

**SANTA ROSA DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008, CHANCERY
MINUTES**

Member present: Bishop Walsh, Lou Bull, Steve Ericson, Yvette Fallandy, Don Ferguson, Bob Leet (Presiding), Phil Minor, Kathy Sennello.

Invocation: Lou Bull

Agenda: Approved as augmented*

Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2008: (formally) Approved as submitted*

Reports:

Bishop Walsh:

- His participation in Pope Benedict XVI's visit to Washington, D.C., was a most gratifying experience.
- The Diocesan Budget 2008-2009 is extremely "tight." For example, funding for new Detention and Youth Ministries positions must be deferred.
- The necessity of sending a priest to Rome for training in Canon Law represents an outlay of \$65K/yr.

Chair (Bob L.):

- Correspondence sent: Letter of Thanks to Fathers Michael Cloney and David Pettingill for their contributions to the success of the DPC Plenary Session, April 5, 2008, Ukiah.
- Correspondence received: Bishop Walsh's response to a memo requesting that he establish a Task Force to consider a diocesan program for the training and employment of lay ecclesial ministers (Please see "Old Business" below.).

Treasurer (Lou B.):

- From our 2007-2008 Budget of \$2500, we have incurred expenses (including the Plenary) of \$1088.

Executive Secretary (Yvette F.):

- Announced a contract with a Webmaster and the refurbishing of the DPC Website, santarosadp.com. She is willing to underwrite this expense, and postings @ \$35/hr. The Webmaster, Aaron Davis, has been provided with the DPC Website Policy. Yvette will supervise postings. The Executive Board will review this arrangement in 6 mos.
- Prepared, e-mailed and posted on website a Report on the DPC Plenary Session 2008.

*Humboldt/Del Norte Deanery (Lou B. & Phil M.):**

- Referred to the Deanery's Minutes of March 1, 2008, to be posted on Website for parish reports.
- Blessed Kateri Tekakawitha Mission Parish Offices were flooded by heavy rains, and diocesan funds will cover cost of repairs.
- The Mission is launching a first-ever Golf Tournament at the Willow Creek Country Club.
- Eight Deanery Representatives attended the Plenary Session, April 5, 2008.
- The Eureka area will soon have a Catholic radio station.

Mendocino/Lake Deanery No report.

Napa Deanery (Steve E. & Don F.)

- The Deanery has not met since January
- The annual all-day "Catholic Men's Conference" was held April 19, 2008, at St Apollinaris Church with an attendance of 300. The program consisted of Speakers, Mass, Discussions, Confessions, Mass. Catholic Radio was one special feature of the program.
- A Catholic Women's Day is planned for next year.

Sonoma North Deanery (Bob L.)

- Deanery Meeting Minutes for April 26, 2008, will be available on the DPC Website, santarosadpc.com.
- Resurrection Parish has been active in protesting of Immigration Agents removing two parents from their home in the early morning, leaving two children under seven alone in the house.

Sonoma South Deanery (Kathy S.) Will meet Saturday, May 10, 2008.

Old Business:

- **Appraisal of Plenary Session:**

- Phil M.: general satisfaction: the program was substantial and well received; networking among Parish Representatives was in itself worthwhile.
- Steve E.: "Good quality group discussions; mutual concerns discussed; people discovered mutual problems and successes; Pettingill stimulating and entertaining."
- Attendance of 50 is disappointing and **general participation in the DPC needs to be addressed:**
 - **MSP (unanimous) that Mendocino/Lake attendees receive individual invitations to the Ex. Bd meeting (motel provided as needed).**
 - Steve E. proposed that the same invitation should be proposed to all parishes. Bob L. stated that this is the obligation of the Parish Representatives.
 - Don F. stated that several Napa Deanery meetings had been canceled, that the turnover in membership and general viability needs to be addressed ("at least 5 want to leave the Deanery".)
 - Bob L.: "Deanery Membership is an ongoing problem . . . We need to be up front—take the initiative in advertising ourselves."
 - Kathy S.: "We need to coordinate parish membership."
 - Don F.: "99% of parishioners don't know about the DPC."
 - Unanimous concurrence that DPC needs a hands-on project in which parishioners can participate.

- **Bishop Walsh's response to Ex. Bd request that he establish a Task Force of Laity and Priest to develop a possible diocesan policy to govern the training and employment of lay ecclesial parish ministers:**

- Bishop Walsh reviewed his efforts to mitigate our priest shortage: deaconate training program; arrival recruitment of foreign priests; invitations extended to priests in religious orders, as well a successful precedent for a lay parish administrator (Mary Leittem-Thomas at St Mary of the Angels, Ukiah).
- He stated that he would take under advisement the formation of a Task Force as proposed by the DPC Report to him, The Laity's Views on Santa Rosa Clergy Now and Future and the Priest's Council's acceptance of the Lombardi Committee's white paper, "To the Priests Council: Planning for Diminution in Number of Priests."

- **Steve E. reviews the status of our Blogsite:** <http://dpcexec.blogspot.com>

- A cross between e-mail and a website.
- Posts preprinted materials in chronological order.
- **Enables responses from readers.**
- Provides for links.
- Q: Can we know how many the blogsite receives? A: Only from the responses to materials posted.
- We should circulate documents on blogsite as we do the website and e-mail.
- We should list the blogsite address at all opportunities.

- **Yvette F. announced that she had contracted for a webmaster:** santarosadpc.com

- Y. assumes fiscal and operating responsibility for the website.
- **MSP unanimously that the Ex. Bd assume fiscal responsibility for the website subject to budgetary feasibility.**
- **MSP unanimously to review these Motions in six months.**
- We should circulate documents on website as we do the blogsite and e-mail.
- We should list the website address at all opportunities.
- Q: Can we know how many the blogsite receives? A: ?
- Yvette F. will provide Bob L. and Lou B. copies of the website contract.
- Consensus: authorize Don F. to expend up to \$75 for the purchase half/case of wine, as a token of appreciation to Joe Tonkovich for his serving as the DPC's first webmaster.

New Business:

- **Response to Plenary Session "Template:"**

- General agreement that Plenary Participants expressed two principal concerns concerning Evangelization: **a) our need to evangelize ourselves** before we undertake to evangelize others, and **b) the need to make our Parishes as welcoming as possible**, and that any project involving "in-the-pews" parishioners must address these concerns.

- **Possible projects:**

- Steve E.: "Discussion groups to generate *esprit de corps* as well as to responses to "a)" and "b)" above.
- Yvette F. and Don F. propose individual queries.
- Bishop Walsh: "Ask 'What is my relation to Jesus Christ, and how can I convey it to others?'" ("Why am I a Catholic?' a turn-off.").
- Agreement that any query must yield a "product" that can be reported to parishioners.

† **Consensus: EACH EX. BD MEMBER PRESENT BY TUESDAY, MAY 13, AGREES TO SEND YVETTE F. HIS/HER PROPOSED QUERY (CANVAS) OF PARISHIONERS.**

- **Format:**

- Steve E.: "Discussion groups to generate *esprit de corps* as well as to responses to "a)" and "b)" above.
- Yvette F. and Don F. propose individual queries.

- Bishop Walsh: "a postcard, or post-it tear off in parishes. . . should begin with a prayer."
- Steve E.: Questions feasibility of card. Newspaper ads a possibility.
- General agreement that a vehicle to reach as many parishioners as possible is essential.
- Project will determine format.
- Distribution by Blogsite, Website, E-mail, and USPS as needed.

DPC Parish Representatives Terms of Office:

- Phil M. proposes *pro tempore* replacements until regularly elected/appointed Parish Representatives are seated. He also proposed redrafting the Ex. Bd list of terms office.
- Steve E. counsels the *status quo*.
- Turnover and parishes failure to replace expired terms makes continuity difficult.
- Don F., Steve E., and Katy S. reported difficulty in filling vacancies in their Deaneries.
- Action Deferred.

DPC Ex. Bd Calendar 2008-2009*: drafted for submission to Bishop's Administrative Assistant.

Next Meeting: Saturday, June 7, 2008, Chancery.

Benediction: Lou B.

Adjournment: Bob L. 11:45AM.