

AUGUSTE “NONCO” PELAFIGUE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 696

Arnaudville, LA 70512

npelafigue@gmail.com

EIN 45-4850963 – 501(c)(3) Corporation

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – DEC. 8, 2021

Held at Suzanne Stelly’s Grandparents home

WELCOME: Charles Hardy, President Elect, acknowledged those in attendance; Charles Taylor, Iris and Allen LeBlanc, Suzanne Stelly, Kathy Hardy and Sis Laporte. Absent was Jerry Richard and Fr. Gary Schexnayder, our President. Those in attendance recited the Opening Prayer.

Opening Prayer

With Nonco as our example, we pray: Lord Jesus, you were sent by the Father to gather those who are scattered. You came among us doing good, announcing the Word of salvation, and giving the Bread which lasts forever. Enflame our hearts and open our minds so that we may recognize you in the Scriptures and in the breaking of bread. May your Holy Spirit transform us into one body and lead us to walk humbly on the earth in justice and love. Amen. Thank you, Jesus!

Reading of Mission Statement:

To provide religious, educational and charitable programs which will continue the work of Auguste “Nonco” Pelafigue and to explore his beatification and canonization for his tireless work of spreading his message of love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, especially to those who are dealing with the hardships of life and to strengthen and grow the Catholic faith.

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Minutes of the August 18, 2021 Board Meeting

A Motion was made by Charles Hardy, seconded by Iris LeBlanc to accept the minutes of the August 18, 2021 Board meeting

Those minutes were voted on and accepted.

Re-Locating the remains of Nonco to a Humble Place of Prayer

Fr. Luis Escalante will meet this week with Fr. Abadie to present the Historical Commission's final report. He will also discuss timeline to re-locate Nonco. This Saturday, December 11, 2021, Fr. Luis will be at Charlene Richard's burial site to exhume her remains, have medical professional's perform necessary examinations and gently place her remains back where she was buried. A very small group of attendees will participate. We will learn how to perform this very delicate process from Fr. Luis.

Dr. A.J. Delahoussaye will be the physician in attendance, an honor.

New Board Membership

Fr. Donald Bernard, assistant Pastor in Abbeville, has agreed to join our Board. He has visited with Msgr. Curtis Mallet and both are extremely excited about Fr. Bernard's role with the Nonco Board. He was ordained a little over 2 years ago. Fr. Donald Bernard was introduced to the Board members present with a FaceTime phone call. Each Board member spoke with him and were touched by his humbleness and his discussion about his Great Uncle Msgr. Daniel Bernard. Msgr. Bernard is who recommended Nonco for the Papal Decree. Fr. Donald Bernard expressed his sincere interest in working with the Nonco Foundation.

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Blue Highway Signs directing people to Nonco’s burial site

I spoke with Fred Mills and he directed me to a representative of the DOTD, a Mr. Mike Deselle. Mr. Deselle was very engaged and helpful. He did tell me that DOTD has not installed these signs for over 10 years. He looked at the file and noted that they had reached out to State Representative Mike Huval to offer an explanation and assistance but Mr. Huval never responded to their correspondence or phone calls. However, he gave me the name of the Agency to apply for these signs. I filled out Application and sent it in. I gave them Jerry Richard’s contact info. He will follow up and let us know how all this will work and how much it will cost.

Financial Reports

A campaign to raise money was concluded two (2) weeks ago. I am happy to report that in the past two (2) months we have deposited \$20,000 in to the Nonco Foundation account. A detailed list of all who donated was provided to those present at this Board meeting. At the end of November 2021 we have a total of \$69,067.02 in FM Bank.

Financial Responsibilities

Mr. Kenny Toups, CPA, is doing a wonderful job. All of us have received financial reports, timely. Mr. Toups realizes what a noble cause this is and will not charge us for this service. He volunteered this to Charles Taylor and I and we were most appreciative. In the Board meeting of August 18, 2021, we had approved \$90/Month for this service.

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Earmarking Funds

In the letter sent to raise funds, I noted that we will need funds to re-locate Nonco’s remains. Now that we have successfully raised \$20,000, I will ask the board, for the record, to earmark funds, for what I submitted to prospective donors, was the reason we need the money. I simply do not want to do anything else with the money, estimates are:

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Covering costs to provide a final resting place for Father Gary Schexnayder (he is gifting his plot, to Nonco) | \$10,000 |
| Covering costs to buy and set up blue signs | 3,000 |
| Covering costs to repair road to Nonco’s house | 4,000 |
| Covering costs for Anthropologist, Medical doctor And funeral home expenses | <u>3,000</u> |
| TOTAL | \$20,000 |

THE BOARD VOTED ON EACH ITEM AND PASSED, UNANIMOUSLY, THAT THE NONCO FOUNDATION WILL EARMARK THESE FUNDS, AS LISTED ABOVE, TO PRESERVE THE INTENTIONS OF THESE CONTRIBUTORS.

Election of Officers and Board Members

Charles Hardy moved to appoint Fr. Don Bernard to our Board. Charles Taylor seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and Fr. Bernard was unanimously appointed as a Board of Director.

Charles Hardy presented a motion to elect Fr. Don Bernard as President Elect, Sis Laporte seconded the motion. A vote was taken and Fr. Bernard was unanimously elected President Elect.

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Charles Hardy asked the Board to offer as much guidance and support to Fr. Don Bernard in his new role. It was also discussed that going forward, the Foundation will not be having as many meetings as in the past. Now that the Cause has been opened, most of the work will be done by our Episcopal Delegate, Fr. Travis Abadie. The Foundation will continue to provide any assistance needed.

New Business

Charles and Kathy Hardy are retiring as Board of Directors, effective after this meeting adjourns. Charles Taylor advised that he would like someone else to take over his responsibilities of Treasurer. However, until that happens he will continue to serve.

There are four (4) young ladies, all with the Cowboy Catholics of McNeese, who are sincerely interested in serving as Board members; Kellie Comeaux, Kristin Guillory, Emmy Guidry and Hannah Beard. They met Willie Wyble, Suzanne Stelly and Charles Taylor when they came to Arnaudville to visit Nonco's burial site. There were about 20 girls from Lake Charles in attendance. They have wonderful ideas to spread the word on Nonco and have some excellent goals i.e., *expanding membership to Northwestern University in Natchitoches*, using the fact that Nonco went to school there, to help encourage membership. Also, this year there will be a convention of Young Catholic organizations where these young ladies would like us to set up a booth for Nonco...they are really pumped up. Soon a “meet and greet” will be set up for everyone

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to get to know each other. After this, the Board will decide path forward. It was discussed that these young ladies, serving on our Board, will lead to growing membership of younger people. We've been expressing a need for this to happen, for a long time. **This opportunity was brought to us by Nonco.** The Board, in unison, participated in the following Closing Prayer, then the meeting was adjourned.

Closing Prayer

Eternal Father, in the Holy Spirit in which Nonco lived his life, we want to consecrate and commit ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary and be more devoted and faithful children.

Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary, with this consecration and commitment we return to you the love you showed in your earthly life, especially on Calvary, and which you showed Nonco and you show us still today.

Full of trust we seek shelter in your loving heart. Protect us in all we do to further the cause of beatification and canonization of Nonco. After this earthly pilgrimage, take us to our eternal home in Heaven, Amen.



SUZANNE STELLY-SECRETARY

December 8, 2021