

Diocesan Council Meeting  
August 11, 2011  
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Allentown

**Meeting began** at 10:54AM with Opening Prayer led by His Grace, Bishop Tikhon

**Present** were Fr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Martin Browne, Fr. Michael Hatrak, Fr. Dan Kovalak, Fr. David Mahaffey, Fr. Nick Solak, Fr. Tim Hojnicky, Fr. Matthew Cantrell, Doug Yates, John Buckeye, David Yeosock.

**Absent** were Elsie Herman and Fr. John Soucek.

His Grace presented the **Agenda** – see attached.

The **Minutes** of the previous meeting were presented for approval. No corrections were suggested and Fr. Tim Hojnicky motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Fr. Michael Hatrak. All agreed.

His Grace suggested the **Treasurer's Report** follow.

- Fr. Martin Browne presented the Treasurer's Report (see attached) and answered questions regarding receivables and the situation of St. Vladimir's parish in Lopez and the monies owed to the rector there. Discussion followed.
- A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by David Yeosock, seconded by Fr. Matthew Cantrell. All in favor.

**His Grace then presented his report.**

- He noted his recent vacation to France as a refreshing experience.
- He remarked that the Assembly of Bishops met and it was pleasant but not especially profitable, though there is a growing sense of cooperation among the hierarchs.
- Lesser Synod has met once and has one more meeting scheduled in September. Communication has not improved in a major way. While acceptable, there is much room for improvement.
- Metropolitan Council will meet in September and the Holy Synod from October 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Discussion followed on the Diocese of New York and New Jersey Resolution for the All American Council regarding a reduction in the national assessment to \$50.
  - A straw poll of the Council members indicated a majority supported the resolution. Discussion followed.
- He mentioned that members should not leave without taking the latest issue of Alive in Christ.

The meeting was interrupted at 11:37 so the Council could serve the Noon meal for the Soup Kitchen and resumed at 1:20PM.

His Grace continued his report updating the Council on the **Parish Revitalization Committee** which is adapting the Parish Health Inventory of the Diocese of the Midwest. The possibility of having a diocesan Parish Revitalization Coordinator was raised.

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On **Clergy Matters**, His Grace informed the Council of his preparation of a questionnaire for the diocesan clergy which would seek to address the whole person, body, mind and spirit as an initial step in assessing and improving clergy health.

He informed the Council of the ordination of John Nightingale to the diaconate on August 14, an ordination approved by the Holy Synod due to Mr. Nightingale's previous marriage prior to his baptism and reception into the Orthodox Church. Some discussion followed. The bishop indicated his purpose in informing the Council was so that we would be informed should we be confronted with questions. He also stated he had no definite plans to ordain Mr. Nightingale to the priesthood.

**Upcoming Events** mentioned by His Grace included

- September 7<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> series of Lectures by Dr. Herman Tristram Engelhardt.
- September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service and Concert in All Saints Olyphant honoring the memory of those who perished on 9/11 2001. Fr. Michael Hatrak asked if the Central Administration had any plans to provide us with special prayers/petitions for that day. His Grace said he would inquire. Fr. Tim mentioned a prayer composed by Bishop Basil of Wichita.
- September 17<sup>th</sup> Reconsecration of All Saints in Olyphant.
- September 25<sup>th</sup> Fr. Vladimir Fetcho's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in St. Nicholas, Olyphant.
- Mondays in October, lecture series at Holy Cross, Williamsport
- October 22<sup>nd</sup> Centennial celebration in Nanticoke

**Seminary:**

- Fr. Alexander Atty was undergoing surgery for three tumors on his liver. Fr. Alexander indicated an 11 day absence for his recovery, followed by chemotherapy. His Grace indicated this would require greater involvement in Seminary affairs in his role as Rector.
- A.T. S will be returning this year for a follow up to their reaccreditation visit of two years ago.
- Twenty new students are entering the seminary this Fall.
- Founders Day will be Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Monastery:**

- Pilgrimage was successful, though no more financially profitable than previous years. Broke even.
- Kursk Icon is coming for Feast of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk on Friday August 13<sup>th</sup>. His Grace, Bishop George of Mayfield (ROCOR) will concelebrate with Bishop Tikhon at the services for the Feast. All diocesan clergy are invited, as are the local clergy of ROCOR, though there are some unresolved issues among them regarding the O.C.A.

**Diocesan Court**

Met to address the issue of Deacon Michael Pasonick. Court made its recommendation and His Grace is considering his response though he anticipates it being presented to the Holy Synod of Bishops.

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**Chancellor's Report**

Fr. John presented the **bishop's itinerary** for the past three months. He noted the Centennial Celebration in Edwardsville and mentioned the high praise of Fr. Stephen Vernak and Agia Sophia for their presentation to the Farah Foundation offered to Fr. John by Mr. Kory Warr.

**Clergy Movements**

Fr. Andrew Bartek to Midwest, vacancy in Catasauqua

Fr. Joseph Lucas to the South

**Congratulations** to Fr. Matthew and Mat. Jennifer Cantrell on the birth of their son Theodore Thomas

Noted that Fr. Theodore Orzolek had been hospitalized for a treatment for a benign tumor behind one of his eyes.

**Annual Census** is due August 31<sup>st</sup> and copies have been sent to all parishes for review and updating.

**Sexual Misconduct**

Only three parishes are non-compliant for last year: Uniondale, Dundaff and St. Nicholas in Philadelphia. The first two of those are actively pursuing compliance, following a visit from His Grace to Uniondale and conversation between Fr. John and Fr. Dennis Swencki regarding Dundaff.

**Metropolitan Council Report** was offered by Fr. Mahaffey. He noted the Council is preparing for the All American Council.

The Philadelphia Deanery is offering a Resolution to the AAC on guidelines for publishing on the internet for Orthodox Christians to subscribe to and follow.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Health Insurance Renewal:** His Grace met with representatives of the Gannon Agency who informed him there would be an 8.5% increase, but there would also be an increase of preventative care coverage, no increase in eye care coverage cost and an increase in dependent coverage to age 30.

**NEW BUSINESS**

John Buckeye mentioned the **Choral Workshop** with Dr. David Drillock in Berwick on October 17. Fliers have been sent out, others will be sent again and it is posted on the Diocesan Website.

Fr. Dan Kovalak motioned that the diocese **donate \$250 to the Soup Kitchen in Allentown**. Seconded by Father John Kowalczyk. All approved. Fr. Mahaffey will email Fr. Martin the address to send the donation to them.

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**Next meeting of the Diocesan Council** will be at Agia Sophia Coffee House in Harrisburg on November 15.

Diocesan Assembly will be at Holy Cross, Williamsport. Fr. Dan indicated the parish would donate the food and so Fr. Mahaffey made a motion, seconded by Fr. Hatrak, that no assessment be made for the Assembly. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Fr. Martin Browne, seconded by Fr. Tim Hojnicky, carried.

The meeting ended at 3:30PM with the singing of *It is Truly Meet*.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Raymond Martin Browne

## Addenda

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING  
DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
Allentown/St Nicholas in Bethlehem  
August 11, 2011**

### **AGENDA**

- I. Opening Prayers
- II. Approval of Diocesan Council Minutes (May 12, 2011)
- III. Reports
  - A. Diocesan Bishop
    - 1. The Orthodox Church in America
    - 2. The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
    - 3. Clergy Matters
    - 4. St Tikhon's Seminary
    - 5. St Tikhon's Monastery
  - B. Diocesan Chancellor
    - 1. Bishop's Itinerary
    - 2. Clergy Movements
    - 3. Annual Census
    - 4. Sexual Misconduct update
  - C. Diocesan Treasurer Report
  - D. Metropolitan Council Representatives
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - A. Next Diocesan Council Meeting
  - B. Location of Diocesan Assembly
- VI. Closing Prayer

## **DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING**

### **DIOCESE OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA**

**August 11, 2011**

#### **BISHOP'S REPORT**

- I. Opening Prayers
- II. Approval of Diocesan Council Minutes (May 12, 2011)
- III. Reports
  - A. DIOCESAN BISHOP
    1. **General Comments**
      - a. Enjoyed a nice time in France
      - b. A little more rested
    2. **The Orthodox Church in America**
      - a. Assembly of Bishops
        - a. Was pleasant but not particularly profitable
        - b. There seems to be a developing sense of better cooperation, but with the usual tensions still present
        - c. I continue to serve on the Committee for Monastic Communities
      - b. Holy Synod
        - a. Lesser Synod has met once since our Chicago meeting
        - b. Lesser Synod to meet again on September 6
        - c. Communication among the members is becoming better (I am preparing some protocols for review by the Holy Synod and hopefully acceptance).
        - d. Metropolitan Council Meeting September 28-29
        - e. Fall Session October 4-6
      - c. All American Council
        - a. Strategic Plan
        - b. Resolution from the Philadelphia Deanery concerning social media
      - d. OCA/ROCOR
        - a. St Tikhon's Day
      - e. Orphanage Board
        - a. No update at this time
      - f. Synodal Commission
        - a. No update at this time
    3. **Diocese**
      - a. Revitalization committee (have other members offer contributions)
        - a. Has met 6 times
        - b. Website up
        - c. Mission Statement prepared

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- d. Letter from Bishop being written
    - i. Request to pray Akathist to St Alexis
  - e. Icons to be printed with prayer
  - f. Clergy retreat to introduce the matter
  - b. September 7-11: Dr. Englehardt Lectures
    - a. 5 lectures throughout the diocese
    - b. Will be focusing on reaching out to college kids and non-Orthodox in addition to our own faithful
  - c. September 11: 9/11 Memorial in Olyphant
  - d. September 17<sup>th</sup>: Reconsecration of All Saints
  - e. September 25<sup>th</sup>: 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fr. Vladimir Fetcho
  - f. October Mondays: Williamsport Lectures
  - g. October 22<sup>nd</sup>: 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Nanticoke
- 4. Clergy**
- a. In conjunction with Revitalization Committee, I would like to focus on the health of the clergy
    - a. Questionnaire to be sent out
    - b. Follow up interviews with the Bishop
    - c. Really develop ways to increase clergy brotherhood and support, including facilitation of outside and professional help (mental, spiritual and physical)
  - b. Ordination of John Nightingale
    - a. Canons of the Church do not allow a man who is twice married to become a deacon or priest
    - b. Previously married and divorced, but baptized Orthodox before present marriage.
    - c. Some interpretations of the canons allow for such a man to be ordained if there is a great need.
    - d. The Holy Synod decided to implement the procedure that any person in the above situation would need to be presented by a bishop for consideration by the entire Holy Synod, which I did.
    - e. Because John fulfilled the first condition, I decided that to ordain him because we do have a need in our diocese. We have more and more parishes that are not able or willing to support full time priest (this is a separate issue that needs to be dealt with as well, but in the meantime, I have a need for John as a Deacon and possibly as a priest.
    - f. This is in no way to be taken as a precedent.
- 5. St Tikhon's Seminary**
- a. Fr. Alexander Atty is having surgery today
  - b. Will need to go through chemotherapy
  - c. I will be increasing my involvement in the Seminary
    - a. ATS visit in the Spring of 2012
    - b. Board Meeting next week
    - c. Renovations continuing
    - d. New incoming class about 20

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- d. Founder's Day Dinner October 9
- 6. St Tikhon's Monastery
  - a. Pilgrimage was successful, if not financially profitable
    - a. Concerns about the new format
    - b. But many positive comments
  - b. Kursk Root Icon coming this Saturday

B. DIOCESAN CHANCELLOR

- 1. Bishop's Itinerary
  - a. May 21 SVS Commencement
  - b. May 24-26 Second Assembly of Bishops
  - c. June 18<sup>th</sup> 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edwardsville
  - d. June 22-23 Participated in Diaconal Training at SVS
  - e. July 3-9 Participated in Summer Camp
  - f. July 10-23 Vacation in France
  - g. July 31 Blessing of Agia Sophia Coffee House
- 2. Clergy Movements
  - a. Fr. Andrew Bartek
  - b. Fr. Joseph Lucas
- 3. Births
  - a. New son to Fr. and Mat. Cantrell (Theodore)
- 4. Sexual misconduct policy
  - a. Delinquent parishes contacted
    - a. Uniondale: Bishop TIKHON met with parish and Fr. Stephen K. is following up
    - b. Dundaff: Chancellor has contacted rector
    - c. St Nicholas in Philadelphia: Chancellor in contact with parish

C. DIOCESAN TREASURER

- 1. Financial Report

D. METROPOLITAN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

- 1. Upcoming Meeting
- 2. Other matters

**IV. Old Business**

**V. New Business**

- A. Next meeting of Diocesan Council
- B. Location of Diocesan Assembly

**VI. Closing Prayer**

# Diocesan Treasurer's Report

## August 11, 2011

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**Your Grace, Very Reverend and Reverend Fathers, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Reports indicating Income and Expense, Financial Position and Receivables are attached.**

Notable **expenses** during the past quarter.

I did pay off the yearly insurance premium which covers us until next May. That is always an overlapping expense from year to year that raises questions in the budget. I choose to pay it all because we have the money to do so and it is, in my opinion, foolish to play chicken with insurance premiums if you don't have to. The risk of lapse in coverage is not a good one.

We are up to date with OCA assessments, which is to say I will send them the check for August next week.

A donation to the Monastery was not made for the Memorial Day Pilgrimage. Instead the diocese picked up the cost of the luncheon and forwarded the donations made by parishes to the Monastery. According to Fr. Sergius, four parishes made donations totaling \$1400.

The proceedings of the Spiritual Court, which amounted to two conference calls and a luncheon were included in phone expenses and Diocesan Center maintenance. I will include a budget line for it in next year's budget.

Maintenance work was done on the Diocesan Center in the forms of

- Fixing damaged siding due to storm
- Replacing mailbox destroyed by Penndot – includes moving it to a safer location.
- Rental of equipment for cleaning up flood from laundry room in Bishop Tikhon's living quarters.
- Fixing problem with the Air Conditioning.
- Carpet cleaning throughout the house – it has been two years since this was done and the amount of traffic has been substantially greater in those two years. This will be included in regularly scheduled maintenance.

### **Income**

Discovered a CD which was previously unknown in the amount of \$1051 with Wells Fargo (formerly Wachovia). Has been updated to reflect current information of diocese. Had been recorded with P.O. Box 11 address and originating in Frackville in the '70's.

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Dundaff paid their entire year's assessments in June.

Discussed situation in Lopez with Fr. Thier who has provided me with a monthly financial report outlining their condition and indicating options for the diocese to recoup the money in arrears, currently over \$15000.

Received a couple of payments from McAdoo. Who informed us at the Parish Revitalization Meeting that they had an annual budget of \$48,000.

### **St. Tikhon's Summer Camp**

Account established with His Grace and Kim Metz, Nicholas Macura and Tatiana Bohush as signatories.

Statements and reconciliation are done here. Payments and deposits are done by them.

I will be addressing several issues with them in coming weeks based on this years' experience to provide for complete accounting of income and expenses. In saying this I am not indicating any problems that I am aware of. This was the first year under this management, which by all accounts, my own included, was extremely professional. The major difficulty was and is their residence and the location of this center. We need to establish a mechanism where receipts can be provided for expenses on bank statements and a monthly report be provided for the month before the camp, month of the camp and the month after the camp.

Respectfully Submitted,

Priest Raymond Martin Browne

Treasurer