

# **NPM Executive Council**

## **Minutes of the November 9th Meeting**

The executive council of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians met at 10 am on Wednesday, November 9th in the Fr. Murgas Conference room of St. Andre Bessette Parish. Fr. Ken Seegar, Director, presided.

Present were David Baloga, Robert Yenkowski, and Joanne Stahura. Nancy Valtos and Liz Powell were excused to attend a funeral in New Jersey. Michael Yasenschock was absent

The meeting began with the praying of Psalm 96.

Discussion began on the progress for the Musician's Mass on November 21st. Linda Orsick is planning music and working with the cathedral choir; Sue Burke has been notified that we will need the atrium of the Diocesan Life Center for the Reception; Diane Franklin will work on the programs in collaboration with David Baloga; The Homilist will be Fr. Ken Seegar; The Reception will be hosted by the NPM; The Diocese will cover the cost of Instrumentalists;

There was some discussion about having an NPM table at the reception where people can find out more about the NPM and either renew their membership or register as new members. It was decided that this would be a good idea, but that it needs to go beyond just a table with brochures sitting on it. It was suggested that Nancy and Liz man the table and discuss NpM with anyone who passes by.

With nothing further to add to the discussion about the Musician's Mass, discussion then turned toward the forming of a mission statement for the Scranton Chapter of NPM. What is our purpose? Why do we exist? What do we offer prospective members?

As discussion began it was indicated that the first component of the NPM is to be the "deepening of the Spiritual Life of

NPM Members. The council then bounced ideas of how the NPM can serve the spiritual needs of its members—and all musicians in the diocese.

The second component the council noted was Worship. Our Liturgical lives are about worshipping God and living in accord with his plan. The council felt that we can do more to educate and form our ministers (musicians, clergy, and other liturgical ministers) for worship. David opined that the Office of Parish Life would welcome our collaboration with them on preparing and presenting workshops to enhance the Liturgical experience of the diocese. The NPM can be of great service to the diocese in this regard.

We then spoke of ways in which we can activate this component of education within the diocese. It was suggested that a better format than evening sessions was the Saturday "Mini Course" model. It would enable those participating to receive a more concentrated message than is possible for an hour or two on a weeknight. The Council will look further into developing this model.

Discussion then moved to the topic of how we assess the needs of music ministers. It was acknowledged that, for the most part, we make assumptions about what our Music Ministers need based on our own observations. Sometimes this hits the mark—at other times it does not. Unless a survey was taken of the music ministry in the diocese, we would never know exactly what the needs of the ministers were. It was decided that a survey would be developed in the coming months and distributed to current membership. It was suggested that we should also poll a larger audience, but no one had any idea how to accomplish that.

It was noted that we need greater communication and support between and among our music ministers and our pastors. The support of the pastor for music ministry is absolutely necessary if

the ministry is to thrive. Without this support the ministry will wither and fade and be minimalist at best.

Discussion then moved toward the formulation of some ideas for the coming season. Among the items discussed

- ◆ A workshop on the TRIDUUM which will be held on a Saturday in February. It will run from 9 am until 3 pm, or so. Several venues were discussed
- ◆ An evening of fellowship and prayer is also being planned for the Lenten season. David will investigate several options.
- ◆ Discussion vacillated on the Clergy/Musician dinner. No firm plan was put into place at this time. Members of the council were asked to think on it for discussion at future meetings.

Plans for each of these events will be finalized at our next meeting.

In an effort to reach a larger audience, Fr. Ken is developing a web page for the Scranton Chapter of the NPM. He has set up a preliminary one on a test basis with eCatholic. After approval of the website by the members of the Executive Council, Fr. Ken will proceed with making the website a permanent fixture in the cyberlandscape. There was also some discussion about setting up a FACEBOOK Page so that we can have an open forum for all our members to communicate in. Further development on this is forthcoming.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

The next meeting of the Executive Council will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fr. Murgas Conference room of St. Andre Bessette Parish.

Submitted: 11/09/2016  
Rev. Kenneth M. Seegar