

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
February 23, 2008
Resurrection**

Meeting Opening:

In Attendance: Mike Wall, Yvette Fallandy and John Gnam (St. Eugene's), Colleen McMahon, Kevin Connolly and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Mel Amato (St. John's), Brian Connolly (Holy Spirit), Len Marabella (St. Rose)

Excused: Ann Clark (St. Teresa's) and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit)

Absent: Margaret Focha and Helen Chapman (Star of the Valley) and Ella Rozett (St. Phillip's)

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

Opening Prayer: Kevin Connolly read the opening prayer from "The Breastplate of St. Patrick".

Minutes and Agenda: The January minutes were taken, but not completed. John Gnam will send information to Colleen McMahon for a recap of January 2008 minutes. The November Summary of Minutes by Len Marabella was approved.

Bob Leet suggested that the agenda be modified to include Item 2d with 2a under Continuing Business. The change was approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Continuing Business:

Plenary Session and Evangelization Committee: Bob Leet said that the Keynote speaker for the Plenary Session would be Fr. David Pettingill. He played a brief tape of a speech to introduce him and his manner of delivery. Yvette Fallandy passed out the agenda for the Plenary to be held on Saturday, April 5, 2008 at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Ukiah. The agenda will be distributed by e-mail to DPC representatives, posted on the blog site and packets will be mailed. The representatives are requested to place an announcement into each parish bulletin. Yvette provided a copy of a bulletin insert. Another handout was distributed, which was a summary of Bishop Clark's talk and will be available at the Plenary. This Plenary session will have a summary of the suggestions that were discussed at last year's Plenary for review and to see how we have progressed since last year.

Yvette Fallandy asked for volunteers to arrive early to man the registration tables. She also asked if anyone had the knowledge and/or equipment to record the talks at the Plenary Session and if someone would be willing to take photos of the day's events. John Gnam suggested carpooling to Ukiah and Mike Wall agreed. Mike Wall stated that he would phone the Star of the Valley representatives to check on their attendance and inform them of the Plenary information.

Template for DPC Minutes: Yvette Fallandy discussed developing a template for recording the minutes; use of traditional formats for reporting could be reviewed. Mel Amato suggested that any template be presented to the deaneries as recommended and not mandated. Kevin Connolly suggested a formatted agenda to assist in taking the minutes. He also suggested Mike Wall and Colleen McMahon work together on agenda and minutes formatting.

Programs for Parish Administrative and Liturgical Minister: Yvette Fallandy and Bob Leet are working on a program for ecclesial ministry to work within parishes and with pastors. Once developed, the program will be presented to the Bishop. Yvette Fallandy stated that she hopes to have more information together by the time of the Plenary Session. John Gnam stated that it would seem that a program to train an in-house person to administrate the parish would be essential especially in the situation the diocese faces with a shortage of priests. Yvette Fallandy noted that program is a response to the Clergy Shortage Survey and Bishop Walsh's request for a means to deal with the priest shortage.

Budget Issues-Programs: Bob Leet stated that the cost for the Plenary Session is the responsibility of the Executive Board. Since the DPC is part of the Diocese, there are some funds available. Kevin Connolly suggested that we ask for donations to assist with the costs, but Yvette Fallandy and Bob Leet stated that the Plenary Session is a gift to the Diocese at this time. Perhaps in the future, it may become necessary to collect funds.

The ecclesial ministry program lacks the funds and a specific detailed program in order to move forward about funding. Kevin Connolly suggested that the DPC could come up with a new campaign to raise money for a training program for laity. Mike Wall asked Kevin Connolly to check into how a campaign could be developed for future use.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bishop Clark's Article: Mike Wall stated that he thought Bishop Clark's article was very good. He asked if the DPC wants to do anything about distributing the entire article. Mel Amato said that he would be happy to distribute the article by e-mail. Yvette Fallandy said that the entire article is available on the "Christlife" website. There are also other interesting articles on that same website.

Bishop's Response to Deanery Letter: Mike Wall read a letter from Bishop Walsh in response to the letter written to him regarding the war in Iraq and situation in Iran. The Bishop referred the topic to a statement issued by the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops as well as a summary of the Conference's perspectives on the war in question and answer format. Mel Amato referenced Section 2309 from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and its referral to a "just war". The catechism's remarks about just war 'makes it subject to rigorous conditions of moral legitimacy' and emphasizes using prudential judgment. Kevin Connolly said that he thought the Bishop's

response is satisfactory. Mel Amato will scan the letter and attachments and e-mail to the DPC representatives.

Parish Reports:

St. Eugene's: John Gnam shared that they have a priest from Africa coming again this summer, during July. He said that if the priest stays and celebrates Mass, it would be a great opportunity to share in his enthusiasm. Mike Wall said that the choral director left as of the end of January 2008 and has been replaced by the previous director, but only on a part-time basis.

Yvette Fallandy reported that St. Eugene's first Town Hall Meeting would be held on Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Holy Spirit: Brian Connolly reported that the Generations of Faith program is going well. They had more people attend the latest session and had to set up more tables. He also said that their first Town Hall Meeting of the year is coming up soon.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato reported that their Generations of Faith Lenten session was a success with between 600 and 700 people in attendance. Father Walt has had a relapse, but is out of the hospital and is saying Mass. The Associate Pastor is taking on more responsibilities. The Bishop is coming to St. John's to dedicate their new library and other improvements.

St. Rose: Len Marabella reported that the Parish Council is pulling together and putting together a statement of purpose. Their Town Hall Meeting will be held in Spanish too. There are presently six outreach programs scheduled for the year. The Generations of Faith sessions continue. St. Rose has a Spanish Mass on Sundays at 12:30 pm.

Resurrection: Kevin Connolly said that the Generations of Faith session was recently held. Colleen McMahon reported that the numbers were down a little. Kevin Connolly reported that the Pastoral Assembly met with the assistance of Sister Judy Donovan, (Sister of Charity from Richmond) as facilitator. She also speaks Spanish and he felt that there was a feeling of close networking between the Hispanic and Anglo members. He said that it gave a person the feeling of promise and hopefulness. There was good sharing.

Deanery Communiqués for the Executive Committee/Bishop: Yvette Fallandy said that she had nothing to report to the Bishop.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish: Mel Amato asked if the blog was under the DPC. Yvette Fallandy said that the address is www.blogsite.com. She said that it is not intended to supplant the website or e-mail, but one more vehicle for communication. Mel Amato suggested that there be a disclaimer attached to the website

acknowledging that the statements and opinions submitted are not necessarily those of the Diocese. Bob Leet said that the blogsite would be used for sharing of opinions, thoughts, articles etc. with others.

Each parish should see that the Plenary Session information is printed in their bulletins.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at Holy Spirit in Santa Rosa on March 29, 2008.

Closing prayer:

Kevin Connolly read the final prayer, Deo Gratias.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30.

FINAL e-mailed 3/31/08