



Statement of Candidacy for Treasurer by Anne Southwood

Responding to the acutely painful child abuse scenario surfaced by the media, I've been active in VOTF for 10 years. I had run for VOTF national office before when I felt there was a need I could fill. I do so again at this time. Two trains of thought formed my decision to run for treasurer of VOTF:

Firstly, people who contribute to our VOTF work in difficult economic times need to feel that VOTF leaders will continue to give them "the most bang for the buck" that is humanly possible. I have a degree in economics and understand the bigger picture. Many non-profit organizations are competing hard for donations right now. We need strong appeal. VOTF funding and budgets are serious matters. In my opinion, the VOTF track record of positive return on donations is very good. The hard work of volunteers in a David and Goliath situation has brought needed change. Our supporters should feel secure that this will continue. I will work to maintain that security. I'm Chair of a VOTF diocesan-level board; its members know how committed I am.

Secondly, given the fact that our Church is in flux and in some cases appears to be backing away from Vatican II, VOTF must present as a necessary organization of Catholics with substantial goals. The good of the Church demands that VOTF goals cannot be ignored. To my mind, formed by Vatican II documents, to be a Catholic Christian is to be active and determined in this world, working on our part of the vision of God. For the last decade, VOTF has done that because we know clearly who we are. We must continue.

The fact that VOTF presence is badly needed was reinforced for me recently at a seminary scripture class filled with conservative Catholics. A delegation from a parish known to be run in a "top down" fashion came to me to announce that VOTF was important ("in case I didn't know that"). Their pastor had just backed away from a venture even these conservatives considered unpalatable. Why...because he was afraid VOTF would get wind of it! Then the door opened a bit, and they began to listen to me on other issues. They began to recognize the need for an organization willing to exercise our right to speak truth to power when power has gone astray. Again, people know I don't hesitate to politely stick a foot in a cracked door.