**Council meeting CSL January 14, 2025**

**Attending: Abbess Martha, Brother Raymond, Brother Jean Baptiste, Sister Mary Magdalene. Sister Anah Elizabeth, Sister Marie Patricia, Brother Ronan, Brother Daniel**

**Guests: Sister Julian, Brother Stephen, Sr. Gianna, and Rick Knight**

**Opening Prayer:** Brother Jean Baptiste

**Financial Report:** Sister Mary Magdalene noted on the Balance sheet that $85,000 was earned from investments last year. Many pledges also came in and she expects 90% of them to be in by the end of the year. A new account has been established to help members go to Convocation. The general amount available for each person would be $500 which will allow 5 members to attend who might otherwise not be available. In general, the total budget was better than anticipated. It was suggested that $15,000 be moved from checking to the money market account where it earns interest. The Abbess made a motion to place $15,000 from checking into the Money Market account; seconded by Brother Ronan; approved by the Council.

**Communications:** The Abbess presented the report on behalf of Brother David. The Christmas error will be fixed after the budget is approved and the Web site fee is paid. The prayer list was passed on to Cindy Page since the passing of Sister Mary Francis. The ZOOM room will be transferred from Brother Florian and a plan for three hosts will be implemented. Once the budget is approved, $530 will purchase the ZOOM CSL room.

**Five Year Plan:** Sister Julian updated the Council on the plan**.** She noted that edits are continually being made to the plan and that anyone who wants to make any other edits should send them to her by the 17th of the month.

**Formation:** The three Committees have been meeting and have chosen eight areas to work on including a call for task Force membership. Brother Ronan reported on fellowship night which will be held on the third Saturday of each month to especially help new members get to know the community. A suggestion was also made to resurrect the on-line classes.

**Porter Report:** Five applications have been sent out. There will be two novice oblate, two postulants, one vowed member. There may be two returning members as well.

**Worship Committee:** The Worship Committee needs a facilitator. There will be a service of remembrance during Lent on March 22nd at Matins. Please start getting a list of names of those to be remembered.

**December Minutes:** Abbess Martha made a notion to accept the December minutes and above reports as written/presented; seconded by Brother Ronan and Brother Daniel; approved by the Council.

**2025 Budget:** The 5-year plan provides for a 5-year rolling budget to let us see where we are headed. The current year is actual budgeted amounts, future years assume a 5-10% increase across the board.. Some of the highlights of the 2025 budget will be the cost of habits, the Convocation expenses and prepays, as well as the service music and worship items.

$1000 each year will be put aside to pay for a five-year financial review which will cost about $5000. The draft budget will be presented to the Community at the Chapter in January.

Brother Jean Baptiste made a motion to accept the proposed budget as presented with the five-year focus and forward it to the Chapter in January; seconded by Brother Daniel; approved by the Council.

**Old Business:** Orders will begin being placed for Habits. Chapter will be held on January 25, 2025 at 2 PM CT.

**New Business:** There will be a testing of using Break Out rooms at Chapter for voting in Council members.

**The open Session Closed,**

**Closed Session Opened**

**Closed Session Ended**.

**Open Session:**

**Closing Prayer:** Sister Marie Patricia

**The next meeting will take place on Feb. 13 at 5 PM Central Time.**

**The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM CT**

Respectfully submitted,

Sister Marie Patricia, OSB