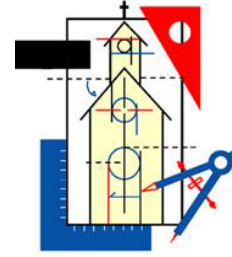




United American Catholic
Church
Synod 2005



Minutes

- 1.) The Most Reverend Anthony F. Hash, D.D., the Presiding Bishop called the First Session of the United American Catholic Church National Synod to order at 9:00 am, Monday August 8, 2005.
- 2.) Roll Call was taken as follows:

Most Rev. Anthony Hash, D.D.

Most Rev. Anthony Hash, D.D.	Present	Very Rev. Bennet Dixon (ret)	Excused
Rev. Greg Dalle-Tezze	Present	Very Rev. Ernest Roane	Excused
Very Rev. Jay DiCotignano, OZ	Present	Mr. Brent Camden	Excused
Rev James Dunn, OSFC	Present	Rev. Lynette Curley-Roam (ret)	Excused
Br. David Fronck, OSFC	Present	Very Rev. Phillip Maniscalco (ret)	Excused
Ms. Antoinette Neally	Present	Rev. Br. Paul Meyers, OSFC	Excused
Mr. Donald Pratt	Present	Br. James Morgan, OZ	Excused
Rev John Shearer	Present	Rev. Christopher Ross	Excused
		Rev. Ms. Linda Skvarka (in-active)	Not Excused

- 3.) Due to the large number of excused persons, the question was raised as to whether there was a quorum available to conduct business. The Voting Procedure as outlined in the UACC Canons (Canon IV-1.11) was read by Archbishop Anthony.

“

A lengthy discussion followed that included explanations of other definitions of “quorum.” As specified in Canon IV –1.6, the UACC definition of Quorum had been:

Canon IV – 1.6

In order for the National Synod to act on any matter before it, a quorum consisting of at least one half plus one of the active clergy memberships of the National Synod of the UACC must be present.”

At this point, it was determined that we did not have a Quorum IF those who are now retired or inactive were considered part of “the active Clergy membership of the National Synod...” Discussion on this question brought about a motion by Fr. John that:

, whereas these retired members WOULD retain a vote at the Synod, they will not be considered “active” for the sake of Quorum.

The motion was seconded by Don and passed unanimously.

At this point of definition, a Quorum was declared and the business meeting continued.

Discussion on the Quorum continued with a new item placed before the Synod by Fr. Jay, “That those clergy present at the time of a duly announced synod along with the Presiding Bishop or His/her delegate constitutes a working quorum.” The matter was discussed; motion for a vote was called by Fr. Jay, seconded by Don and passed unanimously.

4.) Confirmation of UACC Executive Committee was called. A review of Canon IV – 5.2 was made to explain the role of the Executive Committee. As provided by Canon IV – 5.2, the UACC Executive Committee is as follows:

Chair:	Most Rev. Anthony Hash	one vote
Vice Chair:	Very Rev. Ernest Roane	one vote
Secretary:	Br. James Dunn, osfc	one vote
Treasurer:	Vacant	one vote
Clergy Rep:	Rev. Christopher Ross	one vote
Lay Rep:	Vacant	one vote
Bishop Rep:	Vacant	one vote

5.) A discussion was held concerning the vacant positions on the Committee. The Archbishop suggested Jayson DiCotignano of Holy Innocents Parish, Las Vegas, NV for the position of Lay Representative. Br. James, osfc moved to confirm him, Don seconded, and the vote was 5 yeas and 1 abstention. This action still leaves vacant the positions of Treasurer and Bishop Rep.

6.) Brief Ministry Reports:

Emmaus:

Don reported a big change within the parish, but stated that the community is continuing. Don explained the circumstances leading up to the retirement of Pastor Lynette. Don further mentioned that for the coming year, the parish hopes to make arrangement to share worship space with an Episcopalian church. Don also passed out copy of the welcoming brochure and a weekly bulletin from Emmaus. There were many favorable comments on these materials.

UACC in Nevada:

Father Jay began by asking about existing Intercommunion Agreements in which the UACC participates. It was mentioned that we have had at one time, such agreements with CACINA (+Kelly), the Celtic Christian Church (+Brennan) and a third agreement with Bishop Spicer. Archbishop Tony will contact +Brennan to confirm our intercommunion agreement is still active. Fr. Jay mentioned there is a CACINA priest in Queens that Don might contact.

Fr. Jay updated the group on this past years work with One Faith-One Hope, Maybe Babies and a third phase, Child Focus which hopes to eventually become a facility for kids coming “of age” / out of the system. Jayson is currently Administrator of the program which serves approximately 150 kids ranging from age 16-24.

Br James Morgan, OZ is to be ordained a Deacon in September for the parish, which currently has 125, registered members, with an average attendance of 20-30 regulars. They have many visitors who don’t stay, but find that of those who do stay, they are often from “non-traditional” families.

St. Clare Hermitage/Order of Sts. Francis and Clare:

Br. James continues involvement at St. Peter's Episcopal assisting in liturgical and educational ministry. The parish is also starting a Chapter of Integrity this year and preliminary work is about complete.

For the Order of Sts. Francis and Clare, br. James has served as Convener for the past six months and has completed revisions of the Rule and Constitutions to include multiple styles of Franciscan living. Br. James was elected Minister General for the next year's probationary period for the Order. During this time the goal is to complete the design of a formation program and vocational materials.

Fr. John Shearer

Fr. John continues to serve as Chaplain for the Viet Nam Vets motorcycle club and has now included other clubs as part of this chaplaincy. One of the highlights of the year's ministry is the Annual Blessing of the Bikes, which is held every year on Memorial Day Weekend.

Fr. John's sacramental ministry is heavily geared toward weddings, baptisms and funerals. Fr. John was recently able to spend some time yesterday with Msgr. Dixon, aka Padre as they were ministering to a club that just lost a member the night before.

Bishop Tony

The bishop's new parish in Virginia Beach, St. Joan of Arc has four persons to be confirmed this fall. The bishop is looking forward to expanding the ministry in the area between the chaplaincy work Fr. Greg is already doing (see below) and with the recent addition of Toni Neally who is a new cleric beginning her studies for ordination.

The bishop announced the closing of Christ the Good Shepherd Parish in Roanoke, but pointed out that the church maintains a presence in that area through the continuing ministry of the food pantry.

Fr. Greg

Fr. Greg is continuing in his positions as Associate Chaplain of Westminster Canterbury, a large and varied retirement community in Virginia Beach, and Clinical Chaplain of Medi Home Health and Hospice. His other ministries include facilitating several mental and emotional health groups through the Court System of Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Virginia Beach.

7. Following the Ministries Reports the whole group began a review and discussions of Current Tithing Structures, and the Annual Clergy Administrative Fee. The group discussed the possibility of combining both assessments into one annual support system. 8. As part of the Tithing Structure discussion, mention was made of the possibility that the need for specific items could be mentioned which might call people to gift the church with that particular item. This discussion received many favorable comments. The group felt there was no need to take synodal action to institute this, simply asking the Archbishop to post specific needs on the Friends and Family yahoo group.

9. Following this discussion, we communally prayed the Angeles and adjourned for Lunch.

Monday Afternoon

1.) Following lunch, we resumed the discussion on ways to communicate specific needs. It was mentioned that the website could also be used to provide more links, especially to projects like the Hunger Site.

Ultimately, it was decided to maintain the current model of a separate Annual Fee and Tithing Structure for the Ministries, and to create budgets for specific needs and then communicate the detail information through the yahoo groups and website.

2.) Fr. Jay then initiated a discussion about the percentage split of the tithing structure. He pointed out that the multi-phase structure of the ministry in Las Vegas could make good use of the 5% of local income that is to be sent to the Diocese. With a single diocese at present, all 10% is to be sent to the National Church. He pointed out that many of the services that would be rendered by a diocese to a local church are being covered by the local church itself. One or two of the ministries offered to the area do not necessarily involve income to share as does the parish.

This led to a discussion as to whether a second diocese would be needed in the church at this time. After some discussion, it was noted that this should be investigated and the issue was referred to a committee appointed by the Archbishop. The committee members will be Fr. Jay, Fr. Greg and the Archbishop.

3.) The Archbishop then provided an overview on the State of the Church. In his discussion, he presented the facts surrounding the departure of the sisters. He discussed his concern that, as a church, we; and, as a bishop he must be concerned that we are providing the best possible clergy for the service of the church. Specifically he cited the need for appropriate levels of education and pastoral training and experience.

He further talked about the need for the clergy and laics of the church to stay committed to the church. Through a demonstration with yarn, he presented a visual of the effect when someone “drops the ball.” He cited communication as one of the best ways to enhance cohesiveness in the church. It was pointed out that we will be “re-aligning” membership in the different Yahoo groups, asking people who are currently in the Clergy Information Group to join the Friends and Family Group. This will leave the Clergy Info group just to the clergy for “sensitive” points of communication.

The bishop addressed the issue of the business aspect of the Church. Fr. John spoke of federal recognition of Chaplaincies and the possible need for the church to obtain 501.C3 status. Fr. Joy mentioned that obtaining such status may require things such as three years worth of budgets and so on. The Archbishop then appointed a committee to work with him on looking into this further. Frs. Jay and John will serve on that committee.

4.) The next order of business was to discuss Canon VI – 1.3 δ that lists the forms of address to be used for the clergy of the church. The paragraph currently read without the text in brackets, as:

The Presiding Bishop shall be verbally addressed as “Your Grace.” All other in the Order of Bishop shall be verbally addressed as “Your Excellency,” or simply “Bishop.” Deacons shall be addressed simply as “Deacon” [or “Father (Mother) Deacon.”] Presbyters who are male shall be addressed as “Father,” [or “Reverend” at their personal discretion]. Presbyters who are female shall be addressed as “Mother” or “Reverend” at their personal discretion.

The [bracketed] suggestions were moved, seconded and all passed unanimously.

- 5.) One new canon, and an addition to an existing canon governing Religious Orders in the church were presented at the Synod. The addition is to Canon VII-1.1 currently reads as follows:

Persons desiring to form a national Religious Order in the UACC must present a Rule or Form of Life for the proposed Order to the College of Bishops through their Diocesan Bishop, for approval. The Rule or Form of Life for a religious order, which exists, and ministers solely within a Diocese requires approval only by the Diocesan Bishop of that Diocese.

The proposed addition reads:

The Rule or Form of Life may not contradict, but must conform to these Articles and Constitution of the UACC.

Don moved that the addition be accepted as is, the motion had multiple seconds and passed unanimously.

The new Canon was proposed as follows:

Canon VII – 4.1 Ministry by members of Religious Orders

The wearing of the religious habit must conform to these norms: the habit shall be modest guided by tradition and established by the Order, the habit can be worn at all times when and where appropriate by celibate members of Religious Orders or members in a committed relationship blessed by the Church, of which both are in the Order. All members in good standing with their Religious Orders may wear the habit at meetings of the Order, National Meetings of the UACC and while on retreat. All religious have the right to burial in the habit of their Order.

Don moved that the addition be accepted as is, the motion had multiple seconds and passed unanimously.

With such business conducted on the 8th Day of August 2005, and, by the Grace of God, the day's work was concluded with a communal celebration of the Scriptural Rosary.

Respectfully submitted,

Br. James Dunn, osfc
Secretary
United American Catholic Church