



# NPM Wichita Noteworthy

## Solemn Vespers & Musicians' Blessing

It was wonderful to gather once again to pray and sing together. The Solemn Vespers we prayed and sang were so meaningful and touching to the musicians and families who participated. Many thanks to the Office of Divine Worship for their assistance in preparation for this annual event.

Bishop Carl Kemme not only blessed those attending but his homily challenged and inspired us with his vision for the diocese. He was very clear about the importance of good sacred music to his pastoral plan (see his homily following and please share with your parish musicians).



Charlene Dreiling,  
Chapter Director



All participants at our sacred Masses and ceremonies must lift up their voices in song and praise, and we musicians are charged with helping them do so!

Mark your calendars for next year's event, September 11, 2022, at 5 p.m.

## St. Cecilia Sing!

This year's St. Cecilia Sing will be held at St. Cecilia Parish in Haysville on Sunday, November 21, at 2 p.m. This event is a great way to honor many of our liturgical musicians throughout the diocese – Youth Liturgical Musician Initiative, Pastoral Musician Service Award, and Memorable Musicians (a new recognition for those whose music ministry is now celebrated with the angels and saints!). We plan to keep these examples of past and present liturgical ministers posted on our NPM Wichita website as an inspiration to our present and upcoming music ministers!

The **Youth Liturgical Musician Initiative** recognizes any young student through young adult (college) who participates in sacred music at their parish. There are three different levels of participation to recognize, especially as some young musicians may be increasing in their participation. [Online Nomination Form](#)

The **Pastoral Musician Service Award** recognizes those liturgical musicians who have served 25 years or more (you know who are!). Please do not shy away from nominating yourself as others may not know your history. Your service serves as an example to those who are now serving or maybe considering a music ministry. [Online Nomination Form](#)

The **Memorable Musicians** recognizes those Catholic Musicians who joined the heavenly choirs in 2020 and 2021. Eventually, we will recognize those who passed away in prior years as we do not overlook those whose ministry encouraged and supported music in our parishes. Please submit those names here. [Online Nomination Form](#)

Each year several of our youth musicians perform at the event. If you know of someone who would like to perform, please let us know at [wichitaks@npm.org](mailto:wichitaks@npm.org). This is open to students through college age.



## Upcoming Events

**November 21, 2021**

**St. Cecilia Sing**

St. Cecilia Parish—Haysville 2 p.m.

**January 22, 2022**

**Annual Musicians' Workshop**

Save the date!

**June 28—July 1, 2022**

**NPM 2022 Convention**

Louisville, KY Join us!



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Let my first and most important words to you this afternoon be words of gratitude for your ministry of music in this diocese. While I am not a musician, as a pastor and now as a bishop, I know full well how important and impactful the service you offer can be in the life of our local parishes and throughout the entire diocese. Please know of my gratitude and that of our priests and all our people as you help us to lift up our voices in praise and worship. I also want to offer words of encouragement, for I know that this service is not always easy; it requires a commitment to excellence and the ongoing development of one's skills; as a ministry, it also requires of you a true sense of selflessness and humility founded always on the ardent desire to offer the Lord something beautiful and meaningful. I also know that sometimes, hopefully not often, you may receive criticism concerning some aspect of your gift; this feedback if you will is not always easy to receive, even if it is well intentioned. So, let me be the first to thank you and to build you up in encouragement in the service of the Lord.

I find myself these days often reflecting upon and praying about the Diocesan Pastoral Plan and how we can bring about a new Pentecost in this local church, how we can become fully alive as missionary disciples and how we can evangelize today's culture, as well as renew parish and family life and reclaim Sunday as the Day of the Lord. These hopes and dreams are never far from my mind. I hope they are never far from yours in your service. A question then presents itself for us to consider: how can sacred music help to advance and implement the pastoral plan in our diocese? What does liturgical music have to do with missionary discipleship, evangelization and stewardship? The answer is simple: everything. Everything and that is why it can be a profound means of helping us grow into the dynamic community of faith God wants us to be.

Here, let me borrow words from *Musica Sacram*, the post conciliar document on music, which says, "Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when it is celebrated in song, with the ministers of each degree fulfilling their ministry and the people participating in it. Indeed, through this form, prayer is expressed in a more attractive way, the mystery of the liturgy, with its hierarchical and community nature, is more openly shown, the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of the voices, minds are more easily raised to heavenly things by the beauty of the sacred rites and the whole celebration more clearly prefigures that heavenly liturgy which is enacted in the holy city of Jerusalem."

Friends, it has been said that in this time of the Church's history, in this new apostolic era, beauty will be the catalyst for conversion and reconversion; the beauty of the sacred rites celebrated in song that elevates the mind and heart to God will bring about that irresistible attraction and appeal for us to burst forth from our celebrations ready and willing to witness to the saving mystery of Christ.

It is because of this, that the Church needs, now more than ever, sacred music that inspires, moves and supports the mission of the Church. It is this sacred music that will help

each parish to be a community of missionary disciples; music, among others things, will inspire families to reclaim Sunday as a day for authentic worship and invite them into a sabbath rest; it will assist other means to inspire our people to become evangelizers and stewards living win the world.

How will this happen. I have a few ideas: One of them is this, that we need to hear once again the organs in all our churches, that instrument that has pride of place and that has the capacity to elevate us beyond earthly realms; in order for that to happen we need a plan to train new organists for the future. Let's put our minds around this and work together to begin this kind of critical musical training.

The organ can also be joined by other instrumentation that offers us a symphonic quality that inspires the worshipping community. We must give greater attention to our choirs and cantors, which need to be chosen, formed, renewed and given the resources they need not just to perform for us but to lead us in becoming a singing community of faith. This should be seen by all as integral to the life of the worshipping community, for the mission depends upon it. I also believe that we need to concentrate not just on songs at the Mass but the actual singing of the Mass itself, preserving the ancient chants, antiphons, with common sung Mass parts and even bringing to our people such things as sung vespers, as we are doing here tonight, not as relics of the past, but as the treasures of a living tradition. It is my conviction that our people truly respond when this happens.

I recognize that changes in this regard will take much time and great effort; my hope is that in the coming years, we will move the needle toward greater excellence, greater participation, a more unified direction for all our parishes and for the Mass to be sung as the Church and her documents intend. I have great confidence in each of you and ask that you will assist me, all our priests and each parish in moving that needle as much as we can so that the vision and mission of the Diocese of Wichita and the efforts to bring about a New Pentecost here will be more than just hopes and dreams or words on a page, but a reality being built as we make our way along the paths marked out for us in these days, calling us to a New Evangelization in a new apostolic era.

God bless you.

Bishop Carl Kemme