

# **Northlake Deanery Lay Council**

## **Minutes of the May 10, 2010 Meeting**

Father Orlinski, Dean of Northlake Deanery, opened the meeting with prayer. The following parishes had representatives at the meeting: St. John Bosco, Sacred Heart, E.C., All Saints, St. Patrick, St. John the Baptist, and Holy Trinity Croatian.

Father Orlinski talked about the various Councils in the Diocese, and how they were interrelated. He stated that the Priest Council was the most direct advisory group to the Bishop. The Priests Deanery and the Lay Deanery Council provided insights to the Bishop and Priest Council on particular subjects. He also explained that there are five Deaneries in the Diocese, each with its own issues, but there is also similarities of issues among the five. Clusters, a small group of parishes, can be formed within each Deanery.

He then asked how can this Council address the issues in this Deanery? How can we work together as parishes? There is currently some clustering, primarily liturgical. Reconciliation services are celebrated by clusters within the Deanery, and Anointing Mass and Missions are sometimes shared within a cluster of parishes.

In answer to Fathers question, how can the parishes within the deanery address important issues and work together, the members made the following comments and suggestions:

- **Faith enrichment – programs for adults that could include all the parishes in the deanery.**
- **Develop Commissions on the cluster level.**
- **Have the parish bulletin be by cluster.**
- **The Council become a catalyst for bringing the cultures of the Deanery into dialogue.**

The latter idea generated considerable discussion. Suggestions included:

1. Assure that the Hispanic parishes are represented at the Council.
2. Share cultural traditions with one another at the Council table.
3. Discern ways to share these traditions and rituals with members of the Deanery parishes.
4. Help parishes to be open to the traditions and rituals of all the cultures within the Deanery – especially liturgical rituals.
5. The Northlake Deanery is probably 50% Hispanic now and it is growing. Can this Council work with the parishes to find a comfortable common ground where all are welcome, and understanding begins?

The latter question will be on the agenda for the next meeting. **The next meeting is on Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. at St. John Bosco Parish. The meeting will be in the cafeteria of the school. Please enter from the North side of the school building.**

