

Minutes of the Sonoma South Deanery
Feb. 10, 2007
at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Rohnert Park, CA.

Present: Nora John, Winnie Kingsbury, Donna West-Piezzi, Kathy Sennello, Charmaine Padilla, Kathy Cherrstrom

Meeting began with Psalms read by Nora John

Minutes from last So. South Deanery meeting were reviewed and approved.

Each parish representative shared activities, and ministry work.

Nancy Murray from St. Leo's Parish emailed her report since their parish was having a pre-Lenten retreat on Feb. 10th. Frs. Donahue and Ortega were installed by Bishop Walsh at the 10:00 am Mass, Feb.4, 2007. She shared that on 2/9/07 their Pastoral Assembly will brainstorm ways to attract new parishioners and to reconnect with those who are inactive. They are moving ahead on repairing and maintaining a 40 year old parish. Their pre-Lenten retreat theme is "Contemplative Lining in Today's World", based on Thomas Merton. The high school youth group will also participate. Parish Ministry Fair is 2/11 after 8:30 & 10am Masses.

St. James-- Eucharistic Ministers will gather 2/26 to go over processes and procedures. St. James now has 3 Sunday masses, 7:00- 9:00 & 11:00am . Feb. 5 a Disaster Preparedness meeting was held that 75 people attended. Carol Young, from the Red Cross, shared a video with the group and suggested rolling garbage cans for disaster items, to include 3 gal.of water per person, sturdy shoes & heavy work gloves. Think camping scenerio with phone numbers and personal papers in another location (with a relative or friend). A trip to Notre Dame in Belmont is planned for 2/26.

St. Joseph's --This parish combined their previous 9 & 11 am Masses to a 10:00 Sunday mass. The pews are full with more warm, "community feeling". Mardi Gras night price is \$20. The Men's Club is worried about raising the price from \$10. Generations of Faith is going well.

St. Elizabeth Seton's- Fr. John Griffin's hip surgery went well. A legion of volunteers will run the parish as Fr. John recuperates at St. Rose Parish from 4 to 8 weeks. With active seniors, voice mail and technology the parish activity will continue. Nora spoke to the Parish Council and asked them to record what works and what doesn't as a parish run by volunteers. E-mail will probably be a help. Generations of Faith meetings will be held 2/24. Stations of the Cross are interactive. The Young Ladies Institute celebrated their first month anniversary. Judith Miller, acting secretary, is asking ministries to connect by email. Msgr.Welton will say the Sunday Masses with Deacon Joe co-ordinating.

St. Vincent de Paul - Pro-life/Respect Life group is asking Knights of Columbus to do Disaster Preparations for St. Vincents. House meetings for Cornerstone continue, allowing parishioners to gather around issues. There will be Lenten Issues gatherings each Sunday afternoon, and Monday evenings. The 5 issues are Youth, Music, Elderly, Church Issues, & Hispanic/Anglo relations. Speakers will address each meeting and participants will hopefully gather ideas. Crab Feed will be held 2/10/07.

People are needed for deanery representatives at St. Joseph's, St. James and St. Vincents. We all need to promote the Plenary Session, March 31, by talking about it, putting notices in each bulletin.

Current Events Discussions:

Kathy Sennello shared a project she is involved in with Sonoma/ Marin Jr. League. It is called FosterCare and will provide services to grandparents who are not paid to care for their grandkids. Some of the services include homework help in downtown Santa Rosa with a supply closet. Lawyers will work pro bono helping with custody issues. The group will coordinate with the Salvation Army to buy clothes.

Winnie Kingsbury reflected that those who come to the Plenary Session may be interested in serving as deanery representatives. She also mentioned Marriage Encounter groups- Retrovaille. The Detention Ministry has "Get on the Bus" for children of women who are jailed in prisons far from Sonoma County (Chowcilla). They will visit on Mother's Day. There is a need for fundraising -money to buy breakfast, lap blankets, teddy bears, tote bag with games, Mother's day cards, and a BBQ. It is a contact visit. Perhaps the Jr. League could help.

Nora John saw the need for a Korean Mass since there are other ethic groups in each parish. We need to be sensitive and incorporate many diverse groups. Nora shared the news of the Diocesan Pastoral Council's new website: www.santarosadpc.com She gave the group a copy of a possible bulletin insert advertising the "Evangelization" Plenary Session in Ukiah on March 31. Carpooling is encouraged.

Meeting was adjourned with a prayer. Next meeting will be May 12, 2007 at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish.

Respectfully submitted (very late), Donna West-Piezzi