

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
October 27, 2007
St. Rose – Santa Rosa**

Meeting Opening:

Attending: Mike Wall and Yvette Fallandy (St. Eugene's), Colleen McMahon, Kevin Connolly and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Len Marabella (St. Rose), Mel Amato (St. John's), Ella Rozett and Anne Clark (St. Philip's & St. Teresa's), Pat Babb (Holy Spirit) and Margaret Foche (Star of the Valley)

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM and waived introductions.

Opening Prayer: Len Marabella provided the prayer entitled "Let Creation Praise the Lord" by St. Francis of Assisi. We read the prayer together.

Minutes and Agenda: The September minutes and the summary of the minutes were approved. The agenda was approved after a couple items were moved to different times.

Public Comment: There was no public comment. Mike Wall reported that Joe Shea had requested to speak at the next DPC meeting on the subject of "The Divine Mercy".

Continuing Business:

Evangelization Committee: Bob Leet stated that there is nothing to report until after the Executive Board meeting, which will be held on November 3.

Executive Committee: Bob Leet stated that there is nothing to report until after the Executive Board meeting, which will be held on November 3.

Website: Mike Wall said that he would add Joe Tonkovich to his e-mail list for the meeting agenda each month.

Mel Amato reported that he has talked with the Napa Deanery about the website, but they haven't done anything about using it yet. Bob Leet said that the deaneries meet at different intervals and we're not sure what or when their meetings occur. The subject of 'lack of communication' will be discussed at the next Executive Board meeting.

Bob Leet said that we should allow the Bishop to find out about the communication issue, such as telecommunication. Bob Leet asked if anyone was aware of an outside source that we could hire to assist us with the communication upgrades. Mel Amato said that the original idea was to get each Deanery secretary to submit the minutes to their individual members and a copy to Joe Tonkovich for posting to the website. But we don't even know if anyone is recording the minutes of their meetings. This issue should be presented to the Executive Board. The executive members of each Deanery should know if the minutes are being recorded. They can be reminded that the minutes should be written and then submitted to the website.

Mike Wall asked about the communication between the people in the pews and the deanery level. Bob Leet stated that he believed that there is a sense of apathy and people

feel that the problems should be handled by those paid to handle them. Perhaps, Generations of Faith will help people become more aware of who the Church is. Margaret Foche said the survey had helped the parishioners of Star of the Valley to feel some involvement by their input.

Len Marabella asked how we, as a deanery, could be effective in being the voice of the parishioners to the Bishop.

Bob Leet said the Peace and Justice ministry from Resurrection want another statement from the Bishop regarding war and the problems in the Mid-East. Kevin Connolly said that the feelings of the Peace and Justice ministry should be printed in the North Coast Catholic newspaper. He said that he is planning on meeting with Deidre Frontczak soon to discuss the frequency of the publication of the newspaper and other related items

Margaret Foche asked if Bob Leet should take this issue to the Bishop.

Len Marabella asked again how the DPC could effectively communicate the issues.

Ella Rozett said she thinks that the website should be able to be used for communication and response from parishioners. This is no interactive part of the website.

Len Marabella suggested that we could produce projects and programs and be a voice to the Bishop regarding the hot issues that are heard from our parishes.

Mel Amato suggested that we ask our Bishop for spiritual guidance relative to the war.

Yvette Fallandy shared that she doesn't think that it is fair to tell the Bishop what to do, but to put together a plan of what and why we need a statement or whatever it is we are requesting him to do.

Bob Leet presented a motion to be given to the Bishop. "We request your spiritual guidance regarding the war in Iraq, Afghanistan and the possible expansion of war against Iran." The motion was approved with 10 yes and 1 no.

Yvette Fallandy asked how it would be conveyed to the Bishop and Mel Amato said that it would fall under Item 4 of our agenda, Deanery Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

Star of the Valley: Margaret Foche reported that they have a new Parish Council. The Chairman of Finance has been named the Chief Financial Officer of the Parish. It is a volunteer position and the appointment was made by the pastor. The Bishop has asked Star of the Valley to be a model for lay leadership within the parish. They are in the process of working on written job descriptions.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato said that the parish is having their first Generations of Faith session in November. It will include faith sharing and a meal, but he is not sure what the focus will be. The Crush festival was a great success and very well attended.

St. Rose: Len Marabella said that their Parish Council has not met since August 2007. The Pastor is supportive, but the Council is not sure what their purpose is. They are in the process of working with St. Leo's Parish in Agua Caliente. He continues to ask for more volunteers to participate in the DPC.

St. Phillip's and St. Theresa's: Ella Rozett is not able to attend their Parish council meetings. Ann Clark said that she attended the meeting and that they are trying to get consistent financial reports. Their CCD program has 26 families with 3 Confirmation age

children, but there are also older teens that need the sacrament of Confirmation. She will try to put the DPC information into the bulletin after each meeting.

Resurrection: Bob Leet reported that the Peace and Justice ministry was preparing to demonstrate against the war. Resurrection is in the process of putting together all the details for their presentation of the Generations of Faith session to be held on Tuesday, November 27.

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb reported that their “Call to Prayer” Generations of Faith program just finished up. She stated that the DPC representative attends the Parish Assembly meetings. They are busy working on a Capital Campaign for mandated repairs to the parish plant. They are calling it the “Fr. Roger Memorial Campaign”. They will be making home visits, trying to make the campaign both spiritual as well as financial.

St. Eugene’s: Mike Wall said that the Parish Council elections are going on now. They are doing a collection for the Music Ministry, of which he is a participant.

Lay Ministry Training:

Bob Leet reported that there are articles within the Report to the Bishop on the Clergy regarding examples of lay ministry formation and training programs. The program in the Diocese of Orange is a 45-hour course. The Oakland Diocese has a Diocesan wide certified and graduate program for Lay Ministers. The Las Vegas Diocese has a 2-year program to prepare ecclesial ministers. Santa Rosa Diocese does not have the resident faculty for a program nor the finances to cover such a program. The role for the lay minister is to be complimenting the pastor’s activities except the celebration of the sacraments.

Yvette Fallandy said that the Priest Council is sympathetic to the need of the training of Lay Ministers. However, the Priest Council does not represent all clergy. There were only 44 out of 70 priests that attended the 2005 meeting. There are examples of non-pastor administration jobs in place now, such as Star of the Valley, the Hupla Community and Fr. Brinkle in St. Helena. Bishop Walsh is concerned about the cost and the quality and appropriate administrative training as well as the spiritual training that goes along with working in a parish. She continued to say that we have everything we need to launch a program to train the lay minister.

Bob Leet asked whether the training would be ecclesial or pastoral administration.

Yvette Fallandy said that we will do both and each parish will decide what they need at their own parish.

Ella Rozett said that she thought that the Deacon’s wives are sufficiently trained and we should be able to utilize their training.

Yvette Fallandy said that Sr. Antonio had developed a program, but it had failed due to lack of support by the Bishop.

Bob Leet said that Deacons are not always utilized by the Pastors and that the Bishop can use them where he sees a need.

The Lay Ministry Training will be discussed at the Executive Board meeting and at the Priest’s Council.

Bob Leet stated that we are very supportive of the Lay Administration involvement and training within the Parishes.

Len Marabella said that the discussion of finances should be tabled and discussed later as we move forward with establishing the program.

Mel Amato said that he sites Canon Law to help us stay in line with what and how we are supposed to be doing.

Deanery Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop: Bob Leet will present the following approved statement to the Bishop and the Executive Committee. “We request your spiritual guidance regarding the war in Iraq, Afghanistan, and the possible expansion of war against Iran”. He will also communicate to the Bishop that we continue to support the Lay Ministry Training and we are willing to participate as needed.

Ann Clark asked to have an explanation as to what is the difference between certified training and volunteering.

Bob Leet said we need to explain what a Lay Minister is expected to do, such as a job description and that would be different for each parish.

Mel Amato said that each job should be defined with a job description whether or not it is paid or not.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Len Marabella said that the summary of the minutes could be put into the parish bulletins. Also, communicate that we have discussed and support the planning of a Lay Ministry Training Program.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at Star of the Valley in Santa Rosa on November 17, 2007.

Closing prayer:

Len Marabella led the closing prayer entitled Prayer of St. Ignatius of Loyola, Dedication to Jesus, which we read together.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.