

**The Minutes
of the Diocesan Assembly
of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania
held on June 10, 1967
at St. Nicholas Church - Bethlehem, Pa.**

The Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania including the Deaneries of Frackville, Philadelphia and Wilkes-Barre was held on June 10, 1967 at St. Nicholas Church in Bethlehem, Pa.

An opening Moleben was served by His Grace, The Right Reverend Kiprian, Bishop of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania and assisted by Rev. Hieromonk Seraphim and Rev. Joseph Swaiko at 10:00 a.m.

Immediately following the Moleben the priests and lay delegates gathered in the St. Nicholas Church Parlors. The Assembly was officially opened in prayer by His Grace, Bishop Kiprian at 10:50 a.m. After greeting and welcoming the priests and lay delegates and offering opening remarks, His Grace concluded by intoning the traditional "Many Years" for Fathers Nicholas Senofsky and Apollon Nowicky who were absent due to illness.

Reverend Joseph Swaiko and Mr. John Kozey were appointed by His Grace, Bishop Kiprian and approved by the Assembly to act as Recording Secretaries.

The Right Reverend Andrew S. Slepecky and Mr. Leon Hrynicky were called upon to act as Vice-Presidents and to conduct the business on the Agenda.

The Rev. Father Andrew Goldich, in charge of Registrations, was called upon by Father Slepecky to give a report of those present to be duly recognized as lawful delegates to the Assembly from their respective parishes. The official count showed 19 priests and 17 laymen present at the opening of the Assembly. (*indicates those who arrived late)

<u>City</u>	<u>Priest</u>	<u>Lay Delegate</u>
<u>FRACKVILLE DEANERY</u>		
Bethlehem		Peter Madensky Robert Swarynski (alternate)
Catasauqua	Rev. Michael Romanchak	Edward J. Reta
Coaldale	*Rev. Daniel Pavelchak	*John Lorchak
Frackville	Rt. Rev. Basil Gambal	Russell Tatusko
Lykens	Rev. Adam Kreil	Nicholas Komomecky
McAdoo	Rev. Joseph Martin	
Minersville	Rt. Rev. Basil Repella	
Mt. Carmel		
St. Clair	V. Rev. Gregory Stefchak	
St. Clair	Rt. Rev. A. S. Slepecky	William Sutzko
Shenandoah		
<u>PHILADELPHIA DEANERY</u>		
Chester		
Coatesville		
Harrisburg	Rev. Daniel Ressetar	Joseph S. Dotsey
Philadelphia	Rev. Andrew Goldich	Simeon Fetchina
Philadelphia	V. Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky	Leon Hrynicky Anastasia M. Yarosh (Alt.)
Phila. (St. Michael's)		Stephen Greenjack, Jr. Paul Murlanka (Alt.)
Baltimore, Md.		Theodore Rachuk William Conco (Alt.)
Wilmington, Delaware		

WILKES-BARRE DEANERY

Alden Station		Frank Rusinko
Berwick	V. Rev. George Cucura	
Dundaff	Rev. Joseph Swaiko	
Edwardsville	*V. Rev. John Rachko	*Russell Dugan
Jermyn	Rev. John Kuchta	
Lopez		
Mayfield		
Nanticoke		
Old Forge	Rev. Vladimir Sovyrda	
Olyphant	Rev. Michael Hutnyan	
Olyphant	Rev. Daniel K. Donlick	
Simpson		
Uniondale	Rev. Joseph Swaiko	
Wilkes-Barre	V. Rev. George Pawlush	John Kozey
Wilkes-Barre (Holy Trinity)		Michael Stchur
St. Tikhon's Monastery	Rev. Hieromonk Seraphim	

The Agenda for the Assembly was announced by Rev. Joseph Swaiko and distributed.

The Minutes of the last Diocesan Assembly held on June 18, 1966 were read by the Secretary and upon motion made by Fathers Adam Kreil and Michael Romanchak were accepted as read.

A lengthy and detailed report was given to the Assembly by His Grace, Bishop Kiprian which included the following matters: highlights of parish events in the Philadelphia Diocese, Statute of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America, Parish By-Laws, St. Michael's Parish in Philadelphia, St. Nicholas Parish in Chester, the founding of Holy Trinity Parish in Wilkes-Barre, instruction of children in parishes and the F.R.O.C. The report was opened to discussion and comments.

A report was given by the Secretary of the activities of the Diocesan Council during the year. Upon motion made by Fathers Vladimir Borichevsky and Adam Kreil the report was accepted as read.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Paul Murianka together with a list of the following parishes delinquent in the "Diocesan Assessment."

Coatesville	1964/65	15.00	
	1965/66	35.00	
	1966/67	35.00	
Mayfield	1965/66	175.00	
	1966/67	175.00	
Shenandoah	1964/65	20.00	
	1965/66	20.00	
	1966/67	20.00	
Chester	1966/67	50.00	
St. Nicholas (Phila.)	1966/67	200.00	
Wilkes-Barre	1965/66	25.00	
	1966/67	225.00	
Simpson	1966/67	75.00	\$1070.00

Upon motion made by Fathers Daniel Russetar and Adam Kreil the Treasurer's Report was accepted as read.

The Auditor's Report was submitted by Rev. Father Andrew Goidich which read as follows: "Having examined the Financial Records of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania, on this Ninth Day of June, 1967, I hereby declare these records to be in proper order as maintained by the Treasurer, Mr. Paul Murianka. The Total remaining in Savings this fiscal year: \$1,042.95. The total remaining in the Checking Account: \$1,497.06."

Upon motion made by Fathers Adam Krell and Gregory Stefchak the Auditor's Report was accepted as read.

The Right Reverend Andrew S. Stepecky declared a recess for lunch at 12:15 p.m. The Assembly was called to order once again at 1:05 p.m.

Under Old Business the following were discussed:

Reimbursement of Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary reported that after careful consideration it was determined that the office of Secretary and Treasurer did not warrant reimbursement at this time. A discussion followed in which Father Daniel Pavelchak expressed that a means be set up for this purpose. Upon motion made by Fathers John Rachko and Vladimir Soyvrda the discussion was tabled to a future date.

Budget Commission. Mr. Paul Murianka made the report and advised that due to the fact the Statistical Report was not completed it was impossible to establish a new budget. He therefore motioned that the present budget remain in effect and that the Diocesan Council make a complete investigation of the present budget and be invested with the power to create a new Budget if it is deemed necessary. The motion was seconded by Father Daniel Donlick and approved.

Statistical Commission. In the absence of Father Nicholas Harris the report was given by William Conco which revealed that the response to the Questionnaire was very poor which made it impossible for the Statistical Commission to compute or attempt to give a detailed report. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the report is necessary and that perhaps many failed to complete the Questionnaire due to a misunderstanding. Upon motion made by Fathers Joseph Swanko and James Mason it was approved to establish a new Statistical Commission appointed by His Grace, Bishop Kiprian whose responsibility it would be to review all of the reports already submitted and gather all other information that is still needed. This report is to be completed no later than 31 December 1967.

Missionary Fund. The report was submitted by V. Rev. John Rachko followed by much discussion. Upon motion made by Fathers Vladimir Borichevsky and Basil Repella it was approved that a Missionary Fund Commission be established to consist of the Ruling Diocesan Bishop and two other members (one priest and one layman) appointed by the Bishop; the Commission would be responsible for setting up the entire operation of this Fund; and annually on the Sunday of Orthodoxy there would be a special collection in all parishes of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania for the Missionary Fund.

Under New Business:

Deanery Reports. A verbal report was submitted by Father Gambal, Dean of the Frackville Deanery. A written report was submitted to the Secretary and read to the Assembly from the Philadelphia Deanery. (The Dean, Father Senofsky was unable to attend the Assembly due to illness.) Father Pawlush, Dean of the Wilkes-Barre Deanery distributed copies to all present of his report. It was the wish of the entire Assembly that in the future, all Deans prepare written reports for distribution to all members of the Assembly.

Delinquent Diocesan Payments. After considerable discussion it was resolved that the Treasurer of the Diocesan Council send a report to all parishes listing those delinquent in making Diocesan Payments and that all efforts be used in collecting these payments.

Elections. Upon motion made by V. Rev. George Pawlush and seconded by Rev. James Mason the Ruling Bishop is empowered with the right to appoint the Secretary of the Diocesan Council who will have the right to vote. Motion approved. His Grace, Bishop Kiprian appointed Rev. Joseph Swaiko Secretary of the Diocesan Council.

Upon motion made by V. Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky and seconded by Joseph Dotsey a unanimous ballot was cast for the following elected and/or appointed officers:

DIOCESAN COUNCIL

V. Rev. Vladimir S. Borichevsky	Leon Hrynick
V. Rev. John Rachko	John Lorchak
Rev. Daniel Paveichak	Edward J. Reta
Rev. Joseph Swaiko	Russell Dugan

AUDITORS

Rev. Andrew Goidich
Mr. Joseph S. Dotsey
Mr. Russell Tatusko

DIOCESAN COURT

Rt. Rev. Basil Gambal	Frank Rusinko
V. Rev. Alexander J. Fedoronko	Michael Stehur
V. Rev. George Pawlush	William Sutzko

Resolution in regard to Normal Statute.

In response to the report of His Grace, Bishop Kiprian, concerning the contradictory and confusing status of many Statutes of the Parishes (especially in relation to the Normal Statute of the Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church of America, The Metropolia), upon motion made by V. Rev. Vladimir S. Borichevsky and seconded by Rev. Adam J. Krell, the Diocesan Assembly resolves that the parishes be informed that in all those instances in which a parish by-laws contradicts the Normal Statute of the Metropolia, the Statute of the Metropolia always take precedence and are always operative as the supreme law of the Metropolia and its parishes. The Normal Statute can be added to and amended by the parishes through their chosen delegates participating in the All American Sobor which is the supreme legislative and administrative organ of the Metropolia.

Upon motion made by Fathers James Mason and Daniel Ressetar it was approved that the Diocesan Assembly in 1968 be held the first Saturday of SS. Peter and Paul Lent - June 22, 1968. The place to be announced at a later date.

Upon motion made by Fathers John Rachko and Vladimir Sovyrda the Assembly was adjourned and closed with a prayer by His Grace, Bishop Kiprian at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Joseph Swaiko
Rev. Joseph Swaiko, Secretary

31 July 1967 No. 116
Confirmed and approved for
distribution.

+ *Kiprian*,
KIPRIAN, Bishop of Philadelphia
and Pennsylvania