

**SLANDER, EVASION, HYPOCRISY
AND FAIRFIELD COUNTY CATHOLIC**

In "Salt II," a March 10th editorial in *Fairfield County Catholic* (FCC), Joseph McAleer, the editor and spokesman for Bishop William E. Lori, continues his campaign of slander against Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport. In response to an earlier editorial in FCC, VOTF raised several questions in its ad "*Truth, Slander, and Fairfield County Catholic*," published in the secular press, but Dr. McAleer evaded answering them, and accused VOTF of hypocrisy.

**In light of this new barrage, VOTF asks once again: Will Joseph
McAleer
and Bishop William E. Lori answer these Questions, and also our
earlier ones?**

1. Is VOTF's request for accountability and transparency in the scandal of priestly sexual abuse and episcopal cover-up, as well as in the use of parishioners' donations, the agenda of "cranks"?
2. How does VOTF's appeal for accountability and transparency in these matters "malign and discredit the diocese and its bishop"?
3. Is VOTF "pursuing an agenda contrary to Church teachings" when it calls for accountability and transparency of bishops and pastors?
4. Who is "name-calling" when faithful Catholics who ask questions about the Church in the Diocese of Bridgeport are dismissed as hypocrites, cranks, and dissidents?
5. Does the Diocese of Bridgeport truly believe in "constructive discussion"? If so, why has Bishop Lori denied VOTF the right to meet in our parish churches?
6. If Bishop Lori refuses to engage the faithful Catholics of VOTF in dialogue, then how are we to transmit our concerns to him? Is he afraid to answer hard questions?
7. Will Bishop Lori explain how spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to keep state court records sealed (including Bishop Egan's testimony) serves his Safe Environment initiative?
8. If FCC is interested in a "healthy exchange of opinions" on its Op-Ed pages, is it willing to publish an Op-Ed piece by a member of VOTF?
9. When FCC proclaims "We proudly offer a voice to the Catholic faithful in these pages", are members of Voice of the Faithful included?
10. If FCC is committed "to the pursuit of holiness and the truth", why does it not treat all Catholics, including members of VOTF, with the dignity and respect they deserve as members of Christ's Body?

VOTF meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. The April meeting will be held April 28 at Fairfield University. Please visit our website: www.votfbpt.org for details. Contact us by e-mail at contact@votfbpt.org or US mail at P.O. Box 5044, Westport, CT 06881.