



The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 4, No. 20**October 20, 2006***ANNOUNCEMENTS****Office of the Bishop**

Bishop John J. Nevins announces the following clergy appointments:

Reverend Vicente M. Martin appointed Parochial Vicar of Holy Cross Parish, Palmetto, effective Oct. 16, 2006, at the same time relieved of his appointment as Parochial Vicar of St. Paul Parish, Arcadia.

Reverend Rafael Padilla appointed to assist Father Stanislaus Pierog of St. Paul Parish, Arcadia, in ministering to the Hispanic community at St. Paul Parish, effective Oct. 16, 2006, while retaining his appointments in the Diocesan Tribunal.

Farmworker Sunday – Please insert the attached letter by Bishop Nevins in your Nov. 4/5 bulletin.

**Presbyteral Council**

Please mark your calendars for the following event:

Invitation to all active priests and retired priests, religious brothers, and religious sisters to **Bishop John J. Nevins' 75th birthday party** scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2007. It will commence with Vespers at 5 p.m. at St. Thomas More Parish, followed by a full-course dinner in the Chelsea Center.

**Respect Life Department**

(See inserts included with this Mustard Seed.)

- The Death Penalty is not justified when society can be kept safe from the aggressor.
- The bishops of Florida urge active faithful citizenship: study, discuss, pray and then vote on Nov. 7.

The November 2006 edition of the **Word of Life** series provided by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities is available on the Internet at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/November06WOL.pdf>. WOL features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/Nov06sp.pdf>.

**Communications Department**

Prayers requested – Father Bob Tierney, parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish, Bradenton, was diagnosed with acute leukemia and is currently undergoing chemotherapy at Manatee Memorial Hospital. Prayers are requested on his behalf.

**Legal Department**

SCAMS. Be advised that at least one of our priests was contacted via e-mail regarding a scam that targets religious and charitable organizations advising that there was a bequest to him of several hundred thousand dollars. In this case, it was Paul Martins Solicitors, 20 Clerkenwell Green, London. This is another Nigerian scam. They may ask for personal information, such as a copy of your passport, your driver's license, social security number or other personal information. Ignore it, delete the e-mails and have no further contact with them. There are literally thousands of such scams and, eventually, they will ask you for money or perpetrate a scheme to launder money. This Web site may be of some assistance: http://www.data-wales.co.uk/nigerian_laundering2.htm. They may use the names of legitimate companies, attorneys or financial advisors. If it sounds too good to be true, it is. If you need assistance in determining whether something is a scam, please contact the Legal Department at white@dioceseofvenice.org and we will happy to assist you.



Office of Vocations

¡OYE! 2007, a faith and discernment guide for young Hispanic Catholics, is now available from the Office of Vocations. ¡OYE! 2007 es una guía gratuita de fe y discernimiento para jóvenes católicos hispanos. In June 2006, during the historic First National Encuentro of Hispanic Youth Ministry, many Hispanic youth heard for the first time, or heard in a new way, the question loud and clear: What is God asking you to do with your life? Do you dare respond? ¡OYE! 2007 is full of articles written for and about Hispanic youth discerning God's call in their lives. The articles are written in Spanish as well as English and include such titles as *Déjate llevar por la pasión* (Tapping into Your Talent) and *Un retrato perfecto* (Picturing the Perfect Priest). ¡OYE! 2007 is also available online: www.revistaoye.org (Spanish) or www.oyemagazine.org (English). For copies of ¡OYE! 2007 magazine, contact Bridget Olson at 941-486-4723 or e-mail olson@dioceseofvenice.org.



Peace and Justice Office

Continue to Oppose Enforcement-Only Immigration Legislation. Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes, Bishop of San Bernardino and chairman of the Committee on Migration-USCCB, on Sept. 12 called on both President Bush and Congress to produce a fair and just comprehensive immigration reform bill. Such a bill would be considered just, only if it provides for:

1. *A viable path for citizenship for the undocumented who are present in the USA.*
2. *A temporary worker program, which protects both the rights of the U.S. and foreign-born workers.*
3. *Reforms in the family-based immigration system, reducing backlogs and shortening times for family reunification.*
4. *Restoring due process protection for immigrants.*
5. *Immigration enforcement should be considered, but with the caution that such measures are consistent with the fairness of our laws and ensure that the human dignity of persons be protected. Enforcement must meet that test!*

Bishop Barnes calls on the administration and Congress to view the need for comprehensive immigration reform as a moral, and not a partisan, issue. There is a desperate need to rise above political concerns. The bill passed by the House of Representatives in December 2005 and the Secure Fence Act recently passed address only the enforcement issues. Both the president and the full Congress should consider as more fair the bill passed by the Senate in May 2006, even though it falls short of meeting all of the steps identified above. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:

Tribunal

Are you currently in a marriage which the Catholic Church does not recognize as valid? Have you or the person you hope to marry been previously married and divorced? If so, the Tribunal for the Diocese of Venice wants to help in assessing your situation. Please contact your parish for additional information or contact the Tribunal directly at 941-484-9543.



Department of Communications

“Music for Everyone” 2006-2007 Concert Series –

- St. Thomas More Parish, Sarasota, is hosting a concert series featuring a variety of performances. The second concert will feature The Mad Monks of Melody, known for their Dixieland, jazz and Christian music. Playing for 30 years, the “joie de vivre” of their Dixieland excites congregations who are led in jazz worship and the singing of old time hymns New Orleans style. They will perform at St. Thomas More Parish at 7:00 p.m, Friday, Nov. 3. For tickets, call 941-923-1691. No tickets will be sold at the door.
- St. Thomas More Parish, Sarasota, is hosting a concert series featuring a variety of performances. The third concert will feature the Key Chorale, a seventy-voice choir, with Daniel Moe, “Dean of Choral Conductors,” in his last year of conducting. Their intent is to perform compositions as the composer conceived them, with the instruments that the composer intended. They will perform at St. Thomas More Parish at 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 19. For tickets, call 941-923-1691. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Prayer Vigil for Life, Nov. 13. Led by Msgr. Philip Reilly, Founder of the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, with Father Dennis Cooney, pastor of St. Raphael Parish of Lehigh Acres. Begins with 8:15 a.m. Mass and adoration at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Fort Myers, then procession by car to 3900 Broadway, Fort Myers, for quiet, fervent prayer (no picketing, no protesting) at the abortion site. Msgr. Reilly will also offer a **two-hour workshop Nov. 12**, following 12:15 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier in preparation for vigil. All welcome. Information: Angela. 239-549-5416. or e-mail angela@matteographics.com.

The Dreams Are Free School for children with learning difficulties located on the campus of Bishop Nevins Academy, is sponsoring a **Bluegrass BBQ**, Nov. 17, 6-9 p.m. Funds raised at this event will directly benefit our students. Tickets for the BBQ dinner are \$10 each. Please help support the great kids at Dreams Are Free by joining us for the BBQ. Or, if you can help support the work of The Dreams Are Free School with a donation, that would be greatly appreciated. Thank you! To purchase tickets or to contact The Dreams Are Free School, please call 941-366-4010 or stop by the campus at the corner of McIntosh and Fruitville Roads.



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? The scheduled execution of Danny Rolling on Oct. 25, will be the 63rd in Florida since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976 and the 3rd in 2006. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-484-9543.

(Northern Deanery Only)

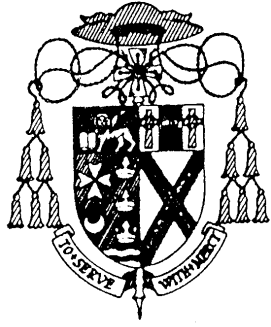
A new group for **PERSONS WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES**, ages 21-40, has been formed in collaboration with the Diocese of Venice. The organization combines social, spiritual, sharing and support in a way that meets the needs of the members. Those interested are most welcome to join us at our next meeting on Saturday, Nov. 11, at 2 p.m. at the Olive Garden Restaurant, 4900 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. We look forward to seeing new faces with new ideas! Reservations are necessary to assure adequate space. Please call Laurel or Barb at 941- 727-4327 by Nov. 9.

Worship and Ministries Department

Marriage Encounter – This message is for those of you with good marriages. How would you like to enjoy talking to each other like when you first met? And how would you like to add a little more romance, excitement and passion – and make your marriage great? That is the focus of Marriage Encounter Weekends – for couples of all ages. The next weekend is Nov. 17-19 in Fort Myers. For more information call Ernie and Mary at 941-962-9904 or toll free at 1-888-560-1854.



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

October 16, 2006

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Archbishop John Favalora and all the Bishops in Florida have declared Sunday, November 5, 2006 as Farmworker Justice Sunday. This represents the fourth year we have designated a special day on their behalf. It provides us an opportunity to reflect, pray and act on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. Surely, the thousands upon thousands of farmworkers, who labor in the fields of our ten-county diocese, would be among those Our Lord would consider to be our neighbors.

Coadjutor Bishop Dewane and I ask that all our parishes engage in some kind of activity which will enhance the human dignity of the farmworkers. For more information, please consult the web page of The Florida Catholic on the subject, or contact our Diocesan Peace and Justice Office.

Rest assured that we glorify God when we respond to the needs of the least of our brothers and sisters.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Nevins".

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Contact: Michele Taylor
(850) 205-6820
mtaylor@flacathconf.org

**Florida Bishops:
Death Penalty Not Justified When Society Can Be Kept Safe from the Aggressor
Governor Bush, Please Stay Two Executions Scheduled for October**

Tallahassee – We, the Bishops of Florida, are saddened at the prospect of two executions scheduled for October-- Arthur Dennis Rutherford on October 18; and Danny Rolling on October 25. We implore the Governor to listen to the growing chorus of voices calling for a moratorium on executions in Florida and a careful examination of the State's death penalty system.

The brutal crimes for which these inmates are to be executed were horrifying and appalling. Our hearts ache for the victims and their families, and we have enormous sympathy for them. These were unjustifiable attacks on human life, and we unequivocally condemn and renounce these crimes in the strongest terms possible. We cannot fully appreciate the struggle and recurring pain for the families, and more must be done by our churches and communities to give them comfort and care in their grief. At the same time, we must resist the natural inclination to think that only by taking a murderer's life can justice be served.

In this day of heightened moral awareness, with increasing concerns about execution of the innocent and growing doubts about the fairness and effectiveness of the death penalty, we plead with the State and our Governor to realize that the antidote to violence is not more violence and that we cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing those who have killed others. It is said that "justice delayed is justice denied," but Florida law providing for life imprisonment without parole allows for justice without the legitimized killing by the State, which coarsens us all.

Society must be protected from criminals, but we need not go to the extent of executing them. The cycle of violence must end. "As I live, says the Lord God, I swear I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked man, but rather that he may be converted and live." (Cf. Ezekiel 33:11)

We are a government of, for and by the people. Let those speak loudly who agree that these executions are not taking place in our names. We appeal to Governor Bush, please stay these executions.

Archbishop John C. Favalora
Archdiocese of Miami

Bishop John J. Nevins
Diocese of Venice

Bishop John H. Ricard, SSJ
Diocese of Pensacola/Tallahassee

Bishop Robert N. Lynch
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Bishop Victor Galeone
Diocese of St. Augustine

Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito, JCL
Diocese of Palm Beach

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski
Diocese of Orlando

Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Auxiliary Bishop Felipe J. Estévez
Archdiocese of Miami

Auxiliary Bishop John G. Noonan
Archdiocese of Miami

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The Florida Catholic Conference is an agency of the Catholic Bishops of Florida. It speaks for the Church in matters of public policy, serves as liaison to government and the legislature, and coordinates communications and activities between the Church and secular agencies. The Bishops of the seven (Arch)dioceses in Florida constitute its Board of Directors.



CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHING ON THE DEATH PENALTY

Catechism of the Catholic Church

Assuming that the guilty party's identity and responsibility have been fully determined, the traditional teaching of the church does not exclude recourse to the death penalty, if this is the only possible way of effectively defending human lives against the unjust aggressor.

If, however, non-lethal means are sufficient to defend and protect people's safety from the aggressor, authority will limit itself to such means, as these are more in keeping with the concrete conditions of the common good and more in conformity with the dignity of the human person. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition, 2267*)

Pope John Paul II

The new evangelization calls for followers of Christ who are unconditionally pro-life: who will proclaim, celebrate and serve the Gospel of Life in every situation. A sign of hope is the increasing recognition that the dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform. I renew the appeal I made most recently at Christmas for a consensus to end the death penalty, which is both cruel and unnecessary. (*Pope John Paul II, Mass in St. Louis, MO, January 27, 1999*)

Bishops of Florida

The abolition of the death penalty would help to break the cycle of violence. It would manifest belief in the unique dignity of every individual and the sacredness of human life. It would acknowledge God as the Lord of life and it would be more consonant with the spirit of the Gospel. (*Bishops of Florida, Pastoral Statement, Protection, Punishment, But Not Death, 1990*)

United States Catholic Bishops

Increasingly, our society looks to violent measures to deal with some of our most difficult social problems – millions of abortions to address problem pregnancies, advocacy of euthanasia and assisted suicide to cope with the burdens of age and illness, and increased reliance on the death penalty to deal with crime. We are tragically turning to violence in the search for quick and easy answers to complex human problems . . . We are losing our respect for human life . . . We cannot teach that killing is wrong by killing. (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Pastoral Statement, Confronting A Culture of Violence: A Catholic Framework for Action, 1994*)

Our witness to respect for life shines most brightly when we demand respect for each and every human life, including the lives of those who fail to show that respect for others. The antidote to violence is love, not more violence. (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics, No. 22, 1998*)

The death penalty diminishes all of us. Its use ought to be abandoned not only for what it does to those who are executed, but what it does to us as a society. We cannot teach respect for life by taking life. (*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty, 2005*)

Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty

For resources to help individuals, parishes and dioceses participate in this national campaign, visit www.ccedp.org.

For additional information on the death penalty in Florida contact:

Florida Catholic Conference
201 W. Park Ave., Tallahassee, FL 32301-7715
Phone: (850) 222-3803, Web site: www.flacathconf.org



September 30, 2006

Bishops of Florida Urge Active Faithful Citizenship: *Study, Discuss, Pray and Then Vote on November 7!*

As Catholics, we are morally obligated to take action to protect the rights and dignity of all human life. By exercising our right to vote, we are fulfilling our duty not only as U.S. citizens but also as Catholics. It is a responsibility that should be acted on with faith and enthusiasm, and we must take the time to properly prepare ourselves before Election Day on November 7. Those who are ineligible to vote, especially our youth, are encouraged to contribute their own study, prayer and insights about issues in support of the election process.

Each and every one of us has a responsibility to become informed on the relevant issues, especially those issues that address human life and dignity, and protect and promote the welfare of our most vulnerable. "Faithful citizenship calls Catholics to see civic and political responsibilities through the eyes of faith and to bring our moral convictions to public life" (*Faithful Citizenship: A Catholic Call to Political Responsibility*, USCCB, September 2003). As we enter the voting booth, our primary concern should be how these issues will be acted upon by each candidate for office. How does the candidate propose to safeguard the life and well being of each person regardless of age or condition, while advancing the common good of our society?

Before casting our votes, we must seek to: (1) develop a well-formed conscience shaped by fundamental moral principals; (2) consult and become familiar with the sacred and certain teachings of the Church; (3) seek accurate information on issues that impact human life and promote a just society without relying strictly on campaign advertisements or party affiliation; (4) encourage all candidates to clarify their positions on key issues; (5) actively participate in discussions with others, especially our family and those close to us, by respectfully listening and offering our own insight; and (6) seek wisdom through prayer and reflection and rely on the help of the Holy Spirit to guide our voting decisions.

In our preparation, each of us should evaluate candidates by how they will enhance or diminish the life, dignity and rights of the human person. Our Candidate Questionnaire Project is a collaborative effort by the Florida Catholic Conference, *The Florida Catholic* newspaper, the Florida Council of Catholic Women and the Florida State Council of Knights of Columbus to inform the Catholic faithful of candidates positions on areas of concern to the Church. Questions on public policy issues are posed to all gubernatorial, congressional and state candidates in Florida, and all candidates are encouraged to respond. The questions pertain to abortion, embryonic stem cell research, cloning, healthcare, assisted suicide, death penalty, education, undocumented persons, affordable housing, the definition of marriage, U.S. military engagement and the environment. These questions, with responses from candidates in your district, are published in your diocesan edition of *The Florida Catholic* or can be viewed by visiting www.informedcatholicvoter.org. Copies are also available through local parishes.

In his first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, Pope Benedict XVI explains "...the Church is duty-bound to offer, through the purification of reason and through ethical formation, her own specific contribution towards understanding the requirements of justice and achieving them politically." He says further, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful." Let us act accordingly and use our votes to shape a society that will protect human life, promote family life, pursue social justice and, with charity, work together in solidarity. Each of us has an important role, and our collective efforts can strengthen and renew our state, our nation and our Church.

We urge all to faithfully exercise the right to vote by seeking wisdom, clarity and the Lord's guidance.

Archbishop John C. Favalora
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