Members and friends of the Arlington NPM Chapter enjoy lunch together on Shrove Tuesday. Be sure to join us next year at this annual favorite!

Look through this edition for information about the 2019 NPM Convention in Raleigh, NC! #NPMRaleigh2019

See page 3 for all the details!
I really struggled with what to share with you all this month. Writing this column has been on my to-do list since the middle of February, but the task kept getting pushed down the list as day-to-day requirements came fast and furious. My head was spinning with all of the demands of a full-time parish music ministry and serving as the NPM DC Chapter Director. I realized that if my life is chaotic due to all the “extras” that take place during Lent, yours probably is too.

And to pour salt in the wound, Easter is late this year. While I look forward to the warmer temperatures (hopefully) and the colorful flora that a later Easter brings, the skewed arrival of the Paschal season certainly comes with its challenges. Many of our most time-consuming liturgical events are compressed into a shorter amount of time. Within the span of a couple of months we will provide music for parish missions and penance services, make sure all the candles have been ordered for the Easter Vigil, teach the Exsultet to the new guy, rehearse the music for Holy Week and Easter, all while planning First Communion Masses, Confirmation Masses and all those weddings that have been pushed to the few weeks after Easter. You get the point and I know you could fill in hundreds of other small tasks that fall in your laps as pastoral musicians.

This season is so exhausting that when we finally arrive to Easter Monday we tend to be filled with a sense of relief rather than being overwhelmed with Paschal joy. If I’m the only one with this issue, you can stop reading here and go about your day.

At the NPM DC Lenten retreat, Fr. Paul Colloton reminded us that these penitential weeks are not only a time of repentance, but also a time of re-orientation. Hearing this word, “re-orientation”, turned on a gigantic light bulb as I began my Lenten journey this year. Especially because of all the difficult news in the Church that we have been bombarded with over the last year, we need to re-orient ourselves to the Reason and the Person that called us all to our ministry in the beginning. Maybe it’s as simple as spending a few moments of silence at the beginning of the day, arriving at rehearsal a few minutes early to spend some time in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament, meditating on the weekend scriptures a few days earlier than usual, or reestablishing a practice of morning and evening prayer.

In such hectic hours and days, we run the risk of becoming mere liturgical functionaries, churning out liturgies without allowing the spirit and meaning to penetrate our souls. But in fact, we have the sacred responsibility of being bringers and transmitters of the Good News and thus need to truly absorb the heights and depths of this season to authentically translate these truths to the People of God. Let us find some time to fix our gaze on the One who loves us, remember that we are truly beloved and bring this Holy Love to every note that is sung and played over the next few weeks. In doing so, may we arrive to Easter Monday exhausted, but filled with the joy that only the belief in the deep mystery of the Passion and Resurrection can bring.

I wish you all a most blessed Passontide and Easter Season.

Amy Massey,
DC Chapeter Director

The DC Chapter Director has a new email address! To get in touch with Amy Massey, email her @ npm.dc.chapter@gmail.com.
We hope to see many of you in Raleigh this summer! For full convention details see the digital Convention Brochure. Details about the Chapter Dinner are found in this newsletter!

Is an NPM Convention for you?
Yes! If you are a pastoral musician: director of music ministries ~ psalmist ~ cantor ~ bishop ~ priest ~ deacon ~ seminarian ~ choir director ~ ensemble leader ~ organist ~ keyboardist ~ guitarist ~ player of another instrument ~ youth pastoral musician ~ music educator ~ or anyone seeking time away in a retreat environment filled with prayer, filled with music, filled with the support of other ministers.

Is there a local Chapter member discount?
Yes! Before you send in that registration form, we hope you will consider registering through the local chapters (Arlington & DC are considered as one). The Chapter Discount is the best available, even better than the $280 early bird fee:

- 10-19 Members (15% off): $268
- 20-29 Members (20% off): $252
- 30+ Members (25% off): $270

Please note:
1. Again this year there is a $20 discount if you choose an Electronic Program Book.
2. Registrant must be a parish/individual member of both National AND the local chapter (Arlington/DC).
3. Only one discount per registrant (e.g. cannot be combined with Clergy/Musician Duo)
4. Chapter discount is not available on Youth, Daily, Companion, or Child registrations

Here’s what to do:
1. Complete a registration form. (This year, the form is a fillable PDF, fill it out on your computer, print and send to us!)
2. Make a check payable to NPM/Arlington ($268 - plus any extras you’ve chosen)
3. Mail both to Anne Shingler, 3146 Woodland Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309 postmarked by Friday, April 26, 2019.

Questions, including how to join your local chapter?
Please email arlingtonnpm@gmail.com (Arlington) or npmdcmembership@gmail.com (DC)

Introductions, Modulations, and Cadences
As a regular feature of the newsletter, we will recognize those who begin new positions, are new chapter members, or retire from positions. If you, or someone you know, begin a new position, retire, or move away, let us know.

Welcome . . .
to Mr. Nelson Caballero, newly appointed member of the Arlington NPM Board; he serves as Coordinator, Hispanic Music, at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA.
On March 2, nearly 60 people gathered at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Gaithersburg, MD for the DC chapter’s retreat in preparation for Lent. Fr. Paul Colloton, OSFS, former director of education for NPM, traveled from Ohio where he is currently the chaplain and Director of Campus Ministry at Ohio Dominican University. It was a spirit-filled morning where so many delighted in the return of an old friend.

After opening with morning prayer led by the DC chapter board, Fr. Paul guided participants in discovering ways in which healing is needed and how to meet those needs for others. The backdrop for his talk was the song, How Can We Pray, by Zack Stachowski, which was written last year in response to the most recent revelations of crimes in the church. Though Fr. Paul’s talk went beyond this issue, the song was a fitting springboard to each section of the morning.

As we journeyed through the morning, the group focused on these three questions:

Where do I/we need healing this Lent?

How does music heal me?

How am I an instrument of healing?

With his characteristic use of song throughout his presentation, Fr. Paul did a beautiful job guiding the participants as they spent much-needed time in reflection before diving into the busyness of the season.
Convention Dinners

At this year's #NPMraleigh2019 Convention, the Pastoral Musicians' Dinner will be held after the Convention Eucharist (see page 35) of the Convention Brochure. All are welcome to participate. This dinner requires pre-registration. Please mark your registration form (on page 2) to attend the dinner. Cost is $49 per person.

Separate Chapter Dinner for the DC & Arlington Chapters We’ll gather at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, July 17 at “Big Easy” – a few short blocks from the Convention Center. The menu, cost (should be $20/person), and registration form will be in the May Newsletter. Please note that you will register directly with us for this Dinner. There is no place for this on the Convention registration form. Questions? Please contact Charlene Dorrian, 301-384-5796 or mcdorian@yahoo.com.

A Look Around the Chapters

The Holy Redeemer Church Choir, Mrs. Maria Balducci, director, sang at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the Archdiocese of Washington’s Rites of Election (RCIA) in March.

A Call for Photos

An ongoing feature in these newsletters is A Look Around Our Chapters. Please consider taking a few photos of your ministry, parish, and/or sanctuary and sharing them with us. Share JPEG or TIFF files with the newsletter editor, tlewicki@allsaintsva.org.
**Arlington Diocesan Choir**

The Arlington Diocesan Choir (pictured at right) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The Diocesan choir consists of choir members, cantors, choir directors, and organists from around the Arlington Diocese. The choir sings 6-8 times per season, and rehearses as needed. Members are highly encouraged to participate in their parish music programs.

Because of sickness, death, and relocation, the choir is in need of more singers, especially tenors and basses. A special anniversary concert is scheduled for **June 14**.

For more information, please call the Saint Thomas More Cathedral Music Office at: 703 524-2815.

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**Upcoming Events**

**“SPIRITUALS: SONGS OF THE SOUL”**  
*music for the Lenten season*  
**Sunday, April 7, 2019 - 4pm**

Including.....
- STEAL AWAY
- WERE YOU THERE
- DEEP RIVER
- HE NEVER SAID A MUMBLIN’ WORD
- GIVE ME JESUS
- BALM IN GILEAD
- FIX ME JESUS

 Featuring.....
- MARIA BALDUCCI, pianist
- ADIA EVANS, soprano

Arrangements/Excerpts.....
- HT BURLEIGH  
  FROM ALVIN AILEY’S “REVELATIONS”  
  MOSES HOGAN

Holy Redeemer Catholic Church  
4902 Berwyn Road, College Park, MD  
*free and open to the public*
To submit a job posting, classified, or event posting, please send the information, formatted as seen on this page, to Claire Schweppe (clmcaruso@gmail.com) or Tim Lewicki (tlewicki@allsaintsva.org) by the 15th of the month for the following newsletter (i.e. by January 15 for the February newsletter). Please let us know when the position has been filled or your items have been sold/donated. Thank you.
Hats Off!
The following choirs have provided music for the Sunday TV Mass recently. Mass is celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW-TV (DCW50) each Sunday at 10:30 am. Check your local cable or satellite provider’s listings. Click the image of the Shrine’s dome to view recordings of these Masses.

St. Leo the Great Parish Adult Choir, Fairfax, VA
Mother Seton Parish Choir, Germantown, MD
St. Leo the Great Parish Children’s Choir, Fairfax, VA

Almighty ever-living God,
who as an example of humility for the human race to
follow caused our Savior to take flesh and submit
to the Cross,
graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of
patient suffering
and so merit a share in his Resurrection.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Opening Collect, Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion