

St. Nicholas Parish Council Meeting Minutes, 06-23-10, Approved

PC Members present: Fr. Michael Eaccarino, Nick Chagaris, Chris Palaidis, Karen Markopulos, Chris Angelou, Manuel Pondakos, Manuel Tsesmelis, Gary Megaloudis, Dean Prodromitis, Georgia Tsangaris, George Stamas, Charles Samarkos, Nicholas Manias, Nikitas Manias, Johanna Kossifidis

PC Members not present: Harry Andropoulos, Nick Nicholas, John Stamas

Meeting started with Meditation by Fr. Michael.

President Nick Chagaris opened the meeting and began by saying that tonight's meeting is not about finances, it's about where we're going as a Parish Council and parish spiritually. Items discussed were:

- Fr. Michael, Dean Prodromitis, Manuel Pondakos, Chris Angelou, Nick Chagaris met a few weeks ago to see what we as a PC can do better; what can we do to serve our parish better
- Dean Prodromitis gave everyone an agenda on "Establishing the 5 Priorities" and the need to work with our board to clearly define the cathedral's priorities and our support roles
- Manuel Pondakos says the office needs attention
- Charles Samarkos asked if we could we reinstate Monday night Adult Bible Study
- We haven't had a second priest since Jan. 7, 2010; what have we done as a PC about this; Fr. Michael can't do everything; administrative problems include going to the hospitals, nursing homes and Fr. Michael had to cancel Adult Bible Study on Monday nights
- What can WE do as PC members to help Fr. Michael and how are we serving the community as PC members
- Manuel Pondakos recommended that we need to contact Metropolitan Alexios tomorrow to ask that we have our second priest in 30 days ; Nick Chagaris will make the call to the Metropolis
- Fr. Michael feels that house blessings, visiting homes, hospitals and nursing homes; having discussions over coffee with potential converts to Orthodoxy, all these are important, more important than having an Adult Bible Study at this time.
- Recommendation by Fr. Michael, once we get our second priest, is to have Wed. night "Family Night", starting with prayer, then Adult Bible Study with Fr. Michael and Youth Bible Study with Fr. Vasilios and George Patides; not able to start without having our second priest

How are we doing as a Parish Council? How can we do better in serving our community?

- Lack of cohesiveness
- We need to be more engaged in the spiritual life of the church
- How can we assist Fr. Michael; number one job of PC is to assist the priest
- We need to have a "collective" agenda
- We need to build trust among us and become a united team
- Fear of conflict
- We need, as a PC, to understand Fr. Michael's decisions, so that we know how to address them when asked by parishioners

What are the 5 priorities of our community?

- **Salvation through:**
 - Liturgical participation
 - Religious education through our liturgical life
 - True Orthodox Christian fellowship
 - Outreach
 - Orthodox Christian Living (time, talent, treasure)

Fr. Michael was asked by George Stamas to review highlights from “Parish Ethics and the Teaching of Jesus”, which was emailed to us prior to the meeting; discussion followed on many of the highlighted areas.

Dean Prodromitis summarized that we now know the 5 priorities and what we can do.

1. Our number one priority is getting the second priest
2. Liturgical participation by all PC members and their families (Divine Liturgy, Vespers)
3. Bring extended family members, others to the Divine Liturgy (Outreach)
4. Religious education (become a “sacramental” member of the Orthodox Church)
5. Follow the Gospel and the teaching of the Holy Fathers

We need to support Fr. Michael and Dean told Fr. Michael that he could call on any of us to help out where he needs help; we are here to help with whatever is needed.

Fr. Michael closed the meeting with readings from the Bible and the meeting was adjourned at 10:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Markopulos

No tapes used during tonight’s meeting.