

**Parish Council Meeting
June 9, 2021
Remote Zoom Meeting**

Roll Call

Parish Council Members Present: Donna Dimitri, Sergio Georgi, Christine Dardaris, Davit Jishkariani, Nilda Salavachi, Zachary Smith, Reem Tarazi

Clergy: Father Dennis

Sunday School Director: Steve Coraluzzi

Auxiliary Members Present: Linda Biando, Peter Ghicondey, Linda Notskas

Meeting opened with prayer at 7:33 pm

Secretary's Report

Reem Tarazi presented the minutes from the May 2021 meeting. Nilda moved to accept minutes as presented and Christine seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report (reported by Zachary Smith)

At end of May 2021:

- Checking account currently around \$43,000; investment account currently around \$251,000
- As approved at last meeting, Zach will move \$25,000 into investment account
- We currently have 50 pledges totaling \$35,900; monies received from these pledges has increased to \$17,225
- We received about \$1000 less than budgeted for Pascha donations this year
- Amazon smile quarterly payment received – thank you to all donating through Amazon smile
- Expenses as expected (substitute priest, utilities) in addition to \$3250 in missionary donations previously approved which was paid off this month
- \$9760 received thus far this year in memorial donations, which is far more than budgeted.

Christine moved to accept the report, seconded by Sergio. Motion passed.

Father Dennis Report

- Fr. Gregory Dudash had triple bypass surgery yesterday which went well.
 - Nilda suggested sending a basket to Fr. Dudash; council agreed. Linda N. has sent several cards on behalf of the parish.
- Fr. Dennis will be absent one Sunday a month in order to maintain his pension. We have coverage for these Sundays.

Chairperson Report (presented by Donna Dimitri)

1. Albanian Archdiocese had their quarterly meeting on Thursday, May 27th. Father Dennis, Linda Biando and Peter Ghicondey attended. Much of the meeting spent talking about priest candidates by the student fund committee. Currently sponsoring a student at St. Vlad's with the hope he will serve in our archdiocese. Going to send him to Albania in the fall. He was at St. Johns when the Metropolitan attended in Feb 2020 – right before Covid shut everything down. In the process of finalizing the Assembly in Worcester Sept 23 – 25 most likely in person with Zoom access for those not comfortable with in person meeting. We send the Priest, Parish council chair and 2 delegates. However, we can send 3 delegates as I am on the Archdiocesan council. I will attend and Fiori Papa has indicated she would like to attend. Since Fiori and I are on the Albanian Archdiocesan Council we can still send three delegates.

2. Saturday, June 26, 2021 12:00 – 3:00 pm Father Arthur Liolin's portrait will be unveiled at the Cathedral in Boston. Father Arthur was the longtime Chancellor of the Albanian Donations to the Student Fund in honor of Father Arthur. Also suggested a video greeting to Father Arthur. I recommended a donation in honor of Father Arthur to the Student Fund.
 - a. Christine suggested a donation of \$250. Donna suggested donation of \$500. Christine modified motion to \$500. Second by Zach. Motion passed.
3. Donation to the Basilica. They have an event in June, the 2021 Keys & Sword raise money for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia with a percentage of the proceeds benefit the Martin Saints Classical High School and the remainder to improvement projects at the Basilica and to support the ministries of the Cathedral Parish. Last year we donated \$1000.00. Suggesting \$500.00 this year. Following discussion, council agreed on a donation of \$500.00.
4. Air conditioner for church hall not working. Copper lines cut sometime between October 2020 and May 23, 2021. Filed an insurance claim. Cost to replace the units \$29,654. From Phoenix HVAC, the company who installed our new boiler. Recommended we install new unit as the a/c ran for a number of hours without refrigerant. Insurance company sending their own HVAC person to inspect the units on Friday, June 11, 2021. Donna Will advise council of their determination and whether the unit will be replaced or repaired.
5. Chair lift upper to church hall not working. Called repairman who hopes to get out by the end of the week. The chairlift is 30 years old and the repairman is not sure parts are available. Will take a look.
6. Suggestion to invite Metropolitan Tikhon to our Nameday celebration November 14th. Council agreed and Donna will proceed.

Sunday School Report (reported by Steve Coraluzzi)

- Nicole Pappas Ferreira indicated interest in directing Sunday School with a co-director.
- Steve approached Michele Sarkos, who is getting more information and considering co-directing Sunday School.

Technology Report (reported by Sergio Georgi)

- Sergio continues to update website with information about deaths
- Sergio suggested we consider better surveillance in back of church, such as lights with motion detector
- Nilda asked about putting older livestreams or less relevant information in a separate link/folder to reduce content on the home page, because scrolling from a phone can be a challenge when looking for the most current links and information.
 - Sergio agreed when using smartphone, drop down menu bars are more effective than scrolling and will look into making modifications

Old Business

- Altar server robes - Project soon to resume
- Prayer cards have been printed and will be laminated and in church this week
- All pews open and books and prayer cards back in pews
- Coffee hour resumed and we continue to ask for sponsors
- Mask wearing:
 - Philadelphia indoor mask mandate is over on Friday, June 11

- Metropolitan guidance offers that separate guidelines for vaccinated or unvaccinated is “untenable” but churches can make own policies; Zach suggests that everyone review this guidance
- Fr. Dennis suggests we encourage mask wearing but not mandate it; he will continue to wear a mask when giving communion or very close to parishioners but will be unmasked in the altar
- Council agreed masking is encouraged but optional

New Business

- Preparation for Fr. Giorgi’s visit on 6/13/21
 - Fr. Dennis will be primary celebrant but will involve Fr. Giorgi; Fr. Giorgi will preach and bless the congregants
 - Parish council members will meet with him informally after the coffee hour
 - On Saturday, 6/12, Fr. Giorgi and family will come to the baby shower
- Compensation package offer for new priest presented by Zach who reviewed all associated costs to the church related to hiring of priest. Council discussed this at length and came up with an acceptable range for a total compensation package at this time.

Council will meet Wednesday, June 16, at 8:00 p.m. to discuss Fr. Giorgi’s visit.

The next Parish Council monthly meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 with a closing prayer from Father Dennis.

Respectfully submitted,
Reem Tarazi