

# Music & Liturgy Notes

Sponsored by: Association of National Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Erie Diocese Chapter

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[www.erieRCD.org](http://www.erieRCD.org)

## Working With the RCIA

As of last June, our RCIA team had shrunk to three people. Then they attended the "Beginnings and Beyond" RCIA Conference at Villa Maria PA in August.

Bursting with inspiration on their return, the team grew larger.

This year we will have over 20 people completing the RCIA process and joining in full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil.

At the conference the team learned by doing. They experienced

the entire Easter Vigil, taking on different roles as they walked through the rite.

They were inspired by the musician, Rory Cooney, and the way he wove an assembly refrain into the Genesis reading and sang the Exodus reading. We may use one of these selections this year and the other next year.

We already are using the dismissal song called "Your Word Is a Light" at the team's request.

The team's enthusiasm has rubbed off on the rest of us. We all want to make this Easter Vigil the best it has ever been – a true climax to our liturgical year.

I encourage you to attend conferences, workshops and other events to learn more about what you do, so that you can inspire others as our RCIA team has done.

Sharen Seiple, Greenville

See *Coming Up* p.3  
for another FORUM opportunity.

From the NPM director:

## NPM in the Diocese of Erie

I'd like to invite you to the annual Erie Diocese Chapter NPM Banquet and SongFest which will be hosted by Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church in Conneaut Lake on Sunday, April 26th. Mark your calendars now! This is one of two diocesan-wide events that we sponsor. I hope to see you there! (See p. 3 for details.)

The National NPM convention will be in Chicago this year from July 6-10. Chapters with 10 or more attendees will get a group discount on the full convention fee. Please contact me soon if you plan to attend. My number is 814-762-8042, or you may send me an e-mail at [oboeram51@yahoo.com](mailto:oboeram51@yahoo.com). Let me know if you are interested in sharing transportation and/or lodging.

Also, there are NPM Summer Institutes that might interest you. Our diocese is hosting a Cantor Express

from July 31-August 2 at Clarion University. This will provide an opportunity for you to attend one of these interesting and educational events without having to travel a great distance. Please consider attending. (Ask about scholarships.)

Check out "NPM Summer Institutes" online at [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org) for information and registration for all Institutes. The schedule for this summer includes: Choir Directors, Guitar and Ensemble, Pastoral Liturgy, Children's Choirs, and Cantor Express

Erie Diocese Chapter members are encouraged to join the national organization of NPM to receive *Pastoral Music* magazine, discounts for national events and more. For application forms, membership information, etc., see [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org). NPM serves clergy, musicians and all involved in liturgy. Get involved in NPM at both the national and dioc-

san levels.

Rita McConnell, Director  
Erie Diocese NPM Chapter

**NPM**

**Erie Chapter  
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## Music Deanery Reports

### CLEARFIELD

At our January 27<sup>th</sup> meeting we set up a schedule for the year. We will meet at 4 PM on March 17 to finalize the calendar. (Snow date March 19.)

Events include:

- April 19 – Gathering on the theme of Divine Mercy, at 2 PM at Holy Trinity Church in Ramey.
- June 14 – Presentation and Discussion on "Sing to the Lord," the recent bishops document on music for the liturgy, by Matthew Clark, 2 PM. Location TBD.
- October 18 – Saint Cecilia celebration at Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Grassflat.

Complete minutes of the meeting will go to all directors/coordinators.

### ERIE

A new three-member leadership team has been formed with representatives from East, West and Central Erie areas. If you are interested in working with the team please contact one of the team members: Nancy Kujawinski, Pam Verity or Janice Wilson.

kujawins004@gannon.edu  
verity@olcs-erie.com  
sjcewilson@yahoo.com

### MEADVILLE

The CORE group will meet to choose music for the SongFest and Spring Banquet on Sunday, April 26, hosted at Our Lady, Queen of the Americas Church in Conneaut Lake

and to make plans for "Sharing in Spirit and Song" to be held this summer.

An appreciation dinner for the priests of the Meadville deanery, in early December, was very successful. Rick Orr, the music director at St. Agatha Church in Meadville, hosted.

Everyone enjoyed an evening of good food and camaraderie. We plan to make this an annual event.

### SHARON

85 people gathered for our St. Cecilia Celebration, representing most parishes in the deanery. We appreciated the several priests who attended – and we sent 27 thank-you cards to prove it!

Fr. Jeff Noble presided at Evening Prayer and gave a relevant and inspiring homily. He led us in giving thanks for a long list of things using a sung response after each item.

We enjoyed the food and the fellowship afterwards and the music graciously sent by publishers, WLP, OCP and GIA.

We introduced new music directors: Lesa Reed from Beloved Disciple in Grove City and Chris Walchesky from St. Bartholomew Church in Sharpsville.

Thanks to Fr. Stanley Swacha and the folks at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church who welcomed us into a beautiful worship space and offered

us an unbelievable spread of goodies. Thanks to Ruthanne Beighley and Peggy Dolata for coordinating this event and to Fr. Jeff Noble and Gretchen Wagner who planned the service.

The Sharon Deanery group did not meet in January due to lots and lots of snow. We are planning to meet on March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Legends Restaurant in Hermitage, PA to discuss the "Music & Liturgy Olympics" idea for our potluck picnic in June.

### ST. MARYS

The directors, musicians and singers of the St. Joseph Monastery and the churches of the St. Marys Deanery gathered at St. Marys Church on Sunday afternoon, November 16, at 3:00 PM for a special blessing of all involved in the ministry of liturgical music followed by sung Evening Prayer with Father Michael Ferrick presiding.

We cherished this quiet moment of blessing, peace and prayer which gave us strength and prepared us for the duties of the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas. Father Meinrad, pastor of St. Marys Church, invited everyone to enjoy a delicious "Simple Supper" served in the cafeteria of St. Marys School.

## NPM Colloquium: Pastoral Musicians as Co-Workers

The phenomenal growth in lay ministry, said Edward Hahnenberg, at the February Colloquium in Washington D.C., is a major event in the evolution of how the church responds to God's call through history.

The topic was the 2005 U.S. Bishops' document "Co-Workers in the Vineyard," the result of several previous documents and decades of conversations (<http://www.usccb.org/laity/laymin/co-workers.pdf>).

"Co-Workers" moves closer to defining the roles of lay persons who serve the Church in an official capacity and calls them Lay Ecclesial Ministers (LEMs).

By this definition, LEMs are formed and prepared appropriately for the level of responsibilities assigned to them. They work in close mutual collaboration with the pastoral ministry of the clergy. They exert leadership in a particular area of ministry. They are authorized by the bishop.

"Co-Workers" sets standards for lay ecclesial ministry. LEMs must achieve levels of development: as whole, healthy persons; spiritual and prayerful people; in theological knowledge and in skillful pastoral practice.

In addition, music LEMs must be able to form and lead praying communities in song; train and form musi-

cians and music ministers and develop participative musical liturgy in parishes.

God calls us into fullness of life in relationship with Him, said Hahnenberg. Musicians mediate this call by promoting the participation of all in the liturgy and in a growing and evolving relationship with God.

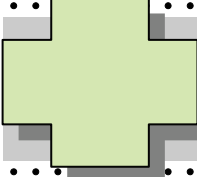
**Matthew Clark, Office of Worship**

*A music director's view...*

I found the Colloquium helpful in accessing my roles and responsibilities as a music director. Baptism calls

*(Cont'd. page 3)*

<p align="center"><b><u>Sunday, April 26, 2009</u></b></p> <p><b>Song Fest &amp; Spring Banquet</b> Our Lady, Queen of the Americas 155 South Ninth St. Conneaut Lake</p> <p><b>SongFest: 3 - 4:45 PM no cost</b> <b>Dinner: 5:00 PM cost: \$10;</b> <b>\$8 for Diocesan NPM members</b> <b>CLERGY FREE!</b> Guests of NPM Board CONTACTS: Bernie - 814-734-5446 Carolyn 814-382-3421 <a href="mailto:cmelby@zoominternet.net">cmelby@zoominternet.net</a></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>May/June 2009</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Steve Petrunak returns</b> <b>Guitar Master Classes</b> <b>Erie area</b> Date to be determined.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>June 19-20</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Focus on Initiation:</b> <b>Concerning the Baptized</b> Sponsored by Altoona Diocese and the American FORUM on the Catechumenate  <a href="http://www.naforum.org">see: www.naforum.org</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>DATE T.B.D.</b></p> <p><b>Leading the Assembly from the Organ/Keyboard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eastern Vicariate Area</li> <li>• Erie Area</li> </ul> <p>Leadership Skills for Accompanists Sponsored by the Office of Worship</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>July 6-10, 2009</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>SING TO THE LORD</b> <b>NPM National Convention</b> <b>Chicago, IL</b> Fr. Ronald Rolheiser, Fr. Paul Turner, Dan Schutte, John Bell, Alonso, Haas, Hurd, Walker</p> <p align="center"><b>PLUS MORE</b> See: <a href="http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/index.htm">http://www.npm.org/EducationEvents/convention/index.htm</a></p>	<p align="center"><b><u>July 31-Aug. 2, 2009</u></b></p> <p align="center"><b>Cantor Express Institute</b> <b>at Clarion University</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Sponsored by the National NPM</b> <b>for details see:</b> <a href="http://www.npm.org">www.npm.org</a></p>
<p align="center"><b>NPM INSTITUTES this Summer</b> Choir Directors - Guitar and Ensemble - Pastoral Liturgy - Children's Choirs - Cantor Express <a href="http://www.npm.org">see www.npm.org</a></p>		

 <p align="center"><b>REST IN PEACE</b></p> <p align="center">Please keep in prayer those who have died recently and their families and friends: Al Leonzi's sister Michelle; Bernie Connelly's father Marion "Bus."</p>
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**Musicians as Co-Workers** (cont'd.)

all of us to service. "Co-workers" asks all in ministry; clergy and lay, to work together as members of the Body of Christ to ensure that our dioceses and parishes remain spiritually healthy and that our liturgies bring God's people closer to him.

"Co-Workers" is about a historical transformation. Lay ecclesial ministry, a relatively new reality, stretches the concept of ministry. For centuries the role of minister belonged to the clergy alone. Gradually religious orders arose to meet other ministerial needs. Vatican II renewed the call to ministry of all the baptized and lay people have responded.

The document calls for a renewed study of the theology of vocation, the tension between a

call to faith and a call to do a special task. Bishops have recognized that lay ministers often sense a call by God to serve and have responded saying: "... that this call or vocation is worthy of respect and sustained attention."

It is essential that clergy and lay ministers work toward a relational approach in doing God's work, Hahnenberg said, thereby mirroring the very relational nature of God as Trinity. God is relationship. Just so, individual parishes must be in communion with each other and in relationship with the universal Church.

As music ministers, we are called to collaborate with one another as "Co-Workers in God's Vineyard." We must remember that we are called to serve the community and not to perform for ourselves. We

must enable a "common song" among all God's people.

Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake

*NOTES* is now sent electronically. If you know of someone without Internet access who should see *NOTES*, please pass on a copy.

**NPM Memberships**

**Diocesan NPM:** \$10 (individual); \$8 per person for 3 people or more from the same parish; \$75 for all parish musicians (make checks out to "Erie NPM".)

For more info. on becoming a member, call Sharen Seiple at (724) 815-5362 or e-mail at [sharen@neo.rr.com](mailto:sharen@neo.rr.com)

**National NPM:** visit [www.npm.org](http://www.npm.org) or call NPM at (240) 247-3000.