

## **In the Vineyard**

March 27, 2008

“Evangelization first of all means bearing Christian witness.” *Fr. Jacques Dupuis, S. J., in 2003 conversation with Cardinal Franz Konig. See March 24 National Catholic Reporter at <http://www.warwickcorner2006.org/drupal/?q=node/509>*

**In This Issue:** VOTF’s Papal visit plans; Bishop Robinson’s U.S. itinerary includes VOTF Philadelphia and Boston; Easter message from VOTF’s Prayerful Voice working group; the state of dialogue considered in the current issue of *National Catholic Reporter*; Edwina Gateley to speak on “Why the Church Needs Rebels”; death of Focolare founder; SNAP rally to be held on April 13 in Washington DC; and more.

### **VOTF National**

[Click here](#) to read the VOTF Easter message; read **VOTF** letter of support to Fr. Jerry Wirth and the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Belleville IL for their courageous stance in calling for the resignation of their Bishop, Edward Braxton (<http://www.votf.org/Press/pressrelease/031708.html>).

### **SURVIVOR Community News**

Survivors of clergy sexual abuse will speak out on April 13 in Washington DC. Survivors, family members, friends and supporters are welcome. For additional information, contact

Visit SNAP’s web site at

[http://www.snapnetwork.org/snap\\_conferences/conference\\_2008/preview\\_announcement\\_2008.html](http://www.snapnetwork.org/snap_conferences/conference_2008/preview_announcement_2008.html) for details about the upcoming SNAP conference July 11-13 in Chicago IL.

### **DIOCESE/State Watch**

**Portland OR:** “It may take until October to find out what kind of files the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland keeps on priests accused of sexual abuse.” A U.S. bankruptcy judge will consider whether to life a protective order sealing the documents. For the full story, go to

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/regional/index.ssf?/base/news-23/1205440770133460.xml&storylist=orlocal>.

**AFFILIATE Notes:** VOTF Boston has a packed calendar – a retreat in April, Bishop Robinson in May, and Boston members recently provided support for CORSAL (COalition to Reform Sex Abuse Laws) legislative support for protecting children.

### **SITE-Seeing, Etc.**

**Most Rev Geoffrey James Robinson DD**, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, Australia, will be making many stops during his U.S. visit inclusive of VOTF affiliate meetings and

VOTF co-sponsored gatherings. See [www.rccrenewal.org](http://www.rccrenewal.org) for additional information. Also note the VOTF Boston notice under AFFILIATE News.

An essay by Sr. Ruth Fox, OB, at the FutureChurch web site is making the rounds. The essay was a subject in a recent VOTF Boston newsletter because so many who read it were unaware of the roles women played in Christ's ministry – before His death. To read the essay visit <http://www.futurechurch.org/watw/womeninbibleandlectionary.htm>.

“Chiara Lubich, who became one of the most influential women in the Roman Catholic Church as the founder of the **Focolare lay movement**” died on March 14. See *New York Times* story at [http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/15/world/europe/15lubich.html?\\_r=1&scp=1&sq=Focolare&st=nyt&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/03/15/world/europe/15lubich.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=Focolare&st=nyt&oref=slogin). For more information on the Focolare movement, go to <http://www.rc.net/focolare/>.

The current *National Catholic Reporter* includes a 2003 conversation between **Cardinal Franz König and Jesuit theologian Fr. Jacques Dupuis** on the subject of inter-religious dialogue. “König, former archbishop of Vienna, had been the only cardinal to publicly defend Dupuis when his writings fell under Vatican scrutiny.” Also note the following occasions for dialogue cited in the same issue (accessible to subscribers and non-subscribers alike) at [www.ncronline.org](http://www.ncronline.org):

- Archbishop Burke moving toward laicizing Fr. Marek Bozek, the pastor of a church that has refused to abandon its long-established, lay-governing board.
- Gender-neutral language nullifies baptism, according to a recent statement from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.
- David Gibson on the Pope's visit: Will the Pope need language lessons to “hear” American culture?
- On inter-faith dialogue: “Tensions between Catholics and Jews over a Good Friday prayer in the Latin Tridentine Mass have caused some Jews to take a harder look at their own exclusive prayers and to ask whether Catholics are getting a lopsided share of blame.”
- NCR offers a “one-stop-shopping” overview of the Pope's visit and what Americans might expect. Note in particular John Allen's entry under “Catholic Challenges in America” at <http://ncrcafe.org/node/1685> and let us know what you think at [pthorp.ed@votf.org](mailto:pthorp.ed@votf.org).

**June 8/9 Retreat with EDWINA GATELEY** at Evensong by the Sea, Retreat & Spirituality Center, Harwich Port MA. Contact: 508-432-0027 or email to [info@evensongretreat.com](mailto:info@evensongretreat.com). Edwina's talk is entitled “Why the Church Needs Rebels.”

From a VOTF member: **Fr. Austin Fleming**, pastor of Holy Family parish in Concord, MA has a blog site that might interest readers. Go to [www.concordpastor.blogspot.com](http://www.concordpastor.blogspot.com).

**QUOTE for Our Time:** “It is not great works that characterize Christians, nor knowledge, miracles or mystical phenomena. If we love one another, then the world will believe.” *from the Focolare movement home page of their web site at <http://www.rc.net/focolare/>.*

## AFFILIATE News

*From the VOTF Boston Area Council newsletter:*

We are very pleased to inform you that Bishop Geoffrey Robinson, the former auxiliary bishop of Sydney, Australia, will be coming to speak at a VOTF Boston Area Council event co-sponsored by Saint Susanna's Adult Formation program. The gathering is scheduled for Thursday, May 29, 2008. Bishop Robinson had been appointed by the Australian Bishops Conference and for nine years headed up the Conference's Committee for Professional Standards, which developed procedures for responding to victims of sexual abuse. *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church: Reclaiming the Spirit of Jesus* is the title of his book, soon to be released in the U.S. The book, now in its fourth printing in Australia, has received much attention.

In 1994, Robinson was appointed by the Australian bishops to head a task force to deal with clerical sexual abuse cases. His book examines the underlying patterns in the church that allowed this abuse to happen. It is an effort to help the church face up to this reality and make the necessary changes to purify the church of those elements which obstruct its mission.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2008, at 7:00 PM, ST. SUSANNA'S PARISH HALL, 262 Needham Street, DEDHAM.

*On February 25, 2008, members of the BAVOTFC* provided a statement to the Judiciary Committee in support of House Bill 1592 (Comprehensive Protection from Childhood Sexual Abuse Act of 2007) submitted by the COalition to Reform Sex Abuse Laws (CORSAL). Soon, we hope that the bill will be reported out of committee and that we will be asking you to contact your legislators to support this legislation, which is at the heart of Survivors' efforts.

*You're invited!* The Boston Area VOTF Council invites all VOTF members and friends in the Archdiocese to our Saturday, April 5, RETREAT DAY of REFLECTION, "Back to the Future, Rooted in the Spirit". It will be held at the Sisters of St. Joseph oceanfront Retreat Center in Cohasset, facilitated by our friend, Sr. Betsy Conway. We cannot wait to see you all, but must operate on a first come/first served basis.

Secure a spot now! Send a \$45 check made out to Sisters of St. Joseph to Anne Southwood at 1554 Ocean St., #6, Marshfield, MA 02050. Please include your email or phone number with your check. If you have questions contact Anne via [southwood2@aol.com](mailto:southwood2@aol.com) or 617-872-5937. You will receive confirmation with directions from Millie Feloney, [mafeloney@verizon.net](mailto:mafeloney@verizon.net). Coffee and snacks will await our gathering between 9:30 and 10:00 am. Lunch is provided by the Sisters. Pray for sun and bring a beach chair!