



The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 5, No. 10**May 18, 2007***ANNOUNCEMENTS****Office of the Bishop**

Our prayers are with Dr. Volodymyr Smeryk and his family as they mourn the passing of his father Steve Smeryk, who died Saturday, May 12. Mr. Smeryk was 71 years old.

Newest Catholic mission dedicated in Glades County

Bishop Frank J. Dewane and the priests of the Eastern Deanery celebrated the dedication of the new Holy Martyrs Mission church on May 12. The chapel is named for the Holy Martyrs, including Blessed Anacleto González Flores, a catechist and member of the Catholic Association of Young Mexicans, who were executed during the persecution of Catholics from 1920 to 1929.

**Office of the Chancellor**

We welcome Rene Ng who joins the diocese as the Director of Information Technology. He has worked in the computer industry for over 27 years including senior management positions at Dun and Bradstreet Software, E*Trade, NextGig, and RunMoney.com. Originally from Hong Kong, he moved to Sarasota, FL with his family from San Diego, CA three years ago. He will be responsible for managing the day-to-day software and computer/network technology needs of the Diocese.

**Department of Communications**

We'd like to welcome Kristie Martinez Nguyen, who is now the reporter/editor for The Florida Catholic. Please update your Communications Department mailing list to include her, and Adela Gonzales White, the Communications Director. News and information should be e-mailed to both Adela (agwhite@dioceseofvenice.org) and Kristie at nguyen@dioceseofvenice.org.

**Legal Department**

Please be advised there is a scam operating in which someone pretends to be from diocesan entities' banks and calls the Catholic Center requesting Bishop Dewane's social security number and driver's license number. As you know, it has consistently been our practice not to provide such information to diocesan banks. Our attorneys have advised that if your bank insists on such information, you should change banks. In a recent investigation of just such a call, we learned that the parish involved did not even do business with that bank. Please do not provide this information to anyone, particularly over the telephone. If you have any questions, please contact the Legal Department at 941-441-1104 or white@dioceseofvenice.org.

**Regional Safe Environment Training**

Safe Environment Training - Saturday, June 16, 2007, 10 a.m. in the youth ministry room of St. Peter the Apostle Parish Ministry Center, Naples, Florida.



Peace and Justice Office

Advocates Contact Legislators on Social Justice Issues. There are more than 330 social justice advocates registered with the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office. Recently, the Advocates were asked to urge U.S. Senate and House support of supplemental appropriations for global humanitarian emergencies and economic reconstruction in the Middle East, for the needs of the poor and vulnerable at home, to increase the minimum wage, and to provide for ongoing recovery in the Gulf Coast region. A special subgroup of Advocates, the Prompt Action Team, contacts legislators within 24 hours, when an urgent issue is before them. Recently, the Prompt Action Team members were asked to contact state legislators to protect the vulnerable, developmentally disabled in Florida. More Advocates are always needed. For more information, please contact the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office: 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.



Respect Life Department

The May 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/WOLMay2007English.doc>. WOL features Intercessions for Life and Bulletin Briefs. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOLMay2007Spanish.doc>.

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Catholic Charities

Congratulations to Catholic Charities of Florida for receiving the Humanitarian Award at the Governor's Hurricane Conference. The collective accomplishments of the diocesan Catholic Charities offices were recognized as the first formal response agreement of its kind among local Catholic Charities in the nation. The work that went into helping victims displaced by Hurricane Katrina were especially commended. Also noted was relief work throughout the storm seasons of 2004 and 2005, and continued assistance for disaster victims through 2006 and the recent tornadoes. This prestigious award was presented at a banquet May 16 at the Broward County Convention Center.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:

Office of the Diaconate

Five diaconate students from the Class of 2009 will be instituted into the Office of Reader by Bishop Dewane at Epiphany Cathedral during an 11 a.m. Mass on Saturday, June 9. The students are: Joseph Allison of St. Raphael's Parish, Lehigh Acres; Philip Fontaine of St. Leo's Parish, Estero; Thomas Grant of Sacred Heart Parish, Punta Gorda; Kevin McKenney of St. Martha's Parish Sarasota; and Epimaco Roca, Jr., of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Venice. Parishioners and friends are invited to attend. This is the second step of institutions by the Bishop before the students are ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2009. They will be instituted as Acolytes in 2008.



Peace and Justice Office

Something simple to do to help care for God's Creation. Growing native plants is something simple we can do to make our yards more compatible with our local environment, while still being attractive. Since they are used to our climate and soil, these plants require little if any irrigation, fertilizer and pesticides, in contrast with exotic plants and especially, grass. Therefore, less water is consumed and less toxic pollution occurs. Native plants also provide pieces of the habitat on which native wildlife depends.

Another thing to do is to join the Diocesan Environmental Justice Commission. For more information, please contact the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office, Environmental Justice Commission: 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.



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.

Did You Know? In their statement *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops write: "Especially significant is the witness of a growing number of victims' families who reject the death penalty and have joined in efforts to end its use. They have concluded that ending the life of another human being will not heal their wounds or make up for their loss." 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 1-941-484-9543.