



NATIONAL  
PASTORAL  
MUSICIANS



Grand Rapids  
Diocesan  
Chapter

January 2009  
newsletter

## UPCOMING NPM EVENTS:

- **The next GR Chapter Event** is going to be a hymn sing led by Bob Batastini, on Sunday, March 22, 2009. If you've never experienced the glorious sound of an old-fashioned hymn sing, join us as we sing new texts to old hymn tunes. "Tunes Through the Centuries, Words for Today" is scheduled for 3:00pm, at St. Francis DeSales in Holland. Watch your mailbox for more information soon.
- Our annual **Banquet** is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2009. Our speaker will be the National NPM president, Michael McMahan. Reserve the date on your calendar NOW so you won't miss this opportunity to get a national perspective here within our local chapter. Stay tuned for more information.
- **The next GR Chapter Board Meeting:** is 8:30 AM, Saturday, February 21. Plans are rolling for next year's programs. If you have any suggestions, please contact our chapter director [Aline Snoeyink](#).
- **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. Musicians are always welcome - see [the website](#) for more information.
- **National NPM Convention** July 6-10, 2009 in Chicago, IL. See information inside.

## WHO'S WHERE?

Congratulations to Brandon Spence who is now serving as the director of music ministries in Big Rapids for St. Mary's parish and St. Paul's Campus parish.

Congratulations to Jane Van Houten who has taken the position of Director of Music at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Grand Rapids.

We also welcome Todd Wilkie, who has been serving St. Stephen parish, along with assistance from Barbara McCargar and Aquinas College students.

### Diocese of Grand Rapids NPM Board for 2008-2009

Director: [Aline Snoeyink](#)

Treasurer: [Brian Pouget](#)

Programs: [Dan Daller](#)

Publicity: [Michelle Ogren](#)

Recording Secretary: [Nancy Kadzban](#)

Newsletter Editor: [Rick Wykoski](#)

Hospitality: [Joe Houdek](#)

Prayer: [Sr. Catherine Williams, OP](#)

and [Gordon Proulx](#)

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

Yearbook Editor: [Mary Harwood](#)

At-Large: [Anna Colby](#)

At-Large: [Sheri Proulx](#)

At-Large (student): [James Trares](#)

*Ex-Officio representatives:*

Immediate Past Director: [Barbara McCargar](#)

Diocesan Office for Worship: [Patty Hughes](#)

Cathedral Musician: [Nick Palmer](#)

Diocesan Director of Music: [Dennis Rybicki](#)

& Music Education Liaison

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

American Guild of Organists (AGO) Liaison: Dick Hoogterp

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

## **NPM-GR Board of Directors**

Are you interested in sitting on the board of directors for our Grand Rapids chapter of NPM?  
Do you know someone you feel would be a good candidate?

Our annual elections will be at our banquet on May 15th  
Our nominating committee is formed.

If you, or you know of someone who may be interested, please contact one of the following members of the nominating committee:

Anna Colby [mrscolby@aol.com](mailto:mrscolby@aol.com) (616) 241-6489, ext. 17  
Barbara Witham McCargar [mccarbar@aquinas.edu](mailto:mccarbar@aquinas.edu) (616) 632-2417  
Susan Rositch [susanrositch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanrositch@sbcglobal.net) (231) 722-2793

### **Positions for re-election are:**

Director (currently Aline Snoeyink) \_\_\_  
Newsletter (currently Rick Wykoski) \_\_\_  
Hospitality (currently Joe Houdek) \_\_\_  
Membership (currently Larry Barton) \_\_\_  
Student at Large (currently James Trares) \_\_\_

### **NOTICE**

If you are a current Grand Rapids chapter member and have not received your new yearbook, contact [Mary Harwood](#) .

## **Diocesan Music News**

### **Catholic Choral Academy**

Calling all young singers in grades 2-8! The Catholic Choral Academy is accepting new students for the second semester. The CCA is a diocesan choir school that meets weekly as an afterschool program on the campus of Grand Rapids Catholic Central High School. As well as learning great music for local liturgies, we will also be preparing for a tour to Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. Please call Dennis Rybicki at 616-233-5848 with any questions. This is an exciting and enriching opportunity for every elementary school student.

### **Diocesan Choir**

The Diocesan Choir is looking for singers for the Spring season! The Diocesan Choir is an exciting and dynamic choir that sings for concerts and diocesan liturgies throughout the liturgical year! Rehearsals are held three Mondays a month from 7:00pm-8:30pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. The first rehearsal for the new year is Monday, January 19 at 7:00pm in the Cathedral of Saint Andrew. There is no audition for this choir. All singers are welcome. Please contact Dennis Rybicki at 616-233-5848 with any questions.

### **Upcoming Events for the Diocesan Choir:**

March 1 Rite of Election  
March 3 Rite of Election  
March 8 Rite of Election  
April 7 Chrism Mass  
June 6 Ordination Mass  
June 7 Concert  
July 5-15 Tour to Ireland

## **NATIONAL CONVENTION - CHICAGO, HERE WE COME!**

### **July 6-10, 2009**

Begin to make your plans now -- get it in your parish budget for the next fiscal year!

The convention brochure can be viewed from the [NPM national website](http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/index.htm)  
<http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/index.htm>

If you are a national NPM member, you should have recently received your registration information in the mail. Our local chapter is ready to help you save money and gain time by registering with other chapter members. If you register individually, the best (early bird) price is \$255 and your registration needs to be postmarked by March 2, 2009. By submitting 10-19 registration forms together, we can get a registration fee of \$248, and the deadline will be May 10. If we can get 20-29 members registering together, the fee goes down to \$234. So, the more chapter members we can send to convention, the more we each save. Anna Colby is willing to coordinate this chapter registration process. Here's the plan:

*If you would like to take advantage of this discount, complete your registration form as usual, and send it to Anna along with the full advance registration fee of \$275 each (just in case we don't meet the minimum requirement of 10). When we are able to determine what our discount will be, we will send you a refund of the difference, so you can use it to pay for parking or buy goodies in the exhibit hall. Make your checks payable to "NPM-GR" and mail your registration forms to Anna Colby, c/o Holy Name of Jesus Parish, 1630 Godfrey SW, Wyoming, MI 49509. We need to receive your form by May 10, 2009. Questions? Call Anna at 241-6489, ext. 17, or email [annacolby@comcast.net](mailto:annacolby@comcast.net).*

You still need to make your own hotel reservations, so go ahead & do that so you can get your first choice hotel. Begin to talk to your fellow NPM-ers and make plans for sharing motel rooms, rides, etc. Let's make a real Grand Rapids diocesan presence in Chicago this summer!



### **Academic Scholarships 2009—2010**

NPM (national) and its partners are making available fifteen scholarships for the 2009–2010 academic year totaling nearly \$28,000 in assistance. Deadline for applications is March 6, 2009.

[Complete scholarship information and application instructions](#)

may be found at the [NPM website](#).

## Study Days with Dr. Steve Janco

...from Catherine Williams, O.P., edited by Barbra Witham McCargar

I attended the October 16 and 17, 2008, Study Days with Dr. Steven Janco, Director of the Rensselear Program of Church Music and Liturgy at St. Joseph's College, Rensselear IN, and Liturgy Resources Specialist at World Library Publications (WLP). Grand Rapids Chapter of NPM and Grand Rapids Diocese collaborated to sponsor these important sessions.

Friday's session, attended by many, clergy especially, began with Midday Prayer honoring St. Ignatius of Antioch, our second Pope, and Saturday session began in the morning by praying with St. Luke the Evangelist on his feast day. Some of the music we prayed with was composed by Dr. Janco. Especially nice were the Canticles of Zachariah and Mary.

It was obvious that Steve Janco knows and understands the liturgy documents since Vatican II. He spoke with authority in a way that was engaging and informative. I experienced an awakening of energy in me about the Church Documents that I had not enjoyed previously in my life. Vatican II, the USCBB, and all the documents that have been given to us by them became more than statements that we study and try to make part of our liturgical practice. The people who wrote the documents and their reasons for the writing became real, live men, moving through history, coming together to try and make our liturgies better with the knowledge they had at that time.

The new document "Sing to the Lord" becomes an understandable next step in our trying to make the liturgical life of the Church the best we can in this finite world. I learned a great deal and I'm sure all who were at either or both sessions did also.

Dr. Janco expressed gratitude afterward to the musicians, planners and hosts. With the morning hospitality, lunch, and even a couple tables of books and materials for sale, this was a well planned and delivered event from start to finish. Though it was well worth the price, it would have been great to see more liturgists and musicians in attendance on Saturday, and a smaller cost to them in the future.



Patricia J. Hughes, D. Min.  
Director of Office for Worship

## DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

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## ***Do you have your copy of “Sing to the Lord”?***

USCCB Publishing has now made *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* available in book form. Every pastoral musician, priest, deacon, liturgist, and worship leader should have a copy of these official U.S. guidelines for music in the liturgy. You may order this very important document from the [NPM website](http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf) or by phoning the NPM office at tel. 240.247.3000. You can also view the document online as a PDF file -- <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/SingToTheLord.pdf>.

*Sing to the Lord* echoes the call to full, active, and conscious participation in the Liturgy through its sung elements. It addresses the practical concerns of pastoral leaders-appropriate ministers, cultural diversity, instrumentation, formation, acoustics, and copyrights. It also outlines considerations for preparing and judging music for worship with an in-depth review of the musical structure of Liturgy.

*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.

Use *Sing to the Lord* to

- evaluate your parish's current musical repertoire
- better understand your role in sung worship
- prepare particular sacramental liturgies
- train parish music ministers

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## Praise and Worship Music

...by Brian Pouget

On Tuesday evening, November 18, the Grand Rapids Chapter of NPM presented the Reverend Paul Colloton, OP for an informational session titled “Sing It With Feeling: Praise Music in Liturgy?” Nearly 100 people involved in church music ministry attended the session, which was hosted by St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Grand Rapids.

After identifying the characteristics of praise music that distinguish it from Christian rock music, Fr. Paul reviewed the elements that comprise praise music, and laid out the criteria necessary to consider its use in liturgy. He led us through the evaluation criteria laid out in *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship*, with some specific emphasis on the text of the music as well as its accessibility (melody, rhythm, instrumentation) to the congregation. Several musical examples were provided by the praise group “The Rising Band” from Holy Family Parish in Caledonia, with assistance from Board members Gordon Proulx and Larry Barton. The group also provided the musical support for opening prayer.

It was a short, but very informative evening that left us wanting more. Many thanks to Fr. Paul, our hosts at St. Paul the Apostle, the musicians who played for the event, and the many people who came out on an unseasonably cold November night. It was a great night of prayer, praise, and education!