

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Chicago, Illinois • 10 January 2014

I. OPENING.

The meeting opened with the singing of the Theophany Troparion led by His Grace, Bishop Alexander, at 10:10 a.m.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present were Bishop Alexander; Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary; Mr. Robert Koncel, Treasurer; Diocesan Council members Archpriests Alexander Garklavs and Basil Stoyka; Priests Nicholas Finley and Elijah Mueller; Mr. Samuel D'Fantis, Mr. Barry Gluntz, Mr. Michael Herzak, Jr., and Ms. Kitty Mabus; Bishop's Council members Archpriests Theodore Bobosh, Andrew Clements, Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, and Andrew Yavornitzky; and Mr. Philip Sokolov, Diocesan Chancery. Absent from the meeting were Archpriests Alexander Kuchta and Paul Wesche; Priest Nathan Kroll; Mr. Dennis Garlick; and Ms. Ann Marie Mecera.

The day's Epistle and Gospel readings were read by Mr. Gluntz and Father Garklavs, respectively, after which Bishop Alexander offered insights.

The minutes of the last Diocesan Council meeting and 2013 Diocesan Assembly were accepted as presented.

III. BISHOP ALEXANDER'S REPORT.

A. Bishop Alexander shared his feelings and background concerning a successor to Bishop Matthias and reported on the Holy Synod's feeling in the matter.

B. He reported on a number of parish visits as Locum Tenens.

C. He further reported on the "splendid session" held in the Kansas City area at which he met the future instructors for the area's late vocations program, supervised by Priest Elijah Mueller. He also visited Saint Thomas Church, Springfield, MO, where he celebrated an ordination.

IV. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

A. Father Zdinak apologized on behalf of the Chancery for delays in some check processing. Deposits will be made on a weekly basis.

B. After brief discussion, it was decided that the 2014 Diocesan Assembly will be held in Cleveland during the first week of October.

C. The Clergy Convocation will be held at the Carmelite Center, Darien, IL May 19-21, 2014.

D. The Council continued discussions in executive session.

V. ADDITIONS TO DEANERY REPORTS.

A. **Chicago Deanery.** Winter Youth Camp February will be held 15-17 February. Archpriest Peter Bodnar, Merrillville, IN, will be retiring in June. Holy Apostles Mission, Bloomington-Normal, IL, was granted parish status 9 January 2014.

B. **Cleveland Deanery.** Saint Innocent Church, Olmstead Falls, OH, celebrated its 35th Anniversary. Holy Trinity Church, Parma, OH, celebrated its 50th Anniversary, while Saints Peter and Paul Church, Lorain, OH, celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

C. **Indianapolis Deanery.** Archpriest Joseph Gibson will be retiring this year; his health continues to decline.

D. **Kansas City Deanery.** Deacon Joel Wilson was ordained to the priesthood in December 2013 and was appointed priest-in-charge of the Misison in Rolla, MO. Archpriest Tom Succarotte's health continues to deteriorate. The Deanery Late Vocations Program will be starting its 16-week course soon with 15 students enrolled.

E. **Michigan Deanery.** It is hoped that Detroit's Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral will soon have an assigned priest. Priest Angelo Pepps has been given a blessing to initiate, on the part of the parish in Albion, MI, an outreach ministry aimed at establishing a community in Kalamazoo/Portage.

F. **Minneapolis Deanery.** Christ the Savior Mission, Anoka, MN, has closed, while its priest-in-charge, Priest Gregory Grivna, has petitioned to retire. Holy Cross Mission, Chisago City, WI, also may be closing as membership has dwindled to a dozen souls. Holy Myrrhbearers Mission, St. Cloud, MN, almost closed. A Russian mission community in St. Paul, MN, is being pursued. The group purchased an unused Serbian Church, but has no assigned priest. Priest Nicholas Hubbard has returned to the Deanery and is preparing to enter the military chaplaincy.

VI. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT.

In addition to the written report of Father Kuchta, who was absent, it was noted that the "Fellowship of Orthodox Stewards" is being revived with a new name. A three-week drive to subscribe 300 members will begin shortly.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. Mr. Koncel reported that we collected about \$8,000.00 less than the sum for which we budgeted, which for the most part is not bad compared to past years.

B. With regard to program income for missions, the amount essentially reflects stock profits.

C. In general, our financial situation is healthy, with a net income of \$64,000.00.

D. It was noted that the procedure for income and disbursements with regard to the seminarian scholarships needs to be clarified.

E. The Finance Committee motioned, seconded by Mr. D'Fantis, that Father Matusiak receive \$250.00 per month for

his work with the web site and communications, which he has done for many years gratis. The stipend will be retroactive to 1 January 2014. Motion passed unanimously.

- F. Once the profit/loss statement for 2013 is completed, it will be sent out with the 2014 budget.

VIII. MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT.

- A. Since standard Diocesan Assembly reports for parishes and missions are now in place, missions will no longer need to submit additional reports. Instead of the stipends distributed in the past, missions will be encouraged to apply for Parish Development grants, due in August 2014. Grants will begin in the fall. A key concern is providing funding to Detroit's Saints Peter and Paul Cathedral for a pastoral salary.
- B. Funding also should be made available for the Chancellor to accompany deans in visiting prospective mission sites for an initial feasibility review.
- C. Bishop Alexander stated that he looks forward to a well organized approach to establishing missions, in line with what is happening in the Dioceses of the South and West, despite radical differences in demographics.

IX. FACILITY REVIEW.

- A. Father Zdinak reported that a committee has been formed, consisting of himself; Mr. Garlick, Chair; Priest John Baker, Property Manager; Mr. D'Fantis; and Mr. Barry Koncel, a member of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Burr Ridge, who has expertise in construction.
- B. The first thing on the committee's agenda is completing a detailed analysis of the property to discern what needs to be addressed immediately and what can wait.
- C. The new committee will need to work closely with the Finance Committee, especially with regard to the cost of any necessary structural work. The relationship with Christ the Savior parish also needs to be reviewed, as the parish enjoys the use of the facilities without charge.

X. LATE VOCATIONS.

It was noted that local deanery faculties, with educated clergy and lay persons qualified to teach, need to be developed. It was further emphasized that the program is not, first and foremost, limited to those pursuing ordination to the diaconate. Having met with great success in the Chicago Deanery, the present need is to how to initiate the program in all deaneries. A variety of other matters concerning training of instructors, syllabi, etc. were also reviewed.

XI. NEXT MEETING, ADJOURNMENT.

- A. The next meeting will be held 10-11 June, 2014 in Chicago.
- B. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary, with Philip Sokolov*