

Minutes
Rocky Mountain Regional Council Meeting
28 January 2010, 7-9 pm
Light of Christ

In attendance: Sheila Dierks, Tom Stumpf, Laura Strom and Jude Biggs. Chuck Howard was absent.

Opening Prayer/Meditation: Laura led the group in the opening prayer.

Instruction to Visitors/General Facilitation: Tom facilitated the meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Communications:** Jude explained that she had hoped to have a draft newsletter ready for review for the meeting, but Sharon Taylor’s work schedule had gotten very busy and so the newsletter was delayed. Jude hopes to have a draft ready for the next meeting.
- **Strategic Plan/Business:** Chuck has provided information on the Strategic Plan and business issues at the past several meetings. Before leaving town, he indicated he did not have any additional information or updates for the Council.
- **Episcopacy:** The majority of the meeting was spent on talking about the issue of the episcopacy. Laura said that so far, Sheila Dierks, Bill Wycoff and Laura are on the committee and they hope others will join. David Kenney may be interested and she will confirm. Holy Family is looking for a participant. Laura hopes the first committee meeting will be to discuss visits to parishes to “take their pulse” and to get the communities’ input and facts/background on the issue. She admitted that the episcopacy is a complicated issue that needs to be presented in a well organized, thoughtful way that is not geared to any outcome. Nothing is cast in concrete. She noted that Father Don had sent a lengthy message on the issue to the delegates and Council, and Father Len has responded. She indicated that most of the pastors would like a pastor. And at least initially and based upon the survey that was taken at the delegates meeting in October, it appears the delegates *may* support the idea of having a Bishop, with the understanding that a Bishop would be a pastor to the pastors and would be selected by the region. Nonetheless, there are strong pro and con opinions on the issue and everyone (all members in the region, not just delegates) should have a chance to have input. There was a lot of discussion concerning the survey, that the order of its questions and other features may cause survey takers to lean towards support for a Bishop in this region. Father Don spoke to that issue and urged the Council to revise the survey substantially, not just “tweak” it. Some felt the survey was a useful tool to help people talk about the issues; the key is that the process with the communities should focus on ways to educate and get input. There was some discussion about whether or not the survey should precede education or the other way around. Others on the Council felt it was important to have a written job description so that, when members are asked how they feel about having a bishop, they know what the job would entail (and what it would not entail). The Council members agreed the region will probably not have a decision by the Synod and that there is no need to

rush a decision, particularly with the addition of several bishops to the ECC. Laura and Sheila will continue to work on the information packet (including a refined survey) and presentation for communities, will meet as a committee over Lent, and then will schedule meetings with parishes thereafter. Father Don suggested that the materials be shared first with the leadership councils of each parish and to include local leadership in the presentation of materials. Tom thanked Laura and Sheila for their hard work.

Follow-up Reports:

- **Delegates' Response to RMRC Letter:** Jude said there was no response, but the delegates have clarified (through Chuck who attended the delegates meeting) that the delegates have a consensus on the make up and process for filling openings on the Council (as provided in the Council's founding document).
- **Discernment Day:** Tom said he would organize the discernment meeting, including finding a new date for it, a place, and a facilitator. Since the Council meeting was held on January 28, the Discernment Day has been set for March 27 from 9AM-12PM at COB.

Next Month's Topics: committee reports (communications, business and episcopacy) and a report on the discernment day,

Closing Prayer: Jude closed the meeting with a short prayer.

Upcoming Events: Next RMRC Meeting, Thursday 25 February 2010, 7-9 pm, LOC
Discernment Day, Saturday, 27 March 2010, 9AM-12PM, COB.