

Minutes for Sonoma South Deanery -- May 12, 2007 St. Elizabeth Seton Church,
Rohnert Park

Present: Nora John (St. Eliz.), Nancy Murray and Declan Cunniff (St. Leo's), Donna West-Piezzi (St. Vincent's)

Meeting began with a prayer for evangelizing after fellowship, and refreshments.
Minutes of last meeting in February were approved.

Plenary Discussion

Nora John gathered lists of books, websites and a survey for members to peruse.
Discussion ensued relating to observations by those that attended the Plenary Session, March 31. Some comments-- We need to address "relationship mending" to those that have been disillusioned with the Church for one reason or another. Pastors and staff need to be "on board". Can we stop "parish shopping"? Evangelists can have different objectives and difficulties that arise when sharing and challenging the faith. The sexual abuse scandals in the church have prevented people from coming back or were an excuse to leave. The DPC is organized to advise the bishop. Each parish will get a complete report on the survey. Each parish confirmed many at the Easter Vigil. For the 7 weeks after Easter, the readings at Mass focus on the sacraments. Adult education may focus on Vatican II.

Executive Board Report

1. Bob Leet will co-ordinate the Evangelization Program.
2. The DPC Constitution will be translated into Spanish.
3. "Share the Faith" Plenary meeting March 31 only touched on basics.
4. Any program can be adapted to each parish's needs.
5. DPC website has highlights of the meeting thanks to Joe Tonkovitch (webmaster)
6. Members are encouraged to attend 1st Annual Lay meeting in SF (St Mary's Cathedral) June 2, 2007
7. Next meeting for the DPC Ex Board is June 9 for elections.

Reports from parishes

St. Vincents -- Various Cornerstone groups are hard at work with the 150th anniversary of the parish. There will be a major celebration in September. There were many First Communion throughout May and many entered the Church at Easter Vigil.

St. Elizabeth Seton -- Fr. Griffith's hip surgery was successful and he is back at work. Kay Corn, parish secretary, will work for the year and then retire. Then the secretarial position will be part-time. Fr, Griffith will wear a pager. Ministries will be able to handle the needs of the parish. Confirmation ceremonies saw (May 12) baptized 15, 25 Confirmandi. First Communion class was large. Next Generations of Faith will be June 2. Knights of Columbus pancake breakfast (May 13).

St. Leo's- Evangelization project. Names, addresses and phone numbers from old directories are being gleaned to invite people by letter to the 40th anniversary of St. Leo's. A phone call will follow 2 weeks after letter.

Adult education sessions between Masses have stopped because of mass schedule change. When and where to have the classes must be rethought. Perhaps Adult education can go back to Sunday morning. "Theology on Tap" is still continuing at Murphy's.

Parish Assembly works on consensus. Grounds look wonderful thanks to lots of volunteer work. A Gardener has been hired 30 hours a week to keep the area beautiful.

The parish will have a float in the 4th of July parade decorated by the teen group. and an information booth staffed with volunteers.

Next meeting, August 11, 2007

Meeting adjourned with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Donna West-Piezzi

I have also advised our group of any important notices they may have in the future, could also be posted on the website. As they have this info come up, I'll pass it along to you. Thank you again for your efforts in keeping this website in form!

Regards,
Nora John
Southern Deanery Chair