



## VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL NEW YORK

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### VOICE OF THE FAITHFUL NEW YORK SUPPORTS PASSAGE OF NY CHILD VICTIMS ACT, AND CALLS FOR EQUAL TREATMENT OF SEX ABUSERS IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

New York, April 14, 2009: Voice of the Faithful New York supports the NY Child Victims Act, sponsored by Assemblywoman Marge Markey (Bill No. A02596) and State Senator Tom Duane (S02586). This legislation will deliver compassionate justice to victims of sexual abuse who have been denied justice by being locked out of the courthouse. The Child Victims Act would extend the statute of limitations on child sexual abuse for an additional five years, so that victims will have until the age of 28 to bring claims. The act would suspend the statute for one year, so that those who have been unjustly denied access to the courts in the past will be able to come forward and make a claim in this one-year "window."

When the State of California instituted similar reforms, it allowed victims to bring some 1,000 new cases, and uncovered 300 previously hidden predators. Identifying more predators means that more children are protected from abuse.

Critics of this legislation contend that it discriminates against private institutions like the Catholic Church by giving public institutions special treatment. Voice of the Faithful New York believes that all institutions, public and private, should be treated with absolute equality, and would be in favor of companion legislation that would suspend the provisions giving special treatment to public institutions under New York State law for the same one-year window. Having the one-year "window" apply equally to all institutions would serve justice for all. Voice of the Faithful New York does not support legislative remedies that fail to include the one-year window.