

MINUTES - DPC SONOMA NORTH DEANERY  
RESURRECTION PARISH  
September 26, 2009

**ATTENDING:** Stella Agudelo, Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Kevin Connolly, John McCarthy, Tom McCarthy, Gary Moore, Mike Pettibone, Mike Wall

**ABSENT:** Jim Curtin, Len Marabella, Rick Norman, Joe Tembrock

**VISITING:** Julie Parnow, St. James, DPC Sonoma South and V.P. DPC Executive Committee

1. MEETING OPENING

- a. Call to Order-Mike W., Chair – 9:00 AM
- b. Opening Prayer-Kevin Connolly
- c. Approval of Minutes 8/29/09 - Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment - None

2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- a. Communications Strategies – Kevin Connolly, Brian Connolly
  - a. Motion from 8/29/09 minutes read – Communications Committee to prepare proposal for creation of diocese email list for presentation at November DPC Executive Committee meeting.
    - i. Proposal to include discussion on need, expected benefits, costs.
    - ii. Other dioceses across the country make extensive and effective use of “new media” communications tools.
    - iii. Consensus – that this project should be undertaken and initially underwritten by the DPC as an experiment to “take the temperature” of parishioner engagement across the diocese
  - b. Committee had distributed report on current activity to DPC-SN representative via email.
    - i. Discussions with Deidre Frontczak regarding Faith magazine
    - ii. Estimated costs associated with Constant Contact email hosting
    - iii. Experimentation with DPC SN Discussion board on Google
- b. Strategic Planning: T.F. Report on meeting-Mel Amato, Stella Agudelo, John McCarthy
  - a. Mel in process of conducting extensive nation wide research on strategic planning process on parish and diocese basis. Effort will focus on determining “best practices” with intent of finding a model appropriate to the parishes of the Santa Rosa Diocese. Research and analysis to continue.
- c. Lay Pastoral Director Program. All Present-
  - a. Some, but not all, parishes published Bishops letter supporting the exploration of the Lay Pastoral Director concept.
  - b. Mel to redistribute copy of Bishop’s letter to DPC reps. DPC reps to follow up

with parish to have letter published in weekly bulletin.

- d. Executive Committee: Consensus on new reps from DPC-SN – Mike Wall
  - a. Issue was constitutional limitation on number of representatives from each deanery who can serve on the Executive Committee concurrently.
  - b. Len Marabella to serve on Executive Committee as non-voting ex officio member as DPC Task Force Director responsible for coordinating and facilitating the efforts of the various DPC task forces and committees
  - c. Mel Amato's first partial term as replacement for the prior incumbent considered not a full term. Therefore, he is qualified to serve a full second term concluding in June 2011 and is qualified to serve as DPC-SN second representative to the Executive Committee
- e. DPC – Sonoma South Deanery. How can Sonoma North assist in rebuilding? – DPC-SS Deanery, Julie Parnow, St. James (guest)-Mike Wall
  - a. Julie gave recent history of Sonoma South meetings. No regular meetings at present, terms have expired for previous parish representatives and no replacements named.
  - b. Recommendation that Executive Committee study reasons underlying absence of participation in DPC by most of the deaneries
  - c. Observation that lukewarm support from clergy and chancery may be a contributing factor, along with murkiness of compelling unifying strategic vision in the diocese.
  - d. Actions: Mike Wall volunteered to undertake conversations with Sonoma South pastors to create more support and enthusiasm. Any interested DPC-SS representative warmly invited to attend DPC-SN meetings
- f. Deaconate Formation: Gary Moore
  - a. Gary is in his second year in the deaconate program, having transferred from San Francisco
  - b. He presented a brief history of the deacon position in the Church and its current clerical role.
  - c. There are 22 deacons serving in the Santa Rosa Diocese and 19 men in the current "class" of deacons. Of this class, 50% are Hispanic
  - d. Observations include laity's role in identifying and encouraging potential candidates, that the deaconate provides an important response to the declining number of priests, correlation between the number of deacons in a diocese and the number of young men considering vocations. Recommendation that Chancery should continue to support this program and facilitate the next class as soon as practical.

### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Len Marabella appointed as Director DPC Task Forces – Mike Wall
- b. Kevin Connolly stepping down from chair of Communications Committee to be succeeded by Brian Connolly
- c. Brian Connolly to conclude his term as Recording Secretary after the October DPC-SN

- meeting. Gary Moore to succeed Brian effective the November meeting.
- d. Recommendation that the DPC turns its attention to addressing the financing of the various diocese ministries in inspired and creative ways
- e. Mike Wall to secure and deliver prayer card to Bishop Walsh in memory of his mother
- f. Kevin Connolly advised that Trappists in Iowa support themselves through making and selling wood caskets that can be delivered in two business days in US
- g. Recommendation that Stella Agudelo serve as ex officio member of the DPC Executive Committee in representing the Hispanic community
  - a. Acquisition of quality youth educational materials written in Spanish
  - b. Parish sharing of resources to achieve common goals

#### 4. DEANERY COMMUNIQUES FOR EX. BOARD/BISHOP

- a. Bishop's Report to Executive Committee. -Mike Wall
  - a. Report of 15 minutes duration due to prior obligation in Arcata
    - i. Discussion on necessity of Bishop's attendance for useful DPC Executive Committee meetings, especially considering the importance of current challenges and time and distance commitments of representatives
    - ii. Recommendation that thought be devoted to meeting scheduling designed to optimize use of all participants time and energy
  - b. Auditor approval of recent diocese reports, including compliance with child and youth protection
  - c. Traveling to Mexico for meetings with three bishops to recruit Hispanic priests
  - d. Nineteen deacon candidates in this class. Chancery cost per class is approximately \$48,000
  - e. Bishop's Appeal, which is the source of virtually all chancery funding, is down significantly from last year.
    - i. Budget is based on pledges, not goal
    - ii. Discussion of making appeal an assessment against the parishes
    - iii. Successful appeals include compelling presentations on part of laity – especially couples presenting together
  - f. Bob Leet named DPC archivist of DPC historical records

#### 5. PARISH REPORTS: All Present

- Resurrection
  - Oktoberfest raised approximately \$30,000
  - Community Convocation October 4
    - 200 expected attendees from Anglo and Hispanic parishioners
    - Eight meetings with youth translators to facilitate conversation during and after meetings
    - Experimental – will test concept for usefulness and recommendation to other parishes
- Star of the Valley
  - Pastor not aware of Bishop Lay Pastoral Director letter – lost so John McCarthy to re-deliver
  - Sunday collections down significantly
  - Re-visiting /updating of Pastoral Plan begins with new chair next month

- St. John's
  - Crush Festival in a couple of weeks to raise funds for the school
  - Seminarian collection not overwhelming
    - Regular collections within 5% of budget
- Holy Spirit
  - Annual Chicken Barbeque fundraiser this weekend
  - Generations of Faith beginning new year
- St. Eugene
  - Generations of Faith focusing on The Creed
  - Not enough ministers or servers at the masses – especially weekday
  - Breaking even on budget
  - Becker Center Festival – 250 tickets sold
- St. James (Petaluma – Julie Parnow)
  - First Parish Council Meeting of the year
  - Parish Council holds general meeting three times annually focusing on particular ministry e.g. Prayer Quilt project, Giving Tree– approximately 25 parishioners attend
  - Current Focus – Adult Education to the various populations, e.g. Theology on Tap for young adults

## 6. MEETING CLOSING

### a. Next Meeting Time & Place:

October 24, 2009, 9 AM, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Windsor– Gary Moore to chair

### b. Closing Prayer: Stella Agudelo

### c. Adjournment: Mike Wall 11:48 AM