

March 24, 2007

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL TO REVIEW PRIESTS' STATUS

Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. Everyone is invited to attend.

A guided discussion on Financial Accountability in the Church with specific emphasis on compensation, benefits and allowances accorded active and retired clergy within the Diocese of Bridgeport will be directed. Financial reporting of and accountability for these items and the fairness and justice of these practices relative to Church employment, social teaching and practices within the larger community will be addressed.

Plans for the upcoming Saturday, April 26 "Who Owns Our Church" conference at Fairfield University will be reviewed. The keynote address, "Trustees and Trusteeism in the American Church" will be presented by Father Gerald Fogarty, S.J., Professor of Religious Studies and History at the University of Virginia. Fairfield University Prof. Paul Lakeland will also present a perspective on current theological trends in the Church. Church governance, financial accountability and the role of women in the Church will be subjects addressed in interactive fashion during the Conference.

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's proposals are intended to stimulate conversation concerning the role of the laity in the governance of the Church. A reasoned dialogue among bishop, priests, nuns, and laymen and women will contribute to the renewal of the Church.

VOTF is seeking contributions to its 2008 Voice of Compassion Fund for the direct support of area human service charities. Contributions for the Voice of Compassion Fund may be sent to VOTF, PO Box 5044, Westport, CT 06881.

For further information about VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport, the April 26th conference at Fairfield University, the Voice of Compassion Fund and directions to the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk consult www.votfbpt.org.