

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE
MIDWEST
01 DECEMBER 2009
BURBANK, ILLINOIS
(AT ARCHANGEL MICHAEL CHURCH)

1. OPENING

The regular meeting of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of the Midwest was opened with prayer by His Eminence, Archbishop Job of the Chicago and the Midwest at 10:08 A.M.

A. ROLL CALL

1. **Members present in addition to Archbishop Job:** The V. Rev. John Adamcio, The V. Rev. Andrew Clements, Mr. Sam D'Fantis, Mr. Michael Dorosh, the Rev. Mark Hodges (alternate), the Rev. Stephen Hrycyniak, Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak, Ms. Kitty Mabus (alternate), V. Rev. Michael Mastko, Mr. Mark Stokoe, the Rev. Christopher Wojcik, and the V. Rev. John Zdinak, chancellor.
2. **Deans Present:** The Rev. Joseph Gibson, the V. Rev. Timothy Sawchak, the V. Rev. John Steffaro, the V. Rev. Paul Wesche, and the V. Rev. Andrew Yavornitzky.
3. **Others Present:** Mr. Joseph Kormos, Protodeacon Joseph Matusiak
4. **Not Present:** Archpriests Thomas Mueller and John Matusiak were unable to be present due to previously scheduled commitment.

B. SCRIPTURE READINGS. The daily readings Timothy 1:8-14; and Luke 19:45-48 were read by Mr. Michael Dorosh and Father John Steffaro respectively.

II ARCHBISHOPS REPORT.

Archbishop Job welcomed all the new members to the council. Since the Diocesan Assembly, the last two months have been very busy. He has visited St. Tikhons, met with Metropolitan Herman, ordained two deacons, and celebrated the 100th anniversary of St. Michael's Parish in Burbank.

- A. Met with the lesser synod in Milwaukee where procedures for Episcopal elections were discussed. Their recommendations will be submitted to the full synod for approval.
- B. Served a Panahida for V. Rev. Steven Karafa
- C. Met with the supply priest at Sts. Peter and Paul in Detroit also with the parishioners.
- D. Talked with Rev. Lawrence Schaffer of the Anglican Church. Things are at a stand still with the Anglican group in Merrillville, Indiana.
- E. Has met or will be meeting with all the Deaneries in the Diocese.
- F. The next AAC will be in Seattle November, 2011.
- G. Attended the Chicago deanery fund raiser for Diocesan Seminarians.

- H. The Diaconal Vocations program is in a state a flux and will be restructured by the central administration with the appointment of Archdeacon Kirill Sokolov.
- I. Youth Activities – we are tracking youth and young adults.
- J. Regarding the Diocesan web site – people are not aware of our web site and clergy and lay leaders are not providing content and material to Protodeacon Matusiak.
- K. Dormition of the Mother of God Monastery has decided that they want to leave the Romanian Episcopate and come into the Diocese of the Midwest. They are waiting for an answer.
- L. Assessments – St. Andrews, Maple Heights has asked that the \$60,000.00 that they are in arrears be forgiven. The Archbishop wrote them stating that every parish has some type of difficulty, however it is their responsibility. The Archbishop then received a call from the President of the Church Council. The Archbishop suggested using the Parish Facilitator to work on stewardship within the parish. Sts. Peter and Paul in Detroit, the parishioners are ashamed and want to rectify their deficit and are going to strive to be current.
- M. The Archbishop spoke about the various legal actions in which the OCA is presently involved.

III. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT

Father John Zdniak highlighted the following in his report.

- A. Clergy Compensation –A letter is being sent to all parishes outlining clergy compensation. The letter states that the Priests are employed by the Diocese but paid by the parish. Parishes are not to reduce the compensation package of the Parish priest to make up a parish budget deficit. Also, any reduction of priest's benefits must be approved by the Diocesan Hierarchy.
- B. A priest under the omophor of the Metropolitan who resides in the territory of our diocese, and who was formerly of the Romanian Episcopate is suing the Romanian Episcopate and Archbishop Nathaniel. The Metropolitan and The Archbishop were subpoenaed to appear for deposition testimony. We have retained attorney Jim Geoly to represent and protect the Diocese.

IV. DEANERY REPORTS.

- A. **Chicago Deanery.** Father Thomas was not present. In addition to the written report the Archbishop reported that they are planning a youth rally.
- B. **Cleveland Deanery.** In addition to his written report Father Steffaro reported that Father Basil Stoyka has had two knee replacements. The Canton Church is in good shape. The Warren Church is ready to ordain a Deacon.
- C. **Columbus Deanery.** . In addition to his written report Father Gibson reported that Father Rentel is recovering from major surgery. The Archbishop will be meeting with the Columbus Deanery on December 11, 2009.
- D. **Michigan Deanery.** . In addition to his written report Sts. Peter and Paul, Detroit, Michigan are surviving.

- E. **Minneapolis Deanery.** In addition to his written report Father Wesche reported that St. Nicholas in Chisolm has voted to close. FOCUS North America is launching a center in the Twin Cities. Fr. McMeaken is ill. MOTION: Liquidate the Chisolm property and put assets in parish and mission development. This motion was tabled and an e-vote will be taken at a later date.
- F. **Kansas City Deanery.** . In addition to his written report Father Sawchak reported that St. Sophia, a parish of the Bulgarian Archdiocese wants to transfer to the Diocese of the Midwest. The Archbishop will be with half the deanery on December 9, 2009. Joe Kormos will be doing a workshop with St. Sophia at the St. James Mission. The Archbishop will meet with Fr. Succarotte and talk about his future.

V. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT.

Mark Stokoe reported that the Metropolitan is going to Russia in December. The Metropolitan would also like to move to Washington D.C. The cathedral does have a house that in can rent, however it would take thousands of dollars to renovate it. Mark also spoke about the possibility of moving the Central Chancery from Syosset, New York to Washington D.C.. He talked about the ongoing investigation at St. Tikhon's Seminary. Archdeacon Alexi Klimechev was being interviewed today (12/1). Father Andrew Jarmus, OCA Director of Communications and Ministries will be leaving at the end of the year. A communications contact group has been invited to Syosset to discuss the future communication needs of the OCA.

VI. PARISH HEALTH FACILITATOR'S REPORT.

Joe Kormos opened a discussion of the Parish Health Ministry Program. He spoke about the Webinars. Someone suggested perhaps they could be offered in the evenings. Joe talked about pamphlets that can be gotten from the web site and print them with your church information. Joe touched on Clergy Development, Parish workshops. A Parish Ministries Conference is scheduled for Cleveland, Ohio June 27-30. This is a joint project of the OCA's Department of Music, Education and Youth and the Parish Health Ministry of the Diocese. He also spoke about a possible summit in the western part of the Diocese. Mission grants will be discussed at the February, 2010 meeting.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Robert Koncel was not able to be at the meeting; however Fr. Zdinak reported that our cash flow is in good shape. Rob is still working with Polly Walker regarding Quick Books.

VIII. MINUTES After lunch, Archpriest Michael Matsko moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting, seconded by Sam D'Fantis

IX. EPISCOPAL CANDIDATE SELECTIONS PROCESS

A discussion began regarding criteria for the selection of a Bishop. It was suggested that all the deaneries get to see the candidates before selection. A committee was established to set up guidelines in our process of selection. Chairing the committee will be Mr. Michael Dorosh, members are Mr. Mark Stoke, Rev. Stephen Hrycyniak, V. Rev John Zdinak, Mr. Sam D'Fantis, Rev. Christopher Wojcik and Rev. Mark Hodges. They will report back to the council by February 1, 2010.

X. MEETINGS

Father Chrisopher Wojcik moved, seconded by Mr. Mark Stokoe that the next Diocesan Assembly be held in Minneapolis, sponsored by the Deanery. The dates are October 4, 5 and 6, 2010.

The next Diocesan Council meeting will be held June 8/9, 2010 at the Chancery Officese of the Diocese in Chicago. The meeting will begin promptly at 10:00am of June 8 and will conclude at 4:00pm on June 9.

Before adjourning, V. Rev Father Andrew Yavornitzky presented a retirement project in the Archbishop's honor. Faithful from the diocese would travel to Project Mexico to build 12 or more homes for the poor in the name of Archbishop Job.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business , the meeting was adjourned with the singing of the Hymn to the Theotokos at 2:47pm upon motion by Ms. Kitty Mabus, seconded by Mr. Michael Dorosh.

Respectfully Submitted January 6, 2010

Mrs. Mary Jane Lucak