

**Minutes of the NPM Scranton Chapter Executive Council
December 14, 2016**

The Executive Council of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians met on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 for their monthly meeting.

Present were:

Fr. Ken Seegar, Director,
David Baloga, Diocesan Liturgist
Elizabeth Powell, Treasurer
Joanne Stahura
Nancy Voltos
Michael Yasenchock
Rob Yenkowski

Discussion began with an evaluation of the Musician's Mass which was, by all counts, poorly attended. Some suggestions as to why this was so included the turmoil occasioned by the switching of directors, the date (late November), lack of coordination in publicity, and the weather.

Since nothing can be done to regulate the weather, that item was dismissed from the list of topics to be addressed.

There was consensus among the group that the list of members needs to be updated and condensed into a database that can be used with more efficiency.

There was also some discussion that perhaps the congregation would have been larger had certificates been given out and participation recognized. Members of the committee opined that it is difficult to do that every year and that, after a while, if overdone, it becomes a trite expression of appreciation.

A suggestion was made that, perhaps our chapter could offer a "scholarship". The question was raised "To What?" Perhaps the National Convention. No decision was made.

Another suggestion was to move the date. While the Musician's Mass has traditionally been held to honor the patroness of Music, St. Cecelia, her feastday collides with both the Thanksgiving holiday and the onslaught of bad weather in the Northeast. A suggestion was made that, perhaps, we can move it to the feast day of another recognized patron of Liturgical music—St. Gregory the Great. Unfortunately, his feastday occurs on September 3rd and collides with the Labor Day Holiday and La Festa Italiana in Scranton.

It was decided that we would try to move the Musician's Mass to September as a kind of "kickoff" to the choir season. According to the Bishop's schedule, it could be held in the second or third week of the month. The weather would be more temperate and choirs would not yet be frantically preparing for the upcoming holiday season.

Another issue raised with the Musician's Mass was the need to take into account the fact that we are dealing with Musicians. The Liturgy needs to offer a greater availability for the musicians to participate as musicians in the Mass in conjunction with the choir. It was suggested that, perhaps, the music in the worship aid for this particular celebration could be printed SATB so that each section of choir could take their appropriate part. This would give the assembly a better opportunity to take ownership of the celebration and allow musicians the opportunity to take their proper role in the liturgy.

It is hoped that this would also encourage greater participation and representation of parish choirs from throughout the diocese.

Having exhausted discussion on the topic of the Musician's Mass, discussion then moved to membership and dues. It was decided that we would send out a "newsletter" to all current members along with a notice to be posted in parish bulletins inviting new members. This "newsletter" will provide a "welcome" from our new director, a notice about dues and a listing of upcoming events. Dues will be solicited from members for the calendar year January to December, rather than the "scholastic" year (September to August). Members who have already paid dues this past September (2016) will be credited for all of 2017. Work on this will commence at our next Executive Council meeting in January.

Discussion then moved on to current events, the Presentation on the Paschal Triduum and the Evening of Taize Prayer.

Regarding the Triduum workshop:

It will take place on Saturday, February 18th from 9 am—2 pm at Divine Mercy Parish Center in the Minooka Section of Scranton.

Possible presenters would be Msgr. Thomas Banick, Fr. John Lapera, or Fr. Jack Lambert. David will make initial contact and see who is available.

An RSVP would be necessary so that we could have an idea of numbers for the luncheon. There was some discussion about a set fee, but it was decided that a free will offering often goes better. Publicity for this event will take place in January.

The second event coming up is the evening of Taize Prayer which will take place on March 28th from 6—8:30 pm at Queen of Apostles Parish in Avoca.

It was brought to the committee's attention that there

was some concern on the part of the parish that that particular date was not good—but this has only been in the form of unsubstantiated rumors and half-heard discussions or side comments. Rob Yenkowski will look into this further and notify the committee of any changes.

Again, a free will offering will be taken up.

The next event coming up is the National Convention which will take place July 9-14 in Cincinnati, Ohio. More information on this will be forthcoming from the National office in January.

There was some discussion about holding an NPM picnic in August as a social event for all chapter members throughout the diocese. There will be further discussion on this in upcoming meetings.

The Diocese will be holding a Convocation in October. David did not have specifics about this and will update us as information becomes available.

The committee also discussed the possibility of piggy-backing with LTP for their selection of Virtual Liturgical Workshops. LTP offers a series of Webinars on various Liturgical topics. It was opined that we could use these as instructional tools for cantors, musicians, lectors, servers, etc. This would extend the reach of the NPM beyond the scope of “musicians” but certainly within the greater ministry of the baptized. There will be more discussion about this at our next meeting, since more information on the possibility and feasibility of this is needed.

With no further business to discuss, the Executive committee adjourned to celebrate the Christmas holidays.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 11th at 9:30 am in the Fr. Murgas Conference Room of St. Andre Bessette Parish in Wilkes-Barre.



Addendum to the Minutes

- ◆ The Taize evening at Our Lady Queen of Apostles in Avoca has been cancelled by the parish due to conflicting schedules.
- ◆ It has been replaced with
An Evening of Taize Prayer at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston on Tuesday, April 4th. The schedule will be maintained:
Light dinner at 6 pm
Taize prayer at 7 pm
Free will offering
- ◆ Fr. Jack Lambert has agreed to facilitate our Presentation on the Triduum at Divine Mercy Parish on Saturday, February 18th from 9 am—2 pm.
- ◆ Convention information is now available on both our Chapter website and the National NPM website. Early Bird registration is by March 3rd, Advance Registration is by June 9th. Deadline for registration is June 29th. Registration after June 29th must be done onsite and daily at the convention.
- ◆ The Musicians Mass is on the schedule for September 12th at the Cathedral. Get the word out early and often! Lets drum up Attendance!
- ◆ The Executive council meeting scheduled for January 11th was postponed to January 18th because of an ice storm. We will need to discuss at this gathering protocol for the rescheduling of meetings due to weather, funerals, etc.