

52ND ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Lansing, Illinois

8 October 2013

PLENARY SESSION I

I. OPENING.

Following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, at which His Grace, Bishop Alexander presided, the Assembly opened with the Invocation of the Holy Spirit at 10:37 a.m.

II. CREDENTIALS.

One Bishop, 49 clergy delegates, 42 lay delegates, and 4 observers, for a total of 96 participants.

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, APPOINTMENTS.

Archpriest John Zdinak, Diocesan Chancellor, stated that the Diocesan Council had opined that, given the agenda, there is no need to elect clergy and lay chairs, and that if there is no objection, he will chair the sessions. All agreed.

He reported, on behalf of the Diocesan Council, that Archpriest John Matusiak, Ann Marie Mecera, and Philip Sokolov are being proposed to serve as the secretariat, and that Archpriest Thomas Mueller chair the Nominating Committee, the proposed members of which include Protodeacon Robert Northrup, Ruth Bedie, and Susan Lentz. Said candidates were elected upon motion by Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutsky, seconded by Sam D'Fantis.

He added that the delegates will be electing two clergy members and one lay member for the Diocesan Council and one member of the Auditing Committee. The deacons will serve as tellers for the elections.

Concerning a resolution submitted in advance by Saint John Church, Warren, OH, calling for the nomination of a ruling Bishop for the Diocese of the Midwest, he explained that said resolution is out of order, inasmuch as the *Statute* requires such nominations to be held at a special assembly convened for this purpose.

IV. BISHOP'S REPORT.

Bishop Alexander explained that the Holy Synod of Bishops desires to wait at least one year before addressing the issue of the nomination and election of a new ruling Hierarch for the Diocese. He expressed his hope that this Assembly be a peaceful and harmonious one, assuring everyone that as *Locum Tenens* he is available to assist in every possible manner.

He noted that there are a number of exciting things happening throughout the Diocese, such as the Late Vocations Program; urban ministries, especially the example provided by Detroit's Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral as a model for future efforts in the area of urban ministry; and other opportunities for ministry and service.

In reflecting on problems encountered in recent years, he assured everyone that the members of the Holy Synod have been acting, and will continue to act, in the best interest of the Church,

V. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

Father Zdinak presented a written report, which is available on the diocesan web site at <http://domoca.org/files/52nd%20ASSEMBLY/2013-chancellors-report.pdf>. He also offered a number of updates.

A. He expressed gratitude to His Grace, Bishop Longin and the clergy and faithful of Saint Archangel Michael Serbian Orthodox Church for the use of their facilities for the Assembly.

B. He reminded everyone that, unless they are of a confidential nature, letters and e-mails should not be sent directly to Bishop Alexander, but to the Chancery, Chancellor and district Deans.

C. He announced that Dennis Garlick will chair a committee to evaluate the Chancery facilities and related needs. This is critical in discerning future utilization of the property and anticipated maintenance expenses. For example, the estimated cost of tuckpointing is approximately \$126,000.00. It is hoped that the committee will be in place and fully functioning by the end of 2013.

D. He highlighted the new parish report forms, which have been modeled after those used in the Diocese of the West.

VI. DEANERY REPORTS.

The Deans' reports stand as presented on pages 33 – 192 of the Assembly Report Book, which is available on the Diocesan web site at <http://domoca.org/files/52nd%20ASSEMBLY/2013-delegate-handbook.pdf>.

The Deans had nothing to add to their written reports.

VII. ST. JOHN MONASTERY, HIRAM, OH REPORT.

Father Zdinak recounted recent events at the monastery, specifically the retirement of its Abbot, Archimandrite Alexander [Cutler], who together with Monk Daniel [Kidd] have relocated a monastery in Ukraine. He elaborated on the history of the property, which had been donated with the stipulation that, should it cease to be used for religious purposes, it would revert to the heirs of the original donors. After much consideration, monks from Holy Cross Monastery [ROCOR] in West Virginia relocated to Hiram, thereby establishing a *metochion* of their monastery. A complete report, as submitted by the monastery, is available on the diocesan web site at http://domoca.org/news_131016_1.html.

VIII. CATECHIST AND DIACONAL VOCATIONS PROGRAM REPORT.

Priest Elijah Mueller offered a written report, which is presented on pages 243–244 of the Assembly Report Book, to which he added that in all categories there are 34 students. It is anticipated that the soon-to-be initiated program in

Kansas City will increase this number considerably.

IX. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT.

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta offered a written report, which is presented on pages 245-246 of the Assembly Report Book, to which he urged all parishes, when changing insurance carriers, retain old policies should questions arise in the future with regard to which insurance company may be responsible for a given claim.

X. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Rob Koncel presented the comprehensive report found on pages 193–238 of the Assembly Report Book. He noted that the Diocese realized a \$69,000.00 surplus in 2012, in part due to a number of reductions in expenses.

XI. AUDITORS' REPORT.

Auditors Judy Weinclaw, Sam Jacob and Frank Tkacz met in August and reviewed the relevant documents. They noted that, in their written report as presented on pages 239–241 of the Assembly Report Book, they had made a number of recommendations in an effort to streamline the auditing process. The report as presented was accepted upon motion by Kitty Mabus, seconded by Archpriest Andrew Nelko.

XII. 2014 BUDGET PRESENTATION.

Mr. Koncel presented the proposed 2014 budget as amended by the Diocesan Council, which is available on the diocesan web site at <http://domoca.org/files/52nd%20ASSEMBLY/2014-budget-revised.pdf>. The amendment involves raising the stipend for the Director of the Catechist and Diaconal Vocation Program from \$6,000.00 to \$12,000.00 per year and adding an additional \$6,000.00 for travel expenses, materials, and related necessities. Priest Nicholas Finley motioned, seconded by Archpriest David Lis, to accept the budget as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

Father Zdinak explained that the escrow shown in the financial report represents general surplus funds not related to the OCA escrow, which represents the amount the OCA has reduced its assessment, and that the latter is placed into a separate account and is not reflected in the financial report.

XIII. MINUTES OF THE 51ST ASSEMBLY.

Minutes of the 51st Diocesan Assembly, as found on pages 11–13 of the Assembly Report Book, were accepted as presented upon motion by Archpriest John Adamcio, seconded by Joseph Manczj.

A 15-minute break was granted at 11:57 a.m. in preparation for elections.

XIV. NOMINATIONS.

The session reconvened at 12:12 p.m.

After clarifying election procedures, Father Zdinak invited nominees – Archpriests Alexander Garklavs and John Adamcio; Priests Elijah Mueller and Matthew Moriak; Barry Gluntz and Daria Petrykowski – to address the delegates. Ballots were distributed and collected as the delegates broke for lunch.

PLENARY SESSION II

XV. CREDENTIALS, ELECTION RESULTS.

The session reconvened at 2:10 p.m. with one Bishop, 39 clergy delegates, 39 lay delegates, and 4 observers, for a total of 83 participants.

Election results were announced. Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Priest Elijah Mueller, and Barry Gluntz were elected to the Diocesan Council, with Priest Matthew Moriak, Archpriest John Adamcio, and Daria Petrykowski serving as alternates. Judy Wienclaw was elected to serve as auditor by acclamation.

XVI. SOS PROJECT REPORT.

Kitty Mabus thanked parishes and individuals that responded to the August “Support Our Seminarians” appeal. To date, approximately \$13,000.00 had been received from 18 parishes and several individuals. Donations are still being accepted. Top donors were Saint Joseph, Wheaton, IL [\$2,160.00]; Protection of the Holy Virgin, Royalton, IL [\$1,965.00]; Saint Paul, Dayton, OH [\$1,950.00]; Saint Nicholas, Mogadore, OH [\$1,000.00]; and Holy Trinity, Overland Park, KS [\$712.00].

XVII. OTHER BUSINESS.

A. Diocesan Center Property. In response to questions concerning the physical condition of the Diocesan Center, Father Zdinak referred to his written report and reviewed a number of improvements that had been made recently. He also presented a number of needs and concerns, including concerns expressed by the Diocesan Council with regard to contracting an outside contractor to appraise the property and identify and prioritize future needs. This study is all the more timely in light of the decrease in diocesan membership and concurrent decrease in income.

B. Assessment Reduction. Gregory Malovance, lay delegate from Holy Resurrection Church, Palatine, IL, opened a discussion on assessments. He noted that the Diocese has accumulated money in an escrow account, with no indication of where that money needs to go, and that the OCA assessment for 2014 has been decreased. In light of this, he motioned that the per capita diocesan assessment for 2014 be reduced by \$15.00 per adult member. After discussion, he amended the motion to reduce the assessment by \$13.00 (to eliminate the OCA escrow), seconded by Father Kuchta. After considerable discussion, the motion was put to a vote, with 43 votes against, 28 in favor, and five abstentions.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT AND INSTALLATION.

There being no further business, the Assembly was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. upon motion by Father David Lis, seconded by Mary Jane Lucak, after which the installation of elected and returning Council members and Auditors was held.

*Respectfully submitted by the Secretariat,
Archpriest John Matusiak, Ann Marie Mecera, and Philip Sokolov*

*APPROVED
+ Bishop Alexander*