

MEMBERSHIP MEETING SUMMARY

Compiled from notes, records, and recordings

The membership meeting held on Sunday, October 30 during the convention, covered several aspects of the organization's present and future status.

A financial dashboard presented by Executive Director Don McCrabb revealed that the organization has funding for about seven months of operation, with some reserves put in place in case of dissolution. Some members expressed deep concern, feeling "very scared" about the situation while others saw hope and felt "optimistic" because the organization will likely be flush again by March 2023 once dues are paid. Members offered suggestions like sharing overhead with partners and seeking other funding sources. They also reminded each other to pay their 2023 dues promptly.

Next, board member Wesley Cocozello spoke in his capacity as the implementation team leader for the reorganization of USCMA. He said, "This is an opportunity in communing with the Synod to dream together and document... During my gathering walk yesterday, despite all the problems and challenges the world is clearly facing, I was struck by an overwhelming abundance of vision, skill, and heart in this room alone to set some of those problems right and bring our kingdom more fully into reality." He emphasized that the work of restructuring relies on member participation.

Then, Sr. Nancy introduced the 2023 slate of candidates for board membership, which included:

Thomas L. Garlitz - father of Justin, husband of Jenny, retired Director of Office for Human Dignity, including Respect Life, Justice & Peace, Care of Creation, and Missions (Joliet Diocese).

Sr. Ancy Jacobs, SSps - a member of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, currently pastoral care coordinator for Ozanam Hall Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Queens, NY.

Marilyn Santos – frequent mission trip leader, currently Assistant Director of the Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. (second term)

Fr. Thomas Vellappallil, M.S. – member of La Salette Missionaries, currently Executive Director, North American La Salette Mission Center.

Sr. Ancy spoke of her trust in God. Fr. Thomas shared his joy and passion for mission. USCMA members elected the slate by affirmation.

Following the election, members started the work of implementation. Wesley introduced the board members leading the four implementation team task groups: membership engagement, programming and services, finance and development, board structure and governance. Meghan Mio and Doshie Piper hosted a conversation about membership engagement. Antoinette led a discussion on programming and services while Wesley met with members interested in finance and development. Sr. Nancy observed that her group working on governance could not really move forward until the other groups finished their work, but she was open to ideas and visitors at her table. Members participated in robust conversations as they considered which task force group to join.

The meeting concluded with Mass led by Fr. Jim Kroeger, MM.