

# VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL 2019 Conference

## Creating a Just Church

### Voice of the Faithful 2019 Conference Panel on Lay Activities in the Parish



**Thomas R. Beecher, Jr., Diocese of Buffalo**

Thomas R. Beecher, Jr., is Chairman of the Board of Barrantys LLC, Buffalo, New York, and, for the past 57 years, has been legal counsel to Phillips, Lytle LLP. He served for 38 years as a Director of Albany International Corp. and has been on numerous other corporate boards. He was a founder of the venture capital company Rand Capital Corporation and was chairman from 1991 through 1996. He also serves as a trustee of a number of foundations and focuses his extra-curricular-activities on healthcare, education, and the care and feeding of the poor.



**Kathleen Coogan, Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.**

Kathleen Coogan shares a seat on the Parish Pastoral Council at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Washington, D.C., with her husband Kevin. Kathleen is a Senior Advisor at the United States Department of State. She also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University in the Master of Arts in Conflict Resolution program. Previously, she served as legislative counsel to U.S. Senator Daniel P. Moynihan (D-New York), and also as a litigation associate at Sidley & Austin in Chicago and program manager at a shelter for victims of domestic violence in Phoenix.



**Susan Vogt, Archdiocese of Cincinnati**

Susan Vogt became interested in helping to address Catholic clergy sexual abuse in 2002 following the Boston Globe's exposé of the scandal in the Archdiocese of Boston. Around this same time, one of Susan's Marianist community members in Cincinnati revealed that he had been sexually abused as a child. She decided to join Voice of the Faithful and served on their National Representative Council from 2005 to 2012. These activities dovetail with Susan's life as a Lay Marianist. She has been a vowed Lay Marianist for almost 50 years. For the last nine years, she has represented North American and Asian Marianist Lay Communities on the international level.



**Jan Seidel, Archdiocese of Cincinnati**

Jan Seidel is a retired public relations/development professional. In 2018, she founded team to provide a local response to the Catholic clergy sex abuse scandal. She leads the team's Outreach Committee, which connects with other lay-led parish initiatives throughout the country, with support from Voice of the Faithful, and she hopes to effect greater collaboration among lay responders. Jan also is very committed to interfaith dialogue and brought the Festival of Faiths to Cincinnati. She now serves on the festival's Steering Committee. Jan also co-founded Sacred Connections, a series of monthly gatherings of worship, education, and relationship building among a wide variety of faith communities in sacred spaces.