

In the Vineyard September 11, 2008

National News

Voice of the Faithful on YouTube

Voice of the Faithful successfully launched its first video on YouTube. And, in the first week alone, the VOTF video, calling for action against Cardinal George, was better watched than 90 percent of the videos posted on YouTube!

If you haven't had a chance to check out VOTF on YouTube click on the following link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyjGC5ZijsQ> and feel free to e-mail to a friend!

Affiliate News

Winchester Area VOTF

On Sunday, September 21, the Winchester Area VOTF is holding a discussion by Fr. Bryan Hehir "Catholics as Citizens and Disciples." For more information:

Rev. Dr. J. Bryan Hehir researches and writes about the role of religion in world politics and in American society. He is the Parker Gilbert Montgomery Professor of the Practice of Religion and Public Life in the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He is the President of Catholic Charities and the Secretary for Social Services for the Archdiocese of Boston.

Dr. Malone has been a tenured faculty member at MIT, Senior Vice President and Director of Research at The Travelers Insurance Company, National President of the American Meteorological Society, the American Geophysical Union, and Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research (honor) Society, and Foreign Secretary of the National Academy of Sciences. He has been honored nationally and internationally for initiatives in collaborative research.

When: Sunday, September 21, 7:30 pm

Where: St. Eulalia Church, 50 Ridge Street, Winchester MA 781-729-8220

Women's Voice Issue Dominates Northern California Lay Convocation

VOTF members in Northern California participated in the Second Annual Lay Convocation at the University of San Francisco this past week. Participating were VOTF members representing Catholic parishes and renewal groups from San Francisco, Oakland, Santa Rosa and the San Jose dioceses.

Women's Voice issues and the formation of effective Pastoral Councils dominated the presentations and workshops for the day long event, which was billed as a follow-up for last year's Lay Convocation. The Convocation workshop focused on identifying strengths and weaknesses in effective women's ministry.

Here's more info about the **discussions and recommendations**.

Submitted by Hugh O'Regan

Several approaches to expand women's roles in parish life were identified. Women were urged to take a more active role in liturgical rites and parish educational programs. More emphasis should be placed on training women parish leaders and inviting women speakers to conduct such programs. Pastors could help by offering more women opportunities to present scriptural reflections at Mass and at parish events.

The second major presentation of the day resulted in the recognition that effective Parish and Pastoral Councils, while encouraged in Church Law, need further development if they are to become an effective tool in planning and implementing ministry. Very often the parish priest misunderstands the advantages of an active parish council and very often parishioners are not aware of what those councils should or could be doing. As a result, the potential of the Pastoral council is largely underutilized. It was decided that now is the time to reinvigorate Parish councils and make them truly effective.

During the coming year, the Convocation organizers hope to recruit volunteers to carry the message forward that Women's voices and Lay Pastoral Councils should be important elements in Parish life.

Working Group News

Priest Support Working Group honors Father David Hitch - A "Priest of Integrity"

The Priest Support Working Group is working to honor selected clergy with a "Priest of Integrity" award for their noted courage and compassion in their ministry. We know that there are many untold stories of priests doing heroic service in their communities, but it is our hope that highlighting the ones that we have come to know about gives us examples to follow and hope in the unseen goodness that abounds.

Because it was difficult to select just one priest for an award at the Providence Convention last October, three awards were presented. However, there were eleven priests nominated from across the country. It was decided that the nine priests who were not specifically awarded at the Convention deserve our support and appreciation. In this edition of *In the Vineyard*, we recognize another of these Priests of Integrity.

Father David Hitch, Pastor of St. Mary's Church in Tipton, Iowa is one such "Priest of Integrity." He was nominated for recognition at the Providence Convention by a survivor along with support from the Eastern Iowa VOTF affiliate. Fr. Hitch's involvement in a program for survivors called "Weekend of Hope and Healing" in the Davenport Diocese helped many who have been deeply wounded. He has "walked the walk" with those abused and his kindness and compassion, combined with the courage to speak on their behalf, has been a soothing balm to those who have turned to him.

Submitted by Svea Fraser

Site Seeing

The Teaching of Evolution and the Catholic Church

Paul Cottle, a Catholic and a professor of physics at Florida State University discusses the debate on the teaching of evolution. “The Catholic Church in the United States has an opportunity to lead the nation to a resolution of this matter by educating its own followers about the church’s embrace of modern science.”

http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=11034

Six Women Chosen to Serve as Experts at October’s Synod on the Word

Sr. Christine Schenk thanked VOTF leaders and members for their support of FutureChurch’s efforts to have women included in October’s Synod on the Word in a recent e-mail she sent to the National Office. Thankful for the women selected, she did point out that, “..the Vatican seems to be playing it safe with the women selected...no New Testament or Pauline experts...and none from the ranks of great US female biblical scholars. On the other hand, six women are better than none.”

To read the press release from FutureChurch, which includes a listing of all experts invited to the Synod, **check this site**:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 9, 2008 Contact: Sr. Christine Schenk 216-228-0869; 216-513-3647 (cell)

Ms. Barbara Litrell (Sedona, AZ) 928-649-0135 (h) 928-300-5839 (cell)

Praise For Including Female Experts At Vatican Synod

Now Restore Women Leaders To Lectionary Readings

Cleveland, OH “The Vatican is to be congratulated for including three women biblical scholars and three other women specialists to serve as experts at October’s Synod on the Word,” said FutureChurch director, Sr. Christine Schenk. “This is especially gratifying since no women experts were included at the 2005 Synod on the Eucharist. We are hopeful that all the international scholars selected (both male and female) are representative of the full spectrum of perspectives about women’s biblical leadership. While we’re glad that FutureChurch’s first objective for the synod has been met, we look forward to the day when half of the designated experts are women rather than 15%. And now we want synod leaders to address our other three very important requests, “ said Schenk

For the past two years, the Cleveland-based FutureChurch spearheaded a “Women and the Word” campaign asking the Vatican to include female biblical scholars October’s Synod on the Word. At least 18,000 postcards and emailed requests were sent to U.S. and Canadian Bishops, asking synod leaders to also expand opportunities for women to preach, give greater pastoral attention to Jesus and St. Paul’s inclusion of women leaders, and restore deleted women leaders to the Catholic lectionary.

“Many mistakenly believe Jesus called only men and that Paul was anti-women,” said Schenk. “This is due in part to the fact that texts referring to female disciples and coworkers are never read on a Sunday. This creates significant pastoral challenges to evangelizing 21st century women and men who are accustomed to seeing women serving in civil and corporate leadership roles alongside men.”

“If we want to reach the next generation of Catholics, there is a need for Catholic preaching and reflection on the Word to reflect the gender balance found in Jesus and St. Paul's counter cultural practices. FutureChurch's work in our *Women and the Word: Synod 2008* campaign arose directly from the need to find solutions to such important pastoral challenges,” said Schenk

A fascinating 1996 analysis by Sr. Ruth Fox OSB found a disproportionate number of passages about women had in fact been deleted from the lectionary, a book of biblical passages carefully chosen for church proclamation. (available for free download at <http://www.futurechurch.org/watw/womeninbibleandlectionary.htm>)

In July and August FutureChurch sent a packet of materials to all the English speaking bishop delegates to the Synod, including clerics in the U.S. the UK, Ireland, Australia, the Philippines, Canada, India and Africa. The packet included a list of 23 female biblical scholars available to serve at the synod and copious background materials about lectionary omissions regarding women leaders.

Concerned Catholic advocates sought and in some cases received meetings with US and Canadian synod delegates. FutureChurch director, Sr. Christine Schenk is following up with Bishop delegates and will be in Rome while the Synod is in process.

“Unfortunately, for centuries, Mary of Magdala’s leadership and that of many other biblical women, has been minimized or excised from the official lectionary used in both Catholic and Protestant churches,” said FutureChurch Board Member, Barbara Litrell.

“For example, even though all four gospels name Mary of Magdala as the first witness to the Resurrection, Jesus’ commission asking her to proclaim it to the male disciples is never read on Sunday, yet we hear about doubting Thomas every single year. And Phoebe, an important leader at the Church of Cenchrae, is completely excised from the lectionary text of Paul’s letter to the Romans, as are Lois and Eunice from the letter to Timothy. We want Church officials to correct that,” she concluded.

Campaign accomplishments:

At least 18,000 paper and electronic postcards were sent to US bishops, the Pope and Vatican officials asking for attention to women's biblical leadership and experience in church preaching and scripture proclamation at the October Synod.

In 2007 and 2008 , hundreds of organizers at over 600 Mary of Magdala celebrations in the US , Canada, Australia and six other countries incorporated a special prayer service celebrating the hidden women of the lectionary and distributed hundreds of postcards and forwarded e-postcard appeals.

Many leaders of men's and women's religious orders spoke or wrote personal letters to their bishops asking for female biblical experts to serve as consultants at the Synod.

A number of bishops and Cardinals wrote in support of the campaign, or have privately expressed their support of it.

For the past eleven years FutureChurch has sponsored annual celebrations of the Feast of St. Mary of Magdala to promote understanding of Jesus' inclusive practice and provide a place for women to serve in visible liturgical roles.

For more on the Woman and the Word: Synod 2008 campaign visit

<http://www.futurechurch.org/watw/index.htm>

<<http://www.futurechurch.org/watw/index.htm>>

FutureChurch, headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio, is a U.S. coalition of 5,000 parish centered Catholics striving to educate fellow Catholics about the seriousness of the priest shortage, the centrality of the Eucharist (the Mass), and the systemic inequality of women in the Catholic Church. FutureChurch makes presentations throughout the country, distributes educational and informational packets and recruits activists who work for full participation of all baptized Catholics in the life of the Church. FutureChurch respects the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church and its current position on ordination and advocates widespread discussion of the need to open ordination to all baptized Catholics who are called to priestly ministry by God and the people of God.

Here is the total list of experts and auditors

EXPERTS

- Mauro Agosto, professor of Latin at the Pontifical Lateran University, Rome.
- Fr. Peter Damian Akpunonu, professor of biblical exegesis at the University of Our Lady of The Lake, Chicago, U.S.A., and member of the International Theological Commission.
- Fr. Nicolas Antiba, archimandrite of the Greek-Melkite Catholic "Eglise Saint Julien-Le-Pauvre", Paris, France.
- Fr. Enzo Bianchi, prior of the monastic community of Bose, Italy.
- Fr. Cesare Bissoli S.D.B., professor emeritus of biblical studies and catechesis at the Pontifical Salesian University, Rome.
- Fr. Joseph Bou Raad O.A.M., professor of Holy Scripture at the "Antonine Hadath" University of Baabda, Lebanon.
- **Sr. Sara Butler M.S.B.T., professor of dogmatic theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, New York, U.S.A.**
- **Sr. Nuria Calduch Benages M.H.S.F.N., professor of the biblical theology of the Old Testament at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.**
- Fr. Waldemar Chrostowski, professor at the "Cardinal Wyszynski" State University, Warsaw, Poland.
- Fr. Fidel Onoro Consuegra C.I.M., director of the Biblical Pastoral Centre for Latin America (CEBIPAL), Colombia.
- **?? Bruna Costacurta, professor of the biblical theology of the Old Testament at the**

Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.

- Fr. Luis Henrique da Silva, co-ordinator of biblical revision and assessor of the Episcopal Pastoral Commission for the Doctrine of the Faith of the National Conference of Bishops of Brazil.
- Fr. Luc Devillers O.P., professor at the "Ecole Biblique De Jerusalem" and editor for the New Testament of the "Revue Biblique", Israel.
- Fr. Raul Duarte Castillo, rector of the diocesan seminary of Zamora, Mexico.
- Fr. Jorge Juan Fernandez Sangrador, director of the Library of Christian Authors (BAC), Spain.
- Fr. Juan Javier Flores Arcas O.S.B., director of the Pontifical Liturgical Institute of St. Anselm, Rome.
- Fr. Marc Girard, professor of biblical exegesis at the University of Quebec at Chicoutimi, Canada, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.
- Msgr. Pedro Hidalgo Diaz, rector of the "Facultad De Teologia Pontificia y Civil" of Lima, Peru.
- Fr. Johan Maria Herman Konings S.J., professor of Holy Scripture at the Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
- **Marguerite Lena, professor of philosophy at the Madelaine Danielou Centres, and director for the theological formation of young people at the Saint-Francois-Xavier Community of Paris, France.**
- Msgr. Ermenegildo Manicardi, rector of the "Almo Collegio Capranica" and professor at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome.
- Fr. Frederic Manns O.F.M., professor of New Testament exegesis and of ancient Hebrew literature at the "Studium Biblicum Franciscanum", Israel.
- Fr. Paolo Martinelli O.F.M. Cap., president of the Franciscan institute of spirituality at the Antonianum Pontifical Athenaeum, and professor of fundamental theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.
- Fr. Fiorello Mascarenhas S.J., president of the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai, India.
- Fr. Jean-Bosco Matand Bulembat, rector of the Catholic Faculties of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Fr. Vincent Nguyen-Van-Ban, professor of Holy Scripture and director of the formation of seminarians at the major seminary of Sao Bien in Nha Trang, Vietnam.
- **Sr. Mary Jerome Obiorah I.H.M., professor of Holy Scripture at the University of Nigeria and at the major seminary of the archdiocese of Onitsha, Nigeria.**
- Fr. Godfrey Onah, professor of philosophy at the Pontifical Urban University, Rome.
- Fr. Salvador Pie Ninot, professor of fundamental and ecclesial theology at the Faculty of Theology of Catalonia, Barcelona, and professor of fundamental theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome.
- Fr. Stephen F. Pisano S.J., rector of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome.
- Fr. Marko Rupnik S.J., director of the Ezio Aletti Study and Research Centre, Rome.
- Alexander Schweitzer, secretary general of the Catholic Bible Federation, Germany.
- Thomas Soding, professor of biblical theology at the "Bergische" University of Wuppertal, Germany, and a member of the International Theological Commission.
- Fr. Klemens Stock S.J., secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission and professor emeritus of New Testament exegesis at the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome.
- **Sr. Germana Strola O.C.S.O., nun of the Trappist convent of Vitorchiano, Italy.**
- Fr. Zeljko Tanjic, professor of fundamental theology at the faculty of theology in the University of Zagreb, Croatia.
- Fr. Cyril Vasil, S.J., rector of the Pontifical Oriental Institute and dean of the faculty of Eastern Canon Law, Rome.

- Msgr. Timothy Verdon, professor of sacred art at the Theological Faculty of Central Italy, Florence, Italy.
- Michael Waldstein, professor of New Testament studies at the International Theological Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family, Gaming, Austria.
- Fr. Giorgio Zevini S.D.B., dean of the faculty of theology and professor of biblical studies at the Pontifical Salesian University, Rome.
- Fr. Victor Zinkurature S.S.S., professor of biblical theology at the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA), Nairobi, Kenya.

AUDITORS

- Carl Albert Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, U.S.A.
- Rigoberto Angarita, professor at the St. Joseph Institute of the Salesian Fathers in San Cristobal, Venezuela.
- Ponpuzhakotayil Cherian Aniyankunju, spokesperson of the archdiocese of Changanacherry of the Syro-Malabars, India.
- Sr. M. Viviana Ballarin O.P., superior general of the Dominican Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena, and president of the Union of Superiors Major of Italy (USMI).
- Sr. Euphrasie Beya, president of the "Union Des Superieurs Majeures" (USUMA), Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Daniele Boscaro, head of the Association of Italian Catholic Guides and Scouts (AGESCI), Padua, Italy.
- Sr. Maria Antonietta Bruscatto F.S.P., superior general of the Pious Society of the Daughters of St. Paul, Italy.
- Rafael Chainarong Monthienvichienchai, vice chancellor of St. John's University, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Moyses Lauro de Azevedo Filho, founder and moderator general of the "Shalom" Catholic community, Brazil.
- Fr. Ari Luis Do Valle Ribeiro, professor of theology at the diocesan seminary of Santo Amaro, Brazil.
- Natalja Fedorova Borovskaja, professor at the Russian State University for the Humanities and at the Russian Academy for Fine Arts, Russia.
- Luis Fernando Figari, superior general of the "Sodalitium Vitae Christianae", Peru.
- Sr. Evelyne Franc F.D.C., superior general of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, France.
- Hanna-Barbara Gerl-Falkowitz, professor of the philosophy of religion and of the comparative history of religions at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany.
- Elvira Go, assistant for biblical pastoral care, Philippines.
- Francisco Jose Gomez Arguello Wirtz, co-founder of the Neo-Catechumenal Way, Spain.
- Ricardo Grzona, president of the "Fundacion Ramon Pane" of Honduras, and Catholic consultor of the United Bible Societies of the Americas, U.S.A.
- Thomas Hong-Soon Han, professor of economics at the College of Business and Economics, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, and president of the Apostolate of Lay Catholics, Korea.
- Sr. Jocelyne Huot S.F.A., president of the movement "Les Brebis de Jesus", Quebec, Canada.
- Fr. Michel Jorrot O.S.B., abbot of the Benedictine abbey of Clervaux, Luxembourg.
- Fr. Daniel Pablo Kerber Mas, professor of biblical theology at the Faculty of Theology of

Uruguay, director of the Pastoral Institute for Catechesis of the archdiocese of Montevideo, and pastor of St. Alexander and St. Peter Claver, Uruguay.

- Sr. Marija Ana Kustura S.M.I., superior general of the Handmaidens of the Child Jesus, president of the Union of Superiors Major of Croatia.

- Ewa Kusz, president of the World Conference of Secular Institutes (CMIS), Poland.

- Nikolaus Lobkowicz, rector emeritus of the University of Munich and first rector of the Catholic University of Eichstatt, director of the Centre for Studies on Eastern and Central Europe, Germany.

- Fidele Mabegle, director of the School of Theology for the Laity of the archdiocese of Yaounde, Cameroon.

- Sr. Louise Madore F.D.L.S., president of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG).

- Sr. M. Clare Millea A.S.C.J., superior general of the Sisters Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Rome.

- Michelle Moran, president of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services (ICCRS), Great Britain.

- Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Sant'Egidio Community, Italy.

- Silvia Sanchini, national female president of the Italian Catholic University Federation (FUCI), Italy.

- Armel Diocckel Sarr, catechist of the archdiocese of Dakar, Senegal.

- Sr. Apollinaris Shimura Yuriko C.S.M., superior general of the Sisters of Charity of Miyazaki, Japan.

- **Agnes Shun-Ling Lam, president of the Catholic Biblical Association of Hong Kong, and associate professor at the English Centre of the University of Hong Kong, China.**

- Sr. Janice Soluk S.A.M.I., superior general of the Handmaidens of the Blessed Virgin Mary Immaculate, Rome.

- Maria Voce, president of the "Focolari" movement, Italy.

- Fr. Kamil William, director of the Higher Institute for Social Sciences and professor of Holy Scripture, Cairo, Egypt.

- **Teresa Maria Wilsnagh, regional director of the Catholic Bible Foundation (CBF) of Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg, South Africa.**

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We Love the Church... We're Working to Make it Better

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Book Review

In this issue of *In the Vineyard*, Dr. Tom Malone reviews *A New Climate for Theology - God, the World*,

and Global Warming by Sallie McFague (Published by Fortress Press. 198 pp. \$11) To read his review, click on the following link:

My warning in 1970 that continued use of fossil fuels to provide energy for society would lead to "an era that is a threat to the human species"¹ was confirmed 37 years later in the 2007 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that concluded: "Warming of the climate system is *unequivocal*, (emphasis added) as is evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and increasing sea level." The IPCC report, in turn, has stimulated a "wake-up call" by theologian Sallie McFague who argues persuasively, "We are approaching the tipping point in global temperature that will change the basic conditions for the flourishing of life. We react with horror to the destruction and death we are bringing on the planet; we say, 'No! This need not, must not happen.'"

Sallie McFague, Distinguished Theologian in Residence at the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia and the Carpenter Professor Emeritus at Vanderbilt Divinity School, is one of the leaders in this movement now spreading among theologians. She describes the primary task of theologians as "to guard and encourage right thinking about God and ourselves." The end result of this "right thinking" is a "Christian faith concerned with a just and sustainable existence for all God's creation."

McFague's treatment consists of four parts. First is the science of global warming followed by a chapter on its significance for theology. Surprisingly, the consequences for contemporary civilization of "several meters" rise in sea level are not developed in the detail that their importance warrants. The second part addresses the heart of the matter: "Who are we? Who is God? How shall we live?" The third part is concerned with the worship of God and service to our neighbor in a postmodern, climate change context. Finally, the fourth part takes up the most difficult of all climate change issues: despair and hope. It concludes, "Theology matters.... who we think God is and who we think we are" combine to play significant roles in determining our personal and societal attitudes and consequent decisions.

Who is God? In essence, McFague argues that "God is not a being. God is the 'stuff out of which everything comes and to which it will return. Life emanates from God and is more 'like God' than like anything else. All creation was made in God's image and this is what we must acknowledge and live into." There is a continuity between God and the world -- with Augustine, McFague maintains that the world is "God's body."

Who are we? Again, McFague also argues that we are not the only ones that matter - "we now know that we belong, from the cells in our bodies to the finest creations of our minds to the intricate, changing cosmos that gave us birth and sustains us." The combination of interrelations and responsibility provide the answer to Who We Are.

These concepts recall some words in a poem` on incarnation that is attributed to St. Teresa of Avila:

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, but yours,
no feet but yours.*

Yours are the eyes through which

Christ's compassion must look out on the world.

McFague proposes a three-point call to action. First, the Church should be *ecological*, as well as having the traditional marks of being *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic*. Second, this added attribute carries with it the obligation to take public stands on issues that affect the well-being of all creation. Third, Christians should "dare to believe that God cares about creation and works in and through us as we work for its well-being:"

A pervasive theme in this book: The time is now!

1. Press account on page A-13, the Monday, Oct. 19, 1970 edition of the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner of a lead-off address by Dr. Thomas F. Malone, Dean of the Graduate School, University of Connecticut, at a three day conference on "Technological Changes and the Human Environment" at the California Institute of Technology.
2. Rolheiser, R. 1999. *Holy Longing; The Search for a Christian Spirituality*. Doubleday. 237 pp. (See p. 73)

Upcoming Events

The Church in the 21st Century Center and the Boston College Theology Department will be presenting **Dialogue between Muslims and Christians as Mutually Transformative Speech** on September 19, 2008.

On October 2007, 138 prominent Muslim leaders signed the document "A Common Word" reaching out to Christians to come together on the basis of what is common to us. This Inaugural Lecture of the Boston College Symposia on Interreligious Dialogue seeks to celebrate this historic event and respond to it with reflection on the meaning and purpose of dialogue between religions. Keynote Speaker: Professor David Burrell, Emeritus from the University of Notre Dame. Respondents: Professor Francis Clooney, Harvard University and Professor Joseph Lumbard, Brandeis University. Reception to follow.

When: Friday, September 19, 2008 | 5:00 p.m.

Where: Heights Room, Corcoran Commons

The Church in the 21st Century Center and the Boston College Theology Department

For more information contact: Elizabeth O'Connor 617-552-3880

Program from Wisdom House

A program entitled "The Grace of Letting Go," will take place at Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center in Litchfield, Connecticut, on Saturday, September 27th from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm.

The presenter will be Mary Fahy, RSM, author, spiritual director and pastoral care director at The McAuley in West Hartford, CT. Her book, *A Time for Leaving* will serve as a backdrop for participants to reflect on their own stories and the beauty and growth experienced by letting go, a difficult act that calls forth a supreme act of trust. Sr. Fahy also is author of *The Tree That Survived the Winter*.

The fee is \$45 including lunch and book.

For further information and to register call Wisdom House at 860.567.3163, email programs@wisdomhouse.org, or visit www.wisdomhouse.org.

Wisdom House Retreat and Conference Center is an interfaith center presenting programs in spirituality, education, and the arts. It offers hospitality for group meetings and specializes in service to the not-for-profit community. The center is a ministry of the Daughters of Wisdom.

Members in the News

VOTF member Julie Rafferty sent a letter to Boston Globe religion writer Michael Paulson urging him to look into the credibility of Chicago's Cardinal George:

"I was surprised to read your quote from Cardinal George in today's paper: "I stated publicly that there was no priest in ministry in Chicago who had against him a substantiated claim of sexual abuse of a minor. That statement was true when I made it and it is true now." ... I think you've got a real story here if you choose to pursue it -- that Cardinal George, the head of the US Council of Catholic Bishops, is still lying and covering up TODAY to the media if he thinks you won't follow-up on the details of what he did when.'

"I was surprised to read your quote from Cardinal George in today's paper: "I stated publicly that there was no priest in ministry in Chicago who had against him a substantiated claim of sexual abuse of a minor. That statement was true when I made it and it is true now."

As you are no doubt aware, Cardinal George protected credibly accused pedophile priests in the Chicago archdiocese as recently as 2006 (Fr. Daniel McCormack and another priest). A deposition detailing this was released in Chicago a couple of weeks ago as part of a settlement with a number of survivors. The Delaware priest situation occurred in 2003, I believe.

I think you've got a real story here if you choose to pursue it -- that Cardinal George, the head of the US Council of Catholic Bishops, is still lying and covering up TODAY to the media if he thinks you won't follow-up on the details of what he did when.

There is a movement afoot in Chicago and nationwide to have Cardinal George removed. The Boston Globe has a history and tradition of being at the forefront of unearthing this kind of cover-up for all to see in Boston. Now we see that the head of all the bishops nationwide is also in big-time denial. I hope you will follow-up on this story.

Below are links that you may find helpful:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-cardinal-george-abuseaug17,0,3082885.story>

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1141/is_/ai_n26695747

http://www.archchicago.org/c_s_abuse/Deposition081208/statement.htm (link to deposition itself)

<http://www.votf.org/change/index.html>

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