

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF VOTFSBA July 2006 - June 2007

EDUCATIONAL SPEAKERS

Sr. Sheila McNiff, Victims Assistance Minister of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, speaking on her work reaching out to sexual abuse victims

Dr. Ann Taves, Cordano Professor of Catholic Studies at UCSB, speaking on the rise and development of papal authority

Fr. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM, speaking on "Franciscans: Rousing the Rabble for God" on the role of Franciscans in Church reform

Sr. Carol Quinlivan, CSJ, Archdiocesan Director of the Office of Parish Life, speaking on "Finding Our Voice: Emerging Models of Lay Leadership," with particular emphasis on Parish Life Directors

SANTA BARBARA CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Held a Day of Prayer and Visioning on July 22, 2006 to prepare for the upcoming year's work

Conducted a study of Fr. Peter Phan's article "A New Way of Being Church" in preparation for his talk at UCSB

Organized a bus trip to the Getty to view Sacred Icons from the St. Catherine Monastery at Mt. Sinai

Co-sponsored Mass of Healing at St. Mark's Parish, with reflection by Paul Fericano of SafeNet

Held a discernment meeting on April 21, 2007 to envision the future of VOTFSBA

Heard excerpts from a talk by Fr. Donald Cozzens given at the Religious Education Congress on church financial practices, followed by discussion of local parish finance councils

OUTREACH

Letter to Cardinal Mahony in response to the LA Times article critical of his handling of the Caffoe case, urging him to change from a legalistic strategy to one of openness and complete truthfulness

Letter to Cardinal Mahony thanking him for his decision to sell archdiocesan real estate assets rather than sell parish and school property

Letter to Cardinal Mahony asking him to reconsider his decision to bar Bishop Gumbleton from speaking in Santa Barbara

STATE & NATIONAL OUTREACH

Monitored VOTF National website and publications, as well as emails and news digests from National office; National Roundtable publications; sexual abuse trials in San Francisco/Oakland, Santa Rosa, settlements in Orange County, bankruptcy in San Diego, among other issues

Donation to the National Voice of the Faithful Office (2006) & to the Higgins Therapy Trust (2007)