

Voice of the Faithful of N.J.

Coordinating Team Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2019

Present: Charlie & Juanita Saco, Carole & Leo Rogers, Bernice Anglin, Mary Aktay, Bob & Peg Pipchick, Mary Murphy, Gerry & Mary Gannon

Prayer: Charlie read one on hope written by Henri Nouwen. This was followed by a discussion of where in our lives today we each find hope. Most found this in small everyday events in our lives and families. Also mentioned were the recent positive steps taken in the Church and in government to rectify the mistakes of the past. We also see hope in the existence of VOTF and other spiritual communities as well as work done in soup kitchens, etc.

Action Packets: They will be available at all liturgies and programs for the next few months. It was decided to send one to RENEW as well as to send them to the theology departments at many colleges. Carole will provide a list of such colleges and be responsible for mailing them. Members were urged to take one or more and provide them to parishes or organizations where they might be well received. Mary A. will go ahead planning and placing the digital ad with NCR which announces the availability of the packets and Bernice will get prices for placing the ad with Commonweal and America.

Program Planning: Leo has secured the services of Jamie Manson as a speaker on **April 28th** at 3:30. She will have returned from the Synod by that time and can give us insights for the future. She is the Books Editor and a columnist at the National Catholic Reporter.

On **March 24th** we will have the Lenten book discussion of *Creation and the Cross* by Elizabeth Johnson. Discussion will be led by Carole and will focus on the last chapter of the book. This chapter will be available online the month before the discussion. Charlie will start the program with a brief description of the rest of the book.

Leo will try to have Sr. Catherine Nerny as our first speaker in the fall.

VOTF National Financial Survey: The existence of this lengthy report will be mentioned in the newsletter. Bernice will read it and write a short article to explain what it contains. Those interested in the details can then find them in the full report which will be referenced.

Financial Report: Bob P. reported that our total receipts for 2018 were \$9484.40 and expenses were \$10,751.19. We do however have a balance of \$6,726.15. The final year-end report will be published on the website. The amount donated to VOTF National will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mary gave Tina's 2018 Membership Drive report. We have 48 paid members and have collected \$1,960 in dues as well as \$2,675 in additional donations for an annual total of \$4635. Address list for all was available as a handout. Our next drive will begin in March.

RAMP Update: Gerry announced that St. E's had an event at which \$500 was raised. This entire effort has helped to bring many churches together. Since no new refugees will be allowed for the rest of this year their funds are sufficient for now.

Communications: Mary A. belongs to Progressive Christianity and the Federation of Christian Ministries. It helps her to get publicity for us. She would like us to join as a group but after reviewing and discussing their literature, we agreed to continue to look at their websites and to gather more information.

Next Meeting: This will be held at the Rogers' home on **February 23, 2019 at 9 AM.**

Submitted by: Mary Murphy