

## PRESS RELEASE

### ELISABETH BRINKMANN, RSCJ, TO ADDRESS VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL

Sister Elisabeth Brinkmann, RSCJ, will speak on the topic, “The Foremothers of Jesus and What They Teach the Church Today,” on Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 p.m., at The First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. Everyone is invited.

Dr. Brinkmann received her B.S. from Rice University, her M.A. from Graduate Theological Union and a doctoral degree in Roman Catholic Theological Ethics from Boston College. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at The College of New Rochelle where she teaches a variety of courses in Christian theology and ethics. She is a member of The Society of the Sacred Heart, a world wide, contemplative religious order whose members serve as educators in many settings and to people in all walks of life.

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; 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](http://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](http://www.votfbpt.org).