



NPM Winter Meeting - January 8, 2022
St. Joseph's Church, Spearfish

Schedule of Events

Morning

- *Registration / Refreshments
- *Welcome / Opening Prayer
- *Overview of Morning & Evening Prayer (by Andrew Graupmann, Dir. Faith Formation @ St. Joseph's)
- *Christmas In January – featuring musicians from 5 parishes across the diocese.

Afternoon

- *Lunch / Business Meeting
- *Sage On Stage (*Christy Leichtnam*)
- *Panel Discussion – Music Minister: Person of Prayer and Song (*featuring music ministers from the diocese; moderated by Carman Timmerman*)
- *Closing Prayer

To ensure we have an accurate lunch count, please send RSVP to Pat McDowell (605.787.0638, or patmcdowell44@gmail.com) by Wednesday, Jan 5, 2022.

Director's Letter – December 2021

“O come, divine Messiah. The world in silence waits the day, when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.” I dearly love the Advent season, and the messages of hope and joy in the music of this liturgical season resonate deeply for me.

“Come, Lord, come Lord Jesus. Give your people hope. Come, Lord, come Lord Jesus, and lead your people home.” I think back through the challenges of the pandemic – in both our personal lives and in carrying out the duties of our ministry - and how often Advent songs came to my mind and comforted my restless spirit. God is ever-present, and He has walked the path with each one of us in these times. That knowledge fills me with such peace and gratitude, and I pray we can all carry that peace through this beautiful season and beyond.

As we wrap up this milestone 30th anniversary year in our Chapter, we offer our thanks and prayers to each of you! After a 17-month absence, we were thrilled we could resume our quarterly meetings over the summer, and our Fall meeting and anniversary celebrations were a wonderful experience in renewing our commitment to one another in support of our ministry.

We have a marvelous series of programs lined up for the coming year, and the fun begins early in the start of 2022! Set your calendar for January 8th at St. Joseph's Church in Spearfish, as we gather for a day filled with singing, learning, and fun! More details are inside this newsletter. You'll also find a recap and many photos from our 30th anniversary celebration, and meet the award winners from our St. Cecilia banquet. Lastly, we want to share information with you on future proposed changes to the distribution of our newsletter, and we seek your input and assistance to put those changes into effect.

On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we send our prayers and blessings of thanks to all of you. In sharing your musical talents in voice and instrument, you are a beautiful and treasured gift to your parishes! We wish you and your families a joyful Advent season, and a blessed, happy Christmas! I close with a line from poet Robert Herrick, whose words were captured in a beautiful John Rutter composition, *“What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for us to sing. The birth of this our heavenly King. Awake the voice! Awake the string!”*

Bonnie Josten
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter



Above: Attendees at the Fall meeting. **Above right:** Chapter Co-Founders, Therese Aberle and Jackie Schnittgrund, on hand for the 30th anniversary celebration.



Above Left: 50-yr service awardees: Terry Schroeder and Shirley Gross (accepted by Dianne Larson), with Bishop Peter Muhich.. **Above Right:** 40-yr service awardee: Christy Leichtnam with Bishop Peter Muhich.

Winter Meeting 2022 Preview

Our Rapid City NPM Chapter kicks off the New Year in grand fashion! Come join us on Saturday, January 8, 2022, at St. Joseph's Church in Spearfish. We're in for a delightful day of prayer, learning, singing, and fellowship.

After our morning prayer, Andrew Graupmann, Director of Faith Formation at St. Joseph's, will provide us an overview and background on Morning & Evening Prayers. This should be a fantastic presentation and a great opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of this beautiful way to begin and end our day.

You may have put away your Christmas decorations by January 8, but the joyful songs of the Christmas season are still fresh in our minds. 'Christmas In January' features musicians from five parishes across the diocese, and they will each share a couple of songs from the season that they sang in their parishes over Christmastime. Fa la la la la!!

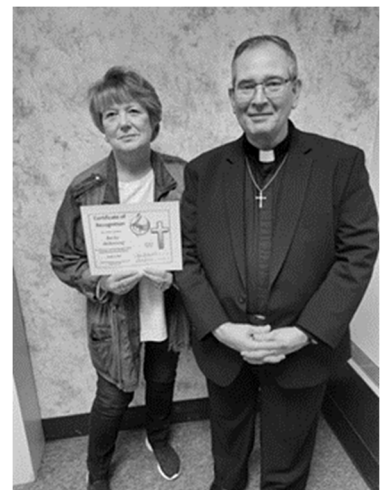
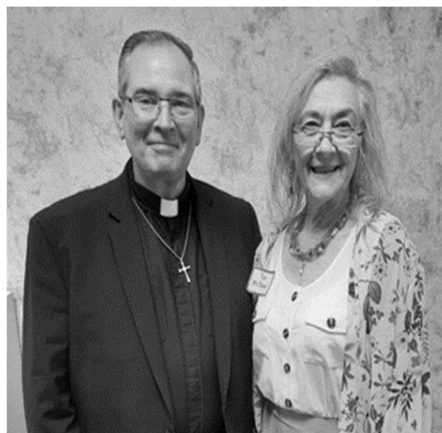
Our 'Sage on Stage' is none other than Christy Leichtnam, long-time music minister (40 yrs!) and well-known music educator in the Rapid City schools. We're in for an entertaining and informative visit with a veteran musician in our diocese!

We'll wrap up the day with a panel discussion featuring several music ministers from across the area. 'Music Minister: Person of Prayer and Song.' Moderated by Carman Timmerman, this topic and discussion is a great segue from the insightful presentations led Dr. Dan Girardot at our Fall meeting. You won't want to miss this!

Cheers to the New Year, and cheers to Rapid City NPM!! What a fantastic start to our 31st year!



Below Left: 25-yr service awardees Margaret Jackson and Toni Brumbaugh. **Below Center:** 25-yr service awardee Pat McDowell. **Below Right:** 10-yr service awardee Becky Wilkening (accepted by her mother). All recipients pictured with Bishop Peter Muhich.





Dr. Dan Girardot leading the Friday evening spiritual retreat.

2021 Fall Meeting - 30th Anniversary Celebration - St. Cecilia Banquet

Excitement ... gratitude ... celebration ... renewing old / making new friendships ... time with fellow music ministers ... These were some of the many comments heard by attendees of our 2021 Fall Meeting, held Oct 8-9 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City. Nearly 50 attendees gathered from across the diocese and beyond, including Gillette and Huron, to attend the event showcasing presentations by Dr. Daniel Girardot of Austin, TX, a nationally-known speaker, professor of music and liturgy, conductor, choral clinician and long-time member of NPM, serving on national committees and advisory boards for the NPM organization.

Friday evening, Dr. Girardot led 25-30 attendees in a spiritual retreat entitled, “Awake the Soul: Music Ministry as a Spiritual Practice.” Through stories, song, and touching anecdotes, Dr. Girardot shared valuable strategies and insights to seek/establish Intimacy with God, Examine the Prayer Life, and Create a Spiritual Plan of Action. The theme emphasized focus on God, and not oneself, at the center of one’s life. Discussion on this objective included identifying what keeps us from an intimate relationship with God, seeking spiritual direction (through spiritual directors or spiritual companions), developing/enforcing habits of prayer – which also addressed differing prayer forms for different personality types. Retreat attendees came away with a renewed peace and purpose to enrich their approach to music ministry.

Saturday was chock-full of events, as additional attendees arrived for three presentations by Dr. Girardot. Following a welcome message from Fr. Matt Fallgren and opening prayer led by musicians from St. Michaels, Dr. Girardot began his discussion on Best Practices for Music Ministry in COVID Times and Beyond. While he addressed aerosol transmission studies and cautionary strategies (distancing between singers, singers’ masks, etc.), Dr. Girardot placed particular focus on “how do you encounter Christ in your life and in your ministry,” expanding on reflections on service in ministry and Mystagogical Catechesis. This generated a variety of touching and profound observations from attendees.

Next, Dr. Girardot gave a well-rounded presentation on Small Choir, Big Music: Care & Feeding of Rural Pastoral Musicians. Core to this discussion was assessment of parish music ministry needs, including a collaborative exercise with the pastor and with parish leadership, incorporating the **STRIPE** process: **S** (Situation); **T** (Target); **R** (Restraining forces); **I** (Ideas); **P** (Practice); **E** (Evaluate). This was partnered with a 'survival guide' for priests and music ministers, emphasizing the need to work together, being both a person of prayer and being a musician, strategies on music selection (utilizing Sing To The Lord: Music In Divine Worship), accountability (of priest and music ministers) to one another. It was a powerhouse of valuable information.

Following a delicious meal prepared by Olive Garden, we moved to the business meeting and awards portion of the banquet. Pat McDowell was elected to a 2nd 2-yr term as Chapter Co-Director. Jeanine Gerlach was elected to a 2nd 2-yr term as Co-Programming Coordinator. The Secretary/Treasurer position is currently unfilled, and Carman Timmerman was appointed as Chapter Historian.

Award-winners included:

St. Cecilia (laity) – Regena Thrall (OLBH-Piedmont); Cheryl Lawrence (Holy Cross-Timber Lake)

St. Cecilia (clergy) – Fr. Ron Gary (St. John the Evangelist-Ft. Pierre); Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek (OLBH-Piedmont)

Peggy Langenfeld Memorial – Peggy Lovrien and Bonnie Josten (both from Blessed Sacrament-Rapid City)

Emerging Music Minister (Adult) – Jana Harris (St. Mary's-Isabel)

Emerging Music Minister (Youth) – Caleb Quinn (Holy Cross-Timber Lake)

Service Year Awards:

10 Years – Linda Arnio, Becky Berreth, Kristen Seidel, James Washabaugh, Becky Wilkening

25 Years – Toni Brumbaugh, Margaret Jackson, Pat McDowell

40 Years – Tom Jackson, Christine Leichtnam, Dave Litzen, Ann Shepherd, Cindy Washabaugh

50 Years – Shirley Gross, Chantry Nelson, Terry Schroeder

Attendees who have served as chapter board members, as well as those who were past award recipients, were asked to stand in special recognition for their service to our chapter over the past 30+ years. A special shout-out was given to Jackie Schnittgrund and Therese Kaiser, two of the founding members of the Rapid City NPM Chapter. Bishop Peter Muhich was on hand to lead a commissioning of all music ministers, which included special prayers for our music ministers who have passed away in 2020/2021 – Luanne Russell (Blessed Sacrament-RC), Roy Brumbaugh (OLPH-RC), and Thomas Bommersbach (OLPH-RC).

Dr. Dan Girardot then led the final presentation of the day, a music-reading session which incorporated skill-building techniques for both Directors and Cantors. This included a review of the four movements of the Mass, multiple tips on the vocal mechanics of singing, and compelling reflections on the Eucharistic Liturgy. All these items, coupled with outstanding selections of music, provided an informative and entertaining afternoon for all.

A full compilation of all the handouts and materials Dr. Girardot provided in his presentations can be found at our website, www.npmrc.org. Be sure to check them out!

Throughout the day, a slideshow provided photos from events through our chapter's 30-year history. In addition, attendees were given opportunities to review and place bids on a marvelous collection of items donated for our Silent Auction fundraiser. With over 70 items up for bids, it resulted in over \$1,400 of funds raised for our chapter ... a record-breaking total! Thanks to your generosity, these funds will help offset costs to bring in future national speakers for our Fall banquet.

What a joyful gathering and celebration for our diocesan musicians! 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](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter)).



Above, and second from left: Peggy Langenfeld Memorial awardees Peggy Lovrien and Bonnie Josten. Second from right: St. Cecilia (clergy) awardee Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek. Above right: St. Cecilia (laity) awardee Regena Thrall. All recipients pictured with Bishop Peter Muhich.

Newsletter Distribution Update

For a number of years, we have published hard copies of our quarterly chapter newsletter and mailed it to music ministers and churches throughout the diocese. Costs for printing and mailing the newsletter were initially handled through our chapter's available funds, then were later absorbed into church expenses at Blessed Sacrament Church. This generous action by the priests at the church at that time enabled us to allocate more funding toward bringing in many of the wonderful national speakers you have enjoyed meeting and learning from at our Fall meetings, or for cantor workshops for youth and adults.

This past year, funding by Blessed Sacrament Church for our newsletter's printing and mailing expenses was discontinued. We explored other options through other Rapid City parishes and through the diocesan office, but with little or no success. Given the increasing costs for printing and mailing, while we have accrued enough funds to publish hard copies of our quarterly newsletters through 2022, doing so will diminish funds we would normally allocate toward expenses in bringing in national speakers for learning/training opportunities for our diocesan musicians.

Given the growing local and national trends for more digital distribution of news and periodicals, we would like to transition to digital distribution of our chapter's quarterly newsletters. We already archive electronic copies of our newsletters in our chapter's website, and we now would like to email our diocesan musicians with a link to our website, for you to easily read current and prior newsletters.

Here's where we need your help. Of the nearly 390 individuals and churches currently on our mailing list, we only have email addresses for just over 200 of them. We are asking if you can please provide

contact lists (email addresses, phone numbers) of your current (and retired) music ministers in your parishes. We will match this information to our existing records, then update (or append) email contact information. Please be assured the master list we have at this time has never been used for anything beyond providing us a contact list to convey chapter news and updates to you. We do not share it with any external resources or organizations.

Please send the requested contact information to Bonnie Josten at bonnie.josten@gmail.com, or by mail to 3343 Pinewood Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702. Bonnie will update the master list and will provide an update by mid-2022 to indicate how close we are to having a full listing of emails for our diocesan musicians.

Thank you for your help in this effort! For all of you who have had opportunity to see and learn from Dr. Dan Girardot, Lee Gwodz, Leah Sedlacek, or Dr. Tom Porter (to name a few), we want to continue providing you opportunities to engage with and learn from these marvelous individuals who are leaders in Catholic music across our country. This effort to move to digital new distributions will allow us to do just that!

NPM 2022 Calendar of Events

Date: January 8, 2022
Event: Winter NPM Meeting
Location: St. Joseph's Church, Spearfish
Topics: Morning/Evening Prayer; Christmas in January (featuring music ministers from five parishes across the diocese); Sage on Stage; Panel Discussion-Music Minister: Person of Prayer & Song

Date: April 2022 (specific date TBD)
Event: Spring NPM Meeting
Location: TBD (Hill City or Philip)
Topics: *(planning underway; subject to change)* Unity With Variety or Introducing New Music to the Congregation; Music Reading Session

Date: June 2022 (specific date TBD)
Event: Summer NPM Meeting
Location: St. John the Evangelist Church, Ft. Pierre
Topics: *(planning underway; subject to change)* Presentation by Fr. Ron Garry (topic TBD); Weddings: music sources/planning tools/Q&A; Good Rehearsal Techniques

Date: October 2022 (specific date TBD)
Event: Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet
Location: TBD
Topics: *(planning underway; subject to change)* Presentation by Bishop Muhich; Psalm Resources (Tammy Schnittgrund); Successful Recruitment and Welcoming of New Music Ministers (group discussion)

If you have any upcoming special music events in your parish or in your community that involve fellow NPM members, email Bonnie Josten (bonnie.josten@gmail.com) with event information, so we can add it to our calendar.

Notification deadlines (to include in our quarterly newsletters) are as follows:

- Spring Newsletter – March 15, 2022
- Summer Newsletter – May 10, 2022
- Fall Newsletter – September 5, 2022

Rapid City Chapter of NPM

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