

VOTFBpt December 6, 2007 Meeting - PRESS RELEASE

ANGELA BONAVOGLIA SPEAKS ON WOMEN'S ROLE IN CHANGING CHURCH

Angela Bonavoglia, an award winning journalist and author, will speak on the topic, "Out of the Shadows: The Crucial Role of Women in Changing the Church," at Voice of the Faithful's monthly meeting on Thursday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. Everyone is invited to attend.

Ms. Bonavoglia's talk will be based on her latest book, "Good Catholic Girls: How Women Are Leading the Fight to Change the Church," (Harper Collins/Regan Books 2005). Her work on women in the Church has appeared in Salon.com, Ms, Newsday, the Chicago Tribune and National Catholic Reporter. Her recent op-ed on the female face of Catholic ministry appeared in Newsday, the Miami Herald, and other newspapers around the country. She has appeared on more than 60 television and radio shows speaking about women and Church reform, including NPR, Democracy Now, Air America, It's Your Call, and national Canadian television and radio.

In addition to her journalism, Ms. Bonavoglia has worked as a social worker, held administrative positions with and served as a consultant to major foundations, public and non-profit agencies. She holds an MSW from New York University.

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 pastoral and finance councils with real authority; (4) the establishment of elected, representative parish pastoral and finance councils with real authority; (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 in Norwalk consult www.votfbpt.org

