

# SANTA ROSA DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

## Minutes, Meeting June 6, 2009, Chancery

Present: Bishop Walsh, Bob Leet (Chair, Presiding, Sonoma North), Jake Arcanin (St John the Baptist Napa), Brian Connolly (LPDP Task Force, Holy Spirit, Sonoma North), Lou Bull (Treasurer, Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission, Humboldt/Del Norte), Pat Bull (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission, Humboldt/Del Norte), Steve Ericsson (Vice Chair, St Helena, Napa), Yvette Fallandy (Past Chair, Exec. Sec., St Eugene), Len Marabella (LPDP Task Force Chair, St Rose).

Invocation and Amenities. Bob Leet led the assembled in the Prayer for the Diocese, and welcomed Jake Arcanin.

Agenda\* approved as proposed.

Minutes.\* approved (formally) as submitted.

Lay Pastoral Director Project (LPDP, available on the DPC Website.).

- Bob read the Bishop's letter\* responding the DPC's (*i.e.*, Bob's) letter\* inviting his formal approval of the LPDP. The Bishop's letter expresses concern for the cost of the project, and his intention to employ Deacons as Pastoral Directors because they are already prepared, citing Deacon Bob Little at St Helena Napa as an example.

- Len emphasized that the DPC is not asking for implementation of the project, but only its official authorization as an option to mitigating the diocesan shortage of priests. He went on to review the ubiquitous acceptance of the project among Parishes, Pastors, the Priests Council, the DPC Plenary Session, and of the Bishop himself. He also pointed out that, the Project explicitly provides for Deacons as a source of LPDs.

- Jake pointed out that wealthier Parishes could more easily afford a LPD.

- Brian stressed that, given the growing shortage of Priests, it behooves us to have in place model program so as not to be caught unprepared. He went on to point out that by virtue of Vatican II, it is incumbent upon the Laity to assume its responsibility in face of the Priest shortage.

- Bishop Walsh reminded that the 41% Hispanic Laity must be accommodated in any LPDP.

-Yvette affirmed that the LPDP represents the DPC's response to the Bishop's request for such a program, and that it has been extensively vetted among Laity and Priests throughout the Diocese. Thus the Bishop's explicit affirmation of the Project would establish its *bona fide* and strengthen the DPC's credibility in the Diocese.

- Bishop Walsh agreed to consider a letter to the Diocese affirming the LPDP as an option to mitigate our Priest shortage. Len and Yvette will prepare a possible text for his consideration.

Review of the Plenary Session, March 28, 2009, St Mary of the Angles, Ukiah

- (See above, Lay Pastoral Director Project.)

- Deemed a success, although attendance was less than in previous years (40+).

- The "What I Am Most Proud of in My Parish" Survey revealed core Parishioners devoted to their Pastors and Parish community spirit.

- Given Parishioners' enthusiasm for their Pastors and Parishes, the "WIAM" Report should have exhorted more emphatically that Parishes publish Survey results in their Church Bulletins.

- There was disappointment that the survey Report did not elicit a wider response from Pastors.

- Bishop Walsh urged the Ex. Bd to provide the North Coast Catholic with a summary of the "WIAM" Report. Yvette will confer with Dr Frontczak, NCC Editor.

DPC Communications.

- All agreed that communication is an on-going challenge the DPC shares with the Diocese, that any DPC communications project must be integrated with that of the Diocesan Office of Communication (Dr

Deirdre Frontczak, Director), and that the Laity represents a considerable reservoir of expertise for enhancing Diocesan and DPC communications.

- Mike reported that Sonoma North Deanery has organized a 'Communications Task Force' (Kevin Connolly, Chair ( Resurrection, Sonoma North), and with the Bishop's endorsement, a member of the Diocesan Communication Committee, Dr Frontczak, Chair).

- Brian predicted a multi-faceted communications program as necessary and feasible, and to include:

- timely dissemination of information.

- inter-Parish communication.

- NCC

- DPC newsletter

- electronic media (e-mail, web- and blog- sites, Facebook, teleconferencing).

- utilization of national resources (American Catholic Assoc., Catholic Webmaster, *et al.*)

- better accommodation of households without computers

- multi-lingual materials, especially Spanish, but also including other languages.

- Consensus: the Communications Task Force will proceed with all deliberate speed in full cooperation with Dr Frontczak.

### Reconfiguration of intraDPC communications.

-Bob reviewed the DPC's current situation: the Deanery model, as set forth in the DPC Constitution, is the cause for concern.

- H/DN is as active as always, meeting at least 4 times a year, and will meet June 27th and will be looking for a new project to take on for the year.

- M/L has never been viable (geography more of an obstacle than Parishioner interest).

- N once active, is no longer.

- SN remains the most active of the 5 Deaneries.

- SS has waned and will jointly with SN if is no longer active.

- Steve urged more direct contact with the Parish Councils.

- Pat pointed out that the very geography of H/DN was reason enough to maintain the Deanery organization: it is a vehicle for social interaction among the Parishes, and thus for maintaining a spirit of community and for the exchange of news and ideas.

- Brian concurred that there is a need for inter-Parish communication, and contended that the DPC needs a communication center for efficient sharing of information. He believes that electronics would resolve many of the DPC/Diocesan communication problems (Please see above.).

- Steve insisted on informal opportunities for social interaction, untrammelled by formal structure, as a vehicle for DPC communication among the Parishes, and that the Ex. Bd should reach out to each Deanery individually.

- Pat concurred, citing the H/DL experience ("We support one another.").

- Bob requested that specific proposals to address 'reconfiguration' be presented at the next meeting.

### Reports.

- Bishop Walsh:

- At St John's Napa he recently ordained to the transitional diaconate a seminarian to be ordained to the Priesthood May 2010.

- Among recent transfers: Fr Ismael Mora has been transferred from St Vincent de Paul to Sacred Heart Eureka (He is the only Spanish-speaking Priest in H/DN); Fr Sean Rogers has been transferred from St Mary of the Angels Ukiah to St Vincent; Fr Tekleberhan Dini is transferred from St Elizabeth Guerneville to St Mary Arcata, and Fr. Ray Rioux replaces him at St Elizabeth.

- July 2 Bishop Walsh will meet with his brother Nigerian Bishop to request that two priests on loan to Santa Rosa be permitted to remain another year.

- In October he will travel to Mexico with three Mexican Priests to recruit Priests from Mexico.

- Pope Benedict XVI has declared June 19 2009-10 the "Year of the Priest." Bishop Walsh has sent a 3-pp letter to Priests emphasizing the importance of this celebration.

- The Annual Ministry Appeal goal = \$900K+, pledges received = \$750K+, receipts = \$550K+.

- Pat reported on the H/DN Meeting, April 18, 2009:

- Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Mission has engaged in a series of fund-raisers to mitigate the current economic crisis. Annual Golf Tournament generated a gratifying \$2500.
- Jim Dimmick, Sacred Heart, has resigned from H/DN Deanery for health reasons. He is succeeded by Doug Williams.
- Next H/DN Deanery Meeting: June 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Mike reported that SN continues to pursue the Lay Pastoral Director Project (Len Marabella, Chair), has underway a new Task Force on Communications (Kevin Connolly, Chair) [Please see above.], and is exploring with Fr Tom Diaz, Director of Vocations/Seminarians, a Task Force on Support for Vocations/Seminarians.
- Jake reported that St John Napa has launched a Five-year Strategic Plan and begun the 'Generations of Faith' Program.
- Lou reported that of the \$2500 DPC budget, \$857.38 had been expended leaving a balance of \$1542.52.
- Yvette:
  - the DPC database has been augmented from 250 to 450 entries.
  - circulated a summary of DPC Website 'hits.'
  - in mid-April announcement of the availability on the DPC Website of the Plenary Session Record and the "What I Am Most Proud of in My Parish" Report was sent to all e-mail addresses of record.
  - Bob sent hard copies of the "What I Am Most Proud of in My Parish" Report to all Pastors at the end of April.
  - anticipates establishing a DPC newsletter template before the end of the month.

DPC Calendar 2009-2010. Approved as submitted by Yvette:

- All Meetings, except the Plenary Session: Saturday, 9AM-12N, Cathedral of St Eugene, Parish Life Center, 2323 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95405, September 12, November 14, January 9, April 10, June 12 (Election of Officers).
- Plenary Session, Saturday, March 20, 2010, 8:30AM-4:00PM, St Mary of the Angels Ukiah.
- All Meetings and the Plenary Session are open and all are welcome.
- Agenda and Minutes are available on the DPC Website.

Election of Officers, DPC Executive Board: Elected by Acclamation: Mike Wall, Chair; Julie Parnow, Vice Chair (St James Petaluma, SS); Lou Bull Treasurer.

Next Meeting. Saturday, 9AM-12N, September 14, 2009, Cathedral of St Eugene, Parish Life Center, 2323 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa 95405.

Benediction. Bishop Walsh.

Adjournment: 11:30AM.

\* Copies attached to archival Minutes.

