

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
June 30, 2007
St. Rose - Santa Rosa**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Lilla Orr and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Colleen McMahon, Kevin Connolly and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Yvette Fallandy and Mike Wall (St Eugene's), Len Marabella (St. Rose) and Ann Clark and Ella Rozett (St.Philip & St. Teresa's)

Lilla Orr called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM, which was followed by introductions.

Opening Prayer: Len Marabella led us in prayers entitled "The Presence of God" and "Freedom".

Minutes and Agenda: Bob Leet moved to accept the draft minutes of May 26, 2007 and all approved. The agenda was also approved.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

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

Continuing Business:

Evangelization Committee: John Gnam, Pat Babb and Bob Leet met twice. They shared that Mel Amato had put a lot of time into exploring the Envision Program that is being offered by the Paulists. The program seems to be a very comprehensive program, but costly and not an easy program to implement in this Diocese at this time. Bob Leet talked with a friend who shared that it seems that all churches are having trouble with declining numbers. The committee discussed implementing a phone tree within each parish to call on the parish registration list. This would be a core ministry, not something the DPC would take on. Bob Leet said that the idea of a phone tree ministry could be presented to the Bishop.

Pat Babb said that Holy Spirit has decided to evangelize to the youth, those who have recently graduated from high school.

Bob Leet also reported that they discussed about having a general convocation around Pentecost 2008. The convocation would be informational and held away from any parish. There would have to be extensive advertising. Each parish would be able to set up a booth and make it both informational and promotional. The idea of the Pentecost 2008 Convocation would only substitute for the 2008 Plenary Session.

Bob Leet said that the October Executive Board is meeting in Eureka with a special gathering, where all are invited. This meeting will be held the weekend of October 6-7,

2007. There is also a National Ministry Summit being held in Orlando, Fl the weekend of April 20-23, 2008.

Bob Leet passed out survey/sharing item "Obstacles to Evangelizing, Why Some Catholics Don't Share Their Faith". We each took a few minutes to complete. Bob will compile the information and share the comments at the next meeting. Suggestions were made regarding the questions. Yvette Fallandy suggested that the DPC members present the questions to the parishes. Pat Babb suggested that the questions be presented to the Pastoral Assembly. Kevin Connolly and Colleen McMahon both felt that the questions needed more clarification. Yvette Fallandy noted that there is another element to this in that there are those people who claim to be Catholic but do not practice.

Yvette Fallandy described the Lay Convocation that was held in San Francisco on June 2, 2007. She reported that there were approximately 300 people in attendance. It seemed to be a loosely organized group at this time, but has potential. The Archbishop was in attendance as well as a few priests. She mentioned that the group, Voice of the Faithful, seems to be in some trouble and is trying to reorganize and focus on the subject of married priesthood. There were hundreds of pro comments submitted for a married priesthood in the Survey on the Shortage of Priests.

Bob Leet reported that the Lay Convocation in San Francisco was a chance to meet with other people. There were 2 speakers and then everyone met in small groups for discussions on what was good or bad in each parish. The presentation emphasized the importance of the laity within the church.

Pat Babb asked if the idea of laity is brought up in other's Pastoral Assembly meetings.

Bob Leet and Kevin Connolly said that Resurrection is still young and hasn't been able to explore this topic. Pat Babb said Holy Spirit has discussed this topic with their pastor.

Bob Leet said that he would call the Deanery Chairs and seek their opinions about starting our own Lay Convocation.

Mike Wall shared that while he was recruiting members to the Serra Club, years ago, that the number of women religious were 8 to 1.

Ella Rozett asked how many attended the Santa Rosa Congress. She said that there were 2 women speakers and they were very good. Bob Leet and Kevin Connolly said that they felt that the Congress teaches the faith (catechesis) and is not advertised very well. Ella Rozett suggested that we work with Sr. Olive in evangelization and Bob Leet and Yvette Fallandy stated that Sr. Olive does not wish to have the participation of the DPC.

Yvette Fallandy said she feels that the Bishop has latched on to the vehicle of evangelization so that the faithful can learn and be more familiar and present to their own faith and relationship with God.

Kevin Connolly said that many Catholics are very passive about their faith.

Bob Leet shared that he had attended a Lutheran Church in Chico and that the number in attendance seemed to be motivated by the presider.

Bob Leet said there will be another Lay Committee meeting, but there was no date scheduled at this time.

Ella Rozett stated that she felt that phone calling could be brought to the parishes.

Lilla Orr said they used a script for making calls when they were presenting the Renew program. Maybe we could provide a script for calling people. The Lay Committee will make up a script.

Mike Wall would like to see a script with answers to possible questions.

Lilla Orr will try to get an older questionnaire to revise for a new phone script to use regarding the obstacles to evangelizing.

Bob Leet said that members should complete the questions and potential responses in order to put a script together.

Yvette Fallandy suggested that it might be a good idea to talk to converts about what brought them to the church may be a good idea.

Ella Rozett said that it was opening the doors to let people who want to peek inside to do so. The open door is more welcoming and it allows the music to drift outside to the community.

Bob Leet shared that he was welcomed to the Lutheran church with a cup, pencil and invitation when he walked into the church.

Mike Wall said that a Catholic Church that he attended near Henderson, NV made an extra effort in welcoming everyone.

Bob Leet said we have to show that all are welcome and that it doesn't matter how much money they have or how they dress. We should take the time to introduce ourselves if we are new or visiting. Each parish has to improve their welcoming both to newcomers and to present parishioners.

Executive Committee: Yvette Fallandy said that Bob Leet has been elected Chair of the DPC Executive Board for the coming year. The next Executive Board meeting will be held in Eureka on October 6 and 7th. If there are enough people interested in attending, we can arrange to travel together. The meeting will be held at St. Bernard's. Yvette Fallandy passed out a list of the new officers and calendar for the Executive Board. Yvette Fallandy said that the website is emerging. Joe Tonkovich is in the process of posting the DPC Constitution in English and Spanish as well as the updated Executive Board roster and schedule. Deaneries need to promptly update the posting of their minutes. Humboldt/Del Norte does post a summary of their minutes. It was suggested that we should try to find a web master that is closer to home. Someone in our deanery will become familiar with the minutes and summarize for the website.

Report on Clergy Shortage-follow up: Yvette Fallandy said that Fr. Jim Trent was very happy and complimentary with the end product of the survey. Sr. Pat Carson was unhappy with the presentation of the report. Yvette stressed that the report is not a formal document, but a compilation of discreet information. It tried not to screen, veil or water down what the Bishop actually sees from the parishioners. The laity itself needs to take more pride and/or seriousness in relating to the Bishop. The content was something to very proud of from the laity.

Bob Leet stated that it should be the content from the volunteers and not a professional group.

Kevin Connolly shared an article by Andrew Greeley where he discussed ordination to the priesthood would be for a defined term, not necessarily a lifetime. The survey showed comments and responses were all over the place.

Communication/Transparency: Kevin Connolly stated that he probably would be able to report something in a couple more months. He feels that the Internet will be useful in the future.

Yvette Fallandy suggested that we need a paid executive secretary for the DPC.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

St. Eugene's: Mike Wall will check out the details to the changes being made to the Pastoral Council and report back.

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb shared items from their Pastoral Assembly meeting. She said that there are approximately 300 families in their parish. They have a Photo Directory of their parishioners. They are still working on the issue of the parking lot and replacement of the roof. They are reviewing the steps in order to make the Parish more "green" for environmental sake.

Resurrection: Kevin Connolly reported that they are trying to name their various buildings. He was surprised that there was so little participation in coming up with names for the buildings. Colleen McMahon reported that the Oktoberfest is in the planning stages and will be held on Saturday, September 15, 2007. She also reported that there is a core committee beginning to work more diligently on establishing a Generations of Faith program.

St. Philip & St. Teresa: Ella Rozett said that Fr. Logan has not left the parish and may not be leaving. She said that she feels that priests need spiritual directors or someone to talk and share their problems.

St. Rose: Len Marabella reported that they had a bilingual Mass at 6:00 Saturday evening (May 26) for their Pentecost celebration. There has also been a change in the Hispanic clergy at St. Rose. Fr. Ramon Pons, formerly at Our Lady of Guadalupe has joined St. Rose in place of Fr. David. The Hispanic Mass is at 7:00 pm on Saturday evenings.

Other New Business:

Colleen McMahon shared that there is a Faith Conference being held in Santa Clara during September. She has the brochure if anyone is interested in attending. She also asked if anyone had any information changes to be made to the ministry and/or membership lists. She will not be attending the July meeting, so someone else will have to take the minutes.

Pat Babb reported that her term is up in December 2007.

Lilla Orr reported that her term is up in August 2007. We will need to choose a replacement at our next meeting to take her place as Chair.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Each Parish should see that information is put into their bulletin regarding the Executive Board Meeting, which will be held in October 2007 in Eureka. We should emphasize that all are welcome.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at Resurrection on July 28, 2007. Kevin Connolly will arrange the reservations.

Closing prayer:

We all joined together in reading a prayer entitled, Teach Us, Good Lord, provided by Len Marabella.

Adjournment:

The meeting was then adjourned at 11:55.

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