



*Keep the Faith, Change the Church*

**Statement of Candidacy for Secretary by Patricia T. Gomez, Ph.D.**

With this statement, I submit my nomination for Secretary of Voice of the Faithful.

I have been a member of Voice of the Faithful since spring of 2002 when I co-founded the second affiliate within the developing organization in the Concord, MA, area and then served as affiliate leader for five years. My early work with Voice of the Faithful on the national level centered on two areas: the protection of children and leadership within the organization. I served on the Protecting God's Children national working group of VOTF that led efforts for the protection of children at the parish, diocesan, and national levels. From the beginnings of the VOTF, I have been involved in the governance of the organization, serving on the early National Representative Council and later as an elected member of the restructured Council, where I worked on the Steering Committee.

Currently, I serve as a trustee on the Board of Voice of the Faithful and lead the Women's Initiative within the Voices in Action Universal Church Reform group. I am dedicated to carrying out the Mission of VOTF 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. I firmly believe in the need for structural change within the Catholic Church and in the primacy of an educated laity to bring about the needed changes. An important responsibility of the educated laity is to work for the rights of all the baptized within the Church.

I will continue to work with the membership, the Officers, the Executive Director, and Board members of Voice of the Faithful to carry out the mission and goals of the organization. Additionally, as Secretary I will work on organizational governance as well as policy and planning by ensuring that VOTF records are documented and collected properly.