**CSL Council Meeting August 13, 2024**

**Present:** Abbess Martha, Brother Raymond. Brother David, Sister Mary Magdalene, Sister Genevieve Lynn, Brother James Rafael, Sister Anah Elizabeth, Sister Marie Patricia, Brother Ronan, brother Daniel

**Guests:** Brother John David, Andi Sibley, Brother Jean Baptiste

**The Abbess opened the meeting at 5:02 PM CT**

**Prayer:** Sister Marie Patricia

**Financials:** Sister Mary Magdalene presented the Financials as of the last day in July. No liabilities as of this time. Cash on hand is $53,000. Investment is $305,000. All is well as of this time. Activity report is a cash basis of cash in and cash out. Large checks were for Convocation. Revenue will pick up as pledging comes in. Under budget by about $12,000 at this point. We have received about 35% of our pledges and more will be coming by the end of the year. All statements have not been sent out to members to show them where they are in their pledging. We may move funds from the Money Market if needed after the October Convocation. All the signatories on the Investment funds are in the process of being changed. Brother David asked about the financial review and the Abbess said she has been following up with the committee members. Two of the members have already started on the review. Sister Mary Magdalene has been researching a way for TD Bank to accept deposits as electronic rather than as paper checks. Any automation is helpful and Sister Mary Magdalene can continue researching the issue. She will also research automatic withdrawal as well.

**Communications:** Brother David said Opus Dei is working well. There have been no changes to the web site.

**Porter Report:** 12 to 14 people have expressed and interest but most have fallen away. Applications have been sent to two people and Sister Catherine Ann has sent out some as well. Brother David expects two people maybe four to send in completed applications. He expects applications to come in by November since an applicant has to do several things before the application can be sent into him.

**Formation Report:** Sister Genevive Lynn reported on the Tasks Forces that have been meeting. The annually professed have met with their postulants and novices. Book study is being considered for Advent and we are asking for suggestions. We would like to have meetings on the Benedictine vows. We are also looking at what our members are doing within their churches and communities.

**Approval of July Minutes:** Brother Ronan made a motion to accept the July minutes with the changes noted; seconded by Brother Daniel. Approved by the Council.

**Inclusive Language in Opus Dei:** The Abbess has asked the Worship Committee as well as the priests in the community to research the copyright costs as well as any other matters necessary. Tentatively, the Abbess is leaning toward using inclusive language one day a week in the office, probably Thursdays, but she is still praying about the issue. The Abbess would like to hear comments about the use of inclusive language. Some of the comments were as follows:

We are a community together and when we start to separate within groups, I get concerned that when we ask people to change or choose sides such as going to one because it is inclusive and the other one is not. Another asked is there a way we can include everyone in community. We have to search out what the community wants. It is a situation that has to be considered seriously and can be time consuming and expensive. We can not have anyone feel left out. Whatever decision made by the Community has to be vetted by Chapter. Every one needs to be included. Funds will need to be allocated for the changes. I would wonder about changing what the BCP as sanctioned in the Psalter. I have an issue with changing the Psalter that has been approved. Do we remove and edit what we have been given, well thought through, and put into place for hundreds of years. Thank you for bringing this issue up but we need to hear from all members. We have been using The Magnificat from Enriching our Worship and people have not had an issue with it. We are trying to have a place for those who have a problem with God being male. At Convocation we are praying together, but ZOOM has given us an example of how we can adapt. I would like us to keep open in order to welcome those who would like the more inclusive language.

The Abbess noted that some do not pray with ZOOM Vespers because there are members who do not pray with the community because of the inclusive language at some times. The Abbess would like to hear what members are thinking about this issue.

**Fall Chapter will be Saturday, September 28th.**

**Fall Convocation:** Members asked about taking a break from Conception. October of 2025 has been recommended for the change. Three locations were mentioned. The Committee noted starting on Monday and ending on Friday. 28 people answered the survey and the most interest came for the location outside of Baltimore. Further information will ensue as Sister Madeleine Sophie will do further research on the feasibility of changing locations.

**Habits:** Glory and Praise will be given the new contract and will need a 16-to-18-week lead time. They will use zippers instead of buttons for the habits.

**The Open Session ended at 6:11 PM The Council went into Closed Session.**

Brother David has a recommendation for treasurer, Brother Jean Baptiste as of October 1, 2024. This means a change has to be made in the Customary. Brother David is making for a motion to appoint a novice, Brother Jean Baptiste , as interim treasurer from October 1, 2024 to June 30, ay 6:202025. Seconded by Brother Ronan.

Sister Mary Magdalene has made an amendment to the Customary that a second-year novice or oblate novice may be appointed to a position not to exceed a year. Seconded by Sister Anah Elizabeth.

**Both of the motions have been passed by the Council.**

**Sister Genevieve Lynn ended the meeting with a prayer at 6:20 PM.**

**The next meeting will take place on September 10 at 5 PM CT.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Marie Patricia