



The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 4, No. 14**July 28, 2006***ANNOUNCEMENTS****Office of the Bishop**

Bishop John J. Nevins announces the following clergy appointments:

Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane is appointed Vicar General of the Diocese of Venice effective July 25, 2006, until Coadjutor Bishop Dewane becomes the Ordinary of the Diocese of Venice, according to the provisions of the Code of Canon Law. The Diocese of Venice now has two Vicars General, with separate assigned responsibilities. **Father Edward Moretti** continues as Vicar General of the Diocese.

Father John Edgar Rodriguez appointed assistant to Father Jose Antonio Gonzalez, pastor of St. Catherine Parish, Sebring, in the apostolate of the Spanish-speaking people in the areas of Sebring, Avon Park and Lake Placid, effective July 6, 2006.

Father Joseph Spinelli, OSA, pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Golden Gate, granted a sabbatical leave by his Prior Provincial, effective July 18, 2006.

Father Dennis J. Hartin, OSA, upon presentation of his Prior Provincial, appointed administrator of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, Golden Gate, effective July 18, 2006, at the same time relieved of his appointment as parochial vicar of that parish.

**Office of the Chancellor**

Special collection requested – Please find enclosed a letter from Bishop John J. Nevins regarding a special “National Collection for Hurricane Recovery” sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. This special collection is to be taken up the weekend of August 26-27 and the proceeds sent to the Finance Department, marked “National Collection for Hurricane Recovery,” no later than September 15, 2006.

**Internal Financial Services/Legal Department**

Important financial information – The Coadjutor Bishop, Frank Dewane, will take over when Bishop Nevins retires in January 2007. At that time, there may still be hundreds of bank resolutions and signature cards which will have to be changed. In order to alleviate some of the recurring problems, we ask that you obtain ONLY a NON-PROFIT form from your bank. Corporate resolutions **do not** apply to any of our diocesan entities. Non-profit forms have some wording difficulties, but are not totally unusable. If you wish to submit current blank forms to us at any time prior to January, we can have those in the computer and ready for signature to expedite the process for you. Please send your **UNSIGNED** bank resolutions to our Legal Department and we will make any necessary changes to non-profit forms and return them to you with the Bishop’s signature. Please list the names of the signators, always putting the Pastor/Administrator first, the Bishop last, and all others in between, but without the signatures. We may then scan and make the necessary changes on our computers. *You may then complete the remainder of the form with signatures when they are returned to you.* We greatly appreciate your assistance in this.

**Internal Financial Services**

NOTE TO ALL BOOKKEEPERS: The financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2006, are due on Aug. 1, 2006. You can now download your annual backup of QuickBooks/Quicken directly from the Diocese of Venice Website. The instructions for the annual backup of QuickBooks/Quicken for the year ending June 30, 2006, is on the Diocese of Venice Website (the same area forms are located.) If you do not have a user ID and password to access the Diocese of Venice Website, contact Eydie D’Arcangelo at 941-484-9543 ext. 3078.



Regional Safe Environment Training

The following parishes will hold regional Safe Environment Awareness training sessions. **ALL** diocesan employees ... clergy, religious, laity ... and those volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults, **MUST BE TRAINED** in safe environment awareness issues. If you have not attended an awareness training, you should attend one of these sessions, as your relationship with the diocese is predicated by this training. Please contact the parish secretary at the location you wish to attend with your name and telephone number at least two weeks prior to the training. Please share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Date/Time	Northern	Central	Eastern	Southern
Aug. 17 - Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Angels Bradenton	Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Venice	St. Michael Parish Wauchula	
Aug. 19 - Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.	Our Lady of Angels Bradenton	Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Venice	St. Michael Parish Wauchula	
Aug. 24 - Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m.				Resurrection Parish Fort Myers
Aug. 26 - Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.				Resurrection Parish Fort Myers
Sept. 9 - Saturday 10 a.m.-noon				Our Lady of Light Estero
Sept. 14 - Thursday 6:30-8:30 p.m.	St. Thomas More Spirit Center Sarasota	St. Charles Borromeo Parish Center Port Charlotte	St. Catherine Parish Sebring	St. William Parish Naples
Sept. 16 - Saturday 9:30-11:30 a.m.	St. Thomas More Spirit Center Sarasota	St. Charles Borromeo Parish Center Port Charlotte	St. Catherine Parish Sebring	St. William Parish Naples

Awareness trainings in Spanish will be announced at a later date.



Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services (CCHD/CRS)

Humanitarian situation in Middle East rapidly deteriorating: CRS Emergency Relief Teams respond – Catholic Relief Services (CRS) emergency relief teams in Lebanon, Gaza and Israel are responding to the increasing humanitarian needs of those affected by the escalating violence in the region. Immediate needs include food, temporary shelter, water, first aid provisions, blankets and hygiene kits, as well as household items like dishes and basins for washing clothes.

CRS and its partners are part of a \$2.9 million emergency appeal to support the displaced families in southern Lebanon and Gaza. Most of those families are poor and had little time to gather sufficient supplies before evacuating their homes. Thus, they are nearly completely reliant on outside support. For those families in northern Israel who have been displaced by the cross-border shelling, CRS is working with American Jewish Joint Jerusalem Distribution Committee to provide immediate assistance. Additional information is available at crs.org or through this office.

Recent statements of Pope Benedict XVI, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the leaders of communities in the Holy Land regarding the conflict in the Middle East can be found at www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/mideastind.htm#general.



Communications Department

Candidate Questionnaire Project hits the Web and the paper

What is the Candidate Questionnaire Project? To help inform voters and candidates of issues important to Catholics, the Florida Catholic Conference, in cooperation with *The Florida Catholic* newspaper, the Florida Council of Catholic Women and the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council, offers the Candidate Questionnaire Project. It offers all gubernatorial and state and congressional candidates for the offices of representative and senator the opportunity to answer 11 questions relevant to issues of life, death, education, health care and social justice. Candidates answer the question with a “support” or “oppose” response. Results from the poll are available 24/7 at www.informedvoter-thefloridacatholic.org and will be published by *The Florida Catholic* Aug. 18.

Possible bulletin inserts for Candidate Questionnaire Project, to be used at the parish's discretion throughout August, can be found in the Bulletin Announcement section below. Need more information? Call Jean Gonzalez at 407-929-8350 or e-mail jgonzalez@thefloridacatholic.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:

Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services (CCHD/CRS)

The Florida Human Trafficking Statewide Task Force will meet Wednesday, Aug. 16, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Tampa Bay Regional Operations Center, 4211 North Lois Avenue, Tampa. Law enforcement agencies, code enforcement, service providers, faith-based and community organizations are encouraged to attend. For additional information regarding the guest speaker and agenda, contact CCHD/CRS at 941-484-9543 or kirley@dioceseofvenice.org.

The Coalition Against Human Trafficking in Southwest Florida will meet Friday, Aug. 11, 9-10:30 a.m., at the Sheriff's Office, 2501 Ortiz in Fort Myers. A daylong Human Trafficking Awareness Training will immediately follow. For additional information, contact CCHD/CRS at 941-484-9543 or kirley@dioceseofvenice.org.



Tribunal

Are you currently in a marriage which is not recognized by the Catholic Church? Are you free to marry but thinking of entering marriage with someone who has been previously married and divorced? If so, the staff of the Tribunal for the Diocese of Venice is willing to examine this situation with you so that your standing in the Church can be determined. The Tribunal is the only agency in the Diocese with the juridical power to examine and resolve such cases. Should you wish additional information, your parish priest can assist you. You are also free to contact the Tribunal office directly at 941-484-9543. Any of the staff members will be able to provide information.



Respect Life Department

If you're struggling after an abortion, don't struggle alone. For confidential help, call Project Rachel in Florida toll-free at 877-908-1212 or e-mail project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org.

Did You Know? In their November 2005 statement, *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops state: "Ending the use of the death penalty would be one important step away from a culture of death toward building a culture of life." The entire statement may be found online at: www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/penaltyofdeath.pdf. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-484-9543.



Communications Department

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What is the Candidate Questionnaire Project? To help inform voters and candidates of issues important to Catholics, the Florida Catholic Conference, in cooperation with *The Florida Catholic* newspaper, the Florida Council of Catholic Women and the Knights of Columbus Florida State Council, offers the Candidate Questionnaire Project. It offers all gubernatorial and state and congressional candidates for the offices of representative and senator the opportunity to answer 11 questions relevant to issues of life, death, education, health care and social justice. Candidates answer the question with a "support" or "oppose" response. Results from the poll are available 24/7 at www.informedvoter-thefloridacatholic.org and will be published by *The Florida Catholic* Aug. 18.

Aug. 5-6:

Be informed and be a voter: Your city, county, state and country needs your voice! Sept. 5 is the 2006 primary election and before you go to the polls **BE INFORMED!** The Candidate Questionnaire Project is here to help. Although no one can tell you how to vote, this project can help inform you of issues important to the Catholic faithful. And its all available online at www.informedvoter-thefloridacatholic.org. So become an informed voter! Information is at your fingertips.

Aug. 12-13:

Important dates to remember:

- **Friday, Aug. 18:** *The Florida Catholic* publishes results from the Candidate Questionnaire Project
- **Monday, Aug. 21:** Early voting for the primary begins
- **Tuesday, Sept. 5:** Primary election
- **EVERYDAY:** Real time results of the Candidate Questionnaire Project available online at www.informedvoter-thefloridacatholic.org.

Become an informed voter! Information is at your fingertips.

Aug. 19-20 and Aug. 26-27:

Checklist before going to the polls:

- Voter registration card
- Driver's license or ID
- Information on issues of importance to make every vote count

Need help with that last item? Results from the Candidate Questionnaire Project (CQP) can help.

Where is that info available? Go online at www.informedvoter-thefloridacatholic.org and follow the prompts to find out how Florida senate and Florida and U.S. representative candidates in your district and for the offices of U.S. senate and Florida governor answered 11 questions important to the Catholic faithful.

Need something to take to the polls? Checkout the CQP insert available at your parish.

Mark the Date! Christopher West, foremost lecturer and educator on Pope John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*, will be speaking in Naples 7-9 p.m., Oct. 20, and 9:30-11:30 a.m., Oct. 21. Sponsored by Laity for Life, Inc. Admission is free. Call 239-352-6333.

Cruise for Christ 2006 – All are invited to register for a “Cursillo Fundraiser Vacation.” We will depart from the Port of Tampa on Holland America Cruise Line's beautiful “Veendam” cruise ship on Sunday, Dec. 2, at 5 p.m. then on to Grand Cayman, Cayman Island, followed by Montego Bay, Jamaica, and winding up with Costa Maya, Mexico. We will return on Saturday morning, Dec. 9. Enjoy seven fun-filled days at sea with great dining, dancing, singing and much more. Check out the great fairs and register now on line at cursillotravel.com. There will be Charter Bus Transportation supplied from various locations in the Diocese of Venice. We will have the opportunity to attend Mass each day and to enjoy and Ultreya spiritual experience while at sea. For more information, call Alice Hofer at 239-541-2525 or e-mail her at goaskalice113046@swfla.rr.com.



Catholic Charities

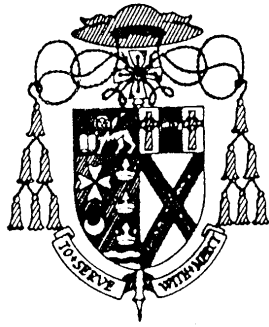
Volunteers Desperately Needed in Post-Hurricane Katrina Gulf Coast– Catholic Charities agencies in Louisiana and Mississippi are in desperate need of volunteers to clean-up or repair homes destroyed by Hurricane Katrina almost one year ago.

An estimated 92,000 houses in New Orleans and 200,000 houses in the metro area were severely damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In Biloxi, where over 65,000 homes were flood-ravaged and destroyed, people still are living in tents and trailers as they wait for aid.

Volunteers over the age of 16 are welcome, but skilled laborers with at least some knowledge of construction or carpentry are especially needed. For non-skilled volunteers, basic skills courses can be arranged through Home Depot or Lowe's. In addition, the Mississippi agencies are also in dire need of donations of building supply materials, appliances, furniture, and/or gift cards to Home Depot and Lowe's.

More information on volunteer opportunities in the Gulf Coast is available online at <http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org/news/HurricaneRelief05/volunteer.cfm>.

The Mustard Seed is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice, published bi-weekly on Fridays by the Department of Communications. Notices of general interest will be considered for publication. Send copy to: Department of Communications, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice FL 34285 OR via e-mail (preferred method) to: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org no later than **seven days prior** to publication date. The pastoral bulletin is available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
Office of the Bishop

August, 2006

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

*“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted,
and those who are crushed in spirit He saves” (Ps 34:19)*

These words of the psalmist encourage us to heed the cries of our brothers and sisters whose lives and homes were devastated by the ravages of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They are overwhelmed by grief, dislocation and discouragement. Collections taken up in 2005 following the hurricanes focused on immediate humanitarian relief, and only scratched the surface of the long-term needs.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is responding to the existing needs of families in the Archdiocese of New Orleans, Louisiana and the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi. In some areas, families have had to move an average of three times, some as many as nine times, in attempts to re-establish their families and their livelihood. In the Archdiocese of New Orleans, 200,000 homes were lost; 60 percent of the population has not returned, and almost no one has returned to Lower Plaquemines. In the Diocese of Biloxi, 428 of 433 church-owned properties: churches, schools, parish centers, were destroyed or seriously damaged, and there was \$70 million worth of damage to buildings, only half of which is covered by insurance.

This special collection, to be taken up the weekend of August 26-27, focuses on rebuilding parish infrastructure, and rebuilding the hope of their people. This is critically important now, as many civil jurisdictions declare that they are no longer able to assist those who were displaced by the 2005 hurricanes, and will be unable to do so in the future.

Your prayers and contributions are very much needed at this time. Please respond as generously as you are able when the collection is taken up in your parish the weekend of August 26-27. Thank you, and may God continue to bless you and your families.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

John J. Nevins, D.D.
Bishop of Venice in Florida