



VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL™

IN THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT

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PRESS RELEASE

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“The Church and Young Catholics: Is There a Future?”

Jamie L. Manson, award-winning columnist for the National Catholic Reporter, will speak about “The Church and Young Catholics: Is There a Future?” at Voice of the Faithful’s meeting on Thursday, June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk.

Recent studies suggest that more than half of twenty-something Catholics in the U.S. never attend Mass. Only 10% consider themselves orthodox. Not only have young adult Catholics lost interest in the church, the traditional symbols of Catholicism no longer seem relevant to them. Jamie Manson will examine the challenges that the church faces in reaching out to new generations of Catholics. She will highlight the spiritual longings of young adults and will consider what elements of Catholicism may still resonate with them. She will also discuss the unique gifts that new generations of Catholics can bring to the life of church.

Jamie Manson received her Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School where she studied Catholic theology and sexual ethics. Her weekly column, *Grace on the Margins*, appears in the National Catholic Reporter. Her writing has earned her a first prize Catholic Press Association award for Best Column/Regular Commentary in 2010. Her essay on St. Joseph's Hospital in Phoenix, AZ, was highlighted by Nicholas Kristof in a recent New York Times op-ed.

The 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.

For further information about VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport and for directions to the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk consult www.votfbpt.org.