

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Lansing, Illinois • 7 October 2013

I. OPENING.

The meeting opened with the singing of the Lord's Prayer at 5:22 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present were His Grace, Bishop Alexander; Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary; Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer; Diocesan Council members Archpriest Alexander Kuchta, Priest Nicholas Finley, Sam D'Fantis, Dennis Garlick, Michael Herzak, Kitty Mabus, Ann Marie Mecera; Bishop's Council members Archpriests Ted Bobosh, Andrew Clements, Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, Paul Wesche, and Andrew Yavornitzky; and Philip Sokolov, Diocesan Chancery.

III. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS.

The minutes were accepted as presented upon motion by Dennis Garlick, seconded by Sam D'Fantis.

IV. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

- A. Father Zdinak announced that Father Mueller will chair the Nominations Committee. Members include Protodeacon Robert Northrup, Ruth Bedie, and Susan Lentz.
- B. The Assembly Secretariat includes Father Matusiak, Mr. Sokolov, and Mrs. Mecera.
- C. The deacons will oversee credentials.
- D. Instead of naming clergy and lay Assembly chairs, it was agreed that Father Zdinak will chair the sessions.
- E. Father Zdinak announced that Bishop Alexander will vest at 7:00 a.m. at the Divine Liturgy on Tuesday, 8 October. He also recognized the excellent cooperation received from His Grace, Bishop Longin and the rector and faithful of Saint Archangel Michael Church in providing the venue for the Assembly.
- F. In reviewing possible candidates for Diocesan Council elections, Father Zdinak noted that while Archpriests Christopher Wojcik and Stephen Hrycyniak and Michael Dorosh could run for second terms, they are ineligible due to the fact that they will not be attending the Assembly. Judy Wienclaw is eligible for reelection to another term as auditor.
- G. He noted that the parish report forms, modeled after those used in the Diocese of the West, were well received. The numbers reported by the parishes thereon serve as the 2014 diocesan census.
- H. He also offered an update on Saint John Monastery, Hiram, OH, which is in a state of transition.
- I. With regard to a resolution presented by Saint John Church, Warren, OH, calling for the election of Archpriest Paul Gassios as Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest, it was noted that doing so stands in conflict with the Statute, which calls for the convocation of a Special Assembly for said elections. Bishop Alexander offered his insights on the matter while emphasizing that no set, strict time-line had been established by the Diocese or the Holy Synod of Bishops.

V. TREASURER'S REPORT.

- A. Mr. Koncel presented the proposed 2014 budget and made a number of comments on specific items.
 1. Insurance deductible has been revised, resulting in savings. In the process of giving the diocesan car to His Grace, Bishop Matthias, we no longer need to pay that deductible.
 2. In response to a question concerning the "escrow" being collected on the assessment, it was noted that it had not been placed in a dedicated account. It was felt that it should be.
 3. After considerable discussion on increased funding for the Diaconal Vocations Program headed by Priest Elijah Mueller [and a related discussion on psychological testing of Program participants contemplating ordination], upon motion by Mr. Garlick, seconded by Father Finley, Council members voted unanimously to budget \$18,000.00 for the Program in 2014, reflecting a \$12,000.00 stipend for Father Elijah Mueller and \$6,000.00 for additional expenses.
- B. Mr. Koncel cautioned that, despite a \$43,000.00 surplus, expenses will increase when a new bishop is elected and installed.
- C. Upon motion by Ms. Mabus, seconded by Mrs. Mecera, Council members voted unanimously to present the proposed 2014 budget, as amended, to Assembly delegates.

VI. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m. with the singing of "It Is Truly Meet."

*Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary, with Philip Sokolov and Mrs. Ann Marie Mecera*

*APPROVED
+ Bishop Alexander*