

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
April 28, 2007
St. Eugene's Cathedral-Santa Rosa**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Lilla Orr and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Colleen McMahon, Bob Leet and Kevin Connolly, (Resurrection), John Gnam and Bob Solak (St Eugene's), Ann Clark (St Phillip's/St. Teresa's), Helen Chapman and Margaret Focha (Star of the Valley), Sr. Antonia Killian.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM by Lilla Orr and she asked for introductions.

Opening Prayer: Lilla Orr led us in an opening prayer entitled "A Prayer to the Holy Spirit" by Christina Rossetti.

Minutes and Agenda: Bob Leet stated that each deanery draft minutes are to be submitted to the Webmaster and members of the Deanery within 10 days. It was also suggested that the corrections to the previous meeting's minutes be included in the current month's meeting's minutes. The corrections will be added to the minutes as part of the Minutes and Agenda section with the notation "minutes approved by these corrections:"

There was a motion to the Executive Board to take this change regarding the corrections of the minutes. Lilla Orr submitted the motion. Kevin Connolly and Bob Solak seconded the motion. Motion passed to approve minutes with corrections.

Bob Leet asked about parish reports and/or activities. It was decided to put into the agenda under New Business: Parish Reports.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Parish Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop:

Bob Leet reported that someone had brought up the fact that not all documents from the USCCB were translated into Spanish. There was one particular document that was not translated. It was recalled that Deirdre Frontczak had said that she believed the documents were all translated. Bob Leet asked whether this issue should be presented to the Bishop and the Executive Board. Lilla Orr said she felt that it should be presented to the Executive Board because it had been brought to our attention. Everyone agreed.

Continuing Business:

Plenary Session Review: Bob Solak thought that the Plenary in March went well. He felt good when he left the meeting. He would like to see a recap published in order to refresh our memories of the event.

Lilla Orr enjoyed hearing the Bishop speak.

Margaret Focha enjoyed seeing the Bishop help out with the lunch and seem more comfortable.

Bob Solak was concerned a little about the Bishop's attitude regarding his "legal problems". Margaret Focha ensured us that the Bishop has been very humbled by these legal matters.

Evangelization observations and What should we do re: evangelization:

- Bob Leet said he feels that the Bishop feels more comfortable with the DPC. Bob Leet is the acting Chairman of Evangelization. He continued to say that the Paulists stress that we must evangelize to ourselves first and deepen our faith before we can invite others to share in the faith. We should be more welcoming, but how do we go about accomplishing that? Some ideas for being more welcoming were to have more introductions and perhaps name tags. The Bishop's request is for the DPC to pursue the issue of evangelization with the non-practicing Catholic.
- Bob Solak said that we could begin by talking and sharing with our relatives and close friends.
- Bob Leet said that it was important to include others, not only at Mass, but other parish functions in order for them to realize that they are joining a community.
- Pat Babb said that religion has had a bad rap. So it's important to invite people to other types of functions; such as a parish golf tournament.
- Kevin Connolly said that it's important not to only focus on non-practicing Catholics, but all people. He prays for family members and those married into the family also.
- Bob Leet stated that Goal II is a message to all people – evangelization as well as catechetical.
- Bob Solak commented that many people feel that being "Catholic" is an old and antique idea.
- Pat Babb recommended attending different types of churches to see what they are doing to draw people into their congregations. She continued to explain about a church she attended and how they were very upbeat and designed towards youth.
- Bob Leet reminded us that the Catholic Church is based on sacramentality. We are a sacramental church, not just scripture based. Other churches also use a lot of modern media in their services.
- Ann Clark explained that the difference between Catholics and other faiths is that the other's faith life is a part of their everyday life. Whereas, Catholics sometimes go to Church but it is separated from their everyday lives.
- Bob Solak said that we should take what we believe and do and share with others. How can the DPC assist in this evangelization?
- Bob Leet told about a woman from Redwood Gospel Mission who spoke at a "Call to Action" meeting. She said that the women who come to their facility must also attend a prayer/scripture session.
- Bob Solak said that St. Vincent De Paul Society stresses that they do not put any restrictions on feeding people.

- Bob Leet asked whether the people coming to St. Vincent De Paul's kitchen realize that it is a Catholic organization.
- Kevin Connolly asked if there is a crucifix displayed.
- Bob Solak responded that yes there is a crucifix and many of the volunteers are not Catholics.
- John Gnam added that the Gospels have talked about Jesus returning and telling his disciples to feed my lamb and tend my sheep. This is what we need to do as the DPC and brainstorm what we can do to help parishes to evangelize.
- Helen Chapman said that youth groups and clubs are good for high school students. We need more groups for people in their twenties to encourage them to come back to church or continue coming to Church.
- Margaret Focha stated that Generations of Faith is a means to draw people.
- Bob Solak stated that even though the Generations of Faith had been very popular at the beginning, St. Eugene's has started to see a large fall out of people in their Generations of Faith program.
- Lilla Orr asked what should we do next?
- Kevin Connolly suggested coming up with a plan to share with our parishes.
- Bob Leet also agreed that we need to come up with a plan.
- Sister Antonia asked what is the purpose of evangelization?
- Bob Leet responded that evangelization should deepen our faith, bring our faith to others and to help change our existing culture.
- Sister Antonia thinks that evangelization is only possible on a one on one basis.
- Bob Leet said that the Paulists call their program Maintenance to Mission, which is to be a disciple of Christ and spread the Gospel.
- John Gnam stated that he felt we should develop a sub-committee to learn more about evangelization. This group would then meet more often to develop a plan.
- Pat Babb asked if we know of any parishes that currently have an evangelization program.
- Bob Solak suggested that perhaps the program could be patterned after marriage encounter or engaged couples retreats.
- Bob Leet asked if pastors are aware of any programs that have been used. Fr. Gary Lombardi had a program at one time at St. Vincent De Paul in Petaluma.
- Bob Solak also stated that we must be involved in our own church community in order to meet other people.
- Kevin Connolly agreed with John Gnam that developing a sub-committee would be a helpful tool in starting to establish a program for evangelization.
- Margaret Focha suggested that we look as individuals in our own parishes and see what's happening and working and what is not.
- Bob Solak agreed with John Gnam and Kevin Connolly that a sub-committee should be established to review the subject of evangelization. He suggested that John Gnam and Kevin Connolly chair a sub-committee. Kevin is not able to chair a committee at this time but would like to participate.
- Bob Leet said that the sub-committee could meet at his house in May to start a committee.
- John Gnam, Bob Leet, Kevin Connolly and Pat Babb will form a committee to develop a program for evangelization and report back to us at our May meeting.

Executive Committee: There was nothing to report from the Executive Board.

Communication/Transparency: Kevin Connolly said he would get together with Deirdre Frontczak, but hasn't been able to contact with her yet. He hasn't found anyone else to join a sub-committee for this topic.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

St. Eugene's: Bob Solak said that the parish council will now to called "pastoral assembly". They have not had meeting recently. May 5 they are having their Parish Family Potluck, as of this meeting the sign ups seem down from previous years. May 19-20 the St. Vincent De Paul truck will be at St. Eugene's for pickup of any donated items. The DPC election is scheduled for Sunday, April 29. There will be a new member replacing Bob Solak. This may be his last meeting or he will attend with the new member next month.

Resurrection: Bob Leet shared that the Pastoral Assembly announced that there would be a bilingual bulletin published. Also, the Hispanic community will probably be electing a new DPC representative from their community. The topic of overcrowding at the Masses at Resurrection was brought up, but the Hispanic community is OK with it. The consensus is not to do anything about it. The crowds give them a feeling of welcoming and family. They were asked why they come to Resurrection instead of other churches and their response was that they like Fr. Jose. There was some discussion regarding the changing of the structure of the altar to give more room. The cultural differences play a large role in their participation in Masses. The Hispanic community had 175 children receive their First Communion. The English community had 38 children. Another idea was brought up to try to arrange a tour for the English speaking community to go to Mexico to see where the Hispanic community comes from in Mexico.

Star of the Valley: Margaret Focha stated that their town hall meeting discussed a restructuring of their parish council. There is an ad hoc committee established to look at the structure of the parish council. They had a Lenten day of prayer and reflection with a healing Mass. This service brought together many of the home bound residents. The plate collections are not covering programs costs. They mailed a letter explaining their financial situation and the collections have increased. They also offer bingo and soup once a month, which is for the community, not only the parish members.

Holy Spirit: On March 21, 2007, Fr. Roger passed away. Fr. Jim Trent, from Fortuna, is helping at Holy Spirit. They are having their First Communion Mass on the April 28 evening Mass. On May 5 the annual golf tournament and banquet are being held. The building and grounds maintenance is on going. Generations of Faith is going well, another event coming up soon with Pentecost as the theme.

St Theresa and St. Phillips: Ann Clark stated that their furnace needs fixing. The St. Patrick's Day corned beef and cabbage dinner was sold out 4 weeks in advance. The community and the parish work closely together in many events because the communities are so small. Soup suppers were held during the Lenten season. Fr. Gary Logan has been interviewing in order to find a place where he can do hospital ministry.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Ask Pastors and community if they are aware of any Evangelization programs and whether they are working.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at Holy Spirit in the church hall on May 26, 2007.

We all joined together saying the Our Father as the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20.