

Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery
St. Eugene Parish, Santa Rosa, CA
February 28, 2009

ATTENDING: Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Kevin Connolly, Jim Curtin, John Gnam, Bob Leet, Len Marabella, Tom McCarthy, Rick Norman, Ray Pregent, Mike Wall

ABSENT: Joe Tembrock, Stella Agudelo, Ella Rozzet

New Member: John McCarthy replacing Ray Pregent (Star of the Valley)

No Longer on the DPC: Helen Chapman, Evelyn McFaddin, Ray Pregent

1. MEETING OPENING:

- a. Call to Order-Mike Wall, 9:02 AM
- b. Opening Prayer – Jim Curtin
- c. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2009 – Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
Diocese communications added to agenda as Continuing Business 2c
- e. Public Comment – There being no public present, there were no public comments

2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- a. **Pastoral Director Task Force** – Len Marabella, Joe Tembrock, Brian Connolly
 - a. **Report:** Len summarized meeting with Bishop at which PowerPoint presentation of the Pastoral Director proposal. Proposal favorably received by Bishop. Bishop recommended presentation and collaboration with Priests Council. Len is contacting Fr. Kelly to confirm getting spot on agenda for next meeting on March 18, 2009. Bishop emphasized parish centric nature of pastoral director appointments, as each parish is unique with its own needs and acceptance of change. In a separate meeting with Monsignor Pulskamp, Monsignor also supported the concept, and also recommended dialogue with priests.
 - b. **Discussion:**
 - i. Monsignor Whelton has commented that this position and laity involvement is an extension of Vatican II.
 - ii. Procedural questions on implementation. Parishes will not be forced into adoption, though certain parishes will serve as “pilot’s as the need arises. Program will evolve as the diocese and stakeholders gain experience.
 - iii. As there is no “national guideline” for this position, there is freedom for the Santa Rosa Diocese to create the Pastoral Director

position according to its particular needs. Though there will be a published job description and set of candidate requirements (e.g. theological training, administrative experience, demonstrated pastoral ability, etc.) there will be flexibility built in.

- iv. Discussions around efforts addressing a possible shortage of priests, such as the Pastoral Director Task Force, points to a diocese need to create/invite a vision for the future.

- c. **Outcome:** Len and perhaps Joe to meet with priests on March 18th. Pastoral Director Task Force to present findings and proposal at Plenary on March 28th at St. Mary of the Angels Church in Ukiah.

b. **“What I am most proud of in my Parish”** – Bob Leet

a. *Report:*

- i. 19 out of 44 parishes responded to survey.
- ii. Purpose of survey is (1) to raise the consciousness of parishioners as to the importance of the role church plays in their lives and (2) to remind all the parishes that they are not islands, but part of a larger community, that is, the diocese.
- iii. Survey contributions to be consolidated and presented/discussed at the Plenary.
- iv. Consolidated results to be shared with all parishes.

b. *Discussion:*

- i. Consolidated results can be the foundation for subsequent surveys in easier to complete formats, and with more targeted questions.
- ii. Future surveys can also contribute to formation of parish and diocese vision for the future.

c. *Outcome*

- i. Presentation and discussion at Plenary
- ii. Creation and distribution of future surveys with broader participation

c. **Diocese Communication Task Force** – Kevin Connolly and Brian Connolly

- a. *Report* – No formal report from task force.

b. *Discussion*

- i. Need for a broader concept of communications capability in the diocese including
 - 1. Teleconference capability to promote meeting participation by remote parishes. Enable process of knitting together the widely distributed and diverse parish communities into a stronger diocese fabric
 - 2. Faster distribution of timely diocese “news” to the diocese Catholic community

3. Communication channels established so that the various stakeholders in the diocese (Chancery, Priests, Laity, etc.) can have timely dialogue on items of importance going forward, such as Pastoral Director positions, Evangelizations, Visions for our Church, etc
 4. Internet based archive of information of interest to the Catholic community from local parish events to national discussions. Also easy reference to web sites of particular interest to segments of our community, such as www.bustedhalo.com for youth.
- ii. Catholics – The Next Generation are Internet centric. The younger generation are increasingly relying on the ‘net for communication and interaction. The Church needs to be able to communicate with them where they are.
- c. *Outcome*
- i. Mel and Rick to research and share list of useful websites. Will endeavor to get list published in weekly bulletin.
 - ii. Brian experimenting at Holy Spirit with at least monthly publication of DPC activity, and pointing parishioners to discussion blog, (<http://dpc-holy-spirit.blogspot.com/>) DPC website, etc. for further information.
 - iii. John Gnam to publish advertisement for St. Eugene DPC rep in bulletin and description of current DPC projects.

(General theme is to publicize the DPC in a familiar communications medium – the weekly parish bulletin – and begin the process of educating the parishioners that all of the good stuff is on the web.)

3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Plenary Session** – Saturday March 28th, St. Mary of the Angels, Ukiah - Bob Leet
 - a. *Report:* Agenda distributed by Bob Leet
 - b. *Discussion*
 - i. Suggestion that Bishop direct his remarks to his broad vision of the diocese and the role of the DPC within that vision. Description of the path and pilgrimage. Perhaps discussion can range to the changing structure of the church, and thus the changing roles of clergy and laity. Again, mention of Vatican II.
 - ii. Tom McCarthy described recent conference in San Rafael “Living Faithfully as Citizens: A conversation on the role of Catholics in Public Life” as an example of this sort of conversation about changing roles and how faith is lived daily.
 - iii. Additional discussion on DPC’s role as voice of laity and responsibility to include growing Hispanic community. Suggestion

that additional Hispanic representation to the DPC be facilitated somehow. Future discussions to include Stella.

- c. *Outcome* – Go to the Plenary.

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

- a. **Report** – No formal report

5. PARISH REPORTS

- a. Resurrection
 - a. Participation in prayer project originated in Napa, “Forty Days for Life” praying on the sidewalk in front of Planned Parenthood. See website.
- b. St. John the Baptist
 - a. Lecture series in March/April, “Theology of the Body”
- c. St. Eugene
 - a. Recruiting representative to DPC – Expanded ad in bulletin with pointer to website.
 - b. St. Patrick’s day dinner celebration on March 17th (check) worth attending
 - c. Twenty-Four Hour Adoration is on site. Seeking volunteers for early morning hours
 - d. School accepting applications for the fall.
- d. Star of the Valley
 - a. Beginning conversations about re-vision of parish plan. Discussions (hopefully) to include potential role of Pastoral Director

6. MEETING CLOSING

- c. **Next Meeting time and place:** Plenary Session, St.Mary of the Angels, Ukiah, March 28th
- d. **Closing Prayer**-Brian Connolly
- e. **Adjournment**-Mike Wall 11:25 AM