BISHOP JOHN S. CUMMINS, INSTITUTE
For CATHOLIC THOUGHT, CULTURE AND ACTION

Meeting: Tuesday, February 14, 2012

MINUTES

Present: Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, chair; Molly Allen, Kara Boatman, Jane Camarillo, Jeanne DeMatteo, Marie Lawler, Sue Marston, MarcAngel Nava, Carole Swain, Ted Tsukahara, Marshall Welch, Roy Wensley, Brother Martin Yribarren, FSC, Joe Zepeda, Sally Jamison, Administrative Assistant

Marshall Welch led the group in prayer, “Pondering the Heart of Our Work”.

Members discussed the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, "Towards Reforming the International Financial and Monetary Systems in the Context of Global Public Authority”. Brother Charles will provide minutes of the discussion for members to read and offer corrections.

Chair’s Report:

Brother Charles gave the Board an update on Shawn Copeland’s visit. She will arrive on March 13 in time for a discussion at the next Cummin’s meeting. There will be a lunch with students at noon on March 14th. The evening lecture will be at 7 pm in Hagerty Lounge on March 14th. Brother Charles shared that the title for the spring series will be “Announcing the Gospel, Modern Theologians at Work”. Student attendance will be an invite to Mission and Ministry, CILSA and Theology and Religious Studies.

Brother Charles reminded the group that the CSI students will be sharing their reflections on Sunday, February 19th at 4 pm in Hagerty Lounge. Marc Nava gave a report on his CSI trip to Naples (Scampia) and his stay at the Brother’s quarters.

There was a review by Brother Charles of two events, the January concert by “Coro Hispano”, sponsored by the Henning Institute and the CLAC (Catholic Liturgical Arts Committee) Conference on February 4th.

Brother Charles was able to speak to Archbishop Marcelo Sanchez-Sorondo while he was in Rome in January. The Archbishop, who is chair of the Pontifical Academy of Science and the Academy of Social Science, will be the
Montini Fellow lecturer on October 24, 2012. His topic will focus on what is at stake in Catholic higher education.

The next issue of *Veritas* is scheduled for mid March.

**Finance Report:**

Scott Kier asked Brother Charles to report in his absence. The Finance Committee met on 10 February. The Committee needs to revisit the budget to propose revisions for this spring. The Institute cannot sustain the current level of spending. Jeanne DeMatteo reiterated that endowment funds should be spent. The budget will need to revisited.

Brother Charles introduced a new funding proposal from Brother Peter Kombe, Saint Mary’s Boy’s Secondary School, Nyeri, Africa. The Finance Committee recommended $3,000 (of $11,000 requested) be allocated to the school to buy new mattresses. Brother Martin asked about the possibility of a school-wide funding campaign for the remaining monies. Marie suggested that there might be a connection to this and a presentation being given by Cia and Ben Mattress during De La Salle Week. Cia and Ben spent time in Nyeri and have made a video about the school. Carole will investigate the possibility. Roy asked who will be taking Brother Dominic Jordan’s place in regard to fundraising for the school. The application for funding of $3,000 for mattresses for Saint Mary’s Boys Second School in Nyeri was seconded and passed by the Board.

**New Business:**

Carole announced an upcoming lecture on April 12 from 7-8:30 in Hagerty, the Sanctity of Women’s Spirituality, to be delivered by Christauria Welland, Ph.D., a psychologist, who specializes in Latino family violence. Her perspective is being presented as an alternative perspective to women’s sexuality offered by Vagina Monologues. Sponsors for the event include Office of Mission, Women’s Resource Center, Intercultural Center, Mission and Ministry Center and others yet to be named.

Carole gave a brief report about the 2012 ACCU Conference in Washington DC. A keynote address delivered by Professor of Political Science David Campbell of Notre Dame University was noteworthy. Author of the book “American Grace”, David spoke to the topic of how religion divides and unites us. We have sharp political divisions, yet as individuals the majority of
Americans are tolerant of people of other faith traditions. She recommends that we consider inviting Professor Campbell to be a speaker for our Cummins spring series 2013.

Eboo Patel, SMC 2009 interfaith speaker, challenged attendees to move Interfaith from a niche to a norm on our campuses. Multicultural education, Community Engagement and Service Learning are norms in higher education; let’s make Interfaith a norm.

Brother Charles then opened up a discussion to debrief the lecture by the October, 2011 Montini Fellow, Dick Yanikoski. Marshall felt that the richness of the lecture could have been lost because of the scope of seven tensions. It was suggested that in the future it would be helpful to let speakers know why they were invited and in this manner prepare them to address our needs.

It was pointed out that Dick Yanikoski was encouraging us at Saint Mary’s to have the conversations around the tensions that he identified. Members complimented his comments re hiring for mission.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, 13 March, 2012