

WHY IS NPM IMPORTANT FOR YOU AS CLERGY OR MUSIC MINISTERS?

No one ever stops learning. Every profession requires workers to remain current with the latest issues and trends facing that profession. You might have a license that you've worked hard to achieve, and then must maintain to remain licensed. You read professional journals, attend workshops and conferences and perhaps attend internal training sessions.

In the Diocese of Wichita, clergy continue their formation through annual conferences, workshops, speakers, and retreats. They are required to have upwards of 80 hours of continuing education annually. Parents with students in Catholic schools attend "Parent University" training that covers a wide variety of topics. There is always something to learn in the way of technology, social media risks, or other issues.

As a music minister, you don't walk in five minutes before Mass time, wonder who the cantor is, or if they will arrive, hastily choose music based on your mood of the day and hope you have the music nearby. No, you plan, study the readings, determine the theme of the Mass, select music and prepare with the other musicians. Many musicians hold a professional degree or designation. Not all music ministers do. It's one thing to read music, teach a tricky rhythm, or rearrange a piece of music to fit the makeup of the choir. It's quite another thing, to understand how a music minister is required to work within the liturgical mandates of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A permanent chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians was formed in the Diocese (www.NPMWichita.org) to help lead the continuing professional education in music ministry. Bishop Kemme and many of the diocesan priests support what we do. The programming to date has been what we've been able to do with local resources, but we look forward to the opportunity to bring in external resources to assist.

NPM Wichita is partnering with the Diocesan Office of Worship on ideas for presentations and workshops. In September, the chief liturgist of the diocese, Bishop Kemme, took time out of his incredibly busy schedule to lead us in Vespers and spend time in fellowship. The church values the role we play as music ministers.

One of the best things about life is that we never have to stop learning. There are always new skills to learn and techniques for us to adopt. To live life to the fullest, we must continually look for ways to improve. NPM Wichita looks forward to helping you continue on the journey.

NPM is approved by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Divine Worship, and has an episcopal moderator.

- NPM assists dioceses and worshipping communities in ongoing liturgical renewal through the promotion of excellence in pastoral music.
- NPM provides education, formation, and mutual support for pastoral musicians and clergy, and is a forum for advocating musical excellence in liturgical celebrations. These efforts involve clergy and musicians working together.
- NPM enables pastoral musicians to network with their colleagues throughout the country.