



# MULTIPARISH COOPERATIVE SERVICE GROUP

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

November 10, 2002

**DRAFT**

To: Pastors and Parochial Vicars of Southeast Deanery  
From: Fr. Kevin Joyce  
Re: **Minutes of Deanery Clergy Meeting**  
Friday, November 8, 2002 at Christ the King rectory

## **Next Meeting**

With clergy and staff on December 13, 2002  
11:00 to 2:00 PM  
St. Francis of Assisi Gathering Space

## **MINUTES**

Attendees: Fathers Ballard, Benedict, Brocato, Hendel, Juarez, Joyce, Sony, and Segovia (Loi and ?)  
Regrets: Fr. Perata

Fr. Joyce opened the meeting with prayer and hymn. Minutes of October 18 deanery minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented. Four agenda items were added:

- a) Advent services
- b) Parish assistance for St. Vincent DePaul
- c) Composition of personnel board
- d) Priest Council executive session on gay priests/seminarians

Fr. Rico, Interim Director of Cemetery, presented marketing campaign to make Catholic cemeteries more market focused, competitive and aligned to major cultures in the diocese. Outlined plan to provide Diocese with \$1.5 million annual cash contribution possibly lowering future ADA/Cathedraticum demands on parishes. Offered parishes \$500.00 annual cash benefit to place Cemetery listing on front page of bulletin. Requested parishes to schedule parish weekend for education and pre-need planning supported by the cemetery staff.

## **Nov. 6 Dean's Meeting with Bishop McGrath.**

Fr. Joyce summarized the key points of this meeting with the Bishop:

- Bishop's concern about the lifting of the statute of limitations. Starting January 1 through December 31, the Diocese can be sued at any time for prior issues. All assets of the Diocese could be at risk. At this time there are no pending cases. Fr. Norman observed that the rank and file in the parishes may not be as affected by the sexual abuse issue as may be thought by the Diocese.

{For reference please see following: **Amendment SB1779**}



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**Damages: childhood sexual abuse: statute of limitations** would suspend for one year (January 1, 2003-December 31), 2003, the statute of limitations for civil action to recover damages for abuse if the employer of the alleged abuser should have known or had reason to know but failed to take reasonable action to avoid future cases of sexual abuse. It also changes the statute of limitations to three years from the date of discovery of the abuse. }

- The Bishop is conducting a listening session with all priests on December 3 and Our Lady of Peace from 1:00 to 4:00 PM on the topics of celibacy and homosexual admissions to the seminary. Attendance is optional.
- Msgr. Pat Browne requested a meeting between the Bishop and pastors on the fairness of ADA, penalization on success of parishes, questions on the Diocesan tax. Tentatively scheduled for January.
- Fr. Joyce outlined the funding of deaneries that need adjunct staff to implement the Diocesan Plan within the deanery. Tentatively scheduled for January.
- All priests of the Diocese are invited to the Bishop McGrath home for Christmas celebration on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## Items added to the agenda:

- Advent reconciliation service requirements. Individuals volunteered. Each pastor kept his own record.

Parish	Dec Date	Time	Language	Requirements
CTK	10	7:00	S	3 Spanish
CTK	11	7:00	E	OK
MHT	10	7:00	S, E, V	2 Viet, 1 Spanish
OLG	16	7:00	S, E	1 Bilingual (S/E),
SE	19	7:30	S, E, V	2 Viet; 1 Spanish
SFOA	19	7:30	E	7 priests
SJB	11	7:30		OK
SJV	TBS	TBS		2 English, 1 Spanish
SMG	20	7:30	S, E, V	10 priests: 3 Viet, 4 Sp. 2 English

- **Parish assistance for St. Vincent DePaul**  
Due to the poor economy, there is a desperate and growing need for extra funds at SMG to serve the poor. In the past the normal need was \$4,000 but that has increased to over \$7,500. All parishes reported that they also have similar needs and none have excess funds.

**Action:** Fr. Benedict recommended that parishes in need such as SMG And OLG team up with other west side parishes for financial support in an adopt a parish program.



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- **Composition of personnel board.**  
**(Do not have notes on the discussion or outcome)**
  
- **Priest Council executive session on gay priests/seminary**  
Concern was raised on the potential of scapegoat of gay priests and gay seminarians as a result of a lack of public support from Diocesan leadership and other authoritative bodies within the Church. Who is to defend them against being maligned and who will counter the anti-gay sentiments of conservative spokesmen like Cardinal Bevilacqua?

### Deanery Cooperative

Joe Swyt reported on the status of the Cooperative and the pastors assumed responsibility for governance of the Coop. The Coop raised \$8,500.00 from four parishioners and now has a balance of \$8,200.00 following payment for hospitality costs of the last deanery meeting. The grant writers are finalizing the diocesan funding request and the final draft will be sent to the pastors for their review before the Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>.

### Cooperative Priorities on Collaboration

The ideas for parish collaboration that were presented at the October Staff Deanery meeting were reviewed the pastors set the following items as priorities for Coop efforts:

1. Cultural Diversity is the most pressing issue facing parishes in the Southeast Deanery and contains many challenges, two of which are:
  - a. From the perspective of the parish:
    - i. Changing demands on clergy, staff, youth, social justice ministries and lay leader development.
    - ii. Changing demands on stewardship, facilities and administration
  - b. From the perspective of the parishioner:
    - i. Anglo parishioners are being edged out, as minority cultures become the majority.
    - ii. How does four major cultures (Hispanic, Filipino, Vietnamese and Anglo) appreciate the sacraments individually, collectively and among cultures?

**Action:** Fr. Joyce, Fr. Ballard and Fr. Brocato will summarize these issues in a prolog at the next deanery meeting that will be devoted to this issue.

2. Complete an analysis on a parish-by-parish basis of fee schedules and sacramental policies. Once completed the parishes will decide on standardization among parishes.

**Action:** Joe and Marefel will coordinate this effort with the parishes with the first meeting scheduled in December and completion expected in January/February



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3. Complete an inventory analysis of Deanery wide human resources including clergy and key staff members that will identify the gifts and talents in the parishes  
**Action:** This effort will start in December with February completion
4. Schedule and implement a series of monthly roundtable luncheons for Business Mangers, bookkeepers and accountants to foster discussions on technology, policies, procedures and best practices or what works at each parish.  
**Action:** Joe and Marefel will coordinate the first meeting in December.
5. Develop a program to foster Lay Leadership formation with seminars on the Catholic Faith and formation integral to ministry.  
**Action:** Requires a coordinator and implementation plan
6. Some pastors stated that they needed to install the basic infrastructure of finance, bookkeeping and stewardship.  
**Action:** Joe and Marefel are available as consultants
7. Assess the basic needs of parishes and their current status in the areas of Youth, Lay Leadership, Finance and Information Technology.  
**Action:** Assessment will start in December

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM