



The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 4, No. 24**December 15, 2006*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship and Ministries Department

Plan now - On Feb. 10, 2007, at 1 p.m. at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate the **Annual Anniversary Mass** for couples married 25, 50 and over 50 years. A packet of information will be mailed to all parishes this month. For further information please call Betty K. or Louise at 941-484-9543.



Respect Life Department

The January 2007 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/woljan07.pdf>. WOL features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/woljan07sp.pdf>. Special *Preaching for Life* and *Intercessions for Life* sections are available for the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

People who have experienced the death of a child have a particularly difficult time around Christmas. A **Mass of Remembrance** can help them deal with their grief. The Feast of Holy Innocents on Dec. 28 is especially appropriate for a Mass of Remembrance for children. Please see the bulletin announcements below for the Mass of Remembrance closest to your parish.



Office of Vocations

University of Notre Dame Announces Conferences for High School Students and for Campus/Youth Ministers *ND Vision* is a series of week-long conferences for high school youth held each summer at the University of Notre Dame. The conferences give participants the opportunity to recognize their gifts and understand how God is calling them in their lives. During each conference participants explore this call (and how to respond to it) in a variety of ways... through dynamic large group experiences, reflective small group time, profound liturgies and excellent music.

A new program specifically designed for high school, diocesan and parish youth ministers will launch this summer at Notre Dame. *ND Vision for Campus and Youth Ministers (CYM)* is a conference that serves adults through theological exploration, practical resourcing and person renewal.

The registration fee is \$250-300 per person (depending on when you register and how large your group) and includes program activities, lodging, meals, conference notebook and more. Application deadline is May 14. (Early registration ends March 19.) For more information go to vision.nd.edu.



Out and About the Diocese

Annual Grant Requests - The diocesan **Foundation for the Care of the Migrant Poor** will accept requests for grants for projects in 2007, directly benefitting the migrants or new immigrants in faith formation, in health care, and in social concerns. Grant Request Forms will be sent out to those who have requested them in previous years. New requests will be accepted. To receive a form, call 941-371-0289 or ask for one online from Brother Paul Hennessy, hennessy@slbb.net. The deadline for submissions is Jan. 7, 2007.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:

Office of the Bishop

“Christmas In Our Town” will be on Relevant Radio 1410AM (Venice-Fort Myers) and 1660AM (Naples-Marco Island) on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25, 1-4 p.m., each day. The children’s Christmas programs from the local Catholic elementary schools will be played: St. Ann, St. Elizabeth Seton, St. Francis, St. Andrew and Epiphany Cathedral. We are blessed to hear the children singing and remind us of what a joyous time of year it is and how blessed we are to have Jesus in our lives. Continue your mission with Christ after Mass and tune into Relevant Radio 1410AM and 1660 AM serving the Diocese of Venice.

Mass honoring Bishop Nevins – The Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Venice are invited to join in the celebration of a Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop John J. Nevins on the occasion of his retirement Jan. 7, 2007 at 11 a.m. at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice. A reception will immediately follow in the parish hall.



Communications Department

The **Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio is on the air!** The first official broadcast was Mass for the first Sunday of Advent from Saint Patrick’s Cathedral, and regular programming kicked off the next day, Monday, Dec. 4. Anyone with a Sirius radio can tune to Channel 159. They are looking to know about the good things going on in our diocese. The morning host, Gus Lloyd, has a feature called “Everyday Hero” and if you have an everyday hero that Gus can interview, please let them know! If there are other programs or activities that you believe would appeal to a national audience, they would like to know about that, too. Contact: Joseph Zwilling, director of Communications, Archdiocese of New York, 212-371-1011 ext. 2997.



Peace and Justice Office

World Day of Peace, Jan. 1, 2007. Epiphany Cathedral will host the Annual World Day of Peace prayer service and educational program to promote world peace, on the first day of the New Year, 2007. The Southwest Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, the sponsor of the event, has chosen the theme: “Peace-ing Together Liberty and Justice for All.” The morning program, beginning at 9:45 a.m., will feature a keynote address by Sister Simone Campbell (National Director of the Catholic Social Justice Lobby NETWORK), music, dance, interfaith prayers and an award presentation. In the afternoon, there will be exhibitors, lunch and workshops in the parish hall until 3 p.m. This event is open to all and free of charge. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

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 statement, *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops write: “The death penalty appears to be often applied unfairly and influenced by where a crime is committed, the race of the victim and offender, the quality and costs of legal defense, and other social factors.” The entire statement may be found online at: <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/penaltyofdeath.pdf>. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-484-9543.

St. Joseph Parish, Bradenton, has designated the 11 a.m. Mass Thursday, Dec. 28, for the **Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass of Remembrance** to honor all children born and unborn who left this world too soon. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for your child and add your child’s name in the “Book of the Innocents.” Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

St. Martha Parish, Sarasota, will honor all children born and unborn who left this world too soon at a special 9 a.m. Mass Thursday, Dec. 28, for the **Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass of Remembrance**. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to add your child’s name in the “Book of the Innocents.”

Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Venice, will honor all children born and unborn who left this world too soon at a special 11 a.m. Mass Thursday, Dec. 28, for the **Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass of Remembrance**. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for your child and add your child's name in the "Book of the Innocents." Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

Please run these bulletin announcement on the following weekends:

Weekend of Jan. 6-7, 2007

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE: The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the **9th Annual Prayer Walk for Life** to end abortion on **Monday, Jan. 22, 2007**, in Sarasota. Masses will be 8:30 a.m. and noon at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Prayers will continue through the day until 2 p.m. Come for an hour or the entire day. Shuttle bus service will be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood where participants are encouraged to walk and pray for an end to abortion. More details are on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/2007flierfinal.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Weekend of Jan. 13-14, 2007

AT LEAST 2,000 BABIES ARE ABORTED EVERY YEAR IN SARASOTA COUNTY: 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.

Weekend of Jan. 20-21, 2007

PRAY FOR AN END TO ABORTION: The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the **9th Annual Prayer Walk for Life** to end abortion on **Monday, Jan. 22, 2007, in Sarasota**. Masses will be at 8:30 a.m. and noon at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Prayers will continue through the day until 2 p.m. Come for an hour or the entire day. Shuttle bus service will be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood, where participants are encouraged to walk and pray for an end to abortion. Those unable to walk are invited to pray in the church. More details are on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/2007flierfinal.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

NORTHERN DEANERY

- The monthly **Gabriel Project Hour of Prayer for Life** will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 3-4 p.m., at **St. Michael the Archangel Parish**, Siesta Key/Sarasota. Eucharistic Adoration will be followed by Benediction and will be observed every First Wednesday of the month. Everyone is invited to pray for the development of Gabriel Project, a one-on-one mentoring program for women in stressful pregnancies. For information, call the Sarasota Gabriel helpline, 941-735-5758.
- **Now is the time to learn what you need to know about making moral medical decisions.** "Decisions for Living" will be presented by Mary Stegman, M.D. Dr. Stegman is the End of Life Issues chairman for the Diocese of Venice Respect Life Department. With wisdom and wit, Dr. Stegman will cover such topics as pain management, nutrition and hydration, living wills, health care surrogates, physician-assisted suicide, individual and family concerns. Anyone 18 or older is encouraged to attend. Bring your questions. Presentations will take place:
 - **St. Joseph Parish**, Bradenton, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2007.
 - **St. Raphael Parish Hall**, Englewood, following the 8:30 a.m. Mass, Monday, Jan. 15, 2007.
- A new group for **Persons with Physical Disabilities**, ages 21-40, has been formed in the Northern Deanery. The organization combines social, spiritual, sharing and support in a way that meets the needs of the members. Interested? Please call Laurel or Barb at 941-727-4327.

EASTERN DEANERY

Now is the time to learn what you need to know about making moral medical decisions. “Decisions for Living” will be presented by Mary Stegman, M.D., 9:30 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 2007, at St. Catherine Parish, Sebring. Dr. Stegman is the End of Life Issues chairman for the Diocese of Venice Respect Life Department. With wisdom and wit, Dr. Stegman will cover such topics as pain management, nutrition and hydration, living wills, health care surrogates, physician-assisted suicide, individual and family concerns. Anyone 18 or older is encouraged to attend. Bring your questions.



Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate the **Annual Anniversary Mass** for couples married 25, 50 and over 50 years on Saturday, **Feb. 10, 2007, at 1 p.m., at Epiphany Cathedral** in Venice. Although space limits attendance to the Mass by the couples only, family and friends may join in the celebration at the reception in Epiphany Parish Hall at 2:30 p.m. Couples should contact their parish office to register now through Feb. 5.



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

(Suggested for Dec. 31) January is Poverty in America Awareness Month. **A worthy resolution for the New Year.** Throughout the year, become a personal advocate for and with those living in poverty by developing more compassion in the way you talk to others about the reality of poverty in America. Such small changes, when multiplied, can lead to larger changes in the way society sees and treats people experiencing poverty. Visit www.povertyusa.org to see what the Catholic Church, through the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*, is doing to break the cycle of poverty across our country and how you can be a part of the solution.

(Suggested for Jan. 7, 2007) January is Poverty in America Awareness Month. **The causes of poverty are complex—as are the solutions.** Yet, there is much we can do, as individuals and as community groups, to work together to address the root causes of poverty. The first step to solving any problem is understanding it—educating ourselves and others about the true state of American poverty, its enormity, conditions and effects. Visit www.povertyusa.org to see what the Catholic Church, through the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*, is doing to break the cycle of poverty across our country and how you can be a part of the solution.

(Suggested for Jan. 21, 2007) January is Poverty in America Awareness Month. **Break the cycle.** By joining with others in your community, in your region, across this nation, you lend strength to efforts already underway to end the vicious cycle of poverty affecting one out of eight Americans. In fact, some of the most effective collaborative efforts have been launched by poor and low-income Americans who have established community-based, self-help organizations to break the cycle of poverty. Your help can strengthen their activities. Visit www.povertyusa.org to see what the Catholic Church, through the *Catholic Campaign for Human Development*, is doing to break the cycle of poverty across our country and how you can be a part of the solution.



Foundation for the Care of the Migrant Poor

Annual Grant Requests – The diocesan Foundation for the Care of the Migrant Poor will accept requests for grants for projects in 2007, directly benefitting the migrants or new immigrants in faith formation, in health care and in social concerns. Grant Request forms will be sent out to those who have requested them in previous years. New requests will be accepted. To receive a form, call 941-371-0289 or ask for one online from Brother Paul Hennessy, hennessy@slbb.net. The deadline for submissions is Jan.7, 2007.



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 **sixth concert** features Pat Surface, singer and songwriter who gets inspiration from God, nature and love. He delivers beautiful vocal harmonies and performs with his wife, Donna, and Eli Bissonett. Come, sit back, pretend you’re in the Boundary Waters of Minnesota somewhere and hear “folkgrass” and hymns from this troubadour. Performance is 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21, 2007.

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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, December 11, 2006
Contact: Nancy Powers
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Florida Bishops: “Honor the Work, Support Change for Farmworkers”

Tallahassee - The Catholic bishops of Florida issued today a pastoral letter calling on all Floridians to support changes in the conditions of people who work in seasonal manual labor, especially in agriculture.

[Honoring the Dignity of Work: A Call for Solidarity with Florida’s Farmworkers and Other Vulnerable Workers](#) describes both “progress and stasis” in the conditions of Florida’s farmworkers. It identifies “hopeful signs of solidarity” toward farmworkers, but also notes that abuses of vulnerable workers now occur in many Florida industries where a largely undocumented and unprotected workforce does seasonal, manual, contract labor.

Speaking on behalf of all the bishops of the Florida Catholic Conference, Bishop John H. Ricard SSJ (Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee) said, “If we, as a society, start with real respect for the workers and their contributions, then from that will flow a commitment to assure that their work conditions, wages, housing, workplace safety, and children’s opportunities are those that would be consistent with respect.”

Emphasizing that growers and farmworkers are similarly impacted by current market trends, the bishops stated: “Those at the top of the supply chain appropriate power and profits to themselves, while pushing risks and costs to the growers and farmworkers below.”

The letter calls upon state leaders to “consider the human ramifications of the trade policies they support, including the impact on growers and farmworkers in the United States and abroad” and to “advocate with federal officials...in order to reduce market distortions that harm growers and farmworkers.” The bishops also reiterate their strong support for comprehensive immigration reform.

Noting that most agricultural employers are “people of good will,” the letter urges the industry’s leaders to set high expectations for their peers and to welcome input from workers. “The abuses that appear in the news, tainting the reputation of an entire industry, are injustices that flourish *because* workers’ organizations are weak, and workers fearful. ...Empowered workers would help reduce the shadowy spaces in which some unscrupulous people currently thrive.”

In separate sections, the letter offers ways that families, parishes, Catholic institutions, farmers, and public officials should take action to change the status quo for the good. They conclude by urging people not to be “*blind consumers, ignorant and unconcerned about the labor and market processes that sustain our human needs. All of us have a responsibility to see the situations in our midst and to support change.*”

The bishops dedicated the letter to Bishop John Nevins of the Diocese of Venice for his decades of pastoral care and advocacy for farmworkers and their families.

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