

## **Voice of the Faithful**

### **Board of Trustees**

**January 17, 2022**

A virtual meeting was held. Attending: Mary Pat Fox (presiding), Pat Gomez, Elia Marnik, Margaret Roylance, Michael P. Marnik, Joe Finn, Svea Fraser, John Salvati, and Donna B. Doucette, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order by Mary Pat Fox, President, at 7:00 p.m.

Svea Fraser and John Salvati were welcomed, by all, to the Board.

An opening prayer, in the form of a reflection by Howard Thurman, was led by Mary Pat Fox.

The minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2021, and the present meeting, will be circulated to the trustees after the meeting.

***Financial Report:*** There was a discussion concerning the signatories on the VOTF bank accounts, which have not been updated for several years. Upon motion by Mary Pat Fox, duly seconded by Michael P. Marnik, it was unanimously

VOTED: that Joseph F. Finn, Treasurer, be authorized as a signatory on the VOTF bank accounts.

***Executive Director Report.*** Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting and solicited questions of the Trustees. There was a discussion concerning the need to convert the website to a computer language that is not outdated, ongoing maintenance of the website, and the necessity to minimize occurrence of hacking the website.

#### ***Synod Project***

Donna Doucette reported on the work under way. VOTF is holding synod listening sessions (journeying together) with VOTF members, but the sessions are open to anyone who wishes to join us. Although fees are not charged, it is expected that those who participate will register with VOTF.

***Financial Transparency Working Group.*** Margaret Roylance reported on the development of the final version of the worksheet for 2022. This will be circulated to the dioceses. Reviewers will need to be recruited. The next meeting of the group will be April 30.

***Governance Working Group.*** Joe Finn reported briefly.

***Protection of Children Working Group Update.*** Pat Gomez submitted a lengthy written report in advance of the meeting, made comments, and answered questions of the members of the Board. There continue to be many incidences of diocesan failure to include information on child protection procedures.

***Nominating Committee.*** Elia Marnik reported on the solicitation of prospective trustee candidates. One individual, Joseph Feitelberg, of Massachusetts, has been recommended for appointment as a trustee. Joe Finn elaborated on the qualities of this candidate. After discussion and motion by Elia Marnik, seconded by Joe Finn, it was unanimously

VOTED: to extend an invitation to Joseph Feitelberg to join the Board as Trustee.

The sense of the Board was that the solicitation for other trustee candidates should remain on the VOTF website.

After a brief discussion about the 20-year anniversary of VOTF, Mary Pat Fox requested that each member of the Board select a month and prepare a report on a facet of the work of VOTF over 20 years. Each member of the Board should consider a specific area upon which that member will focus. Desired length is one page so that the item can be used on all our media options: website, emails, press releases, social media, and so on.

***Synod Report (continued, on the status of the Synods).***

The Synod project began with an email to our members. The notice will soon be on our Home Page, too, and will be announced in the *Vineyard*. We have held two “practice sessions” already, in Boone and Charlotte, NC. The second practice will be handled like a “real” session—there will be the second part of the set and the results of the conversations will be included in our final report to the Vatican.

We also have signed up about two dozen facilitators and scribes and expect to sign up more. Our approach is to schedule dates for each Set of sessions (two apiece

with an optional third), invite people to register, and then run as many sessions on each date as needed to accommodate those who registered. The groups are limited to a maximum of 10, plus the facilitator and scribe.

In response to the first email, we had 39 registrants immediately. We will announce additional dates later this month for February, and then continue adding dates through June.

In addition to collaborating with others who are working on synod sessions for their groups, we will host sessions for anyone who wants to join. As one example, we are asking members to invite friends, neighbors, and family. As another example, we will post the dates on a calendar hosted by the Catholic Committee of the South, a very old nonprofit that ministers to the marginalized; Donna provided one of their flyers—they are working with the AUSCP to get as many of the marginalized as possible to synod sessions.

At 8:33 p.m. the meeting was adjourned with a prayer, the Glory Be, followed by the allowance of a motion to adjourn, duly made and seconded.

Next scheduled meeting: February 21, 2022.