



Coming to VOTF In the  
Diocese of Bridgeport

on

Thursday, Dec. 10, 2009  
7:30 pm

Theresa Kane, R.S.M., Mercy College Professor. Former President of Leadership Conference of Women Religious and past President Institute of Sisters of Mercy will present : ***Women and Women Religious: Our Vision of Church and Society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.***

From an article in the Oct. 16, 2009 edition of *National Catholic Reporter*, Tom Fox writes:

“Speaking at the 40th anniversary conference of the National Coalition of American Nuns in St. Louis, Mercy Sr. Theresa Kane offered a stinging rebuke to the Vatican for its treatment of women in general and of women religious in particular.

Referring to the Vatican investigation of U.S. women religious initiated last December by Slovenian Cardinal Franc Rodé, who heads the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Kane called it “a sign of impotence in the church hierarchy.”

“Regarding the present interrogation, I think the male hierarchy is truly impotent, incapable of equality, co-responsibility in adult behavior,” she said, not mincing any words. “In the church today, we are experiencing a dictatorial mindset and spiritual violence.”

But she described herself as a hopeful person. “Why do we hope and why do we endure?” she asked. “I have one chance, one life, and therefore I have a responsibility to criticize. Our hope comes from solidarity between women religious and laywomen.”

Kane, widely viewed as an influential voice among women religious, has a place of prominence in the history of U.S. women religious. As president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in 1979, she greeted Pope John Paul II at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. In her address she urged him to open all ministries of church life to women. Her remarks made headlines around the world.”

All meetings are held in the **First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk.**  
Please consult [www.votfbpt.org](http://www.votfbpt.org) for more information and directions.