

Voice of the Faithful

Board of Trustees

September 17, 2018

Attending: Mary Pat Fox, Margaret Roylance, Patricia Gomez, Mike Ryan and Larry Mulligan. Absent: Anne Southwood. Also attending: Donna Doucette and Alice Campanella.

Opening prayer: Larry read a prayer for survivors and victims of sexual abuse.

Approval of minutes: With the correction deleting Alice as an attendee, the proposed minutes of the meeting of August 20, 2018 were approved.

Financials: Donna reported some \$223,000 as our account balance, and mentioned the funds available for the diocesan financial study being paid down in August as a result of a July bill from a subcontractor, and that we are starting to see the results of the September appeal.

Executive director report: Two unusual items were emphasized, Microsoft's discontinuing selected features means some or all of the computers in the office will need replacing, and Filemaker no longer allows sharing services with others, so its cost may increase significantly. Efforts are being investigated as to whether the latter can be avoided.

Concerning the upcoming conference, Jayne O'Donnell obtained a \$5,000 donation, so with that and approximately 119 having paid to register, we are less than \$3,000 from our break even point. Because the convention center has moved us to a larger room, without cost to us, we are still able to accept more otherwise we would be near or at capacity.

Donna advised that Vincent Rocchio has offered to videotape the conference as his donation.

There was discussion of others who we might want to invite to attend dinner with Marie Collins and Massimo Faggioli on Saturday evening.

Mary Pat asked that trustees consider remaining for the conference lunch, rather than attending the Saturday speaker luncheon, so that they could participate in the planned listening sessions.

Financial accountability update: Margaret reported that all the needed data for the 2018 survey is in, and the group is in the process of writing this year's report, preliminary results of which they expect to report in Providence. They also are considering how to make it available to those in attendance. It is also hoped that the article which *Commonweal* has accepted for publication will be available then.

Margaret also advised that the donor for the financial accountability study is suggesting the possibility that funds could be available to extend the approach to child protection.

2019 conference: As we will need to decide soon and determine when and where if we vote to have one, Mary Pat asked that we be prepared to discuss this option at our October meeting.

Participation in COR: After a through discussion, it was decided to continue at the current level, monitoring what it is doing, and participating as warranted by our mission and goals.

Open discussion: Donna raised the question of our stance on the proposal for a separate body which would be charged with supervision of bishops, and the fact that it will be the subject of the meeting Francis has called for February 2019. She asked how we could influence the process so that laypersons would be included in the discussion. Mike proposed it might be done through the National Review Board. Larry suggested encouraging each bishop to bring to the table one lay member of his diocesan review board, pointing out that the institutional church is so structured there is no way to do this except by petitioning the hierarchy.

Closing prayer: Mary Pat led the recitation of the Glory Be.