

Approved

Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery Star of the Valley Catholic Church Saturday, June 27, 2009

ATTENDING: Stella Agudelo, Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Kevin Connolly, Jim Curtin, John Gnam, Bob Leet, John McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Rick Norman, Mike Pettibone, Joe Tembrock

ABSENT: Len Marabella, Mike Wall

Note: Mike Pettibone joined the Sonoma North DPC as representative from St. Teresa's

1. MEETING OPENING:

- a. Call to Order- (9:00 AM) John Gnam (for Mike Wall, Chair)
- b. Opening Prayer – John McCarthy
- c. Approval of Minutes of 4/25/09 Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment – There being no public present, there were no public comments

Special recognition to Elizabeth McCarthy for her tasteful arrangement of breakfast pastries and choice of holiday appropriate napkins.

2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

a. Communications – Kevin Connolly, Brian Connolly

a. Report

- i. Committee presented discussion document summarizing research, meetings, and thinking to date. Document was intended as basis for ongoing discussion by the DPC-SN. Document included sections on project objectives, strategy, available tools, phase I implementation, and next steps

b. Discussion

- i. Generational aspect to use of Internet based communications tools and strategies – younger generation more familiar and comfortable with these modes. Older generation more comfortable with and tendency to rely on more traditional forms of print media. Though separate conversation, speaks to need of involving more 20 – 50 year olds in the workings of the church.
- ii. Traditional forms of media, eg parish Sunday Bulletin, meetings with pastor, pastoral assembly/council, addressing congregations at townhall meetings, etc. need to be used to introduce electronic communications tools.
- iii. Broad topic of diocese communications should be one of the foci of the next DPC Plenary
- iv. Development of electronic communications strategies should be done with advise and consent of the pastor in each parish
- v. Multiple means should be employed to collect email addresses from parishioners, including cards filled out at mass, subscription sign ups on parish and diocese websites, etc.
- vi. First phase of electronic communications capability in the diocese should begin with building and using a diocese email list

c. Outcome

Approved

- i. DPC-SN directs Communication Committee to continue to research tools and their implementation including costs and resources
- ii. Benefit list to be created answering the question, “Why should I give you my email list again?” (Mel, Brian, Kevin)
- iii. Focused research to discover means of creating, hosting, administering proposed diocese email list (Task Force)
- iv. Motion – Made by Mel Amato, Seconded by Kevin Connolly, amendment introduced by Joe Tembrock:

DPC-SN to make request of the DPC Executive Secretary to share the existing DPC email list with the Chancery as the basis for the construction of a diocese wide email database/ mailing list. Said email communications capability to serve as a beginning step in ongoing diocese communications development.

b. Seminarian Funding – Mel Amato, John Gnam

a. Report

- i. Current thinking is around creating high-end social event along the lines of gala dinner dance/show and auction. Such events have raised up to \$100k annually given longevity of the event, beneficiary, and quality of the event.
- ii. Other event options are possible. Prominent entertainer, speaker
- iii. Costs of such events are significant including site rental, talent fees, food, and volunteer hours in putting on the event. “Seed money” for such an event can be as much as \$20K
- iv. One strategy is to start small e.g. Dinner with the Bishop, in order to raise the seed money. Some venues are more flexible on rents than others
- v. Event/Efforts should be “owned” by DPC so as to maintain some discretion over use of funds. Funding seminarian education costs will be the primary use of funds.
- vi. Current economic environment not conducive to this kind of event.

b. Discussion

- i. Thought that any events should be accessible to broad spectrum of parishioners and not just the wealthy. Ideal if there was a way to include participation and support from parishioners in different geographic parts of the diocese.
- ii. Ideal event would draw attendees (and funds) from outside the Catholic community.
- iii. Any activity should have clear disclosure that funds are to support seminarians.

c. Outcome

- i. Continued discussion and concept development. John Gnam volunteered to chair such an event.

c. Bishop’s Annual Appeal – Tom McCarthy

a. Report

- i. Few DPC representatives know details of success or shortcoming of Bishop’s Annual Appeal – though it is apparent that funds raised this year are significantly less than last year.
- ii. DPC will raise its value in the eyes of the Bishop as it supports his efforts at funding diocese services and projects
- iii. Going forward efforts should be thinking of ways to make next year’s efforts more successful

Approved

- b. *Discussion*
 - i. Pastors are not typically behind Appeal efforts as there is perceived competition with parish fundraising efforts
 - ii. Focused effort at promoting Appeal can be successful e.g. Our Lady of Guadalupe exceeded goal. Promotional efforts included clear identification of diocese missions and community benefits, laity speaking to the congregation about diocese needs,
 - iii. Observation is that fundraising efforts more effective when requests come from laity
 - iv. Unlike other diocese assessments, there is no penalty for not making goal, though there is incentive to exceed goal (50% of funds collected over goal are returned to parish)
- c. *Outcome*
 - i. Proposed meeting with Bishop to discuss ways DPC can support next year's appeal including possible changes to fundraising methodology

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Parish DPC Reps for 2009 – 2010

- a. A number of terms are expiring in coming months. Parishes are employing various means to identify new representatives. Note that Mike Pettibone joins DPC-SN with this meeting.

b. DPC-SN Corresponding Secretary

- a. Consensus to leave it to parish DPC representatives to communicate DPC news to parishes and pastors
- b. Possibility of creating common summary of DPC activities to be distributed to parishes in non-editable form.

c. DPC Website – Publication of Resource Links

- a. List of Catholic resource web links constructed by Mel Amato and Rick Norman to be sent to Yvette Falandy with request to publish to DPC website

4. DEANERY COMMUNIQUES - EXEC. CTEE. & BISHOP – Bob Leet

a. Lay Pastoral Director Program letter proposal - Bishop Response

- a. Executive Committee and Bishop heard presentation of LPDP Task Force. Len Marabella and Yvette Falandy to draft letter for Bishop's review outlining his support of ongoing diocese presentations and discussions regarding implementation of the position at future parishes.

b. Communications

- a. Brief summary of current discussions about diocese communications needs. Agreed that any DPC efforts on this project be closely coordinated with Chancery, specifically Deidre Frontczak

c. Parish Priests

- a. Bishop recently ordained a transitional deacon, in discussions with three priests currently in Mexico, investigating possibility of extending the stay of two priests visiting from Africa, and vetting the transfer of a parish priest from outside the diocese.

d. Executive Secretary

Approved

- a. Current Executive Secretary, Yvette Falendy, seeks to retire from that position, thus her replacement needs to be identified.

5. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- a. 2009-2010 Calendar and meeting Sites
 - a. current calendar extends to September 2009. Consensus to basically repeat current rotation adjusted for dates. Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Teresa's parishes to be added to rotation.
- b. New DPC reps will be needed for the Executive Board by year end
- c. LPDP – Carrying on after Bishop's response – as noted above
- d. "WIAMPMP" – Where from here?
 - a. Larger question is to how best maintain conversation with the laity. Consensus that future efforts should be directed towards finding ways to solicit and gather thoughts, insights, suggestions, from the laity. One way is to extend the concept of focused survey techniques to congregations. St. Eugene's has some experience with parish survey.
- e. Evangelization – not discussed due to lack of time

6. PARISH REPORTS

- f. Resurrection
 - a. Continued work in building an integrated faith community through series of house meetings with Hispanic and Anglo families lead by North Bay Organizing Project.
 - b. Pastor is in Italy
- g. Our Lady of Guadalupe
 - a. Continued development of Anointed Lay Minister Program
 - b. Fundraising efforts centering around use of the Furth Center
 - c. Developing Parish Web site
- h. St. John the Baptist
 - a. Pastor recovering from illness so most initiatives on hold
 - b. No associate pastors so parish feeling the pinch
- i. St. Eugene – no report
- j. Holy Spirit
 - a. Evangelization talent show and pot luck dinner outreach Sunday 6/28 (125 expected attendees)
- k. Star of the Valley
 - a. Presentation of Lay Pastoral Director Program to parish leaders in May – well received
- l. St. Rose – no report
- m. St. Phillip's/St. Teresa's
 - a. Have an effective parish council which has support of pastor
 - b. Town hall meetings scheduled with follow up meetings to identify individuals willing to participate in ministries
 - c. Questionnaires have been distributed in order to identify laity priorities
 - d. Considering ways to bring Catholics back into the church and outreach to Hispanic population
 - i. Rural Food Program

5. MEETING CLOSING

- a. **Next Meeting time and place:** St. Rose Parish, Santa Rosa, July 25, 2009
- b. **Closing Prayer-** John McCarthy
- c. **Adjournment-**John Gnam 11:44 AM