

October 23, 2002

Memory of our gathering on October 23rd, 2002

Opening Prayer and Agape service:

Sharing the bread and wine of community

Introductions, Sharing, Voicing

While again placing their stones into our holding basket, participants shared their thoughts and their pain. Here are some of the statements that were made:

- We are all unique expressions of the mind of God.
- It is important for me to act on what I feel within and stand up.
- I am angry about the report regarding Bishop William Murphy, who asked a group of sisters to move from their home so he could take it over to make a place for him, his entertaining and meetings. He spent around \$1,000,000.
- Has there been a forgetting of priests and hierarchy of being "servant leaders"?
- It seems as though the Vatican is working hard to preserve its aristocratic position of Bishops. It is discouraging.
- Saddened about how those who have been hurt by the abuse of power in the Church have become paralyzed and will not speak. Use the example of Ted Kazinski's brother who was willing to bring out the pain and shame in his family in order to save the lives of others. His fear did not stand in the way.
- Incongruities of the story of Christ and what he taught vs. how many of the leaders of the Church are acting.
- How can people confuse faith in Christ, with faith in the hierarchy of the Church?
- We need to go back to the teachings of Jesus.
- Jesus was also angry with the leaders of his church because they burdened their people with rules and regulations.
- Vatican II taught that we are all the Church and are all the people of God.
- I was taught the importance of the "primacy of conscience" in my Catholic education. What happened to that concept?
- We are feeling the Spirit moving us and calling us together in these gatherings to be a prophetic voice.
- Coming together here is hopeful.
- We feel that we have been given the grace to move forward.
- The mystery of the gospel is too great to be diminished.
- We need to keep educating ourselves.
- In the end I may not have made a difference that can be seen in the world. But more importantly, I participated in something that called me and was important.

Letter to AB

We will write another letter to the AB regarding the national meeting of the Bishops. We received a response from that last letter. It is important that the Bishop realizes that the letters sent to him are from CCC-VOTF and not from one person.

Plan of Action

This is being worked on by the Leadership Team and will be presented to the group at the next gathering.

PR

It is important for us to get our word out. Letters to other parish councils. Put our web site in other bulletins (ccc-votf.org)

We need to consider sending our communications to all the bishops in Colorado. We say that we are the Colorado Concerned Catholics.

Web Page:

It is up and working, with areas still under construction. There are links to VOTF, Boston Globe, Regis --- Institute of the Common Good. We hope to add other links. What ideas do you have?

Archdiocesan Pastoral Council

Diana received an e-mail from Ginny Reigel, who is the facilitator of the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council. It stated that she and the APC have decided that VOTF "was not representative of the Catholic faithful." She also said that they would not meet with us. A letter from the Leadership Team (LT) was drafted and read to those at the gathering. It was decided by those present to give the letter back to the LT for incorporating some of the feedback given. It was also decided that the letter would be on hold until Diana's next meeting, that has been scheduled with Ginny. After Diana's report on that meeting, the LT will decide what to do about the letter.

Speaker

It was recommended that our gatherings begin with speakers who can share their spiritual journeys in today's Church. Also that they would share their perspectives of the role of the laity in today's Church.

Next gathering:

November 13th @ & PM @ Flahive's