

**THE BISHOP JOHN S CUMMINS INSTITUTE
FOR CATHOLIC THOUGHT, CULTURE AND ACTION**

Meeting: Tuesday, 11 March 2008

MINUTES

Present: Kara Boatman, Megan Colla, Bishop John Cummins, David Gentry-Akin, Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, Brother Donald Mansir, FSC, Father Thomas McElligott, Ron Olowin, Norrie Palmer, Brother Michael Sanderl, FSC, Sharon Sobotta, Darcy Tarbell, Marshall Welch, Steve Woolpert

Brother Donald opened the meeting with a prayer at 3:05pm

Brother Donald welcomed Father Thomas McElligott, appointed to complete the term of Alexis Doval who is on sabbatical for the remainder of the academic year.

Huether Conference Report

Pamela Thomas introduced the students who attended the Huether Conference: Lily Mandeville, Carolyn Morison, and Kyle Pounder. They gave a condensed version of their presentation at the Conference, described the benefits of attending the Conference, and expressed their gratitude to the Institute for supporting their participation at the Conference.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the December 2007 Minutes were approved. [12 – 0 -0]

Finance Report

Darcy Tarbell distributed the monthly report.

Brother Donald reported that the Committee met to review the request from the Intervarsity Club regarding the Katie Springer God and Science Forum. The request has been returned to the Club for revision.

Catholic Intellectual Tradition Conference

David Gentry-Akin reported on the conference with speaker Father James Heft, Director of the Advanced Catholic Studies Institute at the University of Southern California. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Students are certainly welcome.

Episcopal Lecture Series

Brother Donald reported that the inaugural lecture of the three-year Episcopal lecture series on what makes an education Catholic, based on Church documents, is scheduled for Saturday, 5 April. Archbishop Michael Miller will speak on *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*. All are welcome to the luncheon at 11:30am, the seminars conducted by Brother Ronald Gallagher and Brother Mel Anderson at 12:45pm, the lecture in LeFevre Theatre at 3:30pm, and Mass at 5:15pm in the College Chapel. While the John F. Henning Institute

has primary responsibility for the series, the Bishop Cummins Institute and the Saint Mary's College Brothers' Community are sponsors of the series.

Women's Resource Center

Sharon Sobotta announced a session to be held on women's concerns from a faith perspective, facilitated by Father Thomas McElligott, on 12 March at 4:30pm in Delphine Lounge.

Discussion on Liturgy and the Sacramental Life

Brother Charles Hilken, Norrie Palmer, and Brother Michael Sanderl facilitated the discussion on liturgy and the sacramental life. Readings had been distributed earlier as the starting point for the discussion. Remarks included:

- Liturgy is the heart of Catholic education. It is the core action.
- Liturgy includes eucharist, but not exclusively. It is the public worship of the Church
- People need to experience an encounter with Christ
- Do we need to adapt liturgy to the times or education people to better understand liturgy?
- Perhaps Lasallian/Santiago Communities inform us about how to engage students and faculty better in the sacramental life.
- Religious formation is necessary for the unchurched. We need to start where a person is, then move into the classroom in some way; then into the residence halls.
- Perhaps students who are engaged in service might be helpful, since they might better understand the context of public worship.
- How do we bring our colleagues on board?
- How do we structure liturgical life so it expresses its vitality and life enriching quality; so that it is attractive without diminishing the focus.
- Need to consider all of our celebrations and events liturgically!
- To what extent is it the faculty's responsibility to model the sacramental life?
- We cannot forget the importance of the Word of God when we consider the sacramental life.
- "Let us remember..." needs to be carried into all meetings and gatherings of the College community.

The discussion concluded with a concern about follow-up. All too often we have excellent discussions and then move on to a new topic. Therefore, it was agreed that some time would be set aside at the April and May meetings to continue the conversation about liturgy and the sacramental life. Brother Charles, Brother Michael and Norrie Palmer will continue to facilitate this discussion.

Some asked about a chat page so that members might continue conversations and so that those absent might be able to participate. Brother Donald will pursue the matter with Web Services.

It was also agreed that members would report at the April meeting on how they are making their classes sacramental and/or how they are trying to engage their colleagues in discussion on the Catholic intellectual tradition and topics under discussion.

Brother Donald adjourned the meeting at 5:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Brother Donald Mansir, FSC
Chair

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 8 April 2008