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

Saint Mary’s College of California

Meeting, April 10, 2012

Present: Bishop John Cummins, Seefurth Chair; Brother Charles Hilken, FSC, Chair; Sally Jamison, Administrative Assistant; Jane Camarillo, Molly B. Allen, Joe Zepeda, David Gentry-Akin, Carole Swain, Scott Kier, Richard Carp, Sue Marston, Marshall Welch, Roy Wensley, Marie Lawler, Ted Tsukahara, Brother Martin Yribarren

Opening Prayer: Brother Charles led the members in the opening prayer, “In the semblance of the gardener”.

Discussion: Members then discussed "The Christian Idea of Man" by Josef Pieper.

Correction and Approval of Minutes: Sue Marston was added to members present for the March minutes. Minutes were then approved.

Bishop John’s Report: There is a diocesan event in the planning which would celebrate both the Second Vatican Council (‘The Meaning of the Council’) and the Year of Faith. The date is October 11. A possible speaker is Massimo Faggioli.

Chair’s Report:

Brother Charles led a review of the recent talk and visit of Shawn Copeland. At a CCIE meeting Brother Charles had emphasized that Shawn gave a theological perspective to affirmative action. He reminded CCIE members why it is important to have theologians on campus.

The question of how to get more students to attend talks on campus was raised. This particular audience with Shawn remained
for a question and answer session that gave students an opportunity to shift the focus as well as extend Shawn’s discussion. Brother Martin suggested that times for visiting speakers be coordinated to class times to increase student participation.

Brother Charles reported to members that Shawn was grateful for the opportunity. He thanked David Gentry-Akin and Marshall Welch for the original suggestion to invite Shawn to speak on campus.

**Member Announcement:**

Richard Carp spoke about the Initiative for Contemporary Catholic Thought and Sustainability. He believes that sustainability (or resilience) is the most pressing practical and spiritual concern of the coming century, and that there is a prophetic responsibility to respond to it. The purpose of the initiative is to bring us and our students into conversation and interaction with the range and depth of conversation about resilience among contemporary Catholic intellectuals. Beyond this, the purpose is to help us reflect and act wisely, now, on behalf of the well being of humanity (and indeed all of earthly creation) into the future.

Richard suggested that Cummins might sponsor a conference of these Catholic intellectuals, as the first phase of a process that would enable us to become a host of the world conversation of religions as it pertains to resilience. We would apply to the Templeton Foundation for funds to kick off that larger project, while we would seek other sources, both at SMC and in the larger Catholic world, to host the initial conference.

Brother Charles asked for possible members to sign up to work with Richard. Sue Marston and Bishop Cummins offered to assist. Brother Charles suggested an inventory of departmental interests, which Richard agreed is a good idea.
Mission and Ministry Announcement:

Molly Allen reported on the “border crossing” on campus preliminary to the “Border Life” immersion during Holy week. Sister Jodi Min, along with Marie Lawler, accompanied students on a trip to the Tucson area to familiarize them with the complications of border questions.

Marie announced that Sunday, April 15, is Initiation Sunday at the College. She then gave a synopsis of De La Salle Week, April 22-29. The theme of the week is “Together and By Association”.

Roy Wensley mentioned that Christopher Jones, science faculty, will be receiving the De La Salle Award at the Alumni Awards Dinner on Saturday, April 28.

Members were encouraged to attend events, including the Convocation honoring Brother Gustavo Ramírez Barba.

Office of Mission Announcement:

Carole Swain reminded the Board that Christauria Welland will be on campus April 11-13. Her talk, Catholic and Sexual: Not an Oxymoron, will be on Thursday, April 13 in Hagerty Lounge.

Carole announced that a Mission Assessment Team will be at Saint Mary’s College April 18-20 to review the Mission Assessment Document prepared by members of a campus task force.

Finance Report:

Scott distributed the Finance Report. He outlined expenses for the past year fiscal year.

Next Meeting: 8 May, 2012