

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting – March 4, 2014**  
**St. John Chrysostom Albanian Orthodox Church Parish Council**

The Council Chair, Donna Dimitri, opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. Fr. Brooks led the meeting in prayer.

**Roll Call (Linda Biando):**

**Council Members Present:** Michele Anderson, Linda Biando, Donna Dimitri, Peter Ghicondey and Jani Mara.

**Absent:** Linda Kosta (sick) and Diane Lescas

**Auxiliary Members Present:** Linda Notskas, Dorothy Tomassini

**Sunday School Director:** Steve Coraluzzi

Donna thanked everyone for coming.

**Secretary's Report:** Linda Kosta is ill and was unable to get last month's Minutes to the meeting this evening. Those February 2014 Minutes will be presented next month.

**Treasurer's Report:** Michele Anderson submitted the Income and Expense Statement (unaudited) for February 2014. She mentioned that the Icon and Pledge money is coming in—approximately 45% of what was promised. Linda Biando moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Peter Ghicondey, and approved by all present.

**Pastor Report: Fr. Brooks**

- ✧ Discretionary Fund: \$150.00 for Covenant House and a few dollars to some needy people.
- ✧ Would like to have 2 parish retreats: 1 in the fall of 2014; the other in the Spring of 2015.
- ✧ 2014: Invite Fr. Christopher of the New Skete Monastery ("In the Spirit of Happiness" book). People around the world know the New Skete Monastery (near Albany).
- ✧ Spring 2015: A Woman's Retreat: Invite Qiriakulla Fitzgerald (Master's degree in Theology; PhD in Psychology). She will come from Cape Cod.
- ✧ Purchase Fr. Terazi's books for our library
- ✧ Offer a stipend to each speaker: perhaps \$300.00. Pay their expenses: travel, hotel.
- ✧ Steve Coraluzzi asked about the "Retreats." Father explained: The retreat will be on a weekend. Saturday morning session (serve coffee and donuts); luncheon and afternoon session, evening vespers, out by 5:00 p.m. If Fr. Christopher stays for the weekend, he will probably serve Liturgy on Sunday.

**MOTIONS:**

Michele Anderson made the following Motions: (1) to spend \$2,000.00 per retreat (may be amended if more money is needed), seconded by Peter Ghicondey and approved by all present.

(2) Motion to purchase the books by Fr. Tarazi, seconded by Linda Biando, approved by all.

**Fr. Brooks continued his report:**

- ✦ Involved in the John Jay Institute in Bala Cynwyd. College students. Based on politics, culture. Would like to get into the college scene; the first step is this Institute. They gave a donation to our church following a tour and meeting with Father Brooks a few months ago.
- ✦ **Sunday, March 9, 2014:** Meet with the Sunday School girls aged 10 and over. Talk with them in the pews and then take them behind the altar: show them the censer and what else is behind the altar (that the boys already know). Educate them about our faith. Past history shows the church had female deacons. Father wants the girls to feel special.
- ✦ Father's "wish list" is to build up the parish. Be compassionate; do it with Love!

**Chairman:** Donna Dimitri

- ✦ **Women's Day celebration, Saturday, March 8, 2014, 7 to 11 p.m.** To date, approximately 70 women will attend. Fiori and Nilda are calling people. Great job, girls!
- ✦ Sign of church services has been placed out front. In the process of placing an icon on top.
- ✦ **Sound System:** Steve Coraluzzi explained that it will start at the end of March, as that's when white speakers will be available. The original quote of \$4,900 was cut down by \$1,500. Speakers in the sanctuary, vestibule and in the Sunday school room downstairs. The sound system is needed. If adjustments need to be made, they will be done.
- ✦ **OCMC and OICC** – checks have been sent.

**Vice Chairperson Report:**

- ✦ Peter commended Tish who is doing a great job as Associate Webmaster, making the website more user-friendly. Over 1,000 pictures on our website. Donna mentioned our website is the best. Peter also complimented Donna who places all the pictures of various church activities on the website.

**Sunday School:** Steve Coraluzzi.

- ✦ Steve was pleased with the second outing—taking everyone to the ice skating rink at Penn. 64 people were there. Lots of compliments from everyone.
- ✦ Planning the next outing for the Sunday School children on June 8: possibly **Dave & Busters**.
- ✦ Steve has been asked by various parishioners to plan future trips for our community: For example, a baseball event on June 22. Will call Rivershark and other stadiums to get a discounted rate.
- ✦ Do a "tailgate" party outside our church. Everyone who attends Liturgy that day will get a wrist band to attend coffee hour outside. Anyone in the neighborhood who wishes to join can sign in for a nominal fee.
- ✦ Linda Biando suggested a "Teachers dinner" at the end of the school year (spouses invited).
- ✦ A Teachers workshop is planned for the end of the school year.
- ✦ Fr. Brooks would like to pass out a list of books which the high school children could read and write a one page summary. They could talk about the books over a meal.

**Stewardship:** Linda Biando.

- ▲ To date, we have 52 pledges.
- ▲ Plan to hold a “Stewardship Sunday” on June 1:
  - ▲ Fr Brooks said he would talk with the parish about pledging but it isn't going to be the sermon.
  - ▲ Stewardship committee to talk on the importance of pledging to parishioners during the coffee hour.
- ▲ **Soup-er Bowl Sunday.** Everyone commented what a wonderful idea. It benefitted Covenant House and the homeless, as well as bringing a “party” feeling during the coffee hour. Realized \$351.00.

**Building Maintenance – Donna Dimitri and Fr. Brooks**

- ▲ Gus Cokos will put in dimmers on the chandeliers as well as install a monitoring system at the side door. Gratis.
- ▲ Heater is fixed. Church is warmer on Sundays.
- ▲ Plumber will replace the soil pipe downstairs in our church
- ▲ More visitors are coming in during the week. Peter Ghicondey suggested placing locks on the doors at the top of the stairwells from the vestibule.
- ▲ Petrit Disha will strip floor upstairs and polish it. Gratis.
- ▲ Linda Biando suggested **Door Bell/Intercom/Camera:** being able to see the person ringing the bell.

**Old Business:**

- Archdiocesan teleconference: Much talk about rebuilding St. John’s Church. The Bishop stated that he will not rebuild St. John’s Church at its location.
- **Archdiocesan Assembly: September 26 and 27 at Sts. Peter & Paul Church.** Our church will select 2 delegates at our Parish Meeting on March 30.

**New Business:**

- ▲ **Pascha letterhead has been ordered.**
- ▲ **Lazarus Saturday: Invite Sts. Peter & Paul children**
- ▲ **Pancake breakfast on Palm Sunday, April 13. Rose Adams in memory of Charlie.**
- ▲ **Look into parking for Holy Week.**
- ▲ **Easter Midnight service: Refreshments upstairs (rolls, cheese, olives, eggs)**
- ▲ **Agape Service Easter Sunday, April 20, at 1:00 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Michele Anderson, seconded by Peter Ghicondey. All were in favor, whereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Tomassini  
Secretary pro tem