

NPM Winter Meeting, 31 January 2026

St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City

(221 Knollwood Dr., Rapid City, SD)



- 9:30 Registration / Light Breakfast
- 10:00 Welcome
- 10:05 Opening Prayer (musicians from St. Isaac Jogues)
- 10:15 Fr. John Hatcher, SJ: Catholic Inculturation, Part I
- 11:20 Music Ministry and Hymns of Three Other Cultures
- 11:20: Lakota (Toni Ramos, St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City)
- 11:40: Hispanic (Jaime Munoz, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City)
- 12:00: Filipino (Rosevin Hull, and Nathalie Navarra, Cathedral OLPH)
- 12:25 Lunch / Business Meeting
- 1:10 Fr. John Hatcher, SJ: Catholic Inculturation, Part II
- 2:15 Reflection/Closing Prayer (Ed Fischer, St. John's, Custer; and Terry Schroeder, St. Therese, Rapid City)
- 2:35 Dismissal

To help us secure an accurate lunch count, please RSVP Carman Timmerman by Thursday 29 Jan 2026. (ph. 605-391-4053, or email carmantimmerman@gmail.com).

Director's Letter

Here at last is the 2026 Winter Newsletter. **Our Winter meeting is in one week – we hope you can come!** Winter Meeting content details are on p. 2. **Current Chapter Board activities** are on p. 3.

Meanwhile: I know we all know this, but maybe it bears repeating occasionally:

Why do we sing? It lifts our hearts! Why do we play the piano, the guitar – shoot, *anything* – with others? It lifts us together! In joy or in sorrow, communal music bears our emotions, all our individual-yet-combined *selves*, somewhere. Out of us, together, and into some greater place.

But when we consciously lift our voices and our instrumental talents *to God* – then we reach the connection on the other end! Not just “somewhere,” but the throne of Heaven itself. For all of us music minsters, as we lead others in music, we help them (and us) “pray twice” – to feel His presence all around us, running through all of us, lifting all our hearts together to Him. This is our purpose and our calling and (often!) our very great joy.

– Chantry Nelson, Director, Rapid City NPM Chapter

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

Preview: 2026 Winter Meeting

THEME

Catholic Musical Inculturation

“In Catholic theology, inculturation ... [refers to] the Church's efforts to make the message of Christ penetrate a given sociocultural milieu, calling on the latter to grow according to all its particular values, as long as these are compatible with the Gospel.” – *International Theological Commission: Faith and Inculturation* (1988).

Practically speaking, this means including elements from our heritage and culture (music, language, gestures, services, decor, architecture, etc.) that help us more easily connect to God. Inculturation is all around us. Our Winter Meeting aims to open a window onto the music and traditions of cultures different from those we may be most familiar with.

PRESENTATIONS: Fr. John Hatcher, SJ (St. Isaac Jogues) will give two one-hour presentations on Catholic Inculturation, morning and afternoon. In the hour before lunch, others will give short presentations on the musical traditions of three cultures which have numerous members in our diocese: Lakota (Toni Ramos, St. Isaac Jogues), Hispanic (Jaime Munoz, Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City), and Filipino (Rosevin Hull, and Nathalie Navarra, Cathedral OLPH).

NEW! We are excited to announce that Certified Lay Ecclesial Ministers (CLEMs) can earn up to three credit hours by attending all three sessions (Hatcher Inculturation I, Hatcher Inculturation II, and “Music Ministry and Hymns of Three Other Cultures”). We intended to offer similar certification credits for at all future Quarterly Meetings.



ON DISPLAY AND AVAILABLE at the Winter Meeting:

Simplified Mass Settings – Just three or four sets of our Simplified Mass Settings are still available, free, to any NPM member who wants one. Per our arrangement with OCP and GIA, **these are the last of our legal copies; once they're gone, there will be no more.**

Auction Items – Items remaining from the 2023 Fall Meeting silent auction will also be displayed at the Winter Meeting. Please look them over and make an offer on anything that catches your eye.

CHAPTER BOARD ACTIVITIES

We welcome Teresa Spiess as our new Programming Director. She has done a LOT in the few months she's been in office. (For Spring, Summer, and Fall meeting dates/locations, see p. 6).

Plan now to be at the Fall Meeting! It should be good. **Fr. Ricky Manalo**, nationally-known Paulist Priest, Composer, Musician, Author, Professor (see <https://www.rickymanalo.org/>) will be here for a two-day NPM event.: he'll give a concert Friday evening, and Saturday morning he'll be our keynote speaker on the topic "Toward a More Perfect Communion."

Former director **Bonnie Josten is compiling a diocesan-wide Substitute Accompanist List** (yes!) and plans to keep it up to date. She'll give details at the Winter Meeting Business Meeting.

2025 FALL MEETING RECAP

Our Fall Meeting was held Saturday 20 September 2025 at Terra Sancta Retreat Center; the theme was Youth and Catholic Music.

>> OPENING PRAYER was led by **Barry Furze, St. Francis of Assisi, Sturgis.**

>> FIRST SESSION: "**Youth Musical Involvement at 2025 Steubenville of the Rockies and Elsewhere,**" by **Anna Kraft and Sheila Schweitzer**, both of Holy Cross, Timber Lake, consisted of two short reports followed by an extensive, enlightening Q&A.

Anna reported that much of the Steubenville music was "more contemporary, really peaceful, like heart-to-heart deep...sometimes just instrumental...Yeah, it's music that you'd hear at Hills Alive [the annual, free, big-name Black Hills Christian music festival], but without the hype." She and Sheila also spoke of Holy Cross's youth band which meets Wednesday nights – usually four guitars, one drummer and "an older lady" on piano. Currently, besides the older lady, the members are middle/high school boys and Anna (a high school junior). Anna said her participation "has deepened my love for the church, 'cause [now] I'm not just sitting there listening. It really has deepened my faith, because I'm there with God." With Sheila and others' encouragement ("helping me practice, helping me out with my confidence"), she is now also "using my voice more in the church."

>> SECOND SESSION: **two concurrent mini-workshops: 1) Cantoring (Tammy Schnittgrund) and 2) Piano Accompanying (Bonnie Josten)**, both of St. Therese, Rapid City.

1) Cantoring: Tammy, with the assistance of three young cantors, gave a dynamic workshop packed with clear, well-modeled technical advice ("know your cues, when to walk up, when to wait..."; "...see, you get so caught up in the beauty of the Psalm or whatever, but you can't lose focus"; when cuing the congregation, [demonstrating:] "your gesture goes with your breath"). Comments heard afterward were all on the line of, "It was SO HELPFUL" and "She's always SO GOOD."

SECOND SESSION, continued:

2) Piano Accompanying: Bonnie, seated at a piano down the hall, with warmth and similar clarity addressed the mental nuances of accompanying (re preludes: “you set the [liturgical] tone [for the mass]...but [also] be mindful here what the congregation is doing – maybe they’re praying, maybe collecting their thoughts...”), gave stylistic and technical tips (“for verse 4, maybe take the right hand up an octave, maybe add some left hand arpeggios...”) and spoke of the reason you’re there in the first place (“remind yourself every time you sit at that piano or organ, or get in front of that ambo – ‘God, guide my fingers – guide what I am about to play.’ We are but a vessel.”)

>> ST. CECILIA BANQUET: 12:30 – 2:05 PM comprised the **St. Cecilia Banquet, business meeting, chapter board elections** (see p. 5), **Awards Presentations** (see p. 5), and the **Commissioning of Music Ministers** by Fr. Tony Lasfardi.

>> THIRD SESSION: **Sr. Sara Kowal** (SCTJM Sisters, Rapid City), speaking on “**Youth and Catholic Music**” held attendees in such thrall that several groaned when her time was up.

For any (such as this writer) who might occasionally worry about the dangerous power of music (it facilitates emotional manipulation, so cult leaders, dictators and advertisers regularly employ it to further worldly and/or ungodly ends), Sister came out decisively on the side of: “Our emotions are a gift from God, and, rightly ordered, they lead us into communion with God.” Moreover, after years of working with youth, she’s consistently seen that “All these young people have a lot of pent-up emotions inside them that they don’t know how to express...[and] there’s no better place for that to happen than in front of Christ.” She pointed out that memory is tied to emotion. Thus “it’s precisely these emotions that keeps people Catholic,” and if or when they fall away from the Church, “those [emotions] become memories that bring them back later.”

Sister’s God-centered practical advice included: for Adoration: “I never pick the songs beforehand. Never.” She starts with praise songs; “sometimes I’ll repeat a bridge or a chorus...because that’s what the Holy Spirit wants to say.” The goal is to “[pray] the music that we’re playing.”

Resources: Sister recommends the Catholic Music Initiative: Ever Ancient. Ever New. (Sister: it takes the “old and new and bring[s] it together.” <https://www.catholicmusicinitiative.org/>). Songs that she herself personally “uses a lot” include “Pour My Love” (UPPERROOM), “Restored” (Dave Moore), “Worthy of It All” (Village Lights), and “Give Me Jesus” (UPPERROOM).

>> CLOSING PRAYER was led by **musicians from St. Isaac Jogues**, Rapid City.

>> FALL MEETING PHOTOS: **Awards and In Memoriam photos, turn the page.** For **Sessions 1-3, etc.:** the compiler of this newsletter (Chantry Nelson) should send photos to the website soon. (Unlikely, but she might be able to also include these photos in a revised edition of this newsletter.)

RAPID CITY CHAPTER OF NPM

ELECTED OFFICERS

Teresa Spiess (Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City) was newly elected **Programming Coordinator**. Re-elected were **Director, Chantry Nelson** (St. Michael's, Hermosa) and **Secretary-Treasurer, Carman Timmerman** (St. Therese, Rapid City). Our former long-time **Director Bonnie Josten** (St. Therese) formally resigned from her many years on the board; she made a short speech and there was long and emotional applause from all present. **Ed and Jeannie Fischer** (St. John's, Custer) and **Terry Schroeder** (St. Therese) will continue to serve as **members-at-large**.

AWARDS

♪ **Peggy Langenfeld Memorial: Mary Krupka** (Cathedral OLPH, Rapid City)

♪ **St. Cecilia Award (Clergy): Dcn. John Osnes** (OLBH, Piedmont)

♪ **St. Cecilia Award (Laity): two awardees:**

Toni Ramos (St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City)

Kathy Sayles (St. John the Baptist, Custer)

♪ **Emerging Music Minister Award (Adult): Jennifer Hall** (Blessed Sacrament, Rapid City)



Mary Krupka
(Cathedral OLPH),
Peggy Langenfeld
Memorial Award



Dcn. John Osnes (OLBH,
Piedmont), St. Cecilia Award
(Clergy)



Toni Ramos (St. Isaac Jogues,
Rapid City), St. Cecilia
Award (Laity)



Jennifer Hall (Blessed
Sacrament, Rapid City),
Emerging Music Minister

In Memoriam



Fr. William Andrew "Bill"
Zandri

Diocese of Rapid City

10 Nov 1945 –
18 Aug 2025

Dcn. Michael Curtin
St. Isidore, Colome,
and Rapid City Diocese

22 Sept 1934 –
1 Sept 2025



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NPM 2026 Calendar of Events

Date: **31 January 2026**
Event: NPM Winter Meeting
Location: **St. Isaac Jogues, Rapid City**
Theme: Catholic Musical Inculturation

Date: **18 April 2026**
Event: NPM Spring Meeting
Location: **St. Patrick's, Wall**

Date: **13 June 2026**
Event: NPM Summer Meeting
Location: **St John's, Fort Pierre**

Date: **25-26 September 2026** (*Friday night concert, Saturday meeting*)
Event: NPM Fall Meeting, St. Cecilia Banquet and Awards Ceremony
Location: **Our Lady of the Black Hills, Piedmont**
Featuring: **Fr. Ricky Manalo**, Paulist Priest, Composer, Musician, Author, Professor (see <https://www.rickymanalo.org/>). Fr. Manalo concert Friday evening. Saturday, Fr. Manolo keynote speaker; topic, "Toward a More Perfect Communion."



MEANWHILE —

Please tell us your upcoming events. If you know of upcoming special music events in your parish or community that involve fellow NPM members, **contact Chantry Nelson** (marycsnelson@gmail.com) with event information. We will inform our mailing list, add it to our calendar and (if you can tell us far enough in advance) put it in the quarterly newsletter.

Reminder: 2026 Annual Awards. As mentioned at the 2025 Fall Meeting, **please start noticing NOW** (and continue to keep your eye on) those **diocesan musicians and music ministers who might be candidates** for one of our awards. We'll call for nominations sometime this summer.

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For more information about the National Association of Pastoral Musicians:

RAPID CITY CHAPTER

[npmrc.org](http://npmrc.org)

[facebook.com/npmrapidcitychapter](https://facebook.com/npmrapidcitychapter)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

[npm.org](http://npm.org)