

**The Women's Study Group of Voice of the Faithful
in the Diocese of Bridgeport
Invites you to a very special meeting
November 12, 2015**

**"More important than bishops"? : Pope Francis's Mixed
Record on Women**

One of Pope Francis's most startling comments about women was reported from a press conference on the plane returning from World Youth Day in Rio: "I've said it before, and I'll say it again," he said, "Women are more important than priests and bishops." But... what does this really mean?

Pope Francis has awakened expectations around the globe for a renewed and more authentic practice of the Christian faith. Does his vision of renewal include women as full partners? The record is a mixed bag of hopeful signs along with discouraging reminders of how far we have still to go. We will look at his statements in context, and consider how to read them—and what message they bear overall. We will also discuss what steps we as women can take to back Francis in advancing women's issues to the betterment of our entire church.

Meet **Rita Ferrone** and hear her report on Pope Francis's message.



7:30 pm Thursday, November 12, 2015

First Congregational Church on the Green

Norwalk, Ct

Free and open to the public

Rita Ferrone is an independent scholar, writer, and blogger. A lay woman and active Catholic, she is author of several books about liturgy, including *Liturgy: Sacrosanctum Concilium*, published by Paulist Press. She is also a columnist for *Commonweal* magazine. A 1983 graduate of Yale Divinity School, she was the 2007 winner of their Alumni Achievement Award for excellence in congregational ministry. Her career has taken her to more than seventy-five dioceses across the U.S. as a speaker and workshop facilitator. Her work on liturgy and church renewal is well-known and respected internationally as well. She currently edits a journal of the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, *The Yale ISM Review*, and serves as faculty in their summer program, *The Congregations Project*. She lives in Mount Vernon, NY.