

**The Bishop John S. Cummins Institute  
for Catholic Thought, Culture and Action  
Saint Mary's College of California**

**Meeting: Tuesday, 11 December 2007  
MINUTES**

Present:

Kara Boatman, Jane Camarillo, Alexis Doval, David Gentry-Akin, Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, Scott Kier, Brother Donald Mansir, FSC, Ron Olowin, Norrie Palmer, Jennifer Pigza, Brother Michael Sanderl, FSC, Carole Swain, Frances Sweeney, Darcy Tarbell, Ted Tsukahara, Marshall Welch.

Absent with Notice:

Megan Colla, Bishop John Cummins, Connor McNeill, Sharon Sobotta, Steve Woolpert.

1. After Brother Donald led the opening prayer, he welcomed Marshall Welch, the newly appointed Director of CILSA. Brother Donald also thanked Jennifer Pigza her participation on behalf of CILSA during the Fall semester.
2. Brother Donald welcomed Father Eugene Contadino, guest.
3. The November minutes were reviewed. Ron Olowin moved that they be approved as corrected [#4, line 6 "Any...."]. Approved 14 – 0 – 1.
4. Scott Kier distributed the monthly finance report noting that the only expense for the month was to Sodexo in the amount of \$88.66. He also reported that the Finance Committee had met to discuss the request from Brother Michael Sanderl. The Committee had several questions for Brother Michael. After some discussion and after Carole Swain offered an additional \$500 from her funding, the Board Ted Tsukahara moved that the Institute cover the application fees for each student who attends the Religious Education Congress and the common dinner, up to \$2,080. Scott Kier seconded the motion. Approved: 11-2-1.

During the discussion it surfaced that there might be a principle for funding included in the application; namely, that the Institute should not provide more funding for an event/project than applicant. The Finance Committee will review the application guidelines and make a recommendation to the Board for revision.

5. Brother Donald introduced Father Gene Contadino. Father provided a brief biographical sketch before discussing the impact of *Ex corde ecclesiae* at the University of Dayton. He described the process of the University to engage the entire campus community – from President to grounds keepers. He noted that it was particularly difficult to have people buy into the charism of their founder and religious congregation, but into what it means to be Catholic. Catholic has a spectrum of meaning and one's identity as Catholic is often self-defined. This

being said, it is important not to be overly accommodating since Catholic would lose all meaning. What is important is that people be allowed to say what they believe within the community, to join the conversation. Education takes place in community through civil discourse.

Father engaged the members in discussion. Comments included:

- The leadership of the President is critical
- There must be institutional events with promote Catholic identity:
  1. lectures by experts in the Catholic intellectual tradition
  2. awards given to faculty/staff persons who exemplify ideals of Catholic higher education
- The role of liturgy is important, of the sacramental life
- It might be worth examining the phrase “Catholic college” compared to “a college which is Catholic.”
- Cannot have a Catholic community without first having a community.
- It is important that the emphasis be on engaging rather than promoting.
- Retreats are worthwhile strategies

Brother Donald thanked Father for engaging the members in a lively and helpful conversation.

After refreshments, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 12 February 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Brother Donald Mansir, FSC  
Chair