

# Voice of the Faithful N.J. Coordinating Team Minutes

November 11, 2017

**Present:** Carole & Leo Rogers, Theresa Padovano, Bernice Anglin, Tina Genest, Charlie & Juanita Saco, Bob Hoatson, Janet Bonar, Mary & Gerry Gannon, Mary Murphy, Bob Pipchick

**Prayer:** Charlie read from the *Little People's Prayer Book*. He also mentioned that he will be asking our celebrants to sign up for the next six months in December and will approach new celebrants as suggested by those present.

Bob P. read a prayer of intentionality written by Peg and asked for comments. All approved of it. There was a reminder to keep these prayers short.

**Finances:** Our bank balance is \$10,601.59. We agreed to make donations to Bishops Accountability, National Catholic Reporter, Road to Recovery, R.A.M.P., and St. Mark's Church in the amounts sent last year, and 10% of our membership dues to VOTF National. Gift certificates with our thanks will also be sent to our celebrants. We will discuss any additional groups to whom it would be appropriate to donate when we meet again.

## Program Updates:

**Retreat:** Our thanks were expressed to Peg for the marvelous job she did in arranging this day. Fr. Randazzo was an inspiring leader, the venue was very comfortable and the food was great. It was indeed a deep spiritual experience. Bob P. read a letter sent to us from Father expressing his feelings about the day and about our group.

**Panel Discussion:** The topic will be: **An Ordained Ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. It will be held on January 27, 2018 (Snow date 2/3/18) at St. Francis Residential Community in Denville from 9 AM – 2 PM. Suggested donation is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. The panelists will be: Paul Bumbar, author of *A House Divided, the Eastern Churches – Catholic and Orthodox* (It is in the *Handbook of Inter-Religious Education.*), Roger Haight, S.J., Jesuit theologian, former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America, Jamie Manson, columnist and books editor for National Catholic Reporter, and Richard Rento, retired pastor, educator and author. Theresa provided a written report on the plans for this event. Leo will be the moderator and asked for an opportunity to speak to each panelist prior to that day. Mary A. will be asked to publicize this in the Dec. and Jan. issues of the newsletter. In Jan. it was suggested that other news be kept to a minimum in order to focus reader attention on the panel. Bernice, Tina and Mary will handle the other usual venues for publicity. Carole will accompany Theresa to St. Francis to make final arrangements for room set-up, food,

parking, and microphones. Theresa will check with Bunny to see what signage is available from prior meetings.

**Future Program:** Fr. John Dear is on a national book tour for his new book *They Will Inherit the Earth* from March through May 2018. We agreed that it would be good to see if we could book him as a speaker. Our preferred date is Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, but we will have to be flexible about that since we don't know his schedule. Theresa will contact him.

**Lenten Book Discussion:** Carole recommended a collection of essays – *Oneing: An Alternative Orthodoxy on Politics and Religion*. The decision will have to be made after we hear from Fr. Dear.

**Survivor Issues:** The current national scandals involving Harvey Weinstein, Kevin Spacey, etc. have greatly increased the number of people approaching Road to Recovery for assistance. Sexual abuse continues to also be a problem within the institutional church. Bob described the numerous current situations.

**RAMP:** The RAMP steering committee is concentrating on improving the living conditions of the two immigrant families. Mary and Gerry, as well as other volunteers, are also trying to help them to get green cards and to learn English.

**Book Swap/Give Away:** Louise Mancinelli has suggested that we bring a few of our religious books to a meeting to see if anyone would like to have them. The idea will be discussed again at our next meeting.

**St. Mark's Carpet Cleaning:** We agreed that this should be done and we will contribute along with others who use the facility. Charlie will speak to the pastor about this. Several people recommended Wells Rug Service in Morristown.

**Next Meeting: Saturday, January 13, 2018 at Carole & Leo's**

Submitted by:

Mary E. Murphy