

Began at 10:27 with singing of O Heavenly King

Minutes of November 19 meeting

- Motion to Accept John Buckeye
- Second Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

Locum tenens Report: Bishop Melchisedek

- Not much to report
- Forming a Spiritual Court to deal with sexual abuse issues with a priest.
- Lawsuit in California, named DOW, OCA, Fr. Gregory Safchuk, and one hundred John Doe's
 - We have contacted insurance co here in case they include us.
- Fr. Kowalczyk noted that following up on parishes not in compliance with OCA Sexual Misconduct policies
- Fr. Weremedic asked about Pan Orthodox Council impact on OCA

Administrator's Report: Bishop Mark

- Visiting parishes
- Monitoring annual reports
 - Comparing with by-laws
 - Don't have by laws for every parish
 - 3-4 with no by laws on file, some have none, one written in Russian.

Discussion on psychological testing of priests transferring into the diocese.
Motion to do this at the bishop's discretion – Fr. Weremedic, Dave Yeosock
Motion to add this requirement to bylaws – Mark Linnehan, Fr. Weremedic

Chancellor's Report

Enthronement Committee to work quietly

2 meetings

- One in person in Bethlehem. MT said not to do this publicly
- One teleconference

Fr. Victor and Larry Skvir as Co-Chairs

Installation on May 10, 9:30AM

5 Hierarchs have committed

Metropolitan TIKHON, Bishop MELCHISEDEK, Bishop MICHAEL, Bishop DAVID, Bishop MARK,
Abp. NIKON? Others from other jurisdictions?

Vespers on May 9 followed by reception at St. Stephen's

Location: Radisson near Turnpike
Smaller ballroom, cap at 210, first come, first serve.

Motion from Fr. James for gift for Bishop MELCHISEDEK, second Dave Yeosock, all in favor.
Nothing was specified at this time as to the cost or nature of a gift.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Report was distributed via email several days before

Diocesan Council Meeting, Holy Trinity Stroudsburg
March 17, 2014

- Motion to increase the budget by \$2000 for Special Celebrations given the potential enthronement and Memorial Day costs if necessary. Made by Fr. Raymond, Seconded by David Yeosock.
- Mark Linnehan asked to clarify that instead of doing this to show we went over budget and find the money somewhere else in the budget to compensate.
- Fr. Raymond explained how the installation booklet will bring in income through sponsorships.

UNANIMOUS APPROVAL - to spend the funds necessary without changing the budget

- Tuesday April 8 will be the first audit
- Mark Linnehan raised the question about if the \$1000 was sent to McAdoo and Lopez from the previous meeting. The Lopez check will be sent this week. The McAdoo check will be held until outstanding issues are cleaned up.
- Mark Linnehan asked that the \$1000 to McAdoo be added for old business to be dealt with later.
- A question was raised about the Orphanage Property issue. The committee has not met for a few reasons and so no further information has been given. There are some outstanding issues that still need to be worked out within the committee. More discussion was had on the topic.
- Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report: Fr Hatrak, JD Buckeye Second. Unanimous Approval

Deanery Reports

Fr. Solak

5 vacant: Alden, Dundaff, Lopez, Nanticoke,

7 not in compliance with PSP

Michael Pasonick has started a soup kitchen in Scranton tied to St. Tikhon's Monastery. Frs. Solak and Kowalczyk will visit to see how this can involve the deanery. A deanery meeting will be held there in the future.

Fr. Hatrak

3 w/o priest, 2 served weekly, Lykens depends.

Thank for Fr. Timothy for assisting while Fr. Hatrak's mother was ill

Tried to have a Christmas outing

Informal deanery meeting during retreat

One parish not compliant

Fr. Weremedic

4 not in compliance with PSP, 3 partially compliant

Catasauqua part-time priest.

Deanery meeting yesterday

Clergy family picnic during summer

Outing for youth

Alaska

Interesting program

Warmth of welcome from Bishop DAVID and the clergy and faithful

Revitalization : Fr. Timothy Hojnicky

Visit to St. Mark's, Wrightstown this Saturday. Gave presentation on growing the Church
Doug Yates and Fr. Raymond both commended the presentation for its tone, content and helpfulness, and Fr. Tim for his work.

Communications: Aric Gingo

Website has had 8000 visitors a month – highest number so far.
Requested additional content, especially substance – informative/outreach oriented.
Working on linking to Facebook
Videos can be uploaded, educational and such like

Alive in Christ latest issue now out.

Guidance on size as he has consistently gone over the normal size of 12 pages
3 issues a year, not 4 – so over budget.

Metropolitan Council – Fr. Weremedic and David Yeosock

Calm tone to meeting
Two resolutions passed

One on temporary restriction on \$1 million bequest for evangelism subject to a plan for the use of the money

Grant of 1500 for background checks for children's programs at AAC in Atlanta
Discussion followed, on the scope of the input of the MC and Holy Synod in using this money.

An extensive discussion followed on Seminary education and support and the relationship of those institutions to the diocese.

Old Business

Revitalization:

Fr. Raymond noted that he went to Pottstown at Fr. Jason's request and did a presentation on Christian Formation

New Business

Mark Linnehan raised the question of changing the date of the Diocesan Assembly in fulfillment of a promise made at the Diocesan Assembly. Discussion followed but the Council decided to leave the timing as it has been for the past two years

Fr. Solak raised a series of questions about Clergy Continuing Education, including recording, reviewing and accountability. Discussion followed. Bishop MARK indicated his plan to have Fr. Ian Pac-Urar give a presentation on sexual abuse policy for the clergy, as required by the PSP. Discussion followed, particularly on the issue of accountability.

Fr. Solak brought up the question of Fr. Stephen Vernak regarding the provision of Couples and Family Retreats. Discussion followed on the importance of the health of the family to the present and future life of the parish and diocese.

Diocesan Council Meeting, Holy Trinity Stroudsburg
March 17, 2014

Fr. Solak raised the question of the possibility of immediately addressing the issue of the bishop's residence. Much discussion followed the conclusion of which was that Bishop MARK will consider areas he would like to consider, while an appraiser will be contacted by David Yeosock to get an appraisal of the Diocesan Center

Date of next meeting

June 2, 10 AM at St. Mark's in Wrightstown.

Motion to adjourn: Fr. Hatrak, seconded by John Buckeye.

Meeting ended with the singing of "It is truly meet" at 3:20pm

Respectfully submitted,

Priest Raymond Martin Browne
Diocesan Council Secretary