



# FOREVER WE WILL SING

JULY 20-24, 2026  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



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## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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We hope you had a blessed Christmas (and rest-filled Octave) filled with the joy of the birth of our Lord. On behalf of the local chapters of DC and Arlington, we cordially invite you to the 48th Annual NPM National Convention this July in the heart of our nation's capital!

The 48th Annual NPM National Convention will take place at The Catholic University of America, conveniently located in the Brookland neighborhood of DC, or as we like to call it, "Little Rome," for all of the religious houses and institutions that reside there. This year's theme, "Forever We Will Sing," takes its inspiration from Psalm 89: "Forever I will sing the goodness of the Lord." NPM's work to foster the art of musical liturgy has shaped Catholic worship since the Second Vatican Council — and our work is not done yet. How joyful and good it will be for the Lord to bring our fellow pastoral musicians together in Washington, DC this summer!

This year's convention highlights the fifty years of NPM and provides many exciting, unique opportunities, including a DC monuments tour by night, the National Catholic Handbell Festival, a Cantor Institute, an organ crawl, and many more. There are even two post-convention opportunities: a retreat at the beautiful St. Anselm Abbey, and a DC daytime tour, should you wish to see the sights at the end of your convention week. We will also honor multiple pastoral ministers throughout the week for their decades-long service to the Church. The convention also includes an "NPM Greats" panel discussion featuring founding NPM members and leadership from our fifty-year history. And since it's our 50th anniversary, we might have a few more surprises up our sleeve!

The Catholic University of America campus, nestled next to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, will feature concerts and liturgies, providing a beautiful sacred space in the largest Catholic church building in North America. Attendees can stay on campus or choose a hotel nearby, as we will be situated next to the Brookland/CUA stop on the DC Metro Red Line. On-campus housing is available for \$90/night per person (including breakfast and wifi) and offers a lunch and dinner package as an add-on; more information and registration can be found in this brochure.

Can't make it to DC this summer? NPM offers a robust 2026 Convention package that includes select events livestreamed during the convention and many Breakouts recorded and available within a week of the conference. With pricing for the livestreamed and recording package starting at \$199, it also offers a more affordable opportunity for those unable to participate in an in-person convention this year.

Registration for the 2026 Convention, including the livestreamed and recording package, will open on February 1, 2026. We can't wait to see you in person and online for a 50th anniversary celebration that will "pull out all the stops!"



Katie Evans



Tim Lewicki

2026 Convention Co-Chairs

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Catholic University of America, Washington, DC | Sunday, July 19 - Friday, July 24, 2026

## SUNDAY, JULY 19

**7:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

DC Monuments  
at Night Tour \*

## MONDAY, JULY 20

**8:45 AM – 3:00 PM**

DC Organ Crawl \*

**9:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Cantor Institute\*

**9:00 AM – 4:30 PM**

National Catholic  
Handbell Festival\*

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Franciscan  
Monastery Tour\*

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Liturgical Composers'  
Forum\*

**1:00 – 3:00 PM**

Service Project\*

**4:00 – 7:00 PM**

NPM Council Meeting

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

National Catholic  
Handbell Festival  
Concert

**7:30 PM**

Evening Prayer

**8:00 – 11:00 PM**

Exhibit Opening

## TUESDAY, JULY 21

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**

Opening Celebration

**9:30 – 10:30 AM**

Plenum 1

**10:30 AM – 6:00 PM**

Exhibits Open

**11:00 – 12:00 PM**

Breakout A

**12:10 – 1:00 PM**

Mass at Basilica Shrine

**12:00 – 2:00 PM**

Lunchtime Concert;  
Lunch Break

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Showcase Event

**3:00 – 3:30 PM**

Break to Visit Exhibits

**3:45 – 4:45 PM**

Product Resource  
Session 1

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

Breakout B

**6:00 – 7:00 PM**

Dinner Break

**7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Evening Concert at  
Basilica Shrine

**9:30 PM**

Taizé Prayer

## WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

**7:30 AM**

Morning Prayer

**8:30 – 10:00 AM**

Members Meeting

**10:00 – 11:00 AM**

Plenum 2

**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Exhibits Open

**11:10 – 12:00 PM**

Product Resource  
Session 2

**12:00 – 2:00 PM**

Lunchtime Concert;  
Lunch Break

**2:00 – 3:00 PM**

Showcase Event

**3:00 – 3:30 PM**

Break to Visit Exhibits

**3:45 – 4:45 PM**

Breakout C

**5:00 – 6:00 PM**

Product Resource  
Session 3

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

Fostering the  
Legacy Dinner

**8:30 – 9:30 PM**

Concert Event:  
Voice of My People

**9:45 – 10:45 PM**

Concert Event:  
United In Song

## THURSDAY, JULY 23

**7:30 AM**

Morning Prayer

**8:30 – 9:30 AM**

Plenum 3

**9:30 AM – 4:00 PM**

Exhibits Open

**9:45 – 10:45 AM**

Breakout D

**11:00 PM – 12:00 PM**

Legacy & Leadership:  
Reflections from  
NPM's First 50 Years

**12:00 – 1:30 PM**

Lunchtime Concert;  
Lunch Break

**1:30 – 2:30 PM**

Showcase Event

**2:30 – 3:00 PM**

Break to Visit Exhibits

**3:00 – 4:00 PM**

Breakout E

**4:30 PM**

Festive Prelude Begins  
(Basilica Shrine)

**5:00 PM**

Eucharist and  
Recommissioning  
at Basilica Shrine

**8:00 PM**

Convention After-  
Party/Jam

## FRIDAY, JULY 24

**8:30 AM**

Leadership and  
Governance Meetings

**9:00 – 12:00 PM**

Retreat at St.  
Anselm Abbey\*\*

**9:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

DC Monuments tour\*\*

## ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Daily Mass is available each day at 12:10 PM as well as reconciliation is available daily at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017). This schedule is subject to change; please consult the convention app, program book, and website for most up-to-date information.

\* **Pre-Convention Event** (additional fees may apply)

\*\* **Post-Convention Event** (additional fees may apply)



## WHAT TO EXPECT

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This year's convention will take place at The Catholic University of America (620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20064). All Plenums and Breakouts will take place on the CUA campus. Select concerts, Daily Mass and confession will take place at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception (400 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017). While the CUA campus and Shrine's walking distances are more compact than several convention centers NPM has utilized

over the years, scooter rentals will be available for those who have limited mobility. More information will be found via the NPM website in early 2026.

Due to capacity limitations, the 2026 Convention will be limited to 750 paid registrants. For this reason, we do anticipate the conference selling out. If you are interested in registering, do not delay! Registration will open on February 1, 2026.

## NEW FOR 2026! THE 1976 JUBILEE PACKAGE

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Celebrate NPM's 50th anniversary in style with our exclusive Jubilee Package—a comprehensive convention experience designed to honor our history and support our future. This all-inclusive package provides full convention registration, comfortable on-campus housing, and daily meals, ensuring a seamless and enriching week. Package holders will also enjoy premium perks including reserved seating in the main hall and a ticket to Fostering

the Legacy, this year's fundraising event. Your Jubilee Package also includes a tax-deductible donation that directly sustains NPM's mission.

Offered at \$1,976, this special package invites you to commemorate NPM's past while investing in its vibrant future. Only 100 spots will be offered, so don't wait to reserve yours!

## ABOUT THE 2026 CONVENTION RECORDINGS

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The 2026 Convention will also offer recordings for those who cannot attend in person. This year's Convention will offer a livestream of major events, allowing registrants to join in real time:

- Opening Ceremony
- All Plenum Addresses
- All Showcase Events
- The Members' Meeting

Additionally, the Convention will have a large number of Breakouts recorded for viewing at your own pace through September 30, 2026.

Pricing for the 2026 Convention recordings is as follows:

- Non-member: \$249
- Select (formerly Basic): \$199
- Select Plus: \$190.00
- Standard: \$180.00
- Premium: \$170.00

# ABOUT THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

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As the national university of the Catholic Church in the United States, founded and sponsored by the bishops of the country with the approval of the Holy See, The Catholic University of America is committed to being a comprehensive Catholic and American institution of higher learning, faithful to the teachings of Jesus Christ as handed on by the Church.

Dedicated to advancing the dialogue between faith and reason, The Catholic University of America seeks to discover and impart the truth through excellence in teaching and research, all in service to the Church, the nation, and the world. (Source: [catholic.edu](http://catholic.edu))

## 2026 CONVENTION HOUSING DETAILS

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Both on-campus and off-campus housing will be available for the 2026 Convention. Additionally, a week-long campus meal package is available for all registrants, making it easy to grab a meal in between convention sessions.

### ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Housing is available at Catholic University from Sunday, July 19 through Friday, July 24 at \$90/night per person. This daily rate includes a single room with a "Jack and Jill" adjoining bathroom, bedding (pillows, sheets, towel, blanket), wifi, and breakfast. It does not include parking (\$10/day). Attendees will need to bring their own toiletries and hair dryer, if desired. Roommate requests can be noted at the time of registration.

On-campus housing is only available for purchase in Sunday-Friday or Monday-Friday blocks. Registration for on-campus housing opens on February 1 as part of the convention registration process.

### OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING: ABOUT THE HOTEL

The Royal Sonesta Washington DC Dupont Circle  
2121 P St NW, Washington, DC 20037

### BOOKING YOUR HOTEL ROOM

- \$209/night room rate (plus applicable taxes and fees)
- Available dates for NPM special room rate: July 19-24, 2026
- **Please note:** There is a \$71.98/day parking rate at the hotel, with in and out privileges.

### ON-CAMPUS MEAL PLAN

Available for both on-campus and off-campus attendees! Enjoy convenience and value throughout Convention week with our On-Campus Meal Plan. For just a flat rate you'll receive access to buffet-style breakfast, lunch, and dinner in the campus dining hall. With a variety of options and a location just steps from your sessions, the meal plan makes it easy to stay nourished, energized, and fully present for all convention activities.

- **Breakfast:** 7:30-9:00 am
- **Lunch:** 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- **Dinner:** 5:00-7:00 pm

### AVAILABLE MEAL PLANS

**For On Campus Attendees:**  
Sunday-Friday or Monday-Friday

**For Off-Campus Attendees:**  
Monday-Thursday

### ADDITIONAL NOTES

- **Meal plan cost for those staying on campus:** \$140-\$180 (Pricing varies depending on a Sunday or Monday arrival)
- **Meal plan cost for those not staying on campus:** \$180 (Covers all meals from Monday evening through Thursday evening)
- The meal plan must be purchased for the full designated days and cannot be customized or adjusted.
- Meal plans must be purchased in advance; no meal plans will be available for purchase on-site.



BOOK YOUR  
HOTEL STAY HERE

# TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON / CUA\*

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## WASHINGTON BY AIR

Washington, DC has three airports in the area: Dulles International Airport (IAD), Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), and Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI). United Airlines serves the nation's capital with daily flights to all three DC-area airports, including their hub of Washington Dulles International. Southwest Airlines also has frequent flights to Baltimore International Airport, which is a 45–60 minute drive away from Catholic University's campus.

## WASHINGTON BY TRAIN

Amtrak has frequent daily departures to Washington from major cities throughout the Northeast, Southeast and even Chicago. Trains arrive at Union Station, bringing you to the heart of DC. Union Station is within walking distance from landmarks, chic neighborhoods and fine dining. It also has its own Metro Station and easy access to taxis and ridesharing.

## WASHINGTON BY BUS

Traveling by bus to and from DC is easy. Choose from an array of options, including Megabus, Battle's Transportation and Vamoose.

## WASHINGTON BY CAR

If you've chosen to drive to the District with your own wheels, SpotHero is a great app for finding a parking spot that suits you. Many hotels also offer parking options, so check with yours when securing your reservation, if you decide to stay off-campus.

## RULES OF THE ROAD: DRIVING IN DC

Washington, DC has a grid road system like Barcelona, Spain and Paris, France, but unlike its international counterparts, the District's streets are more complicated due to diagonal streets, squares and traffic rotaries/circles, as well as its one-way streets and narrow roads. If you are driving around the District, traffic patterns may change due to rush hour/commuting times (generally 5-10 AM and 3-7 PM) or for construction. Please note that most traffic lights stand at the side of intersections instead of hanging suspended above them. Be alert for no left turn intersections and blocks closed to vehicle traffic. The default speed limit of DC's local roads was set to 20 miles per hour (or 32 kph) in June 2020.

Thankfully, cars are not needed for the best experience. Washington, DC is a walking town. In fact, 58 percent of commuter trips in DC are taken by foot, bike or public transit. Join the locals and see the best in the District as a pedestrian!

## RENTAL CARS

Rental cars can be picked up at all Washington, DC major airports. It is recommended to make reservations in advance. Car rental companies operating in the area include Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz and National.

## GETTING TO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

### Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) is the closest airport to Catholic University. Upon arrival visitors can take a taxi, Metrorail or rental car to reach campus.

Metrorail is the fastest and easiest way to reach campus. Travelers take Metro's yellow line to the Gallery Place/Chinatown station, transfer to the red line, in the direction of Glenmont, and arrive at the Brookland-CUA metro stop. Travel time is approximately 30 minutes.

Taxis from National to Catholic University are also available with an approximate travel time of 20 minutes.

### Baltimore/Washington International Airport (BWI)

Visitors to Catholic University arriving at BWI on a weekday, can take the MARC train to Washington's Union Station or the B30 Metro bus to Greenbelt Metro Station. From there board Metro's red line, in the direction of Glenmont, and take it to the Brookland/CUA stop.

Visitors to Catholic University arriving at BWI on a weekend, who wish to arrive by rail, need to take Amtrak to Union Station. From there board the Metrorail red line, in the direction of Glenmont, and take it to the Brookland/CUA stop.

The Super Shuttle is another way to access CUA from BWI. The shuttle takes you from the terminal and delivers you to the Catholic University campus in about 45 minutes.

A number of car rental companies have operations at BWI.

Taxis from BWI to CUA are readily available with a travel time of approximately 45 minutes.

### Dulles International Airport (IAD)

To travel from Dulles Airport (IAD) to The Catholic University of America, you can take the Silver Line Metrorail from the airport's station to the Brookland/CUA station on the Red Line. Alternatively, you can use ride-sharing services like Uber, Super Shuttle, taxis, or a car rental for a direct trip, with a journey time of approximately 44 to 50 minutes, though this will be more expensive than public transportation.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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**Address:** The Catholic University of America | 620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20064

**Note:** On-campus parking during the 2026 National Convention is available for \$10/day.



SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR SPECIFIC  
DRIVING DIRECTIONS



A PRINTABLE  
CAMPUS MAP CAN  
BE FOUND HERE

## 5 FUN FACTS ABOUT WASHINGTON, DC\*

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1. There are approximately **229** hotels with **36,191** hotel rooms located in Washington, DC. The Greater Washington Metropolitan Area is home to **1,021** hotels with **115,847** rooms (including those located within DC proper).
2. There are **2,661** restaurants located in Washington, DC.
3. **25** restaurants in Washington, DC have earned Michelin stars.
4. The most-visited memorial is the Lincoln memorial, which was estimated to have **8.5 million** visitors in 2024 alone.
5. There are **52** performing arts/theatre venues in Washington with more than **27,000** total seats.



# PRE-CONVENTION EVENTS

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## DC MONUMENTS AT NIGHT TOUR

Experience Washington, DC at its most breathtaking on the NPM Pre-Convention Monuments Night Tour. This 3-hour excursion departs from and returns to Catholic University, offering a relaxing evening ride through the Capitol, National Mall, and White House areas. The tour features stunning views of the Capitol, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, WWII Memorial, and more—all illuminated against the night sky. Guests will enjoy three memorable stops: the Lincoln Memorial (with access to the Vietnam and Korean War Memorials), the FDR Memorial (adjacent to the MLK Memorial), and the iconic Iwo Jima Memorial, which is visited only on night tours. A beautiful and inspiring way to begin convention week.

**Time:** Sunday, July 19: 7:30 – 10:30 PM

**Location:** Catholic University

**Cost:** \$60

## DC ORGAN CRAWL

Join your fellow conference attendees in a hands-on tour of some of the finest organs in Washington, DC. Guided by John Henderson, this full-day journey highlights some of Washington, DC's most remarkable instruments and sacred spaces. Sacred spaces will include the Basilica's Upper Church, the Cathedral of St. Matthew, St. Paul's K Street, St. Dominic's, St. Peter's on the Hill, and St. Joseph's on the Hill. Participants will enjoy curated demonstrations at each stop, led by local experts and hosts. The crawl concludes with a return to CUA at 3:00 p.m.—a rich and inspiring start to convention week. The pre-convention event fee includes transportation, lunch, and donations to all visited churches.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 8:45 AM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** Begins and ends at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

**Cost:** \$125

## CANTOR INSTITUTE

Join NPM this summer for our comprehensive one-day workshop for cantors and those who seek to become cantors. Through in-depth lectures and interactive sessions with Dr. Peter Kadeli, participants will explore music as a ministry and some of the best practices for cantors including vocal pedagogy, diction for non-English languages, praying through song, and other topics. Dr. Peter Kadeli serves as Head of Sacred Music and Director of Choral Activities at The Catholic University of America. Dr. Kadeli brings over fifteen years of experience as a professional conductor, liturgical musician, and choral expert. He is the Associate Conductor for two-time Grammy Award-winning The Washington Chorus and was named a 2nd place national winner in the 2025 American Prize in Choral Conducting. This pre-convention fee includes clinicians' fees and lunch.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

**Location:** CUA Campus: St. Vincent de Paul Chapel

**Cost:** \$125

## NATIONAL CATHOLIC HANDBELL FESTIVAL

You are invited to join us for the 2026 National Catholic Handbell Festival! Groups of ringers or solo ringers are accepted for this event at The Catholic University of America on July 20, 2026. Our clinician will be Kathy Ebling Shaw, Vice President of Malmark Bells, Inc. The festival will conclude in a concert as part of the Convention. This pre-convention fee includes clinicians' fees, lunch, and snacks provided prior to the concert.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM; concert at 6:00 PM

**Location:** CUA Campus

**Cost:** \$100

## FRANCISCAN MONASTERY TOUR

Embark on a guided tour of this unique pilgrimage site in the heart of Washington, DC. Serving as a pilgrimage site for those who cannot travel to the Holy Land, the monastery includes 42 acres of century-old gardens, full-sized replicas of shrines from the Holy Land, stunning art and architecture, and a magnificent Lively-Fulcher organ.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land in America

**Cost:** \$25

## SERVICE PROJECT

Join fellow convention attendees for an afternoon of service. The service project in conjunction with CUA's Office of Campus Ministry is a wonderful way to begin your convention experience. Please note that the specific opportunity will be communicated to registrants. The \$10 fee supports the program.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** CUA Campus

**Cost:** \$10

# POST-CONVENTION EVENTS

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## NPM RETREAT

Spend a morning of prayer, reflection, and renewal at St. Anselm's Benedictine Abbey. Led by organist, pianist, and composer Fr. Ignacio Gonzalez, this retreat will offer attendees the chance to spiritually prepare for sharing the fruits of the convention with their ministries back home. The fee includes a donation to the Monastery as well as a light breakfast.

**Time:** Friday, July 24: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Location:** St. Anselm Abbey (4501 South Dakota Ave NE, Washington, DC 20017)

**Cost:** \$40

## LITURGICAL COMPOSERS FORUM

The Liturgical Composers Forum (founded 1998) will offer an open "New Music Review" as a pre-Convention event on Monday July 20, 1-3 PM. (Location on CUA's campus to be determined.) Aspiring liturgical composers are invited to submit ONE well developed, clearly written liturgical piece for consideration. In the session, after singing each work, a panel of experienced published composers will offer constructive critique and creative advice and conversation, intended to help the composer and all those gathered with the craft of liturgical composition. You MUST register for this event at the convention in order to submit a work. To submit a work, go to [liturgicalcomposers.net/hpm2026](http://liturgicalcomposers.net/hpm2026), where you will find submission guidelines (please read!) and an upload link.

**Time:** Monday, July 20: 1:00 – 3:00 PM

**Location:** CUA Campus

**Cost:** Free, but advance registration is required

## DC MONUMENTS DAYTIME TOUR

Stay an extra day to join other NPM convention attendees as we experience the beauty and awe of our country's most stirring monuments by day. Our trolley will pick us up at Catholic University at 9:00am to explore the city's most famous sights. The 2.5-hour professionally guided tour will bring us around the National Mall with stops at the FDR, Lincoln, Vietnam Veterans, Korean War, and Martin Luther King Memorials. Other memorials and famous sights will be seen along the ride as we hear historical tales and anecdotes about the city's fascinating history.

**Time:** Friday, July 24: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**Start/end location:** CUA Campus

**Cost:** \$60



# PLENUMS

## PLENUM ONE

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### FOREVER I WILL SING: REFLECTION ON FIFTY YEARS OF NPM AND MINISTRY

**Fr. Richard Fragomeni**

Rooted in the refrain from Psalm 89, “Forever I will sing the mercies of the Lord,” this reflection marks fifty years of walking with NPM. Through these decades, music has supported our prayer and held our communities together in faith. Looking ahead, pastoral musicians are called to continue this steady work, so that the Church’s song endures—bearing witness to the mercies of the Lord and shaping the prayer of communities long after our own voices fall silent.



Rev. Richard Fragomeni is a presbyter of the Diocese of Albany, New York, and has been a member of the Catholic Theological Union faculty since 1990. His teaching involves him in Roman Catholic theology, interpretation theory, and poetry. His current work is in the field of word and sacrament: the intersection of symbolic activity and language as it creates insights into the Christian proclamation of grace. Central to this work is a fascination with the power of liturgy and preaching in the transformation of the human heart.

Richard is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies at DePaul University. He also serves as the Rector of The Shrine of Our Lady of Pompeii, an Italian-American spiritual center in Chicago’s historic Little Italy. In addition to his teaching duties he is a preacher of parish missions and gives presentations nationally and internationally on liturgical, sacramental, and catechetical topics.

## PLENUM TWO

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### SING THE LOVE AMAZING! THE UNSUNG POWER OF PASTORAL MUSIC

#### Dr. Steven Janco

Pope Francis wrote in 2022 that good liturgy isn't an end in itself. Rather it is our privileged means of encounter with the Risen Christ who "earnestly desires" to celebrate with us. How can pastoral musicians harness the power of music to express and deepen our communion with Christ and one another? How can musical liturgy, week by week, year by year, help us grow into the image and likeness of the Risen Christ and live as sacraments of mercy in the world?

Looking ahead, how can we best support and resource one another in this critical ministry? And how will we identify, educate, and mentor future pastoral musicians for effective service in diverse and changing parishes?



Steven Janco is Associate Professor and Director of the Program for Music and Liturgy at Alverno College in Milwaukee, WI, which offers summer and online study leading to the MA in Music and Liturgy, as well as webinars, training series, and professional development opportunities. He also serves on the board of the Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians Association, Milwaukee's NPM chapter. Steve was the director of the Rensselaer Program of Church Music and Liturgy at Saint Joseph's College from 2006–2017, and served as Director of Liturgy and Music in parishes for more than twenty-five years. He has served on the Executive Committee of The Hymn Society, and on the board of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate.

## PLENUM THREE

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### WAY OF BEAUTY: THE EVANGELIZING POWER OF MUSIC IN LITURGY

#### Jem Sullivan, Ph.D.

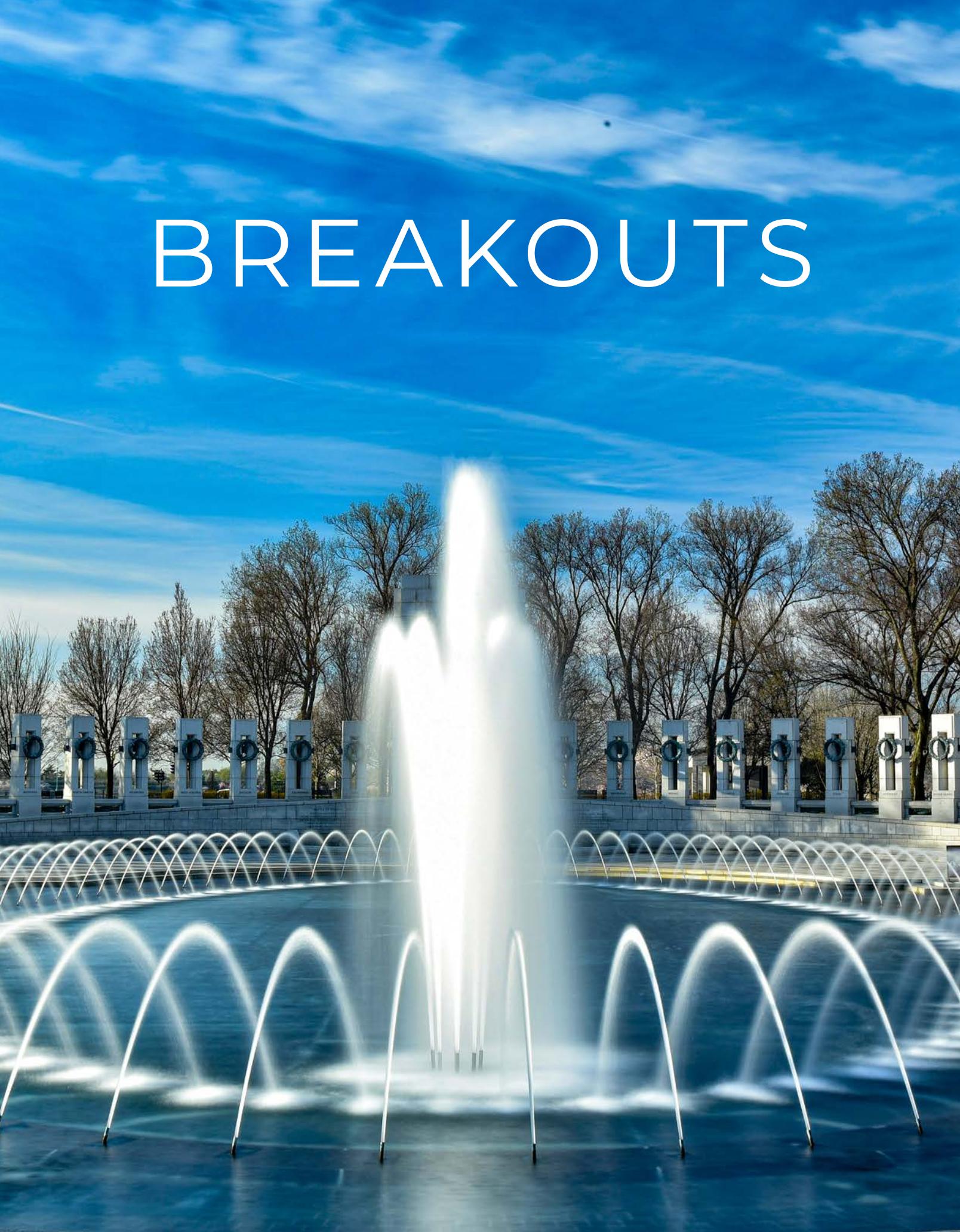
Since Vatican II the Church has encouraged the faithful to consider the "way of beauty," the *via pulchritudinis*, as a vital path to encounter God. Liturgical music as the "treasure of inestimable value" is a privileged path on the "way of beauty" by which the community encounters Jesus Christ who reveals to the worshipping community the love and mercy of the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit.

How do pastoral musicians lead the faithful to journey on the "way of beauty" in the midst of a globalized digital age? How does the Church encourage and support pastoral musicians to take up their "vocation to beauty" through their vital ministry in service to the liturgical assembly?



Dr. Jem Sullivan, Ph.D., serves as associate professor in the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Dr. Sullivan was appointed to serve as a member of the International Council for Catechesis under the auspices of the Vatican Dicastery for Evangelization, Rome. For three decades, she has served in Catholic education at the secondary, undergraduate, graduate and seminary levels. Her research and publications focus on the place of beauty and the arts in liturgy, education, and evangelization. Dr. Sullivan has served various educational initiatives at the national and diocesan levels, including as staff to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. She is the author of books such as *The Beauty of Faith: Art and the New Evangelization*; *Opening the Door of Faith: A Study Guide for Catechists in the New Evangelization*; and *Believe, Celebrate, Live, Pray: A Weekly Walk with the Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Her most recent book, *Way of Beauty: Rekindling Eucharistic Amazement through Visio Divina* was written to support the National Eucharistic Revival. Jem has hosted two television documentaries on the arts in the evangelizing mission of the Church, including *The Way of Beauty* on London's Saint Dominic's Church, also known as the Rosary Shrine. Jem resides with her family in Maryland.

# BREAKOUTS



## LIVING AND LEANING INTO THE LITURGICAL POET AND ARTIST AT WORK AND WORSHIP

### **John Flaherty**

We learn the rubrics but do we live deeper into the meaning of the rubrics as they pertain to music? Do we ask ourselves the deeper questions of why and how to shape the community's music so that our shaping of a piece of music comes to life and supports, mirrors and carries the ritual action? What we do as pastoral musicians is to connect the intellect to the affect, the head to the heart – where are touched by God. Serving as a pastoral musician in service to the liturgy is much more than following a script and rubrics, and playing and singing the notes on a page of music. It's the creative, grace-filled space between the lines and between the notes: where Jesus meets us, where awe is born, and where worship finds its breath. This workshop explores what happens when we move beyond simply 'doing the red' and 'saying the black' to embrace the *ars celebrandi*, the art of celebration. Like the interval between two notes that crafts a melody, the relationship between rubrics and reverence shapes the prayer of the assembly. Together we'll reflect on how to encourage, inspire, and challenge presiders, music ministers, choir members to inhabit that sacred space with authenticity and joy. The rubrics are there not to tell us or remind us of our limitations and what we can't do; the rubrics exist to inform us of the possibilities.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## TRUE INCULTURATION OF THE LITURGY

### **John Flaherty**

St. Ambrose, in the fourth century, advised St. Augustine to respect local liturgical customs rather than impose uniformity. He said: "If you are at Rome, live in the Roman style; if you are elsewhere, live as they live elsewhere." Ambrose explained further: "When I am at Rome, I fast as the Romans do; when I am at Milan, I do not fast. Likewise, wherever you go, follow the local practice to avoid giving or taking offense." Planted firmly in Church teaching and practice, this principle underlies the inculturation of the liturgy. Applying it moves us beyond multiculturalism toward intercultural dialogue and authentic inculturation. Through these practices, diverse expressions of faith converge in unity, drawing us deeper into the Paschal Mystery as the Body of Christ.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR LITURGY: FROM PRINCIPLES TO PRACTICE (A 2-PART BREAKOUT)

### **Ricky Manalo**

This 2-part Breakout offered by Fr. Ricky Manalo focuses on the many ways artificial intelligence affects our liturgical and pastoral world. Part 1 (Basics & Foundations) will focus on: What AI is (and isn't); key pastoral/ethical principles; ministerial formation; and discernment frameworks rooted in Catholic social teaching and ecclesial mission. Part 2 (Practical Applications) will focus on: Concrete use cases and "do's & don'ts" for liturgical leaders and musicians (seasonal repertoire, prayers, communications, copyright/IP considerations, transparency policies, and parish guidelines, etc.).

*Sponsored by NPM*

## THEY'RE CHANGING THE LITURGY AGAIN?

### **Rev. Dustin Dought and Mary Sperry**

The coming implementation of new English and Spanish liturgical texts including the second edition of the *Liturgy of the Hours* and the *Lectionary for Mass* offers an opportunity to renew our understanding of the Church's daily prayer and liturgical use of the Bible. This workshop will help pastors and catechists understand why the liturgical translations are changing and how they can help people enter more fully into the Church's worship.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## CHORAL ANTHEM PROJECT (A 2-PART BREAKOUT)

### **Hank Bauer**

Sing through choral music that matches the Entrance and Communion antiphons and readings for the various Sundays and holy days of the upcoming Liturgical Year B. Music will be of high quality with various voicings from unison to multiple *divisi*.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## CHANT: THE (UNEXPECTED) HOTTEST COURSE

### **Laurence Rosania**

Gregorian Chant is a hit course at Holy Cross, a Catholic, Jesuit liberal arts college in Worcester, MA. Students come with little background in music, liturgy, or Latin, but at semester's end sing Gregorian Vespers. Explore how musicology, liturgical study, and singing create an interdisciplinary approach to this treasury of sacred music. Laurence Rosania, composer and Director of Liturgy & Music, holds degrees from Yale, Fordham, and chant studies including at the Abbey of Solesmes.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## MINISTERIAL BRIDGE-BUILDING BETWEEN ANGLO AND HISPANIC CHOIRS

### **Peter Kolar**

The disconnect between parallel Anglo and Hispanic music ministries in the same parish can feel like more than just a language barrier. When it comes to bridging this divide, those in parish music leadership often struggle to navigate the nuances, especially non-notation-based music-learning conventions. How can these differences be overcome, or better yet, turned into building blocks that edify a healthy intercultural trust, respect, and ministerial camaraderie within the community?

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

## MAKING EVERY MINUTE COUNT

### **Katie Houts**

Do you find yourself with limited time and resources for your children's choir? This session focuses on easy, accessible strategies for making the most out of your time together. Learn vocal modeling techniques (that can be used with all ages!), gain perspective on sequential teaching strategies to accelerate children's learning and retention, and collect ideas to nurture children's musical and spiritual growth at the same time. A Unison/2-pt anthem packet will be included in this session.

*Sponsored by Choristers Guild*

## MUSIC MINISTRY Z: STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING YOUNG ADULTS

### **Jeremy Kiolbassa**

"Where are all the young people?" This session will discuss strategies for engaging young adults in music ministry. The session will explore recent data on Gen Z and their faith life, and how to leverage this data in one's approach to music ministry. It will also draw on the presenter's practical lived experience while serving at one of the largest and fastest growing young adult parishes in the U.S. Please note that this session focuses on young adults (21-35) and not teens or youth ministry.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## RECOVERING A VOCABULARY OF SYMBOLS IN MUSIC AND LITURGY

### **Orin Johnson**

In *Desiderio Desideravi*, Pope Francis highlighted the need for liturgical formation; especially for all of God's people to be better versed in the language of symbols. Our liturgies are nothing without symbols and mystery, yet it is the modern human condition to dwell in arenas of things tangible and proven. Join Orin Johnson and explore the importance of symbolism and where it can be found within the liturgy: hymn lyrics, music, and as an integral part of what liturgical preaching ought to be.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## CONDUCTING MASTERCLASS (A 2-PART BREAKOUT)

### **Angela Westhoff-Johnson and Christopher Walker**

This session offers practical techniques and feedback for improving your choral conducting. In this workshop (offered twice during the 2026 Convention) attendees will participate hands-on with multiple pieces of music with a convention participant "choir" and will get a chance to work on and enhance their skills. Come to one session or both! Convention registrants who pre-register for this session will receive information about signing up as a volunteer conductor for instruction.

*Sponsored by OCP*

## JUMPING ONTO THE BENCH

### **Steve McBride**

Designed for pianists who want or need to play the organ for liturgy. This session will get you going in just a few minutes. We will look at easy ways to play manuals only, add the pedals, and also what stops (registrations) to use for congregation and cantor singing.

*Sponsored by R A Daffer Church Organs, Inc.*

## LITURGY IN A CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITY: WHAT ABOUT THE ASIANS?

### **Rufino Zaragoza, OFM and Panel**

When a parish has the presence of an Asian cultural group that is not large enough to have their own ethnic language Mass: What are practical ways to acknowledge and collaborate with this immigrant group so the richness of their culture, story, and song can be shared with the larger parish community? Noting that Asians are not a monolith, general examples will be given from the Filipino, Korean, and Vietnamese cultures, which could be applied to other cultures. The workshop would include a panel of three Asian music directors, who will briefly speak on some ethnic celebrations and liturgical repertoire from their cultural group.

*Sponsored by OCP*

## I WANT TO SING FOREVER, BUT I NEED HELP

### **Barbara Witham McCargar**

Most of us began raising our voices in song as soon as we discovered that we had them, as infants! Then, we were imitating family members and the choir at Mass. Jump ahead, and after a few decades of singing our voices are not as fresh or flexible. (Why would we expect anything else?) This session will include: an overview of the aging voice; healthy practices and aids; and learning particular vocal exercises that progress slowly and methodically, arriving at a platform of readiness to sing confidently!

*Sponsored by NPM*

## A HISTORY OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

### **Rita Thiron**

Consistent with ancient practices, the Second Vatican Council encouraged all the members of the Church to sanctify the day with the celebration of the *Liturgy of the Hours*. This session will describe the development of the structure and rituals that shaped current practices—a vital foundation for receiving the new translation of the *Liturgy of the Hours*.

*Sponsored by FDLC*

## A VOCAL-CENTRIC APPROACH TO CHOIR REHEARSAL

### **Peter Kadeli**

This session invites participants to reimagine the rehearsal as a vocal-centric process, where tone, technique, and vocal health are integrated throughout music learning. Through an interactive session with Dr. Peter Kadeli, participants will discover practical methods for embedding pedagogical instruction into the music-learning process, leaving with fresh approaches for strengthening their choirs both musically and vocally.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## EFFECTIVE PIANO LEADING (NOT JUST ACCOMPANYING) ACROSS THE MUSICAL SPECTRUM

### **Peter Kolar**

From traditional hymnody to contemporary praise and worship, liturgical pianists have to be adept at a vast variety of musical styles encountered in the Catholic repertoire. It is not enough to play the notes on the page—pianists must be confident and convincing in their playing. Learn tips for an orchestral sense of variation, timing, anticipation, vocal breathing, as well as how to improvise and extend for the sake of the accompanied ritual action.

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

## EMPOWER YOUR CONGREGATION TO SING

### **Paul Shafer**

Paul Shafer (piano/organ) with cantor Mandy Gerstenbrand will present proven techniques that when employed during liturgies will increase sung participation. These are proven processes from over 37 years of leading music ministry.

Demonstrations will include:

- Role of the cantor (not singing over the congregation)
- How to let the congregation hear their own voice
- Seasonal Mass settings
- Techniques used for hymns to encourage participation
- Sung postludes
- New repertoire

*Sponsored by NPM*

## FULL, CONSCIOUS, ACTIVE, GO!: READYING THE YOUNG CHURCH FOR MISSION

### **Kathleen M. Basi, Orin Johnson and Shannon Cerneka**

School Masses can prepare the next generation of pastoral musicians to keep the Church singing forever. How do we achieve this? By placing Eucharistic celebrations at the center of Catholic school life and involving students in every step of planning and carrying out the liturgy. We'll talk seasons, Ordo, repertoire, psalmists, and collaborating with school personnel, as well as methods for implementing ritual ideas and living the liturgy outside of the rites themselves.

*Sponsored by Simply Liturgical*

## HOW TO READ A RITE

### **Kathy Kuczka**

Every liturgical rite tells a story—through structure, language, gesture, and silence. But how do we read a rite in a way that uncovers its inner logic and pastoral purpose? This workshop will introduce practical tools for interpreting the Church's ritual texts, exploring how their order, symbols, and rubrics shape the community's prayer. Participants will learn how to move beyond "what to do" toward "why we do it," gaining insights that can enrich preparation, celebration, and music choices.

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

## THE ART OF CELEBRATING: PREPARING VIBRANT SACRAMENTAL LITURGIES

### Michael Ruzicki

Vibrant liturgy gives life to vibrant faith. Whether celebrating the sacraments or Sunday Eucharist, we're called to prepare and celebrate with care, joy, and intention. Drawing on insights from Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Arinze, this workshop explores "the art of celebrating" as the key to full, conscious, and active participation, offering practical ways to make every liturgy a true encounter with the divine.

*Sponsored by LTP*

## VOLUNTEERS CAN LEARN TOO! VOCAL COACHING, TECHNIQUE, AND AURAL SKILLS IN MUSIC MINISTRY

### Dr. Michael P. Mackey

This workshop is built on the premise that all music ministers can thrive artistically, regardless of their experience or musical background, if given the instructional support to do so. With Bel Canto technique as a frame of reference, participants will consider how liturgical music directors can successfully incorporate fundamental vocal coaching techniques when rehearsing choirs and cantors. By inspiring excellence, we elevate our music ministers and the congregations we serve into greater expressions of faith, music, and service.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN YOU RICHLY" (COL 3:16): HOW THE PSALMS CAN ADVANCE THE CHURCH'S MISSION OF EVANGELIZATION AND CATECHESIS

### Anthony Fortunato

The Church proposes the Liturgy as the "privileged place for catechizing the People of God" (CCC 1074). Likewise, she sees the psalms as having an "essential," "permanent," and didactic function in her prayer (CCC 2596; cf. CCC 2687). This breakout session will unpack the unique potential the psalm texts proper to each Mass (e.g., the entrance antiphon, the Responsorial Psalm, and the communion antiphon) possess for advancing the Church's evangelizing and catechetical mission.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## A GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE GENERAL INSTRUCTION

### Dr. James Starke

Anyone who prepares and prays the Divine Office must be familiar with the General Instruction of the Liturgy of the Hours (GILH). It provides a rich theology on the nature of the Liturgy of the Hours, its importance in the life of the Church, and its power to sanctify the day. It provides valuable practical insights into the structure of the celebration at various liturgical hours.

*Sponsored by FDLC*

## A MASTERCLASS FOR THE PARISH ORGANIST: PRACTICAL SKILLS FOR REAL-WORLD MUSIC MINISTRY (A 2-PART BREAKOUT)

### Joel S. Kumro

An interactive masterclass offering practical coaching for organists of all levels. Participants explore liturgical and solo organ repertoire—hymns, psalms, and service music to preludes and postludes—focusing on registration, ornamentation, improvisation, and stylistic authenticity to enhance artistry and pastoral sensitivity.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## FOREVER SINGING: THE PRACTICAL THEOLOGY OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

### John Kyler

Our community is shaped by our common prayer. As pastoral musicians, the relationship between prayer and belief—*lex orandi, lex credendi*—is foundational to how we understand our role as ministers. This session will explore how pastoral musicians (and their communities!) can more fully enter into the mystery of Christ through the theological and pastoral nuances of the liturgical year with best practices and practical tips for creating communities grounded in hospitality and genuine welcome.

## FORMING THE WORSHIPPING CHURCH: STRENGTHENING YOUR LITURGY COMMITTEE

### Michael Ruzicki

The liturgy committee plays a vital role in shaping the prayer life of the parish, helping the assembly to celebrate liturgy with beauty, understanding, and unity. This workshop will explore the ministry's purpose and offer practical tools for praying, studying, and preparing liturgies together. Participants will discover best practices for forming or renewing a liturgy committee that works collaboratively, joyfully, and pastorally.

*Sponsored by LTP*

## GROWING YOUR CHAPTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOUR DIOCESE

### **Laura Forbis St. Clair**

It's all about relationships! How to cultivate a good relationship with your diocesan leadership and reach the pastoral musicians in your diocese. This breakout will explore the 2025 Chapter of the Year's partnership with their diocese in a diocesan wide synodal process on sacred music and how they used that process to grow the chapter and build a vision to meet the needs of the diocese and the pastoral musicians serving it.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## IS YOUR CATHOLICITY TRULY CATHOLIC?

### **Dr. M. Roger Holland II**

Catholicism and its musical expression in the twenty-first century is multicultural. What does it mean to be Catholic in the second quarter of the twenty-first century? Especially in the United States, matters of human dignity, hospitality, and cultural inclusivity should be paramount. To be Catholic cannot simply be a reverence for the Holy Eucharist that is solely enacted in adoration. Our catholicity must be demonstrated in our acknowledgment of the *imago Dei* in all people that ultimately reveals itself in the source and summit of our faith—the liturgy. Join Dr. M. Roger Holland II in this deep and challenging exploration of how the fullness of Catholic expression is manifest in multicultural liturgy not only in body but also in song.

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

## LET US ALL REJOICE!

### **Sarah Hart and Steve Angrisano**

Antiphons are hidden gems of our Catholic tradition – short, powerful refrains drawn from Scripture that can lift hearts and ground our worship in prayer. Too often overlooked in parish life, they offer music ministers a chance to weave God's Word into every liturgy in a fresh and prayerful way. Join Steve Angrisano and Sarah Hart for an inspiring session where faith meets music and discover practical ways to bring these ancient treasures alive in your parish.

*Sponsored by OCP*

## OBSTACLES TO FULL, CONSCIOUS, AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

### **Tony Alonso**

Why does the "full, conscious and active participation" envisioned by the Second Vatican Council seem so elusive in many Roman Catholic parishes even fifty years later? This workshop will explore a series of challenges—liturgical, pastoral and cultural—which may inhibit rather than encourage the sung prayer of the liturgical assembly.

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

## ORGAN REPERTOIRE SESSION: ACCOMPANYING HYMNS

### **Kelly Dobbs-Mickus**

Published settings of hymn introductions, free harmonizations, and descants, for all skill levels, will be presented. Explore repertoire that will help invigorate your congregation's singing, from "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" to "The Summons."

*Sponsored by MorningStar Music*

## PROGRESSIVE SOLEMNITY IN PRACTICE: SINGING THE LITURGY WELL

### **Jonathan Branton**

This session explores the principle of progressive solemnity and its impact on parish music and liturgy. Rather than treating every day the same, we will look at practical ways to reflect the Church's hierarchy of celebrations through music, ritual, and environment. Participants will leave with tools to plan liturgies that help assemblies "sing the seasons of the Church" with beauty and authenticity.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## RAISING MONEY IN DIFFICULT ECONOMIC TIMES

### **Timothy Jacquet**

In difficult economic times, donors often reduce the number of causes they support, but they don't stop giving entirely. They simply become more selective. This workshop will direct you to your focus on building relationships with major donors at the parish through cultivation. When that time comes to buy a pipe organ, piano, repair a leaking roof, replace carpet, windows, etc, you will have the rights tools to call in a favor for a positive response.

*Sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor*

## SINGING WITH EVERY VOICE: INCLUDING PERSONS WHO ARE DEAF AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN LITURGICAL MUSIC

### **Mary O'Meara**

The liturgy calls all the faithful to full, conscious, and active participation—including persons who are Deaf and people with disabilities. This workshop explores practical and pastoral approaches to ensuring that the ministry of music welcomes and empowers everyone to take part.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINISTRY: CONTENT CREATION AND CRACKING THE ALGORITHM

### **Zack Stachowski**

Zachary Stachowski, social media creator for GIA Publications, will offer ideas and best practices for using social media to support parish ministry. Topics will include content creation, building and sustaining engagement, and tricks of the algorithm.

*Co-sponsored by NPM and GIA Publications, Inc.*

## VOCAL TROUBLESHOOTING: PRACTICAL VOICE SCIENCE AND PEDAGOGY FOR CHURCH MUSICIANS

### **Erin Taylor**

Are you a great instrumentalist, but wish you knew more about the voice? This session will focus on practical concepts of vocal function, as they relate to coaching cantors and choirs, for the musician that has not previously studied singing. Topics will include evidence-based information about vocal functions, ways the voice might function sub-optimally, and ideas to help singers achieve efficient and balanced singing. Changes in vocal technique between styles will also be considered.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## GETTING THE STUDENTS TO SING: HOW TO PLAN A SCHOOL MASS

### **Theresa Slott**

In our Catholic schools, we develop our Catholic identity through shared worship at school Mass. So much formation and catechesis can be done through these liturgies. Are we planning music that the children are engaging in? Can they participate? Is it forming them as full and active participants in the sacred liturgy? Let's talk about it!

*Sponsored by NPM*

## INTRODUCING BILINGUAL MUSIC (A 2-PART BREAKOUT)

### **Estela García-López and Rodolfo López**

Music has the power to bring bilingual communities together to worship as one body. Come and discover repertoire and strategies that can help unite your choirs and community.

*Sponsored by OCP*

## AI AT THE CHAPTER LEVEL: CONCERNS, CONSIDERATIONS, AND ETHICS

### **Joseph Kerr and Julie Curry: Dallas and Des Moines Chapter Directors**

Artificial Intelligence is increasingly present in our ministries, raising important questions for Chapter Directors and Boards. Ethical issues about its use in our ministry, its alignment with Catholic teachings and legalities are major concerns. Join us for a facilitated dialogue to explore this topic while sharing and gathering support, insights and resources in the use of AI. Be a part of the collective voice that will inform NPM Staff and leadership of Chapter needs and interests for support.

*Sponsored by NPM*

## LET YOUR VOICES RING OUT: EXPLORING HANDBELLS AND CHOIRCHIMES

### **Kathleen Ebling Shaw**

Come explore ringing instruments during our hands-on session. The basics of ringing will be taught along with understanding the handbell score. Take part in this enjoyable opportunity to have your first ringing encounter and learn more about beginning a handbell ministry!

*Sponsored by Malmark*

## ALL ARE WELCOME: BUILDING INCLUSIVE LITURGICAL MINISTRIES FOR MODERN FAMILIES

### **Kathleen M. Basi and Krista Kutz**

Between Sunday sports, packed schedules, and parents stretched thin, many families feel they can't commit to serving at Mass—so they opt out. But what if adapting to the realities of modern family life could help ministries thrive? Join author and composer Kathleen Basi and Krista Kutz from Ministry Scheduler Pro for an hour of storytelling, music, and practical family scheduling tips. Discover how welcoming and accommodating busy families can strengthen participation now and for years to come.

*Sponsored by MSP*

## FOREVER WE WILL SING: THE GIFT OF GOSPEL IN CATHOLIC LITURGY: INTERCULTURATION AND THE LIVING TRADITION OF FAITH

**Richard Cheri, Aaron Matthews, and W. Clifford Petty**

Explore how Gospel music, rooted in the African American Catholic experience, enriches the Church's liturgy through interculturation. This session—presented by the Josephite Pastoral Center and the Archbishop Lyke Foundation—features the work of composers and pastoral leaders sharing Gospel Masses, resources, and reflections on unity, faith, and the living song of God's people.

*Co-sponsored by NPM and the Josephite Pastoral Center*

## IMPROVE THE ENSEMBLE MUSICIANSHIP IN YOUR PARISH

**Jaime Cortez, Bobby Fisher and Steven Petrunak**

Does your parish have a choir and ensemble that leads the assembly in song during Mass? With more than 20 years of church musicianship and expertise, this panel of presenters will teach you ways to approach different liturgical songs so that your ensemble can work as a unified team that breathes beauty and prayer to each song. The right ensemble arrangement can make a big difference in worship.

*Co-sponsored by OCP and CLEF*

## RESPONDING IN REHEARSAL

**Stephen Eros**

How many times do we stop our choirs in rehearsal? Many of us may not want to count! In addition to affirming the choir's work, the most important thing is that we have a specific solution in mind in response to the problem we heard. Understanding the voice is paramount in giving direction to fix problems. In this session, participants will work through an array of scenarios with the goal of being more prepared and equipped to effectively respond to our choir's needs in rehearsal.

*Sponsored by MorningStar Music Publishers*

## THE PASTORAL MUSICIAN AS SERVANT LEADER

**Janèt Sulivan Whitaker**

In this session, we will examine the qualities that have historically been attributed to well-known servant leaders, from Martin Luther King Jr to Dorothy Day, and Jimmy Carter.

As we view each of these qualities through the lens of pastoral music leadership, we learn to embody them as ministers. These qualities not only tune our hearts for selfless servanthood in the pattern of Christ, but form us as pastoral role models for those we are called to lead and serve in music ministry.

*Sponsored by NPM*



RATHER THAN SECTIONAL. OUR LOYALTIES MUST BECOME ECUMENICAL.  
OUR TRIBE, OUR CLASS, AND OUR NATION; AND THIS MEANS  
WE MUST DEVELOP A WORLD PERSPECTIVE.

# EVENTS

GEORGIA 1967

## FEATURED EVENTS

### LEGACY & LEADERSHIP: REFLECTIONS FROM NPM'S FIRST 50 YEARS

Join us for a special panel conversation bringing together influential leaders who have shaped the National Association of Pastoral Musicians across five remarkable decades. This session will explore NPM's rich history, its defining milestones, and the visionary leadership that helped strengthen the Church's song. Panelists will share stories, insights, and pivotal moments that highlight the Association's enduring mission and evolving role in supporting pastoral musicians. Whether you are a longtime member or discovering NPM's legacy for the first time, this discussion offers a unique opportunity to honor our past, celebrate our present, and look with hope toward the next 50 years.

### FOSTERING THE LEGACY

Celebrate community, generosity, and the bright future of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians at Fostering the Legacy, a special fundraising event supporting NPM's mission for the next 50 years. Enjoy an evening of good food, warm fellowship, and shared purpose. Your presence and generosity help ensure that the Church's song continues to flourish for generations to come.

**Cost:** \$250 per ticket

### GIA NEW MUSIC SHOWCASE

Join the GIA Publications team for a new music showcase featuring choral, assembly, and instrumental music for the Church year in a variety of styles! Come ready to sing!

### OCP NEW MUSIC SHOWCASE

Join us for the OCP New Music Showcase at this year's NPM Convention! We are excited to present a diverse collection of brand-new seasonal titles, inspiring bilingual works, and music suited for choirs of all skill levels as well as for general congregational use. This year's showcase also highlights selections featured in the upcoming release of *Glory & Praise, Fourth Edition* hymnal—offering an exciting opportunity to explore fresh repertoire and discover music that will enrich your community's prayer and song.

### SOURCE & SUMMIT MUSIC SHOWCASE

Join us for an up-close experience of the Source & Summit Digital Platform. We'll explore an integrated approach to liturgy preparation, music customization, streamlined worship aid and music packet creation, effortless sharing, and dynamic rehearsal features, all in one place—and we'll sing together everything we prepare. Discover how easy your weekly prep can be!

## LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

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The 2026 Convention will include Lunchtime Concerts during the lunch hour each day, including an NPM premiere of a Taizé documentary film!

### TAIZÉ: A PILGRIMAGE OF TRUST

An NPM premiere! This inspiring short film follows nine teenagers from Dover, Massachusetts—both Catholic and Protestant—on a transformative weeklong pilgrimage to the Taizé Community in France. Through their eyes, viewers experience the beauty of Taizé’s sung prayer, the depth of silence, the power of reconciliation, and the simple joy of Christian community. Blending documentary storytelling with the gentle spirituality of Taizé, the film offers musicians, liturgists, and pastoral ministers a moving reminder of how contemplative prayer can shape young hearts and renew parish worship. Perfect for anyone seeking fresh insight into ecumenical prayer, youth engagement, or the enduring impact of Taizé’s musical tradition. The viewing of the film will be followed by a discussion with the producer/director Kathy Kuczka.

*Sponsored by GIA Publications*

### ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER COMMUNITY CONCERT

Join members and friends of the NPM AAPI community to share our impact on NPM throughout the years.

### ORGAN CONSORTIUM CONCERT

For decades, the members of the Liturgical Organists Consortium have been committed to the renewal of esteem for the organ in the Catholic Church. Join four of the founding members - Dr. Lynn Trapp, Dr. Mary Beth Bennett, Dr. Robert "Bob" Gallagher, and Dr. Alison Luedcke - for a concert of glorious music at the Basilica Shrine.

## EVENING CONCERTS

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### VOICE OF MY PEOPLE: A WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Led by Pastoral Musician of the Year recipient Dr. M. Roger Holland II, this immersive worship experience is a feast of word and song, built on the powerful foundation of the Mass setting *Voice of My People*. Each Mass movement highlights a different musical style reflecting the African diaspora: gospel, jazz, chant, reggaeton, Afro Cuban music, and R&B. The *Sanctus* (Mtakatifu) is set in Kiswahili to represent African language and culture. Come and be part of this truly beautiful expression of the diversity of the Black Catholic Church!

*Sponsored by GIA Publications and NPM*

### UNITED IN SONG

Join us for an unforgettable multicultural concert celebrating the unity and diversity of our Church. Led by Pastoral Musician of the Year award winners Estela García-López and Rodolfo López along with talented guest musicians and friends, experience the power of God’s love and the unifying gift of music across languages and cultures.

*Sponsored by OCP and NPM*

### A HYMN IN STONE: SACRED MUSIC FROM THE BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**Peter Latona, Director**

**Benjamin LaPrairie and Adam Chlebek, Organists**

In the January 1914 issue of the National Shrine’s newsletter *Salve Regina*, Bishop Shahan envisioned the the National Shrine as “a monument of love and gratitude, a great hymn in stone . . . as perfect as the art of man can make it and as holy as the intentions of its builders could wish it to be.”

Inspired by that vision, the musicians of the Basilica present a concert entitled A Hymn in Stone. The program highlights the many expressions of music at the National Shrine: from the 56 bells of the Knights Tower Carillon to the nearly 10,000 pipes of the great organs, and the voices of the Choir of the Basilica joined by the faithful within the Upper Church. Hymns, psalms, motets, and organ works—ancient and modern—will be featured, including compositions by Director of Music and NPM Pastoral Musician Award recipient Dr. Peter Latona.

As music resonates through limestone, granite, and marble, we too become the living stones through which God’s praise resounds: “Like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house” (1 Peter 2:5).

*Sponsored by NPM*

# 2026 AWARDS

## FOREVER I WILL SING AWARD



REV. RICHARD FRAGOMENI

## JUBILATE DEO AWARD



MR. JOHN K. FLAHERTY



DR. STEVEN R. JANCO

## NPM SERVICE AWARD



MRS. VALERIE LEE JETER-MCKENZIE (POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED)

## PASTORAL MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD



DR. M. ROGER HOLLAND II



DR. PETER LATONA



RODOLFO (RUDY) LÓPEZ AND ESTELA GARCÍA-LÓPEZ



## LEARN MORE

To read our awardee biographies, scan the code or visit [npm.org](http://npm.org).



# CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Register online at [npm.org](http://npm.org). If registering by mail, please print. Only one person may be registered on each form.

CATEGORIES <i>Select one</i>	EARLY BIRD 2/1-4/10	ADVANCE 4/11-5/29	REGULAR 5/30-7/10	ONSITE 7/11 and beyond
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-member <i>(Become a Select member and save today on your registration)</i>	\$550	\$600	\$650	\$700
<input type="checkbox"/> Select <i>(Formerly Basic)</i>	\$500	\$550	\$600	\$650
<input type="checkbox"/> Select Plus/Clergy/ Religious/Retired/Student	\$475	\$522	\$570	\$617
<input type="checkbox"/> Standard	\$450	\$495	\$540	\$585
<input type="checkbox"/> Premium	\$425	\$467	\$510	\$552
<input type="checkbox"/> Companion Rate	\$200	\$225	\$250	\$275

ADD-ONS <i>Optional</i>	CONVENTION RECORDINGS <i>Select one</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> DC Monuments at Night Tour	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Member	\$249
<input type="checkbox"/> Organ Crawl	\$125	<input type="checkbox"/> Select	\$199
<input type="checkbox"/> Cantor Institute	\$125	<input type="checkbox"/> Select Plus/Clergy/ Religious/Retired/Student	\$190
<input type="checkbox"/> National Catholic Handbell Festival	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard	\$180
<input type="checkbox"/> Franciscan Monastery Tour	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/> Premium	\$170
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Project	\$10		
<input type="checkbox"/> NPM Retreat	\$40		
<input type="checkbox"/> DC Monuments Daytime Tour	\$60		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fostering the Legacy Dinner	\$250		

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Title	First Name	Last Name	Badge Name <i>(First name or nickname)</i>
Street Address		City	State
Phone Number		Email Address	Parish Name

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed. Make check payable to NPM in US Dollars or I authorize NPM to charge my credit card\*

Credit Card Number	Expiration Date	Security Code	Zip Code
Name on Card (Please print clearly)	Cardholder Signature	Date	

\*Credit Card: I understand that by paying with a credit/debit card, I will be paying a 3% processing fee in addition to registration costs.  
Cancellation policy: Cancellation must be requested by June 19, 2026 with a \$100 processing fee at that time. Refunds will be processed by August 14.



# FOREVER WE WILL SING

JULY 20-24, 2026 | WASHINGTON, D.C.