

NAC FELLOWSHIP OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE Summer Meeting July 2004 Pittsburgh, PA

9:20 AM Meeting called to order with a prayer by Fr. John Nosal.

The meeting began with introductions by each attendee. The representatives from the South East region were not in attendance because they were preparing for their regional camp session at Camp St. Thekla.

Financial report: In budgeted income \$1,000 interest was decreased to \$500. In expenses conference software was decreased from \$2,500 to \$2,000. Bible bowl expenses were increased from \$250 to \$400. The item labeled memorabilia was renamed as a discretionary fund to give more freedom for what the funds could be used for. The Young Adult Outreach budget was increased from \$500 every year to \$1,500 every other year. The item labeled regional Camps was changed to regional grants and given \$3,500 (\$500 for each region per year, not carried over) to be applied for to the NAC executive board. The NAC board will make the decisions as to if an applied for regional project would receive the \$500 or not. Regional grants was changed to regional speakers. \$4,000 dollars for travel to regional conferences and meetings was decreased to \$1,500. A copy of the complete financial report is available upon request.

Fr. Paul Solberg expressed concern about us continuing to take money out of reserves. Ralph Nava suggested that the money in reserves should be either put in an endowment fund or spent because 150% of a budget in reserves is too much. Fr. John noted that we are blessed with a budget and he doesn't want us to forget that our main job is not to fund projects, we should spend until we have a 1-year surplus, Jamil Samara makes a motion to accept the budget as amended. Robert Bayouk seconded. Motion passed.

Food for Hungry People: Robyn Nicholas has overseen the raising of over \$3 million to date. Fr. Paul Solberg approached a postmaster whose post office collected food during the holidays and did not know what to do with it all. The church picked up 2 tons of food and called the local food pantries who came and stocked their cabinets with it. Their Sunday school also planted a garden to supply some fresh fruits and vegetables. Joan Farha noted that sometimes undeliverable formula sits in post offices.

Oratorical: Peter Samore mentioned that next year will be the first year for trying two separate topics and the way the topics are written it should supply a wide variety of orations. Carl Nerenberg suggested a video for the parishes to see what the oratorical is like.

Video Project: Chuck Nassiff discussed the video project on the history of SOYO. The purpose of this project is for fun and to get ideas for the future. Pictures and anecdotes will be collected from each region, the national coordinator will organize them, a writer

will write the narrative, which will be put together to fit the pictorial history. NAC will approve the final cut and how many copies.

Saidna PHILIP entered with Bishop ANTOUN at 11:30am

Saidna discussed the current events in the Middle East and the events of the weekend. You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

After Saidna left the meeting Chuck continued his discussion on the video project. It is funded for between \$4 and \$5,000 by NAC and should take about a year and a half. Carl Nerenberg said he has access to an archivist if one is needed.

Library Project: Sara Bitar was not present her e-mail is sar1006@aol.com. We are hoping to reach 2004 books by the end of 2004. Right now we have 664 books donated.

St. Philip Prayer Discipline: The new books have been printed.

Special Projects Coordinator: The banners are being put together. There will be one universal banner each region will receive one.

Young Adult Retreat – Running the Rat Race: The budget will be increased from \$500 every year to \$1,500 every other year. The Greek archdiocese will host it each year in between.

Website: The website is up and running.

Constitution: Mark Morrow reported that the new Archdiocese constitution will be our constitution. We will revise our by-laws; they will include how we operate and our mission statement.

Fellowship Footnotes: The page needs a more defined look. It was suggested that the logo should be on the page. Fr. Joe Abud suggested that the articles be added to the website.

At this time Gigi took an informal, private tally to see whom she should cast her NAC vote for in the election to nominate bishops. She also informed us that the midwinter meeting will be the first weekend in February.

12:45 break for lunch

Return 2:30

OYO: Fr Kevin Scherer did a presentation explaining what OYO has accomplished in giving our youth the opportunity to do missions work and in the process reshaping many of there future life goals to include more missions oriented type work.

Regional Reports

Western Region: The Western region has devoted the past year and will continue to direct all their efforts to “shed those tasks and responsibilities that are currently contributing to the distraction of the Fellowship...we exist as a resource to assist local parishes in ministering to their young adults.

Southwest: The conference schedule was changed to shorter meetings and the inclusion of a keynote speaker. Three workshop sessions were included offering 4-6 different topics each session. 11 missions will be receiving funds from the region and Camp St. Raphael has had its fourth session this summer.

New England: New England has an exciting new project called FOOTLAMPS; it is a monthly workshop series starting in September centered around the theme of family and social issues. Priests were asked what topics they thought would be helpful, some were chosen and the entire region is invited to attend the workshops. A resource pamphlet was put together to explain the various programs and ministries available through the various levels of St. John the Divine.

Midwest: Midwest had a very successful spring retreat entitled “Being Little Leaders for a Big God”. To promote the Fellowship they held a parish visit to St. George, Cicero. Guidelines for regional meetings were developed and their long range planning includes a Parish Ministry Team exchange where PMTs from different parishes are presented to the region in an effort to “plant ministry seeds” across the region. The region has created a Sacred Music for Missions Fund to help raise funds for missions to attend the Sacred Music Institute, they continue to support their Bishop Demetri Missions Endowment Fund and they began a Mother’s and Father’s day Fundraising project to also help support Missions.

Eastern Region: The Eastern Region continues to support two missions on a monthly basis and plans to turn it’s missions fund into an endowment fund named for Bishop ANTOUN in honor of his service and dedication to the Missions in the region. The region gave out 5 scholarships and voted to allow 2 contestants per division per parish for the oratorical. The officers and some members of the Fellowship had a bowling afternoon with the college age group and they have continued doing service projects after their meetings. On the level of communication bulletin inserts were created and will hopefully continue to be created in order to get the information of the region out to the parishes.

CanAm: The region held a very successful Parish Life Conference in Ottawa, Ontario. The agenda included a mission trip to Guatemala in 2005 and a 2004 soccer tournament with the teens. The 2005 Parish Life conference will be held in Halifax, Nova Scotia and 2006 in Toronto. The regional camp is located north of Montreal and is doing well. This year will mark the beginning of the regional endowment fund meant to support the two

missions of the region and it was also decided to raise the assessment of the parishes to \$1.00 per baptized soul.

Southeast Region: The Southeast region was not in attendance due to work being done to prepare for the regional camp session.

Discussion began on the Mission Statement. Carl Nerenberg commented that the mission statement should have the same relation to us as the preamble of the Constitution has to the citizens of the USA. It should not be too general (macro) and not too specific (micro), it should be useful to all Fellowship organizations from NAC to regional to local.

It was discussed that the mission statement should not be an objective, Worship, witness, service and fellowship is an objective but, in itself, not a mission statement. A possible mission statement discussed could be, NAC is an assembly of chosen and appointed diocesan representatives of the Fellowship of Saint John the Divine, which develops ministry programs and coordinates existing resources for parishes and dioceses.

Fr. Kevin Scherer brought up the question of to whom is the group focused. Joan Farha responded that it would be impossible and unnecessary for NAC to develop Mission statements specific for each age group. It was also discussed that the relationship between NAC and the Archdiocese is not defined.

Fr. Paul Hodge spoke about our purpose being to inspire and motivate those we serve to carry out works of the church and raise up leaders for the future. The mission statement is different for each level but the vision should be the same throughout. Fr. Kevin was concerned that the churches Fellowships are not uniform and that this might work against our ministry.

Fr Joe Abud suggested that Fr. Paul and a committee take suggestions and come up with a universal mission statement limited to our function as NAC.

Motion to adjourn by Claudia Zain. Seconded by everybody.
Meeting closed with a prayer by Fr. John Nosal.