



VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL™ IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

For release May 27, 2009

SEX ABUSE SURVIVORS TO SPEAK AT VOTF

May 26, 2009

Contacts: Kathleen Clement, 203-853-7433
Bob Mulligan, 203-847-5128

Beth McCabe, Connecticut co-chair of the Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests (SNAP) and fellow survivor Brian Walsh will speak of their experiences and SNAP programs at the June meeting of the Voice of the Faithful in the Diocese of Bridgeport. The local VOTF chapter (www.votfbpt.org) meets 7:30PM Thursday, June 4th at the First Congregational Church on the Norwalk Green.

SNAP's mission is to help survivors of unwanted or abusive sexual experiences in childhood live healthier, happier lives. Its mission also includes inperson and online help on the Internet. Local meeting information is available at www.snapct.org

Beth McCabe, a native New Yorker is a survivor of sexual abuse by a Catholic priest. Her experience prompted her to work with troubled youth at the Department of Children & Families and at the Wilderness School in Connecticut. She has also worked for a non-profit organization in developing adventure programs for disabled adolescents and job skills for welfare recipients. She is currently a consultant providing motivational and career empowerment training nationally. Fellow survivor Brian Walsh attended an elite Jesuit high school in New York City where he was molested by the headmaster and summarily expelled to cover up the crime. Now an author and a composer, he earlier had long bouts of depression and alcohol and drug abuse as he drifted throughout the United States after leaving the University of Notre Dame and working for four Fortune500 Companies,

Also at the June 4th meeting SNAP will receive a VOTF Compassion Fund award as part of Voice of the Faithful commitment to directly assist schools hospitals, soup kitchens, and other charitable and educational organizations dedicated to serve the poor and needy.

At the meeting also Marilyn Lowney representing the Haitian Health Foundation (www.haitianhealthfoundation.org/) will receive a Voice of Compassion Fund award to assist in providing health care development, relief and the hope of a future to more than 225,000 of the poorest people in over 100 rural mountain villages in southwestern Haiti.

The Bridgeport VOTF is seeking contributions to its 2009-10 Voice of Compassion Fund for the direct support of human service charities. Contributions for the Voice of Compassion Fund may be sent to VOTF, PO Box 5044, Westport, CT 06881.

Please also visit the VOTF Bridgeport blog *CATHOLIC VOICES OF FAIRFIELD COUNTY* <http://votfbpt.wordpress.com> for timely discussions of local and national issues and concerns.