



# NEWSLETTER

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## *Veni, Sancte Spiritus*



*Christopher Walker came to Arlington to help us sing Easter praises in April. See pages 4 & 5 for more.*



### *Make your plans to travel to Texas!*

..... NPM 40TH ANNIVERSARY .....

YOU'RE INVITED **BẠN ĐƯỢC MỜI**

..... **ESTÁS INVITADO** .....

*See page 3 for full convention details - including the best discounted price available!  
See page 6 for Chapter Dinner Info!*

## Director's Corner

### *Some thoughts on the Easter Journey with Christopher Walker*

#### **Friday Evening**

The liturgies of Holy Week and Easter can have a variety of effects on pastoral musicians. Sometimes we feel pretty satisfied, and look forward to celebrating the rest of the Easter Season at a more leisurely pace. Sometimes things don't go quite the way we'd hoped, and we make notes on what to do differently next year. I've never spent time, however, reliving the experience of those liturgies. And that's exactly what Christopher Walker did on April 15. (For details of the events, please see the article elsewhere in the newsletter.)

The reflection on each day of Holy Week was not simply taken from the familiar readings of the day, but from poetry (some of it obscure) that put the event into a new perspective. *When have I ever done that?*

The music included terrific choral pieces with awesome instrumental accompaniments, yet it never failed to include accessible, comfortable parts for the assembly to sing. *Do our assemblies really feel a part of each celebration?*

#### **Saturday Morning**

In my last Director's Corner, I referred to my people, the folks I cherish in my work as a pastoral musician. Christopher Walker's talks during the Saturday retreat caused me to take a deeper look at interactions among all the parish musicians. *Does every member of the music ministry feel important? Do we remember to pray together? Do we see ourselves as an integral part of the praying assembly? And what about the assembly? Do we help the people in the pews know that they are an important component of every celebration?*

There is a lot of talk today about a person's need to feel part of a community, especially a faith community. We are told that, in addition to providing good liturgies, our churches should be places where the faithful experience a sense of community. *Does our music foster a sense of community for the whole parish?*

At the closing of the retreat we were told, "You are chosen; you are blessed; you are a sign of God's love." Such words of affirmation! I left the retreat asking myself: *Are we helping others to know that about themselves, too?*

Happy Eastertide!

Charlene Dorrian  
DC Chapter Director



*Participants pose for a photo at the end of Saturday's retreat with Christopher Walker.*

..... NPM 40TH ANNIVERSARY .....

YOU'RE INVITED **BẠN ĐƯỢC MỜI**

..... ESTÁS INVITADO .....



For full convention details see the [digital Convention Brochure](#). We hope to see many of you in Texas this summer! And fill out and mail the form on page 6 of this issue that has more details about the Chapter Dinner.



THE CHURCH SINGS  
LA IGLESIA CANTA  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS  
39TH ANNUAL CONVENTION  
HOUSTON, TEXAS  
JULY 11-16, 2016



*Is an NPM Convention for you?*

YES! If you are a pastoral musician: director of music ministries ~ psalmist ~ cantor ~ bishop ~ priest ~ deacon ~ seminarian ~ choir director ~ ensemble leader ~ organist ~ keyboardist ~ guitarist ~ player of another instrument ~ youth pastoral musician ~ music educator ~ or anyone seeking time away in a retreat environment filled with prayer, filled with music, filled with the support of other ministers.

*Is there a local Chapter member discount?*

YES! Before you send in that registration form, we hope you will consider registering through the local chapters (Arlington & DC are considered as one). The Chapter Discount is the best available, even better than the \$295 early bird fee:

\$293 - for 10-19 members  
\$276 - for 20-29 members  
\$259 - for 30+ members

*Please note:*

1. Again this year there is a \$20 discount if you choose an Electronic Program Book
2. Registrant must be a parish/individual member of both National AND the local chapter (Arlington/DC).
3. Only one discount per registrant (e.g. cannot be combined with Clergy / Musician Duo)
4. Chapter discount is not available on Youth, Daily, Companion, or Child registrations

*Here's what you do:*

1. Complete a [registration form](#).
2. Make a check payable to *NPM/Arlington* (\$293\* - plus any extras you've chosen)
3. Mail both to Anne Shingler, 3146 Woodland Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309 by **Friday, May 20, 2016**.

*\*If 20 or more sign up with us, you will receive a refund in the mail.*

Questions, including how to join your local chapter? Please email [arlingtonnmp@gmail.org](mailto:arlingtonnmp@gmail.org) (Arlington) or [mcdorrian@yahoo.com](mailto:mcdorrian@yahoo.com) (DC)

**SuperShuttle®**  
**Need a lift?**

*Click the Super Shuttle logo for information about transportation from Houston's airports to the Convention hotel. NPM has negotiated a reduced fare!*

# AN EASTER JOURNEY WITH



BY TIM LEWICKI

At an NPM Arlington Board meeting back in the Spring of 2015, we discussed sponsoring a large event this 2016 Easter Season. As the discussion progressed, Rick Gibala said, “What about Chris Walker?” The boards of both chapters thought that was a great idea and narrowed the theme down to a celebration of the Easter Season. And so, on Thursday, April 14, we welcomed Christopher Walker to Arlington’s newly renovated Cathedral to begin an amazing 36 hours of prayer, music, food, and fun.

The choir, comprised of members of the St. Thomas More Cathedral Choir, Arlington Diocesan Choir, and members of the local chapter boards, met for a few hours to rehearse with Christopher Walker and begin this journey through Easter. There was a large amount of music to rehearse to performance level, and not a lot of time in which to rehearse it! Christopher’s rehearsal went quickly - he accomplished a great deal in short time, interspersed with some wonderful stories and images to get his points across. After that rehearsal there was, of course, a chance for food and fellowship which went well into the night.



Friday evening’s performance was jubilant and prayerful. The program took the assembly (and all the musicians!) on a journey from Palm Sunday to the triumph of the Easter season. To transition from piece to piece, or from day to day, Chris selected various poems and hymn texts - 17th century poetry, Scripture (“Arise, my love, my fair one”), and more modern selections (“In times of trouble, Mother Mary comes to me...”). As the choir lined up to process in, Walker gave a bit of a pep talk and led us in prayer. Among the things Walker reminded us, paraphrasing: “Our practicing is over, what ever happens up there, happens. It may not be perfect, but it will be prayer.” What a thought to remember, that, as pastoral musicians we can put in hours of rehearsal with our choirs or at the organ, what we do is about prayer. And our singing was prayer Friday night. It was especially powerful to relive those Holy Week liturgies that we pastoral musicians were too busy with all the details (Does the choir know what’s next? What is that lector doing? I hope that server doesn’t forget to bring up the incense boat with the thurbile...) to really enter into deep prayer. Following the joyful strains of “*Laudate, laudate Dominum, omnes gentes, laudate Dominum. Exultate, jubilate per annos Domini, omnes gentes!*”, all headed down to the reception to partake in more food and fun!



Saturday morning began very early with breakfast treats (and

# C H R I S T O P H E R W A L K E R

large cups of coffee!) back at the Cathedral for a retreat led by Christopher Walker. About half of the 28 in attendance were music directors, others were cantors or choir members - all musicians seeking some peace during the busiest time of the year for pastoral musicians. Chris Walker's British wit and wisdom peppered the morning as he explored the spirituality of the church musician. The morning's talk was divided in various sections, all exploring our relationships - "You and God," "You and your choir," "You and your pastor," and finally "You and you." As part of this last section, Walker shared a few questions to think about. I share some of these for your personal reflection.

- Where do I want to be in 10 years?
- Do I have a social life?
- What gives me life?
- How do I get affirmation?
- How are my personal relationships?
- Do I make time for myself?
- On my deathbed, what would I like my last thought to be?

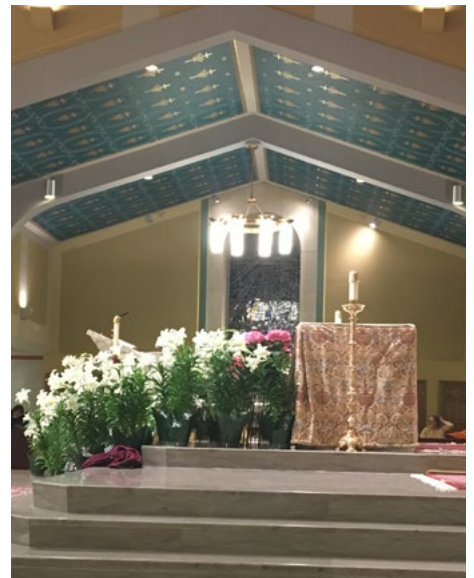
These questions helped add a focus as we prepared to head back to our churches and minister to our congregations. These questions also help us musicians remember to take time for ourselves, to take time to feed our souls. Perhaps the best piece of advice/wisdom Chris Walker shared was one of his closing thought about prayer - "Know the Father, Speak to the Son, Listen to the Spirit."

If you were unable to attend the concert or retreat, check out this video posted by Cathedral of Saint Thomas More Concert Series on their [Facebook](#) page.

If you attended any of the events with Christopher Walker and would like to share a reflection, please write to the editor ([tlewicki@allsaintsva.org](mailto:tlewicki@allsaintsva.org)) for possible inclusion in future newsletters.



*Tim Lewicki is the Director of Music and Coordinator of Liturgical Ministries at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, VA. He currently serves as the Newsletter Editor on the NPM Arlington Board.*





**2016 CONVENTION CHAPTER DINNER**  
**SAVE *the* DATE**

*Coming to the National Convention in Houston this summer? Join fellow Arlington and DC Chapter members for dinner and fellowship during the convention. Your local chapter boards are working to make reservations and negotiate a low price. More details will come to your email inboxes soon!*

- When:** Wednesday, July 13, 5:00 PM  
*(before the Chanticleer and CAAM Choir concerts)*
- Where:** A local Houston restaurant
- How much:** TBD - *will include dinner, soft drinks/coffee/tea, tax and tip*



**Newsletter**

Announcements of items of interest to Pastoral Musicians such as concerts, transitions, or special activities are welcome in the monthly newsletter. Deadline for articles, announcements, etc. remains the 15th of each month. Please email Claire Caruso at [clmcaruso@gmail.com](mailto:clmcaruso@gmail.com).

Be sure to visit the Washington, DC and Arlington, VA Chapters' websites for the latest information on Chapter happenings, registration forms, and events:  
[www.npmdc.org](http://www.npmdc.org)  
[www.npmarlington.org](http://www.npmarlington.org)

**Upcoming Concerts**

**Friday, May 13** **7:00 PM**  
**Hail Mary, full of Grace**  
 Christ the Redeemer Catholic Church  
 46833 Harry Byrd Highway, Sterling VA 20165


All are invited to a musical bouquet of hymns and songs in honor of Mary, the Mother of God, on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima. Join CTR's Children's Choir, Youth Choir, and Adult Choir in this May offering to our Blessed Mother.



**2016**  
**CALENDAR of EVENTS**  
**July 11-16 - NPM National Convention**  
*Houston, TX*

**BLESSING & DEDICATION OF THE****Cathedral Organ Console****Featuring Organist  
Russell Weismann &  
the Cathedral Choir**

WITH CLOSE TO 4,000 PIPES, OUR CATHEDRAL ORGAN HAS BEEN PROUDLY MAINTAINED AS ONE OF THE FINEST PIPE ORGANS IN THE AREA. A NEW FOUR MANUAL CONSOLE, BUILT BY THE SCHANTZ ORGAN COMPANY, WILL BE BLESSED AND DEDICATED AT A SPECIAL CONCERT FEATURING THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR AND GUEST ORGANIST, RUSSELL WEISMANN. A CELEBRATORY PARTY WILL FOLLOW IN BURKE HALL.



**SUNDAY**  
**May 1, 2016**  
**7:30 PM**

Cathedral of Saint  
Thomas More  
3901 Cathedral Lane  
Arlington, VA

*Free and open to the  
public. All are welcome.*

SAINT MARY *of the* IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH  
1009 Stafford Avenue, Fredericksburg, Virginia  
www.stmaryfred.org

CONCERTS *at* SAINT MARY  
2015 - 2016

# Organ Concert

Friday, May 20, 2015  
at 8:00pm

## Benjamin LaPrairie



**Music of Bach, Reger,  
Vierne, Widor and Near.**



Benjamin LaPrairie serves as associate director of music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He is regularly heard accompanying Sunday, and televised Masses throughout the year, including the 2015 Canonization Mass of Junípero Serra, celebrated by Pope Francis, and the recent Funeral Mass of Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

**The concert is free.**

*A free-will offering will be accepted.*

*Meet the artist at a delightful reception following the performance.*

**For more information:**

**dmathers@stmaryfred.org or 540-373-6491 x 217.**

*Saint Mary's is 5 minutes from I-95, exit 130A. Fredericksburg is a delightful historic city filled with many fine eateries, shops and attractions.*





**Hats Off!**

The following choirs have provided music for the TV Mass for Shut-ins recently. Mass is celebrated in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC, and broadcast on WDCW-TV (DCW50) each Sunday at 10:30 AM. Check your local cable or satellite provider's listings.

**Mother Seton Parish Choir**, Gaithersburg, MD  
**St. Mary Parish Choir**, Rockville, MD



Come, O Holy Spirit, come! And from your celestial home Shed a ray of light divine.

On the faithful, who adore And confess you, evermore In your sevenfold gift descend.

*Poetic sequence for Pentecost, text tr. The Roman Missal © 1964, USCCB (verses 1 and 9)*



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PASTORAL MUSICIANS  
 Members of the Board - Arlington, VA and Washington, DC

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