

Voice of the Faithful Board Meeting – Tuesday, May 23, 2017, 7 PM

Present by video conferencing and by conference call: Mary Pat Fox, Mike Ryan, Sandra Guynn, Larry Mulligan, Mark Mullaney, Phil Megna, Anne Southwood and Margaret Roylance who was delayed. Also, Executive Director, Donna Doucette and note taker, Alice Campanella.

Mike began the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved as presented with one addition, at the suggestion of Mike, that Marie Collins be considered as a speaker if a conference is held in October, 2018.

Financial report from Anne Southwood. We are in good financial shape because of the legacies we recently received. There continues to be a decline in the donations. Donations were down 11% in April. Our monthly donor program is declining. Donna sent the trustees a copy of the FY18 budget. She pointed out the proposed expense for FY18 is less than the actual for FY17. This budget does not include a VOTF conference. Mary Pat said that we need to discuss the pros and cons of holding a conference in the spring of 2018. Mary Pat is comfortable with the budget as distributed. A proposal was made to accept the budget and it passed.

Executive Directors Report – The trustees were sent a copy of the Executive Directors Report. There was a discussion about the joint statement that VOTF worked on with AUSCP and Future Church regarding women deacons in the Catholic church.

2018 Spring Conference – Mary Pat said that at the June board meeting we need to talk about idea for a conference and suggest possible speakers. Phil will contact Tom Reese, SJ for a suggestion of a possible speaker. Mark suggested E. J. Dionne and Richard Gaillardetz was also mentioned. Possible topics were restorative justice and clericalism.

Mary Pat asked Donna to write a separate piece about legacy gifts in her director report.

Margaret sent the trustees a copy of her Development Activities. She mentioned that obviously she would need help in implementing her ideas.

Financial Working Group: Sandra said that dioceses are not entering the financial information about assessments and appeals in a consistent manner. The Venice, FL assessment is 26% but do they have an annual appeal from the diocese? There was a lengthy discussion about the matter and how we can make sense of the financial statements when there appears to be no consistent format for the statements. Margaret will call Phil to bring him up to date on the goal of the financial committee.

Mark reported on the **Healing Circles**. There is one scheduled on October 14 at Arch St. Shrine, Boston and another planned in Croton, NY. A member in Omaha, Nebraska held a fund raiser so that they could host a second Healing Circle there. The panel discussion on sex abuse in metro DC had 50 people in attendance. Bill Casey and Tom Doyle were panelists. We placed an ad about our Healing Circles in the SNAP Conference brochure. Bill Casey and Jayne O'Donnell will be attending the Conference.

The next board meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 20**. The purpose of the meeting is to assess the feasibility of a VOTF conference in 2018. Trustees are asked to come with ideas for speakers and topics for the conference.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm with a prayer.