

**NAC Fellowship of St. John the Divine**  
**Mid-summer Meeting**  
**Antiochian Village – July 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2002**

**Attendance**

**Executive Board**

Gigi Baba	President
Michael Srour	Treasurer
Claudia Zain	Secretary
Fr. John Nosal	Spiritual Advisor

**Can-Am**

Bruna Salhany  
Todd J. Mokhiber

**Eastern**

Sara Bitar  
Fr. Peter Pier  
Julie Abboud  
Fr. Thomas Zain

**Midwest**

Cathy Snyder  
Linda Simon  
Gina Salloum  
Katrina Halasa  
Fr. Joseph Abud  
Fr. Anthony Yazge

**New England**

Fr. Michael Abdelahad  
Sonia Daly

**Southeast**

Fr. Thomas Joseph  
Ray Reboulet

**Southwest**

Joan Farha  
Mark Morrow  
Fr. Don Hock  
Fr. Chris Holwey

**Western**

Irene Saigh  
Fr. Joseph Corrigan  
Peter Samore  
Michael Habib

Fr. John Nosal opened the meeting with a prayer at 7:30PM.

Gigi welcomed everyone. During the icebreaker, at 8:10PM Metropolitan PHILIP entered. The discussion with the Metropolitan included topics such as regional building funds for camps and is the Fellowship an “attractive” organization. Response was that it is quickly becoming one and the regions are on the right track with promoting it properly.

## **Regional Reports**

### **Can-Am**

The resource handbook was discussed in the region and 2 churches requested copies for their use. A new endowment fund was discussed and the details will be worked out. There will be a spiritual retreat in conjunction with the teens and the idea of a regional camp is in the works. The body unanimously approved a \$500 donation to a memorial fund for Peter Assaly, an active regional member who passed away.

### **Midwest**

A committee presented a report to Bishop DEMITRI on the direction of the Fellowship. Based on the results of the report, Bishop DEMITRI presented a proposal for The Midwest Leadership Council, consisting of 11 leadership positions and a plan for developing leadership and team qualities within the region. Over \$7000 dollars was sent to the regional missions as well as supporting the activities of the Bishop DEMITRI Endowment Fund. Other activities included bowling for Missions and more personal contact, as far as visiting missions by a ministry team. There will also be a Fall Encounter Weekend to try to promote less administration and more fulfillment.

### **New England**

The notion of SOCS was introduced in the region to try to involve campus ministry in easing the transition into the Fellowship. The region is finalizing the Job description for the Regional Youth Director. An endowment fund has been established and by the next meeting a regional youth director should be hired. The cabin and Library projects are also being worked on.

Can-Am region presented a skit about the transition from Teens to Fellowship.

### **Southeast**

The Fellowship will sponsor an unction service at the beginning of their meeting as a gesture for the ill of the region. The beginning of the establishment of a camp is in the works, possibly in Georgia; the committee is looking at locations. There is talk about the possibility of buying or renting a retreat center where they could not only hold retreats but possibly the Parish Life Conferences. More people of the region are going out and getting physically involved with the establishment and aid of missions in the region. Also discussed was the possibility of a scholarship fund.

### **Southwest**

Reported over 600 people at the Parish Life Conference and the success of the 4-member leadership team who are working to try to keep communications open. The Bishop BASIL Endowment fund has grown to \$292,000 and is providing \$12,000 in aid for the regional missions. This year they had the second annual session of Camp St. Raphael, a

total of 145 campers attended with 35 counselors and staff. At the general assembly the body unanimously approved to establish the Archimandrite John Namie Memorial Building Fund for Camp St. Raphael. \$5,000 was donated from the Fellowship and grew quickly to \$19,000. For next year they are working on 2 camp sessions instead of just one.

### **Western**

This year the highlights included a winter retreat at St. Nicholas Camp, establishing an e-mail database, establishing a contact list with one contact from each parish and the establishment of two committees to explore the idea of making the transition from teen SOYO to the Fellowship a natural one and how to get individuals, who are of age, involved. There is also a concentration on retreats, having more of them and together with the teens.

### **Secretary's Report**

Mike Srour made a motion to accept the minutes from the Mid-winter meeting in February. Fr. Joseph Abud seconded. Motion passed.

### **Treasurer's report**

Mike Srour presented the treasurer's report. A motion was made to add \$500 to Parish Ministry and to increase Donations to \$1500, by Fr. Abud. Irene Saigh seconded it. Motion passed.

Mike Morrow noted that the Orphanage project of the Ladies must be discussed and a decision made and voted on.

A motion was made by Mike Srour to stop funding the Orphanage project of AOCWNA of \$2000 a year. Seconded by Fr. Abud. Discussion followed.

The motion was amended to state that the \$2000 Charitable contribution be diverted from the AOCWNA project instead to the Teens Outreach Project, this year.

Motion tabled until Fr. Purpura makes his presentation.

Motion to adjourn by Fr. Thomas Joseph. Seconded by Peter Samore.

Call to order 1:45PM July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2002.

Meeting opened with a prayer by Fr. John Nosal.

### **Oratorical Report**

Julie Abboud reported about a restructuring of the oratorical festival. Possibilities include different topics among the contestants with an agreement between the Department of Youth and the Fellowship on how to incorporate the conference theme.

Fr. Michael Massouh entered. He welcomed everyone to the village and asked for aid in advertising upcoming events at the village. He also suggested the idea of the Fellowship

having a Meeting Planner to coordinate with the village to decrease misdirected and misunderstood communications.

### **Eastern Region**

The region is working on promoting its Society of Orthodox College Students (SOCS) Group. They began a newsletter and are continuing the library project and this year had the first Eastern Region Fellowship trip to Project Mexico. The region has 4 missions and a goal of \$100,000 in the Missions fund. This year there is a new position called Historian, this person takes pictures of just about everyone and mounts them on Billboards so from meeting to meeting you can see what was going on and who was there. They will begin a calendar decorated with the winning entries from the creative festivals and they designed a new medal for the winning children to receive. Sara will get information and share it on the cost of the medal for other regions that are interested. The information will include the cost of being able to put an angel or some sort of icon figure on the front of the medal.

Fr. Purpura presented the topics for 2003. He reported that one sheet was sent out to the churches and the whole packet, for anyone who needs it, is on the web site. The Orthodox Youth workers CD was distributed and he discussed the youth Music CD, currently in progress. Each region sings selected hymns, which are being recorded and compiled onto one CD. OYM was now discussed. Orthodox Youth Missions would exist to provide local parishes with the resources necessary to involve junior and senior high students in local community service and short-term missions. Teens want to do ministry and bear witness to Christ. OYM would exist to train and give resources to the teens and young adults to have more of a hands on impact in their communities. The council was asked for some monetary aid in getting this project off the ground.

### **NAC TEEN SOYO**

Nicole Zabak reported on Youth Month and Special Olympics Awareness Day, Ask Abouna On-line, Godparents Sunday, Teen Talent Projects, regions holding 30-hour fasts, outreach Alaska, and trying to involve more worship. The teens are discussing each region possibly sponsoring a seminarian project. The constitution has been revised and the profits from the sale of the Teen SOYO t-shirts will be going to help the church in Los Altos, which was burned down in the time after September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Gigi reported that the festivals manual is on-line.

Fr. Anthony Yazge reported, on behalf of Ester Simbol, for the Bible Bowl. He will organize it with the help of all the things Ester so diligently sent. Thank you to Ester.

### **Food For Hungry People**

Gigi commented that it is important at regional meetings that you promote this project and make churches that did not participate aware that they are expected to if they can.

### **St. Philip Prayer Discipline**

Gigi and the council alike offered great thanks to Fr. Boniface Black for all the years of work he put into this project. God grant you many years and thank you.

Fr. James Kenna will take on the project as the new administrator. It was suggested that the mailings be put on-line.

### **Special Projects Coordinator**

Sonia Daly reported that we will now work in coordination with the OCA on a Resource Handbook for Lay Ministries. Every year updates to this book are sent out and it will be a great asset in helping lay people bear witness to Christ.

### **Young Adult Coordinator**

Katrina Halasa discussed the Running the Rat Race Retreat. The dates are August 16-18<sup>th</sup> 2002 at the Conference Center. 40 rooms were booked. The word magazine was used for promotion as well as a poster of upcoming events at the village. The cost of the speakers was discussed as well as possibly including information on the St. Philip Prayer Discipline in the packet handed out to attendees. Peter John Gillquist would like to play, the possibility of that is being looked into. Other activities being worked on are icon painting and a chanting class. Due to the success of the weekend last year a request was put in for an additional \$500 to help with the cost of speakers and activities.

A motion was made by Todd Mokhiber to give \$500 additional funds to the Rat Race Retreat. Seconded by Irene Saigh. The motion was tabled until we talk about the budget.

### **The Library Project**

Gigi discussed on behalf of Susanne Nahas.

Fr. John Winfrey designed a bookplate label for each parish, to be placed inside each book donated to a library. It was noted that libraries must be contacted to see if they allow plates to be put inside books. The goal is still 2004 books by 2004. In discussing the form it was commented that the form should be changed to have the coordinator receive them first and forward them to the publisher in order to keep accurate records. Sara Bitar volunteered to take on the position of project coordinator for Susanne.

### **Budget Points Back on Table**

Mike Morrow proposed amending the motion of diverting the \$2000 from the AOCWNA orphanage project to the Teen Outreach Project. The new motion states that we suspend the \$2000 a year to the AOCWNA orphanage project until a Fellowship of St. John the Divine giving policy is established. Seconded by Mike Srour. Motion Passed.

A motion was made by Irene Saigh to give the Rat Race project the an additional \$500. Seconded by Todd Mokhiber. Motion Passed with one vote against it.

A motion was made by Mike Srour to pass the budget with the inclusion of the \$2000 for the OYM project for the Teens. Peter Samore seconded it. Motion passed.

### **Website Coordinator**

It was reported that it will cost \$53,000 over two years to improve the Archdiocese database system. With the improvements names and addresses will be made all over the database with very little effort and church websites will become free of charge.

### **Old Business**

The idea of deanery retreat committees was discussed. The Parish Ministry team Handbooks were handed out again. Constitutional revisions were put off for a future date.

### **Parish Life Conferences**

The Midwest region appointed a task force to look at Parish Life Conferences. The ideas compiled were sent to the Department of Conference Planning and the response was disappointing. The department didn't think the ideas could be used. The Western region is adding a \$5.00 processing fee for people who register for the conference but don't attend any events or purchase an add in the journal. Fr. Abud commented that there must be better communications between the regional conference chairs and the Archdiocese Department. The Archdiocese may be getting out of touch with the different needs of each region. Fr. Thomas Zain commented that it is something Metropolitan PHILIP is aware of and concerned about. Consistency in scheduling is important to the Department but the regions feel that their individual needs override the need for consistency in the schedules from region to region. The same schedule is not necessarily good for every region. Fr. Joe Abud will be responsible for organizing the ideas of each region.

Motion to adjourn by Fr. Thomas Joseph at 4:50PM. Seconded by everyone. Motion passed.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Fr. Don Hock.