

Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport
Minutes of the General Meeting - Dec. 6, 2007

The meeting was opened by John Lee at 7:45 and the Advent Prayer, prepared by Marge Hickey, led by Jeanne Tarrant and was said by all.

John Lee, Chairman made the following announcements:

The next General Meeting will be held on January 10, 2008 at the First Congregational Church in Fairfield. Dr. Leslie Lothstein, Director of the Institute for Living in Hartford, will be our speaker. Annette Maiberger will invite SNAP to attend.

The Treasurer was not present and therefore the Financial Report was postponed until next month.

Tony Wiggins reported that tapes of the Providence Conference will be shown on Public Access TV, Channel 71 on Thursdays at 11:30 AM.

Joe O'Callaghan reported on the sentencing of Fr. Jude Fay. Nine members attended with posters. They were interviewed by reporters and given a spot on Channel 12 news.

Dan Sullivan reported on the crisis in VOTF National and requested donations.

Angela Bonavoglia, speaker for the evening, was introduced by Joanne Bray who cited Angela's many writings and presentations on the role of women in the Church. Bonavoglia introduced her topic, "Out of the Shadows- the Crucial Role of Women Changing the Church" with her experience as a Catholic woman and how she became a "Catholic in revolt."

In her research in preparation for her book, "Good Catholic Girls - How Women are Leading the Fight to Change the Church," Bonavoglia discovered many outstanding, unheralded women who are part of a global movement to bring women out of the shadows. Among them are Sr. Joan Chittister, Peggie Thorp, Judge Constance Sweeney, Barbara Blaine, and Justice Anne Burke.

Bonavoglia reminded us that from the beginning of the Church, women were always present with Jesus and evidence of women's role in the early Church as deacons, martyrs, and even as Bishop has been revealed in recent scholarship.

Finally, Bonavoglia urged us as VOTF to include women's voices, to claim women and girls in equal partnership and most importantly, to determine just how to accomplish this.

After a brief question and answer period, Peggie Thorp was introduced. She, as co-founder of VOTF, spoke of the beginnings of our organization and of the importance of the Women's Resolution. She also emphasized cooperation with other lay organizations such as CTA and WOC. As editor of "In the Vineyard," Thorp called for written contributions from the assembled group.

The meeting ended on a joyful, hopeful note and after the "Our Mother/Father" prayer, refreshments, provided by the men of the board, were enjoyed by all.

Submitted by: Peg Mooney