

**Diocese of the South
Diocesan Council Meeting
February 14, 2011
Clinton, MS**

Present: His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah; His Grace Bishop Mark; Fr. Joseph Fester, Chancellor; Milos Konjevich, Treasurer; Judge Ray Lanier, Metropolitan Council lay representative; Priest Gleb McFatter, Metropolitan Council clergy representative; Archpriest Alexander Fecanin; Archpriest Ted Pisarchuk; Priest Marcus Burch; Priest Stephen Freeman; Mr. Milo Chelovitz; Ms. Anya Gill; Mr. Carl Holliman; Mr. Scott Placek; Mrs. Donna Ryan; Mr. Bert Walther; Fr. David Moretti

Fr. Joseph welcomed the council members to the Diocesan Council Meeting and Pastoral Conference on behalf of Fr. Paul Yerger and the faithful of Holy Resurrection parish. He reviewed the schedule for the day and the beginning of the conference.

Minutes of the July Diocesan Council minutes were previously sent by email. There were no corrections or objections and foregoing a formal reading, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Metropolitan's Report: His Beatitude reported that he has spent typically 1-2 week-ends per month in the DOS visiting parishes, missions, conferences etc. He said the only glaring issue in the DOS was the lack of a Bishop. He spoke of Fr. Joseph Fester's new pastoral assignment at the Cathedral in Washington D.C.. His Beatitude planned on meeting with the DOS deans to discuss their needs and recommendations for a new chancellor. He also introduced His Grace Bishop Mark of Baltimore and Administrator of the DOS as a man of great integrity. Bishop Mark will primarily at St. Seraphim's Cathedral until after Pascha before he begins any extensive travel. Fr. David Moretti was also introduced to the Diocesan Council.

Financial vision is exactly what we need. It is a creative model that rests on people tithing to their parish. Discussions about the tithing model are spreading throughout the OCA. A presentation on the model is being planned for the All American Council this fall. As a side note, the DOS has already paid its AAC assessment early and in full.

The All American Council will be held October 31 through November 4 in the Seattle area. His Beatitude hopes many will go from the AAC to Sitka for the consecration of the Bishop of Alaska.

Additional news reported included that the Central Administration is now operating in the black.

We have many seminarians from the DOS which poses a good challenge for us to absorb them all. Metropolitan Jonah encouraged parishes to look for possibilities to take in seminarians as deacons/priests for practical formation especially in pastoral care. He also suggested we look to develop ministries for priests that are not parochial in such areas as college campus work, hospital chaplaincy, VA chaplaincy etc. These are not ministries that can be effectively undertaken while also serving as a full time parish priest and yet the need is great. We were also challenged to develop and fund "circuit rider" missionaries as the fields were white for harvest. Ideas included Spanish outreach in Florida or a full-time priest working with the Anglicans.

Metropolitan Jonah spoke of his recent trip to Russia. In addition to serving with Patriarch Kirill for the Feast of Theophany, he was able to meet with him to understand his position on such areas as the Episcopal Assembly and OCA autocephaly. The Patriarch also arranged for spiritual refreshment and had Metropolitan Jonah preside at the feast of St. Seraphim of Sarov at Diveevo Monastery and a visit to the Tver region. Further meetings here in the US with Metropolitan Hilarion echoed Patriarch Kirill's support of our autocephaly.

Episcopal Assembly work continues with the committees assignments now made. Plans are still in place for the next Great Council of the Church to be held in the spring of 2013 at Hagia Ireni – the site of the Second Ecumenical Council in 381.

Bishop Mark's Report: His Grace has been the DOS Administrator since December 27. To date he has visited 4 communities in Florida and St. Vladimir's and St. Tikhon's seminaries. A trip to the Carolinas Deanery is being planned.

Bishop Mark met with the clergy brotherhood in Dallas and would like to meet with the brotherhoods in all the cities he visits to foster and strengthen the ties of our mutual calling.

Fr. David Moretti is preparing 'thumbnails' on each of our seminarians to assist in their placement

Chancellor's Report: Fr. Joseph gave what was his last report as Chancellor of the DOS before his move to Washington D.C. to assume his new duties. He thanked all for making his tenure in Dallas so productive and enjoyable. He specifically thanked Metropolitan Jonah for his spiritual leadership and Milos Konjevich for his tireless efforts. Much as been accomplished in the past years.

Treasurer's Report: Milos Konjevich reported that we have a lot of work to do. The fields are indeed white for harvest. Everything is now running off the tithes. But the tithes is just the first leg. The friendly loans and the parish savings program allow us to now pool our resources to help one another. We expect that these models will energize our parishes.

In light of the staffing changes at the Chancery, Milos has modified the budget accordingly. He proposed that we move towards a flat 40% of tithes income would go to administrative salaries. For budget purposes, the estimated tithes were based on the 2010 levels. Under the proposed staffing levels, this would leave around \$55K undistributed. This will be discussed further before permanent implementation.

2011 Budget Amendment: A motion was made by Milos Konjevich and seconded by Fr. Gleb McFatter to adopt the amended budget as proposed. The motion passed by acclamation.

The All American Council Assessment has been set for parishes of the DOS at \$11 per person.

Deanery Reports: The Deans gave short summaries of their reports previously submitted and that would be discussed in more detail in their meeting later in the evening.

Fr. Stephen Freeman: Harlan County focus of 2011 mission efforts; St. Maria of Paris is thriving
Fr. Gleb McFatter: Held Liturgy and exploratory meeting in Key West in the past week. 31 attended with 21 signing to petition for mission status.
Fr. Alexander Fecanin: The Columbus mission moved to Alabama. Fr. Dmitri Oselinsky is doing a great job caring for this mission and the one in Montgomery.
Fr. Joseph Fester: Bossier City Mission is now holding services and the Georgetown, TX mission now has clergy coverage for all Sundays.
Fr. Ted Pisarchuk: Maintaining well
Fr. Marcus Burch: Nothing additional to report

New Business:

Monastery Support: Anya Gill presented an outline for raising the approximately \$250K required for Sts Mary and Martha Monastery to begin building Phase I using the DOS webpage as a focal point of communicating the message. She will work with Fr. David Moretti to develop a "Year of the Monastery" web campaign to build support for all three monasteries in the DOS. No further action required of the council

Clergy Compensation Guidelines: Fr. Ted Pisarchuk presented a motion to create a subcommittee to develop clear and updated Clergy Compensation Guidelines. Subcommittee initially to include Fr. Ted and Fr. Marcus. Motion seconded by Bert Walther. Motion carried.

Episcopal Search Committee: This committee currently consists of the deans but may be expanded. This will be a topic of discussion at the dean's upcoming meeting with Metropolitan Jonah later in the evening.

The next meeting will be Monday, October 31 in Seattle.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:31.