

Voice of the Faithful Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 20, 2018, 7 PM

Present on conference call: Mary Pat Fox, Anne Southwood, Michael Ryan, Sandra Guynn, Larry Mulligan. Absent with notice: Margaret Roylance. Absent without notice: Phil Megna. Also on call were executive director Donna Doucette and membership director/scribe Alice Campanella.

**Opening Prayer:** Mary Pat Fox read “Anointing Us to Become His Children.”

**Minutes:** Minutes for November 2017 and January 2018 were approved.

**Financial Reports:** Anne noted the continued financial health of the organization, especially in comparison to figures from a year ago. Revenue from the year-end appeal in December 2017 and January 2018 was approximately three times higher than the expenses for those months. Current assets represent almost 12 months of operating cash reserves. Donna noted that the cash reserves include the foundation donation for the Financial Working Group’s project; operating reserves are about 9 months exclusive of that sum. The project funds will be disbursed once the vendor hired to work on the databases is engaged. Donna also noted that the end-of-year donations typically increase our assets significantly whereas the February and March revenues decline until the March appeal goes out.

**Development & Executive Director Reports:** In Margaret’s absence, Donna covered both subjects. Margaret would stress the need to find and cultivate donors, especially those capable of major gifts. She plans to continue the successful card-sending program to show VOTF’s gratitude to those who have made donations. A recent study showing that for established nonprofits, the longer board members serve, the more enthusiastic fund raisers they become.

For the Providence conference planned for October 6, 2018, the committee will hold a conference call on Friday, Feb. 23. Sixty-eight have registered to date, which is a good start. The speakers are in place and consideration of funding their fees, including using a portion of the moneys received upon the closing of the Philadelphia associate for that of Massimo Fagioli is ongoing.

Discussion of having a conference booklet with the agenda, biographies of speakers and advertisements resulted in a consensus that the planners make the most cost-effective decision and continue consultation with the board.

**Financial Working Group:** Donna reported on the response of Bishop Dewane to previous replies pertinent to the rating his diocese received in the Mullaney Report. The bishop defended his position on the exclusion of selected financial information from the audited financial statements of the Diocese of Venice and said he did so on the advice of the auditors. Such advice would be unusual considering that the audit firm gave only a qualified report on the diocese’s finances. David Castaldi of the FWG is reviewing the financial statements and the bishop’s claim so that we may prepare a response.

A letter has been sent to all the U.S. bishops informing them that the FWG will take another look at the subject of its report later this year. The timing of the report relative to the October conference and the meeting in November of the USCCB was discussed. Donna noted the need to bring a third person into

the group no later than March if it is to complete its work in time for the Providence gathering. The consensus of the Board was that the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual review should be released at the Providence meeting.

**Board Composition:** Mary Pat indicated that with Phil and Sandra going off the Board soon, consideration of future members is necessary. She solicited suggestions from other members, and particular attention was given to the potential re-entry of a past board member with a special interest in the protection of children.

Donna offered the thought of Margaret that prospective members are most welcome who have a passion about one or more of VOTF's goals or programs.

**Closing Prayer:** Mary Pat led a recitation of the Glory Be.