

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
May 26, 2007
Holy Spirit - Santa Rosa**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Lilla Orr and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Colleen McMahon and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Yvette Fallandy, John Gnam and Mike Wall (St Eugene's), Mel Amato (St. John the Baptist), Len Marabella (St. Rose) and Sr. Antonia Killian.

Lilla Orr called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Opening Prayer: Pat Babb led us with a meditation from Acts regarding Pentecost.

Minutes and Agenda: Bob Leet noted there was incorrect information on the draft minutes of April 28, 2007 regarding the documents being translated into Spanish. The correction was made to change the source of the documents to the USCCB. Bob Leet made the motion to accept the corrected minutes and Pat Babb seconded the motion, all approved.

There were 2 items added to the agenda for this meeting. Yvette Fallandy requested that the subject of the Bishop's report on diminishing clergy be presented under continuing business. Mel Amato requested that clarification of posting of the minutes on the website be discussed under new business. These items were added to the agenda.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Deanery Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop: There were none.

Continuing Business:

Evangelization committee: John Gnam and Bob Leet met to begin establishing a committee. John Gnam shared that he heard the Pope speaking in Brazil and the Pope spoke of his concern why the Catholic Church is losing people to "Pentecostal Churches". John Gnam said that he feels that one of the reasons the Catholic Church loses people is that the Catholic Church is so big and needs to be more personal. We need to evangelize to one another with hospitality and forming community, getting to know one another through service and volunteering in both church community activities and neighborhood activities.

Pat Babb shared ideas from Holy Spirit community activities. She said that the Men's Club participates in community activities as well as at their Parish. Figuratively, they wear their hats both at Holy Spirit and then in the neighborhood community. They are

able to successfully serve 2 organizations at the same time. They have a commitment to serving others and the community at large. They have also participated in the Cursillo program. A priest stated that he thought that attending and participating in Cursillo is an effective way to evangelize.

John Gnam added the thought “why are we Catholic and what keeps us Catholic?” What is it about our faith that keeps us coming back?

Lilla Orr said that she had heard about a survey regarding what elements of being “Catholic” keep us Catholic.

Colleen McMahon shared that she has a book that speaks on that subject as well. She will share title of book with members.

John Gnam stated that when we do have ideas and information about being Catholic and evangelization, we also need a way to get that information to the Church hierarchy.

Pat Babb said that she felt that there is a generational difference between how we have been brought up as Catholics. The youth today do not have the same feelings about the church as the older generation has. She also stated that an element that brings us to the Catholic Church is the Sacraments. We are a sacramental church.

Mel Amato said that we should be self-evangelizing. The Paulists have their evangelization program on the Internet. It’s called “Envision” and is a 3 or 4-year program. He will look at the outline information of the program and share it with us next meeting. The program does have a Parish focus.

Bob Leet added that the Paulists have made evangelization their mission. We are getting ahead of ourselves if we are focusing on evangelizing only to non-active Catholics. We have to start to evangelize at the parish level to one another. The declining number of clergy and the mindsets among the clergy has given the laity the opportunity and responsibility to help in the evangelization process. The time is right for the laity to step up and help. The starting point is in the parishes. We can take the ideas that we grew up with such as when Catholics practiced the idea of prayer; “The family that prays together, stays together”. We have to broaden the basis among Catholics. Evangelize that it is the Holy Spirit that pervades everything we do and lives in each of us in the good that we do. We must pray and reflect upon what makes each of us Catholic and why do I remain a Catholic? It is a very personal response. The crux is to evangelize the people who are with us.

Pat Babb agrees with Bob Leet and says we cannot contain our excitement if we are truly evangelized, we will want to share our faith and our relationship with God.

Bob Leet stated that 75% of people born after Vatican II are under catechized. The program, Generations of Faith, is a start in this process. In our culture, the need for prayer is no longer paramount. We don’t feel it’s important to set aside a certain time and/or place for prayer. We have to help others realize that prayer is not only for Sundays, but is a part of daily life.

Pat Babb shared that Holy Spirit Parish has a prayer chain and that idea helps bring solace and comfort to many as they join in the prayers of the parish needs.

Bob Leet said that it is important for each parish to have a prayer chain or something similar to share as a community.

Pat Babb said that Rick Warren has covered these ideas in his book/CD entitled “The Purpose Driven Church”. He has also published a book/CD/course entitled “The Purpose Driven Life”.

Mel Amato stated that the Envision program from the Paulists includes this idea of sharing prayer.

Bob Leet said that we should check further into the Paulist on-line course and stay updated through their newsletters.

Mel Amato will circulate the links for the Paulist's Envision program information.

Sr. Antonia said that she feels part of the problem is the thought that people have that if they have spirituality, why do they need religion? They seem to be OK with the idea that they have one or the other. She does not feel that the program, Generations of Faith is meeting the needs of the people.

Colleen McMahon said that the Generations of Faith is a beginning program to help those who do not have a strong faith to develop their understanding of their own faith and be able to share it with their children and family members. She agreed that the Generations of Faith is not set up to teach those that already have a strong sense of their faith. It is those people who are responsible for getting the information out to others through leadership and participating in the Generations of Faith program. She stated that she and Betty Kovanis (Resurrection) would be attending a leadership/facilitator course in Portland during the summer to learn more about sharing the program with the parish community. There is also a Lay presentation at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco this coming Saturday, June 2, 2007. Yvette Fallandy, Bob Leet and Colleen McMahon will be attending.

Pat Babb says she feels it's very important to keep the youth involved. They are the future of our church.

Mel Amato said that it is important to have strong leadership and facilitators to bring together the message that needs to be shared. All programs require that there is leadership to make their programs work.

Bob Leet wondered if other parishes were also looking at leadership roles to enhance their programs.

Len Marabella would like to see the information regarding seminars/conferences shared with the members.

John Gnam said that the sub-committee would gather information and disseminate it among the members. Mel Amato will join the committee and they will set a date to meet.

Bob Leet said that we should take a look at the Envision program and see what and how it works. If we wanted to become involved with programs, we could bring parishes together to share the information as well as the cost.

John Gnam and Bob Leet said that the priests are forming a task force for evangelization.

Pat Babb stated that we still have to determine why people are going elsewhere. What are the other churches doing to draw the people to their church? Basically, it comes down to marketing research.

Bob Leet shared that Channel 71 has other churches presenting their services and that's one way we can familiarize ourselves with their programs.

Executive Committee:

Yvette Fallandy said that the Constitution has now been translated to Spanish and will be posted to the website in 2 weeks. She also said that Bob Leet has been named as the Chair of the Evangelization program. The next executive board meeting will be Saturday, June 9, 2007. The DPC report on diminishing clergy to Bishop Walsh was

completed on April 13, 2007. It is the responsibility of the DPC representative to disseminate the report to their parishes. The Executive Board's decision on how to distribute the report was the original copy to the Bishop, copies to the Executive Board members for past 2 years, any volunteers who input information, and one copy to each DPC representative to give to a Parish Leader/Pastor. There also should be an announcement in the parish bulletin making people aware that the report exists and can be viewed by the parishioners.

Mel Amato added that the web links did not print on the copies within the survey report. He will provide that information to be inserted into the report.

Bob Leet stated that there is a Pastoral Leadership Conference in April 2008 in Orlando, Florida. It is called the National Ministry Summit. He has more information if anyone is interested.

Communication/Transparency:

Due to Kevin Connolly's absence, there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

St. Eugene's: John Gnam reported that the Generations of Faith program was going OK. Mike Wall is the new DPC representative and Bob Solak's term is over.

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb reported that they had completed their most recent Generations of Faith program with the theme of Pentecost. They held Confirmations last Sunday, May 20 and held a breakfast. The Parish golf tournament and banquet was successful. The next Pastoral Assembly meeting will be held on Saturday, June 9th. Their Town Hall meeting/potluck will be the evening before. They are in the process of researching their financial challenges in regards to the site work improvements that are required by the City.

Religious Community: Sr. Antonia reported that there isn't any news to report.

Resurrection: Bob Leet shared that some participants from the parish are having an informal Spanish/English conversation meeting on Wednesday evenings. Each person attending must use the language of the other. He reported that it is becoming very popular. He also said that there has been some discussion that Resurrection might change one of the English Masses to bilingual once in a while.

Colleen McMahon reported that there is new excitement regarding the Generations of Faith program. There are several new people who have attended the workshops and are very excited about the ideas. The first topic may be prayer and the idea is to try to have the same program twice a month and a new program every other month. It would be a blended effort with the existing Religious Education program. The Religious Education teachers are planning a Father's Day Brunch fundraiser after 2 of the Masses on June 17, 2007.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato reported that the parish is participating in the vocation cross program, where an individual, family or group takes a special cross with prayers and prays for vocations for one week. The Pastor is talking about establishing a Parish Council and he would appreciate any background from others regarding a new Parish

Council. It was suggested that Kevin Connolly and/or Terry Longoria both have the most information for establishing a parish council. He also reported that the new Library & Arts Building will be opening in August and is 98% paid for already.

St. Rose: Len Marabella reported that they are doing a bilingual Mass at 6:00 Saturday evening (May 26) for their Pentecost celebration. They eliminated the 5:30 and 7:30 evening masses and substituted the 6:00 Mass. Their Generations of Faith program's attendance is down from 250 to 90 participants. The parish has been having fundraisers to assist in the medical costs that their Youth Ministry Representative, Matt Conley, is experiencing. He has been dealing with a malignant brain tumor. The existing Parish Council has been struggling and questioning what their mission is supposed to be.

Other New Business:

Yvette Fallandy stated that the Executive Board would be reviewing their calendar with the Bishop.

Lilla Orr stated that we would review the proposed meeting calendar she submitted and finalize it at our next meeting.

It was brought to everyone's attention that the Diocesan Web Site has changed and has a new look. Sr. Antonia commented that she felt that the DPC should be added to the Lay Organization Group on the web site. She has already made this suggestion to Deirdre Frontszak.

Mel Amato questioned any changes that were being considered in the posting of the DPC minutes. He cited the constitution as well as the website policy approved by the Bishop. A consensus was reached on continuing to process our deanery minutes in the following manner:

1. DRAFT minutes will be circulated within 10 days after a meeting.
2. Members will respond with additions or corrections within 7 days.
3. The revised DRAFT incorporating additions or corrections will be circulated within 7 days.
4. At the next deanery meeting, this revised DRAFT will be reviewed again for additions and corrections and submitted for an approval vote as the FINAL minutes.
5. The FINAL minutes will be circulated to the members and the web master (for website posting) as soon as practical after that meeting.
6. Only the complete minutes (not a summary) will be used for the DRAFT, revised DRAFT and FINAL minutes.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Each representative has a copy of the Clergy Shortage Report/Survey to be given to the Parish and a notice should be printed in the bulletin informing the parishioners that the report is available for viewing.

Introductions were made to welcome the new St. Eugene's representative, Mike Wall. Also, there was a review of the members' information and ministry list for the parishes.

Members will review information and send updates to Colleen McMahon or bring to the next meeting.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. Rose church hall on June 30, 2007.

Closing prayer:

We all joined together saying the Our Father as the closing prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

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