

-SANTA ROSA DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BOARD

Minutes, Meeting of September 12, 2009, St Eugene Cathedral

Present: Bishop Walsh, Mike Wall (Presiding, St Eugene, SN), Mel Amato (St John Baptist H), Lou Bull (Treasurer, Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, H/DN), Pat Bull (Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha, H/DN), Steve Ericson (St Helena, N), Yvette Fallandy (Ex. Sec., St Eugene), Bob Leet (Past Chair, Resurrection), Len Marabella (LPDP Task Force, St Rose), Julie Parnow (Vice Chair, St James, SS).

Invocation and Amenities. Mike Wall led the assembled in the Prayer for the Diocese, and welcomed Mel Amato and Len Marabella.

Agenda* approved as proposed.

Minutes* approved (formally) as submitted.

Reports and Items of Business.

- Bishop Walsh.

- Auditors have approved the Diocesan Financial Report 2008-2009.
- As it they have in the past six years, in their recent visit Auditors have found the Diocese in compliance with the Charter for Child and Youth Protection.
- October 4-9 he will travel to Mexico with Fathers Manuel Chavez, Oscar Diaz and Ismael Mora to meet with three Bishops for the purpose of recruiting Priests for our Diocese.
- Nineteen candidates for the Diaconate have completed their Year of Aspirancy. Deacon Frank Dahl recommends a new deaconate class but the cost of \$48K is prohibitive.
- The Annual Appeal has attracted only 4500 respondents (among 160K Catholics, 25% regularly attend Mass). For the past three years our goal has been \$975K. This year the Appeal generated \$814K in pledges. At its next meeting the Priests Council will review the program and propose a 'demand contribution' (vs 'voluntary') from Parishes. (To date the national economy appears not to have affected Parish Collections.) The Diocesan Budget is based on the Annual Appeal pledged, not the goal.

- Lou & Pat Bull, Humboldt/Del Norte Deanery.

- Sacred Heart report E-mailed but inaccessible.
- Sr Pat Carson, Dir., Bl. Kateri Tekakwitha Mission, is recovery successfully from severe back surgery. In response to a query: the Mission's population is 200; 40-50 frequent Sunday Mass; the weekly collection is \$350. Deacon Ken Bond is a Godsend. Fathers Lauren Allen and Tom Diaz generously assure a monthly Mass.
- St Bernard. CCD & RCIA programs are diminished by declining parish population. St Bernard has assumed ownership of the Catholic Cemetery. St Bernard's Church is being refurbished in anticipation of its 125th Anniversary, 2011.

Steve Ericson, Napa Deanery.

- Napa Deanery is inactive; its future is unknown.
- All Napa Parishes enjoy a Parish Council.
- St Helena is being retrofitted to meet seismic standards.
- Steve read a poem he composed in honor of Deacon Bob Little.

Julie Parnow, Sonoma South Deanery.

- Sonoma South Deanery is inactive.
- St James is developing an Adult Education Program to serve the various interests within the adult population. Len Marabella offered St Rose's list of guest speakers. Bob Leet suggested that Parents be invited periodically to join CCD students in their classes.

Mike Wall, Bob Leet and Mel Amato, Sonoma North Deanery.

- Sonoma North has established a Task Force to continue the "What I am most proud of in my Parish" project.
 - Sonoma North is seeking ways to collaborate with South Sonoma.
 - Dissemination of the LPDP continues apace.
 - Dave Pettibone is the new Parish Representative from St Philip/St Theresa.
 - Resurrection is preparing its Oktoberfest (Noted by Bob Leet).
 - Sonoma North proposes a one-page summary of "Deanery Activities" for distribution to Pastors.
 - At its August 29th meeting, SN elected by acclamation Mel Amato and Len Marabella its Executive Board Representatives. Since SN already has one voting Representative, Ex. Bd Chair Wall is remanding to the Deanery its election results with the request that Sonoma North elect one Representative to the Ex. Board. (The DPC Constitution stipulates two Deanery Representatives on the Executive Board.)
 - (Noted by Mel Amato) St John the Baptist has had a turnover in staff. Its Pastor has proposed but has not yet established a Parish Council.
 - Mel Amato is Chair of a new Task Force on Strategic Planning whose objective is to provide a focus for Parish ministries in the context of a long term plan; implemented by Parishioners, the planning process includes a Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Long Terms Goals and Short Term (1 year) Objectives which are specific and
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measurable; the procedure requires about a year. Mel observed that 'Strategic Planning' enjoys currency among religious and secular organizations.

- Julie Parnow expressed concern that Sonoma North Deanery is preempting initiatives that should include DPC-wide participation. Len Marabella and Mel concurred. Mike observed that Sonoma North is exploring activities for reaching out to other Deaneries.

Lou Bull, Ex. Bd Treasurer.

- Received from the Chancery the DPC Annual Allocation of \$2500.00.
- Sought and received authorization for reimbursement to Yvette Fallandy for website expenses, and to Bob Leet for purchase of a file cabinet to house DPC Archives.
- Len Marabella requested purchase of a PowerPoint Projector for DPC presentations. M (Pat Bull), S (Julie Parnow), P (unan.), to authorize purchase of such a projector up to \$650.00 upon receipt of an invoice by Len M.

Len Marabella, Lay Parish Director Project.

- Noted that in the Bishop's Monthly Letter to the Diocese for August (English and Spanish) he had officially approved the DPC LPDP.
- Encouraged Steve Ericson to contact Msgr J. Brenkle, Pastor of St Helena and strong supporter of the LPDP, to seek his assistance in disseminating the project among the Napa Deanery Churches.
- In October will present the LPDP PowerPoint to the Napa Preists Deanery, and will continue to contact other Deaneries.
- Star of the Valley is actively pursuing adoption of the LPDP in anticipation of a Priest shortage in that Parish.
- Will continue to pursue improved an LPDP Website representation.

Communications.

- Mel Amato distributed a copy of the DPC Website Policy*.
- Mike distributed a Memo* pertaining to phone conversation, September 11th, between Brian Connolly, Member, DPC Task Force on Communications (other Members: Kevin Connolly, Chair; Len Marabella, Gary Moore) and Deirdre Frontczak, Director, Diocesan Communications; highlights:
 - Deirdre has diocesan authorization to pursue publication of Faith Magazine.
 - She currently distributes 10K copies of North Coast Catholic to Parishes (insufficient for some Parishes; important note: current, regular diocesan church attendance = 18K).
 - Brian and Deirdre discuss the possibility of the DPC of assuming responsibility, including cost, for establishing a diocesan E-mail roster for the purpose of assisting the Chancery in distributing diocesan communications (including Faith Magazine). Brian: ". . . my take is that the DPC has a green light to float the building an email list idea with the Executive Committee."
 - Brian continues by citing his research on Constant Contact and AmericanCatholic.org.
- The Assembled discussed various electronic communication venues in addition Website and Constant Contact: Facebook, Twitter, Blog, Posteris, *et al*, and 'conference call' meetings, *etc*.
- Mike quoted the Sonoma North Deanery Minutes, August 29, 2009: "Any further talk of this initiative (see above) needs to be in the form of a proposal, including objectives, strategy, implementation, costs, etc." The Assembled agreed by consensus.

Vocations.

- Pat Bull reminded the Assembled that, at previous Executive Board Meetings, Don Ferguson (St Thomas Aquinas, Napa) had expressed interest in establishing a DPC Task Force on Vocations, and that the Executive Board had entertained John Gnam's (St Eugene, Sonoma North) proposal for fund raising with a Wine Club.
- Pat and Lou Bull will explore with Father Tom Diaz, Diocesan Director of Vocations and Seminarians, how the DPC might assist him.

DPC Archives.

- Bob Leet was elected by acclamation DPC Archivist for an unspecified term.

Next Meeting: November 14, 2009. St Eugene Cathedral Parish Life Center.

Benediction led by Mike Wall.

Adjournment: 11:35.

* Copy attached to Approved Minutes.