

A REPORT ON THE DPC PLENARY SESSION 2010
March 20, 2010, St Mary of the Angels Church, Ukiah
"ENERGIZING THE LAITY"

WELCOME AND PRAYER SERVICE

Mike Wall, Chair, DPC Executive Board (St Eugene) welcomed thirty-nine Participants (Please see Appendix A) at the Eighth Annual Diocesan Pastoral Council Plenary Session at St Mary of the Angels, Ukiah. Upon thanking **Fr Raúl Lemus**, Pastor, for his unstinting hospitality, Mike introduced **Bishop Daniel Walsh** who opened the proceedings with a **Prayer Service** in which he emphasized:

- God comes first; His ways, His laws, have dominion.
- The innate dignity of every human person. Every man and woman is made in the image and likeness of God, and has an eternally lasting and divine character.
- The Common Good is always normative. We are never in it first for ourselves.
- Solidarity: we are members of a family, and we have special duty to the poor among us.
- Subsidiarity: one of the geniuses of Catholic Social Teaching is that the closer you are to the grassroots, the better you are.
- Our supreme duty to bring values, God's truth, and our principles into the public square. There can be no 'cleavage' between what we believe and how we act.

Bishop Walsh went on to deliver his annual statistical report on the "**Status of the Diocese**" (Please see Appendix B.). He then continued with the Keynote to the Plenary:

"MESSAGE TO THE DPC"

We build the church with basic Baptism and Confirmation. We are called to witness to Christ and the Gospel. The Laity has an essential role in the Church: you are called to witness to Christ and the Gospel within and outside the Church. Our challenge is to call forth gifts and talents for building up the Church and witnessing in the world.

We build up the Church through catechists, teachers, social outreach, parish involvement, Parish Finance Boards, Parish Councils. All of these involve inter-Parish communication - much like today's gathering. Inter-Parish cooperation extends to the deanery level and the diocesan level.

Other groups which build the Church include the Knights of Columbus, Knights of Malta, Knights of Holy Sepulcher, Saint Vincent de Paul, Young Ladies Institute, Young Men's Institute, Italian Catholic Federation.

What is our role as Laity? Prayer, invitation to others, and calling back those who have left the Church.



Our biggest need is for better communication to help us focus on our Parishes. We all need to know what is going on! For example, do we all know that a Sister at St Eugene's School retired last week after teaching fifty years, and all the school children participated in her celebration?

Witnessing to the world: to local communities, ecumenical efforts, citizens' actions, call home to the Church, catechesis. Good things are going on all the time, but we don't communicate these well enough. Do we know about TOPS in Petaluma? Or the citizens' actions on Immigration Reform in Santa Rosa this Sunday? Or the 'Catholic Legislative Network' set up by the Bishops. This new service, only nine months old, is very exciting; every Friday it reviews national and statewide legislation as it pertains to the Church. It is an opportunity to talk, get involved, share ideas, on such topics as the Health Care Bill, etc. You can sign up at cacatholic.org.



The agenda for the future involves vocation recruitment of seminarians and priests on a local, national and international level. We need priests. Father Tom Diaz, Director of Vocations and Seminarians, is very active in our efforts. We have also two priests here from Kenya. I will be going with them to Kenya for a visit. They are working out just great in our Diocese.

Do you know it costs \$40,000/year for school for each seminarian?



And what about the New Translation of the Mass? This will be a challenge much like when the Church went from a Latin Mass to English. There is already a lot of talk about this New Translation that has now taken nine years to complete. Why translate? The New Translation of the 2001, "*Liturgiam Authenticam*," is to assure that all principles and rules are observed, are theologically accurate, and prayers are represented with dignity and beauty. The *International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL)* and the *Vox Clara I (Clear Voice)* identified such inaccurate translations as, 'Peace be with you . . . And also with you,' should read 'The Lord be with you . . . And with your Spirit.'

We simply want to be more precise. This process was long and involved. The editors first sent their changes in "The Gray Book" to the Bishops for their comments. Then the Committee went through these and sent it back to *ICEL*. It then became the 'Green Book' and was sent to the Bishops for more comments. Once again it went back to *ICEL*, then to Rome for the *Vox Clara* where it is yet to be approved. We expect it to be by April, at which time we will instruct the Parishes. You may read it for yourself on the Bishop's website (usccb.org).

In response to a question from the audience as to whether we really need more rules, Bishop Walsh responded, how you pray is how you believe: *lex orandi, lex credendi*. This New Translation is more accurate, and better liturgy will arise. This translation helps us all reflect upon how we worship and why?



Bishop Walsh concluded his Keynote by urging all to:

- Study Len Marabella's PowerPoint, *Lay Pastoral Director Project* (santarosadpc.com) as an option to alleviate our Priest shortage.
- Attend the Chrism Mass, Holy Thursday, March 23, 4:30PM, St Eugene Cathedral, and the Ordination to the Priesthood of three Seminarians, Saturday, May 22, 10AM, St John the Baptist Church, Napa.
- Take to heart his "A Message from Bishop Daniel Walsh: 'A Voice for the Poor,'" in the *North Coast Catholic* (Spring 2010, p. 2, santarosacatholic.org).

(Transcription courtesy of Karen Gilmore, St Mary of the Angels.)

"ENLIVENING THE LAITY"

Deacon John Norris (St Vincent de Paul), in a PowerPoint presentation, "**Enlivening the Laity**," provided a program for how a Parish might implement Bishop Walsh's call for Laity initiative. With St Mathew's "*Parable of the Sower*" as a theme, he reviewed how the George Gallup Organization researched corporate world models, non-profits, hospitals and schools, and applied its findings to faith communities. "Belonging" and "engagement" are key to parishioner involvement. "People who are engaged (belong) are more likely to be spiritually committed. Spiritually committed people are much more likely to exhibit desired outcomes of inviting, serving, giving, and life satisfaction." Deacon Norris went on to set forth an array of comparative data between Catholics and other faith communities, and then set forth a specific program for "**How We Can Grow an Engaged Church.**" Key is identifying the strengths of all concerned, followed by developing "**Action Plans that Fit Your Parish Needs,**" and how to generate "**Engagement.**"

Deacon Norris' PowerPoint "**Enlivening the Laity**" is available in its entirety on the DPC Website, santarosadpc.com. He also recommended two works by Albert L. Winseman, D. Min., *Growing an Engaged Church*, Gallup Press, 2007, and *Living Your Strengths . . .*, Gallup Press (Catholic Edition), 2006.

Plenary Participants responded with appreciative, enthusiastic discussion, and hearty thanks to Deacon Norris for his efforts on behalf of the DPC.

"COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE REPORT"

Brian Connolly (Holy Spirit) responded to Bishop Walsh's insistence on the need for improved diocesan communications (Please see above.) with a PowerPoint, "**Communications Task Force Report**". There follow verbatim highlights from Brian's presentation. The PowerPoint in its entirety is available on the DPC Website, santarosadpc.com.

Task Force Objectives

Communication - Provide support throughout the diocese for open and broader information sharing, and improved communications:

1. Create diocese wide email communications list
2. Establish supporting technology for internet-based communications
3. Implement expanded version of North Coast Catholic
4. Establish DPC pilot as model for two-way communications
5. Establish Communication Coordinator at each Parish to promote diocese-wide communications initiatives
6. Promote teleconferencing capability

What Are Our Tools

DPC Meetings support diocese wide communications

Parish Councils set parish strategy and goals

Mass Announcements focus on specific news

Parish Bulletins reinforce information both from the parish and the Diocese

North Coast Catholic helps set the Diocese vision, public relations and information sharing

The Internet is a cost effective communications tool increasingly used

More Tools Available . . .

Electronic Newsletters and "E-zines"

Facebook

Blogs

Discussion Boards

Webinars

"Virtual" Plenaries - Regional DPC Meetings

All starts with e-mail connections

What Do We Do Next?

Build a DPC Network

Sharing ideas and information with laity leadership throughout the year

Leadership team for effort of building the communications infrastructure

Build a Diocese Email List

Existing parish and diocese email lists

On line signups for NCC and other newsletters

Use websites that are already up - synergize

Integrate with traditional channels

Use traditional **and** new media channels as complements to each other
Establish a 'communications coordinator' within Parishes

Call to Action!

Accept the Call to this Communications Ministry

Collaborate!

- ✓ Join the DPC Network - dpcbrian@gmail.com
- ✓ Build the Diocese E-mail List
- ✓ Share your communications charisms

Tell the story of a connected diocese

Stay tuned...

Communications Task Force Members: **Deirdre Frontczak** Communications Director at Chancery, *North Coast Catholic*, Public Relations, Chancery Communications Committee Coordinator; **Kevin Connolly**, Resurrection, Chancery Communications Committee; **Gary Moore**, St. Eugene, Chancery Communications Committee, Deaconate Program; **Katy Hillenmeyer**, St. Eugene, Marketing, Communication & PR Director at St. Joseph Health System - Sonoma County; **Len Marabella**, St. Rose, DPC Executive Committee - Task Force Coordinator; **Brian Connolly**, Holy Spirit, Chair DPC-SN.

LAY PASTORAL DIRECTOR PROJECT UPDATE

Len Marabella (St Rose), Task Force Chair, updated progress of the **Lay Pastoral Director Program** (Please see Bishop Walsh's formal authorization, DPC Website, santarosadpc.com). The Task Force, focusing on communicating the Project throughout the Diocese, has presented it to three Priests Deaneries, Napa, Sonoma North and Sonoma South, and plans visits to Mendocino/Lake and Humboldt/Del Norte in the near future. Presentations have also been made to St Philip/St Teresa and Star of the Valley Parish Councils. The Task Force has been positively received, and Star of the Valley is actively pursuing adoption of the Project.

Len urged all to view the **LPCP** PowerPoint on the DPC Website, santarosadpc.com, and emphasized that the Task Force is always available for Parish presentations.

TASK FORCE ON PASTORAL PLANNING

Mel Amato (St John H), Chair of the Task Force on **Pastoral Planning**, described a process whereby Parishes Councils can undertake one of their key tasks, long range planning. The process starts with a Vision Statement and supporting Mission Statement. Long-term (3 to 5 years) goals, supported by specific and measurable objectives for each year, are developed along with action plans and budgets. The Pastoral Planning Program requires Parish Leadership Training. Trainers and all necessary manuals and support materials are available from the Diocese of Brooklyn NY, which has successfully implemented the program. (Please see dioceseofbrooklyn.org.)

The Task Force, a Sonoma North committee, will soon present the project to its Deanery for consideration and anticipated forwarding to the DPC Executive Committee.

AFTERNOON DISCUSSION GROUPS

In the afternoon the Participants, in five Groups, discussed two **Questions: I. How Can I Promote Lay Involvement in My Parish, My Diocese, My Church? II. In What Specific Diocesan Issues Should the Laity Involve Itself?** (Please see Appendix C for verbatim Responses.)

PARTICIPANTS CONCLUDED THEIR DELIBERATIONS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL REFLECTION:

"AFTER THIS PLENARY SESSION, WHAT ACTION WILL I TAKE"

Mike Wall gave an oral summary of proposed Actions. They follow *in toto*:

✦ ✦ ✦

I will inform (forcefully?) about all that happened here—speak to the Parish Council about what we do and suggest what else we can do. / I'll speak to the Pastor also—praise him for what we do, and ask him to "put the arm" on the Parish Council." / We do some "good stuff" but we have great potential to do more.

✦ ✦ ✦

I will present information to the Parish Assembly: 1) Facts about the Diocese, 2) Engagement in the [Gallup Plan] (Please see above.), 3) Encourage electronic communication, 4) Investigate "Direct Deposit" for My Parish.

✦ ✦ ✦

1) Schedule a presentation of today's contents [PowerPoint Presentations] to my Parish Council. / 2) Talk to my Pastor about today's messages. /3) Help out with the collection [?].

✦ ✦ ✦

Talk to one/two other people who did not attend, and tell them what's happening among an involved Laity.

✦ ✦ ✦

Work very hard on creating a very high level of engagement in my Parish.

✦ ✦ ✦

Mike, The largest Church group in the USA are (*sic*) Catholics. And largest non-practicing are Catholics.

✦ ✦ ✦

Connect with Deacon Norris re: selling our Bishop on need for Pastoral Councils & Pastoral Planning. Mel Amato

✦ ✦ ✦

Hope to motivate the Pastoral Council to undertake (in the overhaul of the existing Pastoral Plan) to: 1) Develop a Communications Plan, and 2) Develop a Lay Pastoral Director Plan. John McCarthy, Star of the Valley.

✙ ✙ ✙

I will continue to work in the area of Communications. Kevin Connolly

✙ ✙ ✙

I will take the ideas we talked about today to the groups in my Church. / I am involved with e.g. Holy Spirit Men's Club and Cursillo. [?] day group. Russ Kerby.

✙ ✙ ✙

Continue to support youth group events / Engage parishioner friends to connect with Parish Assembly meetings—and occasional Town Halls when held.

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Committed to this Communication Thing. / Keep coming to DPC Meetings. / Find Communications Director for Holy Spirit. Brian Connolly, DPC Holy Spirit.

✙ ✙ ✙

Susan Kerby – Holy Spirit / 1. Bring the engagement principles to the Holy Spirit Pastoral Assembly and our focus on Evangelization. / 2. Speak to people personally re: their specific talents and faith journey.

✙ ✙ ✙

1) Share the message of today with the Parish Council. / 2) Acquire information re: lay administration with the Parish Council. / 3) Encourage one-on-one interaction and invitation.

✙ ✙ ✙

Encourage the Parish Council to take on the leadership in getting more parishioners involved in the life of the Parish Community through ministry, social activities and building a community spirit.

✙ ✙ ✙

- I will find out what my strengths are through the Clifton Strength Finder [Cf., Deacon Norris PowerPoint]. / -Post on the Website the mission I am involved in: "Pray for holy Priests and Vocations." / -Invite friends who are not Catholic to come to Mass. / - Start an e-mail list for our Parish.

✙ ✙ ✙

I will continue my calling to lead meetings. Mike / I will continue to pray for Mike to be strong & I'll continue to pray for our Church and welcome others. Dar

✙ ✙ ✙

I will work to increase or continue the effort to perfect communication by participating in an effort to build the database, website and other electronic requirements.

✙ ✙ ✙

I will get together with Deacon John & other members of my Parish who came to the meeting today, to discuss what we have learned, then take this to the next DPC session @ our Parish.

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- Have a communication coordinator appointed at my Parish. / - Continue to develop and promote establishment of Lay Pastoral Directors. / Develop new leaders to expand the impact of the DPC. / Accelerate my own spiritual development. / Len Marabella

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Attend more of Parish Council meetings.

✙ ✙ ✙

1. Share the [Plenary] contents with my deanery group. / 2. Share the meeting contents with my Parish Council.

Benediction and Farewell

Mike Wall brought the day to a close by thanking all for a successful DPC Plenary Session 2010, congratulating them on their accomplishments, and urging them to take these back to their Parishes. He then led the all in Benediction, and wished all a safe journey.

✙ ✙ ✙

DPC Plenary Session 2010 Appendix A

DPC PLENARY SESSION 2010 PARTICIPANTS

Amato	Mel	St John H	SN	Ex Bd				
Amato	Gery	St John H	SN					
Ayre	Rachel	St Eugene	SN					
Bell	Jean	St Vincent	SS					
Bertrici	Muriel	St Eugene	SS					
Brown	Marilyn	Star of the Valley	SN	Ph. response				
Connolly	Brian	Holy Spirit	SN	Presenter				
Connolly	Kevin	Resurrection	SN					
Cuniff	Declan	St Leo	SS					
Ericson	Steve	St Helena	N	Ex. Bd				
Fallandy	Yvette	St Eugene	SN	Ex. Sec.				
Gilmore	Karen	St Mary of the Ang	M/L					
Kerby	Russ	Holy Spirit	SS					
Kerby	Susan	Holy Spirit	SS					
Kingsbury	Winnie	St Vincent	SS					
Leet	Bob	Resurrection	SN	Past Chair				
Lemus	Fr Raúl	St Mary of the Ang	M/L	Pastor				
Marabella	Len	St Rose	SN	Ex Bd				
McCarthy	John	Star of the Sea	SN					
McCarthy	Tom	Resurrection	SN					
McDonald	Suzanne	St Mary of the Ang	M/L					
Minor	Phil	St Bernard	H/DN	Sec. H/DN				
Moore	Gary	St Eugene	SN					
Norman	Rick	St John H	SN					
Norris	Deacon Joh	St Vincent	SS	Presenter				
O'Sullivan	Fr. Denis	St Rose	SN	Pastor				
Parnow	Julie	St James'	SS	Ex Bd				
Pettibone	Mike	St Philip	SN					
Pettibone	Pat	St Philip	SN					
Sacrament	Tony	St Elizabeth RP	SS	Ex. Bd				
Tiller	Bob	St Teresa	SN					
Tiller	Kathy	St Teresa	SN					
Tonna	Jim	Resurrection	SN					
Wall	Darlean	St Eugene	SN					
Wall	Mike	St Eugene	SN	Chair				
Walsh	Bishop Dani	St Eugene	Char	Presenter				
Weiss	Liz	Resurrection	SN					

Appendix B

DPC Penary Meeting 2010 Bishop Walsh's Remarks Santa Rosa Diocese Facts	
Established Feb 21, 1962	
11,711 Square miles	
Bishops	
Maher	1962-69
Hurley	1969-86
Steinbock	1987-91
Zeeman	1992-99
Walsh	2000-present
Parishes	
Parishes	42
Parishes without a resident priest	2
Missions	18
Priests	
Active in the Diocese	54
Active outside Diocese	8
Retired, sick, absent	17
May 2010 Ordinations	3
Number of priests older than 72	5
Expected priest retirements by Jan	2
In Formation	
Seminarians	4
In Discernment	5
Visiting candidates	2
Deacon	
Permanent Deacons	34
Permanent Deacons in preparation	18
Religious Women	
	44
Hospitals	
	5
Catholic High Schools	
Students	1952
Catholic Grammar Schools	
Students	2478
Total Students	4430
CCD Students	
Grammar	4224
High School	1339
Total	5563
% Hispanic in the Diocese	40%
Total Debt (currently 0% interest)	\$5.0M
Annual Ministry Appeal	
2009	\$733,594
2009 Pledges	4541
2010 (as of March 26)	\$555,056
2010 Cash received	\$339,530
2010 Pledges	2286

Appendix B cont.
Diocesan Support Provided by Catholic Charities

March 2009 - Feb 2010	HSC
men	1240
women	600
kids	223
total	2063
veterans	234
elderly	30
disabled	754
parole/probation	409
substance abuse	875
Sonoma Co	1493
CA-ouside SonCo	387
other state	178
other country	5
female head of house	579
income-extremely low	2014
income-very low	42
income-low	5
income-moderate	2
days open	252
showers	14,305
laundries	4844
phone calls	4599
TRP	9

Appendix C
DPC Plenary Session March 2010, St. Mary of the Angels, Ukiah
Group Discussion Responses

There follows the Five Discussion Groups' Responses to the Questions: I.
How Can I Promote Lay Involvement in My Parish, My Diocese, My Church? II. In
What Specific Diocesan Issues Should the Laity Involve Itself?

Group 1.

Question I.

- People Witnessing to each other.
- Large gatherings at Church; small table discussions.
- Small groups in homes.
- One Parishioner speaks for two minutes at Mass.
- Pump up Ministries.
- Establish Director of Ministries Position. Personal invitation to join Ministries.
- Ministers speak to Congregation once a month.
- Hospitality.
- Coffee hour.
- Invite unknown Parishioners to dinner.
- Evangelization: Invite Laity.

Question II.

- All issues are Our Issues:
- Priest Shortage.
- Financial.
- Evangelization.
- Ministries.
- Communicalling.
- Connection to all social issues.
- Catholic lobbying day in Sacramento.
- A sense of Mission.

Group 2.

Question I.

- Involve at two levels:
 - Pastor Fetal.
 - Need energy between Laity and Pastor.
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- Must make people feel THEY BELONG!
- What about laithricg Priests?

Question II.

- All but the Sacraments.

Group 3.

Question I.

- Cater to individual strengths.
- Ministers tell their stories from the pulpit.
- Promote necessity of Pastoral Councils.

Question II.

- How to integrate the Hispanic Community?

Group 4.

Question I.

- Put myself on schedule for next Parish Council Meeting; prepare to share the messages received from today's Plenary Session.
- Present today's PowerPoints.
- Discuss today's message with our Pastor.
- Work to collect e-mail addresses from our Parish.
- Develop more ways to open communication within our Parish.

Question II.

- Help out with the new Liturgy.
- Identify our strengths.
- Develop more ways to open communications with our Parish.

Group 5.

Question I.

- Change from Laity Upward.
- Welcome new members of the Church.
- Invite new People to Church.

Question II.

- Lay Pastoral Ministry.
- Communications.
- Fund Raising.

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