

**THE EUCHARIST IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH:
THEME OF TALK BY JOSEPH F. O'CALLAGHAN**

“The Eucharist in the History of the Church” will be the theme of a talk by Joseph F. O’Callaghan at the regular monthly meeting of Voice of the Faithful on Thursday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. Everyone is invited to attend.

From the earliest days of the Church the Eucharist has been the center of Catholic worship. Dr. O’Callaghan will give an historical overview of the development of the liturgy; Eucharistic controversies; formulation of the doctrines of the Real Presence and Transubstantiation; and the reforms of the Council of Trent and the Second Vatican Council. He will also discuss the impact on the Eucharistic celebration of the shortage of priests and various solutions proposed.

Dr. O’Callaghan, Professor Emeritus of Medieval History at Fordham University and former Director of The Center for Medieval Studies, is the author most recently of the book *Electing Our Bishops: How the Catholic Church Should Choose Its Leaders*. A past president of the American Catholic Historical Association, he has written several other volumes including *Reconquest and Crusade in Medieval Spain* and *Alfonso X and the Cantigas de Santa Maria: A Poetic Biography*. He also taught Church History at the Holy Ghost Fathers Seminary, Ferndale, Norwalk, and at St. Joseph’s Seminary, Dunwoodie, New York.

VOTF and the Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J., Chair of Catholic Studies at Fairfield University, will co-sponsor a conference entitled “DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.” THE EUCHARIST: WILL IT CONTINUE TO BE THE CENTER OF CATHOLIC WORSHIP? on Saturday March 28, 2009.

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.