

PRESS RELEASE

PEGGIE THORP TO SPEAK TO VOTF ON WOMAN'S PLACE IN THE CHURCH

Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport will meet on Thursday, June 5th At 7:30 pm at First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. Peggie Thorp, co-founder and facilitator of VOTF beginnings will present "A Woman's Place: Engaged and Unafraid."

Ms. Thorp is the founding editor of the VOTF publication "In the Vineyard" and is co-sponsor of the recently passed VOTF Women's Resolution. She is currently a candidate for a Masters in Theological Studies at Weston Jesuit/Boston College.

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 the 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 pastoral and 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 the First Congregational Church on the Green consult www.votfbpt.org.