

APPROVED

Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery

St. Rose Parish, Santa Rosa, CA

January 24, 2009

ATTENDING:

Stella Agudelo, Mel Amato, Helen Chapman, Brian Connolly, John Gnam, Bob Leet, Len Marabella, Evelyn McFaddin, Rick Norman, Joe Tembrock, Mike Wall

ABSENT:

Kevin Connolly, Jim Curtin, Tom McCarthy, Ray Pregent, Ella Rozzet

1. MEETING OPENING:

- a. Call to Order-Mike Wall, 9:03 AM
- b. Opening Prayer- Len Marabella – Reading from the Epistles of Paul
- c. Approval of Minutes of 11/22/09 – Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment – Father Dennis of St. Rose attended the second half of the meeting but made no comment for the record.

2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- a. **Pastoral Director T.F.** – Len Marabella, Brian Connolly, Joe Tembrock
 - a. *Report.*-Paper copy of Powerpoint slides Len has been using
 - i. Most of presentation content is reported in previous DPC-SN minutes. Important addition is from Monsignor Whelton who points out increased involvement of laity is consistent with objectives of Vatican II
 - ii. Len and task force has been meeting with various priest and diocese leaders for feed back in past weeks. Task force will continue to meet with leaders, and present to Priest Deanery Councils.
 - iii. Goal is to present to Bishop before presentation at the Plenary meeting in March.
 - b. *Discussion*
 - i. Pastoral Director position in lieu of priest pastor will meet with resistance from many traditional Catholics. Introducing position, when it becomes necessary, will require much preparation and education.
 - ii. Models of pastoral authority used in presentation should make very clear that every parish will continue to have a priest designated as pastor for that parish, per Canon law.
 - iii. Compensation rate identified in presentation may be low. Funding this position may be a challenge in many parishes. New models of diocese support for this position as less affluent parishes may be required in the future.

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- iv. Effort will need to be continued after established as diocese policy by the Bishop, so as to be ready to effectively implement when the need inevitably arises
- c. *Outcome*
 - i. Continued presentations and solicitations of feedback. Inclusion of feedback in proposal. Presentation to the Bishop and diocese at Plenary. Formation of ongoing committee to develop and maintain program.

- b. **Survey and Re-Moraleization Campaign – Bob Leet, Mike Wall**
 - a. *Report*
 - i. Survey forms distributed to parishes last week for inclusion in this weeks bulletin. Surveys to be collected next week and reviewed, and gleaned for topics of importance to “people in the pews”
 - ii. Results to be shared with other deaneries at the Plenary as well as parish statistics shared with participation parishes
 - b. *Discussion*
 - i. Though this survey has value in gathering broad sentiments of parishioners – more value and insight can be gained in the future by a more statistically valid survey more tightly focused on identified parishioner needs and wants
 - ii. Additional and ongoing surveys allows for more effective efforts in promotion and evangelization. There needs to be ongoing energy directed to this effort so as to promote laity engagement and more informed parish and diocese leadership
 - iii. Such gathered information is also useful in “telling the story” of how Santa Rosa Diocese Catholics practice their faith, and are inspired to support their church.
 - iv. Gathering laity input, and providing for ongoing channels of communication important to development of strategic plan for the diocese.
 - v. Strategic planning on a parish and diocese basis is a necessary discipline for future vitality and efficient growth. There are resources available for templates and guidance for strategic planning for non-profits.
 - vi. Perhaps developing a strategic plan for the diocese and support for the parishes could be a project of the DPC?
 - c. *Outcome*
 - i. Presentation of survey findings at Plenary. Continued discussion about second stage surveys and integration of findings into strategic planning efforts.

- c. **Deanery Letter to Bishop – Ella Rozzet (not present)**
 - a. *Report*
 - i. Proposed letter as per motion made and passed at October 25th meeting. Intent of letter was to ask the Bishop to support the education of diocese

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priests and pastors in the importance of increased participation of laity in the workings and leadership of the church. Ella Rozzet to draft letter and make available for comment and edit by other members of the DPC

b. *Discussion*

- i. After e-mail exchanges between members of the DPC-SN, observation was made that the DPC has already made this recommendation to the Bishop in an early report on the priest shortage situation, and that the Pastoral Director initiative is in itself and educational process for increased laity involvement to both the priests and the laity of the Santa Rosa Diocese.

c. *Outcome*

- i. Consensus is that the objective of the letter, education and awareness around increased laity participation in the leadership of the parishes is being accomplished by other DPC efforts, and a separate letter from the DPC may be unnecessary and perhaps confusing.
- ii. Mike Wall to advise Ella

d. **DPC Website**

a. *Discussion*

- i. Mel Amato observes that information on website is current. Contact information collected from DPC members does appear on the site, although it seems that contact information reserved for DPC internal use only appears on the site (e.g. Kevin Connolly)

b. *Outcome*

- i. Brian Connolly to contact Kevin Connolly to verify wish for non-publication of email address and communicate wishes to Yvette Falandy for content correction as necessary. DPC members encouraged to review website and contact information for themselves and request corrections as desired.

3. NEW BUSINES:

a. **Plenary Session** – Bob Leet

a. *Report*

- i. Scheduled for last Saturday in March, March 28th, St. Mary of the Angels in Ukiah, CA
- ii. Morning devoted to Bishop State of the Diocese and presentation of Pastoral Director program. Afternoon for discussion of survey results from people in the pews re-moraleization project.
- iii. Volunteers to help with registration very much appreciated

b. *Discussion*

- i. May wish to review the effectiveness of Deanery structure of the DPC in encouraging representation and engagement of the laity across the diocese.

b. **Evangelization** – PNCEA – **Paulist Evangelization Program** – Mike Wall

a. *Report*

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- a. The Latino community is leading efforts to organize a Valentine's Day Party as a way of bringing the Latino and Anglo communities together. All tickets are sold out. A Tamale Festival is also in planning. Many members of the DPC wished notice of this event.
- c. St. John the Baptist
 - a. Recent Generations of Faith session focused on sacrament of Anointing of the Sick. Ceremony anointed everyone who wished. Consideration given to similar ceremony on quarterly or annual basis as at other parishes.
 - b. Recent commitment by Father Walt to constitute Parish Council as a step toward re-energizing the parish. Energy is evident in 35-30 parishioners volunteering for St. Vincent de Paul project on developing ways to help the poor.
- d. St. Eugene
 - a. Opening of Catholic Book Store Hours 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM Wednesday – Saturday and Sunday 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM
 - b. Catholic Schools Week begins Sunday January 24, 2009
 - c. Spiritual Enrichment Center beginning a series on contemplative prayer Monday evenings 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.
- e. Holy Spirit
 - a. Pastoral Assembly retreat two Saturday's ago. Introduction of new members. Focus on evangelization and bringing in the community to the family of faith at Holy Spirit.
- f. Star of the Valley - no report
- g. St. Rose
 - a. Pastoral Assembly meeting last Saturday. Goals include Integration of Communities, Organizing school activities closer to the parish, more opportunities for adult education
- h. St. Phillip's/St. Teresa's – no report
- i. Final Comments**
 - a. Communications Capability – Len Marabella**
 - i.** For future consideration and discussion – what about forming a volunteer group of technology adepts who would be willing to educate priests and other church members on the mysteries of email and other internet modes of communication?
 - b. Fundraising Idea – John Gnam**
 - i.** Investigating feasibility of forming a Catholic wine club.

5. MEETING CLOSING

- a. **Next Meeting time and place:** St. Eugene Parish, Santa Rosa, February 28, 2009
- b. **Closing Scripture Reading - Len Marabella**
- c. **Adjournment-Mike Wall 11:22 AM**