

# National Landscape of Music Ministry

## *Executive Summary (2019)*

The survey instrument was developed by an ad hoc committee organized by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM). Drafts were circulated to select stakeholders and industry partners. Edits were made based upon feedback solicited from these groups. The final survey was opened on November 22, 2019 and closed on January 3, 2020. Survey access was distributed by NPM as well as the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC), GIA Publications, OCP, World Library Publications (WLP), WorshipNOW. Notification of the survey was sent by NPM and its partners via email and social media.

The survey instrument collected responses from 2,774 individual respondents (2,747 in English, 27 in Spanish). Responses were collected from the United States, Germany, United Kingdom, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia, and the Philippines. Additionally, responses were collected from the United States territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

This pool of responses was culled to remove response data from non-Catholic communities and respondents from outside the territorial United States. The final number of responses used for the following analysis is 2,575. This final data set was collected from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, all 177 Roman Rite (arch)dioceses, and the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, and the Archdiocese for the Military Services.

According to data from 2018, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University reports 17,007 parish communities in the United States. Given this population size, the survey needed a sample size of 2,105 responses in order to be considered “statistically significant.” Given the number of responses ( $n=2,575$ ), the survey meets this requirement and carries a 95% confidence level of a  $\pm 2\%$  margin of error.

The purpose of the survey was to measure the landscape of music ministry within Roman Catholic parishes in the United States. The survey was designed to reach as many parishes as possible, not simply members of NPM. As such, the number and depth of questions was limited in order to achieve both a high sample size and a high completion rate.

## QUESTION 1

*Who is completing this survey? Please select the closest role from the following list:*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Music director	58.9%	1516
Other music minister	28.0%	721
Pastor	7.1%	183
Pastoral associate	3.9%	100
Parish secretary	0.7%	18
Other	1.4%	37

*Questions 2 & 3 asked for parish name and diocese*

## QUESTION 4

*Please select the option below that best describes your parish community. Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Stand-alone parish with our own pastor(s)	<b>61.4%</b>	1582
Stand-alone parish that shares a pastor/pastors with another parish	<b>13.2%</b>	341
Parish grouped in a cluster with other parish(es)	<b>12.9%</b>	332
College campus ministry/Newman Center	<b>3.8%</b>	97
Parish with a Catholic school	<b>29.3%</b>	755
Mission parish	<b>2.5%</b>	65

## QUESTION 5

*What is the size of your parish community?*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Fewer than 500 families	<b>27.4%</b>	706
501 to 1000 families	<b>25.6%</b>	660
1001 to 1500 families	<b>14.6%</b>	375
1501 to 2000 families	<b>10.5%</b>	270
2001 to 2500 families	<b>6.4%</b>	165
2501 to 3000 families	<b>5.2%</b>	134
3001 to 3500 families	<b>3.1%</b>	79
3501 to 4000 families	<b>3.0%</b>	76
400 families or more	<b>4.3%</b>	110

## QUESTION 6

*In what language(s) is Mass celebrated in your parish? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Chinese	0.4%	10
English	99.5%	2563
Korean	0.9%	23
Spanish	27.7%	713
Polish	0.9%	23
Vietnamese	1.6%	41
Tagalog	2.1%	54
Latin*	1.6%	41

*“Other” responses include: Albanian, American Sign Language, Amharic, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chaldean, Creole, Croatian, Ethiopian, French, Ge’ez, German, Greek, Hawaiian, Hindi, Igbo, Ilocano, Indonesian, Italian, Kirundi, Lakota, Lithuania, Neo-Aramaic, Samoan, Slovenian, Swahili, Syro Malabar, Tamang, Tamil, Tongan, Urdu, and several other African, Indian, and Asian dialects.*

## QUESTION 7

*Which of the following ensembles are included in your music ministry program? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Adult choir	<b>90.5%</b>	2331
Children's choir	<b>46.8%</b>	1205
Contemporary group	<b>34.6%</b>	891
Funeral choir	<b>27.4%</b>	705
Youth/Teen choir	<b>26.7%</b>	688
Music ministry for the parish Catholic school	<b>25.7%</b>	661
Separate ensemble/choir for other language group(s)	<b>22.3%</b>	575
Handbell choir	<b>17.0%</b>	437
Praise band	<b>11.5%</b>	295
Folk ensemble	<b>11.8%</b>	303
Chant schola*	<b>1.9%</b>	48
No choirs, programs, or ensembles*	<b>0.8%</b>	21

*"Other" responses of note include: parish orchestra, string ensemble, brass ensemble, men's choir, women's choir, seasonal ensembles, mariachi, polka ensemble, and recorded music.*

## QUESTION 8

*How is music ministry leadership structured in your parish? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Full-time music director (paid)	<b>44.4%</b>	1143
Part-time music director (paid)	<b>34.6%</b>	891
Multiple part-time music leaders (paid)	<b>21.2%</b>	545
Volunteer music director (unpaid)	<b>9.6%</b>	247
Multiple volunteer music leaders (unpaid)	<b>24.8%</b>	638
Music planning committee	<b>6.4%</b>	166
The pastor helps plan music for liturgies	<b>5.7%</b>	147
The pastor plans music for liturgies (no lay involvement)	<b>0.5%</b>	13
The pastor reviews/approves music selected for liturgies	<b>10.4%</b>	269
Someone in leadership has an advanced degree in music	<b>35.0%</b>	901
Someone in leadership has an advanced degree in liturgy	<b>14.2%</b>	365
Someone in leadership is a certified director of music ministry	<b>7.7%</b>	199

## QUESTION 9

*How are the members of your music ministry (i.e. cantors, instrumentalists, etc.) trained?  
Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
The music director/leader offers on-site training	<b>63.2%</b>	1627
Through local connections (NPM chapter, neighboring parish, etc.)	<b>17.0%</b>	439
Through the (arch)diocesan office of worship	<b>18.0%</b>	464
Music minsters are given formational materials, books, articles, etc.	<b>28.7%</b>	740
The director attends conferences or national programs	<b>39.5%</b>	1016
Music ministers (non-director) attend conferences or programs	<b>18.7%</b>	481
No regular training is provided	<b>27.3%</b>	702



## QUESTION 10

*How are music ministers networked in your area? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
At gatherings organized by one or more local music director	<b>19.8%</b>	510
At gatherings organized by the (arch)diocesan office of worship	<b>25.2%</b>	648
At gatherings organized by the local NPM chapter	<b>30.1%</b>	776
Music ministers are not networked in our area	<b>45.8%</b>	1180

*Other frequent responses include: program or university alumni connections, American Guild of Organists (AGO) chapter, publisher-organized events, gatherings at other conferences, and electronic networking opportunities (i.e. Facebook groups, email lists, etc.)*

## QUESTION 11

*How often do you use the following as sources of professional information about liturgy and music ministry?*

	Primary source	Frequent source	Occasional source	Rare source	n/a	Avg.	Total
<b>(Arch)diocesan office of worship</b>	3.3%	12.7%	<b>35.3%</b>	37.3%	11.4%	1.59	93.8%
	79	306	<b>852</b>	902	276		2415
<b>Liturgical music publishers</b>	<b>39.6%</b>	37.6%	17.4%	3.7%	1.7%	3.10	98.6%
	<b>1006</b>	955	443	94	42		2540
<b>Liturgical publishers</b>	9.6%	28.4%	<b>30.6%</b>	19.8%	11.6%	2.05	92.6%
	230	678	<b>729</b>	471	276		2384
<b>Professional organizations</b>	9.9%	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>28.0%</b>	21.1%	13.0%	2.01	94.7%
	241	<b>682</b>	<b>683</b>	514	318		
<b>Blogs and online article content</b>	2.5%	17.9%	<b>34.4%</b>	30.6%	14.6%	1.63	90.2%
	58	416	<b>798</b>	710	340		2322
<b>Conferences and conventions</b>	6.5%	18.2%	<b>32.9%</b>	29.1%	13.3%	1.75	94.3%
	157	441	<b>798</b>	707	324		2427
<b>Social media</b>	2.3%	15.5%	28.3%	<b>36.6%</b>	17.2%	1.49	89.9%
	53	359	655	<b>848</b>	399		
<b>Local NPM chapter</b>	2.7%	9.5%	20.9%	<b>36.6%</b>	30.2%	1.16	92.7%
	64	228	499	<b>875</b>	722		2388
<b>Other local networks, colleagues</b>	6.8%	28.4%	<b>39.3%</b>	16.8%	8.7%	2.08	93.2%
	163	681	<b>944</b>	402	209		2399
<b>Continuing education, classes</b>	3.7%	11.4%	22.6%	<b>36.5%</b>	25.8%	1.31	89.7%
	85	264	523	<b>842</b>	596		2310

## QUESTION 12

*Which of the following expenses are included in your annual parish budget? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Attendance at conferences and/or conventions	37.9%	977
Continuing education experiences, programs, or courses	15.9%	409
Hymnals	61.3%	1579
Instrument maintenance and/or repair	67.1%	1728
Music licensing service (i.e. ONE LICENSE, CCLI, etc.)	63.6%	1638
Formational resources, books, subscriptions, etc.	46.6%	1200
New repertoire/new music purchase	63.2%	1627
Professional membership(s) (i.e. NPM, AGO, Hymn Society, etc.)	37.7%	972
Stipends for accompanist(s)	59.0%	1518
Stipend for cantor(s)	25.0%	645
Stipend for choir members (i.e. non-cantors)	5.0%	128
Stipend for instrumentalist(s) (i.e. non-accompanist)	33.0%	851
Subscription music resources (i.e. periodical song books)	38.7%	997
None of the above	2.8%	72
Don't know*	1.9%	50

## QUESTION 13

*Rank the following topics according to the needs of your parish community and your music ministry:*

	Very important	Important	Somewhat important	Not important	n/a	Av g.	Total
<b>Finding, introducing, and using multicultural music</b>	8.1% 205	16.0% 405	30% 760	<b>38.6%</b> <b>978</b>	7.4% 188	1.79	98.5% 2536
<b>Training cantors, instrumentalists, choir, etc.</b>	29.9% 762	<b>38.3%</b> <b>974</b>	23.6% 600	5.5% 140	2.7% 70	2.87	98.9% 2546
<b>Effective conducting and ensemble leadership techniques</b>	20.6% 520	<b>30.5%</b> <b>769</b>	27.2% 686	14.3% 362	7.4% 188	2.42	98.1% 2525
<b>Liturgical formation for music ministry leaders</b>	26.0% 660	<b>36.8%</b> <b>932</b>	24.2% 613	8.8% 222	4.3% 109	2.71	98.5% 2536
<b>Arranging and/or composing music</b>	8.3% 209	15.6% 393	28.7% 722	<b>33.3%</b> <b>838</b>	14.0% 351	1.71	97.6% 2513
<b>Developing the singing assembly</b>	<b>44.9%</b> <b>1137</b>	32.4% 819	16.2% 409	4.2% 106	2.4% 60	3.13	98.3% 2531
<b>Liturgical planning, choosing music, building repertoire, etc.</b>	<b>47.2%</b> <b>1200</b>	35.0% 889	12.7% 323	3.7% 93	1.5% 38	3.23	98.8% 2543
<b>Recruiting members, building programs, engaging youth, etc.</b>	<b>47.8%</b> <b>1216</b>	33.0% 841	12.9% 329	4.0% 103	2.2% 57	3.20	98.9% 2546
<b>Administrative leadership (i.e. budgeting, planning, etc.)</b>	16.6% 419	<b>30.9%</b> <b>778</b>	29.4% 741	15.6% 394	7.5% 188	2.34	97.9% 2520
<b>Spiritual formation for ministry</b>	32.0% 808	<b>36.1%</b> <b>912</b>	20.9% 528	7.2% 181	3.8% 95	2.85	98.0% 2524

## QUESTION 14

*What is your parish's history with NPM? Please select all that apply.*

<b>Answer choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>	
Our music director is a current member	<b>51.5%</b>	1326
Our music director was formerly a member	<b>14.9%</b>	384
Our music director has never been a member	<b>26.9%</b>	692
Our pastor is a current member	<b>9.4%</b>	241
Our pastor was formerly a member	<b>4.2%</b>	109
Our pastor has never been a member	<b>34.3%</b>	883