

PRESS RELEASE
March 8 VOTF Meeting

VOTF TO REVIEW CHURCH LEADERS' ACCOUNTABILITY AT MARCH 8TH MEETING

IN GREENWICH.

A timely update of the on-going Catholic clergy sexual abuse scandal and its consequences will be presented by Anne Barrett Doyle and Terry McKiernan, founders of Bishop Accountability of Waltham, MA. Helen McGonigle, an attorney and abuse survivor from Brookfield, CT will also offer comment at a special daytime meeting of the Voice of the Faithful, Saturday March 8th in Greenwich's Christ Church from 10 AM to 2:00 PM.

BishopAccountability.Org was founded in 2004. It archives court records and public documents that track and identify clergy, religious and others in US Dioceses accused of abusing children or youths, or who have aided abusers. The organization takes no position on the root causes, and does not advocate particular remedies. It contends that when the facts are fully known, both the causes and remedies will become clear.

Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) founded in 2002 is closely aligned with Bishop Accountability in support of victims/ survivors of clerical abuse. Other goals include support for priests of integrity and working to shape structural change in the Church. The stated mission of VOTF, an organization of concerned 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."

This special VOTF four-hour meeting will include an optional box lunch available at \$10. Please e-mail jbalvord@optonline.net or call (203-956-7476) if you plan to attend and wish to reserve a lunch. Please provide your name, telephone, and the number attending requesting a lunch. You may bring your own bag lunch, if preferred.

Regular first Thursday VOTF 7:30PM meetings are held at the First Congregational Church on the Norwalk Green. An April 3rd Panel will focus on Parish Financial Ethics.

For further information about VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport including its 2008 Voice of Compassion Fund for the direct support of area human service charities please consult www.votfbpt.org (click on Finances). Contributions for the Voice of Compassion Fund may be sent to VOTF, PO Box 5044, Westport, CT 06881.

Directions to Christ Church, Greenwich and the Norwalk First Congregational Church are also available at the web address above.