

S P R I N G 2 0 1 1

National Catholic Band Association

NCBA *Newsletter*

NCBA Board Members Forum

A Message From Our President George Pinchock

As your president, I have just had the pleasure of attending the National Catholic Educators Association Convention in New Orleans. NCEA is an organization of Catholic school teachers, principals and diocesan administrators representing over 10,000 Catholic teaching institutions and over 200,000 students. There were over 250 vendors and exhibitors at the trade show. My goal in attending was to look for opportunities and ways to interact with this organization that could benefit our organization. I attended several arts related sessions and spoke to dozens of folks who I thought might have something for NCBA. I have garnered a number of contacts and ideas that I hope to explore to the benefit of NCBA. You will hear more about this as time passes. Over 7,000 were in attendance at this conference. Thank you to all of you who are participating in NCBA. We had a very successful first commissioning project with twenty four co-commissioners, twenty-six directors submitted over 200 students' names for our honors bands, and the number of you who submitted information for this issue of the newsletter is encouraging.

As the year winds down, and your concerts are over, I wish you a relaxing summer, but not too relaxing. Before you know it, the fall will be here.

The Graduation Liturgy – By NCBA Chaplain Philip Desrosiers

If you are the typical Catholic Elementary or Middle School student, you probably have a special graduation liturgy sometime in June. Since beginning our band program at Sacred Heart School in East Providence, I've had all graduating band members play a thanksgiving or Eucharistic hymn after communion. I've simply arranged a four part hymn for the particular instruments available from that class. Besides the wind players, I've included smaller percussion instruments, such as triangle or tambourine for color. If the instrumentation is somewhat incomplete, I've accompanied the students on the organ. Our graduating classes typically number 10-12 students. The reason we play together only after Communion is because we are reluctant to have the musicians not seated with their classmates during the Mass. I've found that the musicians are more than willing to participate in the Liturgy in this special way and hopefully it encourages them to consider continuing this special ministry in the future. Philip is band director at Sacred Heart School in East Providence, Rhode Island.

Feature Your Band At Mass by NCBA Vice President Pam Potter

Pam Potter's Quincy Notre Dame High School Band is proud to have been a part in the NCBA consortium to commission a band piece from Jerry Nowak. We recently performed this piece "Two Hymns for Band" during the communion meditation at a school Mass this April. The band also performed Randy Navarre's "Were You There" as a closing song and was joined by the school choir and congregation.

The band and/or small ensembles often perform at school Masses. Some of the featured selections the band has used include several of Randy Navarre's arrangements, such as "Be Not Afraid", "Here I Am Lord" and "One Bread, One Body". Other selections that work well are Buehlman's arrangement of "Ave Verum Corpus", James Swearingen's "Beautiful Savior" and "Crown Him With Many Crowns", and William Himes' "Doxology".

These are just a few of the numerous published pieces that are well suited to be performed at Mass, either for the opening song, at the preparation of gifts, at communion, or the closing song. It is a great opportunity to feature your band before the entire student body and faculty.

2011 NCBA National Honors Program

Pam Potter reports that the 2011 statistics are in with the following results. Twenty-nine NCBA member directors from fifty-eight schools participated with a total of 239 students in 43 elementary schools and 15 high schools. There are 113 in the Elementary Concert Band, 82 in the High School Band, 31 in the combined Elementary/High School Jazz Band and 13 in the String Orchestra.

Recruiting

Try an Inexpensive Color Postcard

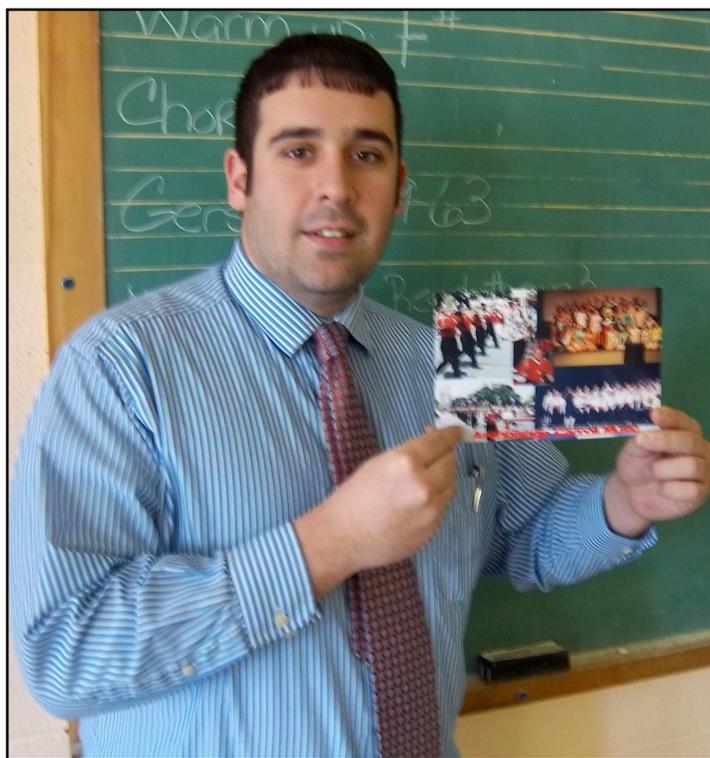
Rick Freda is band director at Archbishop Carroll High School, Radnor PA

Trying to think of creative ways to reach new students and build your program? Why not try creating your own postcards? You see them everyday in the mail, under your windshield wiper at the mall, even being passed out on the streets. Simple 4" x 6" post cards are a great way to recruit new kids and just get the programs names to potential students.

ISN'T IT EXPENSIVE TO HIRE AN ARTIST? Not at all when the artist is yourself. Start by collecting as many advertisement cards as you can. Think about what you like and do not like about each and start planning. Next collect pictures and start scanning them into your computer. Finally, use any one of the programs available (many of which are free) and start creating. Remember to put useful information about the program on the back.

BUT I AM A MUSICIAN NOT AN ARTIST? Once you have the first proof take it around to anyone you know. Ask the art teacher, or some of the other classroom teachers, even the principals. Everyone is usually more than willing to give their feedback. Take their advice and then make the necessary changes.

BUT ISN'T SOMETHING LIKE THIS EXPENSIVE? It can be, but you have to shop around. Online printing companies make projects like this pretty attainable. My favorite site is GOTPRINT.COM. I have used this site several times because of their professional work, great quality, and quick turn around. As of this writing, 100 of the postcards I mentioned are only \$20! For 5,000 (enough to supply my recruitment needs for 5 years) the price is \$91.60 before shipping. They also make it easy to set up. Just save your proof as a pdf file, and upload it to their site. They will make any corrections (like adding a bleed to the card), and once you approve the order it will arrive promptly. Recruitment is always a challenge. I have been told that for a customer to remember your product they need to hear it at least seven times. This is a great, cheap way to get that first introduction.



Top Ten Reasons to Choose Catholic Schools

In challenging economic times, why should parents choose a Catholic education for their children? National Catholic Education Association President, Karen Ristau asked the 60 member department executive committee to give their responses. Here are their top ten reasons:

1. Catholic tradition and academic excellence in a community grounded in a common faith.
2. Balanced curriculum including art, music and fitness.

3. Emphasis on moral development, service to others and leadership skills.
4. A 99 percent graduation rate in Catholic high schools.
5. Strong preparation for further education.
6. Safe and disciplined environment.
7. Exceptional faculty who help students reach their highest potential.
8. Individual attention in a caring community.
9. Commitment to technology use to enhance education.
10. Good stewardship of resources.

A Practical Guide for Recruitment and Retention

Check out the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Music Achievement Council for some inexpensive recruiting tools. <http://www.nammfoundation.org/music-achievement-council>

Recent Events and Activities From NCBA Members

The Diocese of Pittsburgh, Sister Serafina, O. P., Instrumental Music Coordinator.



The Diocese of Pittsburgh held three District Honors Bands this school year, North, South and Central. All the concerts were very successful. The South and Central Districts performed along with the

area high school bands on the same program. One piece combined the 8th Grade Honors Band students with the three area combined high schools. This was a new venture this year and proved to be very successful.

Here are some details about the south district concert held on Sunday, February 27th. The concert featured the combined high school bands from Seton LaSalle High School, Michael McNutty, director; Bishop Canevin High School, Kevin Johnson, Director; and Serra Catholic High School, Bethony Loy, director. Sister Serafina conducted the piece when the 8th graders from the honors band were added to the high school band.

The sixth, seventh and eighth grade South District Honors Band performed in the last half of the program with a variety of selections conducted by, Terri Sullivan, Patricia Grden, Michael Donovan, Michelle Keiper and Thomas Booth. This is a picture of the South District Honors Band conducted by one of the directors, Lana Timmins.

Notre Dame High School, Quincy, Illinois - Pam Potter, Director



Pam Potter, NCBA Vice-President, took her Quincy Notre Dame High School Band to New Orleans in February and they had a wonderful trip, thanks to the help of NCBA member Brenda Castillo, who teaches at St. Mary's Dominican in New Orleans. Upon arriving in New Orleans the QND Band performed a concert at the National D-Day Museum then toured the museum.

One of the highlights of the band's program was Andy Isca's "Gallop Louisianne" which was conducted by the composer himself.

Following the museum visit, the band was met by friend and NCBA member, Brenda Castillo. Brenda spent the weekend with the QND Band and served as a guide throughout New Orleans, giving us a special Katrina tour, helping us through the French Quarter to see and hear the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, visit the French Market, dine at Bubba Gumps, and many other tour highlights. We experienced Brenda playing timpani along with the organ at the Mass we attended at St. Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square. She also attended our clinic at Loyola University with Dr. Ed McClellan. On the journey back to Quincy the band spent an evening on Beale Street in Memphis, and visited St. Jude's Hospital to present a donation. A great time was had by all!

Cathedral High School Band, Indianapolis, Indiana - Kathy McCullough, Director of Bands



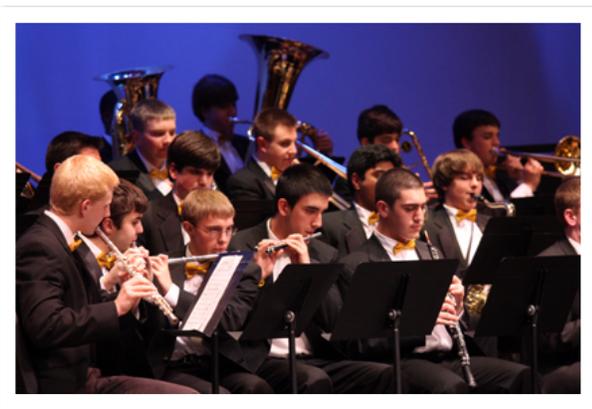
During the fall season, we performed at 4 home football games as a marching band, 3 sectional/regional/semi-state games as a pep band, and at the state championship football game (which our team won!). Also, we traveled to Cincinnati, Ohio and performed with 9 other high school bands at the University of Cincinnati Band Day. While on this weekend “mini-trip”, we stayed at Great Wolf Lodge, traveled and ate on a paddle wheel boat, toured the aquarium, and went to Mass together.

All band students went to ISSMA District Solo and Ensemble contest in early February. Twelve of our students then went on to play at the State solo and ensemble contest. In March, we took two “mini-bands” out to two area Catholic elementary schools and did a “side-by-side” rehearsal with them and their directors. Our band (“The Pride of the Irish”) was the lead band for the

Indianapolis St. Patrick’s Day Parade on March 17. We also did a short parade for the Hibernians on March 13. On April 8, our concert band received a “gold” rating at Indiana’s organizational contest.

This school year will end with our annual Spring Gala concert on May 13. One of the highlights will be the premiere of the NCBA commissioned piece (Two Hymns for Band). Our school is one of the consortium members.

Chaminade High School Music Program, Mineola, New York Brother Karl Hornbergre, Director of Fine Arts



Chaminade High School held its spring concerts on April 15th and April 16th. Featured on Friday were the Flyers Band, the Crimson Glee Club, the Crimson Band and the String Orchestra. On Saturday, the Gold Glee Club and the Gold Band performed, with appearances by the Vocal Chamber Ensemble and the Jazz Band. Of particular note was the New York premier of Jerry Nowak’s *Two Hymns for Band* by the Flyers Band, which was well-received by the appreciative audience. For more pictures of the concert go to:

http://www.chaminade-hs.org/apps/news/show_news.jsp?REC_ID=187506&id=0

Mater Dei High School, Santa Ana, California -Tom Plunkett, Band Director

Congratulations to the marching band and clarinet ensembles who placed first recently at the Hawaii Invitational Salute to Youth Parade. They also took their concert band, indoor guard, indoor drum-line and color-guard to the festival.

St. Edward School, Chicago Illinois – Andrea Anderson, Director



Each spring, the Senior Orchestra (grades 6-8) of St. Edward School in Chicago, IL performs for a local retirement community. This year it will be Resurrection Retirement Village on May 13. Residents of retirement homes enjoy the music well enough but they also greatly enjoy conversation. To facilitate conversation between the generations, students are given an "Interview" sheet to fill out. They work in pairs to overcome the shyness factor. Each pair must choose a resident and get answers to the following questions.

May I Interview You? **1.** Name of Senior Citizen and age. **2.** Where were you born? **3.** What parish did you grow up in? **4.** What other places have you lived? **5.** Number of children? Grandchildren? **6.** What musical studies did you ever have? **7.** What are your

favorite styles of music? What do you particularly like about those styles? **8.** What did you like best in our concert today? **9.** What is one musical event you particularly remember? What made that so memorable? **10.** What is something your parents taught you that you've always been glad you learned? **11.** Who was your favorite teacher? Why? **12.** What advice would you give a youngster just starting out these days? **13.** What's the best thing you ever did in your life? **14.** THANK YOU for letting me get to know you today.

The students tend to come up with their own "contests". Some hunt for the oldest resident they can find. Some look for one that came from our own parish. And one student looked for the resident that moved the slowest coming into the concert. I tell the students that we're looking for GOOD STORIES. So if the resident starts to tell them things that are not on the sheet, just turn the sheet over and take notes. We share our information at our rehearsal after our year-end concert. It's been fun to learn something like what it was like for one woman to grow up as the daughter of a swing band trombonist back in the 1930's.

St. Pius X School Band, Moberly, Missouri – Paul Copenhaver, Director

Each school year the 7/8th Grade Band plays three concerts, and participates in the Central Methodist University Evaluative Music Festival. The band also performs at various school functions, such as the Veterans' Day Assembly, and marches in the Moberly High School Homecoming Parade. This spring the band also presented a special performance for the Moberly Rotary Club.

During the last several years instrumental soloists and ensemble groups have accumulated 72 [Superior] I ratings, 39 [Excellent] II ratings, 3 [Good] III ratings, and no IV or V ratings at the CMU Music Festival. In 2006 the 7th/8th Grade Band made its first-ever appearance at an evaluative music festival, and each adjudicator on the evaluative panel gave the band a I [Superior] rating for an overall rating of [Superior] I. The band earned a I rating at the CMU Music Festival again in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.

In 2005, 2007, and 2009 the band received an Outstanding rating at the biennial Jefferson City Diocese Music Enrichment/Appreciation Day.

Since 2005 the 7/8th Grade has performed over 80 musical selections, including religious, patriotic, folk, and contemporary compositions. The band has performed arrangements of works by Mozart, Beethoven, Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev, and other notable composers. Additionally, many contemporary selections by composers such as John Williams, Pierre LaPlante, William Owens, and Robert W. Smith have been performed.

In recent years, 33 St. Pius X students have been selected for membership in the Northeast Missouri Music Educators Association Junior High Honors Band. Additionally, several St. Pius students have been selected each year for membership in the National Catholic Band Association's Honors Band, and one eighth grade student receives the Directors Award for Band.

A culminating event for this school year, the St. Pius X School Spring Fine Arts Fair, is scheduled for May 12. The Fine Arts Fair will feature the display of student art work, vocal ensembles, the 6th Grade Band, and the 7/8th Grade Band.

The Philadelphia Area Elementary Honor Band

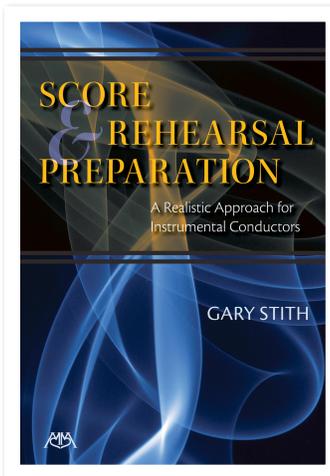


Every year, Northeastern Music Programs, Inc., an organization that provides music programs in the South-eastern Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, and Northern Delaware sponsors an honor band. Northeastern Music is responsible for instrumental and classroom music programs in more than 135 Catholic, Christian, and independent private schools.

This year, the Philadelphia Area Honor Band participated in a special program by the National Catholic Band Association to be a part of a commissioning project to further music that will be of great value to bands in Catholic schools. Jerry Nowak, is the first composer of this project, wrote a composition called *Two Hymns For Band. Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones, and Faith Of Our Fathers* are the two hymns incorporated in this composition.

The performance was an outstanding success. It is a beautiful melding of the two tradition songs. The band will participate each year in the continuing development of sacred and liturgical sponsored by the National Catholic Band Association. The picture above is of Randy Navarre warming up the band before the concert.

Meredith Music Publications - Garwood Whaley President



Long time NCBA member Garwood Whaley has a new publication coming out. The book makes score study and rehearsal preparation much easier. **Score and Rehearsal Preparation: A Realistic Approach for Instrumental Conductors** by Gary Stith. This text is sure to provide the most practical approach to orchestra and wind band score study ever published. It methodically simplifies preliminary score study and initial rehearsal preparation for all conductors of band, orchestra and chamber ensembles. It is enormously valuable for practicing conductors from elementary school to those leading professional ensembles. As a supplement to undergraduate and graduate level instrumental conducting classes, it is an extremely effective text. The unique features of this innovative publication include: **1.** An easy-to-read format that systematically walks the reader through the entire score-study process. **2.** Complete full score to *Flourish for Wind Band* by Vaughan Williams is used as the study score throughout. **3.** Compositional flowchart of the Vaughan Williams work. **4.** A *Score and Rehearsal Preparation Worksheet* that can be reproduced and used with any wind band or orchestral score (and maintained for future use). **5.** Seating-arrangement diagrams of nationally renown wind bands and orchestras. **6.** A comprehensive glossary of standard instrument abbreviations. **6.** Standard band and orchestra instrumentation reference chart. **7.** Selective and detailed bibliography containing specific sources that will prove invaluable in the preparation of all instrumental scores.

News from Catholic Colleges and Universities

Villanova University Summer Music Study Scholarships for NCBA Members

Villanova University will again offer a number of full tuition scholarships valued at \$800 each to NCBA members. There are over 30 one week courses to choose from ranging from technology, band pedagogy, and personal development. For more information about the program and course descriptions please visit music.villanova.edu and contact

George.Pinchock@villanova.edu to register.

Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
Dr. Janet Heukeshoven, Director of Bands, Music Education Program Coordinator

One of the most interesting things we do is commission a new work by a Jewish composer every other year. The Sam & Helen Kaplan Foundation awarded SMU a generous gift to establish a dialog/exchange with the Jewish heritage and our college. I have now commissioned six composers to write for my band (or wind ensemble)- two compositions were for Wind Ensemble with another group, see document attached to this note.) I am right now studying applications from all over the country for our next project. Two links follow. One to a performance of the recent composition and the other some information about the project. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OoklGXJn2qg>.
<http://smumn.blogspot.com/2010/11/smu-concert-band-debuts-sixth-kaplan.html>

The University of Scranton - Cheryl Y. Boga, Director of Performance Music

World renowned saxophonist and Grammy nominated composer and arranger Ted Nash appeared at The University of Scranton as the featured guest composer of the 28th annual World Premiere Composition Series Concert on Friday April 15. The concert was held in the university's Houlihan-McLean Center, and featured the University of Scranton Concert Choir and Concert Band.

Nash conducted the final week of rehearsals and the premiere performances of the two pieces he composed for these student ensembles: "Windows," a piece for four part choir with cello accompaniment (with a text by poet/actress/singer Ivette Dumeng), and "Mona Passage," for concert band. The performance was free of charge and open to the public. As an encore, Nash brought out his saxophone and joined the band and choir in performing a few choruses of *Embraceable You*. (The band also performed Nelhybel's *Corsican Litany*, Schuman's *George Washington Bridge*, Maslanka's *Mother Earth*, Rudin's *Lied ohne Worte*, and other works.)

The Down Under NCBA Connection - By Don Shearman

I first heard of the NCBA through Bruce Hicks who was then teaching at the Christian Brothers High School at Lewisham here in Sydney (he has since married and moved to England where he is still teaching in catholic schools over there). Bruce and I both attended the Mid West clinic in 1985 with a group of band directors from Australia led by Russell Hammond and Bruce took me along to a meeting of the NCBA at the conference (I was teaching at St. Dominics at Penrith, an outer Sydney suburb at the time). From memory we went to dinner after that with Bill and Greg Stepanec who were then also in NCBA and teaching in catholic elementary schools in Chicago.

Following that visit I returned to Mid West pretty much every year until 1997 by which time I had left secondary teaching and moved back in to higher education teaching maths and statistics. Bill, Greg and I met up every year and have remained friends ever since with Bill turning the tables and starting to visit Australia from about 1992 and coming back virtually every year since then. He was the best man at my wedding to Anne in 1995. Somewhere along the line I also had the pleasure of

meeting Bob O'Brien and Father George and sharing several memorable meals with them in Chicago - usually at Mi Casa (from memory).

I'm still in the higher education sector teaching math and statistics subjects, however have drifted back into music as a director of the NSW School Band Festival and through playing in community bands in Sydney, and have retained my membership in NCBA since 1985.

The picture to the left was taken after a boat outing on Botany Bay. From left to right: Randy Navarre, NCBA board member; Don Shearman, NCBA member and Jerry Nowak, NCBA board member. Jerry



was in Australia teaching his 26th consecutive yearly two-week conducting course and Randy was in Sydney doing a three-day clinic for Australian band directors.

Commentary by John Dunphy

An excerpt from a note found in a bottle by some kids from Boy Scout Troop 77 down near Flanagan's Pond:

I used to live and work in the town of Distraction Central over near Old Chatham. It's a little village on the main line between the cities of Yes and No. It is an active place, where parents are reasonably well off and can give their kids all the benefits our new technology can provide. In addition, they encourage athletic activities such as sports and camping and mall walking, where they can be seen anytime in the evenings and weekends, walking in what Jacques Brel called "beaded caravans" (although most of them dropped the beads in the '60's and traded them in for other tribal uniforms). Others don their sports apparel, put on their "game faces", and try to "get a hit" or "score a touchdown" or "make a basket", while parents and peers react by appropriately requesting the ump be killed or ref be relieved of his duties or the coach be fired.

Sometimes, while engaged in these activities and waiting for their turn to play or as they migrate to another area of the mall, the kids can be seen hard at work, thumbs flailing, heads bowed as if in prayer, texting a friend about the importance of what they are doing. They do it all on their cell phones, ignoring, for the most part, the rules of grammar, spelling, and punctuation and do it while mysteriously abbreviating common social conventions, churning them into a jargon that would be the envy of bureaucrats everywhere. It's because they know so much, have so much important stuff to share and need to do it now, it's because they can.

I suspect the libraries are deserted, save for the aged and academics. The town symphony gave up two seasons ago right after the ballet company and the theater closed down, victims of contemporary culture. On the first Wednesday of every month the township commissioners can deliberate all they want and pass laws and pontificate to their heart's content, for the only folks there are the ones getting awards for longevity or a team getting recognition for yet another championship season.

Nobody sings at St. Cecilia's anymore. They haven't had a choir for years and everybody knows that the congregation can't be bothered with singing. Besides, it makes the Mass run too long and they need to be fans, cheer on their kids, text each other, and get ready for the next "game". Besides, the last choir director's guitar was ruined in the last flood in the church basement.

The kids don't have music in school anymore. Mr. Crowley, the band and choir teacher, now runs the computer lab and the art teacher, Ms. Jones, is in charge of study hall. So aside from the museum's only being open on Wednesdays between ten in the morning and two in the afternoon, all is well in Distraction Central.

I understand that there are some who have memory of another time. A time of quiet chats and evening walks, of summer concerts in the park, the sun setting behind the hemlocks at the edge of town. And, looking at the empty park stage, they remember, with some regret, the music that sang there once, that sings no more.

A Request for Material for the NCBA Newsletter From the Editor Jerry Nowak

The NCBA Newsletter will be published three times a year: Fall, Winter and Spring. Plan to share with the membership any activities that you feel would be interesting to other music teachers. This includes information about festivals, awards, activities, trips, and performances at Mass or other events. Pictures are always welcome to go with your commentary. For the Fall issue, yearly plans are always interesting for other teachers to see how you structure your activities. Also, the commissioning consortium will continue in the fall of 2011 so look for announcements in the monthly e-blasts.

Please send all materials to Jerry Nowak at jerrynowak2@comcast.net

