

Voice of the Faithful

Board of Trustees

June 27, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by Margaret Roylance, Vice President, at 7:06 p.m.

An opening prayer was led by Pat Gomez.

The minutes of the meeting of May 23, 2022, had been circulated to the Trustees. After motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were approved.

Financial Reports: Pat Gomez addressed the Board, having in advance of the meeting circulated the financial reports. A discussion occurred concerning the identification of the accountant specially assigned to VOTF. We are in the summer doldrums in terms of donations now, so there will be little uptick until September. However, we hope the conference registrations can give us a boost to cover those costs. Unfortunately, summer also is the time when we renew insurance policies and software licenses. This year we added the transition to the new webserver to that list of necessary, large-sum expenditures.

Executive Director Report. Donna Doucette submitted a written report in advance of the meeting.

We finished the Synod sessions at the very end of May and now have all the reports from the scribes for those sessions. Margaret Roylance and Donna Doucette will be preparing the report in the next few weeks and sending a draft to the participants for comment. We had an unexpected opportunity to submit this report via the Region XVI the USCCB set up for nonprofit U.S. Catholic organizations. This word came early in June, and its deadline is June 30. Since we did not receive all the Scribe notes until the third week in June, we will not meet the USCCB deadline. We are registered with them, however, so perhaps we will

send a copy via that portal when we send the report to the Vatican. That was our original plan, and we will carry it out.

Donna Doucette attended the latest assembly of the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests (AUSCP) during which she was appointed to their Leadership Team (board) as a non-voting lay member. They had hoped to set up a system whereby all Friends of the AUSCP, and the sitting board member, would have votes on any issues before them. However, during their history—this is their 10th Assembly—they have always operated by consensus and are required to take votes only on bylaw issues. The Leadership Team operates in similar fashion. Donna is fully accustomed to attending Board meetings, offering input yet not voting, so this will not be a new situation for her. She is looking forward to adding our VOTF voice and other lay perspectives when they consider projects and issues.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED: to congratulate Donna for this appointment and to express profound gratitude for Donna's work and the formal connection with AUSCP.

October conference. Elia Marnik has a revised contract, and it will be signed as soon as it arrives. We need to step up the PR but it must wait for Nick Ingala's return from vacation. We have already posted a Save the Date notice and set up the registration form.

Protection of Children Working Group Update. Pat Gomez submitted a written report in advance of the meeting. There were many responses to the distribution of POC Survey. Particularly, six bishops and 11 different diocesan personnel, e.g., safe environment coordinator or director commented and inquired, some on the question of how they could improve their score!

Joe Feitelberg vigorously commended the work of the group, and the results.

Financial Transparency Working Group. Margaret Roylance submitted a written report to the Board in advance of the meeting. The VOTF Finance Working Group will not meet during the summer. Meetings will resume in September 2022. The 2022 Financial Transparency Review began on June 1, 2022 and a reconciliation meeting for all the Archdiocesan scores will take place by Zoom on July 2, 2022.

Governance Working Group. The report on the Governance Review entitled Lay Involvement in the Governance of the Church by and Through the Diocesan Finance Council is complete. The Governance Review was carried out from

October 15, 2021, to January 15, 2022. The final report on the review was submitted to the office on May 3, 2022, for production and roll out. The report was printed during the week of June 12, 2022, and sent to all US Bishops and CFOs with a cover letter from Mary Pat Fox which accompanies this update. The report was uploaded to the VOTF website at <https://www.votf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/VOTF-Governance-Report-2022-for-Website.pdf> and the VOTF members were notified about it by e-mail.

Nick Ingala drafted a press release to accompany the report before he left for vacation until July 11, 2022. Joe Finn made some suggested changes which Nick will incorporate upon his return. The press statement will be released after Nick is back in the office and able to respond to any press inquiries that we receive.

Women's roles. Svea Fraser reported at length on continuing work. She said that the work of Donna Doucette in collaboration with AUSCP created much leverage. Svea referred to an article she recently wrote, optimistic on the possibilities. Svea also recommended a book entitled, "What is a Deacon?" Svea reminded the Board that there will be a "mini retreat" to be held on Sunday, Oct. 30, 2022, at St John's Church.

At 8:16 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: September 19, 2022.