

National Association of Pastoral Musicians October 13, 2021

<u>Press Release: NPM Honors Legacy of Pastoral Musician with Fund to Support Fellow</u> Musicians

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) announced this week that they are continuing to offer its members financial membership support by establishing the Mark C. Kulyk Member Support Fund.

The Mark Kulyk Member Support Fund finds its roots serving the memory and active work of music ministry. The Mark Kulyk Fund for Music Ministry was created in 2017 to honor its namesake after his tragic passing. Mark C. Kulyk (1956-2016) was a Renaissance man: a person with many talents and areas of knowledge. He knew a little about a lot of things and continued learning every day. Yet, the constant in his heart was his love for his wife and his family...and a love of music, especially the music that was woven into his Catholic faith and his love for God.

Mark experienced a lifelong relationship with music that started in his youth and continued through his college education at the University of Notre Dame. After settling down in his adulthood, he became one of three unpaid music directors who built an effective, vibrant and enduring music program at Holy Cross Parish (Fairview, Pennsylvania). He was a part of that music ministry for over 25 years.

In July of 2015, Mark was diagnosed with a serious brain tumor. In late November of 2016, he passed. Mark's love was strong, his faith was solid and he was not afraid. He often said, "I make the plans, but God writes the script."

Mark's story is extraordinary — and yet it reflects the journey and calling that so many of us can relate to. It chronicles the role of music and faith in shaping one life in order to shape the lives of the many.

In answering the call, Mark was a true witness of faithfulness, fidelity and commitment to serving God and one another.

In light of the unprecedented financial difficulties facing pastoral musicians in light of COVID-19, the Mark Kulyk Fund will combine with the Member Support Fund. This continued Support Fund will offer membership financial support to pastoral musicians who are struggling to afford NPM membership due to the pandemic.

The National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) is a nonprofit organization which seeks to "Foster the art of sung liturgy in the Catholic Church". Formed in 1978, NPM serves the Catholic Church in the United States and abroad.

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