

# In the Vineyard

September 27, 2007

AND

22 days to the VOTF Convention, "Disciples in Action"  
Oct. 19-21 in Providence RI

**Logo/GOOD NEWS** for those who didn't make the cut for earlier hotel discounts. We have obtained additional discount rooms for VOTF's Disciples in Action Convention, October 19-21 in Providence RI. The hotel is another Marriott (One Orms Street, Providence RI 02904). The hotel is 1 mile from the convention center BUT there is a tourist trolley that goes by the hotel every 15 minutes from 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. The trolley costs \$1.50 per person. Other good news: parking at this hotel is free. The rate at this Marriott is \$159 per night UNTIL OCTOBER 5. **To reserve a room** call 866-807-2171 and say that you are part of Voice of the Faithful. [Click here](#) for everything you need to know about the third national convention of Voice of the Faithful.

**IN THIS Issue:** A "call to action" gathering in New York drew broad support from survivors and survivor support groups including VOTF; the work of another prominent theologian – Fr. Peter Phan of Georgetown University – is undergoing investigation by the Vatican and US bishops; actions of the Diocese of Orange CA continue to raise questions and challenge assumptions while the Diocese of Pittsburgh PA takes a step in the right direction; two new books note Voice of the Faithful and one is the Catholic Book Club September Selection; more.

**WHAT do you think?** The current *National Catholic Reporter* editorial says, "In any larger discussion about the role and direction of the church, we can't forget that the structure and mystery of the church are actually experienced in the local faith community. The parish is the place where church happens." Write to [pthorp.ed@votf.org](mailto:pthorp.ed@votf.org). Through the end of September, all readers can access NCR regardless of subscription status. For the editorial, go to [http://natcath.org/NCR\\_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807t.htm](http://natcath.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807t.htm).

- Small faith communities are revitalizing parishes. Go to [http://ncronline.org/NCR\\_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807a.php](http://ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807a.php).

## VOTF NATIONAL News

**Voice of the Faithful** welcomes two new members of the Board of Trustees. Names, affiliates.

## DIOCESE/State Watch:

**Orange CA** – *Associated Press* reports: "Attorneys for a woman who alleges sexual abuse by a lay teacher at a Roman Catholic high school asked a judge Wednesday to hold the bishop of the Diocese of Orange in contempt of court. The motion, filed in Orange County Superior Court in Santa Ana, alleges that Bishop Tod D. Brown sent a key church official to Canada for unspecified medical treatment one week after a judge ordered him

to complete a sworn deposition in the case.” For the full story, go to <http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5irTOVVM7iQka4YeoHn2Ec1E8Oz0Q>.

- For a fine assessment of what is happening in Orange County CA in the context of what former VOTF president Jim Post always referred to as the need for “sunlight” and its disinfecting properties, go to <http://www.ocregister.com/opinion/diocese-andrade-officials-1850498-urell-church>.

**Chicago IL** – The *Chicago Tribune* reports that one victim of Fr. Daniel McCormack has settled his lawsuit while at least two other cases against McCormack and the Archdiocese of Chicago are pending. An attorney for one of the other victims of McCormack said, “If we can help it, we’re not going to settle a case before we depose the cardinal.” For the full story, go to <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/southsouthwest/chicagomccormacksep21.1.590311.story?ctrack=1&cset=true>.

**Pittsburgh PA** – From Reuters news service, “The Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh has voluntarily set up a \$1.25 million fund to aid the victims of 32 cases of clergy sexual abuse, an attorney for the victims said on Monday.” Go to <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSN1736407120070917>.

**Bridgeport CT** – “Rev. Michael Jude Fay, a former Connecticut pastor, admitted to stealing possibly more than \$1 million.” The highly publicized case brought to light once again the challenge of vigilance over parish finances. See the *Darien Times* at <http://www.acorn-online.com/news/exec/search.cgi>.

- Vigilance is ours: For a bad news/good news story about parish finances, go to New Jersey’s *Star Ledger* at <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/morris/index.ssf?/base/news-3/1189745205273180.xml&coll=1>. Yes, an alleged \$30,000 went missing and *guess who* discovered it?

**Los Angeles CA** – The announced settlement of the Los Angeles abuse cases will lead to yet another delay in the release of diocesan documents -- and this one is court-mandated. By California law, settlements like this must await a complete review of all the documents involved: by the plaintiffs and their attorneys, by the perpetrators and their attorneys, by all other parties to the case and their attorneys. In other words, no one will be seeing these documents until the courts say so.

- An interview with one LA victim begins with this statement: “Cardinal Stritch stood over me in 1955 and said I had to stop ‘babbling’ to everyone about what Father Horne had done to me. He said, ‘Sometimes you have to lie in order to protect a greater good.’ So I kept quiet for 40 years. Now in my late 50s -- I babble.” For the complete interview, go to <http://cityofangels3.blogspot.com/2007/09/interview-tony-demarco-talks-about.html>.

## Working Group Updates

## **SURVIVOR SUPPORT**

*NEW YORK Action:* Cardozo Professor Marci Hamilton, legal advisor to victims of sexual abuse in several noteworthy cases around the country; State Representative Margaret Markey of Queens, NY; State Senator Karen Peterson of Delaware; and Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse led a “**call to action**”, **September 25, 2007** FOR STATE & NATIONAL LAWS LIFTING THE STATUTES OF LIMITATIONS ON SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS’ LAWSUITS.

VOTF president Mary Pat Fox attended the gathering. Read her comment at Commentary – Providing the Muscle. If you are interested in helping with this effort, contact Bob Kristan at [BobKristan@msn.com](mailto:BobKristan@msn.com).

SNAP leader **David Clohessy** received the Lifetime Achievement in Advocacy Award from the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma. See the BishopAccountability site at [http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2007/09\\_10/2007\\_09\\_23\\_Peterson\\_KudosTo.htm](http://www.bishop-accountability.org/news2007/09_10/2007_09_23_Peterson_KudosTo.htm).

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

- For the many readers who have followed and benefited from the work of Boston College’s Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Center, the program’s director of the past two years is returning to his first love – teaching. “Tim Muldoon has joined the staff of the Vice President for University Mission and Ministry at BC, [see BC Chronicle](#). Robert Newton, special assistant to the president, who led the C21 initiative from 2002–2005, has returned as interim director of the center until a new permanent director is selected.” VOTF wishes Tim well in his new post and we thank him for his leadership in helping to present the many issues facing our Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- Don’t know who or what VOTF is? The book that has garnered significant attention and praise for its objective assessment of VOTF is now available. The Church in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Center at Boston College notes: “One of the most interesting developments in Catholic life in the past decade has been the formation of Voice of the Faithful. This remarkable group of devout, active, and loyal Catholics has emerged as the most forceful voice for church reform in the wake of the priestly abuse scandal. This new book presents both the hard statistics about the group’s membership and frank and appreciative analysis of the group’s influence.” The book is *Voices of the Faithful*, by William D’Antonio and Anthony Pogorelc with a Foreword by William J. Byron, SJ. For details and/or ordering information, go to [http://bc.edu/church21/publications/c21bookseries/Voices\\_of\\_the\\_Faithful.html](http://bc.edu/church21/publications/c21bookseries/Voices_of_the_Faithful.html).
  - And yet another book that considers among others Voice of the Faithful is *Finding the Voice of the Church* by George Dennis O’Brien. The review appears in *America* magazine at

[http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=10224](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=10224) for subscribers. The University of Notre Dame Press also notes O'Brien's book at <http://www3.undpress.nd.edu/exec/dispatch.php?s=title,P01195>. AND the Catholic Book Club (a newsletter published by *America*. See <http://www.americamagazine.org/>) chose O'Brien's book as their September Selection.

- *National Catholic Reporter* is offering all readers a unique opportunity: "During August and September OUR ENTIRE PUBLICATION is open to all readers. Go to [http://natcath.org/NCR\\_Online/memValid/invalid.htm](http://natcath.org/NCR_Online/memValid/invalid.htm). You will find yourself "at the right place to find the relevant spiritual and theological conversations of our day concerning the important issues we face in church and society."
  - The current issue of *NCR* reports: "Both the Vatican and the U.S. bishops are investigating a book by a prominent American Catholic theologian, Vietnam-born Fr. Peter Phan of Georgetown University." The *NCR* editorial asks, "Is it not possible to accommodate those individuals whose work engages in exploratory theology?" Go to [http://ncronline.org/NCR\\_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807b.htm](http://ncronline.org/NCR_Online/archives2/2007c/092807/092807b.htm).
  - Also in this issue, "In the latest chapter of a massive financial scandal plaguing the Cleveland diocese, Anton Zgoznic, a former assistant diocesan treasurer, has gone on trial in federal court, charged with participating in a \$17.5 million kickback scheme dating from 1997 to 2004."

**QUOTE for our time:** "Only because of court-ordered open records and the willingness of victims to speak out about what happened has anyone learned the truth. Only the embarrassment of public disclosure and the fear of lawsuit-induced bankruptcy has caused this diocese and others to change their policies." *from an Orange County Register editorial commenting on the Diocese of Orange CA. See DIOCESE/State Watch above.*

## COMMENTARY

### *PROVIDING the MUSCLE*

[VOTF president Mary Pat Fox made the following comment after attending the New York "Call to Action" gathering on Sept. 25. See details on page 1 of this issue.]

The heart of what needs to happen on behalf of survivors lies with the survivors themselves, but the muscle will come from VOTF.

I attended a meeting on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at Cardozo Law School in New York City launching the campaign for New York's coalition to drive legislation extending the statutes of limitations for child sex abuse and a one-year window. Voice of the Faithful had a great turn out especially considering that the meeting was at 11 am on a work day.

The day led off with a media event hosted by Marci Hamilton. Attendees heard from State Senator Karen Peterson who led the charge in the Delaware Legislature, and New York State Assemblywoman Marge Markey. We also heard from several survivors including Matt Conaty, the survivor whose family led the coalition in Delaware. We heard from a survivor of family abuse, and several others who had been abused by clergy. The agenda was fantastic and everyone present learned something new.

Following the main meeting Barbara Blaine of SNAP called a meeting for anyone who could stay and wanted to work on getting this legislation passed. The team that committed to continue the work and to meet every month going forward was overwhelmingly made up of VOTF members. Everyone in the room committed to begin the process by either contacting legislators or potential coalition member organizations. It was clear to me that in order to be successful the survivors would touch the hearts of legislators and the public and VOTF would provide the muscle to get it done.

If you are interested in helping with this effort, contact Bob Kristan at [BobKristan@msn.com](mailto:BobKristan@msn.com).