



## Voice of the Faithful® 2014 Assembly

Workshop Facilitator

### Fr. Tom Doyle

*Survivor Support: Spirituality & Trauma*

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Connecticut Convention Center – Saturday, April 5, 2014

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**A** Dominican priest with a doctorate in canon law and five separate master's degrees, Rev. Thomas Patrick Doyle, O.P., sacrificed a rising career at the Vatican Embassy to become an outspoken advocate for church abuse victims. Since 1984, when he became involved with the issue of sexual abuse of children by Catholic clergy while serving at the Embassy, he has become an expert in the canonical and pastoral dimensions of this problem—working directly with victims, their families, accused priests, bishops, and other high-ranking Church officials.



Doyle has interviewed 2,000 victims of clerical sexual abuse in the U.S. alone, and has been the only priest to testify in court in more than 200 cases, as to the legal liability of the Church. He has developed policies and procedures for dealing with cases of sexual abuse by the clergy for dioceses and religious orders in the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

As an expert in this area, he has delivered lectures and seminars for clergy and lay groups throughout the U.S. In 1989, he appeared as an expert witness before the legislature of the State of Pennsylvania concerning that state's child protective legislation. He currently serves as a consultant/court expert in clerical abuse cases throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Israel and the United Kingdom.

When Voice of the Faithful® honored Doyle with their first Priest of Integrity Award in 2002, David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, called Doyle “an absolute hero.” In recognition of his advocacy work for the victims of clerical sexual abuse, he also has received the Cavallo Award for Moral Courage (1992) and Isaac Hecker Award from Paulist Fathers (2003). In June of 2003 Doyle was also issued an official commendation from the Dominican Fathers for his “prophetic work in drawing attention to clergy sexual abuse and for advocating the rights of victims and abusers.”

Doyle is the author of several previous books, including *Meeting the Problem of Sexual Abuse Among the Clergy in a Responsible Way* with Michael Peterson, M.D. and F. Ray Mouton (St. Luke Institute, 1985).

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