

**Fellowship of St. John the Divine  
NAC Mid-Winter Meetings - Dallas  
February 13-15, 2004**

Meeting called to order at 8:20 p.m.

Roll Call

Minutes from Summer Meeting

*Joan Farha moved to accept minutes*

*Mark Morrow seconded motion*

Financial Report (written report on file): All proceeds from this weekend will be donated  
budget report: assessments – Can-Am, Southwest, and New England regions

submitted checks at mtg.

regions shouldn't forget about \$500 that's offered to be used for retreats

Gigi proposed that we buy 1000 books for St. Philip's prayer discipline

*Fr. Joe Abud moves that we purchase 1000 books for St. Philips prayer discipline*

*Linda Simon seconded the motion. All in favor.*

*Joan Farha moved to accept the financial report. Mark Morrow seconded. All in favor.*

Icebreakers/ President's Comments:

-Introductions

-The Fellowship gives people of any age, from any background, a place to go. Our goal should be to have identifiable groups in the parish for all people, for example seniors and singles, to go to. We should motivate our region to improve the activity in their parishes on a local level. Prayer cards were distributed. Regional Presidents: never hesitate to contact Gigi for anything.

## REGIONAL REPORTS

### **Can-am**

Current Projects:

Form a budget

Mission trip to Guatemala in 05

Endowment fund for missions

Support Regional camps

### **Eastern**

Established a website, separate from the archdiocese site, in the mean time: all key players are providing info to the site.

Sara, Jane, Irene, Tina created a pamphlet to send to the local parishes, giving detailed info about the Fellowship.

Supporting missions

Book: Oriented Leadership, author might come to our next meeting

Care packages to members from our region who are stationed over-seas: Abdalah will email the information about the project to Gigi and she will distribute it to the regions.

### **Midwest**

Visitations to parishes

Parishes requesting help to facilitate development of local Fellowship groups  
Parish council seems to feel threatened by the different ministry teams that are developed by the fellowship

-regional retreats/meetings: Fall Encounter weekend

NAC speaker fund usage: \$500 was split between speakers at various meetings

-long range planning team: parish ministry team exchange program (report on file)

-mission awareness: mission souvenir journal, mission possible visit

-Bishop Demetri Mission Endowment Fund – raised \$224,956 in the past 2 years

communications: email database

### **NER**

Difference from parish to parish on what groups are developed

Goal: through involvement on a local level, these groups will become a part of the regional Fellowship

Cabin fund: what should be done with the money? Gigi will contact Fr. Michael Nasser

Monthly educational workshops

Web-based master calendar for whole region

### **Southeast**

First summer for Camp St. Thekla

Fall camp: 16 people attended, huge success

Fellowship is going to host Parish Life Conference: there is a commanding committee that will delegate responsibilities to each parish, which will hopefully increase attendance.

### **Southwest**

Sister Magdalene, from St. John the Baptist Monastery in Essex, England, will be attending their Parish Life Conference

Standing Schedule at parish life conference for every year: theme of social events and workshops will change.

Business meetings are limited to 3 hours.

New mission in Wichita, western right

Camp St. Raphael is starting it's 4<sup>th</sup> season

Resource manual has been passed out to all the clergy at the yearly retreat

### **Western**

New college coordinator: at last meeting, 150 college students attended, she's working on planning a southern California retreat

Retreat coordinator: gives deanery dates, 1 contact in each deanery

Communications committee: mass email list

Adjourned until tomorrow at 10 pm.

Called to order 2/14 at 9:00 AM

## Coordinators

FESTIVALS: Esther Simbol and Michelle Mike: remember to book a hotel room for Oratorical member and Bible Bowl team for archdiocese meetings.

ORATORICAL: Peter Samore and Greg Abdalah are new Oratorical coordinators

- there are standard guidelines for all regions re: judging the Oratorical
- mid-summer meetings last year: tie breaker procedures: getting emergency judges

- different focuses for each region - 2 focuses for each theme, each division will have different approach: this begins next year.

- either Friday or Saturday night at Archdiocese Convention in Pittsburgh, the Oratorical will take place

- would like to re-introduce choir festival, integrated with Oratorical – presentations in between speakers

- number of contestants per parish: more than one has been approved. No limitations currently. Rule: all orations must be into coordinator 1 month prior to conference. this may limit the number of participants. 13-15 junior, senior 16-20 – body agrees that starting next year, age will be reduced from 20 to 19 for senior division

*Irene Saigh moves to change the Oratorical age from a maximum of 20 to 19. Mike Srou seconded. All in favor.*

LIBRARY PROJECT: 2003 – 564 books (47 sets) were donated to public libraries. 2<sup>nd</sup> set was proposed. (“The Orthodox Church” needs to be replaced. It is part of list 1.)

Will be going through St. Vladamir Seminary’s book store. – better deal than Light and Life. 1<sup>st</sup> set will still be available.

*Cathy Snyder moved to accept the proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> list, with replacement of the Orthodox Church, seconded by Adam Roberts.*

Send success stories to Sara, as well as suggestions for replacement book:

[sar1006@aol.com](mailto:sar1006@aol.com).

Goals for regions on how many sets to buy this year:

Er-20, Ner-10, Ser-20, Midwest- 10, Swr- 50, Can-am-10, Western-10

SPECIAL PROJECTS: letter from OCA was received, asking for ideas from our regions and an explanation of what the Fellowship is. Ideas and successes can go through Gigi and she will forward it to the OCA.

- regional banners to promote the Fellowship: pictures are needed from each region for banner. Pictures should be sent to Jane Tadros, [jtadros@aol.com](mailto:jtadros@aol.com), by April 1<sup>st</sup> so the banner can be received by the conference. Everybody’s banner will have the same top and bottom, but pictures from each region in the middle.

MISSION STATEMENTS: Fr. John Nosal proposed possible statements. Guidelines will be emailed out on how to develop a mission statement. In Pittsburgh, we will vote on our corporate mission statement.

Fr. Kevin brought up a concern that the Fellowship’s spectrum may be too broad, ministering to people from 19-99. he suggested asking local parish priests what they need from the Fellowship, as a resource, before the mission statement is developed.

Fr. Michael Abdalahad proposed that once mission statement is developed: it’s used as a survey to the clergy. Here’s who we are on a national level, what can we do for your

parish? At clergy symposium in Pittsburgh, make an address to clergy, hand out surveys and assess the need.

Fr. Kevin, mission statement needs to specify that we are a “resource”.

Mary Ann Khoury: mission statement, needs to be brief, inspirational, and informative.

It should summarize the Fellowship, everywhere, but can also have objectives. (ie. It is a resource, objective will state how we will be a resource.)

Cathy Snyder: Fellowship president should work very closely to the bishop to find out the needs of the churches

Mission statement will be developed before Pittsburgh. And it will be brought to the clergy and entire body then. Gigi suggested having regional presidents talking to each other to find out what works and what doesn't.

Fr. Kevin: utilize website to help all regions work together to develop the mission statement.

LAILA FARIS: president of AOCWNA, 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past summer, looking at a self review, will be discussing areas that the regions feel that the NAB needs to look at, also approaching regional spiritual advisors re: needs of parishes

Married seminarians fund has done very well. Thanked the Fellowship for their support.

Project orphanage: raised \$150,000 this year. \$875,000 in endowment currently, by 2005, goal of 1 million.

Metropolitan delivered \$35,000 directly to orphanage.

FR. JOSEPH PURPURA: scholarship for high school graduates and college students – available on line for anyone who's active in youth groups – \$2500, hoping to give 3 this year.

Fr. Joe Abud suggested that there can be a place on the web-site for ALL Orthodox scholarships

-grant from Lillie organization: sending juniors in high school to Hellenic college, this summer for 10 days to explore their desire for a lay vocation in the church – students need to financially get themselves there and back, all other expenses are covered, once they are there

\$23,500 in St. John Chrysostom endowment fund for youth directors. Approvals have been done and everything's done to start students, this September, in St. Stephens course, with a concentration in youth ministry.

-spread the word about the opportunity that's available and applications to start in September 2004

FOOD FOR HUNGRY: new collection boxes have been mailed to the churches

-list of all churches and contributions was distributed

-\$169,467.07 to date

Fr. Michael Abdalahad: more people need to work for this project. We can do much better. Fellowship needs to really promote this program. Charity is the heart of the church. “This is the work that saves our souls.” We need to make big steps.

Fr. Joe Abud: food for hungry suffers because of all the other charities and fund raisers that exist now.

Mark Morrow: approach needs to be to target huge corporate donations.

Joan Farha: project is a great avenue to teach children to give to the poor.

ST. PHILIP'S PRAYER DISCIPLINE: Fr. James Kenna is working on updating the list. New books are being ordered.

YOUNG ADULT COORDINATOR: young adult retreat, August 19-22 at Antiochian Village. Gigi read thank you notes from young adults who attended last year's retreat. Details will soon be distributed. Katrina Halasa is coordinator.

YAL CONFERENCE: young adult league (Greek archdiocese). Gigi attended their retreat in Boston this past fall. She suggested that we alternate every year, Greeks host one year and Antiochians host another. Spread the word.

STUDENT BOARD: in summer, Youth Dept., Fellowship, and Campus Ministry are going to meet to discuss how to develop a smooth transition from one to the next.

DEPT. OF COMMUNICATIONS: The new director will be working on setting up a new site for our archdiocese.

PARISH LIFE CONFERENCES: archdiocese wants to know hotel contracts for 2005, in case regions are changed. This summer, archdiocese is changing its structure, some parishes are going to switch regions.

Do not sign contracts for your Parish Life conference without contacting George Darany first. Each region should supply information of regional conference coordinator to George Darany by March 1<sup>st</sup>. [citodorth@aol.com](mailto:citodorth@aol.com).

OLD BUSINESS:

-Regional summer camps, almost every region has a camp. Camp St. Thekla is the newest. They had fall camp and are going to have spring camp, to help promote the summer camp.

-constitution and bi-laws: working on a national level on updating the constitution and we will adopt that and develop our own bi-laws for each organization and church. First draft will probably be presented at mtgs. this summer.

-Word: every month there will be something in about the Fellowship. Each month will be done by a different region. Claudia will set up a rotation and give each region their month and deadline.

Fr. Joe thanked Gigi for Fellowship pamphlet in a timely manner.

-pins and visors: each regional president agreed to buy 20 visors to sell to their region. Make a conscious effort to wear the pins and visors to promote the Fellowship and show our uniformity.

*Linda Simon moves that NAC purchases 1000 pins and distributes them to the regions. Adam Roberts seconded motion. All were in favor.*

They will be distributed before the parish life conferences.

MID-SUMMER MEETING LOCATION: Presidents asked if we can have our meetings all day Thursday before the special assembly meeting on Friday and Saturday. It was approved by the Metropolitan. Senior Oratorical and Teen Bible Bowl will take place at the special meeting.

Send questions to Gigi about regional changes etc. before the June Board of Trustees meeting.

Fellowship meeting will begin Thursday morning, it is best to arrive on Wednesday.

-Gigi will ask the Metropolitan how we should approach elections at the Parish Life Conferences. Gigi advised every region to keep officers for a 2 year term.

-retreat speaker list database/speaker fund: packet was distributed, as well as a survey for retreat/workshop speaker. Return surveys to Gigi so she can add their information to master list as a resource for the parishes

-Parish Life Conference task force:

- developed definition of regional conference coordinator
- proposed changes to organization; each will appoint a representative to the Department of Convention and Conference planning.
- rough draft was distributed and any questions and feedback can be directed to Mike Deschenes.

NEW BUSINESS:

-FYI: George Geha's family is accepting donations: Don Geha, 247 Chase Run. Northville, MI 48167

budget requests should be submitted to Mike Srour by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Cathy suggested that \$500 for each region, to aid in retreats, continue to be available.

*Cathy moved that we make available through NAC Fellowship, \$500 per region or diocese, to be used for conference speakers, towards the education of the region. Mike Deschenes seconded it. All in favor.*

If the region didn't use their \$500 from last year, they will not get another \$500 in the upcoming year.

Broke for lunch at 12:00 pm.  
Meeting resumed at 1:30 pm

Future agenda item will be ways and means of putting together and educating about the history of the Fellowship. This will help the Fellowship members to better understand and appreciate what the Fellowship/ lay ministry teams are about.

2 fold process: taking people who have been a part of the Fellowship from the beginning. Get video taped oral histories. People need to see the healthy evolution of the organization.

Committee for the Chronicle of Lay Ministry: Chuck Nassif, Abdalah Daoud, Fr. Michael Abdalahad

-Joan Farha: proposed that NAC makes a donation to SOYO's endowment fund that will fund scholarships for people to study to become youth directors

*Joan moved that NAC donates 5000 to the youth ministry endowment fund. Adam Roberts seconded motion.*

*Discussion:*

*Mike Srour suggested to amend the motion to 2500 a year for 2 fiscal years.*

*Fr. Kevin said that you cannot give enough money to better serve the youth.*

*Adam Roberts said that we should use whatever money is in the reserve.*

*16 in favor*

*2 opposed*

*1 abstention*

Adam Roberts requested that we make a line item in next budget to give \$500 to each regional camp, except the Antiochian Village.

Jamil suggested that we should encourage people to become active in the many different departments of the archdiocese. On a regional level, we should make an extra effort to encourage our people to attend the departmental meetings at the conferences.

Linda suggested sending care packages to our college students.

JORDAN HENDERSON: works for OCMC with short term mission teams. He talked about how "zeal" is what caused the church to grow so fast in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. He explained OCMC and how it is OUR mission center. They operate under 2 convictions: 1<sup>st</sup> - Goal is to get 100 long term missionaries from our country. Right now there are only 13. 2<sup>nd</sup> conviction – spread info about OCMC to churches

Put OCMC on agenda for next regional meeting.

MARY ANNE KHOURY: she introduced a program called "outreach Alaska". Encourage churches to utilize Mary Anne during regional conferences, meetings, and retreats. There is a great need for help. Pamphlets are available.

Closed with scriptural reading at 3:00 pm