

Humboldt – Del Norte Deanery

Minutes

June 7, 2008

St. Mary Church, Arcata Diocesan Pastoral Council

Present: Gina and Dennis Costa, Jim Dimmick, Genoveva Gomez, Nancy Lawrence, Phil Minor, and Loretta Speziale.

1. Meeting was **called to order** at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Dennis Costa. The agenda was provided for those who did not receive the same via e-mail. Parish report for Blessed Kateri was distributed at the meeting,

2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting, March 1, 2008, were read and approved.

3. **Parish Reports:**

A) Arcata – St. Mary: Loretta Speziale reported that the Easter Bunny program was very successful; the "Surf & Turf" dinner (K of C) was well attended; and, 9 children received First Communion in May. St. Mary School graduation will be held June 7, 2008.

Jim Dimmick reported that St. Mary K of C Council sent a golf team to participate in the first annual golf tournament hosted by Blessed Kateri Mission Church at the Willow Creek Country Club.

B) Eureka – Sacred Heart: Gina Costa and Genoveva Gomez reported that several diseased trees had to be removed from church property and the newly erected sign for the church has been revised, by popular demand.

It was also reported that Fr. Luis Penalosa is expected to be absent from the parish for several weeks as a result of his pending open heart surgery. At the present time, priest services for the parish will depend on time donated by neighboring clergy in his absence.

Additional activities reported included, Parish Picnic on June 8th, R.C.I.A., Lay Ministry Fair, the Sacred Heart parish website, and a recent movie outing for the youth group.

C) Eureka – St. Bernard: Phil Minor reported three upcoming events to which Catholics in our area are cordially invited; a) Women's Retreat in Willow Creek - 3rd weekend in June, Men's Retreat in Orleans - 2nd weekend in July, and St. Bernard Parish Picnic - Freshwater Park on July 20th. In addition, plans are under consideration for another presentation series by the Sisters of Orange and another lecture series by Fr. David Anderson (Eastern Rite).

D) McKinleyville – Christ The King: Nancy Lawrence - Fr. Steven MacPherson has resigned as pastor and will be residing in Hawaii for the next few months. Fr. Eric Freed has been temporarily appointed as the administrator of the parish until permanent arrangements can be made.

The Hispanic prayer group continues to have well attended meetings.

Following this report there was a **general discussion of how parishes must cope** with a shortage, or absence, of clergy. The general consensus was that, at a minimum, parishes so affected must have strong, well functioning lay ministries in place to carry on with the mission of the parish and the Church. To insure this should be one of the primary goals of all pastors.

E) Hoopa – Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Mission – (Written Report distributed) Highlights include:

1) Three youngsters received Confirmation on May 11th, 2) the Vocation Cross from Fr. Tom Diaz circulates weekly to parishioners who pray daily for vocations, 3) the First Annual Golf Tournament held on May 31st had 7 golf teams and 13 hole sponsors. The tournament, together with some related fund raising activities, raised over \$3,000.

4. Phil Minor gave a brief report on the **DPC Exec. Bd. meeting** held May 3rd, highlights included:

A) **Bishop's report**, 1) his participation of the Pope's visit to Washington, D.C., was most gratifying, 2) the Diocesan Budget for 2008-2009 is very "tight" and will not permit funding of Youth and Detention Ministries.

B) A contract has been established with Aaron Davis for the refurbishing and on-going support of the **DPC website**, santarosadpc.com. This arrangement will be reviewed by the Executive Board in 6 months.

- C) Appraisal of the **Annual Plenary Session** on April 5, 2008 - substantial and well received, with an outstanding presentation by Fr. Pettingill and good group discussions.
- D) Executive Board requested that Bishop Walsh **establish a task force of laity and priest** to develop a policy for training and employment of lay ecclesial parish ministers. After considerable discussion, Bishop Walsh agreed to take the proposal under advisement.
- E). Steve Ericson reviewed the status of the **DPC blogsite** and encouraged everyone to become familiar with it, **<http://dpcexec.blogspot.com>**.
- F) As a result of the plenary session discussions, the Executive Board will undertake a project to develop a document (communication) to be made available to all parishioners to engender reflection and dialogue as to our calling for evangelization. Bishop Walsh agreed to assist in announcing the project.
5. Dennis Costa explained a conversation he had with Joe Shea, representing the **Devine Mercy** Eucharistic Society. Dennis distributed several handouts explaining the society's mission. After discussion, it was agreed that Joe Shea would be invited to attend one of our Deanery meetings to further explain his purposes and possibly discuss arrangements for presentations to be made in our area.
6. In response to the imminent priest shortages in our area, there was a discussion to **consider combining Masses** at some of the neighboring parishes. Phil Minor agreed to request a meeting with several of our deanery representatives and Fr. Loren Allen (St. Bernard) to solicit his thoughts on the matter, from the perspective of the clergy.
7. **The next deanery meeting is scheduled for August 30, 2008 at St. Mary Church, Arcata.** The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.