you used in your parish's music ministry?

- R.1 When cantoring, stress key words in the Responsorial Psalm.
When cantoring, enunciate.
When cantoring, use smooth delivery.
Consider using choir member/parents choir participation agreement form.
Be a leader, not a performer.
Do warm-ups and exercises relating to the music.
Catch Lee's enthusiasm, energy, excitement.



Q.2 What strategies do you use or could you use to recruit music ministers in your parish?

- R.2 Invite them!
Sing songs that are relatable to the group.
Build from the bottom—start young.
Solicit members from the congregation, using calling cards/business cards citing times of Mass(es), rehearsal times, emphasizing that they are needed.
Incorporate hospitality and fun into your choir activities.
Go to the group that you want to recruit, e.g., church youth groups, faith formation, schools, other denominations.
Sell it as a night out from the kids.

Q.3 Lee emphasized the importance of having choirs in our parishes; however, the number of choirs in our diocese has diminished. What could we use from Lee's presentation to reverse that?

- R.3 Elicit pastor support.
Consider small choir groups.
Look beyond the confines of your church/consider outside resources.
Consider a once-a-month choir.

Q.4 How do you network with other parishes to maximize your music ministry effectiveness, e.g., instrumentalists, singers, sheet music?

- R.4 Network with other parishes for choir members, music, instruments, direction etc.
Learn from NPM meetings.
Develop a diocesan resource list of people you can call, cantors, organists, pianists, sheet music etc.
Do a choir exchange—more exposure to their choirs in the area. e.g., OLPH Spiritus go to Blessed Sacrament one Sunday or some other church etc.

Q.5 Lee says that starting with the young is so important in building a music program. We have very few children's choirs in our diocese. What could be done in each parish to improve this no matter how large or small?

- R.5 Talked about incorporating kids in the choir.
Need 1 – 2 dedicated people at the core.
Invite kids to join choir to sing at Preparation of the Gifts after leaving to practice during homily. Warning: It could become a kids' show.
Develop a family choir.

****Discussion Questions and Responses continued on next page of this newsletter****



Rapid City Chapter

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Small Group Discussion Questions & Responses continued...	
Q.6	Would purchasing a box of Lee's "toys" be beneficial to your parish? How so?
R.6	Think some of the toys would be beneficial. Using toys and passing the ball exercise was helpful. Buy a toy set for the diocese that could be loaned out to parishes.
Q.7	What rehearsal techniques that were demonstrated by Lee were the most beneficial to you?
R.7	Use little tricks to hear one another, e.g., get in a circle to hear one another. Practice later in the week, e.g., Thursdays, to keep music fresh in choir's mind.
Q.8	What vocal techniques that were demonstrated by Lee were the most beneficial to you?
R.8	Apply breathing techniques. Run through DO - RE - MI - FA - SO - LA - TI - DO exercise.