

**FINAL Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
May 31, 2008
St. Rose – Santa Rosa**

Meeting Opening:

In Attendance: Mike Wall, John Gnam and Mary Ott (St. Eugene's), Colleen McMahon, Kevin Connolly and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Mel Amato (St. John's), Brian Connolly, Jim Curtin and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Ella Rozett (St. Phillip's) Len Marabella (St. Rose), Ann Clark (St. Teresa's) and Ray Pregent (Star of the Valley)

Excused: Helen Chapman

Absent:

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Opening Prayer: Len read 2 scripture passages, both reflecting the Pentecost theme.

Introductions: Mike Wall started the introductions with the new member from St. Eugene's, Mary Ott and also the new member from Star of the Valley, Ray Pregent. The other members continued introductions around the table.

Minutes and Agenda: The April minutes were approved as well as the April summary minutes. The agenda was revised adding Len Marabella's motion to establish a new task force as item G under New Business.

Public Comment: No public comment. Monsignor Keyes (Star of the Valley) and Fr. O'Sullivan (St. Rose) joined the group and participated in some of the dialogue.

Continuing Business:

Report regarding communication to parish/pastor: Ray Pregent shared that Star of the Valley has an open communication with their Pastor. Ray is the chair of their Pastoral Assembly. Brian Connolly said he has had conversations with Fr. Bob about trying to establish a means of communication with the parish. Jim Curtin stated that he has also met with Fr. Bob about sharing the DPC's information with the Parish. Mary Ott reported that the Pastoral Council at St. Eugene's has been working on evangelization and with Monsignor Pulskamp. Mike Wall said that it is important for the DPC representatives to attend their Pastoral Assembly meetings and share/discuss what is occurring at the DPC level. Bob Leet said he has written a letter to the Pastors calling them to enhance the representation to the deaneries. The Executive Board is aware of limitations of the DPC because of the lack of representation from parishes. He reported that Sonoma South Deanery has brought up the problem of losing interest within the parishes. Mike Wall suggested that the Parish DPC Representative meet with each other and discuss. Kevin Connolly suggested that this item be a continuing item on the agenda in order to follow up on parish involvement.

Kevin Connolly, Pat Babb and Brian Connolly met with Deirdre Frontzcak regarding the communication issue of a new Diocesan publication. She has an \$80,000 budget to produce the North Coast Catholic newspaper. She provided a sample package showing different ways to communicate diocese and parish information through print. One of the alternative forms of communication may be a magazine newsletter format, which may increase the cost another \$40,000 on top of the \$80,000 allowed budget. Kevin Connolly said that he is meeting with Clem Carinalli, who is a member of the Diocesan Finance Committee to discuss financing a publication. Brian Connolly stated that a survey from Faith Publishing Service showed the positive response received by providing a good communication tool. It enhanced a person's understanding of their faith. It's possible, that advertising could cover some of the costs.

Bob Leet suggested that someone speak at the Executive Board meeting about the new ideas for a publication. How is this magazine distributed? The magazine also has the potential to be bilingual and able to meet more people's needs. Pat Babb questioned the cost of mailing a new magazine versus the cost of mailing the current newspaper. Since it would be mailed by bulk mail, the cost may be similar. Kevin Connolly suggested a 2nd collection once a year be established. These funds could be distributed to help provide a better means of communication within the diocese. Brian Connolly also said that there are alternatives to funding. Kevin Connolly said that money should not hold us back. Len Marabella said that he feels that we should pursue this idea. Bob Leet would like to see a presentation at the Executive Board meeting at the next meeting on Saturday, 6/8/08. Bob Leet also asked whether any dioceses offer the magazine as a subscription. Brian Connolly said yes, there are several suggested means to fund and support a new form of publication. Len Marabella made a motion that we go out, discuss and create a plan (as a task force) to continue research on this communication issue.

Progress in Action Plans: Bob Leet passed out a questionnaire to review before embarking on an Evangelization Mission within the Parishes. He asked that we look over the questions and determine in which order we feel their importance. Prioritize the questions thinking from the parishioners' aspect.

Mel Amato questioned whether the new members had been given a packet of DPC information, such as constitution, by-laws etc.

Paulist Survey on Evangelization: Mel Amato asked how many had signed up for the online training being offered by the Paulists. The training begins on June 5, 2008. Mike Wall said that he had signed up. This information was e-mailed to the DPC members. Mary Ott said that there is an Evangelization workshop on Monday, June 2nd being held at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Windsor. Monsignor Keyes said that the training has an open invitation for anyone interested to attend. Len Marabella said that he will plan on attending.

Father Pettingill's Talk on CD: Brian Connolly said that he has made a copy of the CD of Father Pettingill's talk and he will give a copy to Bob Leet, who will present it to the Executive Board for copying and distributing. The Executive Board will have the CD cleaned up so that the background noise will be eliminated. Then it will be distributed to any DPC members and others who may be interested in receiving a copy.

Report on Oakland and Fresno Programs: Len Marabella reported that he tried to contact the other Dioceses regarding their Pastoral programs, but that he was not able to get the information he needed. He proposed a motion to establish a DPC Task Force to address the shortage of priests, with a focus on Pastoral Ministers. Bob Leet shared a letter to the Bishop regarding establishing the task force for the professional training of lay parish administrators and ministers. Mel Amato agreed that we work on a program and shared the document “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord”. He explained that this document is the most recent NCCB prepared document on this subject. He feels if we structure our submission using an NCCB document for guidelines, it will more likely be acceptable to our own Bishop. Bob Leet will take the motion to the Executive Board to establish a task force of members from the different deaneries. Mel Amato said that the motion should be shortened. After discussion, the motion was stated as: “Establish a DPC Task Force to address the shortage of priests, with a focus on Pastoral Ministers”. Len’s motion was read by Colleen McMahan, seconded and approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

DPC Executive Board Report: Bob Leet said that Yvette Fallandy is the secretary for the Executive Board and is still working with the new web master. He also reported that the Parish offices at the Hoopla parish were flooded and that the Diocese had to pick up the costs of clean up and repairs. Humboldt and Del Norte deaneries said that there will be a new Christian radio station out of Eureka. Bob Leet wrote a letter to the Priests asking for their support of the DPC. (mentioned earlier)

The upcoming meetings for the Executive Board are as follows:

June 7, 2008, no meeting in July or August, September 6, 2008, October 4, 2008, November 8, 2008, no meeting in December, January 10, 2009, February 7, 2008, the Plenary Session is scheduled for March 28, 2009, no meeting in April, May 2, 2009 and June 6, 2009. Bob Leet also invited all members to attend an Executive Board meeting.

DPC Website: Mel Amato questioned why the website does not have current information posted. The minutes have not been posted. He asked why there have been changes to the delay in channeling deanery information through the website to the web master. He wants to go on record that the Executive Board made the decision to make these changes and it is his feeling that we have moved backward in our communication efforts. Brian Connolly made a motion that the DPC request from Yvette Fallandy information and a status regarding the timeliness of posted documentation to the DPC website. The motion was seconded and approved.

DPC Secretary Vacancy: Mary Ott accepted the position of recording secretary for the Sonoma North Deanery. She will begin this new position at the June 2008 meeting. Colleen McMahan was acknowledged for her service as secretary for the past 2 years.

DPC representative from Unrepresented Parishes: Mike Wall asked if it is our responsibility to contact unrepresented parishes. Bob Leet said that his letter was

addressed to Pastors for more DPC support. Brian Connolly suggested that the laity be contacted directly for representation. Ella asked Fr. Dennis his view on the DPC. He agreed that the personal contact is more effective in encouraging others to become involved. He also shared that the priests and laity may doubt whether the DPC really has a voice and can get anything accomplished. Ella Rozett agreed to contact St. Elizabeth's parish regarding representation. Mike Wall will contact Windsor's Our Lady of Guadalupe regarding representation. It was decided that this topic be carried over to next month.

Parish Reports: Ella Rozett shared that she tried talking to people regarding establishing a ministry for telephoning, but did not receive much enthusiasm at the Parish Council.

Brian Connolly said that Holy Spirit has a very strong Parish Assembly. Fr. Bob is involved a great deal and is promoting the idea of creating an Evangelization committee. The focus for this committee is to work out ideas as to how do we retell the story of being a Christian or a Catholic? We are a 'family of faith led by the Spirit'. There were no other parish reports shared.

Closing:

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. John the Baptist in Healdsburg on June 28, 2008.

Closing prayer:

Len Marabella led us in the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10.

Final minutes e-mailed 6/29/08