

MEETING OF THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF THE DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

Lansing, Illinois • 10 October 2016

I. OPENING

The meeting, convened at Bohemian Joe's Restaurant, opened with the singing of "O Heavenly King," led by His Grace, Bishop Paul, at 5:19 p.m.

II. ATTENDANCE.

Present were Bishop Paul; Archpriest John Zdinak, Chancellor; Robert Koncel, Treasurer; Archpriest John Matusiak, Secretary; Archpriests John Adamcio, James Dank, Alexander Garklavs, Alexander Kuchta, and Elijah Mueller; Priest Nicholas Finley; Dennis Garlick, Barry Gluntz, Robert Graban, Michael Herzak Jr., and Daria Petrykowski; Bishop's Council members Archpriests Andrew Clements, Thomas Mueller, Timothy Sawchak, and Paul Wesche; and Philip Sokolov, Bishop's Secretary.

III. SCRIPTURE READINGS.

Mrs. Petrykowski read the day's selection from the Epistles – Ephesians 1:22–2:3 – while Father Elijah Mueller read the day's Gospel reading – Luke 7:36–50.

IV. REPORT OF BISHOP PAUL.

Bishop Paul stated that he would be reading his report, in which he "maps out" the direction in which he hopes to guide the Diocese, at the Diocesan Assembly's opening plenary session. He emphasized the centrality of personal transformation, rather than merely focusing on structural changes.

V. CHANCELLOR'S REPORT.

A. Assembly Appointments. Father Zdinak proposed that Fathers Adamcio and Matusiak and Mr. Sokolov serve as the Assembly's Secretariat; that Father Clements, Mr. Gluntz and Vicki Giedinghagen serves as the Nominating Committee; and that all deacons serve as tellers. Inasmuch as no resolutions had been presented, a Resolutions Committee will not be appointed.

B. Assembly Agenda. He noted that the Assembly agenda is indeed a full one, focusing specifically on the proposed Revised Parish By-Laws and detailed presentations on the screening of youth workers and financial stewardship within the context of the transition from the "head tax" assessment method.

C. Clarification on elections. With regard to elections, he noted that if a candidate accepts a nomination for a position, he or she may not run for another position should he or she not win election to the first position.

D. Diocesan Accountant. He reported that Polly Walker, the Diocese's Accountant, was stepping down and that a search for her replacement is underway. Her replacement need not reside in the Chicago area. Polly is willing to assist her successor during the period of transition. Her many years of dedication were duly noted with gratitude.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT.

A. Retention Policy. Mr. Koncel moved, seconded by Father Dank, to continue maintaining records for seven years, in response to the Auditors' recommendation. This policy was unanimously reaffirmed by the Diocesan Council.

B. New Accounts. He further reported that the Auditors had recommended transferring about \$250,000.00 from the current money market accounts to new accounts with Morgan Stanley. The Diocesan Officers will be required to provide new signatures in order to complete this process.

C. Proposed 2017 Budget. He noted that the proposed 2017 budget includes a \$17,500.00 deficit, but that there are sufficient funds in escrow to cover this sum. Mr. Koncel further moved, seconded by Father Adamcio, to recommend that the 2017 budget be voted upon as presented by Assembly delegates. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.

Mr. Gluntz shared a wealth of background information with regard to impending the transition from the "head tax" assessment method to the proportionate giving model. He stated that the committee, headed by Simeon Morbey, would be ready to make a final proposal and presentation at the 2017 Diocesan Assembly and implementation in 2018. He explained that to date, only 75 percent of the diocese's parishes had submitted the data necessary for developing a final plan, and that attempts to gather all necessary data would be intensified. He further clarified that the definition of a parish's "gross income" includes all parish income, less that received through capital campaigns, donor restricted funds, one-time restricted donations, etc.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS.

Bishop Paul opened informal discussion with regard to expanding the ministry of the Diocesan Council's members. In the ensuing discussion, a variety of ideas were presented, specifically addressing ongoing needs with regard to religious education; youth and campus ministry; training programs for catechists, Church School teachers, parents, etc.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business and upon motion by Father Adamcio, seconded by Father Dank, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Archpriest John Matusiak, Diocesan Secretary*

APPROVED: Bishop Paul, 19 October 2016