



## NPM Spring Meeting – March 25, 2023 St. Isaac Jogues Church, Rapid City



### Schedule of Events

- 9:30 – 10:00am Registration / Refreshments (*provided by St. Therese Church, Rapid City*)
- 10:00 – 10:05am Welcome
- 10:05 – 10:15am Opening Prayer (*musicians from St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis*)
- 10:15 – 11:30am Multicultural Music – Part 2 (*Toni Ramos-St. Isaac Jogues; Maria Snow-OLPH*)
- 11:30 – 12:15pm GIA Music Reading Session - Part 1
- 12:15 – 1:00pm Lunch / Business Meeting
- 1:00 – 1:30pm GIA Music Reading Session - Part 2
- 1:30 – 2:30pm Wedding Planning: Music, Tools, Worship Aids (*Amber Larson, OLPH*)
- 2:30 – 2:45pm Closing Prayer (*musicians from St. Therese Church, Rapid City*)

**To help us secure an accurate lunch count, please RSVP to Carman Timmerman (ph. 605-391-4053, or by email, [carman.timmerman@gmail.com](mailto:carman.timmerman@gmail.com)), by Thursday, March 23, 2023.**

### Director's Letter

One of the great joys I experience in my role on our Chapter board is the opportunity to meet so many wonderful musicians throughout our diocese. While we know each other initially on a musical basis, it is such a treat to visit with all of you and learn more about your lives, interests, and talents outside the realm of music ministry, and the gifts you give not only to your parish but to your community.

I had one such encounter recently at our NPM Winter meeting in Hill City. Dr. George Ceremuga, a family physician and holistic health/healing practitioner in Rapid City, who I've known through his wonderful singing at St. Isaac Jogues Church and the Hispanic choir at Blessed Sacrament, recently became a published author! George wrote a delightful children's story, and has two more books that will be published later this year. You'll find details inside about it and how to order a copy. Congratulations, George, on this wonderful accomplishment!

Our Spring meeting is just a few weeks away, and it is jam-packed with activity! Keep reading for additional details, along with updates on more great events coming later this year, including the return of our silent auction. On behalf of Pat McDowell and myself, we wish for you a Lenten season that is rich with opportunities to experience God's love and mercy. Thank you for sharing your gift of music with others, that they may also experience an extraordinary encounter with Jesus through music!

Bonnie Josten  
Co-Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

**Serving the life and mission of the Church through fostering the art of musical liturgy in Catholic worshipping communities.**

## Spring Meeting 2023 Preview

While we cannot guarantee spring-like weather, Spring will have officially arrived on our calendars, and with it, our NPM Chapter's Spring meeting! Mark your calendar for March 25, 2023, at St. Isaac Jogues Church in Rapid City. We have a terrific line-up of programs in store for you!

With the ever-changing racial and ethnic population of Catholics across the country, we wanted to give focus in 2023 to this growing diversity within our own diocese, and how we can extend the welcoming hand to all in our liturgies through the use of bilingual music. At our Winter meeting, Maria Munoz spoke eloquently to establishing this unity through Hispanic music. Now, at our Spring meeting, we continue the conversation with Toni Ramos and Maria Snow, who will share with us their insights and efforts to both establish and deepen this connection with the Lakota and Filipino populations in our communities, through their music in the liturgy. This is a valuable learning experience for all of us!

Next up is a music reading session with several selections from GIA. Songs were picked to accommodate choirs of either limited sizes or vocal ranges. It features both new songs and some old (classic) songs with a delightful new twist in the arrangement! We're confident you'll come away from this session with music you can readily incorporate in your choir or small group repertoire.

While the Spring season is just beginning, we have our eye fixed ahead on Summer, also known by many of us musicians as 'The Wedding Season.' Many a bridal couple are now beginning the deep dive into all those wedding details, including planning the music for their special day. We are happy to have Amber Larson, former Music Director at the Cathedral, on hand to share with us her valuable tips and strategies to working with couples in planning their wedding music ... from Mass parts to psalms, incorporating solos, creating the worship aids ... Amber will have a wealth of ideas and best-practices to share!

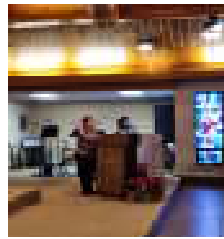
We look forward to seeing you at St. Isaac Jogues Church on March 25<sup>th</sup>!



*St. Isaac Jogues Church, Rapid City.*

## 2023 Winter Meeting Recap

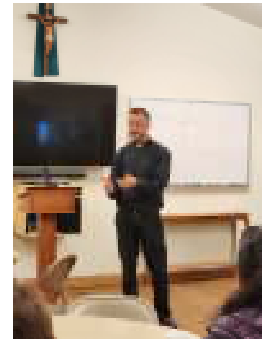
Mother Nature provided a nice break in wintery weather, as Hill City and St. Rose of Lima Church hosted our Rapid City NPM Chapter's Winter meeting on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. With over 20 music ministers from across the diocese in attendance, we had an informative and enjoyable day of learning, singing, and sharing fellowship.



*Opening Prayer, led by Toni Ramos and Terry Schroeder.*

Fr. Mark Horn, pastor at St. Rose of Lima Church, welcomed attendees and led the day's presentations with a discussion on 'Lex Orandi (law of worship/praying) ↔ Lex Credendi (law of believing), or 'Forming Our Faith As We Worship.' Fr. Mark talked about his upbringing on a ranch in Burke, SD, where his faith formation was weak in his formative years. Despite his reluctance to attend, his parents sent him on a youth Steubenville camp in high school, which led to the 'walls coming down' and a beautiful encounter with Christ, which he considers a turning point in his ultimate decision to become a priest. Noting that "God plays the long game," Fr. Mark said after two years in college pursuing an engineering degree and dating a girl strong in her Catholic faith, he came to the realization that a missionary faith and priesthood held greater appeal than marriage. He added that it led to what is still today an insatiable thirst for knowledge of Christ, through reading books, prayer and personal growth.

Fr. Mark described Liturgy as an other-worldly experience, where the words, vestments, actions differ from that of everyday life. Liturgy protects that mystery, and reflects the participation of the People of God in the Work of God. As the people of God (through baptism), we are infused with the life of the Trinity, and are called to show God's faith. In our participation of the Liturgy, we enter the dynamic of all salvation history. Fr. Mark recommended for additional studies on Liturgy, the podcast called 'The Liturgy Guys' (Dennis McNamara, Chris Carsters, Jesse Wyler), and the Adoremus bulletin.



*Fr. Mark Horn discusses "Forming Our Faith as We Worship."*

Regarding music in Liturgy, Fr. Mark noted a song has two parts – Word and Breath. Our Father speaks the Word, and the Spirit breathes it. Sung Word (liturgical chant) is from God, to God, and about God. He referenced the guiding principles in Musicam Sacram, and the primary usage of Gregorian Chant. In a Q&A session following his presentation, Fr. Mark was asked about the direction of music in the post-Vatican II era, and the differing schools of thought on liturgical music that we see currently reflected across our diocese, reflective of either Musicam Sacram or Sing to The Lord. Fr. Mark reiterated his belief that – when possible – chant should be utilized.

The second presentation of the morning was by Roger Severson, a music minister at St. Rose of Lima, in "Teaching New Music to the Congregation." As a long-time educator of music, coach, and administrator in middle school and high school in Belleville, NE, Roger shared a humorous story of how he recruited boys from the basketball team that he coached to join a swing choir which was light on male voices. The boys lost the bet, and he gained enough males voices to balance out his choir! Over time, Roger chose to step back and make music his hobby rather than his career. He and his wife got their children involved in music ministry at an early age, with one of his sons singing a solo at his First Communion Mass.

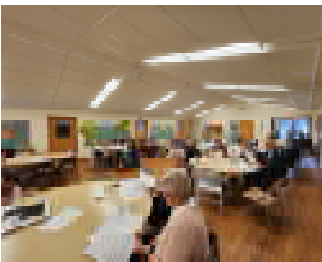


Roger Severson leads attendees in "Teaching New Music to the Congregation."

Roger's approach to teaching new music to a congregation follows these core principles: the words matter the most; the voice is primary, and instrumentation is secondary/background; find the best key suitable to the vocal range of the congregation. Roger recommends singing the new song as a prelude or during communion the week before. The next week, sing it again as a prelude, then invite the congregation to sing, teaching it to them phrase by phrase (could sing it as a round), then sing the entire song together, before Mass begins. For some songs, it may be preferable to teach the refrain first, then move to the verses.

Roger then led attendees in teaching two new songs, listed below. The first one he incorporated singing phrase by phrase in a round, and the second we learned first the refrain, then worked into the verses:

- **"We Bow Down"** – words & music by Viola Grafstrom. *Thankyou Music - publisher*
- **"Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)"** – words and music by Matt Crocker, Joel Houston, Salomon Ligthelm. *HillSouthern Music Publishing*



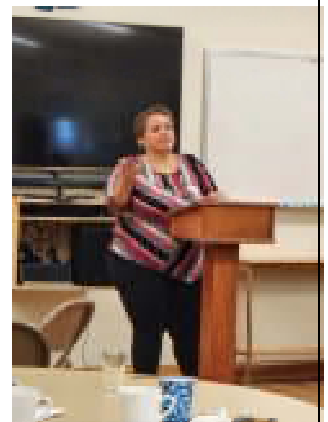
Attendees reviewing new music being taught by Roger Severson.

The music lesson was well-received by meeting attendees, and they expressed appreciation and valuable take-aways in this approach to teaching new music.

Following lunch, George Ceremuga led attendees in a brief centering/grounding prayer of the Lakota. With attendees gathered in a circle, he led all to look to their left, to their right, to look ahead and behind us. All those we see are equal in God's eyes – none are superior or inferior. It was a beautiful reminder of God's love working in us and through us in our daily journey.

This prayer led to the "Sage on Stage" presentation, featuring Toni Ramos from St. Isaac Jogues Church in Rapid City. Toni, a long-time parishioner at St. Isaac Jogues, shared her compelling journey in music ministry. A native of Brooklyn, NY, coming from mixed heritage of Spanish/Puerto Rican/Italian, she grew up in a family of professional drummers, but all she ever wanted to do was sing.

Following a move to Rapid City, and becoming a parishioner at the Cathedral, Toni found herself at a low ebb of faith -struggling through divorce, loss of her home, raising four children on her own, and coping with the recent death of her brother. Despite her own faith struggles, she worked hard and saved to put her kids through the Catholic school system. At her aunt's urging, Toni attended a Mass at St. Isaac Jogues, and she felt an immediate sense of belonging and acceptance from the parishioners. Kathy Little, then-director of music at St. Isaac Jogues, invited Toni to sing with the choir. It marked a pivotal moment for Toni, with an emotional release (tears of joy and comfort), to sing for the Lord. While Toni noted she has sung professionally in bands and for major performances over the years, singing in church is what means the most to her. She finds her greatest joy in cantoring and singing psalms for the congregation to take in as prayer, as well as singing for funerals to give comfort to the family.



Toni Ramos sharing her experiences in music ministry in the "Sage on Stage" presentation.

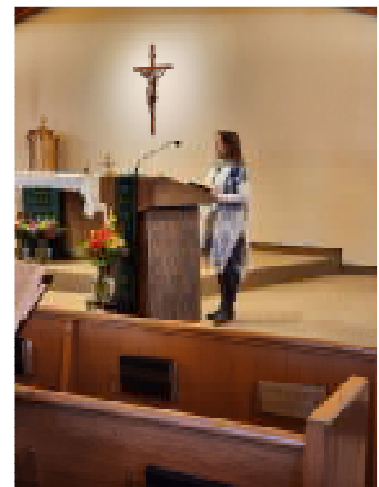
St. Isaac Jogues offer unique liturgical experiences for worshippers – regular Mass on Saturdays, a hybrid Mass at the first Sunday Mass, and a full Lakota Mass at the second Sunday Mass. Toni regularly sings at all three Masses, and shared her experiences in learning Lakota, where she discovered one slight mispronunciation can change a word from one of worship to one of profanity! Toni noted their parish struggles with the loss of youth and loss of the native elders, but they work on ways to continually draw participation from the congregation, and have several success stories of recruiting from the pews. Throughout her presentation, Toni noted “God called me to sing.” She is a powerful messenger of God’s Word, and we are grateful she answered His call.

Closing the day, Maria Munoz from Blessed Sacrament Church in Rapid City led a discussion on “Bilingual Music in a Liturgical & Multicultural Environment.” Originally from Mexico, Maria has served for many years as a consecrated lay minister, lector, and cantor in the Rapid City diocese. She noted in 1984 there was no Hispanic Masses offered in our diocese, and she led efforts over the next several years to convince our bishops of the need to minister to the growing Hispanic population in our diocese. The first Hispanic Mass was offered in 1995, beginning with one Mass per month, but has since grown to weekly Masses, which have been held for a number of years at Blessed Sacrament Church.

Maria shared with attendees a video from the USCCB presentation on “Building Intercultural Competence,” which addressed the changing population of Catholics in the US, with primary representation now reflected in those of Hispanic/Latin America/African American/Pacific Islander heritages. For a number of immigrants, they leave their family behind and come to America with only their faith. Language barriers in their community’s Catholic churches lead some to change their religion to a church where they are welcomed and their language is understood. The video underscored efforts in dioceses across the country to communicate and work beyond cultural identity, noting an approach of: Unity in Christ, Unity and Prayer, Unity in Hospitality and Solidarity, Unity in Mission, partnered with Invitation to connect with diverse members in your parish. Noting when people feel welcomed and valued, they participate. When the invitation is accepted, the is Unity in Participation and Collaboration. Emphasis must be given to planning WITH them and not FOR them, noting we are called to come together in an inclusive way that benefits the entire assembly.

Maria provided attendees a booklet of valuable information (which is also posted to our website) detailing approach to integration, strategies to overcome obstacles and challenges, suggestions for planning music for bilingual Masses, and references from liturgical documents, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia / Redemptionis Sacramentum* (*Eucharistic Documentum for the New Millennium*).

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](http://www.npmrc.org)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter](https://www.facebook.com/NPMRapidCityChapter)).



*Toni Brumbaugh leads Closing Prayer.*

**2023 Rapid City Chapter NPM Silent Auction  
Fall Meeting – September 23, 2023  
Terra Sancta Retreat Center, Rapid City**

We need your auction items! Clothes, jewelry, crafts, canned goods, décor, services – You name it, we'll sell it!

Here's how you can participate:

- Bring your auction items for display and bidding on September 23.
- Final bidding will occur at the September 23rd meeting.
- Email a description (and photo if possible) of the auction item(s) you intend to bring to the auction to Carman Timmerman at [carmantimmerman@gmail.com](mailto:carmantimmerman@gmail.com).



Don't forget to invite / involve your parish priest! Here are some suggestions ...

- A round of golf
- Motorcycle ride in the Hills
- Dinner with the priest
- Wine- (or beer-) tasting event

It's a great way to learn about your parish priest's hobbies/interests, and get him involved with NPM and supporting our music ministers across the diocese!

Funds collected from our Silent Auctions go directly toward funding guest speakers (including NPM national leaders or popular liturgical music composers) to speak at our Fall meetings. Our scheduled speaker for the 2023 Fall meeting is Sr. Kathleen Harmon, SNDdeN, a noted liturgical theologian and musician, author and composer, presenter, and teacher. She served for many years on NPM's national board and is the foremost authority on the ministry of Cantors. She's a powerhouse of information, and she delivers her message in a most engaging, humorous, and personable manner! You do NOT want to miss this presentation!

Our 2021 Silent Auction was a record-breaker, with just over \$1,700 collected! We are so very grateful for your generosity and support of our NPM Chapter, and we look forward to setting new records in 2023!

Here is information on George Ceremuga's new book, God Loves the Children. It contains valuable life lessons on love, health, and healing for people of all ages. If you're looking for gift ideas for a child or grandchild, this is a book to consider!



## God Loves the Children

Through the eyes of a child, "God Loves the Children" inspires the reader to be empowered to live fully alive in mind, body, and spirit. Help us show the world a better way in medicine—to teach, to love and to heal.

Available at:



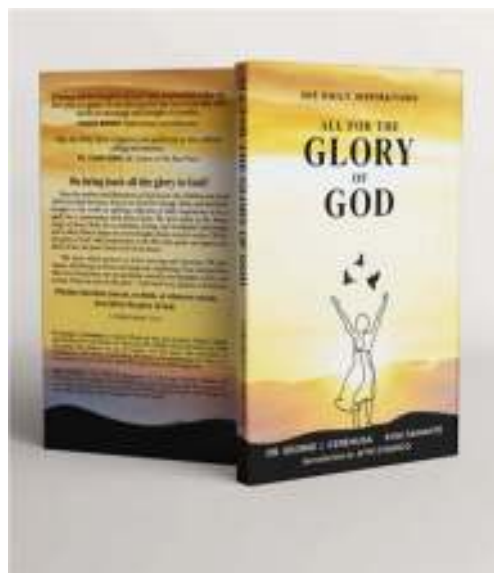
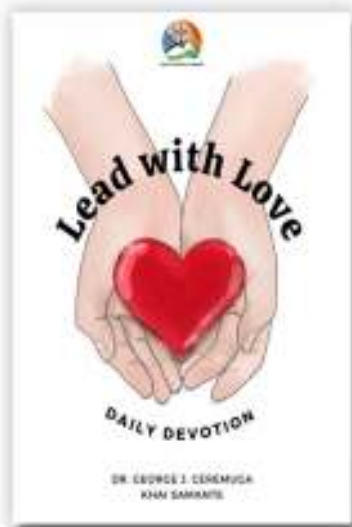
BARNES & NOBLE



Bookshop.org

God Loves the Children – Paperback \$18.99 (includes a 12-chapter interactive workbook); Kindle \$9.99.

Coming this Spring are two more books from George! <https://drgeorgej.com/published-books/>



## NPM 2023 Calendar of Events

**Date:** Mar 25, 2023  
**Event:** Spring NPM Meeting  
**Location:** St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City  
**Topics:** Multicultural Music - Toni Ramos and Maria Snow; GIA Music Reading Session, Wedding Planning - Amber Larson

**Date:** Jun 17, 2023  
**Event:** Summer NPM Meeting  
**Location:** St. Francis of Assisi Church, Sturgis  
**Topics:** Mini-Workshops (keyboard/organ/guitar/cantor/songleader/vocal techniques/directing)

**Date:** Sep 26, 2023  
**Event:** Fall NPM Meeting / St. Cecilia Banquet / Silent Auction  
**Location:** Terra Sancta  
**Topics:** Presentations by national NPM speaker, Sr. Kathleen Harmon

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](mailto: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:

- Summer Newsletter – May 6, 2023
- Fall Newsletter – Aug 18, 2023



46<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NPM NATIONAL CONVENTION  
**Walking with  
the Saints**  
JULY 10-14, 2023 • RENO, NEVADA | JULY 18-20, 2023 • VIRTUALLY

Early registration will begin in late February. Check their website for more information, <http://npm.org>, or send your inquiries to [npmring@npm.org](mailto:npmring@npm.org).

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS, RAPID CITY CHAPTER  
BY GOING TO: [NPMRC.ORG](http://NPMRC.ORG)  
OR FACEBOOK: [FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER](https://FACEBOOK.COM/NPMRAPIDCITYCHAPTER)

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[NPM.ORG](http://NPM.ORG)

Serving the life and mission of the Church through fostering the art of musical liturgy in Catholic worshipping communities.