



### **Statement of Candidacy for Vice President by Ronald L. DuBois, PhD**

I am entering my nomination for Vice President of Voice of the Faithful in order to continue to pursue a leadership role in fulfilling the mission and goals of Voice of the Faithful. I have been a member of VOTF since the first Convention in Boston in 2002. Although shocked and scandalized by the extent of sexual abuse by clergy, I was most attracted by the mission of VOTF: "To provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church." I am a lifelong faithful Catholic committed to playing a role in my Church that was called for in the documents of the Second Vatican Council. I believe in both the place of prayer and the following of the Holy Spirit in working for reform in the Catholic Church.

I have played a variety of leadership roles in VOTF. I am the Chair of the Paulist Center VOTF Affiliate in Boston. I was the founder of the now defunct National Representative Council and was the first Chair of that body. I was elected to the Board of VOTF by that body and am now serving my second term on the Board. I am a founder and co-chair of the VOTF Spiritual and Communal Growth Voices in Action Team.

I was a member of a small Board committee which did an extensive analysis of the John Jay Study on the Causes and Context of Sexual Abuse in the Church. One of our major conclusions was that the study avoided naming the existence of a clerical culture as a cause not only of the abuse, but also of the extensive cover-up of abuse by the bishops. One of my goals will be to continue to push for changes in the Church that will counteract the mainstays of that clerical culture, namely secrecy, absolute control by the hierarchy and mistreatment of lower clergy and laity without due process.

I will continue to work for a Church in which there is greater openness and transparency about all decision-making, particularly concerning abuse of any kind, and as diligent in protecting children after birth as we are before birth. We seek a Church in which lay people have responsible decision-making roles, especially over the use of financial and other resources, and are treated with dignity, respect, justice and due process. I will continue to work for a Church in which the major focus is on holiness and spirituality of all its members, and not just on conformity. I am eager to continue in a leadership role within Voice of the Faithful and would be honored to be elected as Vice President.