

56TH ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Saint Michael Woodside Center, Broadview Heights, Ohio • Thursday, 12 October 2017

I. OPENING

The Assembly opened with the Invocation of the Holy Spirit and prayer at 10:00 a.m., after which His Grace, Bishop Paul, called the Assembly to order.

II. CREDENTIALS.

One Bishop, 49 clergy delegates, 40 lay delegates, and one observer, for a total of 91 participants.

III. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, APPOINTMENTS.

Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor moved, on behalf of the Diocesan Council, that the following appointments be made:

- Credentials: Archpriest John Memorich and the parish staff.
- Presidium: Bishop Paul and Father Zdinak.
- Secretariat: Ellyn Gillette, Robert Graban and Philip Sokolov.
- Nominating Committee: Archpriest Andrew Clements, Priest Joel Weir, Marge Oliver
- Resolutions Committee [no resolutions submitted]” Archpriest Timothy Sawchak.
- Tellers: Deacons, chaired by the senior Deacon.

IV. ADDRESS OF BISHOP PAUL.

Bishop Paul delivered his address as posted, highlighting his desire to develop various ministries in the Diocese and the challenges encountered in funding said ministries.

In response to enquiries about the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA, Bishop Paul expressed discouragement with regard to its progress. Many jurisdictions want to remain tied to their respective Mother Churches abroad and balk at any plan for unity. We need to keep striving for unity and for doing good works together at the episcopal and grass roots levels.

Concerning clergy shortages, Bishop Paul responded that many of our clergy are in their late 60s and are approaching retirement age. He stated that seminary study is expected for all ordination candidates, and that only in rare cases, if approved by the Holy Synod of Bishops, may an exception be honored.

V. STEWARDSHIP PRESENTATION.

David Batrich offered a presentation on stewardship in which he focused on how our gifts of time, talents and treasures become genuinely transformational. He explained that stewardship has been central since apostolic times and is found in the Old Testament. It involves commitment and sacrifice between one and God as a sign of membership in the Body of Christ, the Church. Stewardship is necessary for personal salvation as well as parish growth.

The Assembly was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 1:40 p.m. with one Bishop, 48 clergy delegates, 39 lay delegates, and one observer, for a total of 89 participants.

VI. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.

Simeon Morbey presented a written report. In response, several delegates raised the possibility of penalizing parishes that have not submitted their financial information.

VII. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

Father Zdinak addressed the following issues.

- Relationship with Chicago's Christ the Savior Parish.** The goal is for the parish to acquire the property. Each year, the parish takes over more of the maintenance and repair costs and activities of the property.
- 2018 Diocesan Assembly.** It was stated that the 2018 Diocesan Assembly would be convened in Chicago or Cleveland rather than in conjunction with the 19th All-American Council in Saint Louis in July 2018. The Assembly will follow the usual one-day format and will deal with two major issues – the revision of the Diocesan By-Laws and the Stewardship Proposal.

It was noted that the Diocese will be assessed for the 19th All-American Council. Another invoice is expected, for which the Diocese will invoice each parish accordingly.

VII. DEANERY REPORTS.

There were no additions to the reports submitted by the Michigan, Chicago, Kansas City and Indianapolis Deaneries. Father Clements, Dean of the Cleveland Deanery, added to his report that three parishes – Saint John the Baptist, Campbell, OH; Saint Nicholas, Mogadore, OH; and Saints Peter and Paul, Lakewood, OH – were celebrating their 100th Anniversaries.

Archpriest Paul Wesche, Dean of the Minneapolis Deanery, added that Holy Trinity Church, Saint Paul, MN had celebrated its 100th Anniversary.

VIII. MISSIONS REPORT.

The report stands as submitted. Deaneries were asked to assist in mission work.

IX. CATECHETICAL AND DIACONAL VOCATIONS.

Archpriest Elijah Mueller reported on the Fourth Annual Summer Conference.

X. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT.

The report stands as submitted.

XI. BY-LAWS TASK FORCE REPORT.

Archpriest Alexander Kuchta delivered the report on behalf of Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, who was unable to be present.

Task Force members met in a series of video conferences. They had hoped to present updated proposed By-Laws at this Assembly, but additional work is necessary to bring them into compliance with the 2015 revision of the OCA Statute. It is the Task Force's hope to post the draft on the diocesan web site for comments and revisions so that the final draft can be reviewed and ratified as quickly as possible.

XII. YOUTH MINISTRY.

Priest Benjamin Tucci spoke about the upcoming youth retreat that will be held in four locations around the Diocese. Bishop Paul will address the youth, who will be linked by video. He strongly encouraged participation among sixth through twelfth graders.

He also offered information about the youth program that will be held during the 19th All-American Council and encouraged participation.

XIII. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Robert Koncel noted that the report stands as submitted. Upon motion by Dennis Garlick, seconded by Archpriest Paul Jannakos, the report was accepted as submitted.

XIV. AUDITORS' REPORT.

The written report stands as submitted. Upon motion by Michael Herzak, second by Priest Nicholas Finley, the report was accepted as submitted.

Mr. Koncel noted that he would type up the Document Retention Policy on official letterhead.

XV. 2018 BUDGET.

Minor adjustments reflecting increased health care costs and new initiatives for which Bishop Paul had requested funding were noted. Upon motion by Sam Jacob, seconded by Priest Herman Kincaid, the budget was accepted as adjusted.

XVI. ELECTION RESULTS.

Father Kincaid and Protodeacon George Potym were elected as clergy Diocesan Council members. Father Elijah Mueller will serve as alternate.

Carrie Sabourin was elected as a lay Diocesan Council member. Gregory Malovance will serve as alternate.

Judi Wienclaw was elected Auditor.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, and upon motion by Archpriest Nicholas Wyslutsky, seconded by Father Finley, the Assembly adjourned at 3:29 p.m. with the singing of the Hymn to the Mother of God.

Respectfully submitted by the Secretariat,

Ellyn Gillette

Robert Graban

Philip Sokolov

Edited by Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary