

In the Vineyard

October 11, 2007

FIVE days to "Disciples in Action" convention!!!

Don't Miss This Extra Forum on Oct. 20 at the Convention in Providence!

Child Protection Forum: Survivors Perspective

Light fare and beverages served

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

All are welcome!

Room 552 at the Convention Center

One of survivors' biggest concerns is protecting children today. SNAP National Director David Clohessy and Outreach Director Barbara Dorris will report on the state of child protection in churches today and tomorrow. They'll offer a somewhat different analysis of the continuing crisis and its roots. And they'll offer a "tool kit" of options for advocacy and action, include concrete steps anyone can take to attract new members and motivate current members of reform organizations. Attendees will be encouraged to discuss, question and participate.

Yet another reason to join VOTF in Providence RI for the third VOTF national convention "Disciples in Action" is to hear from other lay people: How are others uncovering and *acting on* their own responses to the needs of our Church?

One such person you will want to meet is VOTF member Richard Taylor. Richard will be at the Providence RI Convention with his new book *Love in Action*. He will be ready for signing *your* copy and chatting about the confluence of reform and gospel nonviolence and its significance for VOTF and other reform-oriented efforts. Former VOTF president Jim Post said of *Love in Action*:

"Nearly all of us understand the meaning of love. Many of us understand the meaning of 'tough love.' But do we understand the importance of love united with action? Richard Taylor helps us turn our love of Catholic faith and gospel values into 'love in action.' He is first and foremost a teacher, and his lifetime of nonviolent action to secure social justice is inspirational. In this book, he teaches us how to be true to our deepest beliefs in Jesus, in justice, and the gift of using our knowledge and faith to make a difference. Every Catholic can use this book in their daily life. "

See the link to Dick's website and testimonials from Bishop Gumbleton, Chris Schenk and Fr. Tom Doyle at SITE-Seeing, Etc.

DIOCESE/State Watch

News Alert: Orange County CA – Associated Press reports, "A judge began criminal contempt-of-court proceedings Tuesday against the **Roman Catholic bishop of Orange County** in a highly unusual hearing that marks the first time a U.S. bishop could face jail time in the church sex abuse scandal.

Bishop Tod D. Brown waived his arraignment for allegedly violating a court order when he sent Msgr. John Urell, a high-ranking church official, out of the country before he could complete his testimony in a lawsuit. He could face a range of punishments from a verbal reprimand to jail time if found in contempt.” See the AP story at <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5j-rhoI-l22L99uM71-6gxIGAfp0AD8S60CBO1>.

A 21st Century “Nun’s Story” is playing out in Los Angeles. The Sisters of Bethany were told in September they would be evicted from their residence after 40 years of service in that community and, in addition, might have to leave Santa Barbara. The property is to be sold to offset the clergy abuse settlement costs of the **Archdiocese of Los Angeles**. The ensuing public outcry didn’t reverse the planned sale of the property but apparently the Sisters will be able to stay in Santa Barbara. Supporters of the sisters are organizing a fund-raising effort to purchase a permanent home for them.

For an earlier story, see the *Los Angeles Times* at <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-nuns7sep07,0,1506149.story?coll=la-home-center>. For recent coverage, go to <http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?s=7173589>.

San Diego CA: The “trickle down” effect of settlement costs has unsettled parishioners in the Archdiocese of San Diego, which asked its congregations and its priests to contribute toward the payments. Several parishioners echoed the sentiments of one man who said “the answer to the sexual abuse scandal lies in jail sentences, not a monetary settlement. ‘Why aren’t they putting some people in jail over this?’” See the *Los Angeles Times* at <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-church8oct08,0,2760607.story?coll=la-home-center>.

The financial shenanigans of the **Archdiocese of Cleveland OH** have resulted so far in one guilty-on-all-counts judgment against the former diocesan accountant. His attorney will appeal saying, “the diocese fought us tooth and nail on every request for evidence.... the jury did not have access to the totality of evidence ... the diocese encouraged this type of activity” The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* has the story at <http://www.cleveland.com/news/plaindealer/index.ssf?/base/cuyahoga/119140075973120.xml&coll=2>.

SURVIVOR Community News: To read an excerpt of the “New York Law Journal” report on Marci Hamilton’s Call to Action to Expand Time for Abuse Claims, go <http://reform-network.net/?p=984>. VOTF president Mary Pat Fox attended the gathering on Sept. 25 and reported to *Vineyard* readers in the Sept. 27 issue.

AFFILIATE Highlights:

Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) of Palm Beach County will sponsor a conference entitled “The Real Costs of the Sexual Abuse Crisis in the Catholic Church” on

November 10, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Unity of the Palm Beaches, 1957 South Flagler Drive, West Palm Beach, FL. The featured speakers will be Mr. Jason Berry and Rev. Thomas Doyle. Read more under AFFILIATE News.

VOTF Philadelphia has booked a talk with Bishop Geoffrey Robinson: The Sydney, Australia bishop spoke out recently on behalf of Catholic Church reform and will be visiting the US along with his new book *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church*. The Bishop has said that the Catholic Church is more interested in managing the clergy abuse crisis than confronting it. Read more about Bishop Geoffrey Robinson at <http://www.theage.com.au/news/national/bishop-calls-for-catholic-reform/2007/08/24/1187462524580.html>.

CONTINUING a VOTF Winchester Area (MA) Tradition, the Winchester Area affiliate is proud to present a brand new line of **Christmas cards!** All proceeds from the sale of these cards will benefit survivors of clergy sexual abuse. Cards sell for just \$15 for a package of 12 cards. We are selling 4 different cards, and you can buy either 12 cards with the same design, or a mixed package, with 3 cards of each of the 4 designs. Each card has the VOTF web address on the back.

You can buy cards in 1 of 3 ways: 1) at one of the VOTF tables at the Providence convention; 2) at any of our weekly affiliate meetings on Monday nights; or 3) by visiting our web-site, www.votfwinchester.org, and printing and mailing the order form with your payment. Thank you for your support! If you have any questions, contact Bob Morris at rmorrivotf@aol.com.

SITE-Seeing, Etc.

<p><i>Correction:</i> The link to the book <i>Voices of the Faithful</i>, noted in the Sept. 27 issue, was incorrect. The link is http://www.bc.edu/church21/publications/c21bookseries/Voices_of_the_Faithful.html. We apologize to readers for the inconvenience and thank you for catching it!</p>

VOTF member Richard Taylor's new book *Love in Action: A Direct Action Handbook for Catholics Using Gospel Nonviolence to Reform and Renew the Church* is being praised by many committed to the work of reform. Fr. Tom Doyle said of the book, "[Here is a] way to dispel the doubt and replace it with hope among Catholics hoping for significant reform in the institutional church in the face of serious opposition to progress." Bishop Gumbleton finds that "*Love in Action* teaches us how to make our Church, which dares to teach justice, itself just." FutureChurch director Chris Schenk said that *Love in Action* "contains vitally important tools for building a more effective church reform movement." Read more about Richard's book and his nonviolence stance

at his website <http://www.gospelnonviolence.com/>. And look for a review of *Love in Action* in an upcoming *Vineyard*.

“The **Legionaries of Christ**, a religious order whose founder was recently disciplined by the Vatican following years of accusations that he had sexually abused young seminarians, has filed a lawsuit against one of its most public critics.... John Paul Lennon, who maintains a critical Web site aimed at exposing the inner workings of the secretive organization, said the lawsuit against him is an act of intimidation to silence the order’s critics. The former Legionary priest said it is also a hypocritical action by a religious order that claims ‘to respond in charity to those who criticize us.’” Subscribers can access this *National Catholic Reporter* story at http://www.ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007d/100507/100507o.php.

Whose Eucharist is it? “St. Louis Archbishop Raymond Burke is urging ministers to deny Communion to politicians who support abortion rights, arguing that it’s a ‘mortal sin’ to offer the sacrament to ‘the unworthy.’” In his recently published article on this subject, ‘the archbishop explicitly criticizes his fellow bishops, the majority of whom voted in 2004 to leave the Communion decision up to individual bishops.’” See *National Catholic Reporter* at http://www.ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007d/100507/100507n.php.

Finally! A new, **single-volume inclusive Bible** is available from Sheed and Ward, a division of Rowman and Littlefield. *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation* was originally published in four volumes, which are still available and on sale through Catholics Speak Out at <http://cso.quixote.org/shop>.

“While this new Bible is certainly an inclusive-language translation, it is much more: It is a re-imagining of the scriptures and our relationship to them. Not merely replacing male pronouns, the translators have rethought what kind of language has built barriers between the text and its readers. Seeking to be faithful to the original languages, they have sought new and non-sexist ways to express the same ancient truths.” The translators of the Bible are Priests for Equality. For more information about Priests for Equality go to <http://www.quixote.org/pfe/>.

HIGHLY recommended: It might surprise readers to learn of the enterprise that was **Paul the Apostle’s** mission in bringing the gospel to the “ends of the earth.” Jerome Murphy-O’Connor has written a layperson’s treasure in *Paul His Story*; he has brought together generations of scholarship in what becomes a page-turner. Let us know what you think. Write to pthorp.ed@votf.org. *Paul His Story* is available at Amazon.com.

Pope Benedict XVI noted recently that the “primacy of people comes first.” The Pope’s remarks were made during his reflection on the social doctrine of St. John Chrysostom. Go to www.zenit.org for more.

The annual Fall General Assembly of the **United States Conference of Catholic Bishops** (USCCB) will be November 12-15, at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. For an overview of the agenda, go to <http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2007/07-152.shtml>.

Commonweal magazine has published an article by **VOTF trustees Bill Casey and David O'Brien**. Look for “Shared Burden: A Manifesto for the Laity” in the Oct. 12 issue. Subscribers can access the article at http://www.commonwealmagazine.org/article.php?id_article=2018.

QUOTE for our time: “We have a Church where fear dominates. The bishops are afraid of the Rome (of the Pope, the Curia, the nuncios). The priests are afraid of the bishops. The laity is afraid of authoritarian priests.” The result is “a Church closed in upon itself, and totally cut off from the world.” *From the FutureChurch Summer 2007 newsletter quoting Chilean theologian Pablo Richard who spoke at a public lecture during the time of the Latin American bishops meeting in the Spring of 2007.* .

AFFILIATE News

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Berry, a noted author and writer in New Orleans, will speak about the conflicts of church governing in the continuing crisis. A graduate of Georgetown, he uncovered the first cases of clergy-abuse in Louisiana in 1985, and expanded the work into an award-winning national investigation *Lead Us Not into Temptation: Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children* (1992). *USA Today* credited Berry as “the rare investigative reporter whose scholarship, compassion, and ability to write with the poetic power of Robert Penn Warren are in perfect balance. The Church itself could not have asked for a more fair-minded instrument of its own indictment.”

In 2004, Berry and Gerald Renner published *Vows of Silence*, which chronicles the lives of two priests: Father Thomas Doyle, who first raised the issue as a canon lawyer for the Vatican Embassy in 1985, setting him on a courageous path as an advocate of victims – and Marcial Maciel, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, a pedophile whose shadowy career holds a mirror to flaws in the church’s internal system of laws. In 2006 the Vatican removed Maciel from his position and ordered him to cease public ministry. Berry is working on a film documentary about the Vatican investigation case, based on *Vows of Silence*.

The Rev. Thomas Doyle will describe his efforts to bring the Catholic Church to be accountable since his 1985 presentation to the bishops of a pioneering internal report he

coauthored with attorney Ray Mouton and a psychiatrist, the late Father Michael Petersen. Doyle received VOTF's inaugural Priest of Integrity award in 2002. Doyle's latest book, coauthored with A. W. Richard Sipe and Patrick J. Wall, is *Sex, Priests, and Secret Codes: The Catholic Church's 2000-Year Paper Trail of Sexual Abuse* (Vot Press, Los Angeles 2006). Doyle and his coauthors document "the enormity of the crime of sexual abuse of children by priests and bishops and the failure of the hierarchy to handle it properly.... It describes the clerical network that enables the abuse to be perpetrated. When clergy sexual abuse is sealed under wraps, it festers and breeds; when it is brought into the light of day, it withers." (Prologue)

VOTF of Palm Beach County's 2006 conference focused on the issue of fiscal accountability in Catholic parishes, after allegations that two local Catholic clergymen confiscated several million dollars of church funds – a case currently before the courts in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Copies of both authors' books will be available at the conference. Contact John McGovern at 561-736-5568 for advance registration. Advance registration is recommended because capacity at the conference site is limited. A donation of \$10 is suggested – payable at the door or in advance, Checks should be made payable to VOTF of Palm Beach County. VOTF of Palm Beach County is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit Florida corporation.