



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

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**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS**

Board Meeting Cure of Ars 12:30 pm	Aug 18
Potluck Picnic St Ann's Prairie Village 4-7:30 pm	Sep 18
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NPM News

Volume V, Issue I

July 1, 2022

MUSICIANS ON THE MOVE

NPM is rising from the ashes of COVID restrictions and again hosting in-person events to help enrich our pastoral music ministry. This issue of our local NPM Newsletter has lots of pictures of our local pastoral Musicians on the Move. June saw our combined chapters hold two wonderful evenings of renewal, thirteen of our local pastoral musicians attended the NPM National Convention in Louisville and Alejandro Manso took his Visitation Parish choir on a fabulous singing tour of Italy. More pictures can be seen on our local website at npminkc.com.

If you missed our June events, do not worry, the next local NPM event is on Sunday, Sept 18 from 4-7:30 pm. Come gather with other pastoral musicians in our area and their families at St Ann Parish, 7231 Mission Road, Prairie Village, KS. Bring one dish to share for the Potluck Picnic, your lawn chairs and your voice for the sing-along. Beverages provided. Go to npminkc.com for more information.

Have you joined NPM National yet? Basic membership is only \$39.00—a very cheap fee compared to most professional organizations and a great opportunity to support your own ministry and that of others. Go to npm.org.today!

**Scenes from June 21-22
Evenings of Renewal**



Jasmine Lowe and Danny Baker

EVENINGS OF RENEWAL: FROM ISOLATION TO COMMUNITY

Our local NPM Chapters presented two “Music Ministry Evenings of Renewal: from Isolation to Community” at St. Elizabeth Parish in KCMO on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, June 21 and 22. The stand-alone evenings included prayer, small group sharing on aspects of our music ministry, reading of new music, breakout sessions for singers, instrumentalists and directors of music, refreshments, a video talk by Sr. Helen Prejean from last year’s national convention and, of course, lots of sung prayer! Many of the participants expressed their happiness at just being together, sharing our ministry with its joys and challenges. Evaluations show a hunger for more training and opportunities for musical, spiritual and ministerial growth. NPM is just the organization to provide these events and strives to serve YOU.

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

Evenings of Renewal: from Isolation to Community



Left:
Diane Schell
Right:
Vincent Moran and group from All Saints in KCK



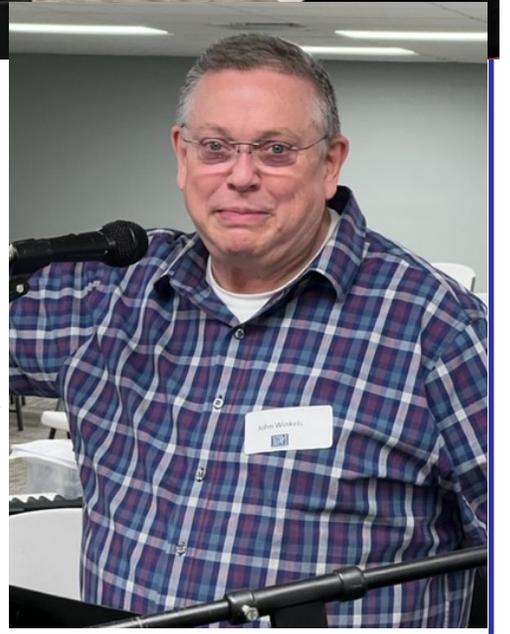
Middle Left:
Registration Table—James Wagner, Carol Schemmel and Diane Schell.

Mid Right: The Matt's—Baumler and Winterhalter



Many Thanks to our Events Committee for the two evenings: John Winkels, Diane Schell and Matthew Baumler.

Bottom Left: Carolyn Pirtle studying the sample Gather 4th Edition Hymnal all attendees received—for free!
Right: John Winkels



45th NPM Convention in Louisville June 2022 by B. Leyden

Thirteen of our area pastoral musicians traveled to Louisville, KY for the 45th NPM National Convention. John Winkels led a group from Holy Family, MO, of Janell Thome, Carryl Dressler, Todd Grangel and Cathy Barron. Margaret and Victor Hochla from St Ann's in Prairie Village, KS were there as well as Mark Wunder from Topeka and Barbara Leyden from Shawnee. Ron Sondag, Matthew Baumler, Sean Holland and Danny Baker came from Missouri. Others, including Vicky Neely and Diane Schell, are participating in the Virtual Convention running this first week of July. All attendees, both in-person or virtual, will be able to access Convention videos until the end of September.

The atmosphere this year struck this attendee as one of gratitude, pleasure and joy in being surrounded by fellow pastoral musicians. We have all been Tested by Fire; as one clinician said, fire serves to purify metals and rid them of excess materials. Like purified gold, perhaps the last couple of years have refined our priorities, allowed us to drop some unneeded baggage, and enriched us with fertilizer to assist in renewing and transforming us into a more Christlike model. This year's convention was full of opportunities for prayer and renewal, with an emphasis on invoking and welcoming the Holy Spirit to guide, inform, strengthen and heal us.

The three Plenum addresses were all warmly received. Bishop Mark Seitz, the Episcopal Moderator for NPM and Bishop of El Paso, spoke poignantly and powerfully as the first speaker as well as homilist at the Convention Eucharist on the last evening. Laura Fanucci spoke of seven ways that Christ calls us to live our discipleship from her book *Living Your Discipleship: 7 Ways to Express Your Deepest Calling*, 23rd Publications, 2015. Brenda Noriega spoke movingly about her experience and needs as an immigrant from Mexico. She was able to teach Mexican culture by asking the Bishop to bless her before beginning, asking we listeners our permission for her to share herself, and sharing her friend's frequent need for silence to process what is said. Brother John Mark Falkenhain from Meinrad Abbey led a retreat on the final morning, focusing on our need to develop three particular virtues, those of patience, humility and fidelity. In between were many sessions on various topics, lots of prayer with Mass and Night Prayer offered daily, concerts, jam sessions, and again fully-stocked vendors of all types of printed music, instruments and art work. The Choral Institute was led by director of music, conductor, composer, and President of *Pueri Cantores*, Paul French. A lovely and varied program of choral pieces, many suitable for church choirs, was polished during eight hours of rehearsal and sung at the beautiful Cathedral of the Assumption. The Choral Institute is a great opportunity to learn from watching another conductor in action, enjoy singing without having to be in charge of the group and expand your choral repertoire.

One of the perks of attending Convention is having music you can look through, purchase often at a discount and not have to pay shipping costs. For example, the *Living Liturgy* for 2023 could be ordered in advance for great savings. Simply Music is an Omaha company that assists composers to self-publish their music. They now have settings for the psalm for every day of the weekday lectionary, available separately or with a yearly subscription.

Musician, composer, and editor Peter Kolar was awarded the Pastoral Musician of the Year 2022. His setting of *Veni sancte spiritus* was interwoven throughout the week, from the formal opening to the recommitment and sending forth liturgy. The Choral Institute sang the world premiere of his setting of the Philippians 2:6-11 text, *Cristo Jesús es el Señor*.

Fr. Paul Turner Tapped for New Duty....by the Pope

Pope Francis has appointed Fr Paul Turner from the KCMO Diocese Liturgy Office as a "Consulor of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Disciple of the Sacraments." Fr Turner is considered an international expert on the liturgy and is a considerable resource in our midst. One of his articles was published in our February I newsletter and he has a wealth of information on his blog and website at <https://paulturner.org/>. The blog questions are often very specific questions about liturgy with answers hard for the average person to find. Fr. Turner has written several books and recently co-authored two books for music ministers from LTP, *Guide for Music Ministers* and *Guide for Cantors* by Budziak, Ferraro, Laughlin and Turner.

Visitation Choir Tour to Italy by Alejandro Manso and B. Leyden

Have you ever considered taking your choir on a singing tour to Europe? Alejandro Manso took the Visitation Parish Choir in KCMO on just such an adventure this summer. NPM Board Member James Wagner participated and shared some of the photos included with this article. Alejandro shares some details, insights and benefits as well as some photos.

Twenty-two singers and 48 total travelers spent four days in Florence, three days in Rome and four days in Sorrento on the Amalfi Coast which includes Positano and Amalfi. Music Contact International arranged the tour, which included free days at the beginning and the end and four opportunities to sing: two “friendship concerts” in Florence and Rome, impromptu singing at the Benedictine Monastery at Monte Cassino, a Mass in the back chapel of St Peter’s Basilica in Rome and Mass at the Cathedral of Saints Philip and James in Sorrento. A good balance of singing and free days kept the group rested and able to enjoy all aspects of the trip.

The choral music was all *a cappella* sacred repertoire as most churches did not have an organ or keyboard available. Half of the pieces were Latin and half English, including spirituals. Alejandro found its many benefits include the choir growing closer together and participants growing in faith and knowledge by hearing other choirs sing, connecting with the larger Catholic church and experiencing historical art and architecture in person.

Alejandro’s highlights in his own words were:

1. The top highlight was singing at Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica in Rome. The opportunity to sing in a church where countless influential people of the Church have once prayed and worshiped was awe-inspiring. To worship and to support the liturgy in song in such an important place will always leave an impact on me and I am sure on others--it was a moving experience. I was surprised how much I was affected on an emotional and spiritual level.
2. Singing with other choirs in concert: we had the opportunity in both Florence and Rome to share a concert with a local choir. The neatest part of the concert is when we sing a native piece in Italian with the local choir and then they shared in singing one of our pieces in English.
3. Visiting Monte Cassino—a monastery which sits on top of a mountain about two hours south of Rome. It dates back to the time of its founder, St. Benedict. When Benedict arrived it was an old Roman structure. The monastery is a gem despite its history of being bombed in WWII and then being rebuilt. Also, there are some things that survived the bombing and are still there, including the remains of St. Benedict and his sister St. Scholastica. The crypt below the church has wonderful acoustics where the choir sounded their best!
4. Outside of our singing schedule there was time for travelers to sightsee. Many chose to visit churches—many containing important works of art, impressive architecture, remains of saints and influential people and great beauty. Personally speaking, seeing the churches is one of the more fulfilling things to do; you learn so much about the history of the church, of artists, but even about the faith. The art speaks so much to the story of our faith—including important people in the faith—especially the saints.
5. The ocean view in Sorrento was the last leg of the trip where we had three days in a vacation destination—the Amalfi Coast. Our hotel had water vistas and the area was geared more toward enjoying and relaxing and less about sightseeing, allowing less pressure to go see everything and time to rest.

Below: Florence Santa Maria Novella (left) and Santa Croce Basilicas. Photo Credit James Wagner



National NPM Happenings

**Liturgical Music Institute
July 24-29, 2022
Huntington, NY**

<https://npm.org/2022/03/23/liturgical-music-institute/>

**46th NPM 2023 Convention
Reno, Nevada
July 10-14**

\$ 39.00 a year NPM Membership Benefits:
**Ministry Monday Podcasts, Lunchtime Concert Series, Social Media Outreach via Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube
**23 Issues a year of the Notebook Digital Newsletter
**Weekly Sunday Word Reflection
**Seasonal Cantor Newsletter
**Eligible to Apply for Cantor & Piano Certificate Programs and Program Scholarships
\$\$ comes back to our local Chapters to support Networking and local training and enrichment opportunities



Top Pics:
Visitation
Choir singing
at St Peter's in Rome
and St Philip Neri
Church in Florence.
Middle: Rome Tiber
River Walk, and San
Lorenzo Basilica in
Florence Bottom:
Alejandro Manso at
Positano and Capri



Photo credits: James Wagner and Alejandro Manso

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/watch?v=Q1buogB3fbg>

Visit our website at npmlink.com

Post on our Facebook pages

Send your articles or topic ideas to one of the newsletter editors below.

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More Pictures of Musicians at Work and on the Move



Top: Chapter Directors Vicky Neely, KC in Kansas, and Ron Sondag, KC/St Joe, Missouri at the Evenings of Renewal



2nd Row Left: Fr. Gregory Haskamp, pastor of St Elizabeth

Right: Susie Adams Host and Director of Music at St Elizabeth Parish, KCMO

CONVENTION: Peter Kolar accepting Pastoral Musician of the Year award; Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman accepting the 2022 Jubilate Deo award

Bottom Left: some of our local attendees visiting Thomas Merton's spot of revelation on the way back from the Choral Institute Concert **Right:** NPM Booth workers



Photo credits from the Evenings of Renewal and Convention: Barbara Leyden, Diane Schell and Ron Sondag. Go to npmlink.org for more pictures of both events.