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August 12, 2022

General Secretariat for Synod of Bishops
Via della Conciliazione 34
00120 Città del Vaticano, ITALY

Thank you for the invitation to Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) to participate in *Synod 2021-2023: For a Synodal Church* as a Catholic Lay Organization recognized by the USCCB. VOTF consists of men and women who are dedicated to the church. Our members reside in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Australia, and several other countries. Founded in response to the clergy sex abuse crisis in the United States, for 20 years we have worked for change from within the church. Our mission statement is: *"To provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church."*

As part of our synodal process, we held preliminary information sessions and also hosted a video session "Conversations on Synodality with Vatican Commission Experts Rafael Luciani and Kristin Colberg." Their input was hopeful, and we as an organization are hopeful. Participation in the synod process demonstrates the hopefulness of those who participated and their determination to be heard even when they could not do so in their own dioceses. We are honored to present their voices.

Along with hope, however, is the recognition that much change is needed. Our report details the issues most significant for the participants, matters that must be addressed if the Church is to flourish in the next generations.

We are sending this report both electronically via email and shipping a printed copy. Should you have any questions please contact either me at 1-917-434-7706, or our Executive Director Donna Doucette at 1-617-686-3757.

Pope Francis and The Committee on Synodality remain in our prayers.

Yours truly,

Mary Pat Fox, President