

rhaging of unborn and unwanted human persons and lives.

The motion was seconded by Fr. John Kowalczyk. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Fr. Kishkovsky presented the Resolution *On the Death Penalty* and Fr. Daniel Ressetar moved its adoption as follows:

WHEREAS Orthodox Christians should be called to go beyond the political, social, and legal issues raised by capital punishment and recognize and address the deeper moral, ethical, and religious questions of the supreme value of human life in a manner consistent with our opposition to abortion and mercy killing, and in all such questions involving life and death the church must always champion life; and

WHEREAS in an effort to further the respect for all human life and to witness to the redemptive nature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ who Himself prevented the legal execution of a woman (John 8:3-11) and realizing that premature death resulting from the application of the death penalty can prevent the rehabilitation, reconciliation, and redemption of the offender; and

WHEREAS, while we recognize the necessity to punish those guilty of violent crime, we also recognize that there is no humane way to execute a human being;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Ninth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America supports the abolition of the death penalty in this and all countries and does urge our elected and appointed officials in those states where prisoners are still executed to introduce and support appropriate legislation aimed at abolishing the death penalty;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this Council requests all governors of states where the death penalty is still in force to halt all further executions according to the power of

their office, but that legislative provisions be made for life imprisonment without possibility of parole for those subject to the death penalty;

FINALLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Ninth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America supports and encourages religious bodies, organizations and human rights groups which seek the abolition of the death penalty.

The motion was seconded by Fr. Innocent (Fryntzko). MOTION CARRIED.

11. Fr. Kishkovsky moved the Resolutions *On Financial Management* and *On Mutual Accountability*, seconded by Fr. John Tkachuk. Due to time constraints, a vote on these resolutions was postponed until the next Plenary Session.

12. Bishop DMITRI introduced Peter Kohudic, President of the FROC who addressed the assembly and presented a check from the FROC United Fund to representatives of the three seminaries.

13. The session closed with the singing of "O Lord, Save Thy People" at 3:59 p.m.

Session 10

The Ninth All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America convened at the Adam's Mark Hotel, St. Louis, MO Monday, August 21, 1989 through Friday, August 25, 1989

Minutes of the Tenth Plenary Session

August 25, 1989

1. The session was opened with the singing of "The Grace of the Holy Spirit" at 10:20 a.m.

2. His Grace, Bishop DMITRI called the meeting to order. This was followed by Scripture readings and prayer to the Holy Spirit.

3. Bishop DMITRI called on Fr. Kondratick, who announced the results of the elections.