

"Speak one great truth in the face of one great lie"

Sister Joan Chittister

The Vigil Committee has been standing at the Cathedral for years on the first Sunday of the month. The Vigils are and always have been peaceful and prayerful. The outrage we all feel about the scandal of sexual abuse by priests has been kept in check.

In the beginning the Vigils were to ask the Bishop to open the churches to local Parish Voices, so Catholics could meet on Church grounds. At that time our flyers also implored the Bishop to meet with the leaders to open dialogue between VOTF and the hierarchy.

As time went on, and the Bishop ignored us, the Vigils and the flyers informed parishioners about the diocese and how the hierarchy worked and did not work with victims/survivors; how they handled the finances and other matters. Above all, we tried to give "Voice" to the Survivors.

At first we were denied entrance to Mass, and after discussions, not with the hierarchy, but with the local police, we were allowed entrance to the Cathedral. We attend the 11 AM Mass on the first Sunday of each month and sit as a group wearing red.

Now many parishioners come up and ask for the flyers, still there are many who refuse and ignore us. Many do not know why we are there. To insure our message was getting out it was decided we needed signs to attract attention. Some survivors brought signs, assisting the VOTF Vigiliers in getting the message out and also giving them a "Voice".

Why we are there and why we remain can be best summed up by Sister Joan Chittister:

"Between life and death it is for all of us to do one blazing act of good- however small it may seem at the time. Life is the opportunity to speak one great truth in the face of one great lie. It may seem that no one hears it. It may seem that nothing changes. But not to speak-that is the real sin."

While most in VOTF have done more than one act of good, Chittister's words **"speak one great truth in the face of one great lie"** sums up the reason we stand at the Cathedral.