

MUSIC & LITURGY NOTES

Erie Diocesan Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians (NPM)

Upcoming Events

The annual **NPM Day of Reflection** will be held on Saturday, October 14 from 9:30 - 2:00 at St. Callistus Church in Kane. Presenter Donna Clark, M.Div. will speak on "The Role of Spiritual Formation for Musicians and Other Liturgical Ministers." The cost, which includes lunch, is \$10 for NPM members and \$12 for non-members. To register go to www.erieRCD.org and click on the NPM retreat button to download the registration form.

Answer the Call, a Lessons and Carols concert with original music by Michael Malthaner, will be presented on December 3rd at 2:00 in the Cathedral Prep auditorium. A free will offering will benefit the fund for retired priests and religious.

Mark C. Kulyk Fund

Will Support NPM Projects

In the September 2017 edition of NPM's *Pastoral Music* magazine is an article praising our own Mark C. Kulyk and promoting The Mark C. Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry. Here are a few highlights from the article.

During the NPM members meeting, President Steve Petrunak introduced **The Mark C. Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry**. Mark (1956-2016) was a person with many talents and wide-range knowledge, but the constants in his life were his love for his wife and his family and a love of music, especially the music that was woven into his Catholic faith and his love for God.

Mark was from Fairview, Pennsylvania and a member of Holy Cross Parish. He was a member of the Holy Cross choir for over 25 years. Mark was very involved in pastoral music and he eventually became one of the three unpaid directors who built an effective, vibrant, and enduring music program at Holy Cross. In July 2015 Mark was diagnosed with a serious brain tumor. He passed away in late November 2016.

While Mark died far sooner than anyone expected, **The Mark C. Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry** will ensure that his legacy as a dedicated servant of God will continue. The fund will support special NPM projects to serve the membership and the mission more effectively. You can donate directly through the new NPM website www.npm.org

Marge Himber

Guest Columnist: Joan Eighmey

MUSIC IN LITURGY AND HOW IT INSPIRES ME

As a professional musician I cannot imagine liturgy without music. We are to be active participants in the liturgy, and that includes singing hymns, psalms, and acclamations. As music ministers we are called to provide musical accompaniment that encourages and helps the assembly to sing to their best ability and to be fully engaged in the liturgy.

Music can lift our hearts and minds to God in a way that mere words cannot achieve. When we join our voices in song we worship God with more than sound. We worship God with our hearts.

A brief biography: Joan Eighmey has been a music minister since the age of 13. She received a Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music, University of Rochester and has taught piano at Texas Tech University and Mercyhurst University. She is a music minister at Holy Redeemer Church in Warren serving as organist, pianist, and choir accompanist. Joan is a past member of the Erie Chapter NPM Board.

2018 Membership Info

\$10 each for 1-2 members

\$8 each 3-9 members from the same parish

\$75 parish rate for 10 or more members

Make checks payable to **Erie Diocesan Chapter of NPM;**

mail to the NPM Membership coordinator:

Marge Himber, 102 6th Street, Youngsville, PA 16371

If you have any questions, contact Marge at:

(814) 563-9236 (home)

(814) 230-4742 (cell)

or email: marge.himber@outlook.com

Director's Notes

As we leave the long summer days behind us, we take one final deep breath before our lives become increasingly busy. Summer is the Lord's gift to us and one we should not take for granted.

Even so, I enjoy this season, autumn, as much. The crisp cooler air, the vibrant colors, God is dressing the earth for a brief time before winter comes. Enjoy the show for the short time that it lasts.

The Church, in turn, gives us these last weeks of Ordinary Time to reflect and plan for the new liturgical year to come. We gather our thoughts and inner resources to prepare ourselves and others for the seasons to come.

Sue Hutchins

NEW NPM WEBSITE

NPM recently rolled out a new website for the National Association. New site ... same address: www.npm.org Check it out today!

ANOTHER CHANGE

Be aware that you now must be a national NPM member to use their liturgy planner.

NPM Board Annual Retreat

On the afternoon of Monday August 21, members of the Erie Diocesan NPM Board met at Olmsted Manor Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA. Those attending the retreat included Bernie Connelly (Our Lady of the Lake- Edinboro), Neil and Marge Hember (Holy Redeemer- Warren), Sue Hutchins (St Callistus-Kane), Pat Marshall (Holy Rosary-Erie) Carolyn Melby (Our Lady Queen of the Americas-Conneaut Lake), and Peggy Wolbert (St Joseph-Lucinda).

The focus of this retreat was the text of the publication *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* which was developed by the Music Subcommittee on Divine Worship of the USCCB. The participants concentrated on "The Church at Prayer," "Music of Catholic Worship," "Preparing Music for Catholic Worship" and "Musical Structure of Catholic Worship." The discussions that ensued were lively and informative.

On Monday evening, Marge and Neil Hember shared their experiences on their alternative tour to the Middle East. This trip allowed them to observe the lives of Palestinians in occupied territories. Their talk, accompanied by many pictures, was enlightening and inspiring.

Matt Clark from the Office of Worship spent time with us on Tuesday afternoon. He discussed faith formation, the next phase in the restructuring of our diocese. Matt pointed out the unique role in formation that musicians can hold. The Board, in response, chose to use this concept of formation for our annual Fall Day of Reflection.

Sue Hutchins

*"Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
cry out to the rock of our salvation. "Ps 95*

NPM Board

Director: Sue Hutchins, Kane

Directors emeriti: Gloria Richardson, Coudersport; Lynn Nicklas, St. Marys; Rita McConnell Haynes, Clearfield; Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake; Sr. Lucille DeStefano, Erie; Janice Grunenwald; Clarion

Events: Bernie Connelly, Edinboro

Treasurer: Neil Himber, Youngsville

Membership: Marge Himber, Youngsville

Communications: Peggy Wolbert, Lucinda, Pat Marshall, Erie

Office of Worship: Matt Clark, Erie

Members-at-large: Al Leonzi, Edinboro; Jean Mitrosky, Clarion; Deacon Ed Horneman, Meadville; Carolyn Melby, Conneaut Lake

Erie Deanery Music Ministers' Picnic

Music ministers of the Erie area deaneries held their first annual summer picnic this past August on the beautiful grounds of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Harborcreek. We thank Msgr. Ritchie for allowing us to use the picnic shelter and surrounding lawns, a perfect setting for this event. We also thank Brandon Vogt, music director at Our Lady of Mercy for hosting the picnic. He worked side by side with a committee that met numerous times to prepare for the occasion. Fr. Chris Singer, Chancellor for the Diocese of Erie, spoke briefly. He noted the important role that musicians play in the formation of their parishes and thanked them for their service. That role will only grow, he said, as we continue work on the Diocesan Formation Plan as part of the pastoral planning process of the diocese.

The Erie Deanery Music Ministers is a growing organization that is focused on liturgical planning and staying up to date on liturgical issues through contact with the Office of Worship. The group plans to meet several times each year to update its members on musical ideas and techniques and to develop networking for sharing ideas and resources, and to enjoy the fellowship of people with similar responsibilities and interests.

Approximately 50 people attended the picnic. Members of the organizing committee are Kathy Golden, Blessed Sacrament; Maripat Grant, St. Mark/Mt. Calvary; Brian Kuzmin, Our Lady of Peace; Michael Malthaner, Sacred Heart; Brandon Vogt, Our Lady of Mercy; Rich Wiler, St. Luke and Matt Clark of the Office of Worship.

Michael Malthaner

Q: When do we begin the song at Communion time?

A: The book *Sing to the Lord* and the Roman Missal provide answers to many of our questions regarding music at liturgies, including the Mass, Funerals, Marriage, Confirmation and more. Here is information regarding when to begin the Communion song.

Sing to the Lord book, paragraph 189:

“While the priest is receiving the Sacrament, the Communion chant or song is begun. The purpose of beginning as the priest receives is to represent the *union* of the reception by all who are present. The song continues until the last person has received. The song or songs may be sung by the congregation alone, along with cantor or choir, or by the choir alone. It should take into mind the season of the year, or the gospel of the day or about the Eucharistic banquet. Many Psalms are ideal for use at Communion time.”

Roman Missal, paragraph 136:

“While the Priest is receiving the Body of Christ, the Communion chant [song] begins.”