



SERVING THE LIFE AND MISSION OF THE
CHURCH THROUGH FOSTERING THE ART OF
MUSICAL LITURGY IN CATHOLIC
WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES.

RAPID CITY
CHAPTER
OF NPM

Welcome to this special 30th anniversary commemorative edition of our Rapid City NPM Chapter newsletter! 30 years is a tremendous accomplishment, but as you'll read in the article below, the seed of thought to create our Chapter took root long before that. Through the vision and perseverance of four musicians - Peggy Langenfeld, Jackie Schnittgrund, Therese Kaiser, and Margaret Thompson - our Chapter began. In the years to follow, our Chapter has grown, establishing itself with both a regional and national presence, and continues to be a valuable support system for music ministers across our diocese and beyond! We are proud of our Chapter's accomplishments over the years, and we look forward to the wonderful experiences to come!

Bonnie Josten & Pat McDowell – Co-Directors, Rapid City NPM Chapter

Rapid City NPM Chapter History

1970's (Recognizing an Opportunity, The Beginning)

In the mid- to late-1970's, the choir directors at Our Lady of Perpetual Help (OLPH), St. Therese, and Blessed Sacrament Church (BSC) acted on a suggestion from Peggy Langenfeld @ OLPH to attend a convention in Chicago, to be held in spring 1979. It was put on by a new organization for Catholic musicians called NPM (National Association of Pastoral Music). With funding provided by their parishes, Peggy, Jackie Schnittgrund and Therese Kaiser attended the convention.

The convention provided focus on liturgy (a new term to many, including the Rapid City attendees), and the emphasis that we were 'music ministers,' and not 'musicians.' There was an abundance of resources explaining the Mass, the liturgy, and musical requirements. Of particular interest were sessions led by Fr. Eugene Walsh, Elaine Rendler, and a new and upcoming group called the St. Louis Jesuits.

Peggy, Jackie, and Therese returned home from the convention filled with new and informative insights on the role that music – and music ministers – can play in our liturgical celebrations. After consultation with Margaret Thompson in Faith, they collectively decided our diocese and its music ministers could benefit from the knowledge that might be gained from forming an NPM chapter. They acquired the materials to do so from the NPM office in Washington, DC, and a Rapid City NPM chapter was established.

The 1980's (Growth, Struggle, Loss, Renewal)

In the early 1980's, attendance at Chapter meetings was small, but determined. The diocese financed a visit by Fr. Eugene Walsh (a presenter at the 1979 convention) who bestowed a great deal of knowledge of music in worship to our attendees. In 1986, Fr. Michel Mulloy and Margaret Thompson were asked to speak at the NPM convention in Long Beach, CA, bringing their knowledge of working with rural parishes, in which they emphasized the need for a good working relationship between music minister and pastor.

Attendance remained sporadic, but in 1987 the Rapid City Chapter was asked to present Morning Prayer at the Regional NPM Convention in Bismarck, ND. Peggy Langenfeld initially coordinated the effort, but sadly, succumbed to lung cancer in April. The passing of our dear friend and NPM pioneer was a painful loss for our Chapter. Taking up the reins, Sr. Jean Marie Tognotti and Jackie Schnittgrund finished preparations

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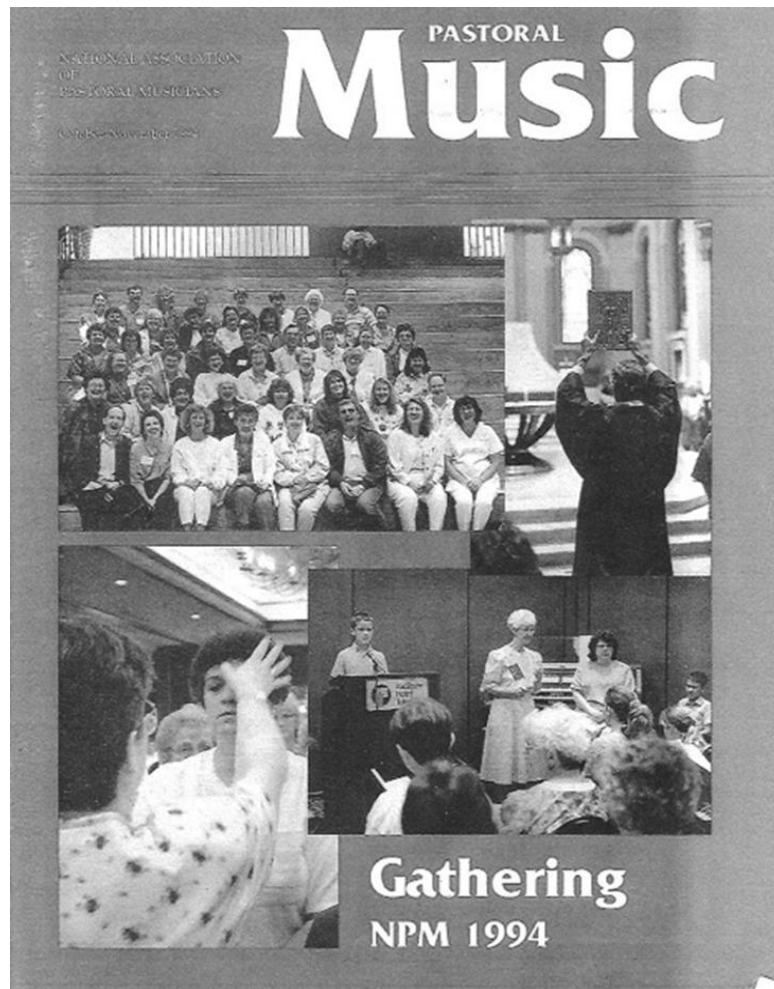
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for Morning Prayer along with Fr. Michel Mulloy, using inculturation while incorporating Lakota symbolism. In attendance at this regional convention were both Fr. Eugene Walsh and Elaine Rendler, and attendees from our chapter benefitted greatly from the knowledge they imparted.

Ongoing attendance issues led to the dissolution of the chapter in 1988; however, it was revived in 1989 as a temporary chapter.

The 1990's (Regrowth, Community Engagement, National Presence)

Our permanent chapter status was restored in 1991, and with it, a time of growth in both attendance and development. Our chapter invited Dolly Sokol, Assoc Director of the Office of Divine Worship, Archdiocese of Chicago, to present at a meeting in the early 1990's. Her book, Parish Celebrations: A Reflective Guide for Liturgy Planning, showcased the depth of her expertise in liturgy, and her presentation made a powerful impact on our diocesan music ministers.



Morning Prayer preparation was once again assigned to the Rapid City Chapter at 1994's NPM Regional Convention in Bismarck, ND, with Sr. Eleanor Solon, OSB, coordinating the work effort and leveraging the format used in 1987. Fr. Michel Mulloy and Margaret Thompson were featured presenters at the convention.

Attendance from the Rapid City Chapter was tremendous. To their surprise and delight, a group photo taken of our Chapter attendees at the convention was featured on the cover page of NPM's national publication, Pastoral Music, that same year.

Rapid City NPM Chapter attendees at the Regional NPM Convention in Bismarck, 1994.

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1998 featured our Chapter's first collaboration with the American Guild of Organists (AGO), in a presentation 'Pedals, Pipes and Pizza' that featured organists from across Rapid City, inviting youth and others to develop an interest in organ playing.

Cantor Workshops made their debut in our Rapid City Chapter in 1999, featuring Jim Hanson and Melanie Coddington. Our Chapter attended in strong numbers. 1999 also marked the year Jackie Schnittgrund was appointed to the newly-formed NPM Council for Chapters. This council set policy for and governed all chapters across the United States. This appointment created a long and life-changing experience for Jackie in her music ministry.

The 2000's (Development of Long-Standing Chapter Traditions)

In 2000, our Rapid City NPM Chapter started choosing the Catholic documents pertaining to liturgy as topics for our meetings on a regular basis. Wedding music proved to be a popular topic and would be revisited periodically, as it allowed our music ministers an opportunity to share both vocal and instrumental music, planning resources, and liturgical parameters.

In 2001, we began commissioning our music ministers on an annual basis. Bishop Blasé Cupich not only presided at our first commissioning but also gave a presentation on the GIRM. Blessed Sacrament's 'Chorus Angelorum' choir provided a concert of selections from their recently-recorded CD, Rejoice In the Lord. Rob Glover, a noted composer of Catholic music and a leader in NPM's Conducting Division, spoke on a variety of topics with emphasis on vocal production, conducting, liturgical seasons, and music selection.

In 2002, borrowing from the national NPM convention model, our Rapid City Chapter presented several concurrent workshops for cantors, choir directors, guitarists, organists, and vocalists. These sessions proved hugely successful as they touched on so many people's needs. In addition, as outreach to our Native American community, a program on Inculturation and Spirituality of the Lakota Music Minister was presented in Pine Ridge.

Composer and educator Dr. Tom Porter from Bismarck, ND came to our summer meeting in 2003. His presentations on Care & Feeding of Musicians, Praying Twice, and Choral Conducting proved so successful we would invite him back two more times over the years.

2003 also marked several firsts for our Chapter:

- We began asking pastors throughout the diocese to contribute dues based on the number of the families that they served. Since 75% of the music ministers of our diocese were volunteer, we felt that asking them to pay for our meetings while traveling distances and taking time from their busy lives was too much. This request proved very successful. The pastors' generosity allowed our Chapter Board to plan in advance based on the money that was collected.
- We began celebrating St. Cecilia Banquets in the fall, in which we presented awards for service (25, 40, 50 yr) in music ministry; St. Cecilia awards for both laity and clergy; Peggy Langenfeld Memorial Award (for active promotion of our NPM Chapter and its mission). At that year's inaugural banquet, a woman who had received an award for 50 years of service said that it was the first time she had ever been publicly thanked for her service in music ministry! Jackie shared our award practices at national convention meetings for chapter directors. As a result, several NPM Chapters throughout the country are imitating our award practices.



2003: 50-yr Service Award recipients. From left to right: Pat Weber, Margaret Thompson, Sr. Eleanor Solon OSB, Marty Mahrt, Colleen Mahrt, Theresa Kaiser (Aberle), Barry Furze, Joan Petry.

- Our Rapid City NPM Chapter started a website (www.npmrc.org), which has proven to be a great asset over the years for information and communication.

In 2004, we held our first spiritual retreat for music ministers, which became an event that would be replicated over the years. In addition, we began contacting music publishers to obtain free sample music packets for reading new music. The 'Pedals, Pipes and Pizza' collaborative event with AGO made a return appearance.

2005 was a record-breaking year, as our Rapid City NPM Chapter hosted an NPM Cantor Express at St. Martin's Monastery, facilitated by Mary Lynn Pieczkowski and Carol Grady. There were over 50 singers in attendance which was the largest of all Cantor Express Workshops held in the nation that year.

In 2006, Bishop Blasé Cupich spoke to us about the Emphasis of the Liturgy to Music Ministers, and we reviewed the article "25 Songs Every Catholic Should Know By Heart." This year marked the return of Dr. Tom Porter for a diocesan Choir Festival. There was a coordinated effort to prepare and provide recordings (individual parts & combined voices) to singers, and deaneries organized rehearsals in the weeks leading up to the event. We had a significant number of attendees for the event. The festival culminated in a public concert and a recording of the event was made.

2007 and 2008 focused on national clinicians Mark Freidman and Janet Vogt providing workshops and training for the development of children's choirs. In addition, presentations were given by noted composers Fr. James Marchionda and Michael Joncas.

In 2009, after a 10-yr run, Jackie Schnittgrund stepped back from involvement on the NPM Council for Chapters. Her daughter, Tammy Schnittgrund, was appointed to the national NPM Cantor Certification Commission.

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The 2010's (Programming Highlights, National Awards, Choir Festivals)

Quarterly Chapter meetings contained insightful programs on Gregorian Chant and Practical Application of Chant; understanding Lakota Prayers; planning weddings/funerals; recruiting singers and holding productive rehearsals. With national focus on copyright infringement, training on use of Worship Aids and copyright regulations was provided.

Jackie Schnittgrund, one of our Chapter co-founders, was awarded NPM Chapter Leader of the Year at the 2012 national NPM convention in Pittsburgh. Jackie was further encouraged to resume national leadership roles as Co-Chair of the National Committee for NPM Chapters, and in 2014, Jackie, along with Dr. Robert Wolf and Margie Kilty, were awarded NPM Leaders of the Year for their work on the National Committee for NPM Chapters. In addition, Tammy Schnittgrund was appointed administrator of NPM Intermediate Cantor Certification.

Tammy Schnittgrund continued to provide yearly or biannual cantor certification opportunities, and quarterly meetings involved a wide array of topics: formation of small music ensembles; mini breakout sessions for organ, conducting, guitar, and vocal techniques; conducting from the keyboard; fostering good working relationships between pastor and music ministers; duets & anthem-sharing, including a sung Chaplet of the Divine Mercies; incorporating various musical instruments into Liturgy; presentations on Canon/Rounds. A music ministers' retreat was led by Sandi Ohlen and Sr. Lorane Coffin OSB, to an appreciative group of attendees.

Lee Gwozdz from Corpus Christi, TX was our featured speaker in Fall 2015, with presentations on Energizing Music Ministers, Music in Divine Worship, Singing FUNDamentals, Repertoire for All Choirs & Seasons, Power of Promoting Choirs. 2016 featured our second diocesan Choir Festival, conducted by Anella and Clayton Southwick at OLPH. Tammy Schnittgrund was appointed as Chair, NPM Cantor Steering Committee for the United States.



*Singers preparing to
rehearse for the 2016
Choir Festival at
OLPH Cathedral.*

Additional program selections included: An overview of the new order of Christian Matrimony, and several parishes demonstrated psalms they have utilized for weddings. Dr. Nancy Roberts from BHSU presented 'Good Vocal Production and Vocal Health.' Leah Sedlacek from Denver gave a compelling and well-received presentation on Beauty in the New Evangelization: Exploring All Aspects of Beauty in the Liturgy with Emphasis on Music in the Liturgy.' This year also marked our Chapter's launch into social media with a Facebook page.

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2017 introduced our 'Sage on Stage' series of talks with seasoned music ministers from across our diocese sharing their experiences in the ministry. 'Name That Hymn' was a new and entertaining addition to the St. Cecilia Banquet that year, which also featured concerts using small ensembles from several parishes. Presentations and Chapter involvement by our diocesan priests has been a long-standing feature at our Chapter meetings, with Fr. Kerry Prendiville presenting "Poetry and Sacred Word in Liturgical Music" at that meeting. This year also marked the addition of two new awards at our St. Cecilia banquet: Emerging Music Minister Award (Adult & Youth). A silent auction was held to supplement our chapter funds.

2018 and 2019 covered topics on liturgy in bilingual & multicultural environments; 'Prayer Encounter of Hearing and Seeing the Word of God' by Fr. Mark McCormick; leadership in music ministry; review of psalms for Lent & the Triduum; panel discussion on goal-setting for music ministers; getting the most out of your electric keyboard; seasonal music planning; funeral music/tips for a successful funeral choir; overview on The Year of the Eucharist with Fr. Michel Mulloy. Our Chapter joined forces with AGO and First United Methodist Church for a Celebration of Hymns, featuring an afternoon concert for the public.



*Combined
NPM/AGO/First
United Methodist
Choirs singing at
the 2018
Celebration of
Hymns.*

The highlight of 2019 was the Rapid City NPM Chapter being awarded the NPM Chapter of the Year award. Carman Timmerman, Chapter Co-Director, was on hand to accept the award at the national convention in Raleigh, NC that year.

The 2020's (Pandemic and a Look to the Future of the Rapid City NPM Chapter)

In early 2020, Jackie Schnittgrund resigned from the National Committee for NPM Chapters, after having served the national organization for just under 20 years. Our Winter meeting in January featured cantor certifications, Fr. Timothy Castor discussing Mass Parts and their Jewish Heritage, and an overview of the 'The Choral Impact Study: Singing For a Lifetime,' a national analysis on the health benefits of choral singing.

The arrival of the Coronavirus pandemic in March 2020 put a pause on the remaining meetings scheduled for 2020, as well as the first half of 2021. The Rapid City NPM Chapter was able to resume meetings in June, featuring an overview by Fr. Grant Gerlach on Sing To The Lord, formation of Liturgy Committees, Sage on Stage, and an overview/service on Taize prayer.

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Over the years, the national NPM organization has undergone occasional restructuring, all while striving to keep focus on their mission of ‘Serving the Life and Mission of the Church Through Fostering the Art of Musical Liturgy In Catholic Worshiping Communities.’ Their latest iteration, NPM 2.0 (rolled out in late 2019/early 2020), features new national membership tiers, and continues a wide array of reference and training resources. We encourage you to check out and utilize these tools & resources in your parishes.

Our Rapid City NPM Chapter, celebrating its 30th year in 2021, has reached a milestone year that very few chapters across the United States have been able to accomplish. Through email and newsletter publications, we connect with just under 400 music ministers throughout our diocese, across the state, and in several neighboring states! Our Chapter remains committed to our diocesan music ministers, and we strive to bring timely, relevant, fresh and interesting topics for all our music ministers – to help them stay rejuvenated and successful in their ministerial roles.

In this commemorative 30th Anniversary newsletter is a page that lists those who have served on the Rapid City NPM Chapter Board over the years. We are most grateful for their time and dedication to keep our Chapter growing and flourishing. As well, many of you have graciously served as presenters at our quarterly Chapter meetings, sharing knowledge and best practices from which all our diocesan music ministers can benefit. We are indebted to your willingness to help your fellow musicians!

We succeed because of you! We encourage your involvement not only in your parish, but in leadership within our Rapid City NPM Chapter Board or deanery representation. Feel free to reach out to any of the Board members listed below with questions about leadership opportunities within our Chapter:

Pat McDowell, Co-Director
Bonnie Josten, Co-Director
Jeanine Gerlach, Co-Coordinator Planning
Jackie Schnittgrund, Co-Coordinator Planning
James Washabaugh, Secretary/Treasurer
Terry Schroeder, Prayer Coordinator
Chantry Nelson, Hospitality Coordinator

patmcdowell44@gmail.com
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jschnitt@rap.midco.net
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thyschroeder@vastbb.net
marycsnelson@gmail.com



*OLPH choir sings music with a ‘love’ theme –
BSC 2014*



*Bishop Gruss discusses ‘Music In Catholic Worship’
– OLPH 2013*

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Rapid City NPM Chapter Leadership (1989-2021)

Position	Person (Yrs In Position)	Position	Person (Yrs In Position)
Director	Jackie Schnittgrund (1990-1992; 2003-2010; 2013-2018) Sr. Eleanor Solon, OSB (1994; 1996) Myron Volk (1999) Sharon Brunner (2001) Katie Simonyak (Severns) (2010-2011) Carman Timmerman (2013-2019) Bonnie Josten (2019-2021) Pat McDowell (2020-2021)	Secretary / Treasurer	Therese Kaiser (Aberle) (1989-1991) Sharon Brunner (1992) JoAnn Wegner (1994; 1996) Sue Englin (1999; 2003) Julie Gray (2004-2011; 2013) Joan Bachmeier (2004-2009) Kathy Little (2010-2011; 2013-2015) Pat McDowell (2016-2019) James Washabaugh (2020-2021)
Asst. Director	Vickie Volk (1990-1991) Bev Draine (1992) Jeff McGarrity (1994) Jackie Schnittgrund (1996) Angela Weber (1999) Charlotte Verhey (2001) Sandi Martin (2003-2008) Tammy Schnittgrund (2003-2009) Katie Simonyak (Severns) (2009) Kerry Peters (2010) Jessica Hicks (2011; 2013-2015)	Recruitment Coordinator	Vickie Volk (1990-1991) Bev Draine (1992) Jeff McGarrity (1994) Jackie Schnittgrund (1996) Angela Weber (1999) Charlotte Verhey (2001) Sandy Martin (2003-2008) Tammy Schnittgrund (2003-2009) Katie Simonyak (Severns) (2009) Kerry Peters (2010) Jessica Hicks (2011; 2013-2015)
Planning Coordinator	Joan Petry (1989; 1996) Sr. Eleanor Solon, OSB (1992; 2001; 2003) Nikki Huggins (1994) Sharon Brunner (1999) Jackie Schnittgrund (2001; 2017-2021) Lynn Moran (2003-2004) Vickie Covey (2004-2005) Mary Ann Fleming (2006) Sheila Schweitzer (2007-2008) Lonnie Arthur (2009) Brenda Schneller (2010-2011) Christi Leichtnam (2013) Amy Spears (2014) Carman Timmerman (2017-2018) Jeanine Gerlach (2020-2021)	Animator for Koinonia (Prayer Coordinator)	Peg Westrich (1990-1992; 2007) Twila Schuler (1994; 1996) Karen Thorpe (1999) Therese Kaiser (Aberle) (2003-2004) Lynn Moran (2005) Angela Weber (2006) Kathy Little (2008-2009) Lonnie Arthur (2010) Kerry Peters (2011) Terry Schroeder (2013-2021) Janet Higbee (2013) Christi Leichtnam (2014-2016)
Hospitality Coordinator	Chantry Nelson (2018-2021)	Publicity Coordinator	Lynn Moran (2003-2004) Colleen Mahrt (2005) Sr. Yvette Mallow (201-2018) Jeanine Gerlach (2021)
Historian	Angela Weber (2018-2020)	Newsletter Editor	Marti Nesland (2017-2021)
Social Media Content Managers	Eric Helgeson – webpage (2017-2021) Jessica Hicks – Facebook page (2017-2021)	Member-At-Large	Sr. Eleanor Solon, OSB (1999) Jeanine Gerlach (2019) Deanery Reps (2020-2021)

**no records available for the following years: 1993, 1995, 1997-1998, 2000, 2012*

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Fr. Kerry Prendiville, Peg Westrich, and Vickie Volk enjoying lunch.



*Fr. Peter Kovarik, St. Cecilia
Award for Clergy - 2008*



Ed & Jeannie Fischer (Custer)



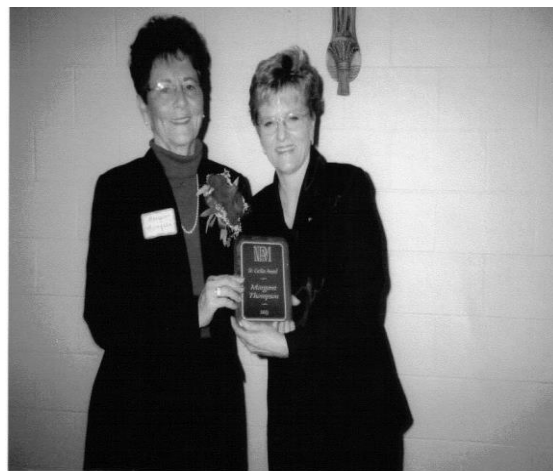
Attendees at Chapter meeting in Sturgis - 2006

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*Margaret Thompson, St. Cecilia Award for
Laity - 2003*



*Above: Attendees at Vocal techniques workshop by
BHSU's Dr. Nancy Roberts – Spearfish, 2017*

*Right: Barry Furze, Valerie Hawkins, and Sue Lloyd-
Davies illustrating duets – Sturgis, 2015*

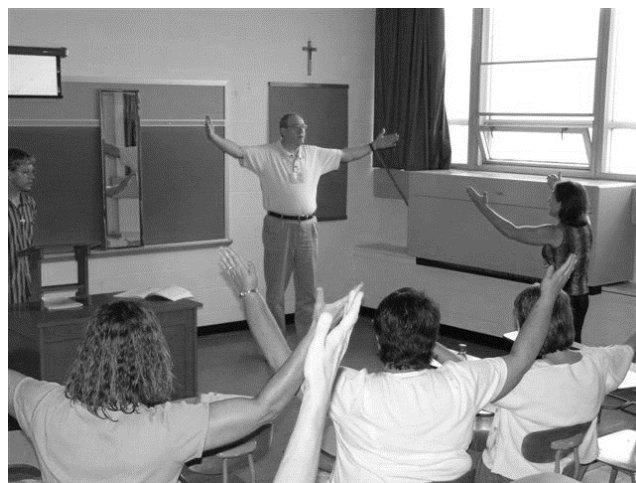
*Below Left: Dr. Tom Porter (Bismarck, ND) presenting
at Summer meeting – St. Martin's, 2003.*

*Below Right: Jackie Schnittgrund, Dr. Robert Wolf, and
Margie Kilty with their National Committee for Chapters
after receiving the NPM Leaders of the Year – 2014.*



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Above (Lt & Rt): NPM Cantor Express Workshop – St. Martin's, 2005
Below Left: Children's Choir Workshop – OLPH, 2008. Below Center: Funeral Choir – St. Martin's.
Below Right: Hill City choir @ St. Therese, 2017



Below Left: Ken Jimmerson & Ed Fischer @ Guitar workshop – OLPH
Below Center: St. Therese choir – 2017
Below Right: NPM President Steve Petrunek & Carman Timmerman,
accepting our NPM Chapter of the Year award, 2019 – Raleigh, NC



*There are so many more pictures to share! Check out the slideshow at our 30th
anniversary celebration at our Oct. 9 Fall meeting and St. Cecilia banquet.*
See you there!!