

LESLIE LOTHSTEIN, PH.D. TO SPEAK TO VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL ON

PRIEST ABUSERS AND YOUTH ABUSED

January 10, 2008 – 7:30pm

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION

First Church Congregational
148 Beach Road
Fairfield, CT (**click for Directions**)

Leslie Lothstein, Ph.D., will address VOTF on the topic, “Priest Abusers and Youth Abused: A Five Year Report Card”, at their first meeting of 2008 on Thursday, Jan. 10 At 7:30 p.m. at First Church Congregational located at 148 Beach Rd., Fairfield, CT. Everyone is invited to attend.

Dr. Lothstein is Director of Psychology at Hartford Hospital’s Institute of Living . He and his colleagues have treated more than 600 Catholic priests, 100 Protestant ministers, 1 rabbi, and 50 women religious from all over the world for various psychiatric disorders. He has also worked with and treated extensively the victims of clergy sexual abuse. He has been with the Institute of Living for 16 years. Prior to his work at the Institute, He was affiliated with Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.

The stated mission of Voice of the Faithful, an organization of mainstream Catholics, is to be “ a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church.” VOTF believes that a reasoned dialogue among bishop, priests, nuns, and laymen and women will contribute to the renewal of the Church.

In order to encourage greater lay participation in the governance of the Church, VOTF developed five proposals for structural change: (1) the election of bishops by the clergy and people of the diocese; (2) the right of parishioners to participate with the bishop in the selection of their pastors; (3) the establishment of elected, representative diocesan finance councils with real authority; (4) the establishment of elected, representative parish pastoral and finance councils with real authority; and(5) the right of the faithful as members of a parish corporation consisting of their elected representatives, the bishop, and the pastor, to own church property. The full text of the proposals can be consulted at www.votfbpt.org/proposal.html.

For further information about VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport and for directions to their meetings consult www.votfbpt.org.