

The Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Diocesan Council Meeting

Thursday, May 21, 2020

Opened with a prayer at 9:08 with the singing of "Christ is risen!"

Minutes Correction: Fr Nicholas offered a correction that he said he did not want to include the 46% portion in our contribution to Syosset.

Mark Linnehan asked to clarify that the stipend of \$100 given to Fr. Timothy for his work with the Youth was incorrectly listed as \$125.

Motion to approve the Minutes from the last Diocesan Council made by Fr Nicholas Solak, Dn. Peter Staller seconded. **Unanimous Approval**

Tax exemption: With the COVID19 pandemic the courts have not been open to get this carried through. We are still waiting from the County Solicitor.

We have three graduating Seminarians graduating. Fr. Michael Shepherd, Fr. Silouan Burns, and Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic

We are currently working on assigning Fr. Vjeko to Mt. Carmel.

Holy Ascension in Lykens is officially closing: John Coles, Jr. contacted the diocese with a desire to close the parish. However, they gave \$20,000 to the local cemetery association. \$25,000 to St. Tikhon's Seminary, and \$3,500 to Holy Transfiguration Monastery in Ellwood City.

Fr. Martin moved to go into closed session. Mark Linnehan seconded. **Unanimous Approval**

Fr. Martin moved to come out of closed session. Fr Seraphim seconded. **Unanimous Approval**

His Eminence appointed a committee to work on the process of selling the property. Fr Timothy, Fr. Matthew Joyner, & Mark Linnehan

Chancellor Report: There will be no official St Herman celebration in August. We would possibly move it to December at the Cathedral in Philadelphia. More details to follow.

A discussion was had on the repercussions of the COVID19 pertaining to clergy taking a break when this is over and having parishes insisting on them taking on their vacations even when there is a shortage of priests to cover.

Treasurer Report: Mark Linnehan presented his report (*See attached report*)

Ultimately the diocese has been supported through this COVID19 season.

Motion to approve the Treasurer report Fr. Martin, Sub. Sebastian. **Unanimous Approval**

Frackville Deanery Report: Lykens is closing. McAdoo is totally inactive. That will be something to revisited in the coming weeks. Harrisburg parish icon blessing is postponed until October 31.

Wilkes-Barre Report: Edwardsville is being worked with for a priest, possibly Fr. Silouan Burns. Uniondale and Lopez continue to be vacant.

Summer Camp Update: We need to make a decision on summer camp. The seminary and Monastery are leery about hosting it. If not, we could do a virtual camp as an option. Most likely will be cancelled.

The Harrisburg March for Life was rescheduled due to the COVID19

Charitable donations: Mark Linnehan moved to send \$500 to the St. Innocent Orphanage in Mexico. Fr. Timothy Seconded. **Unanimous Approval**

Fr. Nicholas Solak made a motion to give a \$500 donation. Fr. Seraphim seconded to make a \$500 for a food bank in Philly. **Unanimous Approval**

Fr. Martin made a motion to adjourn. Fr. Seraphim seconded. **Unanimous Approval.**

The meeting was closed with the Prayer "Shine, shine..." at 10:38am