



# Voice of the Faithful™

*"Keep the Faith, Change the Church"™*

February 27, 2004

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ***SVEA FRASER TO SPEAK IN HONOR OF GOOD PRIESTS AT VOTF***

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Svea Fraser, one of the founders of Voice of the Faithful in Wellesley, Massachusetts, will address the topic "In Honor of Good Priests" at the meeting of Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport on Thursday, March 4, at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

With a Master of Divinity degree from Blessed John XXIII National Seminary, Ms Fraser has been a religious education teacher and a director of the convert orientation program, RCIA. She has served as a lector, Eucharistic minister, and the first female Catholic chaplain at Wellesley College. In the Archdiocese of Boston, she has also served on the Liturgical, Vocations, and Ecumenical/Interfaith Commissions. Her husband Scott is the treasurer of VOTF. While living in Singapore, they founded a group to resettle Southeast Asian refugees while raising two daughters.

The Voice of the Faithful recognizes that the great majority of our priests have faithfully served their congregations and abided by their vows of celibacy. Ms Fraser heads a committee working on means of providing essential support for good priests. She remarked, "I believe now is the era of the laity; it is time for us to work together for the reign of God with all religious, priests, and bishops. As an individual I want to dedicate my gifts and energy to help build bridges of trust in a community whose members are all hurt by the present crisis."

In addition to supporting priests of integrity, VOTF's other goals are to support those who have been abused, and to shape structural change in the Church. VOTF's overall purpose is "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".

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, March 16<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 international organization of over 30,000 mainstream practicing Catholics in 188 Parish Voice Affiliates in 41 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.**