

Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery

Hoy Spirit Parish, Santa Rosa, CA

April 25, 2009

ATTENDING: Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Jim Curtin, Bob Leet, John McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Rick Norman, Mike Wall

ABSENT: Stella Agudelo, Kevin Connolly, John Gnam, Len Marabella, Ella Rozzet, Joe Tembrock

MEETING OPENING:

- a. Call to Order- Mike Wall, 9:14 AM
- b. Opening Prayer Mike Wall
- c. Approval of Minutes February 28, 2009 Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment – There being no public present, there were no public comments
- f. Report on links to Catholic Web sites by Mel Amato and Rick Norman added to agenda

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Lay Pastoral Director Project

1. Discussion
 - a. Though public comments of the Bishop suggests support, written statement of support would lend more credibility to forthcoming presentations and discussions of concept and implementation
 - b. Whether to adopt a formal policy adopting the concept is up to the Bishop. First diocese discussion, which should have his written support, then policy.
 - c. Efforts to secure permission to discuss, and subsequent discussion should be hastened
 - d. Request for one page description of Lay Pastoral Director concept to be suitable for distribution to the parishes and laity
 - e. John McCarthy of Star of the Valley advised that they are requesting a presentation from the Task Force in May to move the discussion along in their parish
2. Outcomes
 - a. Executive Committee to request such documentation at next meeting
 - b. Task Force to meet and produce descriptive documentation and formulate next steps
 - c. Task Force to meet with Star of the Valley parish

What I Am Most Proud of in My Parish

1. Discussion
 - a. Questionnaire was exploratory in discovering attributes practicing Catholics found valuable in their parish
 - b. A good first attempt and valuable information mined, but future “surveys” should have more targeted focus, purpose, and easier for parishes to administer

- and parishioners to complete. This effort was valuable in identifying attributes for further study
 - c. Future efforts would be valuable as “market research” in discovering attributes that would be useful to know in re-energizing and evangelization efforts
2. Outcomes
 - a. Continued discussion on exactly what information DPC seeks and research on effective and efficient survey techniques necessary in advance of future efforts
 - b. Can be part of communication enhancement efforts

Communications

1. Discussion
 - a. Need to build communications capability in the near term
 - i. Diocese discussions around Lay Pastoral Director
 - ii. Engaging other deaneries in DPC mission
 - iii. Creating and maintaining dialogue between Chancery, Clergy, and Laity
 - b. First steps need to be simple – creation of diocese email list and email distribution of North Coast Catholic in “e-zine” format (e-zine is an electronic magazine)
 - c. Communication strategy should also address teleconferencing capabilities in order to improve DPC participation
2. Outcome
 - a. Communications Task Force to create one page strategy statement for DPC discussion and direction for next steps

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. DPC 2009-2010 Calendar –**
 - a. Agreement to maintain the same parish host rotation as this year; dates to be changed to the appropriate Saturday
 - b. May 23rd meeting at St. John the Baptist to be moved to May 30th due to Memorial Day Weekend
- 2. Meeting Sites – See above entry**
- 3. New Parish DPC Reps 2009 – 2010**
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Difficulty in a number of parishes in appointing representatives to DPC
 - ii. DPC and it’s mission is still not well known among many if not most parishioners
 - iii. The terms of a number of positions of veteran members of SN DPC are scheduled to expire in coming months
 - iv. Suggestion, if representatives willing, to extend terms for some additional months to complete current set of projects – in turn creating higher profile for DPC and hence easier recruitment for replacements
 - b. Outcome – To be discussed further at next meeting
- 4. New DPC-SN reps to Executive Committee**
 - a. Discussion –
 - i. Bob Leet’s term expires soon

- ii. Yvette Fallandy's seeks relief from Executive Secretary and DPC Web Administration duties
- b. Outcome – Further discussion next meeting regarding DPC-SN representation to the Executive Committee.

5. Links to Catholic Websites

- a. Report – Mel Amato and Rick Norman presented list of Catholic websites on variety of topics and missions
- b. Discussion – There is a wealth of information available on the Internet – challenge is to make it easier for parishioners to access this information
- c. Outcome – Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously: "DPC-SN representatives to the Executive Committee to direct DPC web administrator to publish links on DPC and Diocese web sites."

DEANERY COMMUNIQUES FOR/FROM EXEC. CTEE. & BISHOP

- 1. **Publication and Dissemination of Lay Pastoral Director Program to Diocese** – written approval by Bishop – discussed above
- 2. **Executive Secretary/Executive Board – Duties, Web site, Input** – Yvette Fallandy seeking to reduce her responsibilities so her replacement will be needed in the near term.

PARISH REPORTS

- 1. **Star of the Valley** – Lay Pastoral Director presentation and discussions in May
- 2. **Holy Spirit** – Father Bob is seeking to raise profile of Pastoral Assembly and parishioner participation in upcoming Town Hall Meeting
- 3. **St. John the Baptist**
 - a. Associate Pastor transferred
 - b. Theology of the Body reasonably well attended – Pastor supportive of the series and of more such series in the future
- 4. **St. Eugene** – choir taking the weekend off after a busy Tridium
- 5. **Resurrection** (Tom McCarthy) – expressed opinion that DPC should focus efforts on partnering with Bishop to make Annual Appeal more successful – consensus to place topic on next meeting's agenda

MEETING CLOSING

- a. **Next Meeting time and place:** Saturday, May 30th, St. John the Baptist, Healdsburg
- c. **Closing Prayer** – Mike Wall
- d. **Adjournment** 11:24 AM