

# MUSIC MINISTRY

**Distinguished Service • Promising Future • 1984 - 2018**

## A Call to Faith in Action

Two months after its lofty participation in the 2006 adjudicated Verona International Choir Competition, Sacred Heart choir members – as well as fellow parishioners – would face one of the lowest lows in decades culminating at budget time in June of 2006. The reality of a looming recession, the climate of cluster/consolidation, the constraint of candidates for ordination, combined with the early stages of sexual abuse throughout the Church all converged for a real crisis which had to be addressed by Pastor Fr. Ray Picard and parish leaders. The music ministry program took a 17% cut with other church departments. It was perhaps the greatest challenge faced by the parish since its founding during The Great Recession.

Pat Siviski, undeterred by this news or the news that she was dying of cancer and with less than four months to live as it turned out, drafted this call to action in January 2007 to Sacred Heart Choir

members: “Now we find ourselves at an important crossroads. Who will hold the vision for our ministry? Who will dream us into a future where music ministry continues to be a beacon for the parish and for the community?” The choir responded: “**We will!**”

*Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

19<sup>th</sup> Century Hymn: **My Life Flows on in Endless Song**  
written by American Baptist Minister Robert Wadsworth Lowry.



*The Sacred Heart Choir conducted by Patricia Siviski in 2006 at the International Choir Competition, Verona, Italy*

## Parish and Community Music Ministry Excellence Perpetually Endowed

Just as parish founders rose to build our church in the Great Recession, Choir and Parish Congregants have risen to Pat's challenge with remarkable faith, commitment and generosity. A strategic plan was developed in early 2007 by choir members and parishioners, committees formed for outreach to other churches that were to become part of the new parish, and a final vision embraced by lay and clergy members of the parish and the Catholic Foundation of Maine.

Shortly after Pat Siviski's death, parishioners' fear of change was dissolved by faithful action combined with prayer. With clergy turnover in the Diocese and in our parish, forgiveness trumped permission at times but those involved took note and solace in Bishop Joseph Gerry's call to "Be Church." The results in this report speak loudly to the sustained efforts of many faithful Catholics and non-Catholics who worked tirelessly through the Great Recession. They helped revive a music ministry program in the new parish, build a \$750,000 endowment fund in memory of Pat Siviski to sustain the music ministry and set a promising program in place under new leadership. Ron Siviski served loyally as Choir Director through change and transition from 2007 until 2017.

In 2018, under the able leadership of Fr. Dan Greenleaf, a new Director of Music Ministry for Sacred Heart and the entire POTHE, Jennifer Runge, was hired, thanks to support of grant funding from the Patricia Siviski Music Ministry Fund. The future looks bright for the Sacred Heart choir and the music ministry program of POTHE with a new wave of 18 young people participating in a parish-wide youth choir (schola).



*Ron Siviski, Sacred Heart Choir Director (2007-17), and Jennifer Runge, new POTHE Director of Music*

As Director of Music Ministries, Jennifer also oversees all parish choirs, cantors and instrumentalists. She continues to direct the Sacred Heart Adult Choir, a Parish Adult Schola, a Parish Youth Schola, a Parish Women's Schola, and *Making Music Praying Twice* for children. Working with six part-time music professionals, Jennifer sees music ministry as an essential life-giving element in the spiritual life of the parishioners at Parish of the Holy Eucharist. The Parish of the Holy Eucharist is now able to offer several styles of music - from folk to chant - to uplift your soul and deepen your communion with the liturgy. Under Jennifer's direction the POTHE also has a Funeral Ministry Choir, a Family Christmas Choir, and a Men's Schola.

How can we keep from singing?! Everyone sings and participates in the spiritual life at POTHE and the bonds of fellowship and support grow stronger, fortifying all with faith in the redeeming power of Christ's love for each and every one of us. Our loving God continues to bless and move us.



*Today, young and young-at-heart choir members span four generations (past & future).*



## Sacred Heart/POTHE Music Ministry Endowment Campaign Leaders

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Raising \$750,000 would not have happened without proper preparation, commitment and leadership within the Sacred Heart choir and the parish. Many thanks to the following volunteers and leaders for giving their time and talent in challenging times beginning with an economic recession and parish reorganization.

Pastors: Rev. Joe Ford, Msgr. Paul Stefanko, Rev. Ray Picard, Rev. Daniel Greenleaf

\*Pat Siviski - Choir Director, Music Ministry Vision Convener

Ron Siviski - Choir Director

Phil Thibault - Organist

Jim Erwin - Co-Chair Music Ministry Strategic Planning, Catholic Foundation Covenant Chair

Susan McKenney - Co-Chair Music Ministry Strategic Planning, Nursing Home Outreach

Happy Copley - Stewardship-Recognition

Bob Demont - Chair, Endowment Campaign

Eileen Erwin - Testimonials

Terry DeWan - Stewardship-Recognition-Photography

Vince Furey - Campaign Treasurer

Barbara Guffin - Newsletter Editor, Cluster and Cumberland County Jail Outreach

Cathy Martin - Testimonials

Peter McKenney - Fund Advisors Nominating Chair

Jay Moran - Outreach

Lauren Roy - Music Fund Raising/CD's

Mick Roy - Music Fund Raising/CD's

Dottie Stackpole - Worship & Spirituality

Ted Walsh - Concert Production, Worship & Spirituality Committee Liaison

## Sacred Heart Choir • 25-Year Service Honorees (as of 2018)

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Eighteen members of the Sacred Heart Adult Choir and organist Phil Thibault have served in the music ministry for over 25 years. While most parishioners have seen them at the 11 am Sunday mass and perhaps occasionally at benefit concerts, these and other choir members have consistently served in local community, charitable and outreach capacities in the parish, senior homes, ecumenical and interfaith venues as well as on four international tours to Austria, Italy, Ireland, and Canada.

Betsy Abbott	Judith Bailow
Murray Boyce	Happy Copley
Terry DeWan	Barbara Guffin
David Hempstead	Susan McKenney
Jay Moran	Jan Nelson
Rita Nugent	Ellie Peters
Lauren Roy	Mick Roy
Ron Siviski	Phil Thibault
Dottie Stackpole	Ted Walsh
Tanya Ziegler	



## Pat Siviski Music Ministry Endowment Supporters

In addition to many parishioners and friends who attended concerts or purchased CD's, many thanks to the following who have contributed to the Pat Siviski Music Ministry Endowment. The Fund has contributed nearly \$100,000 in the last five years to sustain a legacy of music ministry excellence developed under Pat Siviski's leadership at Sacred Heart and POTHE. Now valued at over \$750,000 and managed by the Catholic Foundation of Maine, the Fund continues to provide grants to the parish and community annually.

Craig Anderson, Judith Bailow, Kenneth Bauder, **Carolyn Beecher\***, Matthew Brogan, Cynthia Berlinger, **Maureen Bien**, Jean Bott, **Linda Cady**, Adam Carlson, Michael Caso, Monique Curtis, Pat & Mannen Clements, **Robert & Priscilla Demont**, Terry DeWan, **James & Eileen Erwin**, William Fisher, Denise Folsom, Danielle Fornes, **Vincent & Peg Furey\***, Jeff Goldman, **John Gorman\***, **Peter & Barbara Guffin**, Michael Hagerty, Kevin Haley, **Don & Carol Hamalainen**, **Herb & Pat Hamel**, Sheila Hanley, Alphonse & Sue Hemond, **David and Rolande Hempstead**, Gene & Claudia Higgins, **Elinor Richards Jones**, Wendy Joy, Jennifer Laurente Sargent, **Mike and Meg LaPage**, Kevin Mahaffey, **Cathy Martin**, **Joe Martin**, **Peter and Susan McKenney**, Theodore Metzler, **Jay & Margi Moran**, **Jan Nelson**, **William and Rita Nugent**, Sheila Peabody, D.R. Pendelton, **Eleanor Peters**, **Mick & Lauren Roy**, Jacqueline Royles, **Sacred Heart Choir Members**, **Sacred Heart Parishioners**, **Ron Siviski**, Brooks Stoddard, **William Stoloski**, Peter Taylor, David Thompson, Dan & Meredith Tipton, William Twible, **Ted Walsh**, **Daniel Wellehan**.

**Donor: \$10,000+**

**Donor: \$1,000 - \$9,999**

**\* Deceased**

## Pat Siviski Music Ministry Endowment Fund

The Patricia Siviski Music Ministry Fund was funded in 2018 to strengthen and support the music ministry of the Parish of the Holy Eucharist through inviting, accepting and investing endowment gifts from members and friends of the parish. Funds are to be distributed in support of church and community initiatives which use music to enhance the spiritual, liturgical and sacramental experience of our diverse community. As Pat Siviski was in her 23 years of service as Sacred Heart Choir Director, the Fund is committed to using music to bring all people closer to God.

### Grant Guidelines

Proposals funded by The Siviski Music Ministry Fund should foster excellence. Grants offered are not intended to relieve the regular Parish operating budget or replace funds required to maintain a basic music program.

Grants will have a particular, but not exclusive, emphasis on youth engagement.

Grants will be evaluated by the extent to which the greater parish and/or community benefits.

Grants will benefit people who live in the region served by the Parish of the Holy Eucharist.

Provided that they are in accordance with the mission of the Siviski Fund, 40% of the total funds granted do not have to be directly associated with or sponsored by the Catholic Church.

**Applications:** Contact a Fund Advisor for a grant application to fund a worthy parish or community project consistent with established guidelines.

**Current Fund Advisors:** Bob Demont, Jim Erwin, Lisa Gilbert, Rolande Hempstead, Vincent Furey, Rev. Daniel Greenleaf, Cathy Martin, Jay Moran, Jon Munroe, Lauren Roy, Susan McKenney.