



ELECT OUR BISHOPS? WHY NOT?

Catholics hoping for the Renewal of our Church should ask this Question.

The election of bishops by the clergy and people of the diocese is hallowed by usage from the earliest times, by canons enacted by Church Councils, and by repeated papal affirmation. However, the history of episcopal elections is sadly marked by a progressive disenfranchisement of the laity and the rank and file of the clergy.

The restoration to the clergy and people of their baptismal right to elect their own bishops is a necessary step toward re-mem-bering our dis-membered Church. By taking that step we will be helping to make Christ's Body, the Church, whole and entire again.

If you support this goal use the tear-off sheet below to tell us what sort of person you think should be a bishop.

VOTF meets the first Thursday of every month at 7:30 PM at the First Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. VOTF's goals are to support survivors of sexual abuse by priests; to support priests of integrity; and to shape structural change in the Church in accordance with the teachings of the Second Vatican Council. We invite you to visit our website: www.votfbpt.org

QUALITIES I'D LIKE TO SEE IN A PROSPECTIVE BISHOP INCLUDE:

Pastoral _____ Spiritual _____ Open to Counsel _____ Willing to Listen _____
Attentive to the People _____ Able to work with his Priests and People _____

Your Comments: _____

Please send this tear-off to VOTF at PMB #171, 1127 High Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06905-1203, or send an e-mail to election@votfbpt.org.