

Approved

Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery
Resurrection Parish, Santa Rosa, California
November 22, 2008

ATTENDING:

Stella Agudelo, Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Kevin Connolly, John Gnam, Bob Leet, Tom McCarthy, Evelyn McFaddin, Rick Norman, Joe Tembrock, Mike Wall

ABSENT:

Jim Curtin, Helen Chapman, Len Marabella, Ray Pregent, Ella Rozzet

1. MEETING OPENING:

- a. Call to Order-Mike Wall, Chair at 9:21 AM
- b. Opening Prayer-Kevin Connolly
- c. Approval of Minutes of October 25, 2008 – Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment – There being no public present, there were no public comments

2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- a. **Pastoral Director** Len Marabella, Brian Connolly, Joe Tembrock
 - a. *Report* – (Len Marabella not present. Report delivered by Joe Tembrock and Brian Connolly
 - i. Next subcommittee meeting on November 9, 2008
 - ii. Discussions will include compensation, proposal collaboration with clergy
 - iii. Similar positions of “Pastoral Coordinator” and “Asst. Pastoral Coordinators” have existed for some time at other diocese. Research being done on compensation for those positions in those dioceses.
 - iv. Consideration given to two positions. Asst. Pastoral Director to focus on administrative management of parish in assisting Pastors and Pastoral Director position which would include executive administrative authority as well as pastoral care responsibilities.
 - v. Costs of training for this position can be significant based on research done by Joe Tembrock on program in San Jose.
 - vi. Still on target for presentation to Bishop 1/31/08. More news as it happens.
 - b. *Discussion*
 - i. Compensation analysis should recognize that clergy receive perks not normally recognized as compensation. Parts of Sonoma County have high costs of living. Study could compare defined skills and responsibilities to comparable private sector

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- ii. Development of this position should include collaboration with clergy and laity – changes in the Oakland Diocese incorporated laity feedback for three years
 - iii. Responsibility of individual parishes to fund these positions with assistance from diocese only if absolutely necessary
- c. *Outcome*
- i. As next SN-DPC meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2009, this proposal to the Bishop should be substantially complete

b. Report-Diocesan Communications T.F.-Kevin Connolly, Brian Connolly

- a. *Report* – Kevin Connolly and Brian Connolly
- i. Report on meeting with Deidre Frontczak November 22, 2008
 - ii. Costs and environmental concerns indicate shift to Internet as preferred method of diocesan communication
 - iii. Communication Strategy is two basic parts
 - 1. Diocese Catholic news shared with the diocese community
 - 2. Multi-directional channels of communication to be established e.g. Bishop to the Clergy and Laity, Laity to the Bishop, Parishes with each other.
 - iv. Internet based communication implementation to have a transition period using current vehicles of communication such as North Coast Catholic, bulletins, monthly postcards, etc.
 - v. Kevin Connolly to serve on Diocese Communications Committee at the request of Deidre Frontczak.
 - vi. Bishop seeing Internet more favorably since some donors are requesting ability to donate on line.

b. Discussion

- i. Significant numbers of diocese Catholics are unfamiliar with Internet and uncomfortable with it as source of information. Special efforts should be undertaken to teach this population on how to use the Internet, and continue to provide printed sources of information to keep them in the loop.
- ii. Changing communication tools does require education and patience.
- iii. Benefits to Internet communications are cost, frequency, volume of content, immediacy.
- iv. Improved communication channels should be in place as we develop strategies to address the coming priest shortage (e.g. Pastoral Director, parish reorganization) next year
- v. Young people have no problem with the technology – they can instruct elders in its use or just tell them what is going on.
- vi. Internet presence cost could be defrayed by tasteful sponsorships, cost savings from reduced publication costs from North Coast Catholic, voluntary subscriptions, etc.

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c. *Outcome*

- i. Conversation with Diocese Communications Committee to continue
- ii. DPC sub-committee to produce statement of project vision and goals as basis for recommendation

c. Letter to the Bishop

- a. As author of letter (Ella Rozett) and DPC member who made the motion to send the letter (Len Marabella) were not present, discussion is tabled until January 24, 2009 meeting.

3. NEW BUSINES:

a. DPC Goals to date re "White Paper"

- a. Review of White Paper authored by Yvette Fallendy
- b. Issue of DPC relevancy to the diocese
- c. Some recent efforts have produced little fruit – e.g. evangelization and vocation – Discussion from members of the council regarding why.
- d. What can be done to heighten awareness of DPC and improve its level of service?
- e. Beginning efforts to raise consciousness of Catholics (see Re-moralization campaign described below)
- f. DPC (at least SN) is doing significant work in the area of addressing priest shortage and improving communications.

b. "What I am most proud of in my Parish" re-moralization campaign

- a. Proposal by DPC Executive committee to re-awaken and re-energize Catholics as the role their faith plays in their lives. Effort would take the form of a survey to existing practicing Catholics with the comments to be categorized and distributed. DPC representatives would take back to parishes and help conduct and administer survey
- b. Bob Leet distributed proposed language and methodology
- c. Questions as to technical details of survey construction, participation, and specific use of the comments collected. One's statement of faith is very personal.
- d. Goal of raising profile of DPC and perceived value of the DPC recognized as worthwhile by members present. May be other methods of realizing these goals, diocese wide discussion of Catholic issues described in a commonly read book, e.g. Anne Rice *Christ the Lord out of Egypt*.
- e. These kinds of witness stories does support other diocese goals of evangelization and improving the Catholic "brand"

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c. Maintenance of Website – Publication of DPC Roster, Minutes, Agenda

- a. Recognized need for timely publication of DPC information, including agenda, minutes, and roster to the DPC website.
- b. Agreement that minutes should not be published until approved
- c. DPC-SN Secretary to continue to work with site administrator and web master for ongoing improvement in timely publication

4. DEANERY COMMUNIQUES FOR/FROM EXEC. CTEE. & BISHOP

- a. **Report on Executive Committee Mtg.-Bob Leet, Mike Wall**
 - a. See “Re-moralization” campaign above in New Business
 - b. Recommendation of Catholic “Trivial Pursuit” type game to be published in parish bulletins to promote education of Catholicism e.g. “Seven Deadly Sins.”
 - c. Suggestion that mass celebrants have a “Q&A” session before dismissal to foster sense of community. Other parishes do announce anniversary celebrations, birthdays, etc. as way of creating sense of community.
 - d. Decision to include link to Star Cross Community on diocese website

5. MEETING CLOSING:

a. Parish Reports-

- a. Resurrection
 - i. North Bay Communications Program training going very well
 1. Bi lingual training in facilitation now being conducted with goal of church wide training by Lent
 - ii. Report on Minister of Consolation 2 day workshop
- b. Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - i. Pilot of training in Anointed Lay Ministers moving forward under direction of Father Angelito. – Germaine to strategy of addressing priest shortage.
- c. St. Eugene
 - i. Mike Wall mentioned that deacon from North Dakota assisting Sister Pat Carson in mission ministries

b. Final Comments

- a. Note that a number of events, musical and liturgical in nature took place in diocese parishes of late. “Would have been nice” if other parishes could have known about these events. Further evidence of the need for improved communications.

c. Next Meeting time and place: St. Rose Parish, Santa Rosa, January 24, 2009

d. Closing Prayer-Bob Leet

e. Adjournment-Mike Wall 11:55 AM