

**DRAFT Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
March 29, 2008
Holy Spirit**

Meeting Opening:

In Attendance: Mike Wall, Yvette Fallandy and John Gnam (St. Eugene's), Colleen McMahon, Kevin Connolly and Bob Leet (Resurrection), Mel Amato (St. John's), Brian Connolly and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Helen Chapman (Star of the Valley)

Excused: Ann Clark (St. Teresa's), Margaret Focha (Star of the Valley), Ella Rozett (St. Phillip's) and Len Marabella (St. Rose)

Absent:

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM.

Opening Prayer: Brian Connolly read an opening prayer from St. Brendan.

Minutes and Agenda: The February minutes were approved as well as the February summary minutes.

The agenda was approved with the correction of the spelling of Brian Connolly's name.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Continuing Business:

Plenary Session: Yvette Fallandy discussed the attendance for the Plenary meeting on 4/5/08. She has received 50 responses, but not all of those are attending. The enrollment is still open for more participants. Bob Leet said that Fr. David Pettingill is a great speaker. His remarks will be tailored to our own Diocesan Parish Council. He said Fr. Pettingill will speak on an overall view of the 2nd Vatican Council documents that focus on the laity and tie that into evangelization. He'll address how we can encourage non-active Catholics to become more active participants. He has been very active in creating lay participation in the Church in both San Jose and San Francisco and developing lay appreciation for the Church in policy and action.

Yvette Fallandy said that Sr. Antonio will need a ride to the Plenary session in Ukiah. Kevin Connolly volunteered to give her a ride.

John Gnam asked about recording Fr. Pettingill's talk. Bob Leet said that they are checking with St. Mary's regarding recording capabilities.

Brian Connolly said it would be great to see if we can develop a podcast on the Internet to share resources from speakers. He said he has a digital recorder, which he will bring to the Plenary session to use for recording.

Bob Leet said that Phil Minor from Eureka will be the General Chair of the Plenary meeting.

Mike Wall, in reference to the Plenary agenda, asked what the deanery workshop will entail. Yvette Fallandy explained that it is when the different participants meet with their own deanery.

Template for DPC Minutes: Mike Wall stated that he and Colleen McMahon briefly discussed the use of a template for minutes. Yvette Fallandy explained that the idea was to assist the deaneries in covering their meetings. Colleen McMahon will provide to Yvette a clean copy of the format used for the minutes. Pat Babb will share a template that she has also.

Programs for Parish Administrative and Liturgical Minister: Yvette Fallandy said she has information gathered regarding programs for Parish Administrators. It is developed from living examples. She is waiting to review the information with these women before making the information public.

Evangelization Committee: Mike Wall and Pat Babb both said that the Catholic Church should become more welcoming. Colleen McMahon suggested that the Generations of Faith program could possibly assist in achieving a welcoming community, both socially and teaching at the same time.

Kevin Connolly suggested that the evangelical churches tend to have a more business model. Bob Leet said that it seems that their focus is on the preacher and his charisma and not necessarily God.

John Gnam stated he feels we are not empowering our youth to invest in their faith and the church. Helen Chapman suggested that the music is important to the youth and their participation may be enhanced through music in the parish. John Gnam said that it would be a good idea if we were able to mass communicate, perhaps through broadcasting, to the youth.

Mike Wall asked whether anyone had heard the new Catholic radio station, 1260 AM. Kevin Connolly said he heard it for a short time and it sounded good, it was a question/answer format.

Pat Babb suggested establishing a softball team and invite people as a means of evangelizing. Bob Leet said that the Mormons and Jehovah Witness' invite youth participation in sports and/or other activities. Bob Leet also suggested a youth Mass in the evening and have it diocesan supported, while rotating parishes.

Mike Wall said he had attended a "Spirituality Day" at Sonoma State, but the attendance was not very good, probably only 10-15 young adults present. It was not well publicized. Bob Leet said that the Jewish community held their 2nd annual convocation and he attended. The Jewish community invites all Jews of the area to come together and meet each other and to hear from different Rabbis and their different personalities. Perhaps we could encourage the diocese to support a gathering of the different parishes.

Budget Issues-Programs: Kevin Connolly had a conversation with Monsignor Whelton regarding a financial campaign. He would like to talk to the Financial Director for the Diocese and will continue to follow up with that. Yvette Fallandy asked what we would do with the funds received through a campaign. Mike Wall said it would be used for parish administration programs. Kevin Connolly said that it could also be used for better

communication/publications. Yvette Fallandy asked why communication cannot be handled by the number of Catholics we have in this area. Mike Wall said he feels people don't care enough to get involved. John Gnam said volunteerism has declined partly because of the lack of people's time. Pat Babb said that it should be explained better that each deanery is a coalition of the parishes. Yvette Fallandy suggested that this topic could be brought to the Bishop's attention at the Plenary meeting.

Bob Leet suggested we publish the summary of the deanery minutes in the parish bulletins as a means of communication. Yvette Fallandy said that she feels there is a general apathy regarding communication within the diocese. Bob Leet said that the communication issue has been brought up to the Executive Board before and hasn't been addressed or shown any interest in addressing the subject.

Mike Wall said that this deanery cares and what is Deirdre Frontczak's position? Yvette Fallandy explained that Deirdre has approached the Bishop with materials and ideas many times. She is only a part time employee. Mel Amato said that we have a communication product, but people don't read it. If we are not satisfied with the product, we should try to improve what we have with the available funds. Kevin Connolly said he will contact Deirdre in the meantime. Brian Connolly and Pat Babb offered to assist Kevin with this task. Yvette Fallandy would like to see a publication that speaks of current diocesan issues before they reach the Press Democrat. John Gnam suggested that the publication be cleaned up and then put in the churches instead of a bulk mailing. People interested would pick it up to read. Mel Amato suggested forming a task force to redefine and present to the Bishop a new product using the same budget. Kevin Connolly, Brian Connolly and Pat Babb will discuss the issues and make a proposal regarding promoting a new communication product. John Gnam said we can make this a laity sponsored product.

NEW BUSINESS:

Plenary Session: Mike Wall asked about anyone interested in carpooling to the Plenary meeting.

Parish Reports:

St. Eugene's: John Gnam said that they recently held a Parish Town Hall meeting and it was recommended that they try to do introductions at the beginning of Mass. Bob Leet said that he had attended the St. Patrick's Day dinner at St. Eugene's and was very enjoyable. Mike Wall said there was some pretty good singing there too. St. Eugene's also held a Polenta dinner with country western song and dance.

Star of the Valley: Helen Chapman reported that Monsignor Keyes has a niece with a beautiful voice and who has sung light opera in England. She came and performed for the parish. The Bishop attended a luncheon with the Ladies Club on March 12th. It was very enjoyable. Monsignor Keyes is currently in Rome at the Divine Mercy Conclave.

Holy Spirit: Pat Babb said that their St. Patrick's Day dinner was sponsored by the Men's Club as a gift to the Parish. Parishioners only had to pay their bar bill. The Men's Club sponsored a Father/Daughter event in February and will be sponsoring a Father/Son

event in April. There was a sad event in the parish when a well known youth was killed in an accident before Easter. There was a large turnout at the funeral and a lot of support for the family.

St. John the Baptist: Mel Amato reported that the 3rd grade class sponsored the St. Patrick's Day dinner as a fundraiser. It was a successful event. The Bishop came and blessed the new buildings during the past month. The Pastor is doing fine. His spirits and attitude are good, but has long range health issues.

Resurrection: Kevin Connolly said he enjoys receiving the Lenten booklets each year that are distributed by the parish. Colleen McMahon stated that the last Generations of Faith session was on the Triduum and received great evaluations. The next session of the Generations of Faith will be May 4th and the topic will be Pentecost. A Polenta dinner is scheduled for April 11, 2008 and is put on by the St. Vincent De Paul ministry.

Deanery Communiqués for the Executive Committee/Bishop: There was nothing to report to the Bishop. Bob Leet suggested that we think about questions for the April 5th Plenary meeting.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish: A reminder was made to insert information about the Plenary session into the parish bulletins.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. Eugene's in Santa Rosa on April 26, 2008.

Closing prayer:

The closing prayer was read by Brian Connolly. It was a prayer of St. Colombo, who is the third patron saint of Ireland.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.