

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
February 24, 2007
St. Elizabeth Church - Guerneville**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Lilla Orr (Holy Spirit), Colleen McMahon, Bob Leet and Kevin Connolly, (Resurrection), John Gnam, Bob Solak and Yvette Fallandy, (St Eugene's), Mel Amato (St John the Baptist), Ann Clark (St Phillip's/St. Teresa's), Helen Chapman (Star of the Valley), Sr. Antonia Killian, Mike Nicholls (St. Elizabeth's) and Len Marabella (St. Rose)

Marta Beres attended as a visitor from St. Elizabeth's Church.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM by Lilla Orr and she asked for introductions.

Opening Prayer: Mike Nicholls led us in an opening prayer in honor of Mary's Courage.

Minutes and Agenda: There were no minutes from the January 20th retreat/meeting to be approved. The agenda was approved.

Public Comment:

- Yvette Fallandy stated that she had received an e-mail from Theresa Meyer with information regarding a lecture coming to the GTU campus in Berkeley on Wednesday, February 28, 2007. The speaker will be Fr. Mark Massa, S.J. and the title of the lecture will be "The New Anti-Catholicism and Why Catholics Should Welcome It". Yvette stated that the topic may be useful as we embark on our new task of Evangelization. She passed out an informational flyer.
- Bob Leet informed us that there is a new series of lectures regarding "The Church and World in the 21st Century". He stated that Cardinal Danneels of Brussels would be presenting a lecture coming in October 2007. He has more information, if anyone is interested in attending.
- Lilla Orr said that she had received an e-mail from Jim Tonna with an attached article regarding "Infusing the Pastoral Council with the Spirit of Christ". She left the article for those interested.

Parish Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop:

- Lilla Orr stated that she had moved this item of the agenda to the beginning instead of the latter part of the meeting. Yvette Fallandy asked about the reports from the individual parishes. She asked Bob Solak about the restructuring of the parish council at St. Eugene's. Bob Solak stated that some of the changes have been discussed and it was decided that the parish council would be responsible for religious and liturgical items and that other business decisions and/or questions would be directed to Monsignor Pulskamp. There would no longer be a president,

but a leader instead. The financial committee will not report to the parish council, but directly to Monsignor Pulskamp. John Gnam said it will be called Pastoral Council, not Parish Council. It is being changed because this is what Monsignor Pulskamp is most comfortable with in order to meet the spiritual needs of the parish.

- Kevin Connolly questioned the wording of this new agenda item. He wondered if we should communicate to the Bishop information as a parish. Is this really our role? Lilla Orr will change the wording to Deanery Communique instead of Parish Communique.
- Bob Solak stated that this is his final year with the DPC. There will be a new representative coming from St. Eugene's. The voting will occur in May 2007.
- Mel Amato read a brief description as to what Canon Law states should be included in a Parish/Pastoral Council. He referred to Canon Law article 536, chapter VI.
- Kevin Connolly stated that Resurrection has called its gathering a "Pastoral Assembly".
- Bob Leet said that Resurrection had their Pastoral Assembly meeting on Friday evening to discuss integration and cooperation as a bilingual community.
- Ann Clark stated that Fr. Logan will be leaving in June. She wondered if anyone had any suggestions or advice as to how the people from their parish could be heard. They would like to voice their desires and/or needs in regard to receiving a new priest. Lilla Orr, Bob Solak and John Gnam said that the Chancery did come and listen to the community input when their pastors were changing. They suggested that St. Phillips/St. Teresa's invite Monsignor Pulskamp as Vicar General to a town hall meeting. Lilla Orr reminded that the input from the parishioners would only be input not a democracy.
- Mike Nicholls said that he felt it would be more and more difficult to replace priests especially in the rural areas and because of the number of priests available.
- Bob Solak said that St. Eugene's had recently lost a retired priest due to physical limitations put on the priest by his Doctor. The priest would come and help at the Masses.
- Bob Leet suggested that the Priest Council be contacted to join a town hall meeting. Monsignor Pulskamp may be the Chair of the Priest Council.
- Helen Chapman stated that Star of the Valley is holding a meeting on Monday regarding what their parishioners would like to see in the future for their parish.

Continuing Business:

Communication/Transparency:

- Len Marabella reported that he would no longer be able to pursue and work on this committee. He stated that he still believed in the need for more current publications and communications with and from the Bishop including the Diocesan newspaper. Kevin Connolly will stay involved with the task/project and look for a co-worker.
- Bob Solak asked how important is the increased communication?

- Mike Nicholls stated that he felt it was important to have better communication.
- Kevin Connolly said we need to bring more positive news to the people.
- Colleen McMahon agreed that there is more need for positive reporting of events and/or Catholic/Christian actions.
- Ann Clark said it begins with us as individuals to communicate our faith.
- Bob Leet said it's important to hear about the other parishes out of our own area also.
- Sr. Antonia said we need more clarification on some of the Bishop's present projects; such as the new priests coming from Africa or what is the current status on the House of Discernment?
- Bob Solak said we need to decide if we want to proceed with this communication issue and elect a chairperson.
- Kevin Connolly suggested we get other input from other deaneries.
- John Gnam said perhaps we could talk with other people besides deanery members. There may be others who have expertise in this area and would be able to work on the framework or work with us in developing a plan. He knows someone in particular who he thinks would have the knowledge. He will contact that person regarding this item. John also stated that we could use the website for publication.
- Mel Amato says that we need to get organized and define what it is that we want to accomplish and who we want to reach with this information.

Evangelization and Plenary Session:

- Bob Leet stated that he had sent out information regarding the Plenary. The booklet he enclosed in the mailing will be used for the discussion topics. Community, liturgy, sacramental presence, what makes this up and how do we share it within our parishes/communities? Opening the door to discussion at plenary. We have to be ready to adjust to each Parish because each Parish has its own needs. The Paulists and Redemptorists have good programs that may help us to establish a process or a guide to set up our own program for evangelization.
- Bob Solak suggests that Lent is a good time to do extra good acts to others especially non-Catholics.
- Yvette Fallandy takes a dim view on doing good to others for any ulterior motive than goodness, itself.
- Bob Leet asked that anyone with any information or comments on the booklet please contact him by mid-March.
- Bob Solak made a motion that the plenary meeting on March 31 will be our only DPC meeting for the month of March. Len Marabella seconded the motion. The motion was carried with no objections.
- Mel Amato said that he had looked at the booklet and ordered 2 documents listed on the back of the booklet that may be helpful.
- Kevin Connolly asked whether the focus of the evangelization is for non-Catholics as well as non active Catholics.
- Bob Leet stated that the direct request from the Bishop was to focus on non-active Catholics.

Adult Education:

- Ella Rozett had brought this topic up for discussion. She was not in attendance to continue any discussion. Evangelization is a part of adult education.
- Yvette Fallandy stated that Sr. Antonia has a great adult education program. It has included a series on Thomas Merten, following St. Ignatius and the most recent presentation by on Vatican II.
- Lilla Orr said that the Generations of Faith presentations are also an adult education program.
- Kevin Connolly said that many people's understanding of their religion and/or faith is at an elementary level.
- Bob Leet agreed that there are 3 levels of Catholics; those living their faith according to pre-Vatican II, those raised before Vatican II, but have incorporated the teachings of Vatican II in their lives and those who were raised after Vatican II, who have no background of the depths of the Church's teachings.
- John Gnam suggested that we take a middle road approach. He said that we need to look like we have something that others will want.
- Bob Leet heard a report of how the Western world's view is not grounded in their faith as the Muslim or other eastern areas.
- Marta Beres, visitor, shared that she is from Hungary and that her country is beginning to come back to their faith. She said that when there is suppression of one's faith then this can enhance the future faith of the area.

Executive Committee:

- Yvette Fallandy stated that she would be meeting with the Lombardi Committee in order "to put to bed" the survey of the priest shortage. They should be preparing the final white paper mid-month for the completion of the survey to be presented to the Bishop.
- She also noted that the DPC constitution will be translated to Spanish and posted on the website.
- She reported that in regards to the financial matters that all schools and parishes have been paid back. Also, she stated that there are audit controls within the diocese to help to deter embezzlement or other financial misdeeds. Each parish is audited every 3 years or when a pastor leaves that parish.
- Len Marabella asked if there was any plan to respond to the survey.
- Yvette Fallandy said that it will go to the Bishop and it is his decision as to what he will do with it.

New Business:

- Len Marabella said that he would assist Sr. Antonia in getting her adult education information into the bulletin at St. Rose. There has been some difficulty inserting information into the bulletin because it is so full due to the text being printed in Spanish and English.
- Bob Leet asked if we would be meeting with the Sonoma South Deanery again, as we did last year. Lilla Orr asked the reason and/or information about last year's

meeting. Bob Leet stated that it was for communication purposes. He will contact the Sonoma South Deanery to see how they feel about sharing a meeting again.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Publicize the upcoming Plenary Session in Ukiah within each Parish. Bob Leet has sent information to each Parish.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be the Plenary Session on Saturday, March 31, 2007 in Ukiah at St. Mary's Church. The day will begin with sign in at 8:30 and end at 3:00. Our next regular DPC meeting will be on April 28th at St. Eugene's Cathedral in Santa Rosa.

Mike Nicholls led a closing prayer to the Holy Spirit. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05.

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