



NEWSLETTER

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

***YOUR LOCAL NPM BOARDS HAVE AN
EXCITING AND INFORMATION-FILLED
YEAR OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR YOU.***

***MARK THESE EVENTS
ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!***

January 25, 11:30am - 2:30pm

Annual Gathering of Southern Maryland Musicians
Breton Bay, Leonardtown, MD

March 4, 12noon

Shrove Tuesday Lunch
Brion's Grill, Fairfax, VA

March 8, 9am - 2:30pm

Lent Retreat with Fr. Jim Greenfield, OSFS
Theological College, Catholic University of America,
Washington, DC

May 2, 7:30pm - 9:30pm

The Music of the Psalms with Michel Guimont
St. Luke Church, McLean, VA

In this issue...

- 1 2014 at a glance
- 2 Director's Corner
- 3 Annual Gathering of Pastoral Musicians in Southern Maryland
- 4 Looking Ahead to Lent
- 4 NPM National Convention 2014
- 5 Save the date
- 5 Concert Opportunities
- 6 Hats Off!

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Happy New Year!

In January we wish everyone a Happy New Year. For pastoral musicians, happiness usually means their music works without glitches and fulfills the purpose for which it's intended. We know the goals and objectives for liturgical music, and we try to achieve them.

But are we missing something? Part of a sentence from Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World jumped off the page when I read it.

We must recognize that if part of our baptized people lack a sense of belonging to the Church, this is also due to certain structures and the occasionally unwelcoming atmosphere of some of our parishes and communities ...

No, no, this surely doesn't apply to the music ministry. Everyone is welcome to join our choirs! We add music from all cultures to our repertoires! Our assemblies know that we welcome and need their full, conscious, and active participation! How can we be perceived as unwelcoming?

Maybe there is no need for such concern among pastoral musicians. But – just maybe – we have become complacent, overly focused on our performances, careless in searching for ways to involve the assembly in our music, oblivious to the ways the assembly's song inspires the faith in us. And do we make an effort to mingle with parishioners after Mass, especially with people we don't yet know? Many of us are facing the assembly during Mass. How do we look? Do we show that we are happy to be praying with all of them? Do they know that their song is as important as ours (or maybe more so)?

Just something to think about in the new year. Have a happy one!

*Charlene Dorrian,
Director, Washington, DC Chapter*

NPM Arlington/Washington, DC On the Web!

Be sure to visit the Washington, D.C. and Arlington Chapter Websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings, registration forms, and events.

You will also find updated Chapter Membership forms at each site.

www.npmdc.org
www.npmarlington.org

Annual Gathering of Pastoral Musicians of Southern Maryland

Saturday, January 25, 11:30am - 2:30pm
Ann Duchesne's Home on Breton Bay
Topic: Let's Catch Our Breath

*2014 marks the 10th year that Musicians of Southern Maryland
have gathered at the Duchesne Home at the end of January.
In some years, the agenda included a look ahead at what was coming;
others looked back at where we've been.*

*This time we'll do both!
We will review some of the areas covered in the past,
and (in the words of NPM/DC's Post-Convention Dinner)
consider
"Liturgy in a Franciscan Pontificate."*

* * * * *

As always, Ann will prepare a delicious lunch, and there is no fee.

Please call Ann (301-475-6915) by January 20 for directions

There is no official registration for this gathering,
but your call tells her how many are coming.

**If you can, borrow a copy of your parish's hymnal or other worship aid for the afternoon.*

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT



Although Lent is late this year, starting with Ash Wednesday on March 5, it is not too early to begin thinking about special ways to mark the season. The Liturgy gives us many ways to do so, but at the many liturgical celebrations for the season, parish musicians are the ministers. What would it be like to be on the receiving end of ministry during the Lenten season for a change? Consider these two events, one social and one spiritual, as ways to build up your own Lenten “reserve”.

First, the annual musicians’ social event to mark the beginning of Lent, the “Shrove Tuesday Lunch”. This annual event brings together parish musicians from all over our area to socialize and have some fun the day before Ash Wednesday. It may not be quite the same as Mardi Gras in New Orleans, but it is our opportunity to have a meal together before the penitential season begins.

Shrove Tuesday Lunch - Tuesday, March 4 at noon.

Second, consider taking part in the annual “Lenten Retreat for Pastoral Musicians”. This spiritual day away is your opportunity to take some time for yourself, and be *ministered to* during Lent. The retreat will take place at Theological College (CUA) in Washington, DC., and will be directed by Fr. Jim Greenfield, OSFS.

Lent Retreat - Saturday, March 8, 9am to 2:30pm.

Look in this newsletter for more information on the lunch, and in the February newsletter for details and a registration form for the retreat. For now, plan to join us in these events designed to build your own spiritual and social well being!

NPM Convention 2014: Proclaim Good News

After all the excitement of hosting an NPM National Convention in 2013, what could possibly top it off? *Attending* and *enjoying* the 2014 NPM National Convention in St. Louis, of course! You are especially invited to consider attending this convention if the Washington convention was your first. The Arlington and DC Chapters traditionally have a large number of attendees at the annual convention, and one of the best Chapter Dinners in town!

Registering via your local chapter provides the best deal! If you - or your parish - are both a national member and a DC or Arlington chapter member, you can participate in the Chapter Group Discount, the cheapest registration possible (cheaper than “early-bird”!).

Look for more info in the next newsletter.

Click below for the convention brochure!

<http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/ConventionBrochure.pdf>

Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter.

Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month.

Please email Jim Wickman directly at jaw249@georgetown.edu.



******* Save the date *******

Who: Arlington, & DC Chapter Members and Your Friends, Family Members

What: Annual Shrove Tuesday Meal & Mingle

When: March 4, 2014, 12:00 noon

Where: Brion's Grill, 10621 Braddock Rd. in Fairfax, VA

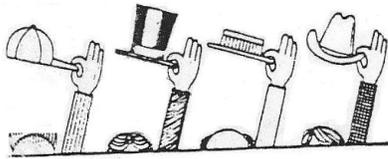
Upcoming Concert Opportunities

January 31, Friday, 8:00p.m. • Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

1427 W. Braddock Rd. Alexandria, VA, contact 703-998-6100 ext 103

The Cecilian Players will perform a program of chamber music that includes the “Duo for Violin and Cello” by Ravel and the “Piano Quintet in Eb Major” by Schumann. Admission free; donations support the Blessed Sacrament Concert Series.

Hosting a concert, performance, or special event at your parish, church or institution? For inclusion in this newsletter, send a note to Jim Wickman jaw249@georgetown.edu



HATS OFF!

As always, we are grateful to the musicians who generously provide music for the TV Mass for Shut-Ins, celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW TV each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

St. John Neumann Parish Choir, Gaithersburg, MD
 Mt. St. Mary's University Chapel Choir, Emmitsburg, MD
 St. Leo the Great Parish Children's Choir, Fairfax, VA.

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