

Voice of the Faithful Board of Trustees Meeting
January 16th 7 PM

Present on conference call: Larry Mulligan, Mary Pat Fox, Margaret Roylance, Sandra Guynn, Mike Ryan, Anne Southwood. Phil Megna was not present. Also present were executive director Donna Doucette and membership director Alice Campanella.

Opening Prayer: Mary Pat Fox

Minutes: Minutes for November 2017 and this meeting, January 2018, will be ready for approval at the February 20th meeting.

Opening Remarks: President Mary Pat Fox praised the work of the Financial Working Group. Their report was available to the public and helped to increase donations and to familiarize our work with the general public. Through our boosted Facebook page, 159 people requested a copy of our Diocesan Financial Report. In total, 5,647 people have viewed the Report on Facebook.

Financial Reports: Anne Southwood reported the December figures have not yet been made available, but that the funds available, as set forth in the executive director's report, showed good health. Mary Pat noted good results to date from the Christmas appeal, and Donna indicated early registrations for the Providence conference are encouraging.

Development: Margaret explained how they reached out to parents of Sacred Heart Academy, in New York, who recently honored Phyllis Zagano but we have not received any donations ... yet. Margaret, working with Donna & Jayne O'Donnell, reached out to major donors for annual contributions and were successful, especially with one significant donation to the FWG's efforts. Margaret and Donna also met with the head of the Louisville Institute, who encouraged us to apply for a grant for a research project on Lay Spirituality or Financial Accountability.

Financial Working Group: Margaret said that Mike Ryan and Sandra Guynn were responsible for the majority of the work involved in surveying the online financial transparency of all 177 dioceses, but all the committee was very much involved and that Nick was key to their efforts, especially when distributing and publicizing the report. She especially noted how the group was willing to take risks to develop the project and said this willingness was a key to the group's success. The funds received via a major donation will allow the group to continue its effort to improve financial reporting by the dioceses. In January, the group sent a follow up letter to the bishops outlining the planned review in the summer of 2018.

Next Meetings: These are the dates for the VOTF board meetings in 2018—Feb. 20, March 20, April 17, May 16, June 26, July – no meeting, Aug. 21, Sept. 18, Oct. 7 (at Conference) and Nov. 20. There will be no Spring face-to-face meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 with a prayer for the repose of the soul of Lynn Finn (Joe's wife).