

NPM Fall Meeting & St. Cecilia Banquet
October 8, 2022
Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont

Schedule

Time	Event / Program
9:30 – 10:00am	Registration/Refreshments (<i>provided by Our Lady of the Black Hills</i>)
10:00 – 10:15am	Welcome (<i>Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek</i>) and Opening Prayer (<i>by Our Lady of the Black Hills music ministers</i>)
10:15 – 11:15am	“Music and the Proclamation of God’s Word” (<i>Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, Our Lady of the Black Hills Church</i>)
11:15 – 12:15pm	Cantor Master Class (<i>Tammy Schnittgrund, St. Therese Church</i>)
12:15 – 1:00pm	St. Cecilia Banquet (<i>lunch catered by Olive Garden</i>)
12:45 – 1:00pm	Business Meeting / Board Elections
1:00 – 1:40pm	Awards Presentations (Peggy Langenfeld Memorial; St. Cecilia (laity & clergy); Emerging Music Minister (youth & adult); Service Years (10, 25, 40, 50yrs); ‘In Memoriam’ remembrance
1:40 - 1:55pm	Commissioning of Music Ministers (<i>Bishop Peter Muhich</i>)
2:00 - 3:00pm	Panel Discussion: “Recruiting Strategies/Best Practices to Bolster Participation in Music Ministry” – <i>featuring area choir directors/musicians, moderated by Carman Timmerman</i>
3:00 - 3:15pm	Closing Prayer (<i>by Our Lady of the Black Hills</i>)

To ensure we have an accurate lunch count, please send your RSVP and payment of \$15.00 (for the catered meal) to Pat McDowell (4833 Pierre St, Rapid City, SD 57702) by Wednesday, October 5, 2022.



St. Cecilia

Pray for us

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Director's Letter

Where did the summer go?? It seems like June 11, the day of our wonderful NPM Summer meeting in Ft. Pierre, was just a few weeks ago. Yet now, our kids (or grandkids) are preparing to return to school, tourist traffic is diminishing, and the days are growing ever shorter as Fall approaches. We hope you have all had opportunity to take a little time off over the summer months, to rest, recharge, and become rejuvenated, as choirs prepare to resume their ministry in September.

Plans for our Fall NPM meeting & St. Cecilia banquet (*Oct 8, Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont*) are in full gear! More details are inside, but we want to take a moment here to spotlight some events to occur that day ...

Awards will be presented for Peggy Langenfeld Memorial, St. Cecilia (laity & clergy), Emerging Music Minister (youth & adult), as well as Service Years (10, 25, 40, 50yr). Recognition, acknowledgement, and appreciation for the important work of our music ministers is unfortunately sometimes overlooked within parishes. This banquet is our opportunity to celebrate each and every one of you for your love, commitment and promotion of music in liturgy. Last year, we were delighted to receive many nominations for these awards from across the diocese. In prior years, the nominations were very sparse. Don't let this be a sparse year! There are so many of our diocesan musicians, singers, and parish priests who are very deserving of a shout out for the wonderful work they do to support our ministry, week after week, year after year. It only takes a few minutes of your time to send us a nomination for a fellow musician or your parish priest. You'll find details inside for awards criteria and submission deadlines. We look forward to hearing from you!

Secondly, we have a few upcoming vacancies in our Chapter Board, for which we will vote at our Fall meeting. This includes: Co-Director, Co-Programming Coordinator, and Secretary/Treasurer (all are two-year terms). A number of you have served in various roles on our Chapter Board over the years, and we are so very grateful for the time and dedication you gave to help support and sustain the work of our Chapter. Still more of you have been asked over the years to consider taking a leadership role in our Chapter. Responses we receive range from "I work full- or part-time," "I already serve on several other committees or organizations," "I'm busy with my family's activities," ... the list goes on. We certainly understand and can respect the need to keep balance in one's life. However, if you were to ask the question to any of our current Board members, they will tell you they are also busy with their jobs, with commitments to other organizations, and are involved in activities or care support obligations with their families.

Our NPM Chapter is here to support all our diocesan music ministers, through training, education, sharing of best practices, and providing opportunities to hear and learn from national speakers who are leaders in Catholic music. Ask yourself the following: *"How important are these quarterly opportunities for learning and fellowship to me, or to helping my fellow music ministers? Can I commit to dedicating four Saturdays a year to attend quarterly meetings, and commit to some additional time through the year in planning/preparing for these meetings?"*

Participation on the NPM Chapter Board is not a full-time – nor even a part-time – commitment. The current Board members are comprised of people who are fully or partially active in music ministry, as well as some who are no longer active in music ministry. If you have any questions about what the roles for Co-Director, Co-Programming Coordinator, or Secretary/Treasurer entail, please feel free to contact either Pat McDowell (patmcdowell44@gmail.com) or Bonnie Josten (bonnie.josten@gmail.com), and we'll be happy to visit with you. Whether you have previously served on our Board or not, please give prayerful consideration to becoming involved in the Chapter Board. It is an enormously rewarding experience!

We are excited for all the marvelous programs and events to share with you at our Fall meeting! On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we look forward to seeing you in Piedmont on October 8th – thank you for all you do!

Bonnie Josten
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

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Fall Meeting 2022 Preview

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 8, 2022, as we're off to the foothills in Piedmont, where nestled in the idyllic and tranquil pine trees is the beautiful location of Our Lady of the Black Hills Church. We have an outstanding and diverse lineup of programs planned, as well as our celebratory annual St. Cecilia banquet and awards! Here's a sneak peek at the day's events ...

To our great delight, our 2021 co-winners of the St. Cecilia Award for Clergy have been available to serve as featured speakers this year. Fr. Ron Garry gave a sterling presentation at our summer meeting, and now Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek, pastor of Our Lady of the Black Hills, is our lead-off speaker this fall! Fr. Andrzej is well-known for his marvelous homilies, his dry wit, and – although he will deny it – his marvelous singing voice. Anyone who has heard him sing Polish carols at Christmas Eve services will have a beautiful memory to enjoy forever! Liturgical music is near and dear to Fr. Andrzej, and he has planned a presentation from the USCCB's document on "Music and the Proclamation of God's Word." It will be a fitting affirmation of the importance and value of music in our liturgy!

Calling all Cantors! Rapid City's very own Tammy Schnittgrund, previous head of NPM's National Committee for Cantors, has given frequent presentations to our Chapter in the past, discussing the spiritual and vocal preparation essential to the role of a cantor, as well as adjudicating numerous Cantor certifications (Basic and Intermediate) for our diocesan music ministers. Now, Tammy invites you and your fellow cantors for a Cantor Master Class. Cantors will sing from a psalm of their choice (please bring a copy for both you and an accompanist), and led by Tammy, we will work together to give helpful hints to enhance each cantor's ministry. If you are a beginning cantor and find you're too anxious to sing, you're welcome to listen and 'soak in' the comments from your colleagues. As a national adjudicator, Tammy has heard cantors with various degrees of experience. She will share helpful hints she's learned toward better knowledge of the ministry. All cantors are welcome to sing!

Delizioso! A delicious banquet catered by Olive Garden will mark our mid-day point, followed by our business meeting, election of board officers, and presentation of awards. Following our banquet and awards ceremony, we are grateful to have Bishop Peter Muhich lead a commissioning of all music ministers, in which we will also offer 'In Memoriam' prayers to fellow music ministers or parish supporters of music ministry who have died in the past year.

The diminishing number of choirs is a growing concern across our diocese. We wrap up the day with a timely discussion on "Recruiting Strategies / Best Practices to Bolster and Retain Participation in Music Ministry." Moderated by Carman Timmerman, a panel of choir directors & musicians from the diocese will offer their insights, followed by a Q&A session with attendees. For our diocesan parishes who have or are experiencing loss of music ministers, this is a presentation you will not want to miss!

What a grand finish to our 2022 series of quarterly meetings! See you on October 8th!



Summer Meeting 2022 Recap

Our Summer 2022 NPM meeting marked several ‘firsts’ for our Chapter! Our host parish, St. John the Evangelist Church, in Ft. Pierre, was initially slated to host our Spring 2020 meeting, but the event was cancelled by the arrival of the pandemic. Twenty-seven months later, St. John’s parish was finally able to host its **first**-ever NPM Chapter meeting in June! Fr. Ron Garry and his crew of helpers did an outstanding job to make the attendees feel welcome, and the parish center provided a cool, comfortable respite from the heat of the summer day.

St. John the Evangelist Church’s centralized location in the state afforded us the rare and exciting opportunity to connect with our musical counterparts from not only across the diocese, but across the entire state! As such, this marked the **first** time that nearly half of our total meeting attendees came from East River parishes! It resulted in a wonderful day of making new acquaintances, sharing common experiences, and learning valuable insights from all in attendance.



Above: Opening Prayer, led by musicians from St. John the Evangelist Church

Four presentations were given throughout the day, providing a variety of topics for our attendees. First up, Fr. Ron Garry led a presentation on “St. Charles de Foucauld – Conversion from Emptiness to Eucharistic Life.” Fr. Ron detailed Brother Charles’ compelling story in four parts – steeped in faith as a child, then abandoning God and living a wild life in his teens and early 20’s, followed by an intense conversion in his late 20’s, and devoting the remainder of his life to a Nazareth vocation. Brother Charles’ service focused not on preaching the Gospel, but by living it, loving people as they are, offering love and little acts of kindness to all.

Fr. Ron shared he first read about Brother Charles in 1981, and has been inspired by him since that time. Fr. Ron, along with several other priests in our diocese, are part of a local Jesus Caritas fraternity, in which they dedicate themselves to the love of Jesus in faithful ministry, Eucharistic Adoration, solitude time, and review of life with brother priests, where they meet several times a year in Silver City.



Fr. Ron led attendees in chanting a prayer from Brother Charles' prayer diary:

"Father, I abandon myself into your hands. Do with me what you will. Whatever you may do, I thank you. I am ready for all, I accept all. Let only your will be done in me and in all your creatures. I wish no more than this, O Lord. Into your hands, I commend my soul. I offer it to you with all the love of my heart, for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself, to surrender myself into your hands without reserve and with boundless confidence. For you are my Father."

Left: Fr. Ron Garry leads a presentation on the life and ministry of St. Charles de Foucauld.

Next, Sheila Schweitzer from Timber Lake gave a presentation on "Music in Rural Parishes." Through her years in music ministry, Sheila explained how she's experienced working with choirs of all sizes, or having none at all. As availability and skill-set of resources can be ever-fluctuating, she shared with attendees various strategies, including: 1) utilize YouTube recordings to help choir learn a song when you cannot meet in person (a strategy she picked up during COVID shutdowns), 2) modify music to work better for musicians (if additional accompaniment measures cause confusion for the choir or congregation, trim them out), 3) take advantage of community choral groups (learn valuable tips, and recruit musicians for your parish), 4) enlist help from and recruit students in local schools, as they can help supplement your existing roster of singers/instrumentalists, 5) utilize technology to get music and choral parts to your singers.

Sheila credits her VSI training for deepening her faith and solidifying her love for liturgical music. She recommends sending her singers to CCD classes to lead students in song. She also strongly encourages Cantor Certification, citing how immensely helpful it was for her, and helped her grow in her ministry. Sheila led attendees in singing several songs which have worked well in her choir, and her information sparked a lively exchange of ideas and experiences by many of the attendees.

Right: Sheila Schweitzer, presenting "Music in Rural Parishes"



Following lunch, Marianne Frein of Philip took the podium as our featured 'Sage on Stage.' Marianne joked that she looked up 'sage' and discovered it either means someone very wise ... or very old! With 30-plus years in music education, Marianne shared that music has been a part of her life from an early age – beginning piano lessons in 4th grade, starting band in 5th grade, then being persuaded by the Ladies Choir to take up organ playing in 8th grade, a role she has continuously served in since that time. She married after college, and began raising a family. She told of playing organ with one hand while keeping a hand on one of her 5 kids, to keep them from falling over the railing in the choir loft! Tragedy struck with her husband's death, leaving her widowed at age 39

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with 5 young children. A few years later, she married again, to Lloyd, and took on 2 more children. Lloyd serves as a deacon at their parish, and together they raised seven children on their ranch. Marianne noted in the 'dips' of life, music has always kept her grounded.



Marianne credits Margaret Thompson with teaching her the concept of liturgy, and shared with attendees some of her lessons learned over the years in music ministry. These included: 1) overcoming her initial tendency to promote change for things she liked, rather than serving the interests of the congregation, 2) appreciating the investment of a good sound system in a church, 3) gratitude for their cantors (at her church in Philip, they have eight cantors!), 4) appreciating the support & encouragement from the congregation, as well as the dedication and humility of our priests, 5) realizing silence (during parts of Mass) is OK. Marianne cautioned attendees to not compare yourself to other music ministers, adding "We are all offering our gifts and responding to our vocation."

Left: Marianne Frein discusses her many experiences in music ministry, in the "Sage on Stage" feature.

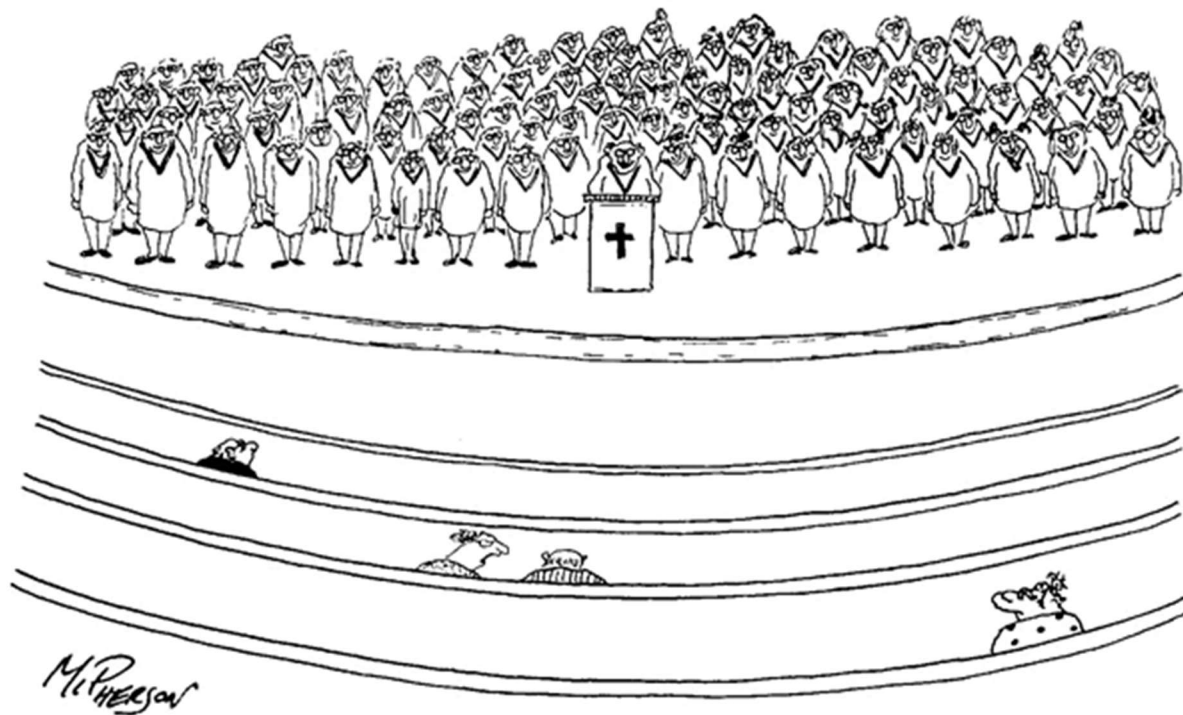
Closing out the day, Terry Schroeder from Rapid City facilitated a presentation on "Utilizing Music from Hymnals. Using examples and experiences from directing members of her choir, Terry led attendees through a large variety of hymns, rounds, and psalms, showing how to add texture and variety to the music through alternating voices (tenor/ soprano, alto/bass, men/women on separate verses, etc).

Terry indicated as choir sizes and availability of vocal ranges may alternate from week to week, you can re-arrange assigned verses to fit the voices available on any given week. The flexibility of this approach was well-received by attendees, many of whom deal with similar resource constraints in their own parishes, and it provided them valuable take-aways to implement with their choirs.

Right: Terry Schroeder provides a wide range of strategies for "Utilizing Music from Hymnals."



Both the Opening and Closing prayer was led by musicians from St. John the Evangelist Church. 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, visit the website (www.npmrc.org) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com /NPMRapidCityChapter](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter)).



"If you ask me, they got a little carried away
with the choir membership drive."

Newsletter Distribution Update

As we have discussed throughout the year, the Fall 2022 edition of our quarterly newsletter marks the official end of paper publications. Out with the old ... In with the new! Beginning with our Winter 2023 newsletter, publication and distribution will transition to an online format.

For those individuals for whom we do not have an email, there will be other options available. We plan to send notices to the West River Catholic, providing a link to the newsletter on our website, and will request that same information be published in parish bulletins. You can then copy and paste the link to your browser and have access to our current and archived newsletters.

If you are currently not receiving any NPM email communications and would like to have our newsletters sent to you, please contact Bonnie Josten (by phone: 605-390-0378; by email, at bonnie.josten@gmail.com, or by mail, at 3343 Pinewood Dr, Rapid City, SD 57702), to provide us your email contact information.

Awards for Fall Meetings / In Memoriam Recognition

Please take a few minutes to offer well-deserved acknowledgement to your fellow musicians for their service, dedication, and promotion of music ministry within their parish and in our diocese! Awards and criteria are listed below. **Please submit your nominations to either Pat McDowell (patmcdowell44@gmail.com) or Bonnie Josten (bonnie.josten@gmail.com) by Wednesday, September 14, 2022.**

Award Name: Peggy Langenfeld Memorial Award

Purpose: Recognize a person or an organization who has promoted NPM and chapter activities in an extraordinary way.

Background: The 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 worship leaders in fostering the art of liturgical music. 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 both a parish and diocesan level, 3) Participation in one or more meeting programs, 4) Current or past officer in Rapid City NPM Chapter.

Award Name: St. Cecilia Award (laity & clergy)

Purpose: Recognize one lay person and one clergy member for exceptional contributions to liturgy and music.

Background: St. Cecilia is the patroness of musicians. Her feast day is celebrated in the Roman Catholic Church 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 (i.e. director, organist, pianist, pastor, cantor, choir member) for five 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.

Award Name: Emerging Musician Award

Purpose: 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 (including participation in other ministries), 3) Commitment, 4) Demonstration of continued learning in music ministry, 5) Initiative

Award Name: Emerging Youth Musician Award

Purpose: 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 16-23 years old, 2) Service of two years or more (including participation in other ministries), 3) Commitment, 4) Demonstration of continued learning in music ministry, 5) Initiative

Service Years Awards – given to those singers or musicians who have served in their ministry for the following number of years: 10, 25, 40, 50

In Memoriam – Recognition for those musicians/singers or benefactors to parish music ministry who have died in the past year. Please let us know their name, parish, and if possible, provide a photograph.

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NPM 2022 / 2023 Calendar of Events

Date: October 8, 2022
Event: Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet
Location: Our Lady of the Black Hills Church, Piedmont
Topics: *"Music and the Proclamation of Word"* Presentation by Fr. Andrzej Wyrostek; Cantor Master Class (Tammy Schnittgrund); Awards Banquet and Commissioning of Music Ministers by Bishop Peter Muhich; *"Recruiting Strategies/Best Practices to Bolster and Retain Music Ministers"* (panel discussion, moderated by Carman Timmerman)

Date: January 21, 2023
Event: Winter NPM Meeting
Location: St. Rose of Lima Church, Hill City
Topics: *"Forming Our Faith as We Worship"* Presentation by Fr. Mark Horn; GIA Music Reading Session; Sage on Stage (Toni Ramos); Introducing New Music to the Congregation (Julie Gray)

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:

- Winter newsletter – December 15, 2022



The Sopranos

RAPID CITY CHAPTER OF NPM

Bonnie Josten
c/o Church of St. Therese
The Little Flower
532 Adams Street
Rapid City, SD 57701-0893

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