

Meeting began with the singing of *O Heavenly King* at 10:10AM

Present: Bishop Melchisedek, Bishop Mark, Fr. John Kowalczyk, Fr. Martin Browne, Fr. Nicholas Solak, Fr. James Weremedic, Fr. Michael Hatrak, Fr. Victor Gorodenchuk, Fr. Vladimir Fetcho, Fr. Daniel Mathewson, Elsie Herman, Mark Linnehan, Doug Yates, David Yeosock. Auditors: Fr. Martin Watt, Ptdn Sergei Kapral.

Absent: John Buckeye

Minutes of the previous meeting having been emailed prior to the meeting for review were accepted

Motion: Fr. Mathewson, Second: Elsie Herman – All in favor

Treasurer's Report (Fr. Timothy Hojnicki)

- Fr. Martin presented his report which was sent out beforehand.
- Mark Linnehan moved to write off the debts of \$25, and \$27 (McAdoo & Minersville), Seconded by Fr. Timothy. Unanimous Approval.
- Fr. Michael Hatrak moved to accept the report. Mark Linnehan seconded. Unanimous approval.
- A lengthy discussion was had on the possibility of writing off the bigger assessment debts in the diocese. Fr. John Kowalczyk opposed the idea because he feels parishes need to have some sense of responsibility. Fr. Martin spoke of Pottstown's progress and suggested writing off their debt to support their progress
- Bishop Melchisedek requested that each parish in arrears send in a copy of their financial (bank) statements to the chancery. To those parishes who do not respond the dean will get involved. If that doesn't work, the chancellor, and if not then the Bishop himself. There will be a 3 month time to work on this with a report at the next Diocesan Council meeting being offered.

Statements of Financial Position, Accounts Receivable, Balance, Income and Expense had been sent to members for review prior to the meeting. These reports covered the FY to date, Jan 1 to March 3.

Five parishes have not paid the Diocesan Assembly assessment and two parishes are showing balances of \$20 and \$26 from 2010 which Fr. Martin suggested be written off as erroneous.

Write off balance of Minersville and McAdoo for Diocesan Assembly 2010

Motion: Fr. Weremedic. Second: Fr. Tim Hojnicki – All in favor.

Other outstanding debts are in collection process

First Quarter reports will be emailed in early April, and an audit will be scheduled for that time also.

Receivables led to discussion of outstanding debt

Question raised by Mark Linnehan

What is the likelihood of receiving funds outstanding from parishes hugely in arrears?

Discussion followed.

- Get financial statements, including assets.
- Look at all options as a way to deal with this.
- Standardized financial reporting
 - Monthly from parishes

Bishop Melchisedek suggested:

Statement of Assets and Liabilities for each parish reporting total financial situation

- Ones we don't get from – send in the deans to ask personally
- If that does not work – send Chancellor
- If not him one or both bishops
- Fr. Martin Watt suggested setting up Allowance for Doubtful Accounts which would allow us to have Receivables which are reliable and also reflect the questionable nature of other debts.

Send out request for these statements, give them a month, go from there. Three months from initial request for resolution.

Mark Linnehan suggested that the deans be proactive with this and alert parishes before letter comes so they can have information available.

Motion to Accept Treasurer's Report: Mark Linnehan, Second: Fr. Mathewson

All in favor of report including the suggestions of His Grace, Bishop Melchisedek.

Bishop Melchisedek's Report

- Holy Synod meeting next month.
- Shorter list of potential candidates (hopefully) to talk about.
- 159 – lots of non-canonical reasons why celibate parish priest might not be suitable candidate
- Hopefully dozen names to be vetted by HS for presentation

Chancellor's Report

1. Enthronement of MT
 - a. Presented *virtual* vestments
2. March for Life

Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania Diocesan Council Meeting
Holy Trinity Stroudsburg, March 4, 2013

- a. Fr. Matusiak will write up OCA participation
3. Clergy Retreat in WB
 - a. Cancelled due to ice
4. SVOTS Clergy Retreat
 - a. Organized by Fr. Solak
 - b. Not mandatory, offered to all clergy
 - c. Dr. Rossi spoke on healing
 - d. Wine and Cheese with seminary students
5. Clergy interest in our diocese
 - a. In the last few months
 - b. Activity outside OCA encouraging others to look here
6. Life in our diocese for a while
 - a. Lopez
 - i. Fr. Solak went to Lopez for festival with nuns from Ellwood City. 53 people attended
 - b. Luncheon with clergy who are serving
 - i. Retired and full time employed
 - ii. Good exchange
 - c. Need to come together and work
7. Continuing Education
8. Effective ways of thinking and doing
9. Future plans
 - a. Matushki retreat
 - b. Social opportunities for clergy

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Fr. Nicholas Solak question for Bishop Melchisedek regarding bishop.

- Process of bishop selection
- Suggested Diocese begin conversation of what we are looking for and how to go about the process.

Bishop Melchisedek responded

Once short list established

Ask diocese about the approach to take – alternative approaches regarding selection committee

Issue in front of HS

Recent developments have prompted thinking and rethinking of the process for E.PA and for the South.

Mark Linnehan suggested a resolution in light of the Statute requirement for an Assembly within 90 days of locum tenens appointed.

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- c. Discussion of merging Simpson, Uniondale and Dundaff. Still under consideration
- d. Bp. Melchisedek homilist at Sunday of Orthodoxy
- e. Concert in Lopez on Saturday. 53 people came. Mother Christophora did a lot of prep work.
 - i. Fr. Nick gave talk
 - ii. Panikhida
 - iii. Vespers
 - iv. Matins and Divine Liturgy

Metropolitan Council Report

- David Yeosock presented a MC report –
- Financial Development and Strategic Planning
- Census and Mailing list
- Videos for Facebook
- Assembly of Bishops website has resources

New Business

Fr. Solak made the following remarks

- Clergy retreat at SVOTS
 - Another in Ellwood City in the Fall in planning stages.
 - Mother Christophora plans to return to Lopez. Hot dog roast/game.
 - Motion for Clergy go to Ellwood City with gift – icon and relic of St. Alexis.

Fr. Michael Hatrak, Seconded by Fr. Timothy Hojnicky. Passed

- Mission to Philadelphia
 - Heavy media coverage
- Continuing Education Event – Parish Life in Virginia this summer
 - Possibility of hosting event in diocese

Video of Mechanicsburg- building project

Fr. Tim Hojnicky spoke about

Mechanicsburg

- 14 acres off I-81, Wertzville Road
- Conditional use granted
- Started meeting with architect Beers and Hoffman
 - Antiochian Church in York
- Goal to have building within three years.

Fr. Daniel Mathewson spoke about Mission to Philadelphia

- Excitement generated because of last year's trip
- 27 people
- Metropolitan Tikhon had desire to do something here in the diocese

Assumption of the Holy Virgin

- In need.
- Major problems with leaks. Ceiling and wall.
- Window replacement, hall cleaning.
- April 7 meeting prior to Mission Vespers at Holy Trinity in WB.
 - F.O.C.A. involvement
- Thursday this week going with 3 contractors to parish to assess needs
- Fr. Matthew met with parishioners to establish the need to continue with the foundation given to them.
- Canvassing/outreach to community during the mission trip
- Evening Services

Motion to adjourn

- Fr. Tim Hojnicky, Fr. Michael Hatrak
- All in favor
- Meeting closed at 2:45 PM with singing of *It is Truly Meet*.

Respectfully submitted,

Priest Raymond Martin Browne

Secretary