

ClevelandNPM.org
The Cleveland Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians Association
Newsletter April 2006

Notes from the Director



May the grace, joy and peace of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ be with you all.

Your chapter officers have not been inactive, though perhaps a bit slow in getting information out to you and in deciding about future events.

I was pleased to have several membership forms and census/interest surveys returned. We have been compiling and studying the results in an effort to determine what is the best course for planning chapter events. The results of the surveys, as well as a list of our members, will be posted on the website, and, hopefully, by the summertime an outline of events for next year.

Another issue of concern to all of us is Phase II of Vibrant Parish Life -- the planning for, and establishment of, parish clusters. In Phase I, one of the questions asked of us was what concerns did we have about clustering. Clustering of parishes, and sharing of resources, could be beneficial to liturgies and use of musicians, and at the same time brings challenges. The time will likely come when more parishes share a priest. At my parish, the church is not full at any regular weekend liturgy. But Christmas Eve and Easter liturgies are a different story. It boggles the mind to think of what would happen if we had to share an Easter Vigil with another parish...

I would be interested in a forum for sharing thoughts and ideas from the pastoral musician standpoint as we continue to move through VPL Phase II.

What about you? Would you be interested in sharing your thoughts through our website and/or newsletter? If you have not been in conversation with other parish leaders about Vibrant Parish Life, I would suggest you find out more about it.

We wish Melissa Gali-Bird the best as she gives up her post as Chapter Treasurer to devote her time and energy to soon to be born 2nd child. Bobbi Wason has assumed the duties of Treasurer along with her duties as Secretary.

May your final preparations for Holy Week and Easter liturgies go well, and may you be blessed through them as well.

Yours in Christ,
Ruth Novak, Cleveland NPM Chapter Director

Treasurer's Report

Bobbi Wason



We currently have approximately 40 dues paying members in the chapter. The latest balance is \$424.18.

Welcome Bishop-Designate Lennon

The Most Reverend Richard Gerard Lennon has been appointed as Bishop of the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio effective May 15, 2006. Bishop-Designate Lennon will become the 10th Bishop of the 159 year old Diocese, succeeding the Most Rev. Anthony M. Pilla whose retirement was also officially accepted by the Vatican. ClevelandNPM extends a warm welcome to the Bishop.

Singing in Sync with Our Faith

As many of you probably remember, several years ago, the issue of our music getting thin on theology, or parting ways from specifically Catholic theology came to the forefront. This isn't a big surprise, as after Vatican II our efforts to explore new frontiers took us into many enthusiastic realms of expression. There isn't anything wrong with that, in fact for creativity to flourish, the reins have to be loosened. However, though I know I was disappointed at the ICEL controversies over what have become beloved and valuable songs in our repertoire, it is also true that we have to be aware of what we are singing and how that fits into what we profess in our faith.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops now has a PowerPoint™ review of the work their Subcommittee on Music and the Liturgy is doing, on its website at <http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/> [Editor's note: if you need a reader to display Power Point info, go to our website and click on the link at the bottom of the newsletters page <http://www.clevelandnmp.org/newsletters.htm> .] This addresses how important music is in the liturgy and the responsibility that music ministers, especially composers and lyricists, have as a result. The music, states the UCCB, must "express in an authentic way the message of the liturgy, while fostering a sense of common faith and communion in charity."

The goal of the Music Subcommittee is to publish a directory of texts we can choose to sing (or compose) from, by 2007. These texts need to be in line with Catholic teaching and "free from theological error." The concern is that we have been allowing rather rebellious (or inaccurate) texts to be sung in our homes of worship. Many of us, as Catholics, have a variety of convictions on the different issues that face us, but how much of this should be reflected in our music, since that is supposed to sum up what we as a unified Church believe? It does make sense to be careful about giving voice to dissension at the Mass, where we are to worship, and we do need to use songs that are in line with our teachings. Pieces that aren't considered liturgically appropriate can still be used at other times when we gather.

The issue of inclusive language comes up, and this is a hotbutton topic. The USCCB Subcommittee on Music and the Liturgy is concerned that too often, our efforts at inclusivity have allowed God and/or Christ to be vague, and having "He" replaced with less gender specific references, alters the meaning of texts or makes them insignificant. There is a well-taken point here. However, much care is needed in addressing this problem because our church *has* been guilty of having its theology applied in such a way as to exclude women, minorities and others, and that is *also not in line* with our orders by Christ to receive everyone at the banquet table. Jesus included and consulted women. He gave them important voices and places in His ministry. And He was the first to speak to, heal and bless people that others at that time shunned. We need to be careful we aren't speaking of embracing all people and yet by our actions and words excluding them at the same time!

It is worth reviewing this document to take a look at several other things that the USCCB Music Subcommittee is contemplating; from the way Christ is depicted and therefore understood by us, to the elements of grace and the messages our songs contain. It's so easy to sing to a compelling melody or to lift up our voices but not really think about what it is we're saying. You and I may or may not agree with what the subcommittee comes up with, but it is worthwhile to pay attention to what they are pointing out, so that those of us responsible for music in our parishes are aware in our ministry.

Susanne Sande

If we keep the holy days, the holy days will keep us...

As we prepare to enter the Triduum of our Lord's passion, death, resurrection, and glorification, we have probably finished picking the tunes, tuning the instruments, and filling out the planning sheets. But have we picked our spiritual selves to see where Christ is calling

us to enter more deeply into the Paschal Mystery? Have we attuned the ears of our hearts to listen to how Christ is speaking to us as we minister in song during these Three Holy Days? Have we filled out the spiritual planning sheets to grow in holiness this Holy Week?

It's so easy to become so caught up in the "ministering" that we forget to let the liturgy minister to us. So perhaps it is more crucial for us than for others to pray the liturgy *before* we get to it – to look over the prayers, the Scriptures, and the Rites, because they speak not just to the catechumens, not just to the assembly, but to the organist and the alto, to the guitarist and the bass, to the drummer and the singer.

Yes, let us raise a joyful noise unto the Lord as we celebrate this greatest of feasts! May this be the most glorious Pasch of our lives! But may it be so because we have both ministered and allowed the liturgy to minister to us. Yes, let us stoop to wash the feet of those to whom we minister through music. But let us allow the song of the Lord to wash our feet through the liturgy as well! Thus may our Easter "alleluias" be even more heartily sung, having been lifted up by the Risen Lord!

William Toler

Liturgical Notes

The Easter season is upon us! It seems like we just got the Christmas decorations put away, and now we are getting ready to celebrate the greatest mystery of our faith: the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.

As many of you know, the Church has a rich history of Catholic social teaching that provides certain themes to help us understand what is meant by "justice." But what exactly is meant by "justice?" The Bible suggests that justice may be understood as fidelity to the demands of a relationship. Scripture calls us to be faithful in our relationships with God as well as with other people. One of the difficulties in approaching Scripture with a "justice lens," however, is that the standards by which we make judgments today are not the same standards as those used when the Scriptures were compiled. So during the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as in other times, the Church's leaders have tried to articulate what that faithfulness looks like in the context of today's world. These themes call for: respecting human life (and this includes anything that is disrespectful to human life—including killing, discrimination, bigotry, racism, sexism, oppression and poverty), supporting community, promoting each person's rights and responsibilities, protecting the poor and the vulnerable, respecting the dignity of work and the rights of workers, living in solidarity with people around the entire world, and caring for all of God's creation. While all of these themes may be found in the Scriptures we proclaim and sing throughout the liturgical year, certain weeks and seasons address some

themes more directly than others.

So what does all of this have to do with Lent and Easter? Let's take a look! During Lent, the Scriptures highlight the dignity of every human life. In Year A (and in every year that the rites with the elect are celebrated), the stories from John's Gospel used for the Scrutinies remind the entire community that each life is valuable and valued. Jesus shows care and respect for the Samaritan woman and heals the man born blind—both of them individuals considered of little worth to the wider community. In the first three weeks of Year B (this year), we hear about the great flood, Abraham's call to sacrifice Isaac, and the giving of the Ten Commandments—all stories that ultimately reject the disrespectfulness that so many people treat others with. And in Year C, Jesus uses the story of the forgiving father to illustrate the love God holds for every person.

Just as working for justice is found at the very heart of the Church's mission, so too is the proclamation of justice found at the heart of the Church's liturgical year. A constant theme of Catholic social teaching reflected in the celebration of the Triduum is that the poor and vulnerable person rejected by the community is the very person through whom we are healed and brought to new life through Jesus' resurrection! How POWERFUL! Jesus' command to follow his example, to become humble and a servant of others, repeated at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, also means to look for him—and for ourselves—in the humble and poor: “As I have done, so you must do” (John 13:15). On Good Friday, we are offered the example of the suffering servant whose suffering is redemptive: “He was spurned and avoided...a man of suffering, accustomed to infirmity.... Yet it was our infirmities that he bore, our sufferings that he endured” (Isaiah 53:3-4). And lastly, before the proclamation of the Easter Vigil Gospel, we sing the words of Psalm 118: “The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”

We are called to this mission throughout the entire liturgical year! “The Mass is ended, go in peace.” As we sing the final hymn at Mass—in fact, the entrance hymn for our week of discipleship and witness in the world—we would do well to remember that our going forth in peace means our working for justice. It is an important, primary way for us to bring the presence of Christ to the world! The real presence of justice in the name of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is a right, balanced, and equitable relationship among ALL PEOPLES and the earth of which we live, not only the absence of hunger, homelessness, indignities, or oppression. May each one of you have a joyous Easter season!

Jason Lewis

For Immediate Release
March 22, 2006

CATHOLIC CONNECTIONS
POINT TO IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

“Study in all the arts – dance, music, theatre, and the visual arts – is vital to Catholic education.” This statement forms a guiding principle for the newly released *Catholic Connections to Music in the National Standards for Arts Education*, created and published by the Music Education Division of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). The new 30-page document may be downloaded from the NPM web site, www.npm.org.

The framers of the *Catholic Connections* took note of the centrality of music for the life and worship of the Church. The Second Vatican Council declared: “The musical tradition of the Catholic Church is a treasure of immeasurable value, greater even than that of any other art” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, no. 112). Every liturgical document since Vatican II has emphasized the importance of singing in the liturgy and the right and duty of the whole assembly to take an active part.

Music has a vital role in Catholic education – to prepare young people for active participation in sung worship, to form the next generation of musicians and composers, and to open students to the richness of music as it expresses the glory of God through its beauty.

The *National Standards for Arts Education* were developed in 1994 by a coalition of arts education associations that included MENC—The National Association for Music Education. The NPM Music Education Division published *Catholic Perspectives* on the standards that same year—a set of standards that applied the music part of the National Standards to education in a Catholic environment.

Now the NPM Music Education Division has issued a revised and expanded document to guide music educators in Catholic schools, parishes, and other institutions, including diocesan education offices and publishers of Catholic music education materials. In addition to an introductory section on student assessment, the *Catholic Connections to Music* provides music education standards for young people from pre-kindergarten through high school.

The *Catholic Connections* was developed by a five-member writing team with contributions from fifteen other leaders in the field of music education. Sr. Teresita Espinosa, CSJ, Chair of the Music Department at Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles, writes in the foreword that the new document presents “a genuine, comprehensive,

and qualitative vision for music education in a Catholic school and parish setting.”

The **MUSIC EDUCATION DIVISION** of NPM (NPM MusEd) is dedicated to fostering the art and educational power of music in a Catholic setting. NPM-MusEd is affiliated with the MENC—The National Association for Music Education and shares the mission of NPM and MENC. We strive to encourage and support quality music teaching and learning for all in Catholic educational settings and quality worship services of the Catholic Church within the United States. NPM MusEd publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Catholic Music Educator*, and sponsors programs at NPM conventions and institutes.

This information is submitted by J. Michael McMahon, NPM President. For further information, please contact Dr. McMahon at the National Association of Pastoral Musicians, 962 Wayne Avenue, Suite 210, Silver Spring, MD 20910. Phone (240) 247-3000. Fax (240) 247-3001. E-mail mcmahon@npm.org. Web www.npm.org.

Musical Inculturation

The “hymn selection committee” at a rural Ohio parish met recently to select the hymns for Lent and Easter. Not surprisingly, the opening hymn for Easter Day was “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”. Then, in what may be a surprise to “liturgical purists” the presentation hymn chosen was “Our God Reigns” by Leonard E. Smith, Jr. When queried, the group noted that this was a favorite of the congregation and that it was often chosen at Easter time. Further discussion at a choir practice again revealed the deep “love of the song” by the parish community and the recognition that this is a popular inter-denominational song. That last insight exposed, in part, the nature of this community. It is made up of families having more than one formal religion represented. It is an inter-denominational community. The use of this song highlights the strong human need and our God-given command to connect with and love our neighbor.

We often think of inculturation as the force feeding of a Spanish language rendition of *Pescadore de Hombres* on an all Anglo-Saxon congregation. Rather, this is an expression of cultural awareness not unlike the singing of *Stille Nacht* at Christmas time. Inculturation is the recognition of local customs and traditions and wisely folding them into our forms of religious expression. Truly, “we are many parts, we are all one body”.

The song was included in the Easter repertoire.

Dan Bergen

From the editor

This is YOUR newsletter and to the greatest extent possible, it should be made up of articles from you. Have you ever wanted to be “published”? Well, here is your BIG OPPORTUNITY! Submit your pet idea, philosophy or musical thought and see it in print to our entire

circulation. And have it posted on the web, too! Wow, what a deal. How can you pass that up.

Meeting Note

The next meeting of the chapter officers will be on Tuesday, May 9th at 1:00 pm Massimo de Milano’s Restaurant at the corner of West 25th St. and Detroit in Cleveland. All are welcome to attend.

St. Louis Jesuits Reunion

March 17, 2006

The St. Louis Jesuits (Dan Schutte, Tim Manion and Jesuit Fathers Bob Dufford, John Foley and Roc O’Connor), well-known among English-speaking Catholics for their contribution to liturgical music in the 1970’s and 1980’s, are observing their thirtieth anniversary with a new collection of music and a series of reunion events. The first two of these events were held recently in Washington, DC and St. Louis. You can read more in recent articles from [Tidings Online](#) and the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#).

<http://www.the-tidings.com/2006/0310/jesuits.htm>

<http://tinurl.com/efxvm>

A Technical Note

Several places in this newsletter you will note “funny looking” web address beginning with <http://tinurl.com>. This is free service which allow anyone to create a short web address and is especially useful for those addresses having 30+ characters in it. Check out the site. Really easy to use and FREE!

The basic purpose of NPM chapters is:

- To deepen the spiritual life of each pastoral musician;
- To encourage social interaction among pastoral musicians;
- To provide an educational forum on current issues affecting musical practice in the parish, both for musicians and clergy;
- To improve the skills of every pastoral musician: musical, liturgical, pastoral, and leadership.

You do not have to be a musician to be a local member nor do you have to be a member of the national organization (but that is encouraged). You just need to be someone with an interest in good liturgy. So please consider joining the local chapter by completing and mailing in the membership form in this newsletter.

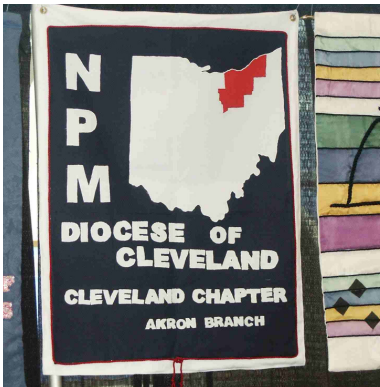
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Membership in the local Cleveland Chapter may be had on an Individual basis or on a Parish basis. Dues for individuals which include voting rights in local affairs are \$5.00. Parish membership is a non-voting membership for as many people as the parish wishes to include in the list for only \$10 per parish. Parish memberships are non-voting but do include "member discounts" at local events. Membership year is from July 1 to June 30.

I wish to become **Individual Member** of the ClevelandNPM. Enclosed are my dues for **2005-06** in the amount of \$5.00.
 Parish Member of the ClevelandNPM. Enclosed are my dues for **2005-06** 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: _____

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: Roberta Wason 751 McRoberts Ave. Aurora, Ohio 44202

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

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** that is the new location of the site. www.clevelandnpm.org . You can also access the editor by addressing your email to editor@clevelandnpm.org We will be adding more email addresses in the future.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

This Newsletter is published by the Cleveland Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Address all inquiries to: Editor, ClevelandNPM, 79 Bowhall Road, Painesville OH 44077

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