



NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION OF  
PASTORAL  
MUSICIANS  
ARCHDIOCESE  
OF KANSAS CITY  
IN KANSAS AND  
KANSAS CITY/  
ST JOSEPH

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan 25-Feb 11 OCI 1  
Liturgy Planning pm

Feb 13 AGO MO  
Online Conference

Feb 18 Local Chap- 7  
ters Meeting pm

Feb 26 Online Hand- 7  
bell Workshop pm

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# NPM News

Volume III, Issue III

February 1, 2021

## NPM Revitalizing the Organization

NPM National has been working hard for the last years to re-organize, re-invigorate and strengthen the organization so as to better accomplish the mission of fostering the art of musical liturgy. Among many tasks accomplished thus far was creating and analyzing a survey of Catholic pastoral music in the USA. The results of this survey and others demonstrate the urgent need to encourage and support liturgical music so as to spread the Gospel and continue God's work in our land.

The goals of our liturgical music ministry are many and difficult: praising God; helping our assembly members pray in song while increasing their faith, love, hope and sense of community; catechizing through sung prayer and more. Preparing for this ministry is continual over a lifetime of service and is not always easy to access, whether it be musical skill development, knowledge of how music serves liturgy, theology, or how to bring out the best in fellow musicians. NPM strives to help with that task in the complete range from basic skill development to renewal and the camaraderie and networking that keeps musicians energized over a lifetime of service.

The new, tiered membership system for NPM now recognizes that the needs of all pastoral musicians are not the same. The BASIC membership of only \$39 a year provides access to: choral practice tracks on the website, Ministry Monday Podcasts on various topics (Fr. Paul Turner gave guidance for Lenten and Easter planning during the continuing pandemic on Jan 11), 23 issues of

The Notebook, the Cantor Newsletter that provides insights on each season's responsorial psalm and other topics, the weekly Sunday reflection, access to certification programs for cantors and keyboard players, eligibility for NPM program scholarships, the discounted rate for institutes and webinars, membership in the local chapter and discounts for local events and access to the local chapter newsletter, website and Facebook pages. And, finally, voting privileges for the local chapter and national organization.

Those musicians who are involved in planning the music for liturgies, directing ensembles or choirs will want the STANDARD membership of \$119 to gain access to the excellent Planning Calendar for liturgy, the digital conservatory of instruction on various topics, the Pastoral Music magazine and more. The PREMIUM membership of \$169 is directed toward those who are Directors of an entire Music Ministry program or Diocesan Office of Worship.

The BASIC membership of \$39 is truly a bargain for all it offers. NPM 2.0 is working toward all members belonging to both the local chapter and the national organization. Some money from the \$39 dues will come back to our local chapters. If you have been on the fence about official membership, NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN NPM! It is easy, just go to [npm.org](http://npm.org), choose "Membership" from the pull-down menu, then click on "Join NPM" on the left. Our combined Kansas/Missouri KC-area website is at [npminkc.com](http://npminkc.com) and you can presently find directions for creating a singer's mask, contact our local chapters and more. This issue includes several articles that highlight more of what NPM National has to offer.

## NPM National Workers in Our Midst

The election of representatives for the newly-organized nine NPM regions took place in September. Daniel Baker, our KCMO Chapter Director, graciously agreed to run and was elected for our region of Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Iowa. Maria Milazzo serves on the new Implementation Team for Programming and Communication. NPM has not yet taken the Interest Sections off the website, but they are to be replaced with four operational (Membership, Communications & Technology, Finance & Development and Programming & Certification) and four ministerial forums (Directors of Music Ministries, Musical Skills, Affiliation & Advocacy and Cultural Diversity.)

*St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, St. Cecilia and St. Gregory, pray for us!*

## A Word from the KC in KS Chapter Director —Maureen Henderson

Dear Colleagues,

Happy New Year to all! 2020 certainly brought its challenges to us in many ways--primarily, the restrictions put on pastoral musicians due to the COVID-19 virus. We love making music and sharing it with others so these last 10 months have been a real personal and professional burden. We've navigated through having Lent and the Triduum and Christmas with abbreviated music and instrumentation and may face that same challenge as we begin this Lent and Easter Season 2021. However, I believe we are a resilient group that are carrying an abundance of harmonious music in our hearts just waiting to break out! So, as we hopefully gather again as musicians in 2021, let us be even more mindful of our ministry, whether we are choir members, clergy, cantors, liturgists, instrumentalists, keyboardists, organists, bell ringers, or directors.

NPM has introduced a new organizational structure and a new, tiered level of membership participation. This exciting news means that becoming a member is now affordable for most anyone. For just \$39/year you can subscribe to a BASIC membership. This will allow many choir members to join and hopefully those volunteers (saints!) in more rural areas to get involved. For those wanting a few more offerings, there is the STANDARD membership at \$119/year. And for those in pastoral or diocesan Director positions, there is the PREMIUM membership tier available at \$169/year. Please refer to the article on page one for more information about the benefits of each tier. And, by joining ANY tier of national membership, you are automatically eligible to be a member of our local KS or MO chapters. I would ask that all of you prayerfully consider joining NPM if you have not in the past and become involved to help make 2021 a year of rebirth in liturgical music! And I urge Music/Choir Directors to consider having their parishes cover the basic membership fee for interested choir members. We need each other more than ever during the evolving months ahead! My prayer is that we will be together again very soon and make beautiful music. Please continue staying safe....we're here for each other and just a phone call away! MH

Gather with handbell musicians to chat, learn, and ring at 7 p.m. on the fourth Friday night of the month in a virtual format alternating between Sampler Nights and In-Depth Seminars. Their first event was a Sampler Night (think Speed Dating but with handbell topics) on January 22. Sampler Nights are 90-minute sessions offering short introductions to handbell topics such as techniques, history, top 10 lists, games, trivia quizzes, and more. Sampler Nights are free. Registration is now open for the **February 26<sup>th</sup>** In-Depth Session,

Mark Your Music with Beth Ann Edwards. Cost is \$10 for In-Depth Seminars. Go to the Handbell Musicians website for more details and to register <http://area8.handbellmusicians.org/fourth-friday-focus/>.



## Immunity After Having COVID-19

Many music ministers and parishioners are looking forward longingly to the day that they may safely resume choir rehearsals and full liturgical participation in sung prayer by both choirs and the assembly. Two types of musicians are something to consider as we near that wonderful moment—one who has had and recovered from COVID, and one who has had one of the vaccines. Singers who fit one of those two categories would be so unlikely to have active COVID that they should be able to sing freely around others. Vaccine effectiveness has been widely covered in the press, but not lasting immunity after being ill.

Mainstream media has not covered lasting immunity research to any large extent and this author knows a number of people who are very afraid that they or others will succumb again to COVID. The La Jolla Institute of Immunology in California completed a study run from March through October. At that time, results showed strong immunity remaining in those studied who had active COVID in March, so eight months after the illness.

Confusion has arisen because the media has reported that the number of antibodies in people has been shown to go down after a few months and they extrapolated from that fact an incorrect assumption that immunity had disappeared. The long-lasting immunity comes from the immune system's T and B cells, not antibodies. Antibodies naturally decline over time with most viruses, although the La Jolla research describes it as a modest decline. The participants' B cells continued to recognize the pathogen and produce antibodies, and the T cells kill other infected cells. The La Jolla research actually showed an unusual increase in B cells over time.

The conclusion, matched by other studies, is that a person's immunity after having COVID remains strong for at least eight months, the length of the study. As of October, there were only 30 or so **confirmed** cases worldwide of someone having COVID a second time—30 out of more than 30 million. Our testing is not 100% accurate, the rapid-test is even less so than the other, so even though some people say they were sick with COVID again, it may be lingering after-effects or another coronavirus. Still the CDC recommends getting the vaccine even if you have had the disease and recovered to be even more sure. If you want to sing, get the shot!

*The Editor*

## A Word from our KCMO Chapter Director and New Region 9 Representative— Danny Baker

Greetings fellow NPM members and colleagues. I hope you and your loved ones had a safe Christmas and New Year's Day. As I reflect on future goals of our local NPM chapter and at the national level, I am reminded by our mission of "singing the praise of God through divinely inspired musical worship." I feel that this is at the heart of what we do here in our local chapters. We provide opportunities for not only musical enrichment, but spiritual as well. At our last retreat in January of 2020, we developed six guiding principles to help us with future planning:

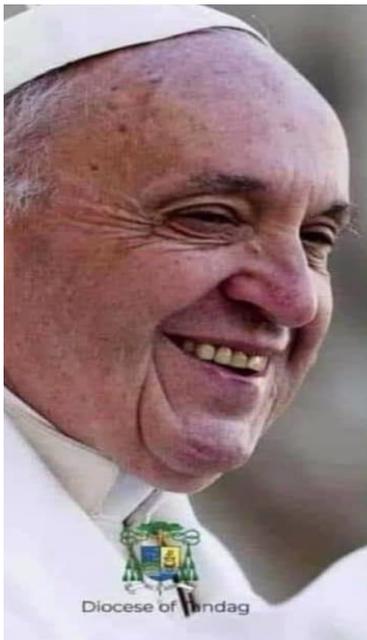
- \*Ongoing Formation
- \*Increased Active Chapter Involvement
- \*Broad, Dynamic, Interactive Communication
- \*Welcoming Hospitality
- \*Intergenerational, Multicultural, Inclusivity
- \*Active Diocesan Collaboration

Through these six guiding principles we intend to continue providing our local pastoral musicians the tools they need to sing praise to God through divinely inspired musical worship. Churches and musicians have certainly been hard hit by this pandemic. Many of us have not seen our choirs in almost a year. We have been unable to gather in fellowship to make music with each other. While there is hope in the distribution of a vaccine, we know it will still take many months before it is safe to meet again and make music. The Greater Kansas City area NPM chapters still plan to provide opportunities for our pastoral musicians in the areas of musical and spiritual growth. Those opportunities may come in the form of ZOOM calls, pre-recorded videos, or supplemental prayer guides.

In my newly elected role as Region 9 Representative, I will develop and maintain communications with all chapters in this region. I will report directly to the national NPM office any concerns or needs from our region and report information from the national office to our local chapters. I will also help promote collaboration between each chapter and their diocesan leadership.

May God bless you richly in your ministry. I long for the day to see each one you in person! DB

**Thursday, Feb 18, 7:00 pm Local Chapters Zoom Meeting**  
**Please attend—network with your pastoral musician colleagues!**  
**A Zoom link will be emailed to you. Friends not on email? Have them go to our website at [npminkc.com](http://npminkc.com) and sign up.**



“  
 Rivers do not drink  
 their own water; trees  
 do not eat their own  
 fruit; the sun does not  
 shine on itself and  
 flowers do not spread  
 their fragrance for  
 themselves. Living for  
 others is a rule of  
 nature. We are all born  
 to help each other. No  
 matter how difficult it  
 is...Life is good when  
 you are happy; but  
 much better when  
 others are happy  
 because of you.  
 ”  
**Pope Francis**  
 /TandagDiocese

**HYMN SOCIETY** Zoom get-togethers the third Tuesday of every month from 2-3 pm CT.  
<https://zoom.us/j/adZdVvOFkc>



**NPM National's  
 New Executive  
 Director—Jennifer Kluge**  
**Let's pray for her  
 and for NPM's success!**

## NPM National Resources Available at Your Fingertips

NPM has done major work on the organization's communication avenues in the last four years. In the past, the hard copy of the Pastoral Musician magazine and other mailings served as the primary means of communication and all training was in person. Now the website, email, electronic publications and Facebook are the primary ways to provide information and training can be in-person, but also via online platforms such as Zoom, Skype, Adobe Connect or YouTube videos. Last summer's convention had to be completely virtual--to the disappointment of some people, but other people were able to attend who could never before afford the travel cost or the time away to attend it. The sessions were available for weeks after the event, which afforded the opportunity to "attend" more sessions, more spaced out and with time to reflect and truly absorb what was said. **The NPM website** has been completely redone and items continue to be added with the goal of making it an extremely useful resource for pastoral musicians. NPM is using podcasts, such as Ministry Monday and concerts on YouTube.

The website currently has all the **Pastoral Musician issues** from the first one in 1976 through 2012. Unfortunately, *The Liturgical Singer*, a small publication geared toward the interests of cantors, still must be purchased separately for \$22.00 a year and is published only in print, but it can be ordered via the website.

Another feature is the **Liturgical Codebreaker**, a comprehensive, alphabetized list of liturgical and musical terms with their definitions and more. Under "More Liturgical Resources" find **18 Official Liturgical Documents**, a *Sing to the Lord* study guide and a library of useful **Bulletin Inserts** on various topics.

The Training Pull-down tab offers several options. In Members' Content you will find icons for the Planning Calendar, Digital Conservatory, Choral Practice Tracks, The Choral Anthem Project, Convention sessions and another link to the *Pastoral Musician* magazine. STANDARD or PREMIUM membership is required for all but the Choral Practice Tracks.

**The Planning Calendar** is worth the price of membership in and of itself. NPM recently launched this resource together with Liturgy Help! Each Sunday and Feast of the 3-year lectionary cycle is covered with a synopsis of the readings, the entire reading, the entrance and communion antiphons, and musical suggestions that extend and amplify all of this Scripture. Recordings of some of the music are embedded to at least get a sense of the suggested hymn or acclamation. Suggested music is in a variety of styles and languages and is from all the major United States publishers. A link by each suggestion tells you which publishers have it in their hymnal. The program is complex, but relatively easy to navigate and well worth your time to investigate if you plan the music for your parish.

Currently there are only eight training videos in the **Digital Conservatory**, five on instrumental topics (keyboard, ensemble and guitar) and three on vocal topics. Over time, more will be added to the database, as will **Choral Practice Tracks**. The website has 19 right now, ranging from Handel to Farrell with the vocal part either solo, highlighted or in the regular mix. These tracks will be a wonderful practice tool for choristers who do not read music well or require more extensive practice to sing their part independently. If you have already made high-quality practice tracks, it would seem efficient to volunteer to share these with NPM and your fellow directors. NPM would coordinate the proper copyright permissions.

Besides the Members' Content, the Training pull-down tab also has **Online Training, Certifications, Conventions and Institutes and Chants of the Roman Missal**. Each option takes you to different links, including links to LTP (Liturgy Training Publications) online workshops taking place this month. The Chants section has beautifully-sung audio recordings to assist your clergy in learning their important music for liturgy.

Finally, mark your calendar for this year's **convention in New Orleans from July 27-30, 2021**. Planners are preparing a hybrid model with sessions being a combination of in-person, live-streamed or recorded video. Barbara Leyden from our chapter will be presenting two in-person sessions on vocal technique and coaching your cantor. Plan now to attend in-person to enjoy New Orleans, or from your office or rehearsal space with your vaccinated choir members.

### February Flourish

A Virtual Conference for Church Musicians

Presented by

American Guild of Organists--St. Louis Chapter

in cooperation with

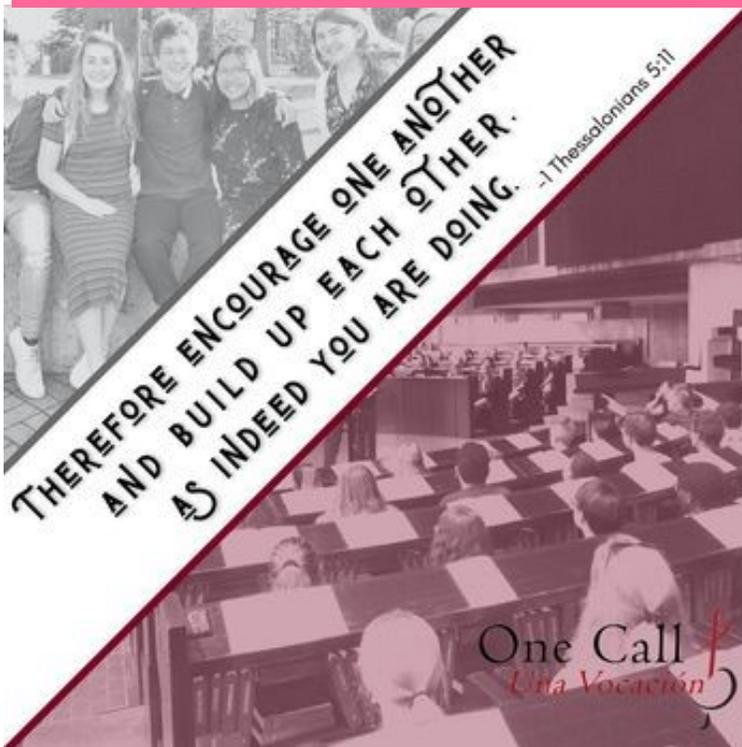
American Guild of Organists--Gateway Confluence Chapter

Handbell Association of Greater Saint Louis

National Association of Pastoral Musicians--St. Louis Chapter and Duchesne Branch

February Flourish, a Virtual Church Music Conference, is set for Saturday, February 13, 2021 and promises to be an interesting and helpful experience for Church Musicians, Organists, Singers, and Bell Ringers. Five pre-recorded seminars will be made available for viewing on February 4; watching them before the live Zoom gatherings on the 13th is strongly encouraged. Registration fee is \$10 and now open via Eventbrite. Updates and a registration link can be found on the Saint Louis AGO Chapter webpage.

## ONE CALL INSTITUTE: NOT JUST FOR KIDS by Maria Milazzo



**"People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within."**

*Elisabeth Kübler-Ross via Denise Slaven*



The One Call Institute (OCI) is an institute dedicated to the engagement, empowerment, and ongoing support of young liturgical musicians. Their mission is to form young people and their advocates in order to maximize their gifts of music and leadership in service to the liturgy. OCI knows how important an advocate is for young people in ministry and is devoted to forming both advocates and youth musically, theologically, spiritually, and communally. Typically OCI would host a week-long program in the summer with exciting classes, workshops, break-outs, and rehearsals. Under Covid-19 restrictions, the program was not possible in 2020, but OCI is committed to offering ongoing formation and support.

As a new year begins full of new possibilities and ways of engagement, OCI is excited to announce a series of panel discussions focusing on liturgy planning for the season of Lent. Using the spiritual practice of *lectio divina*, panelists will focus on the scripture readings and how they assist us in liturgical planning. There will be five webinars and each webinar will focus on one Sunday of Lent. The focus will be on the Year B readings for the 1st and 2nd Sundays of Lent and the Scrutiny Year A readings for the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of Lent. Sessions are held on Mondays at 1pm Central Time from January 25th through February 22nd. All sessions are FREE and will broadcast from FB Live on the One Call Institute Facebook page ([facebook.com/onecallinstitute](https://facebook.com/onecallinstitute)) and **will remain accessible even if you can't make the live discussion.**

Each webinar will have a group of fantastic panelists including both OCI team members and youth participants offering liturgy and music suggestions. There will be a chat for any questions and comments throughout so that all may participate. For more information check out the webpage at: [www.onecallinstitute.org/planningseries](http://www.onecallinstitute.org/planningseries).

Maria Milazzo has attended the One Call Institute in the past and is very involved in the OCI community. She would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Contact her at [mmilazzo@nativityofmary.org](mailto:mmilazzo@nativityofmary.org).



NPM CHAPTERS FOR THE DIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY/ ST JOSEPH AND THE ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS NEWSLETTER

Visit our Chapter Youtube page at: [https://www.youtube.com/feed/my\\_videos](https://www.youtube.com/feed/my_videos)

Visit our website at [npminkc.com](http://npminkc.com)

Visit our Facebook pages

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## NPM Membership Tiers Broken Down

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS		Premium	Standard	Basic
<b>DIGITAL RESOURCES</b>				
Access to premium content on the website	Planning calendar	✓	✓	
	Digital conservatory	✓	✓	
	Choral practice tracks	✓	✓	✓
	Choral anthem project	✓		
<i>Ministry Monday</i> podcasts		✓	✓	✓
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>				
<i>New!</i> Academic Journal		✓		
5 issues per year of <i>Pastoral Music</i> magazine	Print (option)	✓	✓	
	Digital	✓	✓	
23 issues per year of <i>Notebook</i> (e-news)		✓	✓	✓
Cantor Newsletter		✓	✓	✓
Weekly Sunday Word Reflection		✓	✓	✓
<b>SKILL BUILDING &amp; PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT</b>				
Access to Certification Programs		✓	✓	✓
Eligible for academic scholarships		✓	✓	
Eligible for NPM program scholarships		✓	✓	✓
Discounted rate for conventions		✓	✓	
Discounted rate for institutes		✓	✓	✓
Discounted rate for webinars		✓	✓	✓
Invitation to Colloquium		✓		
Invitation to Director of Music Ministry Institute		✓		
<b>NETWORKING &amp; LOCAL SUPPORT</b>				
Membership in the local chapter (if applicable)	Chapter newsletter	✓	✓	✓
	Discount for chapter events	✓	✓	✓
	Chapter networking opportunities	✓	✓	✓
Access to social media groups		✓	✓	✓
<i>New!</i> Access to virtual networking forum/list serve		✓		
<b>REPRESENTATION</b>				
Voting privileges		✓	✓	✓

**"O my God, fill my soul with holy joy, courage and strength to serve You. Enkindle Your love in me and then walk with me along the next stretch of road before me." St. Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)**  
Inspiration and pictures by Denise Slaven



How about sharing some of your faith or ministerial journey with your colleagues? Contact the editors (see sidebar on this page) with your ideas or full articles. Remember to post your events (once we again have them!) on both the Missouri and KCK Facebook pages.