



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

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
- ❖ Publicizing free online seminar with Phyllis Zagano on women deacons

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

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

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

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

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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

Lay Education

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

Cooperative Projects

- ❖ Work with other organizations in COR (Catholic Organizations for Renewal)
- ❖ Sponsored national Fr. Schuller tour with other COR groups
- ❖ Sponsored Family Synod questionnaire by COR

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

And yes, VOTF does meet with bishops. “Dialogue” does not, alas, mean “agreement.” But it may—and we think already has—lead to reform.

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

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