



## Voice of the Faithful® 2014 Assembly

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Connecticut Convention Center – Saturday, April 5, 2014

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### Workshops

#### **Financial Accountability: Where Does Your Money Go?**

- **Parish Level – Tools for Securing Collections // Room #14**

The number of people having lone, unobserved access to the average parish's Sunday collections—or a portion thereof—before the money is counted and deposited would leave even the greenest auditor aghast. What simple steps can you take to secure your parish's collections from basket to bank and all points between? **Michael W. Ryan**, who wrote *Nonfeasance: The Remarkable Failure of the Catholic Church to Protect Its Primary Source of Income*, will give you the tools you need.

- **Diocese Level – Transparency & Accountability in Diocesan Finances The Montana Hustle Case Study // Room #12**

A portion of your parish collection goes to your diocese, where your bishop oversees finances. What happens if a bishop fails to ensure that all donations support “good works” and the mission important to your community? We'll hear first-hand about a rural Montana parish whose pastor misused funds and is accused of child sexual abuse, but whose bishop will not pursue full justice. We'll learn how the Parish Finance Council doggedly pursued the truth—and challenged the bishop. And we'll talk about new tools VOTF is developing to help you understand diocesan finances.

#### **Clericalism // Room #15**

Clericalism is a principal cause of clergy sex abuse and its coverup. And lay people are part of the problem. What *is* clericalism, and how do we recognize the signs and remove this primary obstruction to collegial lay participation in our Church? Pope Francis has decried clericalism. Let's help him root it out.

#### **Priestless Parishes: There IS An Answer // Room #16**

Mandatory celibacy limits the priesthood and reduces the availability of the Eucharist. But bishops too often prefer to close parish communities and import foreign-speaking priests rather than open the priesthood. How did we get into this situation? And how do we open the doors again to a priesthood embracing the celibate and the married?

#### **Female Voices // Room #11**

Papal praise for the “female dimension” in the Church is NOT the same as equality. Can women hope for equal opportunity from a male hierarchy trapped in a patriarchal mindset? How do we change the equation in a Church that too often positions women only in a mother or helper role? Join us and our experienced “conversation starters” as we seek to answer these questions.

#### **Survivor Support: What You Can Do // Room #17**

Sexual trauma or clergy betrayal often leave scars that necessarily involve rejecting church hierarchy and structure. But the need for non-clerical spirituality continues and can be found. **Fr. Tom Doyle** will lead this discussion into exploring ways of healing and fulfillment that go beyond institutions and clerical control.

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