



Statement of Candidacy for President by Mark Mullaney

I wish to submit my name in nomination for the office of President of Voice of the Faithful. The reason for my decision is threefold.

First, I wish to see the VOTF continue work on its mission and goals.

Second, I wish to generate a sense of consensus among all VOTF members and leaders that result in measurable actions and successes for VOTF in the year 2012.

Third, I wish to bring about change in the church through the establishment of initiatives that revive the catholic population throughout the world and restore pride among Catholics everywhere.

To reach these goals we need to:

- 1) Continue to provide support to survivors of sexual abuse by priests because they need our help and support.
- 2) Reach out to priests of integrity that have been marginalized and embarrassed by the actions of their peers and the hierarchy. Priests have greater needs today than 10 years ago. We need to both support their goals and deliver hope to all Catholics that the church will deal with priests needs and priests shortages.
- 3) "Change the Church" is hard to describe given its slow pace over the generations. However, within the last ten years the church has moved and responded to laity issues more than ever before. We need to focus this action, in which VOTF has been a leader, and strengthen our Voice in issues of the day that will affect our church and our children's church.

I have been involved in VOTF since 2002 when 25 Founders met in the basement of St. John's the Evangelist Church in Wellesley, MA. At that meeting we all identified our feelings regarding the sexual abuse issue and began a dialogue that continues today and brings hope to all Catholics.

Our vision of the church for the future is critical to the success of the Catholic Church in America. I am hopeful that together we can make a difference, effect a positive change and once again help make Catholics proud.

Other than being among the original founders of VOTF, I have served in numerous capacities within VOTF over the last 10 years. I have chaired all three searches for the Executive Directors for VOTF. As Interim Executive Director I became fully aware of the implementation process, systems, policies and procedures and focused activities of VOTF. The recent changes within the Voices in Action and actions of all VOTF committees are critical to clarifying and reaching our goals in all of its manifestations. As Nominating Committee chair and Election Committee member, I have a full appreciation of recruiting in

a not-for-profit organization. Looking for and attracting volunteers to this organization is critical to its success. People of all ages and cultures are keys to the success of VOTF now and in the future.

Finally, as current chair and long term member of the Development Committee and member of the VOTF Board of Trustees, I fully appreciate the need for and the critical nature of strong fundraising to keep VOTF strong. Both the fiduciary responsibility and the strategic development of VOTF now and in the future are imperative to maintain in order to keep VOTF strong and meeting the ever-changing needs of Catholics.

Survivors support, outreach to priest and, in particular, the awareness that the hierarchy is victim of their clerical nature are true focal points for VOTF now and into the future. Now it is more important than ever to support our faith and bring about change to improve the church for us and our grandchildren.