

Music & Liturgy Notes

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

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Revised Grail Psalms: A Liturgical Psalter

We sang, we read, we analyzed. The NPM Colloquium which convened in Arlington, Virginia from January 29 through January 31 focused on a new translation of the psalms. Abbot Gregory J. Polan, OSB, who directed the revision of the 1963 Grail Psalms, and Bob Batastini, retired music editor from GIA Publishing, offered presentations on what are called the *Revised Grail Psalms*.

A bit of history: When the Mass was still in Latin, permission was given to sing the psalms in the vernacular. Jesuit Fr. Joseph Gelineau, prepared a translation in French

using a rhythm that worked well for recitation and chant called "sprung rhythm." A community of lay women, called the Grail, translated Father Gelineau's work into English. Begun in the 1950's, the project was completed in 1963. The Grail Psalms provided a comfortable transition to the vernacular since they were easily understood.

Why do we need a new translation now? In the Grail, the Hebrew was often paraphrased in order to adhere to a set rhythmic pattern. Also, Biblical scholarship over the years has provided a better understanding of the structure of Hebrew

poetry and some of the more problematic texts. Finally, *Liturgiam Authenticam* (2001) called for a translation that is as exact as possible. For these reasons, in 1998, Abbot Gregory, a monk at Conception Abbey MO, and a scripture scholar and a musician, was asked to work on a new translation. His work was approved by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in 2002, and received official recognition from the Vatican on April 8, 2011.

What does this mean for pastoral musicians? The Revised Grail Psalms now comprise the offi-

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FROM THE DIRECTOR: Rita McConnell, Director, NPM-Erie Diocese Chapter

Mark your calendars! Lots of things are happening in the next few months. I'm really excited about our **SongFest/Banquet with David Kauffman (April 22nd)**. Hope you will reserve a seat. Don't miss the flyer and the deadline date!

The NPM Convention, July will be the highlight of the summer. I'm hoping, since it is so close (Pittsburgh), that lots of diocesan clergy and musicians will attend. We will meet Thursday night, July 26; we will meet for dinner as a diocese before Mass. The location and time will be announced on the daily bulletin board at the Convention. We

will take a photo to remember the day. Matt Clark will again make buttons for everyone to wear during the week. So please let me know who will be attending.

Well, this is my last Director's Article. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last four years as Chapter Director. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Sharing my love of God and music with the Board, pastors, and musicians of the diocese through this position has made my life fuller and richer. At the April 22nd Banquet, our new co-directors, Lynn Nicklas from St. Marys Parish, St. Marys and Gloria Richardson, St. Eulalia

Parish, Coudersport, will be installed. I send them blessings and best wishes as they begin

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Revised GRAIL Psalms (cont.)

cial English-language liturgical Psalter for the United States. They will be incorporated in the *Revised Lectionary* when it is released in the future and other ritual books. Composers take note: The revised Grail translation should be your text for any compositions you are working on. GIA has

an edition available for purchase.

What did I take away from the Colloquium? I was reminded that the psalms are a treasured part of Sacred Scripture; that they should be an important part of all liturgical celebrations. The psalms can strengthen our communal and personal prayer. We

are the ones who put the psalms on the lips of our people.

Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake

Note:

NPM Webinar on the Grail Psalms, March 15, 2012 at 2pm.

See: <https://www.npm.org/webinarSeries/>

Director (cont.)

their term of leadership. These women have been outstanding musicians in their parishes and communities and dedicated members of the NPM Board. You can look forward to more inspiring events and programs.

I'd like to thank all of the 15 Board members representing the deaneries of the diocese. Preparing and presenting all the annual Day of Reflections and SongFest/Banquets has been a team effort. I consider all the members of the

Board to be good friends and I look forward to future meetings with them as a Board member representing Clearfield Deanery.

I especially would like to thank Matt Clark for his guidance, knowledge, expertise and fine musicianship along with his patience and calm presence. Talking with him when planning for Board meetings has made my job an easy one. I am very grateful that we have always worked in conjunction with the Office of Worship

and Bishop Trautman. Many NPM Chapters work independently. It is Bishop Trautman's approval and support that has helped our Chapter grow into a vibrant and healthy organization. NPM is alive and well in the Erie Diocese. Pastoral musicians work together to celebrate liturgies that are well-prepared and that minister to the people. Thanks to all of you for attending our events and for hosting them. Remember always: "Keep a song in your heart!" **Rita**

Music Deanery Groups News

CLEARFIELD

On Sunday, February 26th the Deanery Choir sang at the Rite of Election/Call to Continuing Conversion at St. Francis Church in Clearfield.

On May 5th, members of all the choirs are invited to participate in the Deanery Choir. We will meet at Christ the King Church in Houtzdale for a practice at 4:00 P.M. and sing for the Mass at 5:00 P.M. the same day. The *Heritage Mass* setting will be sung. You will be sent the hymn selections at a later date. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Center, followed by a brief business meeting. Contact persons are to call Bernadette Johnson at 814-373-7421 by April 15, with the number of participants.

On October 21st in Houtzdale at 4:30 P.M. we will hold a service in honor of St. Cecilia. The program will include vespers, a brief homily and a hymn sing. Refreshments will be served afterwards. Contact Bernadette by

October 14th with a count of how many will attend from each parish.

MEADVILLE

"Youth in Ministry" was the topic of Fr. Steve Schreiber's talk at the gathering of the musicians and other parishioners from the churches in the Meadville Deanery. This event sponsored by the local NPM CORE group, took place on Saturday morning, February 25th at St. Peter Church in Conneautville. Fr. Schreiber, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Erie, entertained questions and gave many helpful suggestions as to how to get our youth involved in ministry and actively participating in our liturgies. A pot luck lunch was held during the meeting. Janet and Arco Wasserman hosted this event..

ST. MARYS

Pastoral Musicians of St. Joseph Monastery and the nine parishes of the St. Marys Deanery, are very busy

with extra services and rehearsals as we enter the Lenten season.

The people of the Music Ministry are diligently implementing the changes required by the new Roman Missal as they provide music and song for Lenten Masses, Stations of the Cross and upcoming Reception of the Sacraments.

The three St. Marys Parishes, Queen of the World, Sacred Heart and St. Marys have combined choirs for the March 11 Confirmation Mass. Rehearsals are once a week.

Deanery Members:

Register early for the Song Fest on April 22nd. Remember that the Kaufmann presentation seating is limited to 150.

Review the information on the 35th Annual NPM Convention--this year in Pittsburgh (July 23- 27th). For good liturgy, music, new products, instruments and sharing the ministry with one's peers, this is the place to go. Come to see and hear the peo-

DEANERY GROUP NEWS (cont.)

ple who are writing and publishing the music you play and sing each week from your various worship aids!

SHARON

An exciting new musical, *Moses and the Burning Within*, will be presented at Notre Dame Church on two week-ends during Lent: Friday, March 2nd and Saturday, March 3rd. and on Friday, March 9th and Saturday, March 10th. Evening shows take place at 7:30 P.M. There will be a matinee performance on Sunday, March 11th at 4:00 P.M. The musical tells the story of Moses from the time he was drawn from the water, to his call from God at the burning bush and his ultimate delivery of the Israelites from the hand of Pharaoh. The show was written by David Kauffman and William

Gokelman, the composers of the award-winning Mass of Renewal, which is the mass setting being used by many parishes in the Erie Diocese.

Ken Wagner directs the show, and Mary Beth LoScalzo is the music director. Mary Rumelfanger from Good Shepherd Parish in West Middlesex will conduct the full pit orchestra comprised of piano, keyboard, guitar, flute, violin, cello and percussion. There is an energetic and talented cast of nearly 50 encouraging you to attend this exciting performance. Tickets are priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors (60 and older) and students. This musical was presented last year during Lent and drew an audience of 1,400 people.

On Saturday April 21st. David Kauff-

man will present a concert at Notre Dame Church in Hermitage at 7:00 P.M. Tickets for this event are also \$10 for adults and \$5 for seniors and students. The following day, Sunday, April 22nd, David will present a workshop for the NPM Songfest to be held at Beloved Disciple Church in Grove City. **See details on page four.**

For more information about both events, please contact Gretchen Wagner at 714-981-5556, ext. 109.

WARREN

Holy Redeemer Parish in Warren hosted Tajci, a Christian singer. Tajci was a pop superstar in Croatia who came to the United States at age 21. She performed "I Thirst--the Crucifixion Story" on Monday, February 27.

NPM Chapter Board and Deanery Groups Info.

Q: How do I learn more about participating on the NPM Erie Chapter board, or with a deanery music group?

A: NPM Erie Chapter board members are from all areas of the diocese. If you would like to know more about becoming a member or assisting in any way, you are always welcome to come to a board meeting to listen to and participate in discussions and plans. Perhaps you would like to join the board to represent your area of the diocese. The next meeting will be at the Immaculate Conception Church rectory meeting room in Clarion at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 24.

Deaneries are areas within the diocese where your parish is located. There are active deanery music groups in operation, and others are still in formation. These groups are a help locally in getting musicians to come to know one another, to learn more about music, and to plan occasional combined events.

To learn more about participating in either a chapter or a deanery meeting, you can contact Rita McConnell at oBoeram51@yahoo.com, or contact Matt Clark at the Office of Worship, mclark@erieRCD.org.

NPM

**Erie Chapter
Board Members**

Director: Rita McConnell, Clearfield

Assoc. Dir.: (vacant)

Directors emeriti:

Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake; Sr. Lucille DeStefano, Erie; Janice Grunenwald, Clarion

Events: Bernie Connelly, Edinboro

Treasurer: Ed Horneman, Meadville

Membership: Sharen Seiple, Greenville

Worship Office: Matt Clark, Erie

Members-at-large:

Joan Eighmey, Youngsville, Bernadette Johnson, Houtzdale; Al Leonzi, Edinboro; Jean Mitroski, Clarion; Lynn Nicklas, St. Marys; Gloria Richardson, Coudersport; Jocelynn Smreker, DuBois; Peggy Wolbert, Lucinda

After the Song Fest and dinner on April 22nd Lynn Nicklas and Gloria Richardson will be installed as the new co-directors of the Erie Chapter of NPM.

Coming Up!

Song Fest and Banquet

NPM SongFest & Dinner

April 22nd, 2012

David Kauffman

Mass of Renewal
Music for Retreats,
Grief Ministry,
Samples of Moses.

Hosted by
Beloved Disciple Parish
Grove City

Registration at 2:30 PM
Program begins at 3:15 PM
Dinner at 5:15 PM

For information, contact
Bernie Connelly
at (814) 734-5446 or
www.bbconnelly1@verizon.net

Our chapter will present its annual SongFest & Banquet on Sunday, April 22, 2012 at Beloved Disciple Church, Grove City, PA. This year, David Kaufmann will be the featured presenter. He is a nationally known composer and musician.

David Kaufmann has said that one of the high points in his career was a performance for Pope John Paul II at World Youth Day in 1997 in France. He has become highly successful, producing CDs along with William Gokelman and

other Christian artists, music books, choral octavos, sheet music and a full-blown musical, "Moses and The Burning Within," which has been staged throughout the U.S. and Canada and is being shopped among producers in New York, Los Angeles and other major theater communities.

The latest offering, "Mass of Renewal" has potential to become their most widely recognized work. If you have a copy or copies of "Mass of Renewal" you are asked to bring it along to the Song Fest.

Dinner:

stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, tossed salad, relish tray, roll & butter, dessert and beverages

Register for Concert and Dinner OR Concert alone.

Concert Workshop & Dinner
Cost for Song Fest and Banquet:

- \$15 for NPM Erie Chapter members
- \$20 for non-members
(reservations due by April 1)

Concert Workshop Only

The cost for the Song Fest only is \$10

(reservations due by April 15)

Mail reservations and checks made out to "Erie Chapter NPM" to: Ed Horneman, 10877 Eastview Ave., Meadville PA 16335.

July 23-27
NPM Convention
in Pittsburgh



RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH

Don't miss this "near-to-home" opportunity!
NPM's national convention is in Pittsburgh this year!

Hotels are already filling.

Early bird date was March 1st.

Cost-saving registrations still available. See: www.npm.org

More than 150 learning opportunities for all levels and interests, including workshops, master classes, clinics, intensives, and lab sessions

Sung prayer and spiritual renewal, including daily sung prayer, convention Eucharist, sacramental reconciliation, retreat morning, and prayer chapel

Thought-provoking plenum addresses by Ronald Raab, CSC, J. Michael Joncas, Kevin W. Irwin, Barbara E. Reid, OP, and Doris Donnelly

Blessed John XXIII Lecture Series on the implications of Vatican II by respected scholars

Musical events that will inspire you for excellence in your own ministry

Showcases and exhibits where you may discover (or rediscover) music and other resources to enrich the prayer of your community

Gather with musicians, clergy, liturgists, and other leaders who share your passion and commitment.