

Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

*Diocesan Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 2016 – Holy Annunciation Church, Berwick*

Present: Archbishop Mark, Fr. Raymond Browne, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Fr. Ignatius Guavain, Fr. Barnabas Fravel, Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Fr. Michael Demko, Pdn. Peter Skoog, Pdn. Sergei Kapral, Susan Schalasta, John Shingara, Aric Gingo

- The meeting opened at 10:10 am with a Moliben for the Opening of a Sacred Council
- The meeting was convened at 10:35 am
 - The minutes from the Nov. 10 meeting were presented. Motion to accept: Fr. Martin Browne. Seconded: Fr. Timothy Hojnicky - UNANIMOUS approval

Archbishop's Remarks:

- Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves and Vladyka thanked the members of the Council for serving
- The Diocesan bylaws were approved at the Assembly.
- Diocesan Property: Vladyka gave the new members of the Council a short history of the project. Expected it to be finalized within the week.

Chancellor's Report:

- Fr. Martin sent his report out electronically.
- He reported on the recent favorable Chancellors/Treasurer's meeting in Syosset.

Treasurer's Report:

- Fr. Ignatius presented his report.
- Commented on the Diocese moving towards proportional giving
- Finance Committee working with him
 - Reported a small surplus thus far this year. Motion to accept by John Shingara. Seconded by Fr. Victor – UNANIMOUS

Finance Committee:

- Had a conference call last week and discussed ways they could help the treasurer
- Wondered if the parishes could report quarterly? Possibly something to work towards.

Deanery Reports:

- Philadelphia:
 - St. Michael's, Wilmington - 100th Anniversary
 - Coatesville still needs bylaws
 - St. Nicholas, Philadelphia:
 - Fr. Timothy made a motion to go into executive session, Seconded: Fr. Martin Browne – UNANIMOUS
 - Motion to leave executive session: Fr. Victor, Seconded Fr. Timothy
- Frackville:
 - Mechanicsburg's Building Project
 - Lykens, stabilized with Dn. Seraphim Reynolds as the resident administrator serving twice a month
- Wilkes-Barre:
 - Discussed issues at Holy Resurrection Cathedral, Wilkes-Barre
 - Potential Sexual predator situation by a non-Orthodox in a local parish

Liturgical Life Committee:

- Fr. Victor reported that not much progress has been made other than publishing some service books that are posted on the website.

Adult Education:

- Options: online programming? Continuing Education? Clergy Retreat ideas
- Peer Counseling Program: The Lily Grant gave the program \$25k. Groups have formed and are meeting. There is a pilot program which our diocesan clergy have formed and 3 more have begun with a Matushki one as well.

Communications:

- Needs more pictures – hi res preferred to look decent\
- Working on getting Facebook hooked into the website
- Graduate issue is coming soon!

Other:

- Fr. George Volkovinsky filed his green card application
- Motion to give \$500 towards Migrant Worker Organization by Fr. Martin Browne in memory of the families of our diocese who were subjected to similar thing in the early years in the mines. Seconded by Pdn. Sergei Kapral – UNANIMOUS

- The Archbishop advocated for more Parish Council Workshops going forward to ensure the administrative health of the diocese going forward
- The next Diocesan Council meeting will be held on June 30 at Holy Apostles Church, Mechanicsburg, location depending on the building project.
- Fr. Martine Browne moved to adjourn, seconded by John Shingara
- The meeting ended at 2:22 pm with the signing of *"It is Truly Meet..."*

Fr. Timothy Hojnicky, Secretary