

**Minutes of the NPM Scranton Chapter Executive Council
May 8, 2017**

The Executive Council of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians met on Monday, May 8, 2017 for their monthly meeting.

Present were:

Fr. Ken Seegar, Director,
David Baloga, Diocesan Liturgist
Joanne Stahura
Nancy Voltos

Rob Yenkowski, Liz Powell and Michael Yasenchock were excused

Fr. Ken apologized to the council for not posting the minutes of the April Meeting. With the mad dash into holy week and Easter, he seems to have misplaced them somewhere. As a result, some of the action items (such as a letter to members) were not accomplished.

Discussion began with the upcoming wedding workshop which will be held this evening at St. Nicholas in Wilkes-Barre. Disappointingly, only 17 people signed up for the workshop.

David also indicated that there was no great response to the Evenings of Recollection offered by the Diocese during the month of May. The evening for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist was cancelled due to poor response and a family funeral.

It was also noted that there is an event log on FACEBOOK for anyone planning to attend the Annual Convention in July. So far, only Fr. Ken has signed up. Liz and Nancy indicated that they were also attending.

Discussion then began on formulating a curriculum for the upcoming year. In reviewing the work done at the last meeting, it was decided that, while the topics looked great on paper, we would like to provide something more practical that our diocesan parish musicians can take back to their parishes. In reviewing the topics already discussed, several ideas floated to the surface.

1. How music supports or destroys participation in the Sunday Eucharist.
2. Things we've learned through the years—Tricks of the Trade
3. Cantor Techniques
4. Primacy of considering the Assembly in planning Liturgy
5. Building confidence in Liturgical Ministers and the Assembly.

The Committee then turned to the calendar to lay out plans for upcoming talks and workshops.

In July

The Convention will be held from July 10—14 in Cincinnati.

In August,

There will be a Summer Picnic at Exaltation of the Holy Cross Parish grounds in Buttonwood to share the experiences of the Convention with those who did not participate. At the June Meeting, the council will hammer out the details of this summer gathering.

In September

The Musician's Mass will be on September 12th

Tentative topics for discussion:

October 2, 3, or 4th—Considering and Forming the Assembly in Planning Liturgical Seasons

October 28th Worship Convocation at the Swartz Center for Spirituality on the Campus of Marywood University. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

November 6th or 8th—Panel Discussion on Things we have learned. Seasoned members of the NPM will share their experiences as liturgical planners and exhibit those things that have worked as well as those things that have not worked.

December 4, 5, or 6

Reflecting the Church Year in Music.

January 13, 20, or 27, Feb 3, or 10,

Workshop for Cantors and Leaders of Song

This will be a Saturday session running from 10—2 focusing on cantors and accompanists.

February or March The Spirituality of the "Pastoral" Musician.

What are the concerns of "pastoral" musicians as opposed to "liturgical" musicians. Compare and contrast.

Dates and Venues need to be set for these events. As they are set, more information will follow.

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 Wednesday, June 7th at 3:30 pm at St. Andre Bessette.