

**Minutes of the NPM Scranton Chapter Executive Council
March 6, 2017**

The Executive Council of the Scranton Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians met on Wednesday, March 6, 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

Discussion began with an evaluation of the Triduum Workshop

- Overall, the council felt that it was a good presentation. They especially liked the lively presentation provided by Fr. Lambert
- The council also felt that the style of sharing encouraged by Fr. Lambert was also a benefit to the overall presentation. Right from the beginning, participants were encouraged to be part of an ongoing dialogue about the Triduum from the vantage point of their parish experience.
- The idea of supplying testimonials about the Triduum was novel. Members of the Council discussed how this can be applied in individual parishes or even on a diocesan level.
- This also spawned an idea for a future NPM event: TRIDUUMCHAT—envisioned as an opportunity for individuals engaged in various ministries to come together to share their experiences of Triduum. This could also be an opportunity for the interchange of ideas to invigorate parish celebrations of the Triduum.
- On a negative note, council members spoke of the sparse attendance. Those who did participate certainly left with a plethora of ideas to enhance Triduum in their parishes.
- The other negative comment by members of the council was the fact that no one took pictures of the event to post on our facebook page or website.
- Overall, the Triduum presentation was a positive event and provides a framework for other similar presentations in the future.

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.
- In other words, nothing new as added.

David informed the council that he had been in communication with Ed Loche at St. Nicholas Parish in Wilkes-Barre and had set up a WEDDING WORKSHOP for Monday, April 24th. Dinner will be at 6, followed by the

presentation at 7.

Committee members then discussed the purpose and scope of this particular Wedding Workshop. David felt that this would be another opportunity to discuss changes to Weddings that have come about with the new RITE OF WEDDINGS which was promulgated this past November. Overall, the presentation will look at changes to the Wedding Rite and how it impacts pastors and Liturgical musicians. In an effort to encourage participation, members of the committee suggested a working title for this Presentation could be:

HEY! THE NEW RITE IS OUT! WHAT DO WE DO NOW??? Come — and Drag your Pastor.

Some refinement of the title will be forthcoming.

There was some clarification of defining this event as a Pastor and Musician Gathering. It was felt that there is a need to update our language since more parishes will be working with Parish Life Coordinators and Deacons in primary roles of ministry. Furthermore, it is our hope that our presentations move beyond the narrow confines of “musicians” or “clergy” to incorporate members of every level of Liturgical Ministry. Our focus is on creating liturgies that are life-giving. This requires the input of everyone involved in planning and implementing good liturgy: Celebrants, Deacons, Lectors, Servers, Sacristans, Art & Environment, Musicians, Cantors, Choir Members, and members of the Assembly.

Discussion then moved to our next event: A PICNIC following the National Convention in Cincinnati. This picnic will be held on Monday, August 7th at Exultation Holy Cross Pavilion in Buttonwood. The Council consider this to be a “covered Dish” event, with participants bringing a variety of foods to share. The Council will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls, condiments, soda, tablecloths and paper products. More discussion about this will take place at our next Council Meeting.

There was then some discussion of developing a “curriculum” that would span three years and cover a diversity of topics pertinent to Liturgy and Liturgical Musicians. As we began this discussion, it became clear that we needed to establish a purpose and direction for such a curriculum. What did we hope to accomplish? What do we need to impart? What are the needs of Diocesan Musicians and Liturgists? One of the issues that arose in our discussion was the need for a Program of Formation for Liturgical Music Ministers that would focus on the basics of Liturgy, Music and Ministry. Many of the members of the council opined that it is difficult to find a good Liturgical Music Minister that incorporates all three

areas of ministry. Some are good musicians but have no idea of Liturgy or ministry. Others are good liturgists, but do not cultivate a culture of ministry. Still others may understand the work of ministry, but are not focused on either good liturgy or good music. This has become a real problem for our parishes, especially when they are looking for liturgical musicians.

Members of the council were encouraged to take the syllabus of talks that have been given and to create a list of what they deem as important needs for Liturgy and Music and Liturgical Musicians. At the next meeting, we will try to formulate three levels from which to organize future events.

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 9 a.m.—3 p.m. This will be open to all Liturgical Ministers.

Nancy informed the council that a new membership list has been formulated and sent by e-mail to Fr. Ken and council members. This will be an ongoing project as we seek to continually update and promote membership in our Diocesan MPM

Work is progressing on providing a history of our Chapter for inclusion on the webpage.

The next meeting of the executive council of the Scranton Chapter of the NPM is scheduled for Tuesday, April 4th at 3:30 pm at St. Andre Bessette. Council members will then travel to Pittston for the Taize Prayer.