

ZIPCOMING NPM EVENTS:



NATIONAL
PASTORAL
MUSICIANS



Grand Rapids
Diocesan
Chapter

- **The next GR Chapter Member Event: *Annual Spring Banquet.*** Friday April 18th, and Saturday April 19th, 2008, at The Church Of The Holy Spirit. See details inside.
- **The next GR Chapter Board Meeting:** For the months of February, March, April and May our Grand Rapids chapter of National Pastoral Musicians will hold their monthly board meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:30 am. If you are interested in attending, please contact alinek@peoplepc.com for the location. Info is at www.npm-gr.org.
- **Friday Fellowship and Breakfasts.** Join your peers on Friday mornings, 9:00 at Cherie Inn, 969 Cherry SE (just west of Diamond) in Grand Rapids. It's a great way to touch base, share wisdom and good conversation.
- **Taizé Prayer** - A mixture of song, silence and scripture. An Ecumenical Prayer for Peace On is held on the second Monday of each month at [St. Mary's Church](#) at 7:30 PM. Please join together to pray for a renewal of peace in our world.

WHO'S WHERE?

Congratulations to Michelle Ogren. She has accepted a permanent part time position as director of music at the Dominican chapel. We wish her the best as she adds yet another ministry to her platter!

Diocese of Grand Rapids NPM Board for 2007-2008

Director: [Aline Snoeyink](#)

Hospitality: [Joe Houdek](#)

Treasurer: [Pam Szczesny](#)

Prayer: [Phil Konczyk](#)

Programs: *(open)*

Membership : [Larry Barton](#)
(& web site)

Publicity: [Dan Daller](#)

Yearbook Editor: [Mary Harwood](#)

Recording Secretary: [Brenda Meyer](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Rick Wykoski](#)

At-Large: [Gordon Proulx](#) , [Sr. Catherine Williams, OP](#) , Student: [Lisa Townsend](#)

Ex-Officio representatives:

Immediate Past Director: [Barbara McCargar](#)

Diocesan Office for Worship: *(open)*

Cathedral Musician: [Brandon Spence, DMA](#)

Liaison of:

Music Education : [Dennis Rybicki](#)

School of Cantor Training: [Carol McAndrew](#)

Am Guild of Organists (AGO): [Dick Hoogterp](#)

600 Burton Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI
49507-3278

Please feel free to email any of us with your questions, comments or concerns!

REFLECTIONS ON BEING PASTORAL

By Anna Colby,
Past Treasurer & Publicity Chair

Way before Christmas, Aline sent me an email asking that I consider writing something for this newsletter issue. This has been hanging in the back of my mind ever since – through all of the Advent & Christmas seasons, wondering what “wisdom” I could share. Aline suggested that I share some perspectives on working with the Hispanic community, or youth. Well, I already shared some Hispanic ministry information at our October meeting, and this year has NOT been successful for me in the area of youth; so I have been pondering what I could share. Yesterday it finally came to me, and ideas have been tossing around in my head for about 24 hours now. I would like to share some thoughts about being “pastoral.”

What does it mean to be a “Pastoral Musician?” Being a musician is the easy part. After all, most of us have grown up learning to become musicians – piano lessons at the age of 6, many years in the school band(s), choir(s) or orchestra, college classes in music theory, music history, class piano, conducting, instrumental instruction on things we will never master (just in case you ever end up being a band or orchestra teacher), senior recitals, and a myriad of other required things just to get that piece of paper that certifies us to be musicians. I have endured years teaching music in public schools (only 3, thankfully) and after a 15-year hiatus, I came back to music education – this time in the Catholic school system, only to finally wind up back where I started at a very early age – being a “pastoral” musician in the Church. Or, I should say a musician in the Church.

But now I look back on my life and ask, “where do we learn to be ‘pastoral?’” I checked the Webster’s dictionary – the one that was my prize for being the runner-up of the county spelling bee when I was in 8th grade! It says “pastoral” means: (1a) of, relating to, or composed of shepherds or herdsmen <!?!?!?> (b) devoted to or based on livestock raising <not in my parish> (c) portraying or expressive of the life of shepherds <maybe we’re beginning to see something here –remember the Good Shepherd?> (2a) of or relating to spiritual care or guidance, esp. of a congregation <hmm> (b) of or relating to the pastor of a church <now, that’s definitely not me>.

Interesting... I really must think in terms of (2a) – although I can also definitely see a connection with (1c). And, I believe that life – whether or not we look for it – is the teacher of being pastoral, and that the congregation is not just the people we see every weekend. In recent years, and especially in the last few months, I have had many opportunities to experience or observe being “pastoral.”

Just a few of weeks ago, I finally made the time to go to God’s Kitchen with a group from my parish to serve a meal. What an experience – many of my fellow parishioners have given of their time many times over the past few years, and I only chose to go once (but it will not be my last time). That’s pastoral – being a servant to others less fortunate than us. I’m ashamed to know that my daughter’s public school class did this when she was in 6th grade, and it has taken me until now to get on board.

There have been the singers in the choir who had no idea what an alto, tenor, soprano, or bass part was, but they sang with their whole heart and soul, and enjoyed every minute of it (much to the chagrin of the rest of the group). And the middle or high school boy struggling to find his place in life who can finally find a place to be a part of a group – in the bass section (even if it might be a couple of years until he’s really a bass). Letting them be there – that’s pastoral.

There are the geriatric voices in the resurrection choir who

share their time and talent on short notice every time there is a funeral and/or vigil service for someone they may not even know. Oh, and the funeral lunch workers who do the same. That’s pastoral.

There are the greeters at the door – whether it is at church, or Meijer, or Wal-Mart – the people with a friendly smile, a hand-shake, or maybe even directions to the restroom – that’s pastoral.

There is the 93 year old mother who insists on feeding you after you have just driven 6 hours to visit her & Dad – even if you did just stop for a meal 2 hours ago... and the fact that you go ahead & eat even if you’re not hungry. That’s pastoral.

There are the people who go Christmas caroling at nursing homes and hospitals – they are pastoral. Why don’t we do that at other times of the year?

And there’s even the dog who, whether you’ve been gone for 5 minutes or 5 hours, is there to greet you with a ball in her mouth and her whole body wagging – that’s pastoral!

Then there are all of the things that tend to happen when a loved one passes away. Most of you know that I experienced that recently. When my husband was in the hospital, and even though I did not yet realize it was his last day on earth, there was the person who brought a Cherie Inn breakfast to me, because I did not go to the Friday morning meal. There were the people who came to visit at the hospital. There were the parishioners who I found out worked at the hospital, and the Good Lord seemed to bring them all across our path. There were the clergy from our parish and others – even non-Catholic ones – who came to pray with us. There was the person who found a sub to cover the Quince Años at their own parish so they could come & play for the wedding at my parish (even though it was several weeks until I remembered to make sure they were paid). There were the musicians who shared their time and talent, refusing to be paid, at the funeral rites for Marv. And, did you know that at the Lack’s Cancer Center there are musicians who just sit and play? There’s the piano in the lobby. There’s the lady who plays the harp in the doctor’s office waiting room. All of them are pastoral.

Now, here’s my one thing to share about my experiences with the Hispanic community. Shortly after Marv’s funeral, a young nephew of two of my Spanish choir members passed away. He had been ill all of his life – I found out that when he was born, he was not expected to live more than a few days. But, instead he lived to become a young adult. At that point in my life, one of the last things I wanted to do was go to a funeral home. But I did. I arrived early – a little before the scheduled visitation time – hoping to pay my respects and get out before the crowd got there. Well, the crowd was already there. The place was packed. Packed with people who were just sitting. They were not visiting with the grieving parents or each other – just sitting. I felt really uncomfortable – I was definitely out of my comfort zone. My choir members saw me and immediately hugged me and took me to be introduced to the young man’s mother. Not knowing whether or not she understood me, I expressed my sorrow for her pain. I spent a short time in prayer at the casket, and then excused myself to leave. As I got in my car, it suddenly occurred to me that I finally understood why on the day after my husband died, after the Spanish wedding at my parish, the entire Spanish choir came to the funeral home where I was in the middle of making the arrangements. They came there just to sit & be with me. I did not understand at the time. And, after Mass on Sunday, several of them also came to my home (bringing enchiladas) to just sit. Now I understand – many of our Hispanic brothers and sisters do not have a lot of the “things” that many of us have. But they do understand about being “pastoral.”

We still have much to learn, and if we are open to it, life will be our teacher. There are many musical things we can learn at NPM gatherings, conventions and institutes, but it takes life to teach us to be pastoral. I hope that our up & coming musicians can be open to this important part of your education. And, for those of us that have been around for a while, it is never too late to keep learning!

Send In Your Photos

We encourage you to share any photos you have from our chapter events, the conventions, etc. We would like to display them through our web site for other members to enjoy. If you have any photos that you would like to share, please contact us by email contactus@npm-gr.org or call Larry at 616.235.4558.

New U.S. Music Document

Now Available

You may now view and download [Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship](#) (PDF), a new set of guidelines for music in the liturgy approved overwhelmingly (88%) by the U.S. bishops last month. The document had originally been proposed as a legislative document, but the bishops opted instead to issue it as an official statement of the USCCB, which still required a two-thirds vote of Latin rite bishops.

Sing to the Lord is longer (more than 250 paragraphs) and more comprehensive than its predecessors. It addresses some topics not covered in earlier documents, treats other areas more expansively, incorporates the norms of recent official liturgical documents, and draws on the experience of celebrating the current "ordinary" form of the Mass for the past thirty-seven years

However, a NPM source says that the USCCB will be removing the "Sing to the Lord" document in the near future....you may want to download it as it will probably be quite a while before it is published...and go figure! It is in effect....although there are no major surprises except for those of you fond of wearing cassock and surplis in your ministry!



Office for Worship

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LENTEN CONCERT ST STEPHEN CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Stephen's Choir
Rosewood Ensemble
(*String Quartet*)
Frances Brockington, Soprano
(*Chair of Vocal Music—
Wayne State University*)

SUNDAY, 9 MARCH 2008
4:00 p.m.

(RECEPTION FOLLOWING)
750 Gladstone SE
East Grand Rapids, MI

ANNUAL GR-NPM SPRING BANQUET AND WORKSHOP

Our GR-NPH Spring Banquet is going to be twice the fun as before. This two day event begins with a dinner banquet on Friday, April 18th, 2008 at Holy Spirit Parish, 2230 Lake Michigan Drive in Grand Rapids.

Social hour is at 5:30 PM, Dinner at 7:00 with guest speaker Paul French at 8:00. He will talk about the changes in our leadership roles according to our new "Sing To The Lord" documents.

But it doesn't end there!

On Saturday, April 19th, Paul will present "Musical Artistry vs. Liturgical Reality." This workshop goes from 9:00 AM to Noon at Holy Spirit, with registration at 8:30 AM.

Watch your mailbox for the RSVP flyer with all the details.

For more info please contact Joe Houdek at:

jhoudek@hsparish.com



**SAVE THE DATE!!
SEE YOU THERE!!**

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Diocesan Choir Back In Action!

After taking a short winter break, The Grand Rapids Diocesan choir, under the direction of Dennis Rybicki, has resumed their rehearsal schedule. They rehearse on Monday evenings, from 7:30-9:00 pm at the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

This exciting ensemble continues to serve our community. They sang at the Rite of Election on Sunday, February 10th, and will be singing at these Diocesan events:

Tuesday, March 18th: Chrism Mass
Saturday, May 10th: Pentecostal

Multi-cultural concert

Mr. Rybicki would also like to announce: plans are underway for a Diocesan choir tour to Ireland in 2009!

If you are interested in joining the diocesan choir please contact Mr. Rybicki at:

DRybicki@dioceseofgrandrapids.org



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