

Voice of the Faithful

Trustee Meeting

November 20, 2018

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

Prayer: Anne recited a prayer appropriate to Thanksgiving.

Minutes: The minutes of the face to face meeting in Providence, R.I., on October 07, 2018, previously circulated, were approved.

Finance Report: Anne allowed as she is pleased with our financial status, especially the fact that we have close to a quarter million in net assets, even though that is a slight decrease related to spending the funds allocated for the survey by the FWG. Donna commented on the positive aspects of the recent conference which, combined with the attention the 2018 survey report of the FWG, brought a good deal of media attention and an increase in membership which, hopefully, will be sustainable.

Executive director report: Donna focused on upcoming expenditures for office equipment, especially the five computers needing replacement because they have exceeded their useful life and Microsoft is no longer supporting the systems. Alice is doing the research and negotiating for a discount as well as purchase of a new printer. We benefit from a supporter of the FWG, who is contributing \$10k for operating expenses.

Pat inquired about the need for the auditor to obtain an extension for the filing of federal form 990. Donna indicated only one extension, which is extended automatically, was required.

Financial Working Group: Margaret made an extensive report on the 2018 survey work and the numerous responses it has generated. Several dioceses responded positively, as did the *Charge d’Affaires* of the Apostolic Nunciature, albeit the latter in a “Personal and Confidential” letter. Others, in particular the

Philadelphia archdiocese, indicated that the information monitored in the survey was available, although not necessarily where it would be expected. A discussion of how to deal with the latter responses and various proposals short of revising the report itself are under consideration.

Protecting God's Children: Margaret was pleased to report that the FWG's principal donor has given the promised \$10k and suggested that more funding for an effort to monitor dioceses' compliance with the Dallas Charter by surveying their web sites in a manner similar to the FWG's effort may be possible. Pat reported on her efforts at putting together the group who will undertake this project, and the several phases it will involve. Potential members for the committee were discussed.

2019 Conference: Mary Pat addressed the need to decide whether to proceed with planning, and the discussion concluded with agreement to hold the conference near Boston, at the Newton Marriott, which currently has the date of October 09, 2019 open and available. Various speakers who would attract attendance were discussed, and efforts will be made to reach out to them so that we can solidify the decision on the date and site of the conference.

Catholic Organizations for Reform: Continuing the discussion of our membership in COR, Donna was asked why the dues invoice received requested payment to a private individual. She said it is because COR is not a 501(C)(3) entity and has no corporate structure. Note was made of the issues this raises. After discussion of this and other issues, the board voted to end its membership in COR.