**November Council Meeting**

**November 12, 2024**

**Present: Abbess Martha, Brother Jean Baptiste, Sister Anah Elizabeth, Sister Marie Patricia, Brother Ronan, Brother Daniel, Sister Genevieve Lynn, Sister Mary Magdalene, Brother Raymond**

**Guests: Sister Gianna, Brother David, Sister Julian**

**Opening Prayer: Brother Jean Baptiste**

**Financial Report:** Sister Mary Magdalene presented the financial report noting that investments lost a little but finances are up about $72,000. In money we have received we are about $5000 over last year. However, the final bill for the October Convocation has not yet been processed. The money allotted was $26,000, but the actual expense will probably be less. 63% of pledges have been received. Still no real concern as several pledges will come in toward the end of December. Basically, the finances are still in the black.

Brother Jean Baptiste told the Council that the budget process has begun and work will continue on things such as asking members to increase pledges if possible.

As to donations, CSL has $3000 budgeted for donations and there is still $400 left to be distributed. There will be a donation to the Food Bank in memory of Sister Mary Francis of $150 thanks to a motion made by Brother Jean Baptiste and seconded by Brother Ronan. Approved by the Council.

**Five Year Plan:** Sister Julian reported on the progress being made and that different versions have been sent out to the Reps because there will be dollars associated with some of the actions set forth in the plan and will affect the budget.

**Worship/Convocation:** The Abbess updated the Council on sites for the upcoming Convocations. 2025 will have two convocations, one of which will be on the East Coast in Baltimore and the other in July in Nebraska. There is a possibility to find a place on the West Coast as well, for fall 2026. All of these changes are necessary because Conception Monastery is no longer available for Convocations.

**Technology Report:** Brother David requested 40 hours of support from our web vendor for 2025. Those hours should cover routine maintenance and any possible new services.

**Habits:** Abbess Martha reported on the payment for habits and how the new company is progressing in its commitment.

It was suggested that CSL start setting aside money for audits and internal reviews to the amount of $1000 a year added to each budget. There needs to be a thorough audit every 5 years.

**Communication Website:** The Abbess spoke about the ZOOM account actually belonging to Brother Florian and the need to discuss this with him in order to do what is everyone’s best interest. Brother Ronan will assist the Abbess with this transition.

Brother David will be retiring from his duties and The Abbess has two members interested in helping cover what Brother David has been doing so well for such a long time.

**Porter Report:** The Abbess reported there are three applicants coming in and 8 or 9 applications have been sent out. There is potential for 2 new novice oblates and applicants from the UK and Rwanda.

**Formation**: Sister Genevieve Lynn reported that task groups are continuing to meet. One discussion is centering around the community need for a librarian. The Advent Book study has been set up for 2 different times each Sunday in Advent in order to accommodate all time zones. The Lenten study is also being discussed. A book and times will be forthcoming. Sister noted that the intended game night will not work out as planned.

**Convocation:** The Abbess spoke about how bittersweet it felt to be leaving Conception after 20 years there. She noted how all the items used at Convocation will now be stored in three different locations. Also, at the upcoming Convocations because of the changes, services such the Eucharist may become simpler because of having to store some of the vestments etc. in places other than where the Convocation may be held. In the end, everything will be a new experience and the Abbess said we will “play it by ear.”

**October Minutes:** Brother Jean Baptiste made a motion to accept the October minutes as amended; seconded by Brother Ronan; approved by the Council.

**New Business:** January Chapter will take place om January 25th at 2 PM.

**Open Session ended; Council went into Closed Session;**

**Closed Session Ended**

**Closing Prayer:** Sister Marie Patricia

**The next Council meeting will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 5 PM Central.**

Respectfully submitted.

Sister Marie Patricia, OSB