



# The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 4, No. 16**Aug. 25, 2006***ANNOUNCEMENTS*****Florida Catholic Conference***

**Important Voter Registration Drive information** – During this 2006 election year, the Florida Catholic Conference recommends that parishes **do not** conduct parish voter registration drives as new laws governing third party drives are being challenged, resulting in considerable confusion. Failure to meet the requirements of the current law may result in substantial fines for the parish and/or pastor or designee.

In past election years prior to the recent changes in Florida law, parishes have been encouraged by this office to conduct voter registration drives and USCCB materials continue to recommend them on a national level. Since some parishes have conducted drives in the past and may already be contemplating drives this year, we ask that you please recommend to your parishes that they **do not conduct registration drives** this election cycle.

For further information, visit the Florida Catholic Conference Website and view the information booklet at:

[www.flacathconf.org/Legislativeissues/ElectionActivitiesGuide/electronicversion.pdf](http://www.flacathconf.org/Legislativeissues/ElectionActivitiesGuide/electronicversion.pdf)

***Office of the Catechetical Ministry***

**Safe Environment training for children and youth mandated by Oct. 1** – Pursuant to the mandate approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Bishops of Florida, the Diocese of Venice requests that Religious Education programs devote the equivalent of one class per year to the issue of safe environment for children and youth. The one-hour session is deemed appropriate since religious education students attend public schools where this topic is part of the curriculum. Implementation for the diocesan program is required prior to Oct. 1, 2006, and is then to be repeated once annually. All DREs, who will act as point-persons for coordinating this effort, will receive instruction and a package of materials at the Aug. 28 DRE meeting. The package includes a CD containing two PowerPoint presentations, two PDF files and a Family Home Packet. Spanish translations are in progress. If you have any questions regarding this program, please call the Office of Catechetical Ministry at the diocese at 941-484-9543.

***Office of Stewardship and Development***

The Diocese of St. Petersburg is hosting a **two-day Stewardship Day Conference** on Sept. 15-16 with outstanding national speakers. The cost is \$15, priests are free. For additional information or to register, please call Mary Campo, Stewardship and Development director, 941-441-1117. The **International Catholic Stewardship Conference** is being held in Boston Oct. 1-4. For additional information, visit their website at [www.catholicstewardship.org](http://www.catholicstewardship.org).

**Increased Offertory Program available** – A representative from the Cavan Company has been visiting parishes throughout the Venice Diocese. The diocese is willing to cover half the cost of this program, which is primarily handled through the mail. If interested in learning more about this offer, please contact Mary Campo, Stewardship and Development director, 941-441-1117.

**Catholic Faith Appeal** – Updated donor reports will be mailed shortly to each pastor. If your parish has not yet met its CFA goal for 2006, now is the time to put a plan in place for October or November. Mary Campo will be happy to meet with you to brainstorm ideas on how to reach your goal.

President Bush has signed into law the **Pension Protection Act of 2006**. The Pension Protection Act allows taxpayers to donate up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA to charity directly from their IRA account. (More about this in the bulletin inserts).



## Legal Department

**Diocesan entities sued for copyright infringement from downloads** – If your school, parish or mission has a Website, please be advised that if you download photographs, poems or other materials from the internet, you will be contacted by the company which copyrighted that material unless you have a license to use it. Payments for the use of images or other materials range from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and, possibly, more for a second offense. There is usually no indication on these materials that they are copyrighted. Recently, two of our entities were charged \$1,000 and \$5,000, respectively, for copyright infringement after downloading a picture of hockey sticks, in one instance, and a poem in the other instance. We have no defense for unlicensed use of the materials copyrighted by others and you will have to meet their demands. Please do not download anything at all from the internet to your Website. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Glynda White in the Legal Department at [white@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:white@dioceseofvenice.org) or 941-441-1104.



## Education Department

**RCIA and Hospitalized/Homebound Ministry training available** – The Blessed Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry is offering the following workshops for parish ministry staff and volunteers:

**Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)** – 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Oct. 21, Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Feb. 17, March 31, and April 21, at the Blessed Edmund Rice Center, 10299 Peace River Street (south of Kings Highway, three miles east of I-75). \$200 for six sessions (\$150 for each additional member from the same parish). Topics: Calling together an RCIA team, forming a year-round RCIA process, period of pre-catechumenate or inquiry, the catechumenate, illumination, mystagogia. Facilitator: Susan Hedge of St. Cecilia Parish. Registration: 941-766-7334 by Sept. 15.

**Ministry to the Hospitalized and Homebound** – 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Oct. 14, Nov. 4, Dec. 16, Feb. 10, March 17 and April 14, at the Blessed Edmund Rice Center, 10299 Peace River Street (south of Kings Highway, three miles east of I-75). \$200 for six sessions (\$150 for each additional member from the same parish). Facilitator: Patricia Nicholson, RN, of San Antonio Parish. Registration: 941-766-7334 by Sept. 15.



## Family Life Office

The **White Ribbon Against Pornography campaign** is held the first week of October. This is a national effort to demonstrate that the community cares about decency by displaying white ribbons on their cars or persons. The Family Life Office has a limited supply of ribbons. Please call Betty K or Louise at 941-484-5590 to request ribbons for your parish.



## Office of Information Technology

**Items recommended for Faith Formation** – The following hardware and software recommendations meet the new USCCB requirements as outlined in the *National Directory for Catechesis*. We can assist you in ordering any item; the software must be purchased through us unless you have already completed the paperwork necessary to receive Microsoft Charity pricing. Our recommendations are as follows:

**Laptop** – Hewlett Packard model nx6110 - \$799.95 – This model comes with 512mb of Ram, a 60 GB hard drive, a DVD CDRW combo, wireless and Windows XP Professional.

**Projector** – InFocus model IN24 - \$699.00 – There is also a \$100 rebate in effect until 9/30/06.

**Roller Bag** – Targus – Blacktop Roller Notebook Case - \$69.29 – This bag is big enough to carry the laptop, projector and any other necessary supplies.

**Microsoft Office XP with CD** - \$113.27 – This will give you the full Office suite for one computer including Word, Outlook, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher and Access.

Please contact Pam Burke at 941-486-4704 or e-mail [burke@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:burke@dioceseofvenice.org) if you have any questions or would like us to order any of the items listed above.



## Communications Department

**Ordination DVD now available** – Please find enclosed a flyer for your parishioners to use if they would like to order a copy of Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane's episcopal ordination of July 25. The cost for the DVD is \$10. A sample packet will be forthcoming to the parishes.

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:*

### **Department of Communications**

**Ordination DVD now available to purchase** – DVDs of the July 25, 2006, ordination of Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane are available for \$10 per copy (including postage and handling) from the diocesan Department of Communications. Please send your name, address, phone number and the number of DVDs requested to Diocese of Venice Communications Department, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice FL 34285-6426 with a check made payable to Diocese of Venice. Any questions, contact Janine McCarthy via e-mail [jmccarthy@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:jmccarthy@dioceseofvenice.org) or call 941-484-9543 ext. 3081.

**Community invited to mission's feast day** – The Catholic Mission of St. Peter Claver extends an invitation to join in the Feast Day Celebration of its spiritual model, St. Peter Claver, Saturday, Sept. 9. The day's festivities will begin with the celebration of the 10 a.m. Mass and extend into fellowship, remembering, games and food. The St. Peter Claver Catholic Mission is located at 3681 Michigan Ave., Fort Myers. For further information, please call 239-461-0996 or 239-479-7698. The mission statement of St. Peter Claver Catholic Mission is a welcoming Eucharistic community, committed to utilizing and liberating the unique gifts of the Black culture in worship, leadership, evangelization and outreach in the neighboring communities.

**Adults invited to Hoedown night out** – The community is invited to an adults-only Hoedown Western Barn Dance to support St. Martha School, 7-11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 30. The fund-raising event will include a catered barbecue dinner, western music, line dancing lessons and more at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, 1717 Ken Thompson Parkway. Cost is \$25 per person. Call 941-953-4181 for tickets and more information.



### **Respect Life Department**

**2006 State Respect Life Conference reminder** – Sept. 22 is the deadline to register for the 2006 Florida Respect Life Conference to be held Oct. 13-15 in Palm Beach Gardens. Scheduled speakers include Father Tad Pacholczyk, Father Frank Pavone and Dr. Alveda King. The registration brochure is available at [www.dovrespectlife.org](http://www.dovrespectlife.org) or call 941-484-9543, ext. 3048.

**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](mailto: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: "As pastors . . . in calling for an end to the use of the death penalty, we do not seek to diminish in any way the evil and harm caused by people who commit horrible murders." The entire statement may be found online at: [www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/penaltyofdeath.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/penaltyofdeath.pdf). For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-484-9543.

**Respect Life Sunday approaching** – October 1 is Respect Life Sunday, kicking off Respect Life Month, a time set aside by parishes across the country to celebrate the gift of life. It is a time to renew our commitment to fighting threats to human life, especially abortion, embryonic stem cell research, euthanasia and the death penalty. Please pray, educate yourself and do something for life. (See [www.dovrespectlife.org](http://www.dovrespectlife.org) or contact the Diocesan Respect Life Department, 941-484-9543.)



### **Office of Stewardship and Development**

**President Bush has signed into law the Pension Protection Act of 2006.** The Pension Protection Act allows taxpayers to donate up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA to charity directly from their IRA account. The distributions will be tax-free and avoids the penalty on early withdrawals. Since the distribution will not be included in taxable income, individuals will not be able to claim a tax deduction for the charitable contribution. The provision is effective through 2007. Also under the new law, taxpayers must keep records of all cash donations. Individuals must show a receipt from the charity, a canceled check or credit card statement to prove their donation. Taxpayers will not need to mail in the receipts with their tax return. Instead, taxpayers will need to keep receipts and other documentation with their copy of the return in the event of an IRS audit.



### **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.



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

**CRS plans \$10 million commitment to Middle East crisis** – As the cease-fire takes effect in Lebanon and Israel, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) announces plans for an emergency response and rehabilitation program of at least \$10 million for the present Middle East crisis including impacted areas in Gaza, northern Israel and Lebanon. Increased resources will enable CRS and its local partners, Caritas Lebanon and Caritas Jerusalem, to provide crucial life-saving supplies for both immediate emergency needs and post-ceasefire recovery efforts. For additional information, contact this office or go to [crs.org](http://crs.org).

**Why does CRS urge you to contact your elected officials to support comprehensive immigration reform?** CRS serves displaced people, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking worldwide, daily confronting the suffering and exploitation of migrants and families separated across borders often for years. CRS also works with the Catholic Church throughout the world to create economic opportunities so that people are not forced to migrate. To learn more, visit the CRS website at [advocacy.crs.org](http://advocacy.crs.org) and click on “Migration.” CRS is also part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Justice for Immigrants Campaign in support of fair, comprehensive immigration reform. For more information, please visit: [www.justiceforimmigrants.org](http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org).

**CRS overseas immersion program for youth ministers** is accepting applications for March 14-27, 2007, trip to Ecuador. Application deadline is Oct. 29, 2006.

*Called to Witness* is an overseas program co-sponsored by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). It is designed to provide a short-term, firsthand experience of the developing world for adults serving and working in Catholic youth ministry. Participants visit a variety of CRS project sites and begin to build solidarity with our brothers and sisters overseas – all within a spiritual context, reflecting on Catholic social teaching, specifically teachings on global solidarity. For more information, contact this office or go to:

[crs.org/our\\_work/where\\_we\\_work/united\\_states/immersion\\_trips/called\\_to\\_witness/index.cfm](http://crs.org/our_work/where_we_work/united_states/immersion_trips/called_to_witness/index.cfm).



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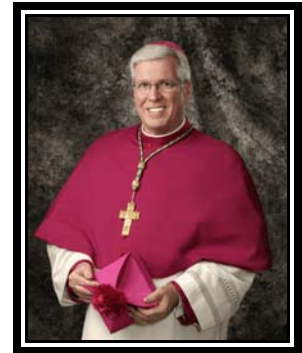
***The Mustard Seed*** is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice, published bi-weekly on Fridays by the Department of Communications. Notices of general interest will be considered for publication. Send copy to: Department of Communications, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice FL 34285 OR via e-mail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



**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**

Department of Communications  
The Florida Catholic • Radio - TV Apostolate • Media - Public Relations

On Tuesday, July 25, 2006, more than 1,700 people gathered at Epiphany Cathedral, Venice, for the ordination of Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane. Broadcast live throughout the entire Diocese of Venice, the 2.5 hour event was the first episcopal ordination to take place in the diocese. Bishop John J. Nevins, Principal Ordaining Bishop, was joined by four cardinals and more than 20 bishops from across the globe to share in the diocese's special blessing.



A donation of \$10 per DVD (which includes tax, shipping and handling charges) is requested.

To order, fill out the form below and mail to:

**Department of Communications  
Ordination DVD  
1000 Pinebrook Road  
Venice FL 34285-6426**



*Clip along line*

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Name .....

Address .....

City/State/Zip .....

Telephone .....

# of DVDs \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10.00 per copy = check enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to: DIOCESE OF VENICE**

[www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org)