



# Voice of the Faithful™

"Keep the Faith, Change the Church"™

January 27, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**THE FATE OF ACCUSED PRIESTS:**  
**CATHARINE HENNINGSSEN TO SPEAK TO VOTF**

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Catharine A. Henningsen, a veteran journalist, will address the topic "The Second Wave of Abuse: The Fate of our Accused Priests" at the meeting of Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport on Thursday, February 5, at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend the meeting.

Ms. Henningsen's articles on religion, business and entrepreneurial ventures have appeared in such major periodicals as *American Bookseller*, *The Atlantic*, *Entrepreneurial Woman*, *Glamour*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *National Catholic Reporter*, *New Business Opportunities*, *The New York Times*, *Unique Homes* and *Woman*. Library Journal named her most recent book, *The Portable Executive: From Corporate Dependency to Self-Direction*, published by Simon and Schuster, Best Business Book 1995.

Ms. Henningsen is the former editor of *The American Catholic* newspaper. In August of 2003, she founded the independent Catholic journal of opinion *SALT: The Op-Ed Page of the Catholic Church*, "dedicated to preserving freedom of inquiry within the Catholic Church". Her monthly column, "Luminous Fallibility", analyzes the papacy of John Paul II. She is currently working on a book entitled *Breaking Adam's Rib: The Legacy of John Paul II to Women*.

Voice of the Faithful, an organization of mainstream Catholics, seeks "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". VOTF has three goals: to support those who have been abused; to support priests of integrity; and to shape structural change within the Church.

For further information about VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport and for directions to the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk consult [www.votfbpt.org](http://www.votfbpt.org)

The Fairfield-Westchester VOTF affiliate will meet next on Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Christ Church in Greenwich. Further Norwalk information is available from Jim Alvord (203-847-4145) and from Tom Malarkey (914-946-7315) for Fairfield-Westchester.

Both affiliates are part of the Boston-headquartered VOTF ([www.votf.org](http://www.votf.org)) an organization of over 30,000 mainstream practicing Catholics in 188 Parish Voice Affiliates in 40 U.S. states and 21 countries formed in response to the current multi-nation clergy sexual abuse crisis. **Bridgeport Bishop William E. Lori does not allow local VOTF groups to meet on Catholic Church premises.**