

**Voice of the Faithful – Board of Trustees Meeting Friday, October 27-28, 2017
at Our Lady Help of Christians, Newton, MA**

Friday, October 27

Trustees present: Mary Pat Fox, Margaret Roylance, Mike Ryan, onsite; on phone with intermittent connection, Larry Mulligan; on video, Sandra Guynn

Absent: Anne Southwood, Phil Megna

Staff present: Donna Doucette, Nick Ingala, Regina McAuliffe, Alice Campanella

Meeting began with a prayer by Margaret.

Margaret gave a presentation on development and conducted a brainstorming session.

She said the path to successful development is the ability to deal with rejection. You must be passionate about the cause, and everyone in the organization must be supportive and equally passionate. It is essential to cultivate major donors and to support current major donors.

Margaret asked everyone to answer the following two questions:

1. What brought you to VOTF?
2. What are you still passionate about?

Margaret recorded the answers on a chart. Areas of concern that we should be working on included:

- child protection; evaluating the child protection standards and how they are applied in the various parishes
- support of survivors
- financial accountability and transparency at parish and diocesan level
- encouraging laity to speak up and take action

We need to ask questions to get people thinking:

How much does your Diocese spend on social justice?

How much of a slush fund does your bishop have to cover fraud?

What is happening with the dioceses who filed for bankruptcy?

Meeting concluded about 9PM with a prayer.

Saturday, October 27, 2017 9 AM

Present: Mary Pat Fox, Margaret Roylance, Anne Southwood, Michael Ryan; Sandra Guynn by video and Larry Mulligan on a poor phone connection.

Absent: Phil Megna

Donna Doucette and Alice Campanella were also present.

Opening Prayer – Margaret

The May and September minutes were approved; there were no June minutes to approve. Mary Pat will look into locating notes for that meeting.

Margaret said that “We have to get back in touch with our beginnings and where we are headed.”

The Financial group finished their Diocesan Financial report during the summer of 2017. There is a need to get it out to the public as soon as possible while the research is still current. Mike said it would be desirable to release their report before the USCCB Baltimore meeting on November 13-14, 2017. As part of the follow-on work, we should see if dioceses that are not financially accountable also have multiple embezzlement cases and sexual abuse and coverups. With our financial database, we also can link other problems to financial accountability. We need funding to continue this work.

The next meeting of the Diocesan Financial Accountability work group is Saturday, November 4, 2017. Press release will go out November 6. The press release will be sent to Business Wire and PR Newswire. We will put an ad in *National Catholic Reporter* and will attempt to get *America* to publish the report. Mary Pat asked if we should have an ad in another source. Nick will look at other online options. We have a plan and a date. Mike will redo the exhibit labeling and get it to Donna and Nick. Three members of the Financial working group donated a total of \$2,500 toward the expenses associated with publicizing the Financial Diocesan Report.

We need a liaison to the Healing Circle to replace Mark Mullaney. Mary Pat volunteered.

Margaret has been in touch with the Executive Director of the Louisville Institute to discuss grant options for for the work of the Financial group as well as other VOTF projects.

The September Appeal is winding down. The Christmas letter needs to be ready by the middle of November.

Executive Director’s Report: Beverly Spencer is leaving VOTF onsite, although she will continue to do work for us remotely when possible’ Bev is moving to Maryland. Donna Salacuse is retiring. Both women have worked for VOTF since its inception. Chris Doyle will do the data processing segments of their work; Pat will prepare the deposits; and Chet will continue to do online reconciliations. Donna and Nick will pick up the remaining office functions Bev and Donna provided.

Conference ideas: New Models of Pastoral Leadership – Jezreel. Bill Clark is also a possible speaker or Phyllis Zagano. The basic cost of the 2018 VOTF Conference in Providence is \$3,000.

Our financial statement was posted last year; the audit by an outside firm was omitted as a result of cost-cutting. The final statement as well as the IRS Form 990 (long version) are posted on the web site. Work for the FY2017 Form 990 has been completed, but we obtained an extension on the Form 990, as we have most years.

Donna explained to the board what it means to “boost” an item that we post on social media.

Mary Pat spoke about replacing trustees whose terms are expiring, and said that we would look for someone who had some expertise in the projects on which we are working. We are currently planning to pursue projects in the area of survivor support, financial responsibility and the role of the laity.

Next trustee meeting is Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 7 PM.

The meeting ended about 3PM with a prayer.