

In the Vineyard

May 8, 2008

In this issue: Reports on the survivor support gathering during Pope's visit include "Still Learning" commentary from VOTF's Kris Ward, comments from SNAP's David Clohessy and a report from VOTF Survivor Support Working Group member Steve Sheehan; VOTF Priest Support Working Group report on attendance at Summit conference to address the priest shortage; the VOTF Prayerful Voice working group wants *YOU!*; Bishop Robinson's much-anticipated arrival from Australia later this month – what do *you* know about the bishop? (See Affiliate Notes); VOTF Priest of Integrity Award recipient Msgr. Breslin has died (see Commentary); VOTF Orange County meeting with Chancellor; and more.

NATIONAL News

Thanks to Francis Piderit in VOTF New York, we now have a version of the *New York Times* ad that affiliates might use for recruiting purposes and for advertising regional meetings – read more under AFFILIATE Notes; also, did you know about VOTF's "Ad Trucks" that drove around Washington DC and New York City on the days of the Papal Masses said there? These trucks were given routes in and around the Mass sites, with backup routes to use if the police moved them away from the primary routes (and, of course, the police did). You can view the electronic signs that were displayed on the sides and back of the display trucks [here](#).

SURVIVOR Support Community – Click [here](#) for commentary on the papal visit from VOTF's Kris Ward, SNAP's David Clohessy and VOTF's Steve Sheehan. Also, Fr. Tom Doyle's comments on the papal visit are at <http://reform-network.net/?p=1638>.

PRIEST Support Working Group – Click [here](#) to read John Ryan's summary of the Summit 2008 conference April 20-22 in Orlando, Florida, attended by Svea Fraser and John Ryan of the VOTF Priests' Support working group. The Summit was planned over a five-year period by six partnering organizations and funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lily Foundation. The six partnering organizations, including the National Federation of Priests Council, function under the auspices of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The driving question of the gathering was how the church will be able to meet the ministerial and sacramental needs of the faith community over the coming decades in the face of the increasing scarcity of priests in the United States. John's report is well worth reading in its entirety and even includes a surprise development at the end of the conference.

DIOCESE/State Watch

Davenport IO: "A bankruptcy judge on Wednesday approved a \$37 million settlement between the Roman Catholic Diocese of Davenport and more than 150 people who say they were sexually abused by its priests.... Davenport is one of six Roman Catholic dioceses in the United States to file for bankruptcy due to sexual abuse scandals. The

others are based in Portland, Ore.; Spokane, Wash.; Tucson, Ariz.; San Diego; and Fairbanks, Alaska.” See Associated Press coverage at <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gZ8YBXGwKRyFJyJ8ywpQXII23b5gD90CJO000> and local coverage at <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080501/NEWS/805010378/1001/NEWS>

Commentary

VOTF Loses a Friend – on the death of Msgr. Breslin by Kris Ward, VOTF Region 6 representative

Fr. Marek Bozek on “The Odyssey of Joseph the Dreamer” – David Biersmith (VOTF Region 9 representative) recaps Fr. Bozek’s talk

SITE-Seeing, Etc.

Banning as policy continues in our Church: This month it’s **Fr. Tom Doyle**. See the *National Catholic Reporter* story at <http://ncronline3.org/drupal/?q=node/801>.

- While you’re there, see Tom Groome’s review of Robert McClory’s new book *As It Was in the Beginning: The Coming Democratization of the Catholic Church*.
- Nearly half of Belleville IL’s active priests have appealed to Bishop Braxton to step down; one person took out a \$10,000 ad asking the Pope to remove him. *NCR* has the story at <http://ncronline3.org/drupal/?q=node/799>.

See *Commonweal* magazine for “Reforming the Vatican: What the Church Can Learn from Other Institutions”: “Too often when someone proposes the reform of church structures, the reformer is attacked for borrowing from the secular political field, as if this were necessarily a bad thing. But throughout history the Vatican has often imitated the organization of secular political institutions. Today the governance of the church is more centralized than at any time in its history. To make the church more collegial, the Vatican should once again adopt practices of the secular political world.” Subscribers can access the story at

http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php?id_article=2200

Don’t Forget! June 8/9 Retreat with EDWINA GATELEY at Evensong by the Sea, Retreat & Spirituality Center, Harwich Port MA. Contact: 508-432-0027 or email to info@evensongretreat.com. Edwina’s talk is entitled “Why the Church Needs Rebels.”

Anglican bishop N.T. Wright, who has been called “one of the best biblical theologians in the English-speaking world,” has written a shortened version of a recent tome on the Resurrection. *America* magazine reviews *Surprised by Hope* as suitable for “an educated Christian readership in search of a more informed assent to their central beliefs.”

Subscribers can access the May 12 issue at

http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=10805.

Several affiliates publish their own regional newsletters. **VOTF Bridgeport CT** is another model for affiliates considering another communication vehicle. See “Our Voice” at www.votfbpt.org.

Might be worth checking out: Common Good Convention in Philadelphia, PA: July 11-13, 2008: <http://www.commongoodconvention.org>.

QUOTE for our time: “I think of the man-made barriers and disciplines that separate women from greater roles in the church, in particular women who serve the church in ministry.” VOTF National Council of Representative member Pat Gomez reflecting on the papal visit. For the full commentary, go to <http://www.concordpastor.blogspot.com/>.

Survivor Support Community

Still Learning

Sexual abuse by priests and religious authority figures is, sadly, everywhere.

Invitations – welcoming, supportive and meaningful invitations – need to be extended to survivors to speak in every parish.

The survivors need to be included in the prayer of the faithful --- not in a token way but in the way in which a family prays for the innocent and vulnerable among them who are wounded and for whom all call upon the Most High and work for justice.

The knowledge that there are victims who committed suicide needs to become common knowledge throughout this Church. Bishops who transferred and protected priests who raped and sodomized children, if they do not resign voluntarily, must be removed by the Pope.

If these things don't happen, the words of Pope Benedict that every Catholic has the duty to do *everything possible* to heal these wounds, will be what the trail of the jet fuel of Shepherd One was as it lifted into the night sky and out across the Atlantic on the evening of April 20 – a pretty sight that quickly evaporated, leaving no trace to the onlooker that it had ever been there.

For his part, survivor Bernie McDaid would go to every corner of the earth, I am sure, to speak if that is what it would take for Catholics to listen to him, work to protect children and bring forth justice.

But if every Catholic heeded Pope Benedict's words, -- or even if every Voice of the Faithful Catholic heeded Pope Benedict's words, Bernie McDaid wouldn't need to travel at all. Every Catholic can have the moment of compassion and understanding Pope Benedict had with the five survivors he met. All any Catholic has to do is want such a moment and act.

A clergy sex abuse survivor assesses the papal visit

from David Clohessy, director of SNAP

During his US trip Pope Benedict talked several times about the church's on-going sex abuse and cover-up scandal and met for 20 minutes with five victims. It was unprecedented. It may or may not however, eventually prove significant.

We can't confuse words and deeds. Words can bring comfort. But they cannot bring safety. And a shepherd's first duty is to safeguard his flock, especially the most vulnerable.

Concealing clergy sex crimes isn't just another 'issue' the pope could and should "address." Ultimately, other decision-makers influence war, inequity and hunger. On those matters, the pontiff can really only pontificate. With this crisis, however, only the pope can take swift, decisive measures to help kids at risk *right now*.

Our group's mission is to heal the wounded and protect the vulnerable. Through therapy and support groups, we are helping one another recover. But we can't make children across the globe safer. That requires action, not sympathy or promises, from the Pope.

Bishops can deal with predator priests (even though they largely do so slowly, secretly, and sporadically). Only the pope can deal with complicit bishops. He has yet to do so.

Nor has he adopted, much less implemented, a global church abuse prevention policy.

Thousands of predator priests have been suspended by bishops. But no bishops have been suspended (or even verbally rebuked) by the pope, not even the most egregious prelates who have been or are deceitful about and reckless with child predators.

Until he does, he essentially condones widespread risk, callousness and duplicity. By ignoring wrong-doing, he sanctions and even tacitly encourages wrongdoing. That is an irresponsible abrogation of his moral obligation as St. Peter's successor.

Luke tells us "From him to whom much has been given, much is expected." Pope Benedict has been given an extraordinary gift – oversight of one billion souls.

We do millions of innocent kids an enormous disservice if we set expectation so low for a global leader. Children need and Catholics deserve, and need, much more.

Barbara Blaine and David Clohessy are leaders in SNAP, the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests

VOTF Survivor Support Working Group reports on some of the activities surrounding the Pope's visit

Steve Sheehan

Last weekend, SNAP, Road to Recovery and A Matter of Truth joined forces in New York City both to support and comment on the visit of the Pope to that city and his remarks concerning the crimes of clergy sexual abuse within the church.

The activities began on Friday afternoon with a press conference by SNAP in front of the cathedral at 2:00 PM followed by a gathering of survivors and supporters across the street from the cathedral. That evening from 6-9 PM a book signing and candlelight vigil was held which was attended by over 150 people,, coordinated by Robert Costello of A Matter of Truth, at the Lott Gallery on West 18th Street. Autographed copies of Carmine Galasso's book, *Crosses*, were available for sale. On the sidewalk, by candlelight, the names of survivors, living and deceased, were read by alternating survivors and supporters, including Paul Kellen and Steve Sheehan. Introductory remarks were made by Costello, Kris Ward, David Clohessy and Barbara Blaine. Other organizations represented included BishopAccountability.org , STTOP, and the Sidewalk Affiliate, all from the Greater Boston area.

On Saturday morning, a group assembled sponsored by Re, Bob Hoatson of Road to Recovery, on Fifth Avenue as close to the cathedral as we were allowed with pictures of many of the abused children and posters calling for justice for the victims and accountability for the church hierarchy. On Sunday morning group participants stood close to the entrance to Yankee Stadium where thousands more witnessed our message.

The theme that ran through all these activities was that we were all grateful that the Pontiff spoke about the abuse and met with several survivors. However, we asked that the words be followed by decisive and ongoing actions to make the spoken words a reality. We asked that the laity and clergy emulate the Pope and follow his lead by inviting survivors into their dioceses and parishes to tell their stories and be heard directly, that the clergy cooperate fully with law enforcement agencies, and that the laity demand that their representatives in state legislatures work ardently to remove the unfair statutes of limitations that hamper the prosecution of sexual predators.

It was a very upbeat, and spiritually uplifting weekend for all who were there. The NRC should be thankful to all who promoted and participated in these events. The VOTF Survivor Support Working Group was well represented throughout, and attending the candlelight vigil were Representatives Ward, Lee, Ed and Anne Wilson and Steve Sheehan.

Working Group Reports

PRAYERFUL VOICE Working Group: Please volunteer if you would be willing to work within Prayerful Voice. Practical requirements are access to a computer and telephone. Here is the description of Prayerful Voice:

Guidelines for Keeping Prayer at the Center of Voice of the Faithful

Prayerful Voice will work in a variety of ways to help Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) accomplish the organization's commitment to "providing a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit," in all its actions.

- Prayerful Voice will provide opportunities for prayer, worship, reflection, and faith development that will strengthen VOTF's commitment to its stated goals:
 - Support the survivors of clergy sex abuse
 - Support priests of integrity
 - Shape structural change within the Church.
- Prayerful Voice will provide leadership and counsel to ensure that all materials produced by and actions taken by VOTF reflect a grounding in faith and prayer and are "attentive to the Spirit" active in our midst and in our tradition.
- Prayerful Voice will maintain Web site pages dedicated to the goals of "providing a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit."
- Prayer is at the heart of all that VOTF is and hopes to accomplish on behalf of the Church. We are "The People of God" dwelling in and responding to the power of the Spirit in our midst. The great prayer of unity is the Eucharist, which is central to all we do and who we are as Catholics. VOTF acknowledges our Catholic identity as that of a Eucharistic people.
- Humbly and faithfully realizing that our power/success/energy is the power of the Risen Christ moving us toward the building up of the Reign of God in our world, Prayerful Voice will work to lead VOTF toward an awareness of the need to be a reflection of and witness to the Spirit in our midst. To achieve this, Prayerful Voice will encourage prayerfulness, reflection, and a heightened sense/acknowledgement of spirituality between and among the members of VOTF.
- Prayerful Voice will work toward fostering openness and witness to the Spirit and mutual support and encouragement among members through prayer.

Could you volunteer by Pentecost? Send an e-mail to prayerfulvoice@yahoo.com I would truly appreciate it and VOTF would be enriched.

VOTF AFFILIATE Notes

Thanks to Francis Piderit in VOTF New York, we now have a version of the *New York Times* ad that you may use for recruiting purposes and for advertising meetings in your own regions. There are two differences between this ad and the one in the *New York Times*: the coupon and the size. For details, click [here](#).

The COUPON allows your affiliate to insert your affiliate's name into the ad, to direct potential members to your own meetings and projects. To make the insertion, follow these steps:

- Decide what information (affiliate name, a mailing address, a phone number etc.) to insert on the ad. Note that there are two places for the insertion: below the name/address of the potential member, and below the VOTF logo in the bottom right-hand corner.
- Copy the file with the ad to a flash drive or a disk and bring it to your local Kinko's or print shop, along with the information you have decided to insert. They should be able to make the insertions for you at little or no cost. (If you happen to own a full copy of the Adobe Acrobat product, you can make the changes yourself too.)
- Order the number of reprints you want. SIZE: This version of the ad is 11 x 17 inches in size.

INTRODUCING Bishop Geoffrey Robinson

Bishop Robinson U.S. tour will begin later this month. For readers who might have missed *Vineyard* and other media coverage, the following was assembled by VOTF National to bring you up to speed. The bishop will be speaking at several VOTF affiliates (in NJ, CT, NY and elsewhere) so be sure to contact your affiliate for information. The bishop was abused as a boy, although not by a priest. Like US bishop Gumbleton, his voice has resonated throughout the Church for his unique witness on behalf of survivors.

1. Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, who has degrees in philosophy, theology, and church law, was Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Sydney from 1984 until his retirement in 2004. In 1994 he was elected by the Australian Bishops to the National Committee for professional Standards, coordinating the response of the Catholic Church in Australia to revelations of sexual abuse. From 1997 until 2003 he was co-chair of this committee.
2. *Confronting Power & Sex in the Catholic Church* “recently published by one of Australia’s most respected bishops has ignited debate about its future and pushed the progressive majority of the Church back to prominence after years in the shadows.” *The Tablet* (UK)
3. “In language reminiscent of a court martial, he lays the charge of ‘failure to give leadership in a crisis’ squarely at the feet of Pope John Paul II: “I am convinced that if the Pope had spoken clearly at the beginning of the revelations, inviting

victims to come forward so that the whole truth, however terrible, might be known and confronted, and firmly directing that all members of the Church should respond with openness, humility, honesty and compassion, consistently putting victims before the good name of the Church, the entire response of the Church would have been far better. With power go responsibilities. The Pope has many times claimed the power, and must accept the corresponding responsibilities.” *The Tablet* (UK)

4. Bishop Robinson believes the deepest sources of the abuse are embedded in the power structures of the Church, and he calls for a major corporate restructure, including a constitutional papacy: “Papal power has gone too far and there are quite inadequate limits on its exercise.” He says the College of Bishops has been marginalized and that in his time as an active bishop it was rarely asked its advice and never asked to vote, even on controversial matters. *The Tablet* (UK)

5. Robinson directly criticized both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI for Rome’s reluctance to take stronger action to tackle sexual abuse. *Sydney Morning Herald* (AU)

6. His book tour will include speaking engagements in Philadelphia, Washington, Morristown NJ, Long Island NY, Fairfield CT, Dedham MA, Boston MA, Cleveland OH, Seattle WA, Orange County CA, Encino CA (LA area)

Sources: <http://www.sydney.catholic.org.au/Archdiocese/History/robinson.shtml>

<http://www.thetablet.co.uk/articles/10281/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national/pope-has-too-much-power-says-bishop/2007/08/24/1187462523655.html>

<http://www.litpress.org/Detail.aspx?ISBN=9780814618653>

<http://catholicbooksreview.org/2008/robinson.htm>

<http://ncrcafe.org/node/1720>

VOTF Orange County Meets with Diocesan Chancellor

On April 16, 2008, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Orange hosted a lunch with members of Voice of the Faithful Orange County. VOTFOC had sent a letter of introduction to Bishop Tod Brown, announcing the formation of the group and describing its purpose and goals. His response identified a number of boards, councils and commissions by which he is attempting to increase lay participation in the life of the Diocese. VOTFOC then requested that he designate a representative with whom VOTFOC could meet to

introduce itself in more detail and to learn more about these various boards, councils and commissions.

Shirl Giacomi, the Chancellor of the Diocese (the #2 officer of the Diocese and a laywoman), promptly called to schedule her meeting with VOTFOC. She also responded faithfully to VOTFOC's requests for whatever bylaws, guidelines, policies, etc. existed for these groups and for lists of the members of these groups. VOTFOC reviewed this information ahead of time to be better prepared for the meeting. Ms Giacomi also invited another Diocesan representative (a laywoman) to join in the meeting.

The two-hour meeting included an introduction to VOTF and VOTFOC and outlined the overall VOTFOC philosophy and strategy. This included a restatement of the three national VOTF goals and particular focus on the VOTFOC goal which is:

Advance meaningful lay consultation and guardianship of major personnel, administrative and financial decisions in the Diocese of Orange.

The meeting was constructive and cordial and appeared to overcome certain negative, preconceived notions about VOTF. VOTFOC's specific objectives for the meeting were (1) to initiate a dialogue and schedule another meeting to continue the dialogue, and (2) to ask the Bishop to advise diocesan pastors that he had no objections to VOTFOC groups forming and functioning in the parishes of the Diocese. Ms. Giacomi agreed to meet again. Before approaching the Bishop on the second objective, she asked VOTFOC to provide further input.

VOTFOC found the meeting to be a very promising and positive first step. The affiliate hopes further progress will follow.

Commentary

VOTF Loses a Friend

MONSIGNOR BRESLIN, RETIRED PASTOR, DEAD AT 75

Reverend Monsignor Lawrence K. Breslin, a retired pastor and former seminary rector, died on April 29.

Msgr. Breslin was born on Oct. 25, 1932 and was reared in Cincinnati. He studied at St. Gregory's Seminary and at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati before enrolling at the North American College in Rome, where he received an STL in Theology. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 14, 1957 in Rome.

In August 1958, he began as assistant pastor at St. Agnes Parish, Cincinnati, and as a teacher at Purcell High School. He served at St. Lawrence Parish, Cincinnati, during the summer of 1962. Later in 1962, he began as assistant at Incarnation

Parish, Centerville, and teacher at Archbishop Alter High School. In June, 1963 he began as assistant at Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Kettering, while continuing on the faculty at Archbishop Alter High School. In June, 1968 he began as Assistant “pro-tem” at Resurrection Parish, Cincinnati.

Msgr. Breslin returned to Rome in September 1968 as assistant to the vice-rector of the North American College, and was appointed vice-rector beginning July 1, 1970. In March, 1972, while serving in Rome, he was honored with the title of Monsignor, a Prelate of Honor to His Holiness. In December, 1974 he was appointed pastor of Saint Bartholomew Parish, Cincinnati. In December, 1975 he was appointed pro-synodal Judge.

He became rector of Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati on July 1, 1978, pastor of St. Vivian Parish in Cincinnati in February 1984, pastor of Saint Charles Borromeo Parish in Dayton on July 1, 1986, and retired on July 1, 2004. He served as Dean of the Dayton Deanery from January 1, 1991 until December 31, 1998.

Msgr. Breslin was an active proponent of the protection of children. In July 2005, he received the national Voice of the Faithful Priest of Integrity award.

Reception of the body will be Sunday, May 4, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Saint Charles Borromeo Church. Cincinnati Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk will preside at Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Monday, May 5, preceded by an hour of visitation. Rev. Andrew Nelson will be the homilist. Burial will follow immediately at Calvary Cemetery, Dayton. *Submitted by Kris Ward*

The Odyssey of Joseph the Dreamer: A Reflection on Those Who Dare To Dream Genesis 37-50

Recap of the Reflection delivered by the Rev. Marek B. Bożek
Submitted by VOTF David Biersmith

[For Fr. Marek Bozek’s background and ongoing story, the National Catholic Reporter archives indicate five stories at <http://ncronline3.org/drupal/?q=search/node/Fr.+Marek+Bozek>. Also, several past issues of the **Vineyard** have reported on Fr. Bozek’s situation.]

The story of Joseph, son of Israel, is probably one of the most beautiful and meaningful stories of the Hebrew Scriptures. It is a story of a dreamer and his role in a larger picture, that of a family, a nation, and a faith community. Many of us who still consider ourselves to be dreamers can relate to this odyssey of the rejected and kicked out non-conformist, even though the glorious happy ending is not yet ours.

The reality of Joseph thrown into the pit and then again into the prison is the reality in which we all live - the reality of broken hopes and shattered dreams, the reality of deep scars and painful bruises, both on the personal and the communal level - the reality where

there is very little trust and a whole lot of suspicion - the reality of Joseph in prison, facing two men whom only he could help - the reality of knowing that the price for that helpful gesture might be very high and very painful. We too, just like Joseph, need to find within ourselves and within our communities the strength and courage necessary to minister to the oppressed and the outcasts, even if we know that it will not be a welcomed ministry by those who hold ecclesiastical titles and sit in cathedral chairs.

Today, more than ever, there exists a need to minister to all those who have been abused and oppressed by the institutional Church. Today the dreamers need to come with aid to those who have been left behind in the darkness of despair. In every town and city there are countless victims of abuse by the hierarchy. And I am not talking only about those who were physically or sexually abused by the clergymen, even though their need is the most obvious. I am talking about countless men and women, who are denied full participation in the Eucharist because their spouse had left them a long time ago and they now found a new partner. I am talking about all those couples who, after prayerful discernment and serious consideration, decide to use contraception, and are told by the Church authorities that they should not receive Communion as long as they “live in sin.” I am talking about all those loving couples, whose only sin consists of loving another person of the same gender and are labeled “intrinsically disordered.” I am talking about five thousand men who left active priesthood because they chose to follow their vocation to be husbands and fathers (and who in several cases were replaced at their assignments by married Roman Catholic priests – converts from other denominations). I am talking about an unknown number of wise and holy women who recognize that they are called by God to priestly ministry but are permitted to receive only six of the Church’s seven sacraments. I am talking about all of us who are deprived of their priestly ministry. I am talking about people who have suddenly found themselves without a home Parish, once their churches were closed, sold or demolished; and often this has been at least partially in order to pay diocesan debts created as a result of Bishops’ hypocritical and unethical mismanagement. All of these and many more are crying out and praying for dreamers to help them find a better, more just Church, as were Pharaoh’s cupbearer and baker looking to Joseph in their time of need. Now it is up to the Josephs of today to respond to that genuine need of our sisters and brothers. Now we are facing a choice between remaining silent in face of the cry of God’s people or becoming involved, and thus making ourselves vulnerable once again. It is not an easy choice and no one can make the decision but oneself.

If and when you decide to get involved once again, the vineyard of the Lord will have plenty of work for you to do. I have been asked many times what can the lay people do in order to further the ideals of better, more just, and more inclusive Church. One thing we can not do at this time, is to wait for the change to come from the top. We need to finally realize that it will not happen in our generation, and I doubt it will happen within next twenty or forty years. Most priests will not decide to explicitly welcome everyone at their communion table, and most bishops will not welcome lay people becoming responsible for the temporal goods of the parishes in their diocese. It is unfortunate and sad, but true – we cannot wait for most of our priests and bishops to take these initiatives. Again – I want to make clear that I believe most priests are good men, trying their best to minister

within a corrupt and broken system. However, you and I know that the far too many of them have given up on their dreams and operate now out of fear. At this time in the Church's history, like many other times before, it is up to the lay dreamers to heed the call once directed to St. Francis of Assisi, "Rebuild my Church!"

In every city there are at least several priests who left active ministry some time ago in order to get married. Many of them are dreaming about fulfilling their priestly role once again. They yearn to celebrate the Eucharist and to minister to God's people. If you know a dozen or two Catholics like yourself in your town or metro area, this might be the time God is calling the dreamers like you and me to establish Catholic parishes throughout our country that will offer a more just, more inclusive, more Christ-like version of Catholicism. Two dozen people dedicated to making the dream come true can make a difference. Two dozen dreamers need to find a priest who will lead them in Sunday Eucharist and preach to them the Good News of God's unconditional love. Two dozen dreamers is enough to rent a space in some other denomination's church or a library or any other room big enough to celebrate Holy Mass at which everyone will be welcome and celebrated as God's child. Once you make known the existence of such an inclusive Catholic community, independent of the compromised hierarchy, God will surprise you with the number of "Pharaoh's cupbearers and bakers" who have been waiting for someone to give them a spark of hope. But the initiative needs to come out from the lay dreamers, who are willing to make themselves vulnerable once again in order to serve those abandoned by the men in purple robes.