

**PLEASE PRINT (register early to guarantee a space)**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send check for \$40, made out to "VOTF Conference"**

**Mail to: VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport**

**191-C Main Street**

**New Canaan, CT 06840**

PLEASE NOTE the change of location on campus from the Barone Campus Center to the Dolan School of Business.

The Barlow Road entrance should be used. Drive up the hill bearing left to first left - Coughlin Road. Continue on Coughlin to parking lot in rear. (look for signs for VOTF/Bpt. Conference).



## **The Sense of the Faithful: The Voice of the Spirit in the Church**

**Keynote Speaker  
Dr. Paul Lakeland**



**13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Saturday, March 14, 2015**

**8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Fairfield University Center for  
Catholic Studies  
and  
Voice of the Faithful  
in the  
Diocese of Bridgeport**

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

The Charles F. Dolan  
School of Business  
Dining Room\*

### Program outline:

- 8:30 am Registration  
9:15 am Welcome/Opening Prayer

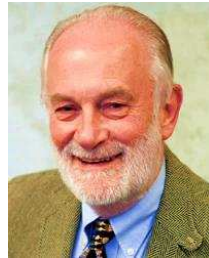
### Presentations

- 9:20 am Introduction by Joseph O'Callaghan  
9:25 am Dr. Paul Lakeland  
*A Place of Mercy Freely Given: The Church in the Vision of Pope Francis*  
10:15 am Table Discussions  
10:35 am Question & Answer segment  
11:00 am Professor Lakeland's response  
11:20 am St. Anselm Volunteer Award  
11:30 am BRUNCH  
12:00 pm Panel Discussion- Diocesan Synod Delegates  
12:20 pm Question & Answer segment  
1:00 pm Voice of Compassion Awards  
1:30 pm Closing Prayer

\*please note change of location from previous years.

## Keynote Speaker

Dr. Paul Lakeland is the Aloysius P. Kelley Chair of Catholic Studies at Fairfield University. He received his Licentiate in Philosophy from Heythrop Pontifical Athenaeum, an M.A. from Oxford University in English Language and Literature, a Bachelor of



Divinity degree from the University of London, and his Ph.D. in religion from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. At Fairfield he teaches courses on ecclesiology, religion and culture, and religion and literature.

He is the author of some 35 scholarly articles and 9 books. Dr. Lakeland has recently won Second Place for 50th anniversary of Vatican II by the Catholic Press Association for his book, *A Council That Will Never End: Lumen Gentium and the Church Today*. Among his other works: *Catholicism at the Crossroads: How the Laity Can Save the Church* which won an award from the Catholic Press Association.

Paul Lakeland is a member of the American Academy of Religion, the Catholic Theological Society of America, and the American Theological Society. His academic and research interests include the roles of the laity in the Catholic Church, the Papacy, religion and literature, and the relations between religious commitment and progressive politics.

## Panel Discussion

Very soon after his installation as the Bishop of Bridgeport, Bishop Frank Caggiano called for a Diocesan Synod, the fourth in the history of our diocese. Preceding the opening of the Synod, Bishop Caggiano called for "Listening Sessions" in all the Vicariates and among Youth and the Latino population. Sixty Challenges, covering all the issues raised in those sessions, were the starting point for the Synod. Delegates were appointed to the Synod by their parishes, organizations, religious orders, and the Bishop. Voice of the Faithful was granted three delegate slots by Bishop Caggiano, and these delegates were selected by a vote of the VOTF Board of Directors. These delegates are: Jamie Dance, , John Marshall Lee and Anne Pollack. VOTF/Bpt. Board member John Fitzpatrick is also a delegate but serves as a member from St. Philip parish in Norwalk. To date there have been three general meetings of the Diocesan Synod. With the help of study committees, the Challenges have been reduced to less than ten while still encompassing the original issues first perceived in the Listening Sessions. The driving force behind these Challenges is Bishop Caggiano's determination to identify and remedy weaknesses and problems that impede faithful and full participation in the life of the Church in Bridgeport. He has set a goal for implementation of these remedies at three years. Bishop understands that revitalizing the Diocese of Bridgeport will be a large and onerous undertaking, particularly among parishes that have in some way declined. But, as delegates have begun to understand, our bishop is well prepared and excited about the prospects for the future of our diocese.