

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
November 17, 2007
Star of the Valley**

Meeting Opening:

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

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM followed by introductions. There were 3 guests in attendance; Chuck and Pat Thelen from Star of the Valley and Joe Shea from St. Leo's.

Opening Prayer: The opening prayer was entitled "Stewardship Prayer.

Minutes and Agenda: The October minutes and the summary of the minutes were approved.

Public Comment: Joe Shea spoke regarding the devotion to the Divine Mercy. He provided pictures and other information. He is planning to visit every Parish to share about this devotion. In April 2008 a World Congress is being held in Rome. The Sunday after Easter has been designated as the feast day for the Devotion to the Divine Mercy. Chuck and Pat Thelen were in attendance as guests only.

Continuing Business:

Evangelization Committee: Bob Leet spoke about the Evangelization Committee. "Envision" is one of the programs researched, however, it is a long term and costly program to implement. He also shared materials regarding the Paulist program "Catholics Reaching Out". This program provides training for parishes in Evangelization. Humboldt/Del Norte deanery and the Sonoma North deanery want to suggest this program to the Bishop. There may be other programs that other deaneries want to put on the table. Yvette Fallandy said that the deanery representatives need to know about the program so they can become familiar and be ready to present it to the Bishop at the Executive Committee.

Executive Committee: Bob Leet stated that the Executive Committee met on November 3, 2007. There is a general meeting open to all DPC members to discuss the upcoming Plenary meeting. This general meeting will be held on Saturday, January 19, 2008. The Executive Board would like to see a broader approach and not just individual deanery information especially in regard to the 2 main issues of Ecclesial ministry and Evangelization.

Yvette Fallandy expressed concern about the deanery membership. The Napa deanery's influx is due to changes. Mendocino/Lake Counties have no deanery. Humboldt/Del

Norte deaneries have the issue of distance to contend with and the Sonoma South deanery is in influx due to elections taking place. We need to have a tighter organization and definition in our organization. Time has come to meet with the Bishop to discuss the status of the DPC and to urge him to take action regarding the priest shortage survey and check with him on the path we are taking on evangelization. The DPC needs direction from him. We need a sense of Christian fraternity. We need a new shot of adrenalin from our Bishop.

Bob Leet said it's important to establish a closer relationship within the Chancery, the DPC is a part of the Diocese. What does the Bishop expect from us? The Executive Board needs to bring this to the Bishop's attention. The Bishop was not present at the November 3, 2007 meeting.

Pat Babb asked if anyone else could represent him. Yvette Fallandy said he is his own man. Bob Leet said the Bishop did phone after the meeting to see what occurred at the meeting.

Ella Rozett asked about the outcome of the Bishop preparing a statement regarding the war in Iraq. Bob Leet said the Bishop was not present, therefore, a letter will be prepared and mailed to him. Yvette Fallandy said it was brought up at the meeting, but no conclusion was made since the Bishop wasn't there. Mike Wall confirmed that Bob Leet will write the letter to the Bishop regarding preparing a statement regarding the Iraq situation.

Website: Bob Leet suggested that we may consider establishing a blog to assist in our communications. He said he is interested in finding out more about setting up a blog. Kevin Connolly asked if anyone would be able to access the blog and Bob Leet responded yes. Mel Amato's biggest concern is about what was going onto the website. The website is not now current and if there is wrong information on the website it could be worse than no website at all. The Executive Board should try to encourage more deaneries to post their minutes on the website. Bob Leet said the Executive Board has discussed this problem. Yvette Fallandy said that we need to face the fact that the deaneries are weak and have problems with their participation. Mel Amato said that we need a half time speech from our Coach", the Bishop. Ella Rozett said we should let the Bishop know about the website concerns. Yvette Fallandy said that the Bishop would say it's our problem. Ella Rozett said that she will try to locate a person to set up a blog. Bob Leet said the website will be up for renewal soon and the Executive Board will have to discuss the future of the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Parish Reports:

Star of the Valley: Helene Chapman reported they are raising extra money for their outreach programs. Margaret Foche reported that there were 265 families assisted last year by the Men's Club pancake breakfast. They have a \$25,000 budget for charitable organizations.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato reported that their first Generations of Faith session will be focusing on Advent. He also stated that the Diocese has come up with bylaws for finance committees.

St. Phillip's and St. Theresa's: Ann Clark and Ella Rozett said they are working on their Star Child program. They have a rural food program and a giving tree. They also have a bicycle program where they collect, clean and give away old bicycles to children. They have a continuing spiritual encouragement at the beginning of Advent and Lent with booklets that are made available to parishioners. Ella Rozett said that they have a book drive for the jail inmates. However, 90% of the books are mystery and romance. She said that we could call her if we have any books to donate. Pat Babb asked if they use Spanish books or need them. Ella said that she would check on the Spanish needs.

Resurrection: Colleen McMahon reported that the Generations of Faith formation was quickly approaching on November 27.

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb reported that they are moving on with their Capital Campaign for mandated repairs to the parish plant. The Generations of Faith formation is going well.

St. Eugene's: Mike Wall and Yvette Fallandy said that the reorganization of the Parish Council to Parish Assembly "percolates" along. Yvette said that the organ plays loud and the tenor is in tune. Mike Wall also reminded everyone about the formation classes held by Sr. Antonia's Spiritual Enrichment Center.

Proposal to the Bishop:

Ella Rozett asked if the Lay Ministry training was discussed at the Executive Board. Yvette Fallandy said that the next step is to present to the Bishop a "Kit". A "kit" is a well thought out proposal with supporting materials to be submitted to the Bishop. It needs to make clear that both the lay and parish ecclesial ministers are important. The meeting with the Bishop will have 2 agendas; one will be the kit (including the price) and the other is evangelization. Bob Leet stated that the training programs differ greatly; their length, cost and materials required. There is a need to know what the Bishop expects from a Pastoral minister. We will submit our thoughts and ask him how he sees it happening. Margaret Foche suggested that the Diocese of Oakland would be a good resource for training. They use the Holy Names University. Bob Leet reminded everyone that we are only compiling the information about the programs to present to the Bishop. It will be the Bishop's decision as to what he wants to do with the information presented to him. Kevin Connolly suggested that there may be sponsorships available to help defray costs.

Bob Leet brought up the fact that any information or materials submitted to the parish bulletins must be carefully written. The message must be accurate.

Deanery Communiques for the Executive Committee/Bishop: Bob Leet reported that there will be the meeting with the Bishop on January 19, 2008.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish:

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa on January 26, 2008.

Closing prayer:

Helen Chapman led the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

e-mailed 3/31/08