

Music & Liturgy Notes

Erie Diocesan Chapter of National Pastoral Musicians (NPM)

Formation Opportunity Offered For Liturgical Musicians

A new liturgical year is only two months away, and for many of us that means new missals. To help us make the most of our resources, OCP Publications is offering a webinar entitled "Music, Resources and Tips for 2019: Preparing for the New Liturgical Year."

The webinar will be held September 19th from 1:00-2:00 (Eastern Time) and is a good free opportunity for users of *Breaking Bread*, *Today's Missal* and *Spirit and Psalm* to discover new songs and get new ideas to energize your music ministry.

The seminar will be hosted by Dr. Glenn Byer, OCP Worship Publications Manager. To register, see the webinar link on the bottom left of the OCP home page at www.OCP.org

Membership Renewal for 2019

Letters to renew your membership to the local Erie Chapter of NPM will be going out to parishes in November. Dues are used to help support NPM diocesan activities and entitle you to receive discounts on banquets, retreats, and workshops the Erie Chapter offers. The cost of membership will remain at the same low price:

\$10 each for 1-2 members from the same parish

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

\$75 parish rate for 10 or more members.

If you have any questions, please contact Marge Himber, Erie Chapter NPM Membership Coordinator at (814) 563-9236 (home), (814) 230-4742 (cell).



Are Patriotic Songs Appropriate at Mass?

Veterans Day, November 11th, will fall on a Sunday this year, bringing the question all such holidays do: should we sing the patriotic songs that people love at mass?

Fr. James Martin, S.J. wrote an excellent article addressing the issue for *America* magazine in July 2017. The title of his article was "Should we sing patriotic songs at Mass? Probably not."

Not all patriotic songs are equal, and Fr. Martin points out that content of a song is important. Is the song directed to God or to the United States? For example "America the Beautiful," which probably appears in your parish's missal, is about the beauty of our country, not the beauty of God. However "Eternal Father, Strong to Save" addresses God, asking for protection of those who serve. We must choose carefully, avoiding songs that would seem to subordinate the Sacrifice of the Mass to the United States of America.

One of the things I love about our Catholic liturgy is that it unites us with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. I have had the pleasure of attending mass in other countries, feeling connected to friends and family back home who were celebrating that same liturgy, centered on our faith in God.

As Americans, we have much to be proud of and many chances to show our pride. As Catholics, we come to mass to worship our God.

Pat Marshall

Erie Deanery Music Directors and Coordinators Meet

Music directors and coordinators of the Erie Deaneries met for a picnic get together on August 22, 2018 at the Mount Carmel Parish picnic pavilion in Erie. A few cantors and at least one pastor were present as invited guests. Informal conversation and sharing were the order of the evening.

Cindy Zemcik, coordinator of Child Protection for the Diocese of Erie, was present to speak with anyone who wanted updates on the child protection policy and how to implement it. Matt Clark from the Office of Worship announced updates to the Worship web page, including guides for liturgical ministers, liturgy committees and pastoral councils. He told the musicians about “Liturgy Reminders,” that are sent through the Information Bulletin and detail upcoming special feasts and celebrations. He also announced a new one-page liturgy posting, also sent through the Information Bulletin called “Good Liturgy Matters” which examines a liturgy topic each month. You may subscribe to the Information Bulletin at <https://www.eriercd.org/list-informationalbulletin.php>



If you would like help to set up a meeting with local musicians in your area, contact the Office of Worship at 814-824-1270.

Matthew Clark, Office of Worship

Q: What are Litanies?

A: Litanies are prayers of petition addressed to our Lord, the Blessed Mother and/or the saints. They are not in the form of hymns or songs but are a series of the petitions and have responses such as “pray for us.” They are often used at the Easter Vigil, Eucharist devotions such as Forty Hours, and special feast days, etc.

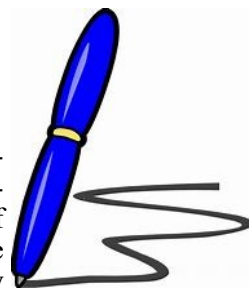
Litanies can be recited or sung. One example is the Litany of the Saints, popularly used in the ancient Latin chant form and the Becker litany. Litanies were used even before Christianity took hold, as Jews used this style when they worshiped in the temples. Our Kyrie Eleison and Lamb of God at Masses are in this style.

Peggy Wolbert

Do You Have Something to Share?

Is your parish or music ministry planning an event open to the public? Have you recently held an event or done an activity which could inspire other parishes to do likewise? Please share the good things you are doing in a future issue of *Music & Liturgy Notes* by e-mailing Pat Marshall at pat.marshall@holyrosaryerie.org. We are all in this ministry together! Please spread your good ideas!

Director's Notes



This has been a difficult year for Catholics, especially Catholics in Pennsylvania and in the Diocese of Erie. Many of us were aware of the issues that were revealed in the report of the Attorney General's office but were not aware of the scope and depth of what had occurred.

Anger, disappointment, even despair are real and authentic reactions to the report. In all of this, it is difficult to find the response that allows us to heal and go forward as a faith community. We must recognize that the victims suffered because of the initial abuse and again as a result of the actions of those who covered up that abuse. If our church is to survive, we must acknowledge the egregious nature of the abuse and vow to do all in our power to prevent further abuses. We must allow those damaged by the abuses and the cover up to have a recognition of their pain and suffering. We must not turn our backs to them.

Those of us in music ministry have a unique role to play in this. We can help design and prepare music for liturgy for our parishes that allow us to grieve for the church we once knew and determine to let this experience make us stronger and truer to the teachings of Christ.

Sue Hutchins, Director

Guest Columnist: What impact does music have in the Liturgy for you?

Music is such an important part of the liturgy and can have a profound impact on people. I know that it had an incredible impact on me and continues to do so every day.

I was young when I began in music ministry in my parish. Simply attending the weekly Mass was not enough for me; I also felt God needed me to help convey His message to the congregation through music. I was the youngest member of the Senior Choir which was comprised of adults who really understood how instrumental they were to the liturgy (no pun intended). Being involved in the liturgy helped show me that the Mass is not just someone reading scripture and the priest giving a homily. To me, music ministry is being part of something bigger than I ever imagined.

Music gives people another way to hear God's word and participate in the Eucharist. Music allows me to use the talents that God has given me to contribute to my church and congregation. Music helps people find their way when they are lost and provides comfort when they have sorrow.

Megan Ambrose, St. Callistus Parish, Kane



Heard a good motivational speaker lately?

Deacon Thom Winner is that and more. As the closing speaker for the Baltimore NPM Convention whose theme was Praise! Grow! Serve! Tom delivered on *MOTIVATION*. What is your purpose in music ministry? Not sure? Tom can help. As a national speaker for manufacturers with distribution sales forces, Tom's former job was to help businesses understand just what their core business was. What's John Deere's business? Selling large farm tractors? No, making the life of a farmer easier. What's your business, your purpose? That was Thom's motivational question for a full house on the closing day of the Convention.

Purpose is driven by gifts. What gifts have I been given? How can I use them right here and now? Thom encouraged a "gift-driven life." We are full of un-realized potential, he said. What am I meant to be doing? It's easy to recognize, he said, if you look for the natural by-products of using gifts: a sense of fulfillment and a passion for what you're doing. He calls it your DNA, i.e., Divine Natural Attributes. Recognize your gifts. Be aware of opportunity. Be ready to answer the call. You will recognize the truth of this path when you feel the energy of the Spirit working in you.

Position titles and descriptions are misleading. They are functions. Act instead on who you are. So, what's your role at Mass? Playing music? Directing? Cantoring? Perhaps not. How about helping communities recognize God's presence in their lives or enlivening the word of God so that it may be heard? There's homework here for all of us.

Tom used the term convergent liturgy. I like it. It describes what good parishes do and the purpose of good liturgy committees. Convergent liturgy is the result of coordinating music, preaching, Scripture and all the ministers by WORKING TOGETHER. What a concept! But to reach this reality, we all may have to ask ourselves seriously, "What are my gifts? How am I called to use them with and for others? A last thought: Tom said "Numbers don't matter. Engage with what God sends you." Amen.

Matthew Clark, Office of Worship



St. Cecilia
Patroness of
Musicians
Pray for Us

Man of the Shroud Exhibit

St. Joseph Parish in Lucinda had the privilege of hosting the Man of the Shroud Exhibit from August 4 until August 12. It included an exact replica of the Shroud of Turin, plus much historic and scientific information.

The exhibit took an average of 45 to 50 minutes to see everything, and was spiritually moving to many visitors. By the final day, 536 visits were made. About half of the visitors were from many towns and even counties away from the parish.

The Shroud of Turin has long been venerated by the faithful and is believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth. The Shroud is one of the most scientifically studied religious icons in history. As science has progressed, so has the speculation on how the image of the crucified man of the Shroud was made.

The centerpiece of the exhibit is a full-length 14-foot replica of the Shroud developed from a photographic image of the Shroud made by the Eastman Kodak Co. The replica shows the front and back of the shroud. In addition, the mobile exhibit contains a large crucified corpus showing the wounds of Christ corresponding to the passion narrative in the Gospel accounts and the wounds shown on the Shroud. The exhibit contains numerous panels detailing the history and science of the Shroud. The Franciscan Friars of Marytown - the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe - make this important mobile exhibit and evangelization tool available.

Peggy Wolbert

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