

## General Voter Comments for VOTF 2008 Officer Elections :

*These are notes left by voters in the optional Comments section of the ballot. They are presented as-is except for the removal of identifying names and email addresses. One comment was removed because of abusive internal language.*

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Why were "we" not able to vote twice for this election? We share the same email. This option was in affect [before]. Why did it change. You are losing votes.  
(2/24/08 at 10:00 PM)

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Thank you for this clear, open, and easy to use voting process. The whole process of candidate statements, conference calls and online voting are a model for the rest of the church. How I wish we could vote for our bishops or at least nominate them as christians did in the 1st three centuries AD. Thank you again,  
(2/24/08 at 6:01 PM)

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I thought VOTF did an excellent job of presenting the candidates and giving a sufficient period of time for members to think about and discuss them. Also liked the frequent reminders!!!!  
GREAT WORK!!!!  
(2/24/08 at 2:26 PM)

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Congratulations to everyone who ran and wishes to invest the time to save our church. You have my respect and thanks. My votes were cast for those whom I felt were the most aggressive in each group.

VOTF has lost its voice; and many, many of us have left the church with no place to go. I see this election as the last hope to restore respect to a church that has fallen into ridicule, disrespect, and hipocrisy. I want my church back. But it will take more than prayer to turn around the deceit of the past years! It will take action and very loud voices. I hope we have the will to go down that road.  
(2/24/08 at 2:13 PM)

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I want to thank the Elections Committee for making this process as thorough, fair, and uncomplicated as possible. Great job!  
(2/24/08 at 8:37 AM)

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What is your stand on the pope's visit to the UN? He is concerned with global warming, but what about AIDS and condoms.....he has not acted in a responsible way and UNAIDS objects to his 2005 stand and two year review that is going nowhere.  
(2/23/08 at 9:21 PM)

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Very innformative and easy to follow.  
Thank you. (2/23/08 at 9:13 PM)

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If VOTF is to be a viable organization it will need to find new ways to reach out to the grassroots - to re-ignite the Spirit within those who pray for change but for some reason are unwilling to work for it.

May we all Keep the Faith and Change our Church!

(2/23/08 at 8:38 PM)

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I thak you for your long hours of tedious work and your dedication to our Church.

(2/23/08 at 2:33 PM)

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using this method to vote seems cumbersome. It would not seem that the organization needs such an involved process.

(2/23/08 at 9:26 AM)

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It was very difficult and sometimes impossible to get to read the opinions of those running for office. I tried various entry ways. I almost did not vote because of this.

(2/23/08 at 8:40 AM)

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Hi--Although I am a fairly "new" member of VOTF--only a member the past two years, I am excited to see this enthusiastic work being done for us Progressive Catholics.

Among the issues that need to be addressed:

\* Continued Transparency on funding, and accountability of Priests, Bishops, and others.

\* Likelihood of Priests who may CHOOSE to marry if they wish, and WOMEN being allowed to become Priests, too.The Early Church had both.

\* Strong statements of Faith in regards to Christ's Vision of Non-Violence. I am a proud member of Pax Christi, which promotes the Non-Violent Christ Jesus...

Thank you for your attention.

Peace & Blessings,

(2/22/08 at 9:45 PM)

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I want to thank all the candidates. You are a constant reaffirmation "We are the Church" and the Spirit resides in the whole Church. God bless each of you,

(2/22/08 at 9:26 PM)

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As a practicing Catholic, I am grateful for the dedicated people who labor and sacrifice on behalf of our Church. Thank you.

(2/22/08 at 9:27 PM)

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It was confusing how the candidates were presented. When checking I found that there were 4 candidates for one office, but when got to the ballot only two showed up.

(2/22/08 at 6:57 PM)

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I would like to see a summary of all the candidates' positions on this issue:  
Should VOTF concentrate upon a national focus  
rather than the current state-by-state approach? This would involve lobbying the  
Congress along with Network and other organizations for new national legislation to  
address the interstate evasion of justice by the hierarchy (similar to the Lindberg and  
RICO law to combat kidnapping and organized crime activities).  
(2/22/08 at 4:56 PM)

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Please! There is so much more than the pedophilia scandal going on! Let VotF be the  
vehicle it was meant to be!  
(2/22/08 at 4:23 PM)

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Please do not charge money for membership.  
(2/22/08 at 3:35 PM)

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Good job and thanks very much for your effort  
(2/22/08 at 3:34 PM)

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Great way to cast ballots. Kudos to Vote-Now.com!  
(2/22/08 at 2:04 PM)

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I hope that the "Manchurian Candidates" secreted into the ballots by the Bishops do not  
achieve their Satanic goals.  
(2/22/08 at 11:14 AM)

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I think you are all doing a fantastic job. Please continue your efforts. I love your  
internet/computer expertise. Thanks.  
(2/22/08 at 10:51 AM)

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Congratulations for fielding quality candidates and a very good online election process. I  
am impressed by the web pages and the ease of voting.  
I will pray today for the success of the elected in advancing the goals of VOTF.  
(2/22/08 at 10:43 AM)

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How should my wife vote since we only have one computer?  
(2/22/08 at 10:15 AM)

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I know the two candidates from LIVOTF and know them to be two of the finest men I  
know. I could not feel more confident casting my ballot for them.  
I wish them all the luck - they are in my prayers.  
(2/22/08 at 8:40 AM)

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The group needs to deal with their anger and become more prayerful. Treat the Church  
the way you would like to be treated in LOVE AND FORGIVENESS. Do 20 minutes of

silent meditation before each meeting and each person make a commitment to do 20 min of silent meditation each day. Prayers are with VOTF. Peace  
(2/22/08 at 8:07 AM)

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Your primary goal--which none of the candidates mentions should be to get less GRAY. You folks are OLD...and I say that not to be insulting but to shake the place up and get you to realize that you have NO younger members. I repeat NONE. ZERO. Your agendas will die with you.  
(2/22/08 at 1:02 AM)

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I was wondering if there is any way to know how many people have voted so far? Can this be posted on the website? You made this process very simple and user friendly...Thanks for that!  
Much peace,  
(2/21/08 at 10:01 AM)

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Looking forward to and praying that with these new people on board there will be an infusion of energy and communication and a sense of direction and purpose spreading out to all the affiliates  
(2/20/08 at 9:19 PM)

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Keep up the good work  
(2/20/08 at 6:30 PM)

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Thank you for the inclusive and easy to use voting process!  
(2/20/08 at 3:59 PM)

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God bless all of you for the great work that you do.  
(2/20/08 at 3:50 PM)

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As the 1st Minnesota Affiliate, Winona Voice of the Faithful, I would like recognition for every 1st Affiliate of every state to the Glory of God.

We are not to judge those bishops who caused the problem, but work for civil laws and follow Jesus' Words (the Bible) to correct them.  
(2/20/08 at 1:47 PM)

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I hope and pray that VOTF survives this somewhat bitter contest. It is needed  
(2/20/08 at 9:53 AM)

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I am concerned about the balloting process, as it took so long for a ballot to get to me (2/20), even though it was clear from the beginning that I was eligible to vote. I am concerned that others may have been in a similar position, but not pursued the matter, and therefore never secured a ballot.  
(2/20/08 at 7:55 AM)

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I am very impressed with this website! It is well-structured, easy to navigate, loaded with information, and efficiently educated me on the candidates. Thank you!  
(2/19/08 at 10:55 PM)

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Thanks for the GREAT job!  
(2/19/08 at 9:34 PM)

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When I went to read a candidate statement from the election ballot there was no back button to get back to the ballot. Fortunately I was able to get back in from the e-mail that VOTF sent me. Hope we have a good turnout.  
(2/19/08 at 8:09 PM)

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I agree with the member who said consolidate the people in the pews over the abuse issue where we have broad consensus and appreciation. Over time, the rest of the reform issues might be addressed. The question of finances, and who has access to seeing it, was troubling. I hope that the officers will be firmly committed to transparency and fiduciary responsibility. Let us be the change we are hoping for in the broader institution!  
(2/19/08 at 8:05 PM)

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Thanks for the opportunity to vote. The website is set up very nicely and is easy to go through.  
(2/19/08 at 6:07 PM)

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Thank you for a well-run, well-organized e-lection. This was all new to me and very easy to do.  
(2/19/08 at 3:58 PM)

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GO Dan! (2/19/08 at 2:47 PM)

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I am proud to be part of this organization (community)that is so professionally, faithfully, diligently striving to tackle the reforming of the Roman Catholic Church. I pray for tolerance within the organization of one another, for openness to learn from honest dialog, for grounding in the faith that the Holy Spirit is at work in us as Body of Christ.  
(2/19/08 at 1:22 PM)

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Thank you. Love what all of you are doing. Please keep it up  
(2/19/08 at 12:52 PM)

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We seem to have an "embarrasment of riches" here. All the candidates are excellent choices, and I thank all of them for agreeing to run for office. It was a difficult decision, and I will be praying for the winners and for the future of VOTF.  
(2/19/08 at 12:23 PM)

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keep the faith people!  
God loves his children that is why he sent his Only Begotten Son.

May He be with you at all times, always.  
(2/19/08 at 12:19 PM)

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I liked all the candidates so will be pleased with whomever gets elected.  
(2/19/08 at 11:52 AM)

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Part of the goal of VOTF, in true "catholic" spirit would be to reach out to other organizations that are seeking change within the Church and bring together and organize a national lay synod of such organizations including Corpus, SNAP, and others. This should be held in November in Washington, D.C. during the Bishops Conference so that the "baptized" voice of the Church is heard nationally along with the hierarchy's voice. This would begin a true national dialogue that would provide visibility for VOTF and position all Catholic "lay" (I hate that word) groups as a force in the Church - a true *sensus fidelum*.  
(2/19/08 at 9:31 AM)

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Closing of African-American parishes in gang neighborhoods presents real problems. Parenta WILL NOT allow their children to 'cross over' to another gang neighborhood to attend Mass. IT'S DANGEROUS!!!!  
The diocese MUST consider sociology of neighborhoods !It's not just \$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$ or raw numbers of parishoners. Pentacostals open 'little storefronts'.  
(2/19/08 at 9:17 AM)

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Go get 'em  
(2/19/08 at 6:11 AM)

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I AM INDEBT TO ALL THAT WORK TO  
TO MAKE OUR CHURCH NEW AGAIN.WHEN I WAS ABOUT 11 YEARS OLD I  
SEEN ( GOING MY WAY ) AND I HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR A PRIEST LIKE  
THAT FOR THE LAST 68 YEARS.

GOOD JOB ON THIS VOTING. THIS JUST MIGHT WORK IN NOV. 2008  
(2/19/08 at 12:34 AM)

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I am hopeful these fine volunteers will make a difference. I pray the church becomes the true sanctuary it should be certainly as Jesus would have envisioned. (2/18/08 at 10:50 PM)

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Please advise how I can get my wife's votes executed, since she uses the same e-mail address as I use  
(2/18/08 at 7:31 PM)

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I would like to thank all those involved in this election for the manner in which it was held. I particularly like the ease in which the voting is done.

(2/18/08 at 3:31 PM)

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THANKS TO ALL WHO RAN, AND FOR MARY PAT'S DEDICATED SERVICE.

(2/18/08 at 2:59 PM)

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I liked the interviews or debates on the computer/telephone. It was very helpful.  
nice work

(2/18/08 at 12:16 PM)

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I thank each of you for your loyalty to our important and timely cause. Your efforts to help all of us is admirable and w/b felt all over the world.

(2/18/08 at 8:31 AM)

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YOu have created a very clear and effective elections site. Thanks

(2/17/08 at 10:29 PM)

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Not fair for 2 members of VOTF eg H and W sharing 1 e mail address to have only 1 vote

(2/17/08 at 6:48 PM)

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The candidates have impressive credentials and this is encouraging for the future of the organizations. I thank all the candiates for their willingness to serve such a worthy cause. Thanks for your dedication.

(2/17/08 at 4:54 PM)

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I believe there is a need, and possible significant benefit to a VOTF sponsored letter writing campaign directly to the Vatican outlining VOTF goals/progress/issues. It may be the only way of actually attracting some attention by the Pope. You can likely bet that Bishops talk very little about VOTF when they do have an opportunity for input to the Papacy. Thanks

(2/17/08 at 3:19 PM)

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I'm a VOTF member in California, having joined when the news broke in Boston. Please focus on the 3 goals...and recognize the abuse of women. It's time for priests to be held responsible for inappropriate actions towards women. It is not an "affair" when it comes to priests and women. Priests weild power. There ought not be any more "Father Daddies" -- it's a disgrace, that priests are not held responsible for fathering children. While I applaud the VOTF call to re-evaluate celibacy for the diocesan priesthood for two reasons: 1) it supports the many priests that have asked for a re-evaluation of it = Goal Two, and 2) it's consistent with both Scripture and church tradition, I don't think it's wise for VOTF to call for dramatic changes involving roles for women, such as women priests. The call for women priests will alienate MANY members. If VOTF collaborates much more with radical lay organizations, those calling for women priests, I will abandon VOTF. There is NO Scriptural and NO traditional basis for women priests. While there IS, however, a Sciptural and a traditional basis for women deacons, I don't think VOTF ought to push for it. Working on the original 3 goals, including the re-evaluation of

celibacy for diocesan priests, will do much to restore health to the Roman Catholic Church.

(2/17/08 at 12:16 AM)

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Please focus on your main mission of VOTF. For now, let's not get distracted by 'women priests', and other 'hot button' issues. Rather, keep focus on bishop accountability and strong lay involvement in Church decisions. These two topics alone are huge tasks, and once in place, will prevent crimes by a few 'bad apple priests'.

I wish you all the very best!

(2/16/08 at 8:06 PM)

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I am impressed with the organization of this election. Thank you all for making it possible for so many of us to vote.

(2/16/08 at 5:17 PM)

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I hope that VOTF-National, through its new leadership, will somehow gain greater attention and acknowledgement in broader Catholic circles and in the media as an organization devoted to revitalization and reform of the church via a more progressive agenda. Most Catholic laypersons do not understand or appreciate its contribution to the future flourishing of our faith and our institutional church membership.

(2/16/08 at 4:39 PM)

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Thanks to all who give their time to this organization!

(2/16/08 at 1:09 PM)

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Thank you for making this ballot available.

(2/16/08 at 1:00 PM)

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It is a privilege to vote for my choice. Many thanks.

(2/16/08 at 12:55 PM)

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Congratulations. It finally worked after a long and grueling effort. I wonder how many people did not vote because the system was so complex and required a lot of effort to get through it.

(2/16/08 at 12:16 PM)

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thanks to all the candidates for agreeing to be on the ballot/for their continued commitment to VOTF and the future of our Church

(2/16/08 at 11:42 AM)

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Thank you for providing this opportunity to vote. The format allows me to compare the strengths of the candidates at least on the basis of the written word.

(2/16/08 at 10:55 AM)

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Great job all!

(2/16/08 at 10:40 AM)

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I have been involved with [affiliate name] from a great distance since its conception. As a former member of St. John's Abbey (Collegeville, Minn., 1961-1974), which had, and probably continues to have, its own set of issues regarding clerical abuse, I believe very strongly in "lay" support and involvement in the revival of the Catholic Church.  
(2/16/08 at 6:41 AM)

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Keep up the good work!!  
(2/15/08 at 11:41 PM)

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Gratitude to all nominees. May God Bless and Guide the new slate of VOTF leaders.  
(2/15/08 at 8:10 PM)

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Thank you, this was so easy..I thought it would be complicated and difficult. Magnificent job. Thank you.  
(2/15/08 at 8:05 PM)

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I admire the work of VOFT, and think it is absolutely necessary and essential.  
(2/15/08 at 6:23 PM)

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I find myself very concerned over the tone of some of the candidates' statements which remind me of the divisions within the early church. Sounds like we have factions within VOTF. Paul had his followers, Peter had his, maybe even a few backed Mary Magdalene. I do hope that the new board can unite in their understanding of the message of Jesus, the reason we choose to be a part of this church at all.  
They will know we are Christians by our love.  
God bless you all for your willingness to serve.  
(2/15/08 at 4:04 PM)

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we are dying on the vine but struggling to keep on. We need less controversy and more ideas on how to activate the silent pews.  
(2/15/08 at 4:04 PM)

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The process for this election was invigorating. Too bad the hierarchy isn't so transparent!  
(2/15/08 at 3:34 PM)

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I want to thank all who work so hard to make these elections painless and seamless. I'm not a computer geek but even I am able to cast my ballot. Thanks to all who make this possible.  
(2/15/08 at 3:28 PM)

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Great job with the voting ballot and program.  
(2/15/08 at 3:14 PM)

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Nice, clean straightforward ballot.  
The candidates' comments were salient.

Congratulations...  
(2/15/08 at 2:22 PM)

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Let's get off dead center and get the job done. Too much is at stake.  
(2/15/08 at 12:15 PM)

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KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.... I'M STILL ON MY WAY TO JOIN IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE FIELD OF THIS GROUP BUT I FIND IT DIFFICULT BEING IN TORONTO, MOREOVER CANADA.. TORONTO  
(2/15/08 at 12:08 PM)

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Please don't shun CTA anymore!  
(2/15/08 at 12:07 PM)

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thanks to VOTF for this voting process that provided us with such helpful information about the candidates. I feel more connected to VOTF as a result of participating in this process.  
(2/15/08 at 11:47 AM)

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It is time for VOTF to be a stronger advocate for elective celibacy for men, and the initiation of women to the priesthood. These are two changes that would solve a number of the Church's current deficiencies.  
The current system is not capable of producing the intelligent leadership necessary to lead the Catholic Church in the 21st century and many, like my wife and I, are frustrated with the stonewalling by the hierarchy of the Church in both the United States and Rome. We have also significantly reduced our financial support to VOTF because of its congenial attitude. It is past time for aggressive leadership and demonstrative action by VOTF. The pews are empty for good reason and there are few under age 50 who attend regularly. In other words, the Church is going out of Business and we need short term action. We have been looking for VOTF to stimulate action since the crisis and are extremely disappointed with the results to date.  
(2/15/08 at 11:23 AM)

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Please take so kind of action to apologize to Tom Doyle for the letter that Bill Casey wrote. He definitely hurt victims of abuse by writing that disheartening letter to Tom Doyle, who is survivors most outspoken voice against these crimes within the catholic church. tks,  
(2/15/08 at 11:25 AM)

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I feel privileged to be able to participate in this election at such a difficult time in the history of our Church. I applaud all candidates who are willing to leave their names on the ballot and I thank them for their courage. I have so much faith in VOTF and I pray for you each day  
(2/15/08 at 10:41 AM)

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WE the people must stand up and realize that the church DOES NOT belong to individual priests, bishops , oe higher up, the owner of HIS church is JESUS CHRIST, Not man. We must work to make the system change into a srvice program to help build the love of JESUS upon HIS church. The idea that there is NO financial accountability given for the millions of dollars collected, but where it goes is as bad as when JESUS came into His Fathers house and found out it was full of money changers. Rome must step up and realize IT is HIS HOUSE , not theirs. We the people have an oppurtunity to see HIS church expand "IF WE WORK HARD AND ADVISE OTHERS OF VOTF". God bless all who are running and may the Holy Spirit encite more to join and form local organizations to help bring the shepards back into realizing their responsibility is not change the mass or the way we serve God, but to make GOD more available to HIS people. May the Lord have His way.  
(2/15/08 at 8:44 AM)

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Great technology and process! (2/15/08 at 8:31 AM)

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May Jesu Christos continue to support VOTF with The Light of Truth.  
(2/15/08 at 6:23 AM)

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Looks like a good slate and promises to move the VOTF forward. I am encouraged by their enthusiasm and energy and am impressed by their involvement and dedication. Go! I hope we don't lose the runner-ups!  
(2/14/08 at 6:08 PM)

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The president and vice-president statements were much too long, intensely self-congratulatory, and imitative of current job resumes. There was even a refernce to an "opponent". I don't want to believe that the salt is losing its savor at this early stage in its eagerness to serve humbly. We've too many episcopal examples not to be aware.  
(2/14/08 at 6:03 PM)

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This was very easy to use. THANK YOU for the effort it took to make this happen.  
(2/14/08 at 1:45 PM)

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Ballot is excellent.  
(2/14/08 at 1:18 PM)

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Today we have the opportunity to move our church into the 21st century, following the guidelines of Vatican II. Mustering the resources of the people of God, we can change and challenge the clericalism that locks the church in a stranglehold. VOTF can be a powerful influence in breaking that stranglehold.  
(2/14/08 at 9:31 AM)

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I would like to ask whoever wins in the officer elections to please do all they possibly can to create a more civil and gentle VOTF in which we can discuss our viewpoints respectfully and always looking towards what is best for the organization and the Church.

(2/14/08 at 12:31 AM)

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Hello, I want to thank you for everything VOTF have been doing for our wonderful church. I would like in the future to be able to elect our bishops with votes cast in our own parishes. If i remember the bishops used to be elected by the people in the earlier church. I believe the Catholic Church is the peoples church and our leaders must be elected by the people within the parrish they serve. God bless your all.....

(2/13/08 at 7:58 PM)

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Keep up the good work.

(2/13/08 at 6:53 PM)

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Iam very pleased by the slate of candidates and their positions. It was a hard choice to make. Even if my candidaye does not win, I believe VOTF will still be in good hands. Thanks to all of the candidates

(2/13/08 at 6:38 PM)

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Many thanks for all the hard work done by the committee and the candidates.

(2/13/08 at 4:02 PM)

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Beware of the agendas of the other reform groups. VOTF is one the right track. The key to everything are the survivors. Listen to Fr. Tom Doyle: "What was wrong for the survivors, is what is wrong for the Church." If we listen to and serve the survivors we won't get off on the wrong track. The wrong track is to start with Church politics. The survivors are "the least of our bretheren". Only as they are healed can we reform the Church. They will heal us! They will redeem the Church. They are the key. They need to come an speak in our churches, just as they have done in Gethsemane Abbey. They who have suffered can become "wounded healers" for us.

(2/13/08 at 3:25 PM)

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Greetings,

Thank you for making the voting via email so easy for those with that access. However, as moderator of an affiliate consisting of 150 registered members I have to report that more than 50 of them do not have email. Some may use a library or a friend's computer, but some will not. It distresses me and them) to realize that they will not be able to vote for their candidate because they cannot submit a paper ballot. Who hears their voices?

(2/13/08 at 2:58 PM)

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Thank you for this opportunity, and all the work you put into this election.

(2/13/08 at 1:58 PM)

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I am a woman who has been married over 40 years with 20 yrs of Catholic education, including a Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies in 2003. I am encouraged by the passion and committment each candidate possesses. I, too, hope for the voice to become loud and clear to everyone, especially the hierarchy. Blessings and peace!!

(2/13/08 at 1:53 PM)

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Remarkably efficient, democratic process.

Thank you.

(2/13/08 at 12:41 PM)

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I am impressed by the candidates and found it difficult to make choices--a good situation

(2/13/08 at 11:37 AM)

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You are to be congratulated on the fair and open manner you have managed this election. It couldn't have been done better.

(2/13/08 at 11:15 AM)

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I received the ballot without any interference by a filter, and the voting process was simple.

(2/13/08 at 8:59 AM)

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Next time you have to provide a way for VOTF members who do not have email addresses to vote in this election. Approximately 1/3 of VOTF members do not have working email addresses -- they should not be disenfranchised.

(2/13/08 at 12:33 AM)

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I am very pleased by the way you provided statements from each candidate, as well as letters of support each received. It really enabled me to make a prayerful and enthusiastic selection for each office. Vision is important, and a willingness to adapt to changing needs is integral for the survival and flowering of VOTF. I want very much to be part of this visionary group that is not afraid to speak truth to power.

(2/12/08 at 11:33 PM)

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The 2008 Elections Committee has done a wonderful job, and each of them is a candidate for sainthood.

(2/12/08 at 10:25 PM)

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Thank you. Very clear.

(2/12/08 at 8:18 PM)

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I am voting from Adelaide South Australia

(2/12/08 at 8:03 PM)

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excellant site. Very easy to use. Very clear,concise who ever put this together is the best. Thanks for a job well done

(2/12/08 at 6:57 PM)

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Congratulations to VOTF for truly democratic approach to this election.

(2/12/08 at 5:59 PM)

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The refusal to provide mail ballots for our members who do not have access to email undermines the validity of this election.

(2/12/08 at 5:38 PM)

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Thank you to the elections committee for all your great work!

(2/12/08 at 3:49 PM)

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When I first received electioneering material from several candidates, I felt like berating 2 people I voted for, for not having websites, et al

I certainly hope this situation is resolved...there is too much work to be done.

(2/12/08 at 3:32 PM)

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Congratulations to all the fine candidates willing to serve VOTF. We the people in the pews or outside the doors need you now as much or more than ever. Thank you.

(2/12/08 at 2:44 PM)

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What happened to candidate Mulligan for VP? I just read all the candidates' info, before voting, and then when I got the ballot, there was no Mulligan - why?

(2/12/08 at 2:35 PM)

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Very easy to vote -- THANKS so much for making it that way.

(2/12/08 at 1:08 PM)

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I feel that the national leadership is important, but without greater participation/leadership at the local level, it can't succeed. I'm in the St. Louis area, and VOTF-STL doesn't have an active website nor frequent communication via e-mail.

(2/12/08 at 11:59 AM)

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Thank you all for your willingness to help lead the Voice of the Faithful into the future and for

never giving up. I believe, if not for the Voice of the Faithful, American bishops would go back to their old, dictatorial, corrupt and criminal ways...which they are still trying to do.

(2/12/08 at 11:48 AM)

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this is the clearest email ballot i have ever received ---THANK YOU

(2/12/08 at 10:42 AM)

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**OUR CHURCH SHOULD BE AS DEMOCRATIC AS THE VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL.**

**WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE FOR OUR BISHOPS AND PASTORS AND ASSOCIATE PASTORS.**

**WE HAVE TO STAY THE COURSE.**

**KEEP THE FAITH CHANGE THE CHURCH**

(2/12/08 at 10:39 AM)

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~~Continuing My Prayers for ALL VOTF Leadership,new Officers,STAF, and Committee members and all "VOTF WORKER BEES". Keep on keeping on. "A VOTF Silent Prayerful Voice" in the "Wilderness"

PS...What happened to PSVOTF Affiliate in WA State???...I really want to know!...How sad!

(2/12/08 at 10:05 AM)

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Thanks for all the work that went into this election and voting procedure. It was easy to get good info and opinions on the candidates.

(2/12/08 at 9:11 AM)

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hopefully the voters will receive the results when the election is over and the votes have been counted

thank you for all your time and work

(2/12/08 at 7:52 AM)

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Dear Mr. Claiborne,

Thank you for getting my ballot to me.

I'm glad I had the opportunity to vote for Kris Ward for President, David Biersmith for Vice President, Jim Jenkins for Treasurer, and Steve Sheehan for Secretary.

However, I would like to know why my ballot was late.

Also I would like to know whether my ballot coming late was a unique problem or whether it was part of a systemic problem.

If it was part of a systemic problem, please tell me what the problem was, how many voters were affected, and if the problem has been fixed for all voters.

Thank you.

(2/12/08 at 7:17 AM)

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Thank you for making the process easy.

(2/12/08 at 5:18 AM)

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I think the list of candidates and their qualifications was a most impressive one. I look forward to a great future!

(2/12/08 at 12:32 AM)

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Very pleased to participate and it is wonderful such an organization was founded. I grieve that many were abused and it took that to light a fire to burn out the "Chaff" in the church. But as others must go in harm's way to save the future, think of all the pain that will be stopped for future generations

(2/11/08 at 8:20 PM)

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This is a simple, clear way for members to vote. I was glad that I could review the candidates statements before voting.

(2/11/08 at 7:08 PM)

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Great online voting system. Very neat!

(2/11/08 at 5:11 PM)

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I am a fairly new member to VOTF. I am an educator so I joined Ann Southwood's VOR group. I have enjoyed the insight that many of the members of this list have provided. However, recently much bickering, name calling and frankly non-Christian behavior has been coming across this list. It is disappointing to see members of group dedicated to change and healing engaged in this type of behavior. I will be removing my name from the list.

(2/11/08 at 5:01 PM)

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You all have done well to set us this ballot system. Many thanks,

(2/11/08 at 3:55 PM)

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I and my wife are both VOTF members. Because we use only one e-mail address, We received only one ballot at that address. I had earlier followed your instructions at the election site and created a new e-mail address for [my wife]. However she has not received a ballot. Please advise and see that a ballot is sent to her at that address and send a response to me.

(2/11/08 at 12:46 PM)

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Congratulations on your great progress.

What a great effort....and, no, we're not sleeping here in Texas. We are very interested.

(2/11/08 at 12:45 PM)

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I am grateful for the commitment and eagerness to serve of the new officers, those who will be elected and those who will not be elected. I agree that the VOTF news internal renewal, 'aggiornamento' as John XXIII said. Many thanks to all that are doing the thinking and the actual work.

(2/11/08 at 12:10 PM)

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I was very put off that several candidates used my email address to 'campaign'...this should not happen and those who did it should be disqualified

(2/11/08 at 11:48 AM)

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To the Votf election committee,

I feel it is important and just that ALL members of Votf be given an opportunity to vote, not just members who have email addresses.

It is an unfair burden for Votf members who do not have access to a computer to have to find someone to let them use a computer to both register and vote. Those who are not

computer knowledgeable or who have difficulty getting out, especially in winter, have been put at a disadvantage by this year's election process.

In the interest of respect for every Votf member, please make the next Votf election one in which all members will have a fair opportunity to vote.

I've heard that the reason for email-only voting is a financial one. While that is understandable, wouldn't it have been better to ask Votf members to send a small donation so that all members will have easy access to voting?

If members can send financial contributions by mail, then they surely should be able to vote by mail!

Thank you.  
(2/11/08 at 10:51 AM)

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I believe you have to fight fire with fire. I haven't dne much with votf in the last few years because its seems to me VOTF is just too WHIMPY. rather than try to talk to the bishops hoping they will do something,why not get a petition going and stop the popes visit.He's done nothing  
(2/11/08 at 10:58 AM)

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Thank you for your good work.  
(2/11/08 at 10:53 AM)

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What happened to Larry Mulligan as a candidate for Vice President? He was my choice based on the candidates' statements, but his name was not an available choice among the two VP candidates listed on the ballot.  
(2/11/08 at 10:41 AM)

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I hope that VOTF supports significant reform in the priesthood including female and married priests. The prishood does not reflect its constituency and therefore remains an aloof and isolated group within the church. This allows for such travesties as the sex abuse. Truly connected priests are the exception.  
(2/11/08 at 10:06 AM)

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election process was the easy part, getting to the bottom of all the emails, was not.  
Thanks to Jim Muller for endorsement email.  
(2/11/08 at 10:05 AM)

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VOTF NEEDS TO FORMALLY PRAISE LAST YEARS' POLICY STATEMENT BY THE VATICAN, THAT GAYS SHOULD NOT ENTER OUR SEMINARYS. THIS CAN ONLY BE A GOOD STEP TOWARD REDUCING THE INSTANCES WHERE CLERGY ABUSE LAY PEOPLE. OF COURSE, THE VATICAN INSERTED PROVISIO, THAT THE PROSPECTS NOT HAVE BEEN PRACTICING GAYS IN

THE PREVIOUS (THREE MONTHS OR YEARS) OR SOME PERIOD, PRIOR TO ENTERING SAID SEMINARYS.....

(2/11/08 at 9:44 AM)

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Voting was much easier this year but I am concerned still about those that did not receive email notification. I have sent those names to Alice.

(2/11/08 at 9:37 AM)

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Thank you for preparing us with ample information on all the candidates and will plenty of advanced notice.

The voting system was also very user-friendly.

(2/11/08 at 8:09 AM)

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Thanks to all who organized this election. As a laywoman, knowing that my voice--via ballot--will be considered equally has great importance for me.

(2/11/08 at 7:18 AM)

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I would have rather had Larry Mulligan on the ballot for VP!

(2/11/08 at 12:47 AM)

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Please don't get discouraged.

(2/10/08 at 11:58 PM)

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thank you for such a great slate of candidates

(2/10/08 at 10:28 PM)

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I like the way that this election was handled this year. I appreciate all the hard work that goes-in behind the scenes. Thank you all !

You are my kind of idea of apostolic Catholic followers of Christ.

(2/10/08 at 10:19 PM)

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It is necessary for VOTF to make a clear statement that lay people must have an equal VOTE in church affairs (other than faith and morals) with the clergy. Then they must have a plan and take action. Too much time is spent on victim rights and blah blah blah. Church reform will only happen when the clegy dictatorship is broken.

(2/10/08 at 9:14 PM)

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Good, open, tech state-of-the-art process. Easy to get a sense of candidates from on-line statements--and then confirm via networking, plus the on-line candidate fora.

So, let's see, could we vote on our next archbishop here in Chicago this way ...?

(2/10/08 at 9:01 PM)

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My family and I do not believe that anyone should ever be turned away who asks to be a member of VOTF. There is no excuse for that and it is not Christian behavior.

(2/10/08 at 7:55 PM)

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This was a great way to vote. Thanks for all your work. Lets plan a GREAT SYNOND for 2009.

Would it not be wonderful to have 3000 people there?

Our new Bishop, Frank Dwane, in Venice Florida has only been here since last March. He is so conservative and totally ignores the laity. He has disbanded the Lay Counsel, replaced 17 pastors (all hand picked conservatives). All Church bulletins must be aproved by him and NO building will be alowed without HIS ideas placed.

(Such as kneeler and lots of statues) Give us a break. We had and so far have the most wonderful parish, great missions, total lay leadership, Fr. Glacken has lead St. John Evangelist, Naples Florida, to be a model that all should follow. VOTF was alwalys welcome.

His thank you has been to retire this fall as he turns 70. This list goes on and on. We need VOTF more now then ever. God Bless and keep fighting for what is RIGHT

(2/10/08 at 7:04 PM)

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Happy to see a spirited debate going on. Seems as though Votf is coming back to life! Excellent candidates, all.

(2/10/08 at 6:45 PM)

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voting setup worked very well - thank you all

(2/10/08 at 6:14 PM)

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This election process was painful and extremely disappointing. We should not have to be subjected to continuous emails which borders on harrassment. The future of VOTF can only be left in God's hands.

(2/10/08 at 6:12 PM)

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thanks to the committees who worked to get the candidates & who managed the election process. Great job! (2/10/08 at 5:10 PM)

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Bravo to VOTF for all the wonderful work that's been done to accomplish the whole voting process!!

(2/10/08 at 4:09 PM)

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This is all very sad.

(2/10/08 at 4:09 PM)

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I wrestled with the idea of not voting at all. This process has been disappointing and it is painful to see the differences that have cropped up within votf, mostly centered around the support of survivors. And although there are two candidates that I supported with few reservations, it was discouraging that very few responses to questions posed to any and all of the candidates were answered. Instead, we received endless statements. We were spoken at, not spoken with. It reminded me of the Church, and I hope that's not a model that votf plans to embrace in the future.

Still, I voted. I'm waiting to see where this election leads us. It would be good to hear that prayerful Voice, attentive to the Spirit, again. We didn't hear it during this election. And I pray that we don't throw Goal #1 over the side, leaving the support of survivors to SNAP because "they do it better." Maybe we need to join with SNAP to learn how we should do it better. As Peggie Thorpe wrote several years ago, survivors are our prophets - they brought us to this place. We owe them. And they don't need us, we need them.  
(2/10/08 at 3:57 PM)

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Great system!  
(2/10/08 at 3:47 PM)

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My wife is also a member of VOTF. How does she vote?  
(2/10/08 at 3:35 PM)

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Thank you for this opportunity to vote for the leadership of VOTF. May God bless the incoming leaders of VOTF as they go about their work managing this prophetic organization.  
(2/10/08 at 3:29 PM)

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My thanks to the Elections Committee members for their excellent service.  
My thanks to all of the candidates for providing us with such an excellent slate from which to choose the officers of VOTF.

My dismay and disappointment that division on the national level (unknown to me prior to this election process) has resulted in division in the election process as well, demonstrated 1)by the placement on the ballot of four members of the SSWG committee alone but not one person from the other national working groups (I call that ballot overload), and 2)contentious and inappropriate responses on the part of some persons that has hurt all of the candidates turned this process into a most unflattering picture of VOTF and the majority of members who are committed to VOTF's mission and 3 goals. This has been unbelievable and overwhelming, and most hurtful to VOTF's public reputation and it also may result in the discouragement and loss of members. I only wish all candidates had immediately, publicly and unanimously protested the website being used in this manner, and disclaimed all such statements.  
(2/10/08 at 2:36 PM)

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Thanks for having the USTREAM available to see and hear the candidates. It didn't work perfectly but it was very helpful.  
(2/10/08 at 3:15 PM)

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I hope this balloting is less confusing than it looks and sounds. I would hate to have votes missed because of difficulties with this system. What about the hundreds of people without computers?  
(2/10/08 at 3:04 PM)

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Congratulation on a simple, easy to use ballot. They could use your help with political elections in my state.

(2/10/08 at 2:56 PM)

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Let us truly be the "Voice" of our Church when many still think that the hierarchy alone is the Church.

(2/10/08 at 2:43 PM)

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I hope that the Holy Spirit will be at work for this election of officers. My eyes have been opened to a contentiousness that I was unaware of. Too bad and very sad.

(2/10/08 at 2:38 PM)

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I regret very much that this vote has become one of whether VOTF should become a subsidiary of SNAP or maintain its three-part mission statement.

(2/10/08 at 1:39 PM)

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Well done, National VOTF

(2/10/08 at 1:16 PM)

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The multiple mailings from some candidates had the opposite of their intended effect for me.

(2/10/08 at 12:57 PM)

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This was the most efficient, clearest opportunity for voting in the history of VOTF. Finally. Congratulations. (2/10/08 at 12:37 PM)

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Great job by VOTF staff and the Election Committee!!  
Debates were great...just not viewed by enough people.

WELL DONE

(2/10/08 at 12:31 PM)

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I greatly admire the advocacy/work/mission of VOTF and hope the incoming officers advance the work and mission.

There is MUCH to be done!

(2/10/08 at 11:50 AM)

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VOTF must - MUST - make it clear where it stands on ordaining women as priests in the Catholic Church.

(2/10/08 at 11:37 AM)

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I liked the questions for the candidates feature and watched the video and listened to the audio of the candidates. Each had its weaknesses but overall any serious member with the time to understand the differences between the candidates was able to come to an intelligent choice. NICE JOB ELECTION COMMITTEE!

(2/10/08 at 11:30 AM)

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A very exceptional and efficient way to vote. Good work!

(2/10/08 at 11:18 AM)

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Your internet voting is super easy. Thank you for setting up such a system. Not everyone can attend national meetings to cast votes. This does give everyone a voice. Thank you.  
(2/10/08 at 11:05 AM)

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Excellent voting system/link!!!  
(2/10/08 at 11:00 AM)

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The Church Leadership is bankrupt, Look at Bernie Law and Lavada for example, their churches in Rome are right across the street from each other. George being elected to the bishops group. I am just one survivor, Please work diligently and for the best interests for reform and not infighting. I pray everyday that someday all those robbers of innocence will pay for what they. God bless you all.  
(2/10/08 at 10:40 AM)

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My Mother did not get a ballot even though all her info and e-mail was sent in and she was a member in plenty of time. Please send her a ballot. Her email is  
(2/10/08 at 10:45 AM)

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I would like to see the VOTF become more "confrontational ". that is, more visible, in order to provoke some Dialogue with the Hierarchy. The Church is ignoring our efforts for more " openness " in the Church. That is why I voted for the candidates that I chose! Our tactics have to be more than meetings, statements, etc. The media is our only hope...The Globe Spot-Light revealed the Scandal... let's use them again to save the Church. Why can't we discuss Women as Priests or A Married Clergy.. It's way past the time for action!  
(2/10/08 at 10:23 AM)

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[personal data removed]  
Basically, I did not vote for anybody I felt to be "PC". This type of nonsense has been a major cause of the problems we face in the Catholic Church today. Wherever I saw psychobabble words such as "empowerment, dialog, collaboration, transparency..." and all these other nonsensical, pathetically overly used trendy "in" words, I knew immediately what I was dealing with: somebody who goes along with the en vogue thoughts of the moment, because they were uncomfortable with their own thoughts or direction. The time for PC is over. The time for gonads is here. Let's get the job done!  
(2/10/08 at 9:56 AM)

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I am very impressed with all the candidates. I have selected the candidates based on their written commitments as presented.  
I feel we are at a crossroad. I have begun to doubt our worth and future. Some of us are burning out. We need new blood, more creativity and younger energy. I do hope those elected will resuscitate all of us. Thank you all for your dedication.  
(2/10/08 at 9:43 AM)

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Long Island Voice of the Faithful has used its secret email list to send promotional pieces for selected candidates. I think this is fraudulent.

(2/10/08 at 9:43 AM)

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Thank you to all the nominees for their willingness to serve.

(2/10/08 at 9:15 AM)

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Thanks to the election committee for your excellent work.

(2/10/08 at 8:59 AM)

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I do not believe that the local affiliates should be using their databases to show support for individual candidates. I believe this was inappropriate. The national website is the place for people to go to obtain information on candidates for office, in that way the information provided is BALANCED and certainly not prejudicial. This was not the way for a Catholic Christian organization to behave. (2/10/08 at 8:53 AM)

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I would like to be better informed about meetings.

(2/10/08 at 7:59 AM)

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Easy voting process!

(2/10/08 at 7:31 AM)