

Diocesan Council Meeting
November 18, 2014
Diocesan Center

Present: Bishop Mark, Fr. Kowalczyk Fr. Hatrak, Fr. Weremedic, Fr. Solak, Fr. Hojnicky, Fr. Schellbach, Fr. Vernak, Fr. Gorodenchuk, Mark Linnehan, Doug Yates.

Absent: John Buckeye, David Yeosock, Elsie Herman

Began at 10:08 am with Opening Prayer -

Minutes of August, 2014 Meeting were previously distributed

- Fr. Michael Hatrak motioned to accept. Fr. Timothy Hojnicky seconded
- All in favor

Message of Diocesan Bishop

Background checks on almost everybody –

- Alden Station pending, Dundaff, Mt. Carmel pending, St. Nicholas in Philadelphia, Williamsport pending, Fr. Kopestonsky pending.
- Fr. John Russin part of the diocese who lives in Ohio, called and emailed by Bishop Mark.

Diocesan Property appraised at \$426,500

- John Krisa will be here at Noon to talk about property issues. Nothing done correctly since 1905. Hope to have a dry closing by the end of the year.
- Ronaldo Legaspi retained by the diocese since each entity should have its own attorney.
- Diocese and monastery will have to split Krisa fees since Orphanage doesn't have any money.

Continuing Education

Fr. Daly on Pastoral Life in the Fathers

Offered to come back in the Spring to talk on preaching in the Fathers.

Fr. Dn. Stephen Muse

Rooted in the Athonite Tradition

Psychology and spirituality

Fr. Andrew Damick

Internet and Social Media Ministry

Fr. Tim asked if they could be published with the ending time to assist clergy in planning.

Fr. Victor: Question about having speakers in the deaneries as opposed to one location.

Fr. Stephen: asked about regularity, monthly, bimonthly. Budget for 6 sessions. Three Spring and three in the Fall. February and after Pascha for the Spring.

Fr. Nicholas: Positive development. Go with one over time, do various speakers.

Mark Linnehan: Spiritual formation or skills training? Can be both according to Bishop Mark.

Sexual Misconduct Issues

Online training, Darkness to Light, for sexual misconduct. Costs \$10. Fr. Schellbach has done. Takes 4 hours.

Fr. Perich knows an attorney from the RC Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Committee on Continuing Education: Deans. Fr. Nicholas will chair this.

Motion for Executive Session: Fr. Victor and Fr. Timothy All in favor.

Motion to come out of Executive Session: Fr. Timothy and Fr. Stephen

Thanks from Fr. Nicholas Solak to His Grace and those assisting in the matter.

Treasurer's Report

- Fr. Raymond presented his report
- David Yeosock & Gregory Polk did the 3rd quarter audit
- The diocese reimbursed the Bishop for \$155.60 for travel expense
- Fr. Raymond thanks the auditors for their work and diligence
- There were several parishes that never paid the assessment for past diocesan assemblies. Invoices will be given. The rest may just be written off (2005)
- There is a policy on paper that those in arrears would not participate in the assembly. What do we do with those parishes?
- There are inquiries for hotel rooms for the January 29 day assembly.

LUNCH

- Fr. Nicholas thanked Fr. Raymond for the work he has done on behalf of the Council.
- Penn Starr CD questions: needs to be updated, the report came late
- Under by \$18k income for 3rd Quarter, but we are ahead to date by \$39K
- His Grace suggested we relook at the insurance on the Diocesan Center. He asked Fr. John Kowalczyk to get 3 bids in time for the Assembly in January

Budget:

- The income exceeded the expenses.
- Legal fees
- \$10k
 - In calculating budget and census, we included St. Nicholas in Philly
 - Lopez up 6 members.
- Attorneys:
 - There's no disadvantage to us to get out – it would be an issue for him.
- Increases & decreases
 - \$6K for clergy continuing ed. (\$1000 for 6 sessions)
 - Priest wives meetings – money available
 - Cut in the chancellor and treasurer's compensation and an increase to the deans
 - Educational expense were cut as the organizations usually pay for themselves
- Fr. James Weremedic asked for money to be put aside to pay for the Bishop's copays. Fr. John Kowalczyk will look into that.
- Fr. Stephen Vernak asked how we as a diocese are planning for the transition to the implementation of a tithing system in 2018. There is a Treasurer/Chancellor meeting in January to discuss this. They are in general receptive of input from those who participate
 - Fr. Victor asked about any clear guidelines about the tithing model
 - Fr. Raymond responded it is to simply tithe your operating budget
- Produce reports in your given parish to show the levels of giving and what kind of financial situation you may find yourself.
- Concrete discussions in our parishes on real stewardship
- Motion to approve the proposed Budget: Fr. Stephen Vernak
- Seconded Fr. Paul Schellbach
- Unanimous Approval.

Attorney John Krisa

- Attorney John Petorak represents monastery
- John Krisa involved in wrapping up the orphanage – Blue house to the diocese, rest to the monastery.
- Ordinarily a transaction like this take 6 weeks to 3 months
- In this case all kinds of problems. Without offending anyone. Affairs of all entities are a lawyer's nightmare.
 - Encountered many things you would never encounter in any kind of transaction
 - Monastery has good title into a 1905 corporation. STIC report , OCA involved, not proprietary or monetary involvement. All transactions require their approval. Need resolution from OCA to resolve all the incidentals. No coordination between the entities that have to bring it into resolution.

- Wrap up orphanage and dissolve the corporation.
 - Only problem with the diocese is the parking lot extends a bit beyond our line.
 - Mr. Krisa's understanding is that there is a trade here. Diocese property value higher than monastery is getting. (Bishop Mark pointed out that the certified appraisal valued the monastery parcel, including its three buildings at over \$600,000 whereas ours was \$426,000.)
 - Very close to resolution.
Any building put on monastery property becomes monastery property.
Don't have records. Currently waiting for whatever records they have at Jordanville.

Attorney John Petorak

Doesn't know who the grantee will be.

Recognize 1905 St. Tikhon's Greek Russian Orthodox Church. (No legal entity – St. Tikhon's Monastery)

Never owned a piece of property –

Mortgage documents – St. Tikhon's Monastery signed. No documentation indicates that entity exists.

Met. Platon trustee.

Board of 3 lay people for St. Tikhon's Greek Russian Orthodox Church.

Need resolution from 1905 corporation saying they accept this land

Don't have a board set up.

What should be done – current board that they are going to amend the composition of the board to comply with this. 3 lay and 2 monastic. To dissolve this board and appoint another.

Options:

- Put it in trusteeship as was done in the past
- Start a new corporation – St. Tikhon's Monastery

There is no legal entity as "St. Tikhon's Monastery." They need to become legally incorporated.

Mark Linnehan: "Can the orphanage board give the Diocese the house and two acres and put the rest into trust?" Answer: Yes.

Consensus that diocese preference is to transfer the property to us ASAP and let the other issues be resolved separately. Could go to closing and this is the expressed preference of the Diocesan Council.

Agreed that this is how we will proceed.

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Mr. Krisa will send us a bill for his services which we will have to discuss with the Monastery

Wilkes-Barre Deanery

- Vacant parishes served on ad hoc basis with STOTS and retired priests
- Fr. John Soucek deposed
- Fr. Joseph Martin retired. Fr. Timothy Cremeens replaced him. On- loan status to the diocese at this time from Antiochian Archdiocese.

Chancellor's Report

- Absent for first part due to funeral.
- Executive Session: Motion Fr. James Weremedic, Fr. Victor seconded.
- Motion to move out of Executive Session: Fr. James, Fr. Paul Schellbach seconded.
- Spoke about pastoral matters at Holy Resurrection parish
- Upcoming celebration of the installation of Met. Joseph of AOCA: His Grace invited to attend in December.

Frackville Deanery:

- St. Michael's Day celebration in Mt. Carmel
- St. Mary's had Dinner
- Holy Apostles Dinner Dance – Success.
- Holy Apostles - Approved moving forward with building (1.2-1.5 million)

Philadelphia Deanery

- Lenten schedule coordinated with Philadelphia Brotherhood
- St. Herman Lecture DL Lunch Lecture
- Little interest in mission in Collegeville

Metropolitan Council Fr. James Weremedic

- Fr. Robert Holet gave a presentation on stewardship before the meeting
- 3 focus areas of Metropolitan Tikhon
- Mission and Evangelism – 1 million endowment, select 1 week practicum once or twice a year using the interest from the endowment. Cannot touch the principal
- Clergy Health – positive and negative aspects
- Institutions
- Proposal to combine seminaries nixed by Metropolitan
- Monasteries – met and agreed to work in cooperation
- Statute Revision – committee.
 - As of the MC September meeting $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through the statutes.

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- Stewardship, finances left for the end.
- By Jan 1 to Met. Council.
 - Submitted by Apr. 15
 - Published May 15.
 - Up or down vote on the revisions as a package
 - Clarification and cleaning up of existing Statutes.
- Military Chaplains and Liturgical Music
- Review of sexual misconduct – 2 cases
 - Review of past cases – 38 done.
- Awards for service to music: Drillock, Shemansky, Glagolev, Soroka.

Revitalization - Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- Committee effectively dissolved b/c we have not met in 2 years
- Synthesized into a one person presentation
- 5 parish, 2 cathedrals, 4 dioceses, 1 assembly
- Good for diagnosis – need people to lead.
- Will follow up a year later see what has happened.
- Bishop Mark says several parishes have begun

Teen Retreat – Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

- Need for a new venue
- St. Tikhon's doesn't want to deal with the liability
- Trout Lake Retreat Center, Stroudsburg
- Dates, facility are agreeable
- Need to have liability insurance
- First or second weekend of Feb.

Liturgical Life – Fr. Victor

- Conference calls
 - How to proceed – establish priorities
 - Difficulty in finding time
- Clergy continuing education in WB passed out a survey
 - 23 responses
- Definite trends, good picture of what is going on liturgically in the diocese.
- Assembly Of Bishops Pastoral Practices meeting in Antiochian Village
 - Communion and Funeral Services (Bp. Mark)
 - Miscarriages and infant death prior to baptism

Communications – Aric Gingo

- Apologies for missing meetings and neglecting to submit reports to previous meetings
- Record pace –
 - 2012 visits to diocesan page 70320, 192 per day, 21670 unique visitor – new
 - 31% unique
 - 2014 total number 85,135 visitors 271 per day 33%
- News items
 - Submissions increased
 - Room for improvement
- Ways of submission
 - Optimal via email doepacommunications@gmail.com
 - Lack of any details with photos
 - Who, what, where, when and why – minimal.
 - Quicker and easier to post
- Quality of images sent
 - Take time to get a good picture
 - Quality of image
 - Get group pictures
 - Don't edit the photos – we have a brand, look and feel and size.
 - Updated weekly if not daily
 - Very poor with regard to resources for parishioners and non-Orthodox.
 - Articles essays, how- to guides.

Alive in Christ

- Most recent issue: early Summer to August
- Trying to keep to schedule published in the magazine.
- Omission of an article from Wilmington

Concerns regarding the Website

- Inquiries when or if something posted – nothing submitted.
- Take photos and submit
- Focus America dead link
- Modifying the look: basic options
- Changes of content must be approved by bishop
- Follow guidelines for submission – don't instruct to download stuff.
- Billable hours are for maintaining the website and production of the magazine
 - Optimize or crop photos.
 - Last three had lots of pictures and no article. 20 –page picture book
- 2011 83 news items for entire year on web

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- 2014 83 by April
- Reason for over budget
- Submission requirements can add to time.
- Maximum capacity in communications department

Substance light in Magazine.

Old Business

Diocesan By-Laws-delay decision on by-laws to show good will with St. Nicholas

- Minutes from AAC 2002 – amendment not reflected in current Statute.
- May serve to wait on By Laws

Lay training starting in Philadelphia Deanery

- Mark Linnehan
- Without support systems in place to support laity, providing training would not be a great idea at this time.
- With blessing of His Grace, postponed.

New Business

Diocesan Assembly

- 1 or 2 day if no By Laws then a one day.
- Fr. Nathaniel Symeonides of the Assembly of Bishops willing to come and speak to us.
- 2 day. He will speak at dinner.
- Mark Linnehan mentioned charity should be distributed
- Mark motioned \$500 donation to OCCSP seconded by Doug Yates
- OCPM \$500: Motion by Fr. John Kowalczyk , seconded by Fr. Paul Schellbach
- \$500 to Mat. Sandra from Clergy Care: Fr. Steve, Fr. Tim

Next Meeting

March 10 at St. Stephen's Cathedral, Philadelphia.

Meeting ended at 4:04 pm with singing of "It is Truly Meet."

To Do Items

- Deans will constitute a Continuing Education Committee chaired by Fr. Solak: Will develop a “curriculum” based on needs and suggest speakers.
- Write off past Diocesan Assembly debts from select parishes? (Fr. Martin)
- Fr. John follow up with Fr. Ian on hotel options for Diocesan Assembly in January
- Fr. Martin update CD information on Quickbooks based on latest renewal.
- Fr. John Kowalczyk obtain 3 bids/quotes for our insurance.
- Get information on Bishop Mark’s copays under the diocesan plan to include in the compensation packet. (Fr. Martin, information from Bishop Mark and Fr. John)
- Check with Guide One for liability insurance for Teen Retreat
- Develop a presentation on Stewardship for the Diocesan Assembly – Fr. Stephen Vernak, Fr. Timothy Hojnicky and Mark Linnehan.