

**Minutes of the NPM Scranton Chapter Executive Council
April 4, 2017**

The Executive Council of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians met on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 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 was excused

Discussion began with the upcoming August Picnic. David had contacted Dominic Constantino at Exaltation Holy Cross to discuss the possibility of holding the picnic on their picnic grounds. Questions were raised about using the grill and other facilities. David would forward these questions to Dominick and get back to us with his reply.

Discussion then began with the upcoming Musician's Mass on Tuesday, September 12th. It was suggested that we invite Bishop Bambera to deliver the homily. Other suggestions were Msgr. Thomas Banick, Rev. Robert Simon, Rev. Glen McCreary, or Rev. John Lapera.

The next item for discussion was the upcoming Marriage Workshop which will be held on Monday, May 8th at St. Nicholas in Wilkes-Barre. Because of other commitments, April 24, the original date, was no longer available. The New Rite is Out! What do we do now? Bring your Pastor! was suggested as a working title for the workshop. It is hoped that this will encourage pastors and wedding presiders to attend along with the music ministers. David will tailor his talk to focus on the requirements of music in the new rite.

Some discussion followed on getting the word out to membership about the Wedding Workshop. It was suggested that a cover letter go out with a reminder about the upcoming workshop and the picnic, along with a reminder to renew membership for those who have not yet done so. Fr. Ken will work on the letter and get it to Nancy and Liz for publication ASAP.

David Baloga reminded the Council once again that the Office for Parish Life will be hosting several Evenings of Reflections for Liturgical Ministers. These will be taking place at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in May: May 9th will be for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion; May 16th will be for Lectors; May 23rd will be for Liturgical Musicians/Music Ministries. Each Evening of Reflection will begin at 6:30 and end at 8:30 pm

David also informed us that the Diocesan Office of Parish Life will be hosting a "Worship Convocation on October 28 from 8:30 a.m.—3 p.m. This will be open to all Liturgical

Ministers. It will be held at the Swartz Center for Spirituality at Marywood University in Dunmore, PA. The Day will conclude with Mass. Elaine Rendler will deliver the keynote address as well as participate in several Breakout Sessions.

A brief discussion was then held concerning the lack of Liturgical Musicians in the Diocese. We have good musicians, but they are not liturgically trained. We have liturgists throughout the Diocese, who do not know music. There is a dearth of musicians with a "liturgical sense" as well as liturgists who understand musicality. This is creating a real problem in parishes. But no tangible solution was offered.

Focus then shifted to establishing a calendar for the Fall and winter. This proved to be a formidable task as the committee tried to juggle parish needs, Diocesan needs, holidays and other information. Eventually a tentative calendar was formulated with something in almost every month.

Having established a calendar, focus then shifted toward topics for upcoming conferences and meetings of the Scranton Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians. The focus of the discussion became Understanding the Sunday Liturgy. Members offered suggestions during a lively discussion about Sunday and themes were established. In hindsight, however, it seemed that the topics were either too broad or too theological and it was suggested that these topics need to be better honed and focused on the work and charism of the Liturgical Musician.

Having exhausted themselves in theological debate and discussion, the council decided to table further discussion for the next meeting as they pray over what we had accomplished at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm and members made their way to St. John's in Pittston for some light refreshments and an evening of Taize Prayer.

The next meeting of the executive council of the Scranton Chapter of the NPM is scheduled for Monday, May 8 at 3:30 pm at St. Andre Bessette. Council members will then travel to St. Nicholas for the Wedding Workshop.