

1969

Minutes of the Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania held on June 21, 1969 at St. Tikhon's Monastery, south Canaan, Pa.

THE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY OF THE DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND PENNSYLVANIA INCLUDING THE DEANERIES OF PHILADELPHIA, FRACKVILLE AND WILKES-BARRE WAS HELD ON JUNE 21, 1969, AT ST. TIKHON'S MONASTERY, SOUTH CANAAN.

An opening Moleben was served by Rev. Joseph Swaiko of St. Tikhon's Seminary. Immediately following the Moleben, the priests and lay delegates gathered in the Seminary building and the meeting was officially opened with the prayer "O Heavenly King" at 10:54 a.m.

There were twenty-four (24) clergy, fifteen (15) laymen, and two (2) laymen guests present.

Father Alexander Fedoronko, Phila., and Demetris Kolinchock, Edwardsville were elected as Vice-Presidents. Father Joseph Martin, McAdoo, and Russell Dugan Edwardsville were elected as Secretaries.

The Agenda was read and distributed by Father Joseph Swaiko. Father Andrew Slepecky made a motion to accept it and seconded by Father Adam Krell. All were in favor. It was suggested that "Robert's Rules of Orders" be used as a guideline.

The minutes of the last Assembly Meeting were read by Father Joseph Swaiko. Father Andrew Slepecky made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Father Gregory Stefchak. All were in favor.

His Grace, Bishop Kiprian gave his report which included the following matters: the deaths of Father Gambal and Father Senofsky and Matushka Polovoi. Parish changes in the diocese due to death or transfer; Lenten Services in the Frackville, Wilkes-Barre and Philadelphia Deaneries; also His Grace Bishop Theodosius was in attendance at two in the Frackville Deanery. Attendance was very good.

His Grace Bishop Kiprian mentioned that in the olden days priests did not serve in their own parishes when there was a special event at a neighboring parish, he was invited as a guest for the event and did not have Divine Liturgy in his own parish. The lay people would also attend the Divine Liturgy at which their priest was a guest. His Grace urged that we revert to this old tradition and asked the co-operation of the clergy and parishioners to co-operate in the future.

His Grace mentioned the forth-coming dedication of the Holy Trinity Church of Wilkes-Barre and the building of the new Holy Resurrection Cathedral. The last service in the present Cathedral will be on July 6 with the transfer to the temporary church while the new Cathedral is being built.

The report was accepted as given.

The Secretaries' report given by Father Joseph Swaiko asked that all members elected to the Diocesan Council should try to co-operate more by attending all the meetings. Four meetings were held during the year. Three others were cancelled.

Russell Dugan made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Father Joseph Martin.

Treasurers and Auditors Report:

Temporarily postponed because of the absence of the treasurer upon a motion by Father Adam Krell and seconded by Father John Rachko.

OLD BUSINESS:

STATISTICAL COMMISSION: Father Daniel Ressetar recommended that the commission be abandoned. The response to the latest questionnaire was not very good. (short form). Eighteen parishes out of thirty-five answered. Discussion followed concerning getting this pertinent information to the diocese.

After a very lengthy discussion Father Daniel Pavelchak made a motion to have an official representative or representatives to visit each and every parish for the purpose of obtaining the statistical information. It was seconded by Father Dimitri Oselinsky.

ON THE QUESTION: Discussion was held on the payment of expenses for the representatives, type of information required, and whether or not the parishes which submitted the previous reports should be visited by these representatives

The motion was then brought up for a vote and was defeated.

Father Alexander Fedoronko made a suggestion with the Bishop's consent that a committee be selected for the purpose of clarifying the questions on the revised short forms during the luncheon recess. The Bishop granted his consent

At this time "Memory Eternal" was sung for the departed priests and Matushka who died during the past year.

The motion which was passed at last year's meeting concerning the change of names for the deaneries was not confirmed by the Bishop, was brought to the attention of the body by Father Daniel Pavelchak.

Father Michael Romanchuk recommended that a uniform ballot be adopted for the changing of the calendar. His parish is anxious to vote on this matter but before doing so he would like to have an official type ballot. The Bishop referred him to the Edwardsville Parish.

LUNCH BREAK. 12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

The discussion of the questionnaire was resumed. The Committee which was formed consisted of: Bishop Kiprian, Father John Bohush, Father Alexander Fedoronko, Russell Dugan and A. Tessie Yarosky.

The short form questionnaire is as follows:

1. Number of parishioners 17 years of age and under?
2. Number of people 18 years of age and older on parish rolls?
3. Total number of Communicant Members?

It was recommended that the revised questionnaire be sent to all parishes in the dioceses.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Deanery Reports:

The Wilkes-Barre Deanery report was distributed to all by Father George Pawlush.

The Frackville and Philadelphia Deanery reports were given orally by Father Daniel Pavelchak and Father Alexander Fedoronko respectively.

Father Andrew Slepecky made a motion to accept the reports, seconded by Father Gregory Stefchak.

BUDGET:

Father Joseph Swaiko presented the budget proposed by the Diocesan Council which is attached to these minutes and made a part thereof. The budget was adopted as presented upon a motion by A. Tessie Yarosky and seconded by Alex Spaseff.

ELECTION OF LAY REPRESENTATIVES:

Mr. John Lorchak, a member of the diocesan council, resigned with regret because of personal reasons. His resignation was accepted by the body.

Mr. Leon Hrynicky, a member of the diocesan council, forfeited his rights to serve on the council because of his inability to attend today's meeting and the last several diocesan council meetings. He therefore was unable to properly present the treasurer's reports because of his absence. The Chair declared these two lay seats opened and nominations for same to be accepted. His Grace Bishop Kiprian concurred with this decision.

Nicholas Komernicky of Lykens was nominated by Father Daniel Resselar, and Michael Brisko of Catasauqua was nominated by Russell Dugan. There be no further nominations a motion was made by Boris Storancheff and seconded by Father Andrew Slepecky was unanimously passed.

They will serve the unexpired term which terminates June, 1970.

CHANGE OF CHAIR:

At this point in the meeting Father Alexander Fedoronko turned the chair over to the lay president, Mr. Dimitri Kalinchock.

MISSIONARY FUND:

The parishioners of the newly founded parish of St. Andrew's in Dallas made a plea for help from the Dioceses. A motion was then made by A. Tessie Yarosky and seconded by Alex Spaseff that all churches in the Phila. Diocese take a special collection at a time to be designated by the diocesan council with the money then being forwarded to the treasurer of the diocesan council. All were in favor.

TREASURER REPORT:

In the absence of the treasurer, Leon Hrynick, Father Joseph Swaiko gave a informal treasurer's report. A full report for the fiscal year ending 1969 will be prepared and presented to the auditors. Upon their approval this report will be attached to these minutes and made a part thereof.

UNITED APPEAL:

The report was given by Russell Tatusko. He reported that \$20,000.00 was collected during the 1968 Appeal. The goal was \$100,000.00. The \$20,000.00 was distributed as announced in the official organ of the church "The Orthodox Church". He asked for help and support for the United Appeal.

Father Daniel Ressetar recommended that Russell Tatusko be commended by the delegates for his work, diligence and enthusiasm for the United Appeal.

METROPOLIA REPORT:

The report for the first year has not met with their expectations being \$42,000.00 short of their goal as of April 1, 1969.

Mr. Tatusko stated that it is the responsibility of the parish and not of the parishioners to pay the \$5.00 assessment for all parishioners 18 years and over. It is the prerogative of each parish council to decide on how they should raise this money. He also stated that this money becomes payable at the beginning of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Father Andrew Stepecky and seconded by Father Adam Krell to accept these reports.

It was suggested by Russell Dugan that all committees give a written report which will be attached to the minutes of the yearly meeting and made a part thereof.

NOTE: THE STATEMENTS OF FATHER FEDORONKO, BISHOP KIPRIAN ETC. WILL BE ATTACHED TO THESE MINUTES.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by William Sutzko and seconded by Jerry Russin.

The meeting closed with the singing of "Meet it is in Truth" at 3:56 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Diocesan Council

Bishop Kiprian, Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky, Rev. Daniel Pavelchak, Rev. John Rachko, Rev. Joseph Swaiko, Russell Dugan, John Lorchak, and Russell Tatusko. Absent: Leon Hrynik.

Delegates

Frackville Deanery:

| | <u>Clergy:</u> | <u>Lay:</u> |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------|
| St. Mary's Church Coaldale, Pa. | Rev. Daniel Pavelchak* | John Lorchak* |
| St. Nicholas Church Coatesville, Pa. | Rev. Joseph Oleynik (Absent) | None |
| Holy Ascension Church Frackville, Pa. | Rev. Paul Ropitsky | Russell Tatusko* |
| Christ the Saviour Harrisburg, Pa. | Rev. Daniel Ressetar | Alex T. Spaseff |
| Holy Ascension Lykens, Pa. | Rev. Adam J. Krell | Nicholas Komernici |
| Holy Trinity McAdoo, Pa. | Rev. Joseph Martin | None |
| SS. Peter & Paul Minersville, Pa. | Rev. Sebastian Gyza | None |
| St. Michael's Mt. Carmel, Pa. | Rev. Claude Vinyard | None |
| Holy Trinity Pottstown, Pa. | Rev. Nestor Geeza (Absent) | None |
| St. Michael's St. Clair, Pa. | Rev. Andrew S. Slepecky | William G Sutzko |
| Assumption of the Blessed Virgin | Rev. Gregory Stefchak | Steve R. Pelak |
| St. Clair, Pa. | | |
| Holy Ghost Shenandoah, Pa. | Rev. Andrew Fedetz (Absent) | None |

Philadelphia Deanery:

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|--|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Assumption of the Holy Virgin Philadelphia, Pa. | Rev. Andrew Goidich | None |
| St. Michael's Philadelphia, Pa. | Rev. Alexander J. Fedoronko | Miss Tessie Yarosl |
| St. Nicholas Philadelphia, Pa. | Rev. Vladimir Borichevsky* | None |
| Holy Trinity Catasauqua, Pa. | Rev. Michael Romanchak | Michael Brisko |
| St. Nicholas Bethlehem, Pa. | Rev. Apollan Nowitsky | Boris Stoiancheff |
| St. Andrew's Baltimore, Md. | Rev. Michael Hutnyan | None |
| St. Michael's Wilmington, Del. | Rev. Michael Rachko | None |
| St. Nicholas Chester, Pa. | None Assigned | None |

ATTENDANCE

Delegates

Wilkes-Barre Deanery:

Holy Resurrection
Alden Station, Pa.

Holy Annunciation Church
Berwick, Pa.

St. Andrew's Church
Dallas, Pa.

St. John the Baptist
Dundaff, Pa.

St. John the Baptist
Edwardsville, Pa.

St. Michael's Church
Jermyn, Pa.

St. Vladimir's Church
Lopez, Pa.

St. John the Baptist
Mayfield, Pa.

St. John the Baptist
Nanticoke, Pa.

St. Michael's Church
Old Forge, Pa.

All Saints Church
Olyphant, Pa.

St. Nicholas Church
Olyphant, Pa.

St. Basil's Church
Simpson, Pa.

SS. Peter & Paul Church
Uniondale, Pa.

Holy Resurrection Cathedral
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Holy Trinity Church
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Clergy:

Rev. Michael Michlik

Rev. Paul Holoviak (Absent)

None Assigned

Rev. Joseph Swaiko

Rev. John Rachko

Rev. John Kuchta (Absent)

Rev. Roman Wytovich (Absent)

Rev. Dimitri Oselinsky

Rev. John D. Bohush

Rev. Vladimir Sovydra (Absent)

Rev. Michael J. Chanda

Rev. Daniel K. Donlick

Rev. Andrew Shuga (Absent)

Rev. Joseph Swaiko

Rev. Vladimir Petorak

Rev. George Pawlush (Absent)

Lay:

Leonard Madejewski
Peter Huberbak**

Stanley Brutski*
None

None

None

Demetris Kulinich
Russell Dugan*

None

None

None

None

None

Stephen Vesilinke

George Grabania

None

None

Jerry Y. Russin

None

* member of Diocesan Council
** guest