

ClevelandNPM.org
The Cleveland Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians Association
Newsletter August 2005

Milwaukee NPM National Convention News



What a great week! As any of you who have been to one of these conventions knows, it is a wonderful experience. Lots of time to meet with fellow musicians of all levels of accomplishment; time for prayer and meditation; time to enjoy wonderful performances; lots of exposure to new music, new ideas and commentary from all.

But most of all is the singing! It is everywhere. From the “full and active participation” at the mid-week Eucharist to the Music Industry Showcases to the individual workshops and even the evening performances almost all of which included audience participation at one time or another.

Even the City of Milwaukee participated with several outdoor free music events and a fireworks show on Thursday night. Milwaukee has done a great job with revitalizing the downtown. Cleveland could take a lesson and maybe even build a proper convention center (oh boy, here come the emails).

One of the enjoyable fellowship events was the Pastoral Musicians Breakfast on Wednesday morning during which many were honored for various accomplishments. While this will be covered in the bimonthly NPM magazine *Pastoral Musician*, of particular note for our Cleveland Chapter was that **two of the four scholarships awarded were to our own members, Jason Lewis and Jeff Moellman**. Jason, the Music Director at St Mary in Mentor will use his award money for his travel to Rome in November where he will continue his studies for seven days. Jeff, the music director at St Clement in Lakewood will use his scholarship to further his studies in music and liturgy. Our hearty congratulations to both Jason and Jeff for receiving this award.

Notes from the Director



Greetings to all you holy men and women who minister within our Diocese of Cleveland through music and

liturgy. May grace and peace be yours in abundance through Jesus Christ our Lord as you continue your work. I hope that all of you have been able to find time this summer to be refreshed and renewed in body and spirit.

Many of us were able to attend the NPM national convention in Milwaukee in June, and came away excited about what’s happening in the Cleveland Chapter. Twenty-two people gathered for a supper meal during the convention, making new friends and renewing past friendships, and sharing ideas for what we could do together back in our own Diocese. Many of us would also be glad to share what we learned from the speakers and workshops. Some of us bought the recordings of various addresses and workshops and we will make a list on our website of recorded sessions that we bought. By submitting an email request (or phone) you will be able to borrow the CD/tape and hear them. The main speakers all gave wonderful presentations, in my opinion. And, speaking of the convention, a big thank you to the people at St. Monica Parish in Garfield Heights for making our Chapter Banner that was displayed at the convention. They donated the supplies for it as well. The picture of the banner is found in this newsletter.

Though we do have some specific ideas, and a few dates, for upcoming events, we would still like to have the attached census form filled out and returned so that we can better fulfill our mission as a chapter. The basic purpose of an NPM chapter is: 1) to deepen the spiritual life of each pastoral musician; 2) to encourage social interaction among pastoral musicians; 3) to provide an educational forum on current issues affecting musical practice in the parish, both for the musicians and the clergy; and 4) to improve the skills of every pastoral musician: musical, liturgical, pastoral, and leadership.

The chapter officers agreed that once a year, the newsletter should be mailed to all on the Diocesan list of musicians, liturgists, and pastors, as well as to all who are members of the NPM national or chapter. Other detailed newsletters would be mailed to members only, though available to anyone through our website. Our Animator for Koinonia, Bill Toler, is going to provide monthly up-coming news and inspiration which will be sent out email by Bob Soeder, and snail mail to members who request it. If you are wanting to receive email from us, be sure we have your correct email address, and also make sure your email server recognizes us as an acceptable sender. The email address that will send out our electronic communications is either bsoder@hotmail.com or bsoder@saintmonicachurch.net.

It is time for election of chapter officers again this fall. The term of office for the Director, the Assistant Director for Recruiting, the Secretary*, and the Treasurer* shall be two years. These officers may be re-elected for three consecutive terms only. The term of office for the coordinator for Planning and the Animator for Koinonia shall be one year. These officers may be re-elected for an unlimited number of terms. (*note that in the chapter manual, the Secretary-Treasurer is one position, but our chapter chose to split it up) Since we decided to have our dues period be from October 1 to September 30, it makes sense that our officers terms follow the same period. Our deadline for nominations will be September 9, so we can have the ballot sent out by the 15th of September to NPM chapter members. Descriptions of each office can be viewed through our website. (The ballot also will be available through our website in case you don't receive it through the mail.) The membership form is found in this newsletter. Make sure we know you want to be a member if you want to receive the mail from us.

Be sure and mark your calendars for the events you'll find in this newsletter. Hope to see you at one or more of them.
Yours in Christ,
Ruth Novak, Cleveland NPM Chapter Director

Treasurer's Report

Melissa Gali-Bird



The balance in our business account is currently \$375.87. It was agreed at a recent board meeting to begin our fiscal year on October 1. The dues are \$5 for individual or \$10 for a parish membership regardless of the number of parish members listed. This will cover any costs of administrative material including all mailings. Please address checks to: "**NPM - Cleveland Chapter**" and mail them to the Treasurer as listed at the end of this letter.

Meeting Note

Cleveland Chapter Board will meet the first Wednesday of each month at noon at Massimo de Milano's on W. 25th. Under the "government in the sunshine" rule, anyone may attend these luncheon meetings. Next one – September 7.

NPM Tip O'The Day

CANTORING AND RELATIONSHIP

Susanne Sande

At a Taize service that our church does every month from September through May, a woman was standing next to me who didn't have a worship aid. She seemed to be trying to grasp the words and sing, so I came over to her and shared my booklet. This is one of the ways that music and ministry go together. Some Directors send their Cantors and choir members out into the assembly occasionally, and I like that idea because it allows and encourages relating to the larger body of people.

Recognition is another aspect of relationship. I have been recognized at fish fries, banks, even meetings at work, where someone will come up to me and say: St. Mary Magdalene, right, you're a Cantor? Of course that gives me a happy little feeling, but it also makes me pause to reflect on the responsibility of that role. I am visible, representing something larger than myself, and therefore must be even more aware of how what I do affects others.

Over time I have come to understand that part of my role is relationship. You don't just come into a parish and have that; it builds, like a marriage does, week after week, year after year. People notice good singing, but even more, they notice good presence. It means something to us, when someone keeps coming back to share, offering themselves up to the community, celebrating the good times and sticking out the difficult ones. Church is just like any group of people; with politics, insensitivity, people who get on our last nerve, people we annoy or offend. There is anger, heartache and disappointed expectations. Yet those of us who keep coming back, truly do find Jesus at the table; in unexpected friendships, undeserved forgiveness, humor, hugs, teamwork and a shared language where we try to live out the values God gave us, however imperfectly. In singing this is key because people trust you when they see you are committed to them and that helps them respond to and work with you. Cantoring is about leading, but to lead effectively, there must be a good rapport, which takes time. Hopefully, as with Priests, Sisters and Directors, this develops into a mutually loving relationship that in a small but significant way, mirrors the one Jesus modeled for us.

This page had Photos from Convention

This page had more photos from convention

Election of Officers

As noted in the letter from the Chapter Director, Ruth, September is the time for election of officers. **If any of you wish to become elected to an office, please submit your name and bio to the secretary, Susanne Sande (address below) or email to clevelandnpm@yahoo.com** We plan to issue the ballots in September with names and biographies and expect you to return the ballots by end of September. Thanks for all your support and participation.

Job Descriptions of NPM Chapter Directors (from the national handbook)

Chapter Director -- A recognized leader, willing to put in the time necessary to make a Chapter work. Should be a person who is effective in recruiting a few people to work with him/her. The Director need not be a musician and may be a priest or a person holding a diocesan office.

Assistant Director for Recruiting -- A person who could replace the Director. An enthusiastic person that is willing to track attendance, invite newcomers and keep in touch with inactive members.

Coordinator for Planning -- A very organized, efficient person who likes to work more in the background than out front. This person should have a good idea of the talents and needs in the diocese.

Animator for Koinonia -- An outgoing person who likes to be a host or hostess and is a prayer leader. Community spirit is important.

Secretary/Treasurer -- A dependable person that will attend every meeting. This person should be comfortable with basic financial duties. A practical, logical person is best in this position.

This position may be handled by two people which we have chosen to do in the Cleveland Chapter.

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Treasurer: - Melissa Gali-Bird
Ascension of Our Lord Church
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Upcoming events

September 7 chapter directors lunch meeting

September 18

Central West District of the Diocese of Cleveland in the spirit of vibrant parish life presents a **concert** in celebration of the world day of peace. The choirs of the near west side catholic churches invite you to share in a multicultural celebration of song giving thanks for our diversity, our unity and God's love for us all

Come to the **Concert** at 3PM on Sunday September 18 at St Colman Church, 2027 w 65th Cleveland 44102 Phone number 216 651 0550

Event free and open to the public. There will be a reception after in parish hall secure parking available

September 26 – WLP Reading – 7:30PM East Side

At St Mary Magdelene Parish, 460 E 321st St, Willowick, OH 44095 (440) 943-2133. Call 216-398-8315 to register to come. Leave a message with your name, phone # and how many are attending.

General Directions are to take 90/2 to the exit that says East 305th St. At the light, take a left until you hit Willowick Dr. on the right hand side. Go right on Willowick and all the way down until you see SMM on the left hand side. You're there!

October 17

Sing For Joy Concert at Severence Hall featuring the St Olaf Cantorie led by John Ferguson. We are hoping to reserve a block of tickets for this event. Tickets are \$20 and all proceeds go to the Building Hope in the City fund. If you are interested in hearing this outstanding choir, send an email to ClevelandNPM@yahoo.com or call Dan and leave message and we will make a tally of the number interested

For more information about this outstanding choir visit <http://www.singforjoy.org/> We had the opportunity to hear them at the convention in Milwaukee. I plan to hear them again (Dan).

Chapter Survey

Included with this newsletter is a survey form which attempts to accomplish several things.

1. Verify your name, address, etc and parish affiliation
2. Ascertain your level of interest/involvement in the local chapter
3. Determine if you would be willing to host an event at your parish.
4. Solicit ideas for activities

The board has discussed sub-groups of members (or other branches within the chapter) if there is an interest – example: east side group, west side group. Of course, there is nothing preventing various parish groups to get together on their own (in the spirit of Vibrant Parish Life) such as the gathering Marc Weagraf held for area directors at St Noel’s the first week in August. It was a good gathering where ideas were shared, specific music issues discussed (handbell, percussion, vocal techniques and the like) .

In any case, *do fill out the survey* and don’t forget to include your dues so we can keep the bank account in the black.

Chapter Membership and Dues

A word about membership. You can be a member of the local NPM chapter without being a member of the National organization. However we encourage you to join both for maximum benefit.

Local benefits include reduced rates at fee events; interaction with area members; this wonderful newsletter(sic); fellowship and interaction with fellow church musicians in the Cleveland area.

Email vs Snail Mail

“So”, you ask, “why should I subscribe to email as opposed to the regular postal service for my newsletter?”

And the reasons are:

- Quicker receipt of this newsletter
- This newsletter in full color and not just b/w
- Quick receipt of announcements of current events
- Saving the chapter postage and expense of mailing
- Saving chapter personnel from the effort of a mass mailing of several hundred (we’ve all participated in that effort in one way or another, eh?)

Did you know that the newsletters are saved on our web site? And that when appropriate they are saved in condensed form and full form to facilitate slower internet connections. If you have a dial-up (not a cable or dsl) connection, you might want the condensed form usually without pictures or with lower resolution picture to save time in downloading.

Speaking of web sites ... we have registered the domain name of **clevelandnpm.org** and eventually will move our web site from the free yahoo (geocities) site to the new one. In the meantime just go to www.clevelandnpm.org and you will find the link to the current site as well as an email link to us. And do comment on the site. We’d love to improve it but want your ideas and suggestions. Send them to clevelandnpm@yahoo.com.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Membership in the local Cleveland Chapter may be had on an Individual basis or on a Parish basis. Dues for individuals which include voting rights in local affairs are \$5.00. Parish membership is a non-voting membership for as many people as the parish wishes to include in the list for only \$10 per parish. Parish memberships are non-voting but do include “member discounts” at local events.

I wish to become **Individual Member** of the ClevelandNPM. Enclosed are my dues for 2004-05 in the amount of \$5.00.
 Parish Member of the ClevelandNPM. Enclosed are my dues for 2004-05 in the amount of \$10.00 and attached is the list of other members from my parish.

My name is: _____ NPM Nat’l Member _____

Address: _____ (Parish or individual)

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of Home Parish: _____

I wish to receive my newsletter by email only. Keep the “snail mail” coming.

My email address is: _____

Please mail to: Melissa Gali-Bird, Ascension of Our Lord Church, 14040 Puritas Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44135