

Minutes of the NPM Scranton Chapter Executive Council February 8, 2017

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

Present were:

Fr. Ken Seegar, Director,
David Baloga, Diocesan Liturgist
Elizabeth Powell, Treasurer
Nancy Voltos

Excused were:

Michael Yasenchock
Rob Yenkowski
Joanne Stahura

Discussion began with an update on the upcoming Triduum Workshop

- It will be held at Divine Mercy Parish 312 Davis St., Scranton on Saturday, February 25th beginning at 9 am and ending at 2 pm.
- Dave spoke with Fr. Lambert to finalize plans for his talk.
- Lunch will be provided by the parish.
- A free will offering will be taken up.
- There was some discussion about the stipend for the speaker.

Next up was discussion about the Taize Prayer.

- It will be held on Tuesday, April 4th at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Pittston.
- A simple dinner will be provided by the parish
- Cantores Christe Regis from Kings College will provide the meditative prayer.
- A free will offering will be taken up.

The committee then discussed future events as a follow up to last month's meeting. It was decided that there would be a Wedding Workshop for clergy and musicians to discuss changes to the Wedding Ritual that have come out of Rome. Ed Loch of St. Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre will be contacted as host. Tentative Dates are April 24th or May 1st.

Discussion then centered on the upcoming Convention in Cincinnati on July 10—14. Fr. Ken raised the question of group travel to conventions. Members of the council said that it was done sporadically in the past. David will make inquiries within the Diocesan offices as to best practices for group travel, based on the experiences of others who have planned group trips. Travel World was suggested as a possible contact. It was suggested that, perhaps, we could make this an annual event to encourage more members to attend the convention by offering a package deal that includes air/bus fare, hotel accommodations, and registration for the Convention. All seemed to be in agreement that this should be investigated further.

Following the convention, members of the council suggested a picnic to discuss events of the convention with members who had not attended. July 31st or August 7th were selected as possible dates. Fr. Ken will check with Fr. Mulhern and see if Buttonwood's Pavilion will be available. Other venues are also being sought. Difficulties occur because of the Parish Picnic (Bazaar) schedules.

David Baloga reminded the Council 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 9 a.m.—3 p.m. This will be open to all Liturgical Ministers.

Discussion then focused on a mailing that was to be sent to all currently registered members. It is hoped that the letter would be mailed by Wednesday evening. Thursday, at the latest. It is our hope to have the database updated following this mailing.

The council also agreed that it would be a good idea to facilitate a series of regular talks over the course of a three year cycle so that people could "plug in " at various times for various subjects. This would also solve the problem of trying to come up with something "original" for every meeting.

There was also some discussion about updating the webpage and providing historical information about the Scranton Chapter. (For example, The NPM was actually started in the Scranton Diocese.) It would be a good idea to publish this information and continue to add to it, so that there is a lasting record of the Scranton Chapter of NPM. Council members will be forwarding information to Fr. Ken for inclusion in the web page.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 8th, but that date is not convenient for several members. March 6th and March 9th were offered as alternate dates. Fr. Ken will poll members to see which date is more convenient. It was also recommended that meetings be moved to the afternoon to eliminate confusion caused by funerals being scheduled.

Council members will be notified by e-mail about the next meeting date and time.