

Friends,

You may read the headline in today's Boston Globe and wonder whether we have changed our position on issues of gay rights, politicalization of the sacraments, etc. We have not.

At last night's meeting in Winchester MA, where Kathleen McChesney and I spoke, a question was posed about the current environment.

I responded that it has become more difficult for us (VOTF) to do our work on the sexual abuse crisis as the bishops have taken positions that are so divisive ... gay marriage, politicalization of the Eucharist, church closings, etc. In response to a reporter's question afterward, I noted that we are "dismayed and disappointed" at the use of substantial financial resources (estimated at >\$1 million for printing, mailings, and lobbying) to run the anti-gay marriage campaign in Massachusetts.

We have not changed our position -- our focus remains firmly fixed on our mission and three goals. Last night, Kathleen McChesney complimented VOTF for all it has done to address the sexual abuse crisis and reform within the Church. Together, we are helping to make a difference.

Regards,

Jim