

**Humboldt – Del Norte Deanery
Diocesan Pastoral Council**

Minutes

**February 20, 2010
St. Mary Church, Arcata**

Present: Gina and Dennis Costa, Sr. Pat Carson, Phil Minor, Nancy Lawrence, Doug Williams, and Jim Dimmick (guest alternate)

1. Meeting was **called to order** at 10:10 a.m. by Chairperson Dennis Costa. Dennis announced that **Lou and Pat Bull** would not be attending the meeting due to Lou's medical condition and pending surgery. All present were asked to keep them in our prayers.
2. **Minutes** of the previous meeting (12-05-09) were approved as read.
3. **Doug Williams, St. Mary**, made an ad hoc report about a meeting he had with his priest, Fr. "Gerry" Gormley, concerning the **loss of priests** throughout the diocese. Fr. Gormley suggested that the DPC work on a plan of how to consolidate two or more parishes in matters concerning both pastoral and administrative aspects, when such a need should arise. A discussion followed in which members present reviewed steps and plans already developed by the DPC to address priest shortages. At the conclusion of the discussion, a motion was made and passed to instruct our Executive Board representatives to present the concept of **administrative consolidation** to the Executive Board and ask for a **resolution from the Board** supporting this concept and urging the bishop to consider administrative consolidation anytime a priest shortage necessitates that two or more parishes share a single priest for an indefinite period of time.
4. **Catholic Radio public awareness group** – Phil Minor reported that the committee met this morning to discuss current activities and future plans to maintain public awareness of **Immaculate Heart Radio, 1400 AM** in our local area. Phil shared a copy of a letter which has been sent to 90 churches in the Humboldt Bay area inviting each one to encourage interest and listenership by their members. The letter emphasized several program elements on Immaculate Heart Radio which should be of interest to all Christian communities. Plans for the future include an announcement for periodic publication in all Catholic **church bulletins** and church **websites** in our area, public service announcements in the local media, **a flyer for posting** on local bulletin boards, and an annual calendar of recurring publicity activities.
5. **Annual Plenary Session:** Phil Minor distributed copies of the program and a suggested bulletin announcement for the Eighth Annual Plenary Session to be held in **Ukiah on March 20, 2010**. A discussion followed about the program and the need to disseminate the announcement to our parishioners.
6. Report of the **Executive Board Meeting**, January 9, 2010. In the absence of Lou and Pat Bull, Dennis Costa distributed copies of the minutes from the Board Meeting and provided a brief overview of items of interest, **highlights included:**
Three priest to be ordained May 22, 2010, 41% of laity attending Mass are Hispanic, sufficient funds for a new class of deacons, Annual Ministry Appeal, and a discussion on communication and unity in a multi-ethnic church.
7. **Parish Reports:**

- a. Arcata - **St. Mary: Doug Williams** reported the following:
There are currently 4 candidates in the R.C.I.A. program; the annual dinner for St. Mary's School will be held this month at the Baywood Country Club; Deacon John Gai is giving a four part series entitled " Living Our Faith in Our Daily Lives; the Senior Appreciation Luncheon was a big success with 60-70 in attendance; the collection for Haiti totaled over \$11,000 and over \$1,000 for Latin America; Fr. Gerry has started a Lent project entitled "Penny Power for Haiti which will enable children to donate small amounts that will be collected on Easter Sunday; and, Fr. Gerry is initiating plans to improve the parish website.
 - b. McKinleyville – **Christ the King: Nancy Lawrence** reported that the Friday night Hispanic meetings are continuing and that Juana Garcia is recovering from surgery. An Hispanic "Congreso" is planned for the third weekend in September.
 - c. Hoopa – **Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha Mission – Sr. Pat Carson** reported that a guest deacon from Fargo, ND, together with Deacon Ken Bond, and Fr. Eric Freed continue to provide liturgical services for the mission church; DPC Rep. Lou Bull, is scheduled for surgery on February 25, 2010; plans are being made for the annual rummage sale in April and the annual **golf tournament** on **May 22, 2010**.
 - d. Eureka – **Sacred Heart: Gina Costa** reported the following: The parish now has in residence a Spanish-speaking candidate for the priesthood, Fernando, and Fr. David Villalobos, also bilingual, to assist Fr. Mora. In addition, another bilingual seminarian will be coming in residence from March until fall.
On Fridays, Angelica Matias is available as an interpreter to assist Hispanic parishioners. Stations of the Cross will be conducted every Friday during Lent at 6:00 p.m., Spanish at 7:00p.m. the Youth Group meets Fridays 6:30- 8:00 p.m.; Confirmation Classes Mondays 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.; Religious Education Groups, English, Sundays 9:30 – 10:20 a.m., Spanish Saturdays 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
A St. Patrick's Leprechaun Feast will be held at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, March 20th.
 - e. Eureka – St. Bernard: Phil Minor reported: St. Bernard's is exploring the possibility of a rummage sale and is seeking ideas of how to best manage such an undertaking.
On February 16th, the parish sponsored a very successful and enjoyable **Mardi Gras event** at the Arkley Center in Eureka to help raise funds for a new fire sprinkler system and other improvements at St. Bernard's Church in preparation for the 125th anniversary to be celebrated in 2011.
The Catholic Radio awareness group "Friends of Immaculate Heart Radio" thanks St. Bernard Parish for graciously assisting with the postage for a recent publicity mailing. (See item 4, above)
The **R.C.I.A.** program now has 14 inquirers/candidates attending each week.
The joint **confirmation classes** held for Sacred Heart and St. Bernard parishes now have 17 in attendance.
8. A general discussion was held regarding the need for more DPC minority representatives in our H-DN Deanery Assembly. No action was taken at this time but further discussion is anticipated at our next meeting.
 9. **Next meeting** is scheduled for **March 17, 2010, 10:00 a.m.**, St. Mary Church, Arcata

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 a.m.