

## In the Vineyard

April 19, 2007

"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." *Psalm 119: 22*

**In this issue**, readers will note *hope* for justice in Alaska and Delaware; *concern* for justice in New York NY, Portland OR and San Diego CA; and *acts* toward justice in VOTF affiliates from Twin Cities MN to Bridgeport CT. VOTF invites you to share your own hopes, concerns and acts for justice - write to [pthorp.ed@votf.org](mailto:pthorp.ed@votf.org).

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**VOTF National Representative Council** has passed a resolution calling for ecclesial review of mandatory celibacy for diocesan priests. Read the full text and voting tally [here](#). [For a listing of the 55 dioceses now openly discussing priestly celibacy, go to [www.futurechurch.org](http://www.futurechurch.org).]

**AFFILIATE Highlights:** Twin Cities, Minnesota will sponsor a discussion on "Voices of Hope: Educating About Nuns Who Sexually Abuse Within the Catholic Community." Read more [here](#).

### DIOCESE/State Watch:

**Eyes on New York Archdiocese of Rockville Center: An abuse trial** before the jury in State Supreme Court in Nassau County began on Monday April 16. The case involves a youth minister, not a priest. According to the *New York Times* of April 16, "A rare civil trial involving sexual abuse and the Roman Catholic Church ... is noteworthy not only for its potential for disturbing testimony, but also for the fact that it has gotten this far at all. Despite thousands of complaints of sexual abuse of children involving the Catholic Church in the United States in recent years, few have resulted in court cases, and most of those never come to trial. A vast majority of the abuse lawsuits ended in settlements, with the victims and the accused spared the embarrassment of testifying." *New York Times* subscribers can access the story at

[http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/16/nyregion/16church.html?\\_r=1&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/04/16/nyregion/16church.html?_r=1&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin) or visit the Voice from the Desert blog at <http://voicefromthedesert.blogspot.com/2007/04/important-sex-abuse-trial-on-long.html>.

**VOTF California** reports welcome news: "The Archbishop of San Francisco, George Niederauer, has responded to San Francisco VOTF's request to appoint a liaison to further communication and cooperation between our organization and the Archdiocese." The Archbishop has asked VOTF to be involved in an upcoming lay convocation in the Northern California. VOTF San Francisco was instrumental in the planning of the gathering to take place in June of this year.

**Portland OR:** “With the approval of a bankruptcy reorganization for the Archdiocese of Portland expected . . ., church reformers fear that the archdiocese has succeeded in avoiding public accountability for decades of child sexual abuse by priests.” For a VOTF and SNAP perspective, see the *Register-Guard* at <http://www.registerguard.com/news/2007/04/16/a1.archbankadv.0416.p1.php?section=cityregion>.

**The Child Victims Act was passed by the Senate in Delaware and now awaits passage in the House.** According to VOTF members in Delaware the Delaware Catholic Conference did not mount opposition to the bill, which drew support from a strong coalition of supporters. VOTF Coastal Delaware’s John Sullivan had his letter supporting SB 29 published in the diocesan newsletter, alongside that of another supporter of the bill. Go to “The Dialogue” at <http://www.cdow.org/040507.pdf>. Also, read Fr. Tom Doyle’s Delaware testimony: TESTIMONY OF THOMAS DOYLE, J.C.D., C.A.D.C., IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 29, STATE OF DELAWARE on the VOTF web site.

Sadly, the **San Diego** diocese accounting system prompted, “a federal judge overseeing the bankruptcy proceedings . . .[to order] an outside accounting expert to sort through what she called, ‘the most Byzantine accounting system I have ever seen . . .’” The judge believes the accounting practices may have been “reckless” but “not malicious.”

Subscribers can access *The New York Times*, April 12 at

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Church-Abuse-Bankruptcy.html?\\_r=1&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-Church-Abuse-Bankruptcy.html?_r=1&oref=slogin). Earlier this month, the *Arizona Star* reported: “A Tucson attorney was scheduled to appear in federal court in San Diego today to defend herself against claims that her client, the Roman Catholic Diocese of San Diego, attempted to shift funds to parishes without court approval.” See <http://www.azstarnet.com/metro/177894>.

REMINDER: As noted in the April 5 *Vineyard* – **VOTF Bridgeport CT** and the chair of Catholic Studies at Fairfield University will present “Follow the Money: Financial Accountability in the Catholic Church” on Saturday April 28. For information, **click here**.

**Legislative action to protect children** is lively in several states: **Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho and Delaware**. For a quick look at articles/reports from these states and the Connecticut Attorney General’s written testimony, go to [www.snap-greatplains.org](http://www.snap-greatplains.org)

*To read additional DIOCESE/State Watch updates in Burlington VT; Bridgeport CT; and New York NY go to the navigation bar and click on DIOCESE/State Watch*

**BOOK Review:** VOTF’s Anne Southwood reviews Dr. Mary Gail Frawley-O’Dea’s book *Perversion Of Power: Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church*. Vanderbilt University Press, Nashville TN, 2007.

**Commentary** - former VOTF president and current VOTF trustee Jim Post comments on the recent recognition paid to David O'Brien by Holy Cross College. See "Called to Action: David O'Brien"

**LITURGICAL Reading:** Stan and Eileen Doherty offer a liturgical reading *plus*.

## **SITE-Seeing, Etc.**

MONDAY, April 23: Some events ARE *guaranteed* to stimulate. Boston College's Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Center will present "**Catholic Senators and Presidential Candidates: Their Faith and Public Policy**," once again moderated by Tim Russert. For more information and to register, go to <http://omc.bc.edu/c21faithandpolicy/>.

The ongoing discussion of "**The Church Women Want**," co-sponsored by the Catholic Common Ground Initiative, will be held at Graymoor Abbey, Garrison NY during a weekend retreat April 20-22. Fairfield University professor Elizabeth Dreyer will speak on "Medieval Women Mystics: Weird or Wonderful?" For details and registration, call (845) 424-2111 or visit [www.graymoorcenter.org](http://www.graymoorcenter.org). Cost: \$155 Single—\$110 per person double.

- Readers may want to weigh in on a female presence at the 2008 Synod "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." FutureChurch has everything you need to contact planners to support a place for women's voices as part of the Synod conversation. Go to [www.futurechurch.org](http://www.futurechurch.org).
- Phyllis Zagano is senior research-associate-in-residence in the religion department of Hofstra University, Hempstead NY, and author of *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church*. Her recent commentary in the *Worcester Telegram* addresses a return to the tradition of a female diaconate. Go to <http://www.telegram.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070404/NEWS/704040415&SearchID=73277348581941>.
- **Save the Date – August 17-19, 2007.** "Celebrating Catholic Feminist Ministries: A Women-Church Forum" at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago. For conference information, updates, and registration forms visit [www.women-churchconvergence.org](http://www.women-churchconvergence.org), email [wccconference2007@yahoo.com](mailto:wccconference2007@yahoo.com) or call (415)381-7144.

**Pope Benedict XVI** is taking up considerable print space in some major publications lately. The *New York Times* Sunday Magazine of April 8 and the April 2 issue of the *New Yorker* offer illuminating perspectives on this Pope's understanding of the Catholic Church in the world.

- Another perspective appeared in the April 16 issue of *Newsweek* <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17997101/site/newsweek/>. See "The Missing Pope."

FYI – "**Deliver Us From Evil**" will be available on DVD on May 8. Go to <http://imdb.com/title/tt0814075/>

For commentary on *American Catholics Today: New Realities of Their Faith and Their Church* by William V. D'Antonio, James D. Davidson, Dean R. Hoge and Mary L. Gautier go to <http://www.catholicnews.com/data/stories/cns/0701908.htm>.

*Commonweal* magazine article of April 6, 2007 considers why people leave the Church. Go to [http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php3?id\\_article=1896](http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php3?id_article=1896); another article expresses concerns over some reformers' "vengeance."

**Possibly, a CREATIVE Response on Behalf of Protecting Our Children: Diocese of Winona MN.** The Diocese of Winona ([www.dow.org](http://www.dow.org)) in partnership with Professional Learning Board ([www.professionallearningboard.com](http://www.professionallearningboard.com)) launched an interactive online learning community teaching members of the Catholic diocese about recognizing and reporting child abuse. Learn more at <http://www.dow.org/safe.html> and let us know what you think at [pthorp.ed@votf.org](mailto:pthorp.ed@votf.org).

**Voice control trumps dialogue again:** The April 6 issue of *National Catholic Reporter* offers a Wire Services perspective on the recently denounced Marquette University professor Daniel Maguire for writings that US bishops found "erroneous and incompatible with the church's teaching." Subscribers can see the full text at [http://ncronline.org/NCR\\_Online/archives2/2007b/040607/040607i.php](http://ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007b/040607/040607i.php). Maguire has been banned from speaking on church property in the diocese of Milwaukee; his tenure and academic freedom at Marquette remain in tact.

- In the same issue of NCR, see commentaries "Abuse crisis changes Catholic schools" and "Catholics must rethink parochial school system"

**QUOTE for our time:** Thanks to Janet Hauter, VOTF Chicago, for an Anne Lamott quote: "Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come."

*CORRECTION* to the April 5 issue of the *Vineyard*: Our new affiliate at Eastern Iowa VOTF is in Iowa, not Michigan as noted (although VOTF Kansas is, in fact, in Ohio!) Thanks to our readers for the catch.

## Book Review

*Perversion of Power: Sexual Abuse in the Catholic Church*

Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea, Vanderbilt University Press, Nashville TN, 2007

When accepting an invitation from American bishops to speak about effects of abuse in Dallas in 2002, Dr. Frawley-O'Dea was ignored by her own NY Bishop. After the publication of this book, ignoring her won't be easy. O'Dea is compelled to write from a perch of truth as she sees it.

Encouraged by Notre Dame theologian Richard McBrien to speak in Dallas, the author thanks him, *America* editor James Martin, S.J., Thomas P. Doyle, O.P. and other priests

for theological assistance. She notes they do not always agree. Why their perusal? O'Dea comes out of her traditional Irish Catholic upbringing swinging her lens wide. *Perversion of Power* explores Church culpability.

A March *National Catholic Reporter* book review faults O'Dea for failing to inform our understanding of psychopathological and other factors causing perpetrators to abuse minors. O'Dea doesn't limit this book to a perspective on victim/survivors and perpetrators. She holds Church power-based relational dynamics and atonement theology under a light. "Offer it up" valorization of suffering disturbs this psychoanalyst.

Though toughened by 25 years of clinical experience, O'Dea highlights the difficulty Catholics have with "bishops presiding over depravity" in admitting her own difficulty. The author follows the advice of former Link-up director Susan Archibald that healing is found in returning destructive emotions to rightful owners. She confronts the source of her pain. Ending each day with the *Abuse Tracker*, O'Dea knows the range of clerical abuse and roots it in systemic flaws. It is the abuse of power, facilitated by denial and secrecy and ensuing Church defense based on projection of blame. The author faults the refusal of American bishops to hold themselves responsible for their creation of child protection documents.

O'Dea fronts a figure closer to 50,000 minors abused over a 50 year period, based on her own experience and knowledge of unreported abuse. After a crisis overview in the first chapter, she asks readers to immerse themselves in "soul murder" of victims. She underscores lifelong abuse effects with a client quote. "It is something I've thought about every day of my life" is trumped by another quote about learning to adjust to "a nasty pet you've had all your life." This brings a survivor complaint of feeling different from anyone else home to the reader.

The author points to polygraph surveys of abusive priests to discount the early Church contention that most child abuse was a blip or misstep in vocation. The victims of many abusers can't be counted on both hands. O'Dea insists this is facilitated by the system. O'Dea adds the fact of an average age difference of at least 20 years between abuser and victim is another indication that sexual abuse has an orientation in power dynamics. When O'Dea moves to Church treatment of sexual desire and dualistic theology of sex, deficient in her opinion, she draws out the power dynamic thesis. Clerics are trapped in a conflation of surrender with submission, unable to develop a culturally normative adult male self image. She notes that sadism, related more to a drive for recognition and power than pleasure, may devolve from calcified relational templates.

There is real pastoral value for lay and cleric alike in the O'Dea call for less objectifying relational dynamics in our Church. Victims would not be treated as threats and accused clerics would not all be treated in the same way. O'Dea has changed her mind in disapproval of cutting an abusive priest off from his emotional home base. She now favors the approach of Religious Orders. There is also value in the last quarter of this book, a mini abuse reference and research library. *Anne Southwood*

[SEE DIOCESE/State Watch for VOTF New York invitation to hear Dr. O’Dea on May 7.]

## **NATIONAL Representative Council Update**

The VOTF National Representative Council adopts the following resolution as stated here:

Voice of the Faithful invites fellow Catholics, laity and clergy, to join us in calling upon the Holy See to conduct an ecclesial review of mandatory celibacy for diocesan priests. We call for this study to be conducted as a serious, extensive, unbiased review, utilizing the insights of history, modern psychology, sociology, and pastoral practice, of the discipline of celibacy in the Latin Rite. And we call for the study to be conducted without prejudging the outcome.

This public call inviting others, as individuals and groups, to join us, would coincide with a nationwide effort to engage Catholic laity through an exploration of the Current State of the Priesthood and its Ability to Meet the Needs of the Faith Community. This exploration would focus upon such things as access to the Eucharist for the laity, diocesan priests’ workload, lowering of standards for seminary candidates, priests’ morale, financial security issues for priests, the impacts of mandated celibacy, and the decline in vocations to the priesthood. This effort will be planned and implemented by the Priest Support Working Group of Voice of the Faithful, an international organization of Catholic laity.

### **Voting Total**

The total number of votes -- 22 -- exceeded the quorum required. The resolution was approved by more than a 2/3rds majority of the voting Representatives.

Yes = 20 (90.9%)

No = 2 (9.1%)

Abstain = 0

### **Voting Details**

*Voting Yes (20):*

### **Voting Details**

*Region 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT):*

Donna B. Doucette -- Yes

Ron DuBois -- Yes

John Marshall Lee -- did not vote

Jane Merchant -- did not vote

Bob Morris -- No

*Region 2 (NY):*

Dan Bartley -- Yes  
Sheila Peiffer -- Yes  
Ed Wilson -- Yes

*Region 3 (PA and NJ):*

Bud Bretschneider -- Yes  
Bill Culleton -- Yes

*Region 4 (DC, DE, MD, VA and WV):*

Chuck Miller -- Yes  
Rich Moriarty -- Yes

*Region 5 (AL, KY, LA, MS, and TN):*

Susan Vogt -- Yes

*Region 6 (OH and MI):*

Ed Friedl -- Yes  
Kris Ward -- Yes

*Region 7 (IL, IN, WI):*

Dee O'Neal -- Yes

*Region 8 (MN, ND, and SD):*

Bob Schwiderski -- No

*Region 9 (IA, KS, MO, NE):*

Bob Kaintz -- Yes

*Region 10 (TX, OK and AR):*

Lisa Kendzior -- Yes

*Region 11 (CA, HI, NV):*

Jim Jenkins -- Yes  
Hugh O'Regan -- Yes

*Region 12 (AK, ID, MT, OR, WA):*

Linda Mains -- Yes

*Region 13 (AZ, CO, NM, UT, WY):*

Frank Douglas -- Yes

*Region 14 (FL, GA, NC and SC):*

Doug Roach -- Yes  
Rosa Maria Montenegro -- did not vote

## **AFFILIATE Highlight: VOTF TWIN CITIES, Minnesota**

***“Voices of Hope: Educating about nuns who sexually abuse within the Catholic community”***

*Co-Sponsored by Twin Cities Voice of the Faithful, and Solidarity*

*Presentation by : Dr. Noel Larson, Ph.D., an expert in the treatment of sexual abuse and author of the NIC manual used as a treatment plan for female perpetrators in prisons.*

*Sharing of survivor’s experiences: Susan Pavlak, Solidarity Founder*

*Sharing of SSND’s and LCWR’s response to the issue: Sr. Catherine Bertrand, Provincial Leader, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Mankato, MN.*

*Question and Answer session*

***Location:*** *Lumen Christi Catholic Community, 2055 Bohland Av, St Paul, MN 55105. Admission is free. Freewill offerings will be taken.*

***Date:*** *Saturday, April 21 from 10:00 am - 12:30 pm*

The most important issue about this program is TC VOTF has brought together survivors of sexual abuse by nuns and Provincial Leaders of various religious orders of nuns. This will be the second such groundbreaking event within 5 months and indications are there may be Provincial Leaders from 6 religious orders of nuns at this event to open dialogue with victims. Bob Schwiderski, *Minnesota SNAP Director; National Representative Council – VOTF. Contact points: [skibrs@mchsi.com](mailto:skibrs@mchsi.com) and [www.SNAP-GreatPlains.org](http://www.SNAP-GreatPlains.org)*

## **LITURGICAL Reading**

### **Reflection for the Catholic Liturgical Readings**

[Acts 5:12-16 / Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 / Rev 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 / Jn 20:19-31]

04/15/07 ( <http://www.usccb.org/nab/041507.shtml>)

All reflections are posted to <http://SensusFidelium.org/page4.html>.

Submit your prayers and reflections for posting to [stan@sensusfidelium.org](mailto:stan@sensusfidelium.org).

Our first reading and gospel capture a wisp of time in the early history of Christianity,

specifically those days and weeks between Jesus' public crucifixion/resurrection and the waves of persecutions in Jerusalem driving His followers into hiding. The writer of *Acts* narrates how Jesus' disciples begin the work of building a community and a church by returning to Solomon's Portico in the Great Temple of Jerusalem. As did most teachers and rabbis in the Jewish tradition, Jesus probably spent a considerable amount of time at the portico preaching to crowds and engaging His listeners (and critics) in a faith dialog. To get a feel for the significance and context of what Jesus' disciples did in these early days, it is important to visualize the scene. The Temple compound in Jerusalem was not a set of buildings tucked away in the city; the walled compound constituted 20% of all real estate in Jerusalem and consisted of nested rings of courtyards for specific segments of the population. From the outer ring, we would have seen the Court of Gentiles (anyone), the Court of Israel (Jewish men and women), the Court of Jews (just men), the Court of Priests, and the innermost sanctuary, the Holy of Holies.

The Court of Gentiles alone was 30+ acres and could easily support a crowd of 5,000 individuals. The place where the Early Church gathers, Solomon's Portico, was an ornate, covered colonnade of white marble that ran along the outer wall of the Court of Gentiles. It was the most accessible, most public, most breezy, and most commercial area of the Temple. Although the disciples had been prohibited by the Temple Sanhedrin from preaching in the name of Jesus, they gather for many days at Solomon's Portico to preach, dialog, and perform charity (alms, healing) – all in the name of Jesus and under the scrutiny of hostile oppressors, the Roman garrison and Temple guards. From his balcony in the Roman fortress, Pilate could have observed Peter. The writer of *Acts* reports that as a result of their courageous and public gathering at the Temple, “the people esteemed them” and “more than ever, believers in the Lord, great numbers of men and women, were added to them.” Although the community would soon be persecuted and driven into hiding in Jerusalem, we are invited to savor that first image of them in those first weeks – openly preaching, debating, and doing charity in the name of Jesus. How well do we meet the same challenges and choose to stand witness at our local porticos?

## **DIOCESE/State Watch**

The statewide diocese of **Burlington VT** is still not up to speed on compliance with the U.S. bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" adopted by U.S. bishops five years ago. See the *Rutland Herald* at <http://www.rutlandherald.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070412/NEWS04/704120360/1004/NEWS03> and the *Burlington Free Press* at <http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070412/NEWS01/704120308/1009&theme=>.

**Bridgeport CT**: From the *Stamford Advocate*: “The Roman Catholic Church is fighting a proposal that would give alleged victims of sexual abuse 10 more years to come forward to prosecute or sue offenders. The bill would increase the statute of limitations for child sex crimes to 40 years after a victim turns 18, up from 30 years under current law.” See

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/local/scn-sa-abuse6apr05,0,1286626.story?coll=stam-news-local-headlines>.

- Also see coverage in the *Hartford Courant* at <http://www.courant.com/news/politics/hc-jessicaslaw0405.artapr05,0,7553062.story?coll=hc-headlines-politics-state>.

**Alaska:** Senate Bill 112 creates a one-year period in which civil action may be brought against felony sexual assault and sex abuse cases that are currently time barred by Alaska's statute of limitations laws. Alaska Senator Hollis French notes: "Alaska law was amended in 2001 to remove the statute of limitations for all felony sexual assault and sex abuse cases. Unfortunately, with this change, one class of victims remains left out: those who were assaulted while the old statute of limitations was in effect. SB 112 cures this injustice by allowing victims with legitimate claims the opportunity to have their day in court." From <http://voicefromthedesert.blogspot.com/2007/04/sol-reform-in-alaska-senate-bill-112.html>.

**VOTF New York:** With thanks to VOTF Francis Piderit for the following update:

Sunday Demonstration at St. Patrick's Cathedral by parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Angels outside St. Patrick's Cathedral beginning at 1:30PM to protest the closing of their parish. OLQA is asking for our support. Cardinal Egan will celebrate a Mass at 2PM to commence the Bicentennial 200th Anniversary Celebration of the Archdiocese of New York. We want to have good numbers of VOTF members in prayerful protest outside the cathedral, witnessing in support of Our Lady Queen of Angels, a parish that refuses to close quietly.

Tuesday Leadership Meeting with Mary Pat Fox to which all are invited.

Save the Date: Dr. Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea at St. Ignatius, Monday, May 7

Dr. Mary Gail Frawley-O'Dea speak about her newly published book, *Perversion of Power*, at St. Ignatius Loyola on Monday, May 7, in a joint meeting of Voice of the Faithful New York and Voice of the Faithful affiliates in Brooklyn. All Voice of the Faithful members from the tri-state area are welcome to hear this eminent psychoanalyst and clinical psychologist talk about her latest work, which for the first time links the sexual abuse crisis to underlying issues of clerical narcissism and hierarchical power. Frawley-O'Dea has worked with survivors for many years, and the explosive insights revealed in her book give Voice of the Faithful a detailed agenda for changing the Catholic mindset.

[Also in New York, **Archdiocese of Rockville Center**, see the page 1 story on the abuse trial about to begin.]

**COMMENTARY**

“Shaping American Catholicism” was a two-day symposium (April 13-15) that explored major themes in the life and work of David J. O'Brien, Loyola Professor of Roman Catholic Studies College of the Holy Cross. To see the entire program, go to <http://www.holycross.edu/departments/crec/website/obriencelebr.htm>. Jay Dolan, professor emeritus of history, University of Notre Dame, called David “a solid man.” David O'Brien is a trustee of VOTF. Former VOTF president Jim Post and also a VOTF trustee, wrote the following thoughts on someone who has contributed a great deal to Catholicism.

## **Called to Action: David O'Brien**

Sometimes we do not know of, or appreciate, the greatness of our friends and colleagues. This weekend was a reminder of how fortunate we are for David O'Brien's service as a trustee of Voice of the Faithful.

David has retired as Loyola Professor Catholic History at the College of the Holy Cross, and his academic friends and admirers convened a conference at Holy Cross to discuss David's contributions to education and to the Catholic Church. A special issue of a "U.S. Catholic Historian" --an academic journal--has been published with the special theme, "Reform and Renewal: Essays in Honor of David J. O'Brien." Contributors include some of the foremost Catholic historians of our age, including Jay Dolan, Philip Gleason, Paula Kane, Rodger Van Allen and more.

Sr. Alica Gallin, OSU, provided an apt title to her opening essay, "Called to Action: The Historian as Participant." David's life has been a blend of scholarship and action, from his early days in the Catholic Worker Movement through innumerable committees, councils, and initiatives, all intended to help the Church live her commitments to social justice and those in need. The speakers emphasized how David's life has been a seamless tapestry of action to reform the institutional Church coupled with faith in the institution and her people to be the People of God. Reform and renewal.

I hope you will join me in congratulating David on the occasion of his retirement and the admiration of his friends and colleagues. Most importantly, I hope you will remind him that there is another chapter yet to be written in this story of reform and renewal in the Church, and that we are writing it together.