

## **60TH ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST**

**Archangel Michael Woodside Event Center, Broadview Heights, Ohio • 11-13 October 2021**

### **I. PLENARY SESSION I: Monday, October 11, 2021.**

The Assembly opened with a Molieben at 6:30pm. Following dinner, His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, called the Assembly to order and offered his report to the Assembly. His Eminence spoke on the life of the diocese in relation to the pandemic, clergy and lay engagement committees, and other business. His Eminence also announced his intention to retire from active ministry upon his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. Those gathered expressed their love for His Eminence and offered toasts to him.

### **II. PLENARY SESSION II: Tuesday, October 12, 2021.**

- A. Convened: 10:23am, with the singing of “The Grace of the Holy Spirit”.
- B. Spiritual Offering I: Archpriest Stephan Meholick, Rector of Saint Nicholas Church in San Anselmo, California delivered part 1 of his spiritual reflection on this year’s theme, “The Sanctification of Time.”
- C. Spiritual Offering Q&A
- D. Call to Order: 11:57am.
- E. Credentials Report: One Archbishop, 48 clergy delegates, 36 lay delegates, and 6 observers, for a total of 90 participants.
- F. Election of Presidium: Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Chancellor, moved, on behalf of the Diocesan Council, that the following appointments be made. There were no objections. Presidium: His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, and Archpriest Paul Jannakos. Secretariat: Mary Ann Bobulsky, Ellyn Gillette, and Archpriest Herman Kincaid. Nominating Committee: Archpriest Joel Weir and Kathy Jacob. Resolutions Committee: Simeon Morbey and Priest Jacob Van Sickle. Tellers: Deacons, chaired by the senior Deacon; the Deacons are also responsible for the Credentials.
- G. Secretary’s Report: Archpriest Herman Kincaid introduced a new diocesan policy to incentivize and simplify parish reporting. All parishes will be sent out a packet containing a checklist with due dates and copies of all forms requested by the Diocese. If a parish submits their requested reports by the established deadlines, the registration fees for future assembly delegates will be waived for one year.
- H. Chancellor’s Report: Written report stands as submitted. Fr. Paul introduced newly assigned clergy within the diocese to the Assembly. Fr. Paul also spoke on the progress of both the clergy and lay development initiatives.
- I. Adjourned for lunch at 12:07pm.

### **III. PLENARY SESSION III.**

- A. Convened: 1:37pm, with the singing of “O Heavenly King”.
- B. Credentials Report: 1 Archbishop, 48 clergy delegates, 38 lay delegates, and 6 observers, for a total of 92 participants.
- C. Spiritual Offering II: Archpriest Stephan Meholick delivered part 2 of his spiritual reflection on this year’s theme, “The Sanctification of Time.”
- D. Spiritual Offering Q&A
- E. Report Minneapolis Deanery: Archpriest Paul Wesche, Minneapolis Dean, provided a geographical description of North Dakota and the parishes within the state reporting that this area is ripe for growth in Orthodox Christians.

- F. Report Michigan Deanery: Archpriest Dusan Koprivica, Michigan Dean, reported that his deanery continued to support charitable ministries despite COVID 19.
- G. Report Kansas City Deanery: Archpriest Timothy Sawchak, Kansas City Dean, recognized the priests in his Deanery, saying that most parishes didn't exist in 1983. He also asked that everyone keep Father Moses in their prayers. Fr. Sawchak reminded the Assembly that the Holy Resurrection Monastery sells beeswax candles to support their daily operation. Fr. Joel Wilson' parish in Saint James, Missouri, added almost 30 members in the last year and is looking to build a church. The parish in Lawrence, Kansas, is looking to expand existing facilities due to growth. There are five retired clergy within the deanery staying active. Joy of All Who Sorrow parish in Joplin, Missouri, purchased a new church and is seeing tremendous growth.
- H. Break: 3:22pm. Reconvene: 3:40pm.
- I. Metropolitan Council Representatives' Report: The report stands as submitted. Robert Graban dispelled the rumor that the Pension Plan is going broke. Participation in the Pension Plan was mandated by the All-American Council. Across the OCA, participation is at 85%. In the Diocese of the Midwest, participation is at 98%.
- J. Missions Director Report: The report stands as submitted. Joe Kormos asked the Assembly to consider helping the Mission Committee by praying for missions, making donations, and sharing resources (i.e., people and liturgical).
- K. OCMC: Archpriest Christopher Rowe reported that missionaries are located in 32 countries and that for \$600 per year, you can support a mission priest. This helps supplement his income from his secular job. His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, supports the giving of \$600 per parish and encouraged all parishes to consider this donation.
- L. Catechetical & Diaconal Vocations Director Report: The report stands as submitted. Archpriest Elijah Mueller reminded everyone that they are always looking for more students. The educational focus is on the Liturgy, the Bible, and the Church Fathers.
- M. Resolutions Committee Report & Discussion: No resolutions received.
- N. Resolutions Disposition: No resolutions received.
- O. Spiritual Offering III: Archpriest Stephan Meholick concluded his spiritual reflection on this year's theme, "The Sanctification of Time." His focus was on "Taking it to the streets."
- P. Spiritual Offering Q&A
- Q. Announcement: On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Archpriest Joel Weir reminded the Assembly that they are accepting nominations for the following positions: 2 Clergy Delegates, 2 Lay Delegates, and 1 Auditor. He reported that the nominations will close after breakfast tomorrow, October 13, 2021.
- R. Adjourned: 5:01pm with the singing of "It is truly meet" and "Many years" to Fr. Stephan.

#### **IV. PLENARY SESSION IV: Wednesday, October 13, 2021.**

- A. Convened: 9:34am, with singing of "O Heavenly King".
- B. Credentials Report: 1 Archbishop, 46 clergy delegates, 38 lay delegates, and 5 observers, for a total of 89 participants.
- C. FOCUS Presentation: FOCUS volunteers, led by Matushka Vera Proctor, described FOCUS and provided examples of how the organization provides basic needs assistance. They are governed by two motivating factors: 1) administering to the poor who are economically and spiritually deprived, and 2) being obedient to Jesus Christ. FOCUS provides an opportunity to serve through a shared ministry. They are open to volunteers,

- donations, and gifts-in-kind. His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, told the FOCUS leaders to speak with Fr. Jonathan Lincoln concerning future projects.
- D. Nominating Committee Report: Archpriest Joel Weir reported the current nominations as follows: Clergy Delegates: Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Archpriest Zachariah Trent. Lay Delegates: James Emrick, Dr. Elizabeth LeMaster, and Dr. Angela Zekios. Auditor: Judi Wienclaw. MOTION to close nominations by Fr. Nicholas Finley, seconded by Archpriest Elijah Mueller. PASSED.
  - E. Report Indianapolis Deanery: Archpriest Joel Weir, Indianapolis Dean, reported that Priest Joshua Coolman has been assigned to Lima, Ohio. There are two outreaches with potential: one in Muncie, Indiana and a second one in South Bend, Indiana.
  - F. Report Cleveland Deanery: Archpriest Andrew Clements, Cleveland Dean, thanked Archpriest John Memorich and the Woodside Center staff for hosting the Assembly this year. He also expressed his gratitude to Archpriest John Zdinak and his wife, Cindy, for their years of service to the church. Fr. Andrew reported that several deanery meetings were held via Zoom, but the past two were in person. Fr. Jan Cizmar was assigned to St. Theodosius Cathedral in Cleveland, Ohio. Fr. Peter Simko was assigned to St. Innocent's in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. Fr. Peter Pawlack fell asleep in the Lord. Memory eternal! 70 campers attended St. Vladimir's Camp in two sessions. The camp also has a new swimming pool. A gift was given in memory of Fr. Stacey to his family in Chesterton, Indiana.
  - G. Report Chicago Deanery: Fr. Joseph Kopka reported on behalf of Fr. Alexander Kuchta, Dean. In addition to Fr. Alexander's written report, Fr. Joseph mentioned that parish life is slowly getting back to normal. A new mission has been planted in Aurora, Illinois. Holy Trinity Cathedral in Chicago is celebrating its 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2022. Holy Resurrection in Palatine, Illinois, just celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
  - H. Strategic Plan: Archpriest Paul Jannakos shared output from the 2021 Zoom retreat, led by Bill Marianes, which resulted in a documented strategic plan for the Diocese. Two subsequent initiatives (i.e., Wildly Important Goals) were identified as follows: 1) Ongoing Clergy Formation and Development; 2) Laity Engagement. Fr. Jacob Van Sickle provided an update on Clergy Development, highlighting a mentoring plan and potential retreats across the Diocese. Carrie Sabourin reported on the progress of the Laity Engagement team, which is working on strengthening the connection between the laity and their respective parish.
  - I. Elections: Each candidate offered the Assembly a brief oral biography. Ballots were distributed and voting commenced.
  - J. FOCA Presentation: Fr. Nicholas Wyslutzky, St. Nicholas Church, Mogadore, Ohio, is the spiritual advisor for FOCA, formerly FROC. His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, will be a speaker at this year's conference. FOCA wants to support the National Church and the Diocese in focusing on our youth. Everyone is a member of FOCA, unlike in the past when you had to officially join.
  - K. Treasurer's Report: Rob Koncel, Treasurer, was unable to attend, so Robert Graban, a member of the Finance Committee, reported that the report stands as submitted.
  - L. Audit Report: Report received by the Assembly. Judi Wienclaw reported that this was a 2-year audit due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.
  - M. 2022 Budget Presentation: Robert Graban reported that the proposed budget for 2022 is balanced and that the Christ the Savior church loan has been retired, which reduced expenses for 2022. It was noted that the assessment for the All-American Council is

included in the proposed budget. MOTION to adopt the 2022 budget by Judi Wienclaw, seconded by Fr. Nicholas Finley. ADOPTED. His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, announced that all parishes who paid their full assessment in 2021 will receive a check from the Diocese in the amount of one month's worth of the assessment, and are asked to use this money to support the diocesan programs.

- N. Clergy Wives Presentation: There was a video presentation that emphasized the following themes: Connect, Encourage, and Support to aid with the stress of the ministry. Fr. Gregory Ealy will host part II of the retreat, which will be held via ZOOM on October 30, 2021.
- O. Unfinished Business: None.
- P. New Business: None.
- Q. Announcement: His Eminence, Archbishop PAUL, announced that the Diocese will be conducting a survey to gather feedback regarding this year's Assembly and suggestions for a theme for next year. His Eminence also asked for feedback regarding the location of future Assembly Meetings and requested 100% response to the survey.
- R. Election Results: Clergy – Fr. Andrew Bartek & Fr. Zachariah Trent; Lay – Dr. Elizabeth LeMaster & Dr. Angela Zekios, James Emrick, alternate; Auditor – Judi Wienclaw.
- S. Adjournment & Installation: There being no further business, Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutsky moved for adjournment, and the Assembly unanimously adjourned at 11:21am. Archbishop PAUL presided over the "Service of Installation" following adjournment for those appointed and elected to diocesan offices.

*Respectfully submitted by the Secretariat,  
Ellyn Gillette & Mary Ann Bobulsky  
Edited by Archpriest Herman Kincaid, Diocesan Secretary*