

**Buch**

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**Fra:** Buch [FamBuch@DBmail.dk]  
**Sendt:** on 09. april 2008 16:30  
**Til:** Buch  
**Vedhæftede filer:** oledata.mso; image003.jpg

**VI ER OGSÅ KIRKEN**[www.veok.dk](http://www.veok.dk)- en forening af katolikker

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**VEOK's  
50****Nyhedsmail  
8-apr-2008****nr.**

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Fra *VOICE OF THE FAITHFULL* har VEOK modtaget følgende opfordring til at underskrive en henvendelse til paven under hans besøg i USA.

Bestyrelsen har ikke underskrevet på vegne af VEOK, men opfordrer alle til at tage stilling til det fremsendte.

**TO POPE BENEDICT XVI AND HIS FELLOW BISHOPS***On the occasion of the Pope's April 2008 visit to the United States*

Please join Voice of the Faithful (VOTF) in calling all Catholics to transform our Church.

Join your voice with thousands of others who must raise our voices through petition because the Pope has scheduled no discussions or listening sessions with ordinary laity. Will he hear the concerns of the faithful without such conversations?

We Catholics are still addressing the clergy sex abuse scandal, one of the worst crises in the history of our Church. One-third of those raised Catholic in the U.S. no longer call themselves Catholics, according to a recent survey. Numbers of priests are declining; many parishes and schools are closing; we face massive financial crises.

Voice of the Faithful, with more than 35,000 members, proposes concrete solutions to address this crisis:

1. Treat survivors of sexual abuse with the justice and compassion our faith demands.
2. Hold bishops accountable to the people they serve.
3. Embrace full participation of Catholic men and women in Church decision-making.
4. Require full financial transparency and accountability in all governance matters.

We believe these steps will produce:

- An open, transparent and accountable Church
  - A participative Church embracing the gifts and talents of the baptized
  - A Church governed by compassion, informed by justice, empowered by equality, and animated to act collegially
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We urge all clergy to listen to the voices of the faithful as we join together to inspire our Church to become a community of believers worthy of our founder, Jesus Christ. We pledge our energy toward realizing these changes.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [Voice of the Faithful](#)

**To:** [vi.bel@iol.it](mailto:vi.bel@iol.it)

**Sent:** Friday, April 04, 2008 11:41 PM

**Subject:** Papal Visit: Put Your Voice on the Line

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## Papal Visit: Put Your Voice on the Line

As promised during the recent email campaign for funding media ads, we are putting together a plan for ongoing VOTF actions during the Pope's visit this month. Each facet of the plan should increase visibility for the issues Voice of the Faithful members believe are important – and create synergy with the *New York Times* ad and other media reports.

But to make this plan as successful as possible, we need your help. Here's what you can do right now:

### Sign our Online Petition – And Get Others to Sign It

Beginning today, a new petition that we hope to present to the Pope and the Papal Nuncio is on the VOTF website. Join your voices through petition because the Pope has scheduled no discussions or listening sessions with ordinary laity.

Check out the petition [here](#). If you agree with it:

- Please sign it online.
- Use the “forward email” feature at the bottom of this email to encourage others to sign it online.
- **[Print it out](#)**, join with one or two like-minded Catholics this weekend and stand in front of your Church after Mass and ask others to sign it. You can then send those signed petitions to the VOTF office, PO Box 423, Newton Upper Falls, MA 02464.

We will be collecting signatures through April 30, and talking about it during the conversations with the media that are resulting from the ad we are placing in the *New York Times*.

We are developing other plans too, but I will save those for another email. For now, I encourage you to [sign our petition](#) and encourage others to sign it.

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We've seen in the past couple of weeks how much we can do in a short period of time, if we focus our energy and talent. Let's keep that energy flowing with the petition – and check your email box over the weekend for a more-complete outline of what's planned in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,



Dan Bartley, President  
Voice of the Faithful

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