



# The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 4, No. 23**December 1, 2006***ANNOUNCEMENTS****Office of the Bishop**

**The Institute for Priestly Formation** has been founded to assist in the spiritual formation of diocesan priests in the Roman Catholic Church. Working as a complement to already existing programs of seminary formation, the Institute responds to the need for a more concentrated and integrated spiritual formation. Inspired by the biblical-evangelical spirituality of Ignatius Loyola, the Institute's programs present a spirituality that can inspire, motivate and thus sustain the busy daily lives of contemporary diocesan priests.

The Institute's **Sixth Symposium on the Spirituality and Identity of the Diocesan Priest** will be "Chaste Celibacy: Living Christ's Own Spousal Love," and will be offered Mar. 15-18, 2007, at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary, Boynton Beach.

Other programs and symposiums are offered at a variety of locations and on a full range of topics. To learn more, contact Rev. Richard Gabuzda, director, The Institute for Priestly Formation, 2500 California Plaza, Omaha, NE 68178. Or call 402-546-6384; fax 402-280-3529; or e-mail [ipf@creighton.edu](mailto:ipf@creighton.edu).

**Manual of Indulgences now available**

The fourth edition of the *Manual of Indulgences: Norms & Grants* is the exclusive English-language translation of the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum: Normae et Concessionones* (1999) which explains what indulgences are and the many devotional prayers associated with them.

Indulgences are, in words of our Holy Father, "the expression of the Church's full confidence of being heard by the Father when – in view of Christ's merits and, by his gift, those of Our Lady and the saints – she asks him to mitigate or cancel the painful aspect of punishment by fostering its medicinal aspect through other channels of grace." (Pope John Paul II, General Audience, Sept. 29, 1999).

The *Manual of Indulgences* is available from the USCCB Secretariat for the Liturgy for \$19.95. For information, visit the Web site at [www.usccbpublishing.org](http://www.usccbpublishing.org) or call 800-235-8722.

**Office of Stewardship and Development**

Mary Campo, Director  
941-441-1117

In 2005, Americans gave \$260 billion to charity. Seventy-five percent came in the form of gifts from individuals. Many people make gifts at the end of the year as they give consideration to their tax preparation. **To aid you in encouraging end of year giving, we will be sending a one-page flyer that you can include in the parish bulletins in December concerning stock donations, gift annuities and the new IRA Rollover provision.**

**Plan ahead for your 2007 Catholic Faith Appeal Campaign!** Select a chairperson(s) and a team to run your parish campaign. Training sessions will take place regionally in January.

**Worship and Ministries Department**

**Christmas Eve Masses** - Christmas falls on Monday this year, thus Christmas Eve is on Sunday. There should be a distinction between the 4th Sunday of Advent Masses done on Sunday morning and the Christmas Eve Masses beginning no earlier than 4 p.m. Sunday evening. It may be helpful to remind your assembly that going to one Mass on Sunday does not satisfy the obligation for the 4th week of Advent and for Christmas.

Please note that **Jan. 1, 2007**, is not a Holy Day of Obligation this year since it falls on a Monday.



## **Internal Financial Services Department**

Ellen Prince, Director

Glad tidings to all this Holiday Season. Special prayers, too. Thank you to all who have so warmly greeted me during my first visits at the diocesan entities! It has been a pleasure to meet each one of you.

- As a reminder, year-end is upon us, therefore plan early to prepare for and gather any missing data necessary to file 1099 forms for any individual or employee paid amounts greater than \$600 for the year, which will be treated as compensation. Employee bonuses per the IRS are reportable income to all on form W-2. Request a copy of Publication 1828 from the IRS ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov)) for your files.
- Additionally, many are presently in the process of preparing a detailed inventory listing of fixed assets. When preparing this listing, it is a good idea to prepare a separate listing by building (i.e. church, rectory, hall, office etc.) and then total these listings by fixed asset category (i.e. furniture, fixtures, equipment, etc.). Agree these final list totals for each fixed asset account to the general ledger balance for agreement. \*Keep in mind that a complete asset listing may include other items which are not capitalized, but need to be accounted for. These other items (i.e. chairs which may not meet the designated dollar value for capitalization) should be listed as to value in a separate column. In other words, have two columns for the 'cost' of assets, one for capitalized fixed assets on the balance sheet and another for non-capitalized assets. This listing should be reviewed for adequate insurance coverage.

If you have any questions, please call 941-484-9543.



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

**Thank you for your support of the CCHD Appeal!** The leadership of parish pastoral and administrative staffs in communicating CCHD's anti-poverty, social justice mission to parishioners is essential to the success of its programs. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

CCHD and CRS Operation Rice Bowl **diocesan grant applications** are still available. Completed applications are due Feb. 2, 2007. For additional information regarding these grants, please contact this office.

### **CRS Fair Trade and CRS Africa Presentations**

Wednesday, Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m. at **St. Cecilia Parish** in Fort Myers, Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade 101 presented by Simone Blanchard, Southeast United States Region Program Officer.

Thursday, Dec. 7, 6:30 p.m. at **St. William Parish** in Naples, and Friday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. at **St. Columbkille Parish** in Fort Myers. Profiles in Courage and Compassion featuring CRS Africa partners, staff and project participants who are overcoming HIV/AIDS, hunger or conflict to live full and meaningful lives presented by Steve Hilbert, Constituency Liaison Manager for the national CRS office in Baltimore.

### **Prayer and Educational Resources for Advent, National Migration Week and Poverty in the U.S. Awareness Month**

- CCHD Advent Calendar, available in English and Spanish at <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/education.shtml>
- Advent homily helps, student lesson plans, multi-cultural Christmas celebrations, and additional parish/school resources in English, Spanish and Polish prepared by the Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform of the Archdiocese of Chicago are available at <http://www.archdiocese-chgo.org/pdf/advent2006/CCIR.Advent.Materials.2006en.pdf>
- National Migration Week, Jan.7-13, 2007 - Welcoming Christ in the Migrant prayer, education, and parish outreach resources to assist in this expression of faith are available on the USCCB/MRS National Migration Week web site at <http://www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw.shtml>
- January is Poverty in the U.S. Awareness Month- Resources available at <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/povertyusa/povamer.shtml>

## **Peace and Justice Office**

**National Migration Week Jan. 7-13, 2007.** Bishop Gerald R. Barnes, Diocese of San Bernadino chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Migration has written to all his fellow bishops and the pastors in the United States, announcing that National Migration Week will be observed Jan. 7 - 13. *Welcoming Christ in the Migrant*, a booklet, is available in Spanish and English from USCCB. It relates Catholic Social Teaching to migration, and includes an appropriate prayer card and poster. It is intended that parish priests will refer to the event at the Masses, incorporate some aspects in the Prayers of the Faithful, and undertake special projects at the parish level.



### **Out and About the Diocese**

The **Gres Miles console** at St. Thomas More (Sarasota FL) will be replaced by a Rodgers console December 2006. If you are in the market for a three manual console for your church, contact Alex Dilan at 941-923-1691 (ext. 315) for details. There is no charge for the console but would require your moving of it.

**Seeking Monstrances.** St. Vincent De Paul Catholic Community in Fort Myers is seeking used and in good condition monstrances for mission churches in the Mampong Diocese of Ghana West Africa. Please call St. Vincent De Paul Church, 239-693-0818, if you have a Monstrance that we can ship to these mission churches.



### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:*

#### **Department of Communications**

**Worldwide Telecasts of Pope's Christmas Ceremonies** - The Pontifical Council for Social Communications at the Vatican has released information regarding the worldwide telecasts of the Pope's Christmas ceremonies.

- Sunday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 22:55 - 00:50 hours UTC (GMT): Midnight Mass, presided over by Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Basilica.
- Monday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day, 10:55 - 11:45 hours UTC (GMT): Christmas Message and Blessing "Urbi et Orbi" ("To the City of Rome and to the World") of Pope Benedict XVI from St. Peter's Square.

Television coverage of these ceremonies will be provided as a co-production of the Vatican Television Center (CTV) and Radiotelevisione Italiana (RAI). Worldwide distribution will be offered through RAI in cooperation with CTV, and coordinated by the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

*Picturing Mary*, a stunning new high-definition documentary to debut in December on public television, explores how images of the Virgin reflect numerous traditions, devotional practices and cultures. The one-hour program leads viewers on a pictorial journey through history from the earliest times to the present day and presents a stunning array of art. *Picturing Mary* will be distributed to public television stations nationwide by American Public Television (APT) in December. (For a list of air dates and times, visit [www.picturingmary.com](http://www.picturingmary.com).) DVD copies of *Picturing Mary* will be available for purchase at \$19.95 from USCCB publishing, <http://www.usccbpublishing.org>, 1-800-235-8722.



#### **Office of the Vicar for Religious**

**One out of every five religious institutes has less than 20 percent of the amount needed to care for elderly members.** In the U.S. religious institutes (religious women and men) are independent, autonomous organization separate from diocesan structures. Even those working for diocesan entities receive modest incomes. The average Catholic family spends more than \$12 each year on cookies, more than \$21 on potato chips, more than \$29 on take-out coffee and just a little more than \$1 per adult on the Retirement Fund for Religious. *Please give generously to the retirement fund for religious on the weekend of December 9-10.*



#### **Respect Life Department**

Struggling after abortion? **Project Rachel**, a confidential healing ministry for women and men who have been touched by abortion, can help. Call Project Rachel in Florida toll-free at 877-908-1212 or e-mail [project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org).

#### **The Spirit of Christmas: A Holiday Concert with Paul Todd**

Critically acclaimed writer, entertainer, composer, arranger, and singer Paul Todd will be performing live in concert on Monday evening, Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. The church is located at 1301 Center Road, Venice. General admission is \$20 for adults and \$5 for students. Proceeds of the concert will benefit SOLVE, a new maternity home in Venice. For tickets or information, please call 941-493-9406.

**Did You Know?** The scheduled execution of Angel Diaz on Dec.13 will be the 64th in Florida since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976 and the 4th in 2006. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-484-9543.

**PRAY FOR MOTHERS TEMPTED BY ABORTION:** The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the **9th Annual Prayer Walk for Life on Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, in Sarasota.** Mass times are 8:30 a.m. and noon at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Shuttle bus service will be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood. The Prayer Walk will conclude at 2 p.m. Those unable to walk are encouraged to pray in the church. Join us for an hour or the entire day. Additional details can be found on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/2007flierfinal.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.



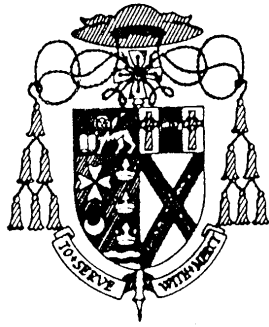
### ***Out and About the Diocese***

**“Music for Everyone” 2006-2007 Concert Series** – St. Thomas More Parish, Sarasota, is hosting a concert series featuring a variety of performances. For tickets, call 941-923-1691. No tickets will be sold at the door. **The fifth concert is “The Perlman Music Program”.** Come hear the rising stars of tomorrow as these world-class 12 to 20 year olds perform a variety of chamber music and solo pieces on violin, viola, cello and double bass. The Perlman Music Program's Winter Residency is led by the world famous violinist and conductor, Itzhak Perlman and his wife, Toby. Performance is 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 5, 2007.

**Mother of God House of Prayer** offers several retreats in December. All four retreat days will be held from 9:30 a.m.- 2:30 p.m. Pastries, coffee and beverages are provided; please bring a brown bag lunch. Donation: \$25. For more information or to register for the following please call 239-728- 3614 or visit us at

<http://www.moghop.com>.

- **TUESDAY, Dec. 5, COME AND SEE DAY OF REFLECTION:** Presented by Marian O'Grady.
- **SATURDAY, Dec. 9, ADVENT DAY RETREAT:** Presented by Sr. Rita Woehlcke, SSJ. Reflecting on the family tree of Jesus during this Advent season, we find a life-giving way to enter our own family history, with its tapestry of sin and grace, grief and growth.
- **THURSDAY, Dec. 14, COME TO THE QUIET PERSONAL RETREAT DAY** Take a day away from the busyness of your life to rest in the Lord. The day includes silence, personal prayer and optional spiritual direction (an additional \$25).
- **SATURDAY, Dec. 16, DAY OF RECOLLECTION ENTITLED: COMING HOME: WHO ARE MY MOTHER, BROTHERS AND SISTERS?** Presented by: Kathleen Kelly, Former Co-Director.
- **Also... PAUL TODD IN CONCERT: FRIDAY EVENING, JAN. 5, 2007 AT 7 p.m. DONATION: \$15.00.** We invite you to join us for a spectacular Paul Todd concert which will be held at St. Cecilia Church in Fort Myers on Friday, Jan. 5 at 7 p.m. To purchase tickets call 239-728-3614.



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***DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA***  
***Office of the Bishop***

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November, 2006

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year more than 48,000 people in our diocese received help from Catholic Charities through 31 program sites. Everyday Catholic Charities assists people who are facing problems that they cannot solve alone. They need your support.

Please help Catholic Charities by contributing to the fifth annual Christmas Appeal, which will sustain the organization into another year of service.

Jesus taught us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the sick. Catholic Charities nourishes the poor through its own food pantries and vouchers at local grocery stores; offers certificates for clothes and shoes to vulnerable individuals and families; and provides services at Bethesda House in Sarasota and Joseph's Place in Venice to people suffering with HIV/AIDS.

Catholic Charities welcomes all who seek help regardless of race, religion or national origin. Your donation to the Christmas Appeal will enable Catholic Charities to provide its services that follow the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Sincerely in Our Lord,

John J. Nevins, D.D.

Bishop of Venice in Florida

Please send contributions to:  
Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal  
P.O. Box 1805  
Venice, FL 34284-1805