

**Minutes for Meeting of DPC Sonoma North Deanery**  
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Windsor, CA  
October 24, 2009

**ATTENDING:** Mel Amato, Brian Connolly, Kevin Connolly, Len Marabella, John McCarthy, Gary Moore, Rick Norman, Joe Tembrock

**ABSENT:** Stella Agudelo, Jim Curtin, Mike Pettibone, Mike Wall

**No Longer on the DPC:** Tom McCarthy (Resurrection)

**Visitor:** Father Angelito

**1. MEETING OPENING:**

- a. Call to Order-Gary Moore (filling in for Mike Wall), 9:00 AM
- b. Opening Prayer – Joe Tembrock – reading from Acts
- c. Approval of Minutes September 26, 2009 – Approved unanimously
- d. Approval of Agenda - Approved unanimously
- e. Public Comment – Father Angelito joined the meeting into the proceedings and the discussion after the meeting started. Otherwise, no public comment.

**2. CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- a. **Pastoral Director Task Force** – Len Marabella,
  - *Report:*
    - Len continuing to schedule and make presentations – Next presentations to Priest Deanery meetings at Napa and Sonoma South on November 10.
    - Generally finding welcoming reception of the concepts
    - Also endeavoring to engage deaconate program in the conversation, though scheduling challenges
    - North Coast Catholic planning article in next issue on activities of the DPC, highlighting the Lay Pastoral Director Program.
    - One of the goals of the program is to name pilot parishes and individuals who are de facto Pastoral Directors
  - *Outcome:*
    - See presentations scheduled and to be scheduled above
    - See DPC goals and objectives for 2010 addendum to these minutes
- b. **Communications** – Kevin Connolly, Brian Connolly
  - *Report:*
    - Kevin and Brian attended recent Chancery Communications Committee headed by Chancery Communications Director, Deirdre Frontczak
    - Focus of discussion was how to best improve diocese information flow via a regular communications vehicle such as North Coast Catholic. Faith

Magazine has offered a number of combinations of print and electronic versions of their publication that would offer flexibility on content, method of delivery, and cost. *(As per reports in previous minutes, Faith Magazine and its variations is a publication of the Lansing Diocese, and is used by many diocese across the US as their diocese communication vehicle. Diocese may use as much, or as little, Faith content as desired. Faith is introducing an electronic version of their content.)*

- Deirdre will be lobbying for support for a monthly electronic version, and some annual/semi-annual print version to be distributed to the parishes (not mailed.)
- Bishop's goal in communications is to promote evangelization and transparency
- *Discussion:*
  - Significant number of the diocese population is not exceptionally electronically adept, so any change from past method of mailed distribution of printed content to web/electronic delivery will have to be simple, well explained, and well publicized through traditional channels (i.e. weekly parish bulletins)
  - Recent transition of North Coast Catholic from mail to exclusively web delivery needs to be publicized to parishioners via pulpit and bulletin now.
  - Such notification to be part of education process in advising that diocese news and issues will be available electronically in some form going forward.
- *Action*
  - Len will write brief informational item that parishes may include in bulletin. Kevin to bring to Deirdre and Gary to bring to Mike Wall in the Executive Committee to push for support in having this information distributed and included in the bulletins.

### **c. Resurrection Parish Meetings**

- *Report* – Stella, who is the expert on this topic, was not present.
- *Discussion*
  - Five year efforts on the part of the Resurrection parish to include and unify both Anglo's and Hispanics as one common faith community is an effort that should be replicated in other parishes in the diocese.
  - There is danger in allowing splits in community to form based on language and cultural backgrounds
- *Action*
  - Kevin, Mel, and Rick to open conversations with Stella on how to best introduce Resurrection's experience and lessons learned in their unification process. Collectively, they will discern the best way in which to bring this process of unification to other parishes. Kevin recommended that next step would be to invite interested representatives from other parishes to next Resurrection meetings. Kevin to advise of time and place of these meetings.

### **d. Strategic Planning Update – Mel Amato**

- *Report:*
  - Stella to connect with contacts in the Latino community in Southern California as to their planning methodology.
  - Mel has had two responses from five inquiries made last month. One resulted in extended and profitable conversation with a deacon at St. Rita's parish in Texas and a further connection to a management consultant who on a pro bono basis guided strategic planning at that diocese.
  - Consultant (Shea Consulting) may be available on a fee basis
  - Mel ordered book – Concise Guide to Pastoral Planning
  - Typical steps in strategic planning process:
    - Vision and Mission
    - Long Range (3-5 year) goals in broad areas of concern
    - Prioritize categories then set specific measurable objectives for next time period (see New Business 2010 Goals below)
- Discussion
  - There should be local talent available
  - Multiple parishes could join together to share effort and resources for “group rate” costs
- Action
  - DPC representatives to examine their networks for local management consultant/strategic planning experts.
  - Committee to continue to research the strategic planning efforts of other diocese
  - Goal areas to be defined

### 3. NEW BUSINESS:

- **2010 Goals for Sonoma North Deanery** – after discussion of those present

Please note the following format for the following goals, definitions, and 2010 Objectives

- ***DPC Goal (3-5 year)***
  - **Goal Defined.**
    - **2010 Objective for DPC-Sonoma North**

DPC-SN Goals and associated Objectives

- *Pastoral Leadership*
  - Promote (insure) pastoral leadership and expand lay participation
    - Promote LDPD.
    - Establish pilot programs in specific parishes.
- *Communication*
  - Provide support throughout the diocese for the goals of open and broader information sharing through improved communications.
    - Create diocese wide email communications list.

- Establish supporting technology for internet based communications
  - Implement expanded version of North Coast Catholic
  - Establish DPC pilot as model for two way communications
  - “Create “geek squad” for enabling parish communications capability (Pilot program for 5 parish)
  - Promote teleconferencing capability
- *Pastoral Strategic Planning*
    - Provide framework for pastoral strategic planning.
      - Complete and promote process template for parish strategic plan.
      - Engage Chancery to initiate diocesan strategic planning.
  - *Financial Stability*
    - Promote short and long term financial sustainability on the parish and diocese level.
      - Create model of parish financial “best practices”
      - Communicate model to all interested parishes in the diocese
  - *Advance unity in multi-ethnic Catholic church – (to be discussed next meeting)*

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

No Executive Meeting since last DPC meeting.

#### 5. PARISH REPORTS – deferred until next meeting in interests of time

#### 6. MEETING CLOSING

- a. **Next Meeting time and place:** St. John’s in Healdsburg, Saturday, November 21, 2009
- b. **Closing Prayer-** Joe Tembrock – Reading from Acts
- c. **Adjournment-** Gary Moore, 12:00 Noon