



## Projects and Prospects in 2014: A Voice of the Faithful® Scorecard

### **Financial Working Group**

- ✦ Preparation under way for web portal listing diocesan finances
- ✦ Monitoring Canon Law Society's study of diocesan finance councils
- ✦ Working with Montana parish to obtain justice in parish fund theft
- ✦ Brochures & guidelines available for parish collection security
- ✦ Principles for diocesan finance councils available on web site
- ✦ Church structure primer available on web site

### **Ordination of Married Men/Optional Celibacy**

- ✦ 2014 Action Plan on web site, with letter template and step-by-step model to contact local bishop
- ✦ Requested new Pastoral Provision in letters to pope and key bishops
- ✦ Study guide on celibacy and a related reading list available
- ✦ Essay on flaws of **mandatory** celibacy available

### **Bishop Selection**

- ✦ Background papers for lay input into bishop selection available
- ✦ Letters to Pope and national bishop conferences worldwide proposed lay input demonstration projects around the world
- ✦ Two bishop-selection models completed in NH and Chicago
- ✦ Bishop selection primer available
- ✦ Web portal available for national input on bishop selection needs

### **Women's Roles**

- ✦ Women Deacons paper available for education/discussion series
- ✦ Bibliography available
- ✦ Affiliates in Concord MA & in RI hosted discussion sessions
- ✦ Bridgeport & NYC affiliates have year-long focus on Women's Roles
- ✦ Participated in free online seminar with Phyllis Zagano on women deacons

### **Clericalism**

- ✦ Identified by VOTF in report on the John Jay study as a key factor in clergy sex abuse
- ✦ Clerical culture description and historical background available
- ✦ Bibliography for further study available

### **Cooperative Projects**

- ✦ Worked with COR (Catholic Organizations for Renewal) on national Fr. Schuller tour, Family Synod questionnaire, and NunJustice project
- ✦ Work with FutureChurch on women deacons and optional celibacy projects

### **Prayerful Voice**

- ✦ Descriptions of/links to devotional practices available online
- ✦ Models available online for lay-led days of renewal, prayer groups, prayer services, and retreats
- ✦ Periodic postings of spiritual reflections

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at [www.votf.org](http://www.votf.org)  
for information on our  
resources and programs.**

### **Survivor Support**

- ✦ Guidelines for reforming statute of limitation laws available
- ✦ Lamentation Wall available as model on web site
- ✦ Fr. Doyle's *Clergy Sex Abuse Bibliography* available online
- ✦ Government/academic reports from past decade on web site
- ✦ Support SNAP at conferences
- ✦ Provide press statements calling for accountability on abuse and for cover-ups

### **Child Protection**

- ✦ Promote awareness of child protection standards
- ✦ Monitor audits in U.S. and Ireland on diocesan adherence to child protection standards
- ✦ Affiliate activities advance child protection guidelines
- ✦ Ideas for promoting awareness of guidelines available online

### **Meetings with Bishops**

- ✦ Bridgeport (CT) affiliate and Bishop Caggiano
- ✦ VOTF-Ireland and Archbishop Diarmuid Martin
- ✦ Affiliates in Hartford (CT), Long Island (NY), and Providence (RI) with their bishops
- ✦ Affiliates in Chicago and Cardinal George
- ✦ Boston-area affiliates and both Cardinals O'Malley and Law
- ✦ Numerous "off-the-record" meets

### **Lay Education**

- ✦ Study guides available online for origins of the Church, Gospel timeline, Vatican II, and more
- ✦ Renewal resources available