

**Present:**

Bishop Mark, Fr. Kowalczyk, Fr. Perich, Fr. Solak, Fr. Hojnicky, Fr. Weremedic, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Fr. Paul Schellbach, Fr. Stephen Vernak, Doug Yates, Mark Linnehan, Protodeacon Sergei Kapral and David Yeosock.

**Absent:** Elsie Herman, John Buckeye

Began with "O Heavenly King" at 10:10am

Approval of Minutes of Previous meeting

Corrections: Edit Fr. Nicholas statement

Pg 4 Any **buildings** on monastery property.

Review of Action Items

Waiting on writing off debt of selected parish debts. All others taken.

Motion to approve minutes: Fr. Vernak motioned, Fr. Hojnicky seconded, all in favor

**Message of the Diocesan Bishop**

Bishop spoke with John Krisa.

- Ron Legaspi needs to contact John Petorak to set up the escrow account for transfer tax.
- JK thought we could finish the transfer within a month

AAC and Revised Statutes

- Fr. Timothy mentioned there are clergy who are concerned with some of the language that might blur the hierarchical lines of authority in the church.
- Mark Linnehan brought up about conciliar/hierarchical language.
- Fr. Victor spoke of need for education in the Church regarding these issues.
- Why up/down – Fr. Weremedic spoke of MC discussion on topic – interconnectedness of various articles precludes taking it one article at a time.
- Write down questions and submit to Bishop Mark to bring up at Holy Synod Meeting.

**Motion for Executive Session**

Fr. Hojnicky, Fr. Shellbach. Passed.

Motion to come out Vernak, Solak

Diocesan officers will come up with the parameters of the Finance Committee

### **Chancellor's Report**

- Feb 13 in Cleveland Retreat 50 people
- Feb 7 in Atlanta for OCPM Board Meeting
- Feb 28-Mar 1 in Minneapolis
- Possible hosting Diocesan Assembly at St. Michael's in Jermyn
  - Liuzzo Catering \$12/7 Dinner/Lunch
  - Hotel in Carbondale - \$65
- Motion to have Diocesan Assembly at St. Michael's in Jermyn, Fr. Perich, Fr. Schellbach seconded. All in favor.
- Insurance bids for Diocesan Center
  - John Malinchok will provide bids next week
- Motion to accept chancellor's report: Fr. Weremedic, Fr. Hojnicky seconded

### **Treasurers Report**

- Reports attached.
- Fr. Martin asked for questions
- Mark Linnehan had question about the Insurance Line and also about car depreciation
- Fr. Solak motioned 3600 a year for car Fr. Perich seconded. Carried.
- Treasurer send regular monthly reports to deans on arrears. Deans will follow up.
  - Fr. Perich will contact Fr. Jason regarding Pottstown (Done on 3/13 as reported by Fr. Perich to Fr. Browne)

Discussion on establishing a Finance Committee – appointed Mark Linnehan and Larry Skvir

Include professionals with a variety of backgrounds that are relevant to this area of parish life.

- Analyze the income levels of parish
- Request information from parishes who don't have it
- Recommendation for proportionate giving
- Motion to accept – Fr. Weremedic, Fr. Paul Shellbach

### **WB – Fr. Solak**

- Sunday of Orthodoxy poorly attended due to weather. Fr. Jillions guest homilist.
- Fr. Jillions met with clergy and His Grace.
- Second Sunday very well attended.
- Priests soldiering on in very difficult circumstances.
- Fr. Victor brought up the issue of clergy compensation

How to implement prop giving on diocesan level

**Frackville** - Fr. Tim

- Two parishes open – Mt. Carmel and Lykens (2 Sunday a month by their request) – their last Pascha by their declaration.
- Mt. Carmel plan in process
- Will cover both for Holy Week and Pascha
- Fr. John Nightingale will spend weekend in Mount Carmel
- First deanery meeting in works
- Fr. Tim asked that the Chancery let parishes know that dean has changed.
- Building program in Mechanicsburg – township has some recommendations, after the parish responds they expect that the project will move ahead.

**Philadelphia** – Fr. John Perich

- Did not have Sunday of Orthodoxy because of weather
- Combined deanery/Orthodox brotherhood at St. Michael's in Wilmington
- Next week Brotherhood at Serbian church in Elkins Park
- Will deal with Pottstown situation, and another situation.
- St. Nicholas in Philadelphia – Fr. Browne chair of joint committee briefed Council on the process so far.
- 3 Continuing Ed lectures in St. Herman's during Lent

**Revitalization – Fr. Tim**

- No invitations to speak in parishes
- Spoken outside the diocese
- Positive feedback

**Continuing Education – Fr. Solak**

- Good session with Dr. Mamalakis
- Stephen Muse on Thursday Bright Week, location TBA
- Dn Seraphim Moslener in June
- Asking speakers to get us talking to one another.

Fr. Perich noted that Neumann University has facilities available for up to 100 people -\$40 a day/3meals and room .

**Teen Retreat – Feb 6-8 at Trout Lake**

25 students, problems with insurance company, the location contributed to lower numbers. Need for very early announcement and registration. Looking for another site for next year.

### **Liturgical Life – Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk**

- Conference call reviewed survey results
- Good feedback from clergy at October retreat
- Specifically discussed publishing a Funeral Book, before Pascha
- Holy Week and Pascha items for next year – not this year.
- Conversation with Paul Meyendorff about abbrev. Vigil. Bishop Mark favors this as a minimum.

### **Metropolitan Council - Fr. James Weremedic**

- Land agreement passed regarding Orphanage subdivision
- Met. Tikhon's report – exhausted.
- Bishop Mark – episc liaison ocpm, pastoral life and ministry, coordinate departments, AAC Pre Conciliar and Resolutions Committee, Synodal Commission.

### **Lay Training/ Parish Council Workshops – Mark Linnehan**

- Available to do presentations if there is a request for specific topics
- 4-6 hours, investigate their difficulties
- Available to deans for discussion on crafting focused presentations.

### **Communications – Aric Gingo**

- Written report submitted and read by Bishop Mark
- Bishop wants a more attractive website
- Ask clergy to bring bulletin and look at website while meeting with bishop.
- Fr. Vernak mentioned about the need for a diocesan logo – other designers were mentioned.

### **Old Business –**

Diocesan By-Laws – wait on AAC

Cemetery Issue – Look at ways to make provision for long term solutions.

Property – Ronaldo Legaspi had abstracts done. Waiting on a couple of attorneys to get back to him. Directed to get in touch with John Petorak to set up the escrow account. Legaspi has an account.

### **New Business –**

Charities

- Mark Linnehan suggested doing \$500 a meeting
- Fr. Stephen Vernak motioned to sponsor Cathy Bucharew on mission trip to Albania

- Fr. Ignatius Gauvain seconded. Passed.

**Common services on deanery level – encouraged by His Grace.**

- Pan Orthodox services
- Sexual Misconduct
  - Educate the clergy is a pressing need.
  - In actual cases, what the policy said is irrelevant (impossible to hide behind literal compliance and no more). Responsible for information.
- Pastoral Life committee – Fr. Browne and Fr. Solak
  - Commended Fr. Nathan Preston for his organization of the meeting
    - Seeking feedback from the clergy since the focus will be on clergy health/development
  - Meeting April 28-30 in Syosset. His Grace is the Episcopal Chair, will be accompanied by Fr. Solak and Fr. Browne
- Grant writing: His Grace requested any information on those who have the ability to write grant proposals as a way to obtain funds for various projects. Fr. Perich indicated he has such experience.

**Next Meeting:**

- June 16 in Harrisburg

**Motion to adjourn** Fr. Tim

Ended at 4pm with singing of “It is truly meet.”

Respectfully submitted,

Priest Raymond Martin Browne,

Diocesan Council Secretary.

### **Action Items**

1. Correction of previous DC meeting minutes – Fr. Browne (Done)
2. Complete the writing off of debt for Lopez and Alden Station – Fr. Browne/Paul Berdy
3. Send check for Cathy Bucharew – Fr. Browne
4. New venue for Teen Retreat – Youth department
  - a. Inform them of Neuman University possibility – Fr. Browne
5. Names of alternate designers of diocesan logo – Fr. Vernak ?
6. Insurance quotes – Fr. Kowalczyk
7. Location for Dr. Dn. Stephen Muse presentation on Bright Thursday – Bishop Mark
  - a. Ordering book?
8. Sexual Misconduct Education –Bishop Mark/Deans
  - a. Fr. Perich's contact in RC Archdiocese of Philadelphia or Washington
  - b. Cindy Heise and Bob Houry
  - c. Date, venue, scope.
9. Grant Writing – Fr. Perich, Bp. Mark, Fr. Vernak
10. Notification of Frackville Deanery of change in Dean – Fr. Kowalczyk
11. Website development – Aric Gingo?
12. Compose and begin work of Finance Committee – Bishop Mark and Mark Linnehan