Hope and Harmony in 2010… For the Clergy

We gather in Detroit to proclaim harmony in the face of discord and division, to sing hope in the face of fear and uncertainty. We gather under the mandate of the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World Gaudium et Spes: “The joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the people of our time, especially those who are poor or afflicted, are the joys and hopes, the grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well” (GS, 1).

Catholic clergy are among those who share most keenly the joys, hopes, grief, and anguish of our time; we are also the ones who must bring the hope and harmony of the Gospel to those who need it most. The 2010 Annual Convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (July 12–16) in Detroit, Michigan, provides resources for clergy to carry out their mission and to find support in that mission from one another and from other members of NPM who share the mission to serve.

In this issue, we highlight some of the events that will be of most interest to members of the clergy. The full convention brochure is in the January issue of Pastoral Music and online here.

People of Prayer

Clergy members new to an NPM convention tell us, year after year, that they come to realize the power of song when they are standing in the midst of several thousand people singing God’s praises (in spontaneous four-part harmony). They are not alone in experiencing this when NPM members gather for prayer. At the core of our conventions are the Eucharist and the liturgy of the hours. This year, Archbishop Allen Vigneron will preside and preach at the convention Eucharist on Wednesday evening. We’ll begin each day of the convention with Morning Prayer, singing hymns, psalms, and canticles to welcome God’s gift of the new day.

Convention participants are also invited to daily Mass at three neighboring parishes: Sts. Peter and Paul, Old St. Mary Parish in Greektown, and St. Aloysius.

In addition, Alan Hommerding will lead a pre-conven-
tion retreat for music ministry leaders, offering simple how-to tips for following Jesus in prayer, even when you only have ten minutes to do that. (There’s also a pre-convention youth retreat with Jesse Manibusan and Santiago Fernández that you might send your young musicians to. Details are on page six of the convention brochure.)

**Keynote and Plenums: Signs of Hope**

What gives you hope? How do you bring hope to your parishioners in a troubled Church in a troubled world? The major presentations of the 2010 Annual Convention offer some answers to those questions—answers that can enrich your preaching and your pastoral ministry. Come and hear Sister Kathleen Hughes, rscj, describe our stance in the face of conflicts and divisions in Church and society. Listen as the Honorable Dennis Archer, former Detroit mayor, explores the fears that grip the world and the hope to which the Gospel summons us. Look for the new perspectives offered by Dr. Steven Janco that can bring harmony to our Church, our dioceses, our parishes, and our communities. Renew your spiritual foundations with Dr. John Witvliet of the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, who will explore a spirituality based on oneness with the Creator, an ever-deeper passion for life, and a willingness to place one’s life at the service of others. And explore with Ms. Melissa Musick Nussbaum the ways in which our journey of faith and ministry is helped or hindered by the cultures in which we live, by the constant changes we face, and by the divisions that challenge us.

**Breakouts: Workshops for Clergy**

Many people say that the workshops at an NPM convention are where the theory gets put into practice, where the ideal confronts the reality of parish life. That’s why the special workshop sessions for clergy in Detroit focus on very practical issues that we face now and will face in the near future. Four of the sessions focus on preaching and the presidential/celebrant role at Mass; they are presented by Father J-Glenn Murray, sj (A-17 and F-17) and Dr. Paul Ford, of St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, California (D-17 and E-17). The other two sessions offer a special clergy focus on the forthcoming *Roman Missal* and the challenges and opportunities it offers; they are presented by Father Robert Webster, chair of the NPM Interest Section for Clergy (B-17, and also look at F-03), and Monsignor Anthony Sherman of the Secretariat for the Bishops’ Committee on Divine Worship (C-18).

Clergy participants may also explore a set of workshops on liturgy that celebrate the fiftieth jubilee of the Rensselaer Program of Church Music and Liturgy at Saint...
Joseph’s College in Rensselaer, Indiana (A-03, B-03, C-03) or some that explore the bishops’ document *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (B-19, C-20). Pastors may also want help in working with liturgy and with pastoral musicians in ethnically and culturally mixed parishes (A-13, A-14, B-13, B-14, C-14, D-13, D-14, E-13, E-14). They may also find help with staff and group dynamics (F-01).

**Clergy Section**

The NPM Special Interest Section for Clergy gathers and represents approximately twenty percent of NPM members who are bishops, priests, and deacons. Pastoral musicians are co-workers with the ordained in fostering authentic and vibrant worship in dioceses, parishes, schools, and other communities, so NPM looks for and promotes ways to assist clergy and musicians in that shared ministry. The Clergy Section recommends topics and speakers for workshops at the annual conventions and appropriate topics for articles in *Pastoral Music* and in *NPM Clergy Update*—this online quarterly newsletter for clergy members of NPM. The section also serves to gather clergy members at the convention and to help them stay in touch throughout the year. This year, the Clergy Interest Section will meet at the Detroit Convention on Monday afternoon at 4:00 PM. Add your voice to the discussion, and let us know what you want and need from your association.

**Clergy-Composers**

As in other ages of the Church, some key composers in our time are also members of the clergy (or: key members of the clergy are also important composers). Among these better-known priest-musicians are Jan Michael Joncas, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, ordained in 1980 and teaching at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul; the priest members of the St. Louis Jesuits; Liam Lawton, a priest of the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin, Ireland; James Chepponis, a priest of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, ordained in 1985 and currently the pastor of St. John Capistran Parish in Pittsburgh (Upper St. Clair); Columba Kelly and Tobias Colgan, osb, priests in the Order of St. Benedict at St. Meinrad Archabbey; Juan Sosa, a priest of the Archdiocese of Miami; James Marchionda, op, a Dominican in the Chicago Province of St. Albert the Great; and Christopher Willcock, sj, a priest of the Society of Jesus in Australia. We also remember those who have shaped us who are recently gone from us, among them Joseph Gelineau, sj, Lucien Deiss, c.ss.p., and Chrysogonus Waddell, ocso, a priest in the Cistercian Abbey of...
Our Lady of Gethsemani in Trappist, Kentucky.

Two priest-composers figure prominently at the 2010 Convention in Detroit. Francis Patrick O’Brien, a priest of the Archdiocese of Boston, ordained in 1985, who has spent all of his priestly ministry in parish and campus ministry and is currently pastor of St. Matthias Parish in Marlborough, Massachusetts, is featured in “Can You Hear Me Now?”—an event on Monday evening that will explore God’s call to humanity and our response through events in the lives of biblical characters and contemporary believers.

Ricky Manalo, a priest of the Society of St. Paul (Paulists), ordained in 2000, is currently serving Old St. Mary Cathedral in San Francisco, California. He will be one of the key composer-performers in Monday night’s Asian/Pacific Rim Celebration that will highlight the ritual, customs, and sung prayer of Catholics from this region. Fathers O’Brien and Manalo will also lead workshops during the breakout sessions.

**NEW MASS SETTINGS**

What will the new Mass texts sing like? One setting, based on Gregorian chant models, will be included in the revised Roman Missal. NPM is sponsoring a competition for other new Mass settings (settings of the Order of Mass). By the time of the convention, judges will have chosen four settings from those submitted, and selected movements from these settings will be performed during our gathering in Detroit. Participants will be asked to evaluate these settings, and a winning entry will be chosen by a poll of those attending the convention. The composer of the winning entry will receive a cash prize of $1,500.

**DISCOUNTS**

**Clergy/Musician Duo Discount.** Clergy members and musicians who register for the convention together and in advance receive a discounted rate—a total savings for the two registrations of $210 off the regular rate through March 1 (early bird rate) or $170 off the regular rate between March 2 and June 11 (advance rate). The one clergy member and the one musician must be from the same parish or institution, and NPM parish membership must be current. Registration for both clergy and musician must be included together in the same envelope and postmarked on or before the early bird or advance registration deadline. Note: This discount is not available online.

**Group Discounts.** NPM chapters and parishes with a current NPM parish membership who register in groups receive a discount. Registration forms must be mailed together with one check, postmarked by May 28. Chapter directors have received the information on chapter discounts. See the details for parish discounts in the March issue of Pastoral Music or contact the NPM National Office: (240) 247-3000.

**Youth Discount.** NPM makes it easier to support your young musicians (twenty-one or younger or a full-time undergraduate) by offering a discounted rate for the full convention: $160 for early bird registration (through March 1) or $175 for advance registration (March 2 through June 11)—a savings of as much as $175 off the regular fee. NPM membership (parish, youth, or individual) is required, and a parent or chaperone must accompany youth attendees under eighteen. Details are on page eleven of the convention brochure or online here.