

Crescendo



The Official Newsletter of the Trenton Chapter Of The Association Of Pastoral Musicians

Sept. 2006

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From the Chapter Director

I am excited about the upcoming year and all the wonderful events that have been planned. I know that this year will be a continuation of the many successful seasons we have had. Our first event of the season is going to be a Clergy-Musician dinner in Tom's River, on Oct. 1st. I hope you can find time in your busy schedule to attend. It's a great way to meet others and share an informal evening with your pastor and associates. When was the last time you sat and chatted over a meal with your pastor? This and other events planned for this year are detailed in this newsletter. If you are online, please check the website www.npmtrenton.org for updates and send us your email address. We will keep this address private and be able to send you the latest information about events at no cost to the chapter.

A letter from a Chapter Director would never be complete without a special thank you to all those who work on the board: county reps, committee members, event hosts and of course to Bishop Smith and Fr. Sam Sirianni, our Diocesan Director of Worship. When all these good people, including those who have helped in the past, come together, the director's job is easy. We have an outstanding group of people assisting the chapter and like yourselves, are all volunteering time out of their busy schedules to help share information and improve the Musical, Spiritual and Liturgical life in the Diocese.

Please feel free to contact me or another member on the NPM Trenton Board, or a County Representative if you have ideas, can assist with an event or would like more information. In addition, there are some vacancies on the board now and next year will be an election year. Please consider sharing your time.

Some of the other events and ideas in the works are Cantor Certifications, sponsored by NPM, co-sponsoring activities with AGO Chapters and of course partnering with our wonderful neighbors in the Diocese of Camden, Metuchen, Newark and Patterson. I look forward to meeting you at some events in the future.

Sincerely,

Nancy Paolini 609-883-5873 npaolini@comcast.net

Cantor Notes From Convention

By Kathy Defina

The following are summaries of a Plenum session with Paul Inwood and breakout sessions dealing with cantors from the Eastern Regional Convention of NPM held in Stamford, CT from June 27-30. The theme of the conventions was "Building Bridges". A reoccurring topic in these sessions was that the cantors "build bridges between themselves and their congregations through the presentation of the psalms."

These are just highlights of the information and techniques offered by National NPM at their regional and national conventions. We hope they will be of help.

Pastoral Musician as Leader of Prayer

Plenum Presentation by Paul Inwood

Liturgical Prayer:

1. Take time to let the different parts be what they can be— to be in God's presence.
2. Create silence.
3. Open ourselves up to God —set the mood to facilitate prayer.
4. Preoccupations are a part of our prayer— we pray through what we do. There are different types of prayer.
5. The focus is on the community— not on oneself.

There is a difference between me and Jesus and we are Jesus. Reflect upon the life of the Trinity.

6. Liturgical Prayer creates community. Whenever the assembly sings they pray to one another.

The implications of this:

The music minister enable us to do song prayer together and appreciate Liturgy. We all need to be on board for the communal enterprise. When everyone is not singing we suffer.

- A. Take them on a journey to move closer to God.
- B. Know the people in the parish and live their lives. Do not become technicians.
- C. Love the people you are trying to minister to.
- D. Christ centered prayer to the Father through the Son by the Holy Spirit.
- E. Music should be a signature of who we are.
- F. Are we fed by the word? Plan mini retreats for musicians.
- G. Do we really pray the Scriptures? Liturgical prayer is rooted in the word. It is important to 'Lectio' together; 'Lectio' is reflecting, resting, contemplating, reading.....
- H. Psalms are the prayer book of the church. It needs to be more than simply a vehicle.
- I. Music can make explicit the shape of the rite. It makes the spoken word special; creates possibilities to enable the entire community to take part in the rite.
- J. Strive to make the music as good as it can be, but it should not overshadow the Liturgical prayer of the assembly.
- K. Music needs to be a sign of God. Does the music enable the power of the Lord to act upon us?
- L. Music needs to invite us to mission.
- M. Music will only transform us if we let it.

Psalmody As A Foundation of Musical Prayer

Sr. Carol Perry SU

1. Psalms are the official prayer of the church.
2. There is a geographic basis for the psalms. Early territories had their own god or deity. Later God spoke and gave the gift of word—gave word and life. The world now stood firm on a foundation.
3. We do not know who wrote the psalms. Many were David's Psalms. They were a way of honoring a person.
4. Psalm is the Hebrew word for song.
5. They don not translate well into English.

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Clergy / Musician Dinner

NPM Trenton would like to invite its members and clergy to gather for its Opening Event—a Clergy/ Musician Dinner and Night Prayer. It is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 1 at Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty Warfside in Tom's River, NJ from 5:30-9:30. There will be a social hour, with cheese and crackers and cash bar, from 5:30 –6:30 with dinner following at 7:00 PM. Night Prayer will conclude the evening.

The cost is \$35.00 per person. The price includes a sit down dinner with a choice of Chicken Francaise, Roast Prime Rib or Stuffed Flounder.

For Reservations and/or information contact Thomas E. Halpin, St. Joseph's Parish, 685 Hooper Ave. Tom's River, NJ 08753 (732) 914-2458

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6. Psalms are the prayer of the people.
7. The presence of the Psalmist is for the moment. They demonstrate the theological growth of God's people.
8. We need to reclaim the Psalm. We can begin by making our own list of Psalms for a variety of situations: celebrating, expressing sorrow...
9. We need to sit with the Psalms, pray with them until we begin to feel what the Psalm is about. We need to continue to ask questions and learn.

Interpreting the Psalms: Artistic Perspectives

By Ms. Mary Clare McAlee

Understand the difference between singing and expressing the Psalm. You need to shape the Psalm. God lives in the spiritual realm—to take the word we need to get the word. Cantors need to inspire: this starts in the preparation.

Live the Psalm, Feel it!

What do you do to prepare?

1. Preview
2. Highlight parts to emphasize.
3. Connect the Psalm to the readings.
4. Actively work with the psalm. Learn it musically; locate the accents and emphasis; memorize the refrain and get your eyes off the page.
5. Map out how to present the psalm.
 - legato or staccato
 - clear diction
 - dynamics
 - tempo
6. Keep it alive with breath and facial features; connect with the text differences between per-

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*Fostering the Art of Musical
Liturgy.*

Upcoming Events

2006

Oct. 1	Clergy/Musicians Dinner	5:30 PM	Jack Baker's Lobster Shanty Tom's River
Nov. 18	Cantor Workshop	8:30 AM	St. Mary's Church Colt's Neck

2007

Jan. 21	Musician's Retreat		TBD
March 18	Trenton/Metuchen Choral Festival		Vincentian Renewal Center
July	National Convention		Indianapolis