

1  
YEARS



CELEBRATE  
REJUVENATE  
ACCELERATE

# Voice of the Faithful® 10<sup>th</sup> Year Conference

*Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do.*

*Blessed Pope John XXIII*

**Marriott Copley Place Hotel  
Boston, Massachusetts  
September 14 & 15, 2012**



VOICE  
OF THE FAITHFUL



## Voice of the Faithful®

P.O. Box 423, Newton, MA 02464, 781-559-3360 Office, 781-559-3364 Fax, [www.votf.org](http://www.votf.org)

Voice of the Faithful® is a worldwide movement for governance reform in the Roman Catholic Church. Our mission is to provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church.

Our goals are to support survivors of clergy sexual abuse, to support priests of integrity, and to help shape structural change within the Catholic Church.

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Theologian & Executive Director, FutureChurch

September 2012

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Boston for the 10th Year Conference for Voice of the Faithful. During this Conference, you will have the opportunity to *celebrate* VOTF's ten years of service to survivors, to priests of integrity, to the Church as we see it today and as we wish to see it in the near future!

During these two days, we will hear from distinguished, thought-provoking speakers who will address important issues in our Church. We will enjoy the company of hundreds of VOTF leaders from cities and towns across the nation and the world. We will learn from one another, share our experiences and perspectives, and make plans for the future.

Our mission for the next two days is to focus on three major themes. First, we need truth and transparency by the Bishops to truly get to healing. Second, we need agreement among laity and clergy to identify potential solutions for the problems within the Church. Third, we need respect for one another in our Church: a "catholic" approach to the needs in our Catholic Church.

This milestone meeting will also help Voice of the Faithful focus, as we identify overdue initiatives that will strengthen the Church and its people. Financial accountability, for example, has been a key issue of VOTF since the beginning but will now be a major focus point for VOTF future activity. We need to see that our money is being spent as intended and managed by prudent lay managers with specific goals and outcomes, with transparency and with appropriate accountability. We need to applaud good management and correct bad management.

We are also here to *rejuvenate*, because the opportunity is great to bring about change in the church. We look for an equal role for women in our Church. We ask why it's permissible for ministers converted to Catholicism to be married priests but not for our own Catholic-raised priests

to marry. We seek to highlight and then diminish the clericalism that so hampers the equality modeled in the life of Jesus. We look for ways to *accelerate* our collective activities and begin to make these changes happen in our lifetimes.

We are thrilled that you are here and enlist you to join the momentum for us to *Keep the Faith, Change the Church*. God has given us this moment, and the past decade, for a reason. It is our baptismal responsibility to accept the opportunity we are given and to build our Church.

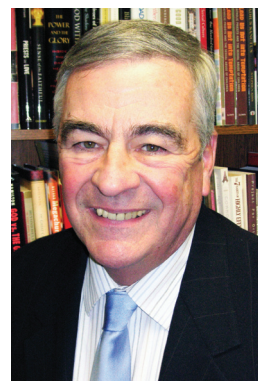
We are grateful to the members of the 10th Year Conference Committee, chaired by Jayne O'Donnell and Bill Casey, for their effort to design and present an exciting program.

We are especially grateful to all the volunteers, vendors, and friends for their hospitality and assistance.

Thank you for joining us in the Bay State, which marked the beginning of our country and which today serves as home base to VOTF, where so many faith-filled women and men can hope for the new beginnings that will inspire our church to reform.

Enjoy the meeting and may blessings come to each of us during these days.

*Mark Mullany*





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Congratulations, **Voice of the Faithful**, for 10 years  
of “keeping the faith and changing the Church!”

From



your partners in renewal and reform.

**Our Mission:** FutureChurch seeks changes that will provide all Roman Catholics the opportunity to participate fully in Church life and leadership.

**Our Programs:** (partial listing)

- o New! Women Deacons: Why Not Now?
- o Optional Celibacy: So All Can Be at the Table
- o Save Our Parish Community
- o Advancing Women in Church Leadership
- o Annual celebrations of Priesthood Sunday and St. Mary of Magdala
- o Celebrating Women Witnesses

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# Broken Vessels

## Voice of the Faithful's 10th Year Conference Lamentation Wall

For ten years, Catholics of all stripes have been engulfed in wave after wave of horrid revelations commonly referred to as the clergy sexual abuse scandal and crisis. These revelations have triggered a profound range of disturbing reactions within the people of God. For victims/survivors and their families, the events have reopened deep wounds and traumatic memories. For others, they have led to a sense of betrayal and helplessness in the face of hierarchical reliance on corporate defenses rather than Gospel teachings, and also in the face of institutional resistance to governance reforms sought by Voice of the Faithful®, survivor advocates and others.

Historically, in the face of immeasurable suffering and loss that results from evil and powerlessness, Hebrew and Christian prophets have called the community to prayers of lamentation. Elizabeth Johnson in her book *Quest for the Living God* captures this tradition:

*"So too, suffering of past and present must drive us toward God protesting, complaining, lamenting, grieving, crying out of the depths, insistently questioning 'How long, O Lord?' Rather than settling for rational explanations, lamenting unto God, unto God in spite of everything, keeps hope alive. Such prayer has the capacity to nurture ongoing resistance to the victimization of others, past and present."*

At this tenth anniversary of VOTF's efforts to confront the sexual abuse scandal in the life of our Church, we too respond to the immeasurable harm, unhealed wounds, and resistance to reform with a space of lamentation in the heart of our conference.

We invite each attendee to approach the Lamentation Wall some time during the conference and express in your own way the cries of one's heart over the wounds that continue to fester.

We invite each of you to lament first and foremost over the lives that have been permanently scarred or taken as a result of the evil of childhood sexual abuse. In addition, we invite you to lament the wounds that you personally carry not only from revelations of abuse and malfeasance, but also from the culture of clericalism that enables such deep harm to remain in so many manifestations in our experience of Church. We invite you to find in this sacred space whatever form of lamentation flows within you, particularly through the words of prophets and poets listed on the wall.

If you write out a lamentation, you may post it on the wall where others can draw from your expressions. If you prefer not to share your expression, you may place it in the basket near the wall. We will incorporate the lamentations in the closing liturgy.

Elizabeth Johnson writes:

*"There is no positive meaning in unjust radical suffering that destroys persons. We must take the full measure of its negativity, refuse to ignore or spiritualize or glorify it. Then this affliction becomes a live question that must be addressed to God. In prayer we cry out, protest, lament, shout indignation, say this should not be. In its own way this prayer is a 'suffering unto God,' an active engagement with God uttered in anguished hope that there will be an answer. Rather than settle for neat theoretical solutions, it keeps the question open, living with the 'not yet' of history while insisting on the promise of God."*

Together, let us lament what has not changed, even as we continue to seek change.



*The thought of my wretched homelessness is wormwood and poison; remembering it over and over, my soul is downcast. But this I will call to mind; therefore I will hope: The LORD's acts of mercy are not exhausted, his compassion is not spent; they are renewed each morning—great is your faithfulness! The LORD is my portion, I tell myself, therefore I will hope in him.*

*Lamentations 3:19-24*

# What is this movement called Voice of the Faithful®?

*According to the knowledge, competence, and prestige which [the laity] possess, they have the right and even at times the duty to manifest to the sacred pastors their opinion on matters which pertain to the good of the Church and to make their opinion known to the rest of the Christian faithful, without prejudice to the integrity of faith and morals, with reverence toward their pastors, and attentive to common advantage and the dignity of persons. (Canon 212 §3)*

**V**OTF began in January 2002 in the basement of St. John the Evangelist Church in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Small gatherings of 25 to 30 people met in “listening sessions” to speak of their heartbreak and outrage over revelations that priest sex abusers had preyed upon our children and that members of the Church hierarchy had—through both actions and inactions—enabled and covered up those crimes.

These small gatherings grew each week, from dozens to a few hundred, from crowds of 700 in Spring 2002 into a movement and organization that by 2004 numbered thousands. Today VOTF has affiliates and more than 40,000 members in the United States and other countries. Support for survivors and a desire to make accountable those who enabled sex abuse by the clergy remain animating forces.

Equally important to VOTF members is addressing the causes of clergy sex abuse, and the practices that permitted so many abusers to remain hidden for so long. We believe that adopting safety standards and policies to prevent abuse and to protect our children are critical, but they will ultimately fail unless we also address the practices and habits that led to this abuse.

If we, as Church, cannot reform the structural defects and excesses that allowed priest predators to harm our children, the abuses revealed in the past 25 years will once again assault us. If we, as Church, cannot renew our commitments to the faith that so nourishes us, then we will not inspire the reforms our Church so desperately needs.

VOTF’s organizing principles remain today, as they did at the start, grounded in prayer and focused on our Mission Statement and three goals. Participating in VOTF, as an individual or an affiliate, requires support of those goals and adherence to the mission statement and goals—Our mission is to provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church, and our goals are to support survivors of clergy sexual abuse, support priests of integrity, and help shape structural change within the Catholic Church.

## Carrying Out Our Mission and Goals

VOTF’s mission and three goals commit us to working within the Church. We do not seek to redefine dogma; we do not seek to create an alternative church. But our mission and goals clearly do not call for the Church to remain “the same.”

The Church of “the same” has fostered a climate where sexual abuse of our children can proceed unchecked by accountability; where the decisions of bishops to protect the abusers and forsake the abused has caused great human suffering and has sapped the moral authority of the Church; where the mechanisms that should have checked this abuse are not open and transparent to the People of God; and where the divide between clergy and laity impoverishes our efforts to live out the mission of Christ within the world. To address these excesses,

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to renew and reform the Church we love, we believe that participation of the laity is essential.

We believe that the laity have the graced dignity, intelligence, responsibility and obligation to cooperate in Church governance in a meaningful way, according to the norm of canon law (cf. Canon 129).

We believe that meaningful lay participation is the only way to correct the profound flaws that have been revealed in the human institutional life of our Church.

We believe that the council documents of Vatican II illuminate the pathway for lay involvement in the Church.

And we urge that the openness and mutual respect advocated by Blessed Pope John Paul II in *Ut Unum Sint* ("That All May Be One") be the model for meaningful dialogue among bishops and laity.

## Our Philosophy

Our philosophy is inclusive. We are committed to providing an open and safe forum for ALL Catholics to discuss, freely and respectfully, the challenges of our Church, regardless of their views on specific issues.

This inclusiveness commits us to a collaborative and collegial method of operating, and to an organization that develops its actions "from the bottom up," with attention to all members of the organization and in communion with our Church.

Participating in VOTF requires a commitment to these principles. We seek to model the behavior that we ask from our Church—centered in Christ, open to the gifts of all, inclusive and loving towards all, accountable to all members, and transparent in actions.

***"The spirituality of Christian leadership is determined by the kind of community the Church is and the kind of mission with which it is charged. The Church that Jesus formed around himself is not an imitation of any secular model of community and therefore its leadership cannot and must not mimic the exercise of authority of secular power structures. The Church is not a divine right monarchy in which some individual person is vested by God with absolute divine power over all the members. Nor is it a one-person-one-vote democracy in which truth or even policy is decided by a majority, leaving the minority to fend for itself." Sandra M. Schneiders, IHM, Acceptance Speech, Outstanding Leadership Award, Leadership Council of Women Religious 2012 Assembly, Aug. 7-11, 2012, St. Louis, Missouri***



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Congratulates Voice of the Faithful  
for 10 years of working to  
Keep the Faith, Change the Church***



## CELEBRATE REJUVENATE ACCELERATE

## Best Wishes

*Thank you for the invitation to attend the VOTF 10th Year Conference in September. I am already scheduled to give a Bible study workshop in Florida on that weekend. The agenda reflects wonderful speakers, and I'm sorry to miss it.*

*May God bless all your good work.*

**Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton**

*Ten years and VOTF rightfully celebrates. Congratulations to all who work so hard. Let us honor those courageous survivors who expose sex crimes and episcopal corruption.*

**Carolyn Disco**

*Find myself compelled to join (VOTF) in light of the outrageous condemnation of the nuns by the pope. Hope that VOTF will respond to the assault with great vigor.*

**Joseph Breen**

*Never give up.*

**Phil & Laurine Megna**

*As a member of the Winchester VOTF, it has been so important to be a part of a faith community learning to be stronger disciples of Jesus—especially listening to survivors.*

**Alice Wadden**

*First Boston VOTF Conference 10 years ago was marked with high hopes for change. We can congratulate ourselves for affecting progress on our goals and making great friends in the process.*

**Frank & Julie McConville**

*As participants in the first convention in Boston, we are happy to be here once more in support of the mission of VOTF.*

**Frank & Wendy Brophy**

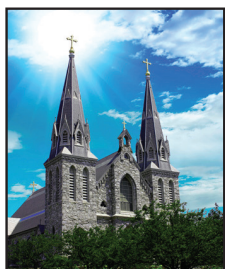
*Keep going forward ... praying for change. Father Bullock inspired us.*

**Charles & Constance Keegan**

*VOTF—The conscience of the church.*

**Rick & Martha MacDermott**

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*Progress is the rolling-coin-edge balanced between tradition and innovation. We cannot live, be good earthly stewards, without respect for both. Keep the Faith, Change the Church!*

**Suzanne Mishelle**

*Best wishes and prayers for all of you at the conference. Our Church is under attack from the right and needs us to stand up and renounce polarization and the politics of exclusion. Support the Nuns!*

**Thomas Brown**

*The Spirit is active and moving within the People of God! Come, Spirit, Come!*

**Barbara & Wayne Beimesch**

*Thanks for all your hard work to make a future for our children.*

**Rosemary Hobson**

*Thank you for all you have done. I now belong to the Holy Spirit Catholic Communion. I went from Roman Catholic to Roamin' Catholic and now am a happy Catholic!!!*

**Donna Bosco**

*VOTF, you inspire me! Thank you for 10 years of service to the Ecclesia.*

**Rita Houlihan**

*The ultimate earthly authority in the Roman Catholic Church has always been the Ecumenical Councils: the fullest expression of the Magisterium of the Church; brilliantly gifted to us in Vatican II.*

**Julie Murray**

*May the reason that moved us to "do something" ten years ago continue to motivate us to bring healing to those who have been abused and renewal to our church.*

**Mary Ann Keyes**

*Happy 10th Anniversary VOTF! Keep the Faith, Change the Church!*

**Midge Nealon Seibert & Pete Seibert**

*Congratulations on a decade of dedication, Voice of the Faithful members! We are delighted to support your efforts forward, especially through our outreach to those seeking to deepen and integrate their spirituality. Sacred Threads ... Weaving Spirituality where people gather.*

**Marie Labollita, SC,**  
**[www.sacredthreadscenter.org](http://www.sacredthreadscenter.org)**

*It has been a good experience to be part of VOTF these past ten years. I feel we have made a difference. It is a gift to belong to this organization!*

**Mary Deyst**



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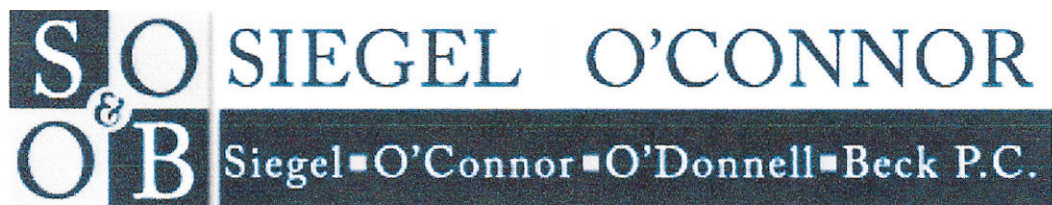
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on ten years of fine work!***





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## 2012 Awards

### St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Layperson Award

#### Phyllis Zagano

Phyllis Zagano is a theologian and internationally recognized specialist in Catholic studies. Currently, she is research associate and adjunct professor of religion at Hofstra University, Hempstead, N.Y. She has worked, written and spoken widely in support of women in the Catholic Church. Among the 15 books in religious studies she has written or edited, *Holy Saturday: An Argument for the Restoration of the Female Diaconate in the Catholic Church* received the 2002 Catholic Press Association and College Theology Society Annual Book awards. She has published hundreds of articles and reviews in popular and peer-reviewed journals, and the Spanish-language translation of her best-selling book *On Prayer: A Letter for My Godchild* won a 2004 Catholic Press Association Book Award. She presently is preparing studies of women in the Church today and women religious monastic rules and is editing a series of anthologies on "Spirituality in History." She also writes the column "Just Catholic" for *National Catholic Reporter* and is a founding co-chair of the Roman Catholic Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion.

#### Joseph O'Callaghan

Joseph O'Callaghan, an historian, educator, philosopher, lecturer, author and activist, has exemplified distinguished service as a champion for the wounded and victimized. As a founding member of VOTF in the Diocese of Bridgeport, Conn., he personifies the virtues of courage and honesty, humbly speaking truth to power while seeking justice for survivors, support for priests of integrity and change in the hierarchical Church. O'Callaghan is a professor emeritus of medieval history at Fordham University, New York, N.Y., and former director of Fordham's Center for Medieval Studies. He is past president of the American Catholic Historical Association and the Academy of American Historians of Medieval Spain. His articles have been collected in several volumes and have appeared in the *American* and *Catholic Historical Reviews* and several Spanish-language publications.

### Priest of Integrity Award

#### Fr. Patrick Bergquist

By his own definition, Fr. Patrick Bergquist is "a simple priest, not saint and surely no scholar." Drawing on the potency of the long and dark winters of the Alaskan wilderness, Fr. Bergquist's book, *The Long Dark Winter's Night, Reflections of a Priest in a Time of Pain and Privilege*, grapples with the seemingly endless darkness of the sexual abuse crisis. Fr. Donald Cozzens, award-winning author and noted national and international commentator and lecturer on religious and cultural issues, said of Fr. Bergquist's book: "I know of no other work that has so insightfully captured the grieving spirit of Catholic priests in the current vale of tears wrought by the clergy sexual abuse scandals. *The Long Dark Winter's Night* gives way to the morning light of hope that always follows honest grieving. In his poetic prose, Patrick Bergquist grieves for us all." Fr. Bergquist was ordained in 1990 in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, Maryland. From 1998 to 2010, he was pastor of St. Raphael's Parish, just north of Fairbanks, Alaska. Since 2011, he has provided pastoral care for Holy Mary Guadalupe Parish in Healy, St. Theresa's Parish in Nenana, Clear Air Force Base, and the native villages of Tanana and Huslia.



**CELEBRATE  
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Fr. William Kremmell  
*as Celebrant of the VOTF 2002 Conference Mass*  
VOTF, Winchester, Massachusetts  
*for Meeting every Monday night for 10 years*

**Voice of the Faithful Thanks  
Our Supporters, Staff & Volunteers, Especially**

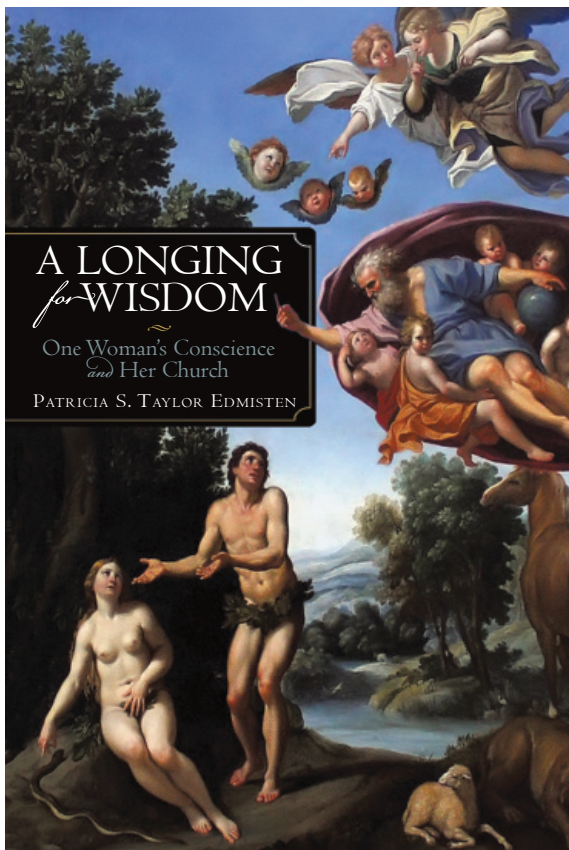
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Anonymous 3	Mr. & Mrs. James E. Post
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**About the Author**

Edmisten holds a doctorate from the University of Florida. She is retired from the University of West Florida where she served as director of International Education and Programs. A Peace Corps volunteer in Peru, she has also been a United Nations consultant to women's groups in Latin America. Edmisten is the author of five other books. Her *Wild Women with Tender Hearts* won the Peace Corps Writers Award for Poetry.



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*In gratitude to VOTF  
for being a voice of renewal  
for the Catholic Church*

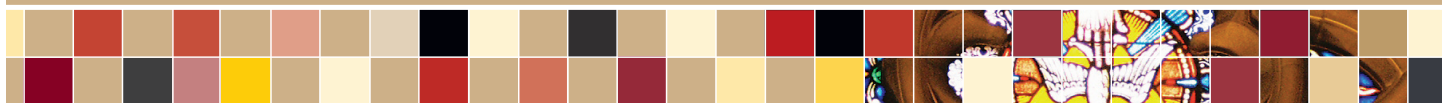
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September 26 – October 24

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## Agenda

### Friday, September 14, 2012

*Master of Ceremonies: Mark Mullaney, VOTF President*

- 3:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. **Check-In/Late Registration**, St. Botolph Room, 2nd Floor  
**Exhibits**, Gloucester Room, 3rd Floor
- 5:00 p.m. **Reception**, 3rd Floor Atrium Lounge & 4th Floor Atrium Foyer
- 6:30 p.m. **Welcome, Mark Mullaney**, VOTF President  
**Blessed John XXIII** Dedication, Lamentation Wall Introduction  
**Invocation**, *Susan Vogt, VOTF Northern Kentucky Affiliate*  
**Dinner**, Grand Ballroom, 4th Floor, **VOTF at 10** video presentation
- 7:15 p.m. **Honorable Anne Burke**, Illinois Supreme Court Justice
- 8:00 p.m. **VOTF Cake Ceremony**, founders' recognition, **James E. Post** remarks
- 8:15 p.m. **Honors/Awards Presentations**  
10th Year Priest of Integrity Award, **Fr. Patrick Bergquist**, introduced by **Bill Casey**  
10th Year St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Layperson Award, **Phyllis Zagano**, introduced by **Patricia Gomez**, and Joseph O'Callaghan, introduced by **Jamie Dance**
- 9:00 p.m. **Supporter Recognition, Mark Mullaney**, VOTF President

### Friday, September 14, 2012

7:15 p.m.



**Honorable Anne Burke**, Illinois Supreme Court Justice, First District, former Chairperson of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops National Review Board, and first recipient of Voice of the Faithful's St. Catherine of Siena Distinguished Layperson Award—Throughout her long career in public service as a children's advocate and legal professional, this indefatigable protector of children has endeavored constantly to provide a voice to society's most fragile citizens.

The title of Justice Burke's talk is ***Voice of the Faithful—Next Steps.***

Before serving on the Illinois Appellate Court and then Supreme Court, Justice Burke was a key leader in reshaping and improving the Illinois juvenile justice system advocating on behalf of Chicago's most vulnerable young people. As a physical education teacher with the Chicago Park District, she worked with children with disabilities and went on to found the Chicago Special Olympics in 1968. She later served as a Director of that organization as it grew to become the International Special Olympics. For more than two years, serving as Interim Chair, Justice Burke directed the efforts of the USCCB NRB, investigating the causes and effects of the clergy abuse scandal and helping to establish guidelines and policies for effectively responding to this scandal.

She also has served on several boards and foundations impacting the civic, cultural and educational life of Chicago. She ran a neighborhood law practice that included representing the interests of children and families involved in neglect, abuse, delinquency and parental custody. In addition, she developed a diverse practice that included criminal trial work and defense advocacy.





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## Agenda

**Saturday, September 15, 2012** *Master of Ceremonies: Mark Mullaney, VOTF President*

- 8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m. **Check-in/Late Registration**, St. Botolph Room, 2nd Floor
- 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. **Exhibits**, Gloucester Room, 3rd Floor
- 8:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**, Gloucester Room, 3rd Floor
- 8:30 a.m. **Conference**, Grand Ballroom, 4th Floor  
**Welcome, Mark Mullaney**, VOTF President  
**Blessed John XXIII** Dedication, Lamentation Wall Introduction  
**Invocation**, *Svea Fraser, a VOTF Founder*
- 8:45 a.m. **John Morgan**, Chairman, National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland
- 9:45 a.m. **Prof. Thomas Groome**, Chair, Religious Education & Pastoral Ministry, Boston College
- 10:45 a.m. **Break, Exhibits & Snacks**, Gloucester Room, 3rd Floor
- 11:15 a.m. **Rev. Donald Cozzens**, Writer in Residence, John Carroll University, & 2009 VOTF Priest of Integrity Award Recipient
- 11:45 p.m. **Attendees Have Lunch on Their Own**  
**Or Receive Lunch at HBO Documentary Film**
- 12:00 p.m. **HBO & VOTF Present HBO Documentary Feature Film Special Preview**  
***Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God***  
by Oscar®-winning director Alex Gibney
- 2:30 p.m. **David Clohessy**, Executive Director, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests
- 3:00 p.m. **Jamie Manson**, Columnist, *National Catholic Reporter*
- 3:45 p.m. **Break, Exhibits & Snacks**, Gloucester Room, 3rd Floor
- 4:15 p.m. **Rev. James Connell**, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus & St. Clement Parishes, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Canon Lawyer and victims/survivors advocate
- 5:15 p.m. **Concluding Remarks, Mark Mullaney**, VOTF President  
**Collection of Table Wisdom**
- 5:30 p.m. **Break**
- 6:00 p.m. **Mass & Closing Liturgy**  
Fr. James Connell, Celebrant

Saturday, September 15, 2012

8:45 a.m.



**John Morgan**, Chairman, National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland—Morgan was appointed a Director of the National Board for Safeguarding Children in the Catholic Church in Ireland on its establishment in 2007. He became Chairperson in 2009. He served as Chairperson of the Bishops' Committee on Child Protection from 2002-2006. Prior to that he had been a member of the bishops' committees dealing with child protection since the first formal Bishops' Committee on Child Abuse, to which he was appointed in 1999.

Morgan's talk will review the experience in Ireland and the United States with regard to clergy sexual and reform measures.

Morgan has had an extensive career in business, primarily as a corporate lawyer. He served as Group Counsel and Group Corporate Secretary for the worldwide Waterford Wedgwood Group in the period 1985-1999.

His main *pro bono* work has been as Board Chair of Mater Misericordiae University Hospital, a major Catholic Voluntary Acute Hospital in Dublin under the patronage of the Sisters of Mercy, from 2002 to date. In 2009, he was appointed vice-chairman of The Dublin Academic Medical Centre.

9:45 a.m.



**Prof. Thomas Groome**, Chair, Religious Education & Pastoral Ministry, Boston College—Educator, theologian and prolific author and guest lecturer, Prof. Groome, who has contributed the most widely used religion curricula in Catholic schools and parishes across the country for the past 20 years, presently is Chairman of the Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry Department and Professor of Theology and Religious Education at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts. His primary areas of interest and research are in the history, theory and practice of religious education, pastoral ministry and practical theology.

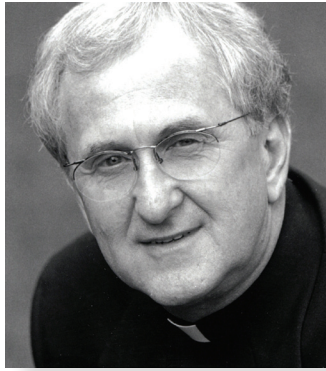
The title of his talk is ***What Faith? The Best About Being Catholic.***

Among Prof. Groome's books, the classic and foundational text *Christian Religious Education: Sharing Our Story and Vision* is the most widely used textbook of religious education in Catholic and Protestant schools of theology, seminaries and pastoral institutes worldwide. His influential contribution to Catholic early education has come primarily through several curricula on which he was the primary author or editor. These include *God with Us* and *Coming to Faith* for K-8 and the *Credo Series* for adolescents. His other books include his most recent, *What Makes Us Catholic: Eight Gifts for Life*, which lays out the foundational convictions that ground Catholic identity in Christian faith, and *Sharing Faith*, a far-reaching approach to religious education and pastoral ministry that received the Catholic Press Association's 1992 First Place Award.

He has also written more than 200 articles that have appeared in scholarly journals and popular publications on religious education and pastoral ministries, presented more than a thousand lectures over the past 35 years at professional conferences and universities worldwide, and been interviewed on major media outlets ranging from CNN, PBS and major U.S. television networks to the BBC and RTE.



11:15 a.m.



**Rev. Donald Cozzens, Ph.D.,** Writer in Residence, John Carroll University, and 2009 VOTF Priest of Integrity Award Recipient—An award-winning, best-selling author and teacher, Fr. Cozzens also is a noted national and international commentator and lecturer on religious and cultural issues. Before accepting an appointment as writer in residence in the theology department at John Carroll University, Fr. Cozzens was President-Rector of Saint Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology in Cleveland, Ohio. During his tenure at Saint Mary Seminary, he published the controversial, award-winning book, *The Changing Face of the Priesthood*. Broadly acclaimed, the book changed the direction of his ministry as a priest. In addition to his teaching and writing, he now travels widely, lecturing on the crisis engulfing the Catholic Church and leading retreats for priests and religious. He is also the author

of *Sacred Silence: Denial and the Crisis in the Church*, *Faith That Dares to Speak*, and *Freeing Celibacy* and is the editor of *The Spirituality of the Diocesan Priest*. His best-selling and award-winning books have been translated into seven languages.

The title of his talk is ***VOTF and the Future of the U.S. Catholic Church***.

In addition, Fr. Cozzens is a 2009 recipient of Voice of the Faithful's Priest of Integrity Award. The POI Award recognizes courage and dedication in addressing the abuse crisis and its coverup in the Catholic Church. Specifically, the POI Award is given to priests who fulfill their calling from God by living their lives in the service of others; who are marked by a sincere faith, loyal to the vows and promises of the priesthood; who speak and act their consciences, proclaiming the truth with humility, courage and compassion without regard for their own future security; who model servant-leadership in the context of their lives and in their ministries; who give credible witness to the truth in speech and action; and who strive to promote Christian dignity and the rightful position of the laity in the Church.

2:30 p.m.



**David Clohessy,** Executive Director, Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests—A tireless advocate for abuse victims, Clohessy has been Executive Director of SNAP, the nation's largest and oldest self-help group for clergy molestation victims, since 1991.

In his remarks, Clohessy will touch on the HBO/VOTF-sponsored Boston screening of the documentary feature film ***Mea Maxima Culpa: Silence in the House of God*** by Oscar®-winning director Alex Gibney.

As SNAP's executive director, Clohessy has travelled and spoken extensively, helping to set up local support groups in more than 50 cities. In 2002, Clohessy was one of only four abuse survivors to address America's Catholic bishops at a historic meeting in Dallas, which resulted in the USCCB's Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. He has decried the sexual abuse of minors in the Catholic Church and championed abuse survivors in television appearances on *60 Minutes*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *The Phil Donahue Show* and *Good Morning America*, and has been featured or quoted in dozens of newspapers around the world.

Clohessy's professional career has included community organizing in low-income neighborhoods and representing low-wage workers. He has also served as a political and public relations consultant. Clohessy helped elect St. Louis' first African American mayor (Freeman Bosley, Jr.), and later joined Bosley's communications staff. He also helped elect the city's first female prosecutor (Dee Joyce Hayes), and guided school districts and other public entities seeking tax and bond measures at the ballot box.

3:00 p.m.



**Jamie Manson**, Columnist, *National Catholic Reporter*—An award-winning columnist for *National Catholic Reporter*, Manson also is a lay minister to the poor, frequent speaker and retreat leader.

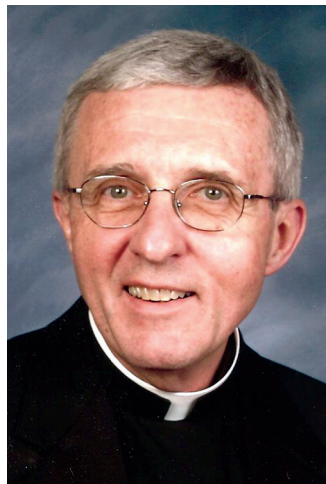
The title of her talk is ***The Church and Young Catholics: Is There a Future.***

Manson received her Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School where she studied Catholic theology and sexual ethics with Margaret Farley. Her weekly column, “Grace on the Margins,” appears in the *National Catholic Reporter*. Her writing earned her a first-prize Catholic Press Association award in 2010 for Best Column/Regular Commentary.

In January 2011, her essay on St. Joseph’s Hospital in Phoenix, Arizona, was highlighted by Nicholas Kristof in his op-ed column in *The New York Times*. She also is the former Editor-in-Chief of the Yale magazine *Reflections*. As a lay minister, she has served two

Manhattan churches in the roles of Director of Faith Formation and as Director of Social Justice Ministries. In both churches she worked extensively with New York City’s homeless and poor populations. A frequent speaker and retreat leader, she is a regular homilist for the New York City chapter of DignityUSA and has served on the board of the Women’s Ordination Conference.

4:15 p.m.



**Rev. James Connell**, Pastor of Holy Name of Jesus and St. Clement Parishes, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, Canon Lawyer—Fr. Connell, a priest of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, advocates on behalf of victims/survivors of Catholic clergy sexual abuse of minors.

The title of Fr. Connell’s talk is ***Speak Up for Those Who Cannot Speak for Themselves.***

This courageous priest is a former member of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee clergy sexual abuse audit review board. Fr. Connell has called for Church leaders to reveal the complete truth about clergy sexual abuse because, he says, only from such a revelation can this poison be removed from the Body of Christ. In an open letter to Catholic priests in early December 2010, he concluded, “Let us always embrace the word of the Lord: fear not; the truth will set you free.”

In this effort, Fr. Connell challenges Church policies and practices on local and national levels. Moreover, he sees his advocacy role as primarily being a “journey with” the victims/survivors in their quest for truth, justice, healing, and peace. “Knowledge and understanding of the truth (the absence of all forms of falsehood and deception), stand as prerequisites for justice,” Fr. Connell says. “In turn, justice based on truth can lead to healing and peace. In short—no truth (facts and explanations), no justice; no justice, no healing; no healing, no peace.”

In December 2011, after meeting quietly for about a year, Fr. Connell and several other priests and clergy sexual abuse survivors joined together to call for more transparency from the Church concerning the abuse scandal and for survivors/victims in the Milwaukee archdiocese to come forward before the Feb. 1, 2012, deadline to file for restitution in federal bankruptcy court. The group ran a signed, full-page ad to that effect in the Jan. 27, 2012, edition of the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*.



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#### Authors' Table

Fr. Patrick Bergquist

Finbarr M. Corr

Fr. Emmett Coyne

Thomas Groome, Ph.D.

Kathleen MacInnis Kichline, M.Div

Paul Lakeland, Ph.D.

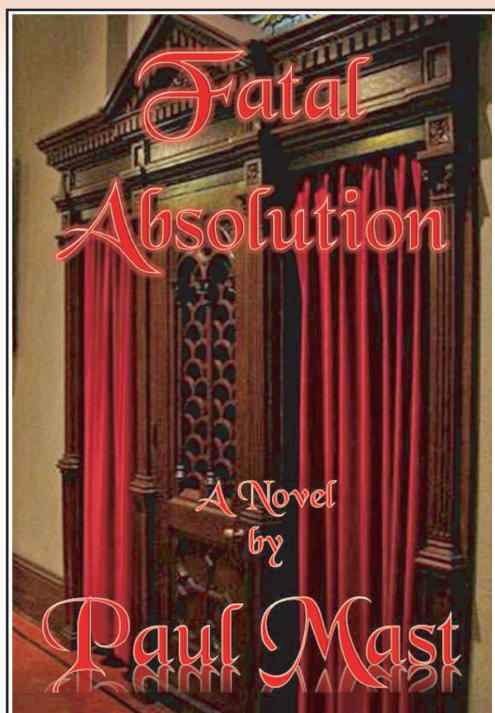
Joseph O'Callaghan

Susan Vogt

Phyllis Zagano, Ph.D.

Brighton Publishing signs author Paul Mast for his new novel

## *"Fatal Absolution"*



CHANDLER (AZ)—Author Paul Mast has signed with Brighton Publishing LLC for his new novel, *Fatal Absolution*. Scheduled for eBook release in late November, it will be available in all popular formats from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other leading eBook retailers. The print edition is slotted for release in February 2013 and will be distributed through Ingram, the world's largest wholesale book distributor, in addition to being available with the Espresso Book Machine worldwide.

Author Paul Mast has woven a chilling and suspenseful plot about how the scandal unfolded in the fictional Diocese of Islip, New York resulting in the murder of three priests. With sensitivity to the neglected needs of abuse victims, protagonist Fr. Timothy Cavanagh, a former concert pianist and secretary to the Bishop of Islip, plays Sherlock Holmes to sinister Bishop John Campbell's role as Dr. Moriarity.

Paul Mast is a native of Delaware and a priest of the Diocese of Wilmington. His first book, *Litanies & Legacies: Mystics and Mysteries*, was released in 2009. <http://www.gospelsoftretreats.org/>

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### **Program**

**Sept. 23, 2012** – Rev. Kenneth R. Himes, O.F.M., Ph.D.  
*Being a Responsible Catholic Voter* (Newburyport)

**Nov. 4, 2012** – Daniel J. Daly, Ph.D.  
*Church in the Modern World* (Topsfield)

**Feb. 10, 2013** – Richard R. Gaillardetz, Ph.D.  
*The Legacy of the Second Vatican Council for the 21st Century* (Peabody)

**March 3, 2013** – Catherine Cornille, Ph.D.  
*The Church in the World: Dialogue Between World Religions* (Lynn)

**April 28, 2013** – Sr. Janice Farnham, RJM, Ph.D.  
*"Newer Every Day": A Spirituality for the Second Half of Life*  
(Newburyport)

**For further information, please contact:**  
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As co-chairs of this year's conference, we are deeply grateful to all of you who have gathered in the city where a unique movement of the laity began, to mark ten years of faithful commitment to *Keep the Faith, Change the Church*. The movement of the Holy Spirit has been evident in so many who have walked our common journey, and we invoke that same spirit to help us all continue to bear witness as a new decade of VOTF's efforts commences with the outpouring of this conference.

We cannot thank our remarkable presenters enough for their wisdom and courage and the call to accelerate our work that they have issued to us. Similarly, we express our deepest appreciation to Executive Director, Donna Doucette, and Director of Public Relations, Nick Ingala, for their tireless efforts and persistence over the last year that enables us to take great strides in advancing VOTF's mission and goals.

We call upon all here, and those in concert with us in the United States and around the world, to recommit our prayers, our talents and our service to the needs of survivors and to the re-discovery of integrity that our Church so desperately needs. And as we continue our journey together, we quote former Trustee David O'Brien, who wrote in the August 13th-20th edition of *America* magazine, regarding the unfinished challenge of Church reform, "Our mothers and fathers sought for us education and material resources so we could have choices they never had. They did not expect us merely to maintain the church and hand it on, but rather to use our freedom and power to keep the faith, and, if necessary, change the church so we could change the world the way God would want it changed."

Godspeed,

Jayne O'Donnell and Bill Casey





**Voice of the Faithful**

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