

## DPC PLENARY SESSION REPORT

March 31st's plenary session was fantastic! What a sense of community the 60 or so participants displayed at St. Mary of the Angels in Ukiah. Bishop Walsh delivered a concise statement on the state of the diocese. It's doing fine in most areas especially in finance and education. Deirdre Frontczak, editor of the North Coast Catholic, outlined her work in putting the quarterly together. She asked for input from the DPC as they discuss their role in the diocese and the parishes. After a brief break that saw a lot of coffee and danish consumed and some networking done. Then is time for Bob Leet, the keynote speaker, presented insights on evangelization and the role the laity is being called upon to play in bringing the Gospel, the Good News to the world.

Evangelization is the sharing God's love which we have received through Jesus Christ. What we received in baptism is the gift of that love which God wills for all people! That love became human when God came to us in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus left us the great gift of the Eucharist, HIMSELF, when at the Last Supper he changed bread and wine into his body and blood. This great gift allows us to share in the divine mystery which so many Scripture based churches cannot provide.

After the keynote, everyone gathered at tables of 10 to talk and share their experience based upon some prepared questions. Some really good suggestions were made about where and how evangelization should begin. After lunch, another series of questions were discussed, among them "What does the Catholic faith have to offer people today?"; another was "How do you respond to the statement 'all religions are the same?'" No one seemed to want to finish up when time was called but 3 o'clock had rolled around and some had long distances to travel home.