In the December-January issue of *Pastoral Music*, Gordon Truitt described the priest’s role in the liturgy “as key, even as unique, but not as independent.” It draws from, builds on, and empowers all the other ministries. “Without those ministries and the people who carried them out,” Truitt continued, “Mass would still be valid, even licit, but it would have lost . . . an ability to express the truly communitarian and hierarchical nature of Catholic liturgy.”

This “communitarian and hierarchical” approach to the liturgical role of bishops, priests, and deacons has guided NPM’s approach to its mission from its inception through our regular membership structure (two-part, clergy and musician); to our early establishment of a special section for the clergy; to our planning for the annual conventions, which include special programs for the clergy as well as other sessions and events that members of the clergy would enjoy sharing with other convention participants; to our creation, a decade ago, of the special clergy-musician duo discount for convention registration.

The 2007 NPM National Convention in Indianapolis is a shining example of this respect for the clergy’s pastoral role in the liturgy and in other aspects of parish life and the need for and possibility of mutual cooperation in ministry, described so well by Father Philip Johnson and Ms. Joanne Werner in the December-January issue of *Pastoral Music*.

This issue of *NPM Clergy Update* introduces some of the special features of the 2007 National Convention that will be of interest to our clergy members and other clergy participants. Please use this issue with the convention brochure as you make your plans for Indianapolis. And share this issue with a friend in the clergy who may not know about NPM or its special clergy focus. The more the merrier!

*Note: The Clergy Section will meet with Father Bob Webster, chair of the Clergy Standing Committee, on Monday afternoon, July 9, from 4:00 to 5:00. Be there to make your voice heard.*

**Plenum Addresses**

The five plenum addresses speak about aspects of engagement with the paschal mystery that we celebrate in the liturgy. How do we engage future generations in the mystery that we embrace, love, and proclaim (Steve Warner)? How do pastoral musicians encounter the mystery of God and lead others to experience God’s presence and action in the liturgy (J. Michael Joncas)? How do we invite people from many cultures to share in the unity that we profess in Christ (Ricky Manalo, CSP)? Where do we find the practical skills to work together in the ministry that we share (Jerry Galipeau and Mary Kay Oos-
dyke, op)? Finally, how does our song build bridges and foster deeper unity (Teresita Weind, snd)?

Because plenum presentations are necessarily broad, we offer an opportunity during each breakout session for participants to “continue the dialogue” by meeting with the plenum presenter(s) to explore the topic in more detail, to make it “real,” and to “bring it home.” See the first workshop in each breakout session for a description.

Lecture Series

This year’s convention features the fourth in the series of Hovda Lectures that began at the National Convention in Washington, DC, in 2001. Named in honor of Rev. Robert W. Hovda, presbyter of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, and prophetic voice for the transforming power of worship, each set of Hovda Lectures has focused on particular aspects of worship or on significant documents of the liturgical renewal. This year’s series focuses on the 1967 instruction Musicam sacram. This is the only instruction issued (so far) by the Vatican to focus exclusively on the role of music in the liturgy. What does it have to say forty years after it was issued? Are there insights into the role of ritual music that we need to glean from this text? Are there things here that we might have missed in the initial rush to reform the rites? Explore such questions with outstanding presenters including Edward Foley, Capuchin, Judith Kubicki, CSSP, James Savage, Edward Schaefer, and Alan Hommerding.

New this year is the first series of Father Clarence Jos. Rivers Lectures. Named for this presbyter of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, composer, and first director of the Department of Culture and Worship in the National Office for Black Catholics, this lecture series will explore the richness and diversity of worship in African American communities today. Presenters include J-Glenn Murray, SJ, Roger Holland, Ray East, and Grayson Warren Brown.

Prayer: Alone and with Others

There are plenty of opportunities for prayer during an NPM convention. In fact, some of our members tell us that our gatherings have a retreat feel about them. At the heart of each convention, of course, is our celebration of the Eucharist. This year, the Convention Eucharist is on Wednesday evening. Abbot Justin DuVall, OSn, from St. Meinrad Archabbey, will be our ordained celebrant. Once you register, you will receive information by e-mail about concelebration at the Convention Eucharist.

Daily Mass is available at 12:15 PM at St. John Parish, directly across the street from the Indiana Convention Center.

In addition, morning prayer will be celebrated each day of the convention (Tuesday–Friday), with Byzantine morning prayer on Wednesday. Let this daily liturgy, in all its richness, begin your day with praise and hope.

Taizé Prayer is a quasi-communal, quasi-private prayer, filled both with communal song and with deep silence for personal prayer. This unique prayer will end our day on Tuesday.

The place for personal or small-group devotional prayer is the Labyrinth Room. Yes, there will be a labyrinth available for people to walk as they let the contemplative experience of moving toward and away from the center of the labyrinth be an expression of their own movement toward the center and then back into life’s routines.

Workshops

Each of the six breakout sessions at the 2007 Convention includes special workshops for the clergy as well as other workshops and events that are of interest to clergy participants, depending on their background and the needs of their parish or community. Be sure to check out the detailed descriptions in the convention brochure. Here are some suggestions to guide your convention planning.

Tuesday, July 10

Breakout A. Workshop A 19, with Father Gabriel Pivarnik, OP, will offer concrete pointers about preaching the liturgy. Check out workshops A 04 and A 09 as well as showcase A 30.

Breakout B. Workshop B 19, with Fathers James Bessert and Bob Webster, will be a discussion on the role of the pastor in parish, liturgical, and musical life. Also look at workshop B 04.

Wednesday, July 11

Breakout C. Workshop C 19, with Dr. Steve Janco, focuses on the Eucharistic Prayer. Take a look at workshops C
Thursday, July 12

Breakout D. Workshop 19, with Archbishop Daniel DiNardo, will look at the opportunities and challenges that the new texts of the Roman Missal will offer presiders and pastors. Also read about workshops D 04, D 05, D 08, D 13, D 23, and D 25. Many choices in this and other breakout sessions!

Breakout E. Workshop E 19, with Dom Columba Kelly, osa, is about the special proclamations that are—and may be—part of Mass, especially the Exsultet and the Christmas and Epiphany proclamations. In your review of the brochure, also look at E 04, E 05, E 06, and E 07.

Friday, July 13

Breakout F. Workshop F 17, with Dr. Paul Ford, addresses the priest celebrant’s role in singing the liturgy, with a very practical review of the basic tunes for the collects and the Eucharistic Prayer (and see the description of session D 04 as well). On Friday morning, also take a look at workshops F 04, F 05, and F 06.

CLERGY-MUSICIAN DUO DISCOUNT

Clergy members and musicians who have an NPM parish membership and register for the convention together receive a discounted rate: $230.00 each (a total savings of $50.00 off the advanced members’ rate for two people). This discount is available to only one member of the clergy and one musician from the same member parish or institution. It applies to advance registration only; both registrations as well as full payment must be included together in the same envelope; and the envelope must be postmarked on or before June 8. Sorry, this discount is not available online.

GROUP DISCOUNTS

Pastors should take note of the group discount for NPM parish group directors. The group discount is available to all registrants who register together before May 25, and clergy who are part of an NPM chapter should consider registering with other members of the chapter—there are substantial discounts for large enough groups. Details of the parish group discount will appear in the February-March issue of Pastoral Music, and information about the chapter discount will be mailed to NPM chapter directors.

HIRING A DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Despite budget cuts and staff reductions, many parishes still seek to retain or hire a full-time director of music ministries. Especially with fewer clergy available, many parishes rely on such a person to serve as the parish liturgical resource, overseeing not only the music program but also the training and assignment of various liturgical ministers, liturgical education of students in the parish school and religious education program, and general parish liturgical formation so that the rites may be celebrated with a deep spiritual consciousness.

However, many parishes struggle to find not only a qualified director of music ministries but also the right person for this parish. Once the commitment has been made to create or continue a music ministry program headed by a professional pastoral musician, many parishes find themselves unsure what kind of qualifications to look for or how to proceed with a search for the right person.

NPM has several practical resources to help parishes in this process. The newest is the revised edition of Hiring a Director of Music Ministries: A Handbook and Guide. Originally published in 1991, this resource has been updated by the Professional Concerns Committee of NPM’s Director of Music Ministries Division. In very practical terms, the booklet describes how to form a search committee, draft and advertise the job description, evaluate applications, interview and audition candidates, make the final selection, and welcome the new staff member to the parish.

Additional printed resources that will assist this process include the “grandaddy” of such practical aids, Father Virgil Funk’s An NPM Workbook: Job Descriptions, Contracts, Salary. Since the revised edition was published in 1996, some of the salary and benefit figures in this book are out of date, but the process itself is of lasting value. This book may be supplemented by The Director of Music Ministries in the Parish: Work and Remuneration, A Statement and Worksheet. Prepared by the DMMD, this short workbook is available in print or online at the NPM website: http://www.npm.org/Sections/DMMD/salaryguidelines.htm.

Details about the qualifications to look for in a candidate are also available online in the pamphlet Qualifications for the Director of Music Ministries: A Policy Statement, found at http://www.npm.org/Sections/images/qualifications.pdf. (Printed copies may also be purchased from NPM Publications. Order online at https://www.npm.org/publications/ or by phone: (240) 247-3000.

Additional help for appropriate qualifications may be found in the National Certification Standards for Lay Ecclesial Ministers, prepared by three associations for lay ministry and adopted by NPM for its certification process for directors of music ministry. Additional information about the standards and the certification process may be found online at http://www.npm.org/Sections/DMMD/certification.htm.
Spiritual Ecumenism

In *A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism*, published in English at the end of 2006 and now available in an Italian edition, Cardinal Walter Kasper reminds us that the root of all ecumenical hope and action is shared prayer. Cardinal Kasper has been president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity since 2001, and he prepared the book to offer practical suggestions about what bishops, priests, religious, and lay people can do to promote closer relationships among Christians while official theological dialogues continue to deal with the deep issues that divide us. Prayer, he writes, should be our first response to our division: “It is significant that Jesus did not primarily express his desire for unity in a teaching or in a commandment to his disciples but in a prayer to his Father.”

Cardinal Kasper even encourages attending one another’s Eucharistic celebrations and participating to the extent permitted by current law while experiencing the pain of not being able to share fully in Communion. “The way toward reconciliation and communion unfolds when Christians feel the painful wound of division in their hearts, in their minds, and in their prayers,” he writes.

In addition to shared prayer, Cardinal Kasper encourages joint Bible study and work together for justice and peace.