

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
September 29, 2007
St. Phillip's - Occidental**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Mike Wall and John Gnam (St. Eugene's), Colleen McMahon and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Len Marabella (St. Rose), Mel Amato (St. John's), Ella Rozett and Anne Clark (St. Philip's & St. Teresa's) and Helen Chapman and Margaret Foche (Star of the Valley)

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM, followed by introductions.

Opening Prayer: Anne requested that we share a meditation as the opening prayer.

Minutes and Agenda: Some members did not receive a copy of the draft minutes or summary. Len read the summary. The minutes were then approved. The agenda was modified to move the Deanery Communiques to the end of the agenda. The agenda was then approved.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Continuing Business:

Evangelization Committee: John Gnam stated that there had been a Diocesan meeting on September 24 regarding Evangelization. However, he was not able to attend. Bob Leet was not able to attend, but said that the speaker was a Bishop from the Los Angeles area. There is a copy of the bishop's talk available. Bob passed out a pamphlet entitled "Catholics Reaching Out" published by the Paulists. It was also suggested that we have a teleconference among the different Deaneries. This would enhance our communication within the Diocese. There is one pastor of this Deanery who is in favor of exploring the idea of the Diocese upgrading the communication system. At this time, we have programs and ideas that we can provide to the Bishop. Bob stated that it is his thought that the Generations of Faith program could find a place in its structure for Evangelization. This would be a suggestion for the planners of Generations of Faith within the parishes. The program assists individuals to inform themselves regarding the practice of their faith and helps them become more comfortable with sharing their faith. They will become more aware of how to evangelize beyond themselves.

Margaret Foche said that Star of the Valley has a scripture prayer meeting that uses materials from St. Anthony Press. The material was originally used in the RCIA program. Star of the Valley is also sponsoring a speaking presentation with the community, the Church and a Rabbi regarding experiencing depression around the holidays. They are reaching out to the entire community.

Mel Amato read a particular sentence in the pamphlet, which reads, "Others in your parish are trained and available to talk with returning Catholics and give them the

personal attention and care they deserve.” He pointed out the importance of having trained individuals. The Envision program helps parishes to define what format a parish wants to use to facilitate evangelization in their parish.

Bob Leet explained that the DPC is an advisory group not established for making policies. The DPC will provide the Bishop with information to be shared with the Parishes, in order to assist the Parish Councils and parishioners to create a firmer Faith foundation. Evangelization is more about faith formation and less religious education. He stated that there is more to the church than the physical presence on Sunday. The church should help people to build a relationship with God and strengthen their faith. Father Logan of St. Phillip’s stopped by and shared his experience of evangelization in Detroit before he converted to Catholicism. He had been involved with the Jesus Movement and attended a meeting. He said it was a life-changing event for him. He saw others filled with a special light and he wanted that feeling also.

John Gnam suggested we begin by meeting, talking and establishing relationships. Pat Babb said that Holy Spirit greets each other before Mass. Bob Leet suggested that name tags be used periodically and also used by the Eucharistic Ministers. This helps to put a face to a name.

Executive Committee: Bob Leet reported that the DPC Executive Committee meeting scheduled in Eureka on October 6th had been canceled. A meeting will still be held, but the location is undetermined at this time, perhaps at Bob Leet’s home.

Website: Bob Leet reported that Joe Tonkovich has been away and is now catching up on the website information. Mel Amato reported that our website is up to date.

Summary of Minutes: It was agreed that the summary of the minutes was a good thing and Len Marabella will continue to prepare the summary after each meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb reported that they had their BBQ during the month of September. Their next Generations of Faith theme is called “To Prayer”. They have established a Vision Committee to work on a capital campaign for the parish’s major maintenance issues. Some of the enhancements will be done in memory of the late Fr. Roger Lamoreaux. Pat Babb is the only member of the DPC from Holy Spirit until January 2008. Her term will be ending in July 2008.

St. Eugene’s: John Gnam said that there had been no Parish Council meeting in September because Monsignor Pulskamp was on vacation. Once he returns, they will begin their new Parish Council meetings.

St. Theresa: Ann Clark reported the next Parish Council meets on October 10, 2007 and Anne will have a report at our next DPC meeting.

Resurrection: Bob Leet reported that the plant maintenance was discussed at the last Assembly meeting. A construction team performed a review of the entire plant. The most urgent item is a new roof, which has an estimated bid of \$90,000. The estimates for the work to be performed will be presented to the Parish Assembly at the next meeting. There was also a discussion regarding the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th. It was suggested that the church remain open all day to allow people to participate in a full day of devotions, not only the early morning Mass. There is also discussion

regarding electing Spanish speaking representatives to the DPC. It is the responsibility of the Parish to elect the members. They are part of the whole parish. The Anglo community is becoming more aware of the Hispanic community's needs and the Hispanic community is becoming more comfortable with sharing their needs.

Star of the Valley: Margaret Foche said that they have an "ad hoc committee" looking at the structure of their Pastoral Council. Their first pastoral council meeting was in July 2007. Margaret is a member. Father Keys wishes to encourage more administration assistance through the Council. They are holding a Divine Mercy Mass at 3:00 on Sunday, September 30th. A year devoted to the "Divine Mercy" will begin in October 2007. Fr. Keys' illness and healing from that illness of 12 years ago was considered in the canonization of Sr. Faustina. The Caring Ministry is being used as a tool of evangelization, focusing on singles group with potlucks and emotional support for parishioners.

St. Rose: Len is trying to recruit another DPC member.

St. Phillips: Ella Rozett reported that Fr. Logan stated that the Priest's meeting said that we should all be praying for vocations.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato said they had a "Ministry Recruitment" session after the Masses last week, trying to encourage more individuals to share their talents in the different ministries of the parish. The intent was good, but the results not as good as hoped.

Other New Business:

Pat Babb suggested that we have training for lay ministers. Colleen McMahon stated that Sr. Antonia had tried to establish a certified program, but there was no support from the Bishop. Bob Leet suggested that we bring up the issue of Lay Ministry Training to the Bishop again. What is the Bishop's vision of administration with the parishes? Len Marabella agreed that this issue should be brought to the Bishop's attention once again. Mel Amato proposed that this issue be put on the agenda for next meeting to get information regarding Lay Ministry Training programs available. He also read a statement from Canon Law and said we need to get the facts together and prepare a proposal to be presented to the Bishop. Bob Leet said we can present our ideas and the different options to the Bishop including the financial aspect of the issue.

Ella Rozett presented the issue of having minorities represented. Bob Leet said that Resurrection is working on that issue. Mel Amato stated that we have to sell ourselves as a committee.

Deanery Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop: Bob Leet will put together information to be presented to the DPC for consensus at our next meeting on October 27, 2007. The information to be presented to the Bishop will be ideas for more effective communication, such as telecommunication and the subject of lay minister training.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Members are to check on availability for upcoming meeting places at their parishes.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. Rose in Santa Rosa on October 27, 2007.

Closing prayer:

Ella Rozett presented a meditation about God's Breath Within Us followed by everyone reciting the Our Father.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

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