

Voice of the Faithful

Trustee Meeting

October 7, 2018

Providence, Rhode Island

Attending: Mary Pat Fox, Anne Southwood (phone), Margaret Roylance, Mike Ryan, Larry Mulligan. Excused: Pat Gomez. Also attending: Donna Doucette and Sandra Guynn.

Conference report: The consensus is it was very successful, both from a program and from a financial perspective. The speakers were well received and offered new perspectives on our goals and objectives. Financially, cost figures will be in the \$20,000 neighborhood and proceeds will exceed \$27,000. In addition, at least one significant new monthly donor is expected to sign up. One veteran attendee at other conferences called it the best conference he has ever attended.

Petitions: John Sheehan requested consideration of the petition being circulated to reinstate Fr. Roy Bourgeois. It will be publicized *In the Vineyard* for members to consider individually. Margaret will check concerning another petition which was brought up during the conference dealing with Archbishop Chaput and offer it for the board's consideration.

Executive director's report: It is anticipated that the September appeal will bring in approximately \$50,000. For the conference, Facebook hits ran between three and four thousand resulting from our advertisements there. We swapped ads with the *National Catholic Reporter* and *Commonweal*, which also benefited the conference.

Commonweal has suggested edits to the article Margaret submitted to it concerning the update on the financial disclosures on diocesan websites. It is anticipated it will be published and make financial transparency a relevant factor in holding bishops accountable for the handling of sexual abuse issues.

Jim Post was asked to make suggestions to make VOTF an international brand. Mary Pat is to follow up with him.

President's suggestion: Mary Pat will look at the notes from the conference listening session and make a recommendation with respect to how they can be utilized. She also raised the question of how to involve lay persons in the planned meeting by the pope with the heads of the national conferences of bishops which will be held in Rome in February 2019. A suggestion was made to inquire of Judge Anne Burke, who is currently talking to other former National Review Board members about how to involve the laity in the church's decision making.

2019 conference: Mary Pat expressed interest in convening another conference next year. She will form a committee, which will include Jayne but be chaired by another (due to prior commitments by Jayne), and which will do an analysis of the location most likely to be successful. Possible speakers were discussed.

Financial working group: Mary Pat will do a letter to the dioceses for the current study. In 2019, it is contemplated that the effort will be refined, with somewhat more rigorous criteria being utilized. Various trustees offered suggestions on how best to do that.

Next meeting: November 19, 2018, 7 p.m.