



## MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

*They sowed fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest*  
*Psalm 107*

May 9, 2003

Deanery Clergy Meeting  
May 9, 2003  
Minutes

*"If a contrary wind slows the march of peoples, if the sea of history  
is tossed by storms, let no one yield to dismay and lack of trust!"*  
*Pope John Paul II, Easter 2003*

Present: Fathers Ballard, Benedict, Do, Hendel, Huynh, Joyce, Juarez, Pacquin,  
Rios, Sandersfeld, Segovia, Yabes also Joe Swyt, Will Sousae  
Prayer: Fr. Rios

Next Meeting: Staff Meeting, Friday, June 13, 2003, St. Francis, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

Minutes posted on [www.mpcsg.org](http://www.mpcsg.org)

Reports and Discussion

### **Fr. Benedict reported on Confirmation Celebration**

Scheduled for June 7 at Evergreen College, with two sessions at 11:00 am and 2:00 pm. Five parishes involved including SFOA, SMG, OLG, MHT, CTK. There are 170 candidates in the first session from MHT and CTK, and 181 candidates in the second session from SF, SMG and OLG. Total attendance expected is 1200 per session.

Two months ago, a letter was sent to pastors recommending funding to cover expenses from collections, with remaining funds donated to a local charity. Since there was no reply, Fr. Joseph proceeds with this plan. Total expense for the event is estimate at \$1500 to \$2000 only paying for janitorial, setup, Bishop stipend, and liturgical items. Evergreen College has donated the use of the facility at no cost. Net could be \$2500 as a donation to charity.

Each parish is bringing items and support including confirmation coordination, choir, Eucharist Ministers, setup crews, ushers, etc.

Great music is critical and music is well supported with Ian Hinkle, Sal Rojas, and others, plus Vietnamese choirs from MHT and SMG. Plan is to use one choir for both sessions to minimize practice sessions. Practice schedules for May 22/27 and June 3. Bishop will be available for pictures between events with translators for the families.

### **Actions:**

1. Need list of priests who will attend. Clergy support from participating parishes is important due to the non-traditional space, to help the families. Priests must contact Fr. Joseph at 223-1562 and [jbenedict@sfoasj.org](mailto:jbenedict@sfoasj.org)
2. Deanery would like to consider doing this event every year, provided this year is a success. Full support from participating parishes is essential.



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3. Conduct a post event evaluation of the event in June, followed by a decision in August so that participating parishes can report this decision to the Confirmation directors allowing them to inform families when joining the Confirmation program.

### **Will Sousae reported on Loyola New Orleans CSS Seminars**

This is a Masters Degree equivalent program for parish key staff leaders and clergy addressing topics that are particularly important to this deanery. The deanery has supported the program for the past four years, but unless continued parish support is given, the program will be terminated.

The two-day courses are given every other month at local parishes and the cost per course is approximately \$175.00. The Coop can make money if more than fifteen attendees can be fielded next year. Currently, Joe Swyt has completed four of the six sessions leading to a specialized certificate in "Parish Life and Administration". Father Brocato, Brother Jim Sanders and Joe Swyt attended the conference on Stewardship in January, one which every parish should have had several key staff and leaders attending.

### **Actions:**

1. Pastors are asked to review the program materials handed out and decide on support
2. Pastors will report to Will Sousae at the next Deanery meeting the number of individuals that will attend from their parish for the coming year.

### **Will Sousae reported on the results of the Lay Ministry Formation event**

The Lay Ministry Formation event was a success and participation for this first run exceeded expectations. Overall, 362 people from eight parishes attended the February 21-22 and March 14-15 sessions.

There were 126 who attended all sessions and received a certificate. There were 144 in the English session, 121 in the Vietnamese session and 97 in the Spanish language session.

Donations from participants were \$2,656, expenses were \$5,913 and the Cooperative funded the deficit of \$3,257.

### **Actions**

1. For information, contact Will Sousae at [wsousae@sfoasj.org](mailto:wsousae@sfoasj.org)
2. The next session will be held in the fall.



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### **Will Sousae and Joe Swyt reported on the Cooperative Stewardship Program**

Integration of the spirit of Stewardship in each parish followed by the execution of a successful Stewardship campaign in the fall is critical to each parish, critical to the identification and involvement of lay leaders and critical to improving the financial status of each parish.

Joe Swyt contacted the team who organized and conducted the Loyola CSS Stewardship to put on a similar seminar for the Cooperative parishes in the summer, followed by a Workshop in September for each parish's Stewardship Teams in preparation for their fall campaigns.

Will indicated that a kickoff meeting was held the prior night at St. Francis with representatives from MHT, SMG, OLG and SFOA. The team agrees with the concept and wants to coordinate the seminar.

The seminar would be held in July or August, for a Fri/Sat or Saturday session, and would be a continuation of the Ministry Formation Program, focusing on spiritual development, and the discipleship of Stewardship.

The message is "Reorient your life to live life more fully, by strengthening your relationship with God." Each parish is invited to send 20 to 30 staff, clergy and key lay leaders who will form the nucleus of the parish stewardship team.

### **Actions:**

1. Pastors to send lay leaders, clergy and staff to the next organizing meeting in late May
2. Will Sousae will inform pastors of the time and place for the meeting
3. The organizing team will coordinate the implementation of the team
4. Pastors will insure that parish attendees will attend the session(s)

### **Fr. John reported on "Generations of Faith"**

As an introduction, the following is an excerpt from the GOF website  
[www.generationsofffaith.org](http://www.generationsofffaith.org)

#### **Volume One: Sharing the Faith Story through the Church Year**

If you are looking for a new approach to faith formation that involves everyone in the parish community in learning and growing through their experience and participation in church life, then Generations of Faith is designed for you. This is a new and innovative intergenerational approach to Catholic faith formation for parish and home that utilizes the entire course of the church's life as the faith formation curriculum for all ages and all generations.

Volume One of Generations of Faith provides learning activities for all ages around Advent-Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, and All Saints. These programs and



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activities prepare the whole parish for meaningful participation in the feast or season, and help people to reflect and grow through their experience. Each feast or season includes provides preparation programs for children, adolescents, and adults; as well as family-centered and intergenerational program models. Each feast or season includes a variety of home activities: rituals, prayers, learning activities, service projects, and family enrichment activities.

Generations of Faith comes in a two-binder format with a CD-ROM and includes the philosophy and tools for developing an intergenerational whole church model of faith formation; reproducible learning activities for all generations for Advent-Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, Pentecost, and All Saints Day; and reproducible home activities for each season of the Church Year that are correlated with the seasonal learning activities. The CD-ROM provides all of the activities in a digital format, so that you can easily revise any of the activities for use in your parish. You can use the digital version to publish activities on your parish web site or to send them via e-mail.

### **Volume Two: Celebrating Sacraments**

Volume Two of Generations of Faith: Celebrating Sacraments emphasizes the formational power of sacramental celebrations to nurture and deepen the faith life of all members of the community. Celebrating Sacraments is liturgical catechesis-utilizing the sacramental rites of the Catholic Church as the focus for the learning programs-preparing all ages and all generations for more meaningful participation in the Church's sacramental life and for practicing sacramental living.

Celebrating Sacraments provides programs, activities, ideas, and strategies for parish and home to prepare all ages and all generations for meaningful participation in the sacramental life of the church, to engage members in the celebration of the sacraments, and to reflect on the significance and meaning of the sacraments for their lives as Catholics. Celebrating Sacraments provides a variety of activities to nurture and support individuals and families in living out the meaning of the Church's sacramental experiences in their daily lives. Celebrating Sacraments provides preparation programs for children, adolescents, and adults; as well as family-centered and intergenerational program models. Each sacrament includes a variety of home activities: rituals, prayers, learning activities, service projects, and family enrichment activities.

Celebrating Sacraments comes in four 1" reproducible binders with all of the parish and home activities already designed for easy use.

- Binder 1: Eucharist
- Binder 2: Reconciliation
- Binder 3: Baptism and Confirmation
- Binder 4: Anointing and Funerals

The CD-ROM provides all of the contents of Volume 2 in a digital format, so that you can easily revise any of the activities for use in your parish. You can use the digital version to publish home activities on your parish web site.



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Fr. John encouraged all pastors to consider GOF as a family friendly, home based faith, integrated formation program that is especially relevant to this deanery. The cost is minimal at \$275 per volume per parish.

An orientation meeting is scheduled for all parishes to attend at St. Francis on Friday, September 5, 2003 from 9 am to 12 noon, with a possible launch in late fall.

### **Comments:**

1. Fr. Kevin expressed concern about major new initiatives including flameout or loss of motivation and interest after launching the program
2. Fr. Rene indicated that this project is of interest because of the home study aspect, and OLG lack of facilities
3. Fr. Joseph commented that this is needed because of the shifting from Priest as service provider to community as deliver of services and that parishes and clergy now need to allow for that shift.
4. Fr. Norman asked how does the GOF program integrate/correlate with Stewardship, an essential parish ministry for SJB
5. Fr. Art commented, along Fr. Joseph's line of thinking, that homilies on vocation should address the idea that all are called and vocations are for everyone

### **Actions:**

1. Before the next Deanery meeting, Will and Fr. John will contact all pastors to determine level of interest
2. At the next Deanery meeting, confirm interest and decide on next step for all
3. Pastors to have key decision makers in their parish review the GOF website to understand the program

### **Fr. John discussed Convalidation**

Fr. John and Fr. Brocato will meet during the Study week to plan an English/Spanish program, including Canon Law presentation. SMG, SJV, CTK, SFOA indicated support.

### **Actions:**

1. Fr. John and Fr. Brocato will develop plan
2. Follow up with participating pastors
3. Establish dates

### **Fr. Kevin and Reorganization of Priest's Council**

Clergy have already received announcement. Further discussions scheduled at study week in San Juan.



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### **Fr. John and need for Youth programs**

City budget cuts will terminate various youth programs. Discussion needed on what will be the response from the parishes to provide alternative programs and keep kids off the street.

#### **Actions:**

1. More discussion needed

### **Fr. Kevin presented Spirit Site**

Fr. Kevin introduced the Spirit Site, a Spirituality Center offering seminars on prayer, instruction and retreats for all members of the deanery. He has established a schedule of these offerings over the next six months and asked for support of the clergy in promoting them in their parish bulletins.

Elaine Swyt created a flyer to be used by the parishes in promoting the offerings.

#### **Actions:**

1. Joe and Elaine Swyt will mail a CD of the one page brochure to the pastors
2. Pastors will use the CD to generate brochures and post them in the offices and church vestibules and include as handouts with the bulletin

### **Future Agenda Items:**

1. Fr. Larry: How to share facilities for Filipino devotions
2. All: What is the diocesan response to the Guadalupe Episcopal Mission that is recruiting and confusing Hispanic members of our churches by calling itself Catholic. Pastor said he would close down when our parishes can deal with the large numbers now attending services there.
3. Fr. Kevin: SMG can no longer fund the Santee Mission. Will the Diocese take it over?
4. Fr. John: What do we do about the current major limitation in facilities all the parishes have and our inability to serve and minister to a growing population?