

**Fellowship of St. John the Divine  
Minutes of the Summer Meeting  
Antiochian Village  
July 25, 2008**

The Meeting was called to order by the President, Joan Farha, at 7:35 PM. Father Christopher Salamy led us in prayer.

Roll call was taken.

The Minutes were sent to everyone, along with all the reports, prior to the meeting. Fr. Jeremy Davis spoke about an error on Page 3, under Diocese Reports: (Wichita Diocese) insert the word “Archdiocese” in place of church. On Page 5 under Reserve Account: 1<sup>st</sup> sentence should read: Fr. Jeremy Davis moved that we recommend that the treasurer maintain a reserve equal to 100% of the current years budget. Esther Simbol moved to accept the Minutes as corrected. Second by Fr. Michael Abdelhad. Passed.

Joan asked members to introduce themselves.

Joan spoke about tradition we have for Food for Hungry People and passed around a canister and candy for donations.

**COORDINATORS REPORTS:** Esther Simbol reported on the Bible Bowl and thanked everyone for their help.. She stated that Sayedna PHILIP was disappointed in the number of Teen Teams participating. Esther displayed a new plaque for the names of winners. The old plaque is filled and will be retired to the Village. Esther would like all Diocese to follow the same rules. Guidelines were set forth by NAC in 2007. There is a 2 hour limit.

Oratorical: Fr. Joseph Purpura spoke about the theme for the 2009 Parish Life Conference: “Be mindful O Lord of those who bear fruit and do good works in thy holy churches, and who remember the poor.....” Fr. Joe asked for ideas to focus on for the Oratorical Festival. Joan asked for volunteers: Fr. Jeremy Davis and Donna Starke volunteered.

The Gospel of St. John will be used for the Bible Bowl.

Metropolitan PHILIP, Bishop ANTOUN, Bishop THOMAS and Archdeacon David Nimer arrived.

Discussion about topic for this years Oratorical Festival.

Joan asked the Metropolitan about “Syndesmos”, an organization we were associated with several years ago. The Metropolitan stated that we should embrace this organization.

The Metropolitan spoke about talking to people directly, or by telephone, instead of dealing with e-mail or faxes.

The Metropolitan spoke about the Clergy Symposium. Said it was outstanding. Problems were solved through dialogue not e-mail.

The Metropolitan looked over the list of accomplishments of the Fellowship over the past year and spoke about the money raised through the Food for Hungry People program.

Sayedna left meeting at 8:40 PM.

**ORATORICAL:** Peter Samore thanked everyone for their help. Peter stated the topic this year was not well received. Scholarships will be presented between the Oratorical presentations.

**UNITY:** Fr. Paul Hodge – Joan stated that Fr. Paul is looking into SYNDESMOS Membership – cost is 500 Euros (approximately \$764.)- we owe over \$4000 according to the letter received. Fr. Jean Ojaimi explained what the organization does. Their website is [www.SYNDESMOS.org](http://www.SYNDESMOS.org)

Fr. Jeremy Davis spoke about the FFHP – a lot of money is spent on folders, boxes, printing & mailing, etc. If a church needs boxes they should request them. Too much money is spent on publicity. Information could be e-mailed for bulletin inserts. Mark Morrow suggested having on-line donations. Corporate donations could be obtained. Joan will contact Robin and discuss these matters and pass on NAC suggestions..

**ARCHDIOCESE CONVENTION:** Fr. Timothy Baclig spoke about the 2009 Archdiocese Convention to be held July 19-26<sup>th</sup>, at the Palm Desert Springs Marriott Resort & Spa. Rooms are \$133.00. The main hotel is full and there are three additional hotels. Rancho, Las Palmas; Courtyard Marriott and Hotel Villas.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Meeting re-convened at 1:15 PM by Jane Tadros who stated Joan was visiting the Teens. Fr. Chris Salamy led us in prayer.

Jane spoke about the NAC trying to gather information for an On-Line Calendar of Diocesan activities; Teen activities and Ladies activities; Dates of Parish Life Conferences and host parish; Fall and Spring Meetings; Clergy meetings. Presidents were asked to fill in dates they had.

**SPIRITUAL RENEWAL:** New Coordinator, Adam Stephan. Michael Marge stated they did one book per week. Fr. Jean Ojaimi stated that they spoke about Antiochian Saints – Judy Stanley stated they had very positive feedback. Suggestions for next year were: Desert Fathers, Resurrection Letters, Fasting and Almsgiving and Wealth & Poverty, the great “I Am’s, The Gospel of John, Mother Gabriella, Homilies of St. John Chrysostom. Tim Phillips suggested that the subject could tie in to the FFHP Program.

**WEBSITE:** Nicolas El Laham spoke about re-vamping of the Website. They are 2 to 3 weeks behind at the present time. Nicholas stated he can post NAC articles. Anything to be posted can be sent to [Editor@antiochian.org](mailto:Editor@antiochian.org)

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:** Julie Abboud –Bulletin inserts already done include Christian Education, OYO, Creative Festivals, Camps. The next insert will highlight St. Philip Prayer Discipline. Suggestions were for Food for Hungry People and Young Adults.

**MISSIONS - OUTREACH:** Fr. Michael Abdelahad stated the Fellowship group and OCMC will be leaving on Wednesday for their trip to Alaska. Next year more local Mission trips will be planned. Please e-mail your suggestions to Charles Abdelahad or Greg Abdalah.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Robert Bayouk presented the NAC Fellowship Financial Report. Total Income: \$29,128.56, Transfer from reserve \$8,000.00. Total income \$37,128.56. Total expenses: \$21,664.05; Transfer into Time Deposit \$14,000.00; Total \$35,664.05. Balance in checking account as of 7/31/08 \$7,414.39. Time Deposit balance \$35,836.14; Savings Account \$8,000.00; Total in Time Deposit \$43,836.14. Jane Tadros moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Second by Judy Stanley. Passed. There are still expenses outstanding at this time.

**ST. PHILIP’S PRAYER DISCIPLINE - FR. JOSEPH HUNEYCUTT:** Fr. Joseph stated they have 80 new members. Fr. Joseph stated they inherited over 1170 names. They do not know the status of these names, (moved or deceased). Fr. Joseph explained the Website and spoke about having a PayPal Account which is very safe. Joan asked Fr. Joseph to confirm the charges of PayPal. There is a one time charge for new members of \$25.00. They receive 2 books. The new website (which will be live soon) is [www.stphilipsprayerdiscipline.org](http://www.stphilipsprayerdiscipline.org)

**DIOCESE REPORTS:**

**OTTAWA, EASTERN CANADA & UPSTATE NEW YORK:** Nicholas Ellaham spoke about the Bishop Alexander Mission Fund. The Sunday in September closest to the feast of our Patron Saint (Sept. 26) has been designated for supporting missions in our diocese with special collections in each parish.

**WORCESTER & NEW ENGLAND:** Michael Marge spoke about their very successful monthly Footlamps program. Michael also spoke about a Habitat for Humanity trip to Cape Cod planned for August. The Fellowship will also be hosting the Young Adult Retreat September 26-28<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Seminary. They also had a

fund raiser dinner for the Theophany School (started by Sonia Belcher) and raised \$600.00.

**EASTERN DIOCESE:** Newly elected President, Damian George, presented the report. They hope to increase both their Missions and Scholarship Endowments by holding a Diocese-wide raffle for Disney vacation trip or alternative prize.

**MIAMI & THE SOUTHEAST:** Tim Phillips presented the report. Tim spoke about having on-line registration and payment for their PLC. They are in the process of putting together planning manual for future PLC's which will give a written and photo description of all PLC events.

**TOLEDO AND THE MIDWEST:** Corinne Cassis presented the report for the Midwest. Corinne stated "we are back on track and have laid out our goals for the year." She thanked Joan for her help and also for being present at the Midwest Diocese PLC. Corinne stated the Fellowship had donated \$12,500.00 to the Mission Endowment Fund. The new spiritual advisor for the Fellowship is Fr. Jean Ojaimi of St. George, Cleveland. Corinne stated she and Fr. Jean will be setting up meetings on a Deanery level and with parishes to help set up Fellowship ministries. Our Fall Meeting will be in Indianapolis, October 17-19<sup>th</sup>. 2009 PLC will be in Cincinnati and 2010 in Toledo.

Bishop MARK spoke about the importance of getting to know people. Shake hands with people you do not know, invite them to coffee hour, to lunch or for a holiday meal.

**DIOCESE OF WICHITA & MID-AMERICA:** Judy Stanley spoke about their Sister Diocese Project. They are "sistering" with specific parishes in the Archdiocese of Bosra Hauran. Judy also spoke about unified letter from the Chancery which set forth amounts due from the parish for all the organizations. This is helpful so parishes can align their budgets.

**DIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES AND THE WEST:** Kyra Pelachik spoke about the Young Adult Conference to be held over Labor Day Weekend – August 29-September 1 at the Renaissance Hotel in Long Beach, CA. Fr. Michael Nasser will be the keynote speaker.

Joan thanked Kyra for helping Jenny Farha with the Young Adult Retreat in Chicago.

**PARISH LIFE CONFERENCE UPDATES:** Joaan stated she received e-mail from Michael Srour on all Diocese PLC's. Head counts for events are very important.

Joan spoke about ads for Parish Life Conferences and read e-mail from Michael Kabbash regarding actual dimensions of the ads for Souvenir Journals.

Joan stated Christian Ed Department is asking for names of Festival Coordinators. Please get the names and addresses to Joan.

Fr. Michael Abdelahad stated the Ncence CD is selling well and the boys thank the Fellowship. The first run of 1000 was gone in 3 months. They are now working on the second 1000. The boys are talking about doing a second CD.

**WORD ROTATION LIST:** Linda Simon will send out the list of dates for each diocese in August.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY name:** Judy Stanley recommended “20-40”. Numerous delegates offered suggestions. Discussion held. Fr. Jean Ojaimi moved we name the group “Fellowship of St. John the Divine 20-40 Ministries”. Second by Corinne Cassis. Motion passed.

**PARISH MINISTRY TEAM MANUAL:** Joan stated she has been receiving e-mails and telephone calls requesting information on how to establish a Fellowship group. Joan spoke about the 1985 Parish Ministry Team Program (Blue Cover) which helps to develop Ministry Teams identify the need in your parish or community. Fr. Joseph Huneycutt said he has a Constitution which he will e-mail to Joan. Joan asked for volunteers to work with her and Julia Abboud on this project. The following people offered to help: Kyra Pelachik, Corinne Cassis, Nicolas Ellaham, Jane Tadros, Fr. Gregory Murphy, Fr. Joseph Abud, Fr. Chris Salamy.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Fellowship meeting will be held on Wednesday at the Archdiocese Convention. The meeting is scheduled for 11:45 AM to 4:30 PM.

Michael Srour is working on a DVD which will run continuously for 3 to 6 minutes. It is an opportunity for Outreach and to showcase the Fellowship. Cost will be \$750.00. Joan will clarify if Fellowship or Priests will get copy for their parish. Jane moved upon further investigation, if other organizations are participating, at the discretion of the Executive Committee, to allow up to \$750.00. Delegates were in favor of allowing the Executive Board to review information – not to exceed \$750.00.

Joan will gather more information.

Michael Marge moved the Fellowship match up to \$750.00, what other organizations are doing for the external production. If there are internal production costs, upon investigation, then in consultation with the Diocese Presidents, we will move forward. Second by Ralph Nava. Passed.

Fr. Joe suggested the CD be given to Priests. Judy Staley suggested that our part could be put on our Website. Joan will send e-mail with update.

Judy Stanley suggested we hold the Bible Bowl every other year. Having it at the Village would save on expenses for teams & families. Judy Stanley recommended that the Bible Bowl be held every other year. Second by Father Joe Abud.

Discussion about having Parish Life Conference and Bible Bowl every other year. Following discussion members not in favor of suggestion. Motion failed.

**PROPOSED BUDGET:** Robert Bayouk presented the Proposed Budget for the 2008-2009 year. Discussion held regarding grants – at present we have a speakers grant and a humanitarian grant. The grants will be combined. It was agreed we would offer one \$500.00 grant per Diocese to be used for speakers or humanitarian purposes. Fr. Joe Abud moved to accept the Proposed Budget. Second by Fr. Michael Abdelahad. Passed.

Joan thanked Robert for his work.

Joan stated Elections will be held at the Archdiocese Convention. Nominating Committee members are: Joan Farha, Linda A. Simon and Fr. Chris Salmay. Anyone interested in running for office should e-mail Joan prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.

Our Mid-Winter Meeting will be at the Village February 6-8, 2009.

Joan presented Fr. Joe Abud with a gift of a book to commemorate his many years of service to the Fellowship as Spiritual Advisor. Joan stated he will be missed. May God grant him many years.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM with a prayer by Fr. Joe Abud.

Respectfully,

Linda A. Simon  
NAC Secretary