

VOICES IN ACTION

Transforming Our Church Together

A Voice of the Faithful campaign for transforming the Catholic Church through local, regional and national action.

VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL

Voices in Action launches a new approach for attaining Voice of the Faithful's mission and goals. Our motto "Keep the Faith; Change the Church" guides us towards modeling the Church we envision—by engaging our members through practical, action-based initiatives that leverage the skills and expertise of the laity in large numbers. *Voices in Action* will carry out that promise.



Our Church has entered a new era where Catholic men and women across the globe are assuming major responsibilities for leadership and operations at all levels. Voice of the Faithful aims to accelerate and expand this participation to meet the challenges our Church faces; to foster greater accountability in ourselves and our leaders; to heal and support and protect even the least among us; and to mobilize the laity as a catalyst for transforming the Church.

We approach these efforts with a renewed spirituality grounded in prayer. We call on all Catholics to discern their gifts and to join their talents with others to **make a difference now**. Our work depends on the insights and energies of all—only by **working together** can we truly become the Church we wish to be. Join *Voices in Action* and see where YOU can make a difference.



Voice of the Faithful
Strategic Campaign 2009-2011

Visit www.votf.org for more information
Or to donate to the campaign:
P.O. Box 423 | Newton, MA 02464

SPIRITUAL AND COMMUNAL GROWTH

Our Mission

To facilitate spiritual development and foster community through resources, programs and activities that encourage members to maintain a prayerful voice attentive to the Spirit.

Our Approach

Because all of our work is grounded in the Holy Spirit, it is vital we establish ways to sustain each other. Voices in Action will make available new venues and online resources to help us stay “attentive to the spirit.”

What We’re Doing

- » Establish an online resource center dedicated to spiritual and communal growth.
- » Develop an interactive prayer community and promote special events with other faith-based organizations.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Ron at debber@beld.net.

UNIVERSAL CHURCH REFORM

Our Mission

We will focus on conversations about structural change and processes that foster greater lay participation in the governance and guidance of our Church.

Our Approach

We focus on three important conversations for the laity: selection of bishops; mandated celibacy; and women’s roles in the Church. With a large percentage of U.S. Catholic bishops at or nearing retirement age, we have a unique opportunity to seek increased lay involvement in selecting their successors. Also, to support ongoing VOTF initiatives, we will encourage conversations regarding mandated celibacy and the historical and contemporary roles of women in the Church.

What We’re Doing

- » Find ways to raise lay voices in the coming large-scale selection of new diocesan bishops.
- » Create interactive website with corresponding resources.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Nick at nmazza2568@yahoo.com or call 908-370-9912.

NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

Our Mission

Transforming the Church requires thousands of Catholics working together towards common goals. We seek to bring together more of these voices when speaking out on key issues of transparency and accountability.

Our Approach

While faithfully maintaining our allegiance to the mission, goals, and identity statement of VOTF, we propose developing collaborative actions with other Catholic groups in order to effectively nurture meaningful reform in the spirit of Vatican II.

What We’re Doing

- » Assess 15 reform organizations to learn what they do, how they do it, and what potential areas of collaboration may exist.
- » Develop guiding materials for future relationships.
- » Serve as a resource for other VOTF members seeking information about potential partners for collaborative action.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Sheila at sheila_peiffer@yahoo.com.

CHILD PROTECTION AND SURVIVOR SUPPORT

Our Mission

Voice of the Faithful recognizes and respects the life-long struggle of childhood victims/survivors of sexual abuse by members of the clergy and religious in our church community. Our platform mission is to direct action at national, regional and local levels that will protect children and advance healing and justice for survivors.

Our Approach

While the Catholic Church has done much to protect children since the clergy abuse scandal erupted, more remains to be done—especially with adult survivors of clergy sex abuse. We will encourage improvements in the quality of child protection programs and help those who work towards reforming statutes of limitations laws that hinder justice for victims of child sex abuse.

What We’re Doing

- » Develop an advocacy guide for reforming statutes of limitations that govern redress for victims of childhood sexual abuse and support legislation for mandatory reporting of child abuse.
- » Educate ourselves and others as to the grievous impact of sexual abuse, and promote a better understanding of the epidemic of child sexual abuse in our society.
- » Support and collaborate with other organizations to expand child abuse prevention education and awareness programs in both the Catholic environment and broader communities.
- » Support survivors in their journey of healing by providing opportunities for survivors to share their stories, ideas and insights about the trauma of childhood sexual abuse.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Frances at info@votfcps.org.

LOCAL ACTION

Our Mission

We are working to increase active participation of the lay faithful in the mission and ministries of each parish and diocese. We believe that “Global Change Begins with Local Action.”

Our Approach

Many parishes lack the parish finance councils required by church law and the safety committees that ensure protection of our children. These councils ensure greater lay involvement as well as transparency and accountability in management. We will provide resources that lay people can use to implement best management practices in their parishes and dioceses. We will also work to strengthen and support VOTF affiliates.

What We’re Doing

- » Create safe environment committees in 25 targeted parishes.
- » Identify and implement “best practices” in 25 parish councils and committees.
- » Assess and strengthen VOTF affiliates.

To volunteer, or for more information, email Francis or Brad at votf-local-action@googlegroups.com.