Okay, I’ll admit it—my first thought when I heard we were named 2019 NPM Chapter of the Year and were invited to personally accept this award in Raleigh, North Carolina, it wasn’t about the honor. It wasn’t about the Wright brothers. It wasn’t about the Biltmore Estate. It wasn’t about the Great Smoky Mountains. It wasn’t even about moonshine. It was about the hot, humid weather. But armed with the faith that North Carolina did indeed have air conditioning, I flew to Raleigh to attend the 42nd Annual Convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (July 16 – 19, 2019). Our other Rapid City Chapter Co-director, Bonnie Josten, was unable to attend the convention, so my primary purpose in going to the event was to accept the Chapter of the Year award on your behalf. The Rapid City Chapter was recognized two times during the convention. At the Chapter Directors’ Meeting, I accepted the 2019 Chapter of the Year plaque and was given the opportunity to speak. I stressed two points. The first point was that our Rapid City Chapter is in the smallest diocese in the contiguous United States with most parish music ministry leaders being unpaid, without a budget and with a very limited number of musicians. The second point was that no matter how small the chapter, no matter the size or resources or challenges encountered in the past or present, your chapter can effectively serve the Catholic Church by fostering the art of musical liturgy.

The second time the Rapid City Chapter was acknowledged was at the Members Meeting, a gathering similar to a general assembly. Our chapter and a number of other individuals were recognized for various awards. In spite of the Raleigh heat and humidity, I have to confess that I did enjoy my first NPM Convention. To sing along with over 1,000 other people at many times during the convention was very moving. To be exposed to learning opportunities way above my pay grade was invigorating. To eat grits, red-eye gravy and pimento cheese spread was a treat. Most fun though was to spend time with Jackie Schnittgrund and Tammy Schnittgrund, people of influence at the NPM national level and my good friends. I hope to see you at the October 5th St. Cecilia Fall Meeting and Awards Luncheon at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. While there, you can see our Chapter of the Year plaque, and I’d be happy to answer questions about my NPM Convention experience. Maybe you’ll go next year!

Steve Petrunak,
NPM President and Carman Timmerman,
Co-director Rapid City Chapter NPM
St. Joseph Parish hosted the June 22nd NPM Summer Meeting. Located in Spearfish, this church features a large uncluttered space, vibrant stained-glass windows and gracefully curved pews. It was a welcoming venue for NPM members eager to be musically and spiritually replenished.

After Janet Higbee welcomed the attendees to St. Joseph’s, Barry Furze (St. Francis of Assisi Parish) led the group in Opening Prayer. Following the prayer, Jackie Schnittgrund (Blessed Sacrament Parish) introduced the day’s featured speaker, Dr. Jonathan Nero, Professor of Music at Black Hills State University. Notable among his many roles, Dr. Nero is the Director of the BHSU Community Chorale and the Dakota Choral Union. During his informative and informal presentation, the attendees learned about the physical changes impacting the aging voice as well as strategies to ameliorate those changes. In another segment, Dr. Nero gave the attendees some tips on how to recruit younger musicians to church choirs.

Following an appetizing lunch prepared by St. Joseph’s parish members and a short business meeting, the “Sage on Stage” segment featured Angela Weber (Our Lady of Perpetual Help). Angela told us about how she became involved in musical liturgy, its impact on her spiritual life and her approach as she considers liturgical music selections.

Then Angela led the group in a music reading session. These reading sessions always provide the Rapid City Diocese liturgical music leaders with new music selections as well as a sense of unity as they sing together.

As usual, the members ended their day in prayerful song. For this day’s conclusion, Sue Englin (St. Therese of the Little Flower) led the group in its Closing Prayer.

The NPM Rapid City Chapter’s St. Cecilia Fall Meeting and Awards Luncheon will be on Saturday, October 5th at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City. During this Year of the Eucharist, Fr. Michel Mulloy, Rapid City Diocese Vicar General, Vicar for Clergy and Director of Worship and Liturgy, will elaborate on this topic.

All Rapid City Diocese music ministers and clergy are encouraged 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 www/npmrc.org or www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter.
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).

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.

NPM Co-director B (elected 2-year term, maximum 6 years)
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 identify 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

Programming Coordinator (elected, 2-year term, maximum 6 years)
1. Attend executive committee meetings.
2. Plan and coordinate quarterly chapter meetings.
3. Recruit and assist volunteers for quarterly chapter meetings.
4. Confirm the location, contact person, date, and presenters for quarterly meeting programs.
5. Contact the key parish musician of the parish meeting location, requesting free lunch as well as coffee and water for morning refreshments from the host parish.
6. Develop and update a 3-year plan for quarterly meeting locations and programs in collaboration with the executive committee.

St. Cecilia Award for Lay 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 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.

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 the 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.
Find more information about National Association of Pastoral Musicians Rapid City Chapter by going to: npmrc.org or Facebook and the National NPM by going to: NPM.org

We have so much to celebrate and to give thanks for this year! Please make every effort to attend what is sure to be a fantastic gathering! Please register and submit $15 (for the catered meal) by September 23, 2019 with Pat McDowell, NPM Chapter Secretary/Treasurer (address listed on page 1.).