

**DRAFT Minutes of
Sonoma North Deanery Meeting
April 26, 2008
St. Eugene's Cathedral**

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, Jim Curtin and Pat Babb (Holy Spirit), Ella Rozett (St. Phillip's) and Len Marabella (St. Rose)

Excused: Ann Clark (St. Teresa's), Margaret Focha and Helen Chapman (Star of the Valley)

Absent:

Mike Wall called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

Opening Prayer: Mike Wall led the opening prayer.

Minutes and Agenda: The March minutes were approved as well as the March summary minutes. The agenda was approved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Continuing Business:

Plenary Session: Yvette Fallandy is in the process of posting a review of the Plenary Session to the DPC website. The new web-master has worked on the website with great results. The new web-master is Aaron Davis and Yvette will be the new contact for the website. Bob Leet began a discussion as to whether it was necessary to post both the Summary Minutes and the complete Minutes of each meeting. A motion was made to continue to post the Summary and Complete Minutes and to establish a policy that both will continue to be posted.

Steve Erickson is in charge of the blog site. He is a member of the Executive Committee and is prepared to be administrator of the blog site. Yvette Fallandy stated that we need better communication. Perhaps we can achieve this by using direct e-mail, the blogsite and the website. Brian Connolly said that another tool of advertisement is through the Parish bulletins.

Len Marabella commented that he felt that there could have been more input by the Bishop at the Plenary Session as to the DPC itself. For instance, "what does the Bishop want from the DPC?" Or, "What is our direct function as determined by the Bishop?" John Gnam stated that he feels that it is the laity that needs to determine what involvement we will have within the Diocese. Mike Wall stated he agrees with Len Marabella's suggestion, but he heard the Bishop state that the Diocese is broke and that he is tired. Ella Rozett said she feels that the Bishop doesn't want anything from the DPC that we are here to do the work.

1. “New Evangelization”: Brian Connolly stated that he feels that the strength of change lies with the laity. Bob Leet said that the programs should begin within the parishes, but not all pastors feel the same about the DPC’s function. Bob Leet suggested that each parish representative meet with their pastor and help to establish a more open communication between DPC and the Parish. It was suggested that the Minutes from our meeting be sent to the Pastors and that the Summary of the Minutes be printed in the Parish bulletin. Colleen McMahon said that it is our call to evangelize through our actions and our own faith. We have been given a direct responsibility and obligation through our Baptism to be Disciples of Christ and to teach others the same as Jesus did. We are the body of Christ, the church and we should be welcoming and not judgmental toward anyone. The structure of the Church tends to be judgmental. It’s through our actions, understanding and listening that we will be better able to evangelize to those inactive Catholics. We should relay the love that God has for each of them. Their faith journey is between themselves and God.

2. “Pope’s Visit”: The majority’s view was that the Pope’s recent visit was successful. It was seen as a “State” visit and not only a “Pastoral” visit.

3. “Hospitality”: Mike Wall shared that he listened to the new radio station, KYI and was impressed. It’s a good reminder that we are all Christians. Ella Rozett said she hears Protestants speaking as though Catholics are not Christian. John Gnam said that we are missing something in not being able to keep people in our Churches. Brian Connolly commented that each of us is responsible for becoming “fired up Catholics” and then proclaiming our excitement to others. Kevin Connolly made the comment that people do not realize what they have or what it means to be a Baptized Catholic Christian. Colleen McMahon said that the Generations of Faith is hoping to reach more people with teaching in mind to help people become more acquainted with the Church and what is the true meaning. Brian Connolly said that socializing can be and needs to be developed within each Parish. Ella said that the Pope’s visit might give us the opportunity to create an opening for approaching people. She feels that a “phone tree” is one way to reach out to people.

NEW BUSINESS:

Action Plan from Plenary Session: Len Marabella said he feels that evangelization needs to have an action plan. Each parish must have its own plan beginning at the parish level. Mel Amato stated that evangelization has a beginning with self-evangelization moving toward leadership and then on to the parish. He explained that the plan could be structured as a business plan is structured with a vision, an objective and an action. Brian Connolly said that Fr. Bob has requested that Holy Spirit Parish work on setting up an evangelization committee. Mel Amato promised to send all members a copy of the Paulist e-mail requesting that the recipient complete a survey on evangelization training. He also promised to re-send a copy of the Paulist link to their Envision video website. The program is a process, not a plan. He also promised to send a copy of the diocesan Sunday Mass count statistics.

Kevin Connolly stated for the church to grow we need to develop our own spirituality before we can evangelize to others. Since we are each a part of the body of the Christ's Church, we start with ourselves (through self-evangelization) and then are better able to reach out to others. John Gnam had a good suggestion that we, the church, should be advertising through the local media, such as the newspapers to reach more people. We have to take into consideration how we "brand" our faith and our outreach. Pat Babb said that it is our responsibility to help people realize that WE are the Church, not only the Vatican or the buildings they see. Kevin Connolly asked if St. Eugene's still has a single's night that is non-denominational as a social event. Bob Leet suggested that postcards could be mailed to all registered members with information regarding any events taking place within the parish or other parishes. These parish events should be seen as community events and not just for the 'attending' parishioners. Ella Rozett will take the lead in developing an action plan to establish a phone-calling plan. Len Marabella asked about solutions to providing training for Parish Administrators in answer to the Shortage of the Clergy survey. The Diocese of Fresno has started a program as well as the Oakland Diocese has had a program for a while. He will contact Holy Names College and the Diocese of Fresno to learn more about their training programs.

Evangelization Workshop in Windsor in June: Mike Wall asked if any one was aware of the workshop scheduled in Windsor in June. No one remembered the details of such a workshop.

Parish Reports: The Parish Reports will be held until the next meeting due to a time constraint of this meeting.

Deanery Communiqués for the Executive Committee/Bishop: A suggestion was made that Fr. Pettingill's talk as well as other spirituality talks be made available on the website for downloading or listening. The talks or information could be distributed through all technical venues.

Closing:

Review of items to be communicated to each parish: Each parish could print the summary minutes in their bulletin.

Reminder of next meeting place:

Our next meeting will be at St. Rose in Santa Rosa on May 31, 2008.

Closing prayer:

John Gnam led the closing prayer.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

draft e-mailed 4/27/08 – revisions e-mailed 5/6/08