**CSL COUNCIL MEETING**

**July, 9, 2024**

**Present:** Abbess Martha, Brother David, Sister Mary Magdalene, Sister Julian, Sister Anah Elizabeth, Sister Marie Patricia, Brother Ronan, Brother Daniel

**Absent:** Brother Raymond

**Guests:** Brother Jean Baptiste, Sister Gianna, Brother Joseph Elias, Cynthia Reece

**Opening Prayer:** Brother David

**Finance Report:** Sister Mary Magdalene went through the financial report and explained that the investment adjustment was not made in June but there has been an increase of $8000 which made the $294,624 change to $302,827. Sister Mary Magdalene has sent out pledge cards to the new members. Also, the documents to switch the investment account from Brother Robert’s account to CSL just need to be notarized and that will complete the transfer.

Brother David discussed some of the financial concerns brought by the Finance Committee as follows:

1. In the budget for the last month, it was noted that although there was a drop in pledges, it was not a huge concern. Statements will be sent out to members so they will know where they stand in pledging.
2. There will be a review of the 2nd and 3rd quarters, and review licenses needed.
3. The Convocation in October will have extra expenses because of the addition of music into the Office hours.
4. The Investment Committee met and had a serious discussion about ethical investments. The Investment has received a 14.8% return this year.
5. The Finances are in the process of being reviewed.
6. Two people are interested in becoming Treasurer and they will be presented to the Abbess for consideration.

**Communication:** brother John David is reviving the newsletter, and the Abbess is asking Sister Julian and the formation guides to ask members to write reflections on any of the transitions that occurred at Convocation. The article should be 300 to 500 words. All work has been updated on the Opus Dei site and will be updated for the October Convocation.

**Porter Report:** Brother David told the Council there have been 10 inquirers so far and he and Sister Catherine Ann will begin the interview process with them in August.

**Face Book Pages:** There will be changes made to the public and private pages of Facebook in the next month.

**Formation:** Information about Transitions will be contained in the newsletter coming out in September. There will be a supplemental service on July 11 honoring the Feast of St. Benedict. More information will be coming forth about Safe Church and the summer study where one vow will be highlighted in each session. Brother Steven is archiving photos so if anyone has Convocation photos, please send them to him. The book list may need to have a librarian. A pilot program has been started where annual professed meet with Postulants to compliment the formation guides. More complete records of each member need to be kept and members need to assist in succession planning as well as administrative documents such as Leaves of Absence, etc.

**Convocation:** The Abbess spoke about the success of the June Convocation with 28 members present. She noted the challenges of space and the inability to be able to book Conception for next year. The Convocation may have to end a day early making it from Monday to Friday. October will still take place at Conception Abbey.

**June Minutes and Reports:** Brother David made a motion to accept the minutes and reports; seconded by Brother Ronan; approved by the Council.

**New Business:** Some members would like more gender-neutral language used in the prayers. Abbess Martha will be asking the Worship Committee and clergy to look into psalters with more inclusive language. Brother David has been approached to include more gender-neutral language in the Wednesday Vespers. He would like to be part of the process because there are 2 or 3 different versions of inclusive language.

**Old Business:** New places are being considered for habits and the process is making progress, but there is no decision yet. The updated Customary will be issued and dated 7/4/2024.

**The next meeting will take place on August 13, at 5:00 pm CT.**

**The meeting closed with a prayer by Sister Julian at 6:55 CT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Marie Patricia