A Prairie Church Welcomes National Pastoral Musicians

When NPM members walked through the doors of St. Michael’s Church on April 6th, we were met by a sense of clean lines, open spaces and parishioners’ pride in their church. For many of us, this Spring Meeting was the first opportunity we had to experience this lovely church on the outskirts of Hermosa. Against this backdrop, we enjoyed a time full of ways to enhance our liturgical music skills.

To start our day, Parochial Vicar Reverend Matt Fallgren welcomed us to St. Michael’s Church and led us in Opening Prayer. Following prayer, Chantry Nelson demonstrated “How to Get the Most of Your Electronic Keyboard—Options Galore,” detailing the pros and cons of three electronic keyboards used at St. Michael’s. Regardless of the instrumentation used, Chantry gave us two takeaways: 1) start small when introducing a new sound to your congregation, remembering that the goal is to facilitate worship and 2) avoid using technology to replace a human skill.

Over the years, Jackie Schnittgrund has emphasized the advantages of planning ahead. She guided us through a “Seasonal Planning Group Discussion” in which we explored various aspects of Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Triduum and Easter seasons. The results of the group discussion may be found on the Rapid City Chapter website, www.npmrc.org.

Following a tasty box lunch furnished by St. Michael’s Parish members, Terry Schroeder shared her extensive experience with “Funeral Music and Worship Aids/Tips for Leading a Successful Funeral Choir.” She discussed licensing options and prices as well as song suggestions. Compliments of GIA, all attendees received sheet music for nine funeral songs that we sight read as part of this program segment.

Our meetings always end in songful prayer. To conclude this Spring Meeting, Our Lady of Perpetual Help members led us in the Closing Prayer.

The NPM Rapid City Chapter’s Summer Meeting will be on Saturday, June 22nd at St. Joseph’s Church in Spearfish. The topics for this program are: “Working with the Aging Voice” presented by Dr. Jonathan Nero, “Working with Intergenerational Choirs” presented by Dr. Jonathan Nero, “Sage on Stage” featuring Angela Weber and a reading session led by Angela Weber.

We encourage all Rapid City Diocese music ministers and clergy to attend quarterly NPM meetings at which education, prayer and fellowship are the focal points. For more information about the Rapid City Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians, go to our website (www.npmrc.org) or Facebook page (www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter).
As you know, for the last two years, we've had two very successful silent auctions. The board decided that we will hold the Rapid City Chapter Silent Auction every other year. So, for 2019, we won't have an auction, but we will have a Rapid City Chapter Silent Auction in 2020. Thank you for your past auction item donations and for your generous support of our chapter fundraiser. And now, start collecting items for our 3rd Rapid City Chapter Silent Auction—it promises to be a great one!

Nominations Requested—Elections October 5, 2019
Please consider running for one of these positions or nominating someone whom you think would serve effectively in one of these roles. These are interesting and fulfilling positions, working with dedicated and talented individuals in the service of music ministry. For questions about the Co-director role, contact Carman at carmantimmerman@gmail.com or 605.391.4053. For questions about the Programming Coordinator role, contact Jackie at jschnitt@rap.midco.net or 605-390-7748 (c)

* NPM Co-director B (elected 2-year term, maximum 6 years) and
* Programming Coordinator (elected, 2-year term, maximum 6 years)

Position descriptions are on the next page...

As I write this letter, the glorious strains of ‘Alleluia’ fill our music in this beautiful Easter season! Alleluia! He is risen! For all your tireless efforts in Lent, Triduum, and Easter services, we hope you have all been rejuvenated in spirit by the powerful fulfillment of God’s promise of the Resurrection. In the midst of this season, the celebrations continue with the ordination of Deacon Zane Pekron to the priesthood on May 28. We hope you can join the Diocesan choir for this wonderful event!

We are very excited for our summer meeting! Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 22, at St. Joseph’s Church in Spearfish. The morning topics will address two important issues all of our churches face – Working with the Aging Voice, and Working with Intergenerational Choirs. We are most fortunate to have both sessions facilitated by Dr. Jonathan Nero, Director of Choral Activities at BHSU, and the current Artistic Director and Conductor of Dakota Choral Union. We are sure to have many valuable take-aways from these sessions to implement in our choirs!

Dr. Nero earned his Doctorate in Choral Conducting from North Dakota State University. He joined the music faculty at Black Hills State University in 2007 as the Director of Choral Activities. In this position, he directs the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, and University Choral, and a newly formed Women’s Ensemble. He also teaches applied voice and classes in music theory, conducting, and music methods. Before coming to BHSU, Dr. Nero taught at the elementary, secondary, and university levels in North Dakota and Minnesota. Dr. Nero is also an active singer and guest conductor in South Dakota, Wyoming, and North Dakota. In the fall of 2016, Dr. Nero became the Artistic Director and Conductor of Dakota Choral Union.

The afternoon sessions will provide us another delightful installment of our ‘Sage on Stage’ series, featuring the incomparable Angela Weber from Our Lady of Perpetual Help Cathedral, and current choral director for St. Thomas More High School and Middle School in Rapid City. Angela will then lead a music reading session to wrap up our day. Please make plans to attend!

While our fall meeting and annual St. Cecilia banquet are still months away, it is not too soon to start jotting down notes and ideas for your nominations for the Peg Langenfeld award and St. Cecilia awards for laity & clergy. As has been mentioned in our previous two meetings, in the past several years the number of nominations received in these categories has been painfully small, resulting in our board drafting some last-minute selections. There is an enormous wealth of musical talent and dedicated individuals involved in music ministry across the churches of our diocese. Don’t be shy to ‘blow the horn’ or ‘sing the praises’ for your fellow choir members or musicians. The accomplishments or contributions of your nominees can be of any size. Likewise, let’s not overlook the efforts of our parish priests in their support of...
Directors’ Letter Continued

our ministry – I can think of several who are very deserving of a shout-out for all they do for us! And don’t worry, we are not reincarnations of your high school English teacher – your nominations will not be graded on grammar, spelling, or sentence structure! Just write from the heart in giving well-deserved recognition to your nominees!

On behalf of Carman Timmerman and myself, we thank you for wonderful service in our diocesan music ministry. We look forward to seeing you in Spearfish on June 22nd!

Bonnie Josten
Co-Director, Rapid City Chapter
NPM

Peggy Langenfeld Award
Purpose: This award recognizes a person or organization who has promoted NPM and chapter activities in an extraordinary way.
Background: This award memorializes Peggy Langenfeld who dedicated her life to good music in church worship. She developed tremendous resources and provided support to parish musicians, clergy and other worship leaders in fostering the art of liturgical music. In addition, Peggy was the person most instrumental in starting the Rapid City NPM Chapter.
Criteria (nominee need not meet all criteria):
1. NPM national member (preferred).
2. Promotion of NPM at parish and diocesan level.
3. Participation in one or more meeting programs.
4. Current or past officer in Rapid City NPM Chapter.

Emerging Musician Award
Purpose: This award recognizes a person who shows promise as a musician contributing to Catholic music liturgy.
Background: NPM is committed to engage musicians in our parishes in order to promote their involvement and leadership in music liturgy. Criteria:
1. Person 24 years or older.
2. Service of five or fewer years (consider length and breadth, e.g., participation in other ministries).
3. Commitment, i.e., consistent involvement.
4. Demonstration of continued learning in music liturgy.
5. Initiative.

Peggy Langenfeld Award
Criteria:
1. Serve in role for 2 years with maximum service of 3 consecutive terms (6 years).
2. Determine, in collaboration with the board, dates and locations of board meetings.
3. Solicit agenda items for board meetings.
4. Prepare board meeting agendas.
5. Distribute board agendas to board at meetings along with relevant documents, e.g., past board meeting minutes, proposed program for upcoming quarterly meeting etc.
6. Preside over board meetings.
7. Contribute to content for quarterly NPM newsletters (see item 6 of Co-director A duties)
8. Prepare and mail newsletters–obtain from Rose, fold, seal, attach labels and deliver to Post Office (see item 14 of Co-director A duties).
9. Prepare and make copies of quarterly meeting programs.
10. Prepare and make copies of quarterly meeting program evaluations.
11. Prepare quarterly business meeting agendas with Co-director A.
12. Distribute quarterly business meeting agendas to board.
13. Preside over quarterly business meetings.
14. Prepare program evaluation results and distribute results to the board.
15. Work with board to identify potential elected officers, board appointees and presenters.
16. Write article on quarterly meetings and submit to WRC.
17. Develop and mail fliers to identified contacts for meetings that host a guest speaker.
18. Contact area TV and radio stations regarding meetings that host a guest speaker (may be delegated).
19. Solicit door prizes for St. Cecilia Fall Meeting and Awards Luncheons (may be delegated).
20. Facilitate Silent Auctions as needed (may be delegated).
21. Work in partnership with Co-director A

St. Cecilia Award for Laity and St. Cecilia Award for Clergy
Purpose: This award recognizes one lay person and one clergy member for exceptional contributions to liturgy and music.
Background: Saint Cecilia is the patroness of musicians. It is written that as the musicians played at her wedding she "sang in her heart to the Lord." Her feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, and Eastern Catholic Churches on November 22. She is one of seven women, excluding the Blessed Virgin, commemorated by name in the Canon of the Mass.
Criteria (nominee need not meet all criteria):
1. NPM national member (preferred).
2. Recognized role in West River music ministry, e.g., director, pianist, organist, pastor, cantor, choir member etc. for 5 years or more.
3. Specific exceptional contribution(s) that enliven music liturgy and aid in developing liturgical resources.
4. Example(s) of providing support to parish musicians, clergy and other worship leaders as the nominee fosters the art of liturgical music involvement.

Emerging Youth Musician Award
Purpose: This award recognizes a young person who shows promise as a musician contributing to Catholic music liturgy.
Background: NPM is committed to engage youth in our parishes in order to promote their involvement and leadership in music liturgy. Criteria:
1. Young person 16 – 23 years old.
2. Service of two years or more (consider length and breadth, e.g., participation in other ministries).
3. Commitment, i.e., consistent involvement.
4. Demonstration of continued learning in music liturgy.
5. Initiative.
2018 NPM Annual Report

Dear fellow NPM members,

I am proud to share this report with you on behalf of the Board of Directors. As your elected leaders, we are accountable to you for the stewardship of NPM’s resources and the ways in which our Association has fulfilled our mission over the past year. I would also like to express profound gratitude to Steve Petrunak and the entire NPM staff for their tireless efforts to carry forward the important work of NPM on a daily basis. I think you’ll be pleased to see all that NPM has accomplished for its members in 2018, and our plans for the coming years. On the web site, you’ll find a listing of your NPM leadership and national office staff. As always, we are eager to hear from you about how the Association can better serve you, and better achieve our goals of fostering the art of musical liturgy so that our Church can have vibrant, excellent, life—giving worship each and every Sunday. All of us in leadership look forward to seeing you in Raleigh this summer. On behalf of the Board of Directors, the NPM Council, and all in NPM leadership, thanks for all that you do to support the Association and to lead God’s people in "singing a new song!"

Jeremy Helmes Chair,
NPM Board of Director

You can read the entire report by going to: