



The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin**Vol. 5, No. 12**June 15, 2007***ANNOUNCEMENTS****Office of the Bishop**

One June 11, I celebrated Mass with approximately 40 inmates at the Hardee Correctional Institution in Wachula for the first time. Previously, Mass was celebrated with men and women inmates of the Sarasota County jail, and also with Spanish-speaking prisoners at the county facility. I take this opportunity to encourage all priests, men and women religious and our kind volunteers to not forget these incarcerated people and assist the diocese in ministering to them.

**Office of the Chancellor**

This is to extend sincere gratitude to all who supported me and my family during the recent death of my father. I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of moral support, and especially for the many Masses offered by the priests of our Diocese, and I thank you for that. Thank you. Volodymyr Smeryk

Reminder: Please be advised that Steve Anderson functions in the capacity of Director of Construction for the Diocese. Steve has been with the Diocese since July 5, 2006 and is coordinating construction projects. For those parishes, or other diocesan entities, that plan to start new construction projects, please call the Building Commission of the Diocese of Venice for an initial contact: (941) 484-9543, Ext. 3033.

**Communications Department**

In the past couple of weeks, those of us who are new to the Communications Department have been on the road meeting people and covering stories in our diocese. We very much appreciate your hospitality and help.

We can use help promoting The Florida Catholic diocesan newspaper to your parishioners. Please remind them the newspaper carries local parish news, as well as stories about relevant Catholic issues. The current issue features a story about Bishop Dewane's recent trip to Europe with the Church delegation working to secure aid for Africa from the G8 Nations, which recently met in a summit. Also included in this issue is a feature about how some of our middle-schoolers from Incarnation School in Sarasota wowed the audience at our recent media luncheon. You can also read about our high school graduation ceremonies, so please pick up a copy. Also check our diocesan website for more www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Keep in mind that the Communications Department is always looking for good stories and interesting people to write about. If you have an event coming up, or if your youth group is doing something interesting this summer, please let us know. If there is someone in your parish who has an interesting hobby, or history, please send us an e-mail. You can e-mail us at agwhite@dioceseofvenice.org or call 941-484-9543.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services

Do you know a faith-filled Catholic between the ages of 18-30 who has demonstrated leadership against poverty and injustice in the United States? Nominate him or her for the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award which highlights the gifts of young leaders and their Gospel commitment to the poor.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), a national anti-poverty program of the US Catholic Bishops, recognizes the leadership, energy and diverse skills young people bring to the anti-poverty work of low-income projects and Catholic parishes. The ideal candidate demonstrates the following:

1. Leadership consistent with CCHD work/philosophy to address basic causes of economic poverty
2. A commitment to carry out the church's option for and with the poor through the empowerment of people living in poverty
3. Relationship-building between the poor and the non-poor
4. Potential for future leadership in these arenas

Nominations for the Cardinal Bernardin New Leadership Award must be received by July 31. Nomination forms are available through this office and online at:

<http://www.usccb.org/cchd/BernardinNominationForm.doc>

The 21st annual *Social Action Summer Institute* (SASI) will be held at Marquette University in Milwaukee, WI., July 15-20. There are two tracks, providing educational opportunities for both newcomers and returning participants. Track I will focus on Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching and Track II is a symposium on "Climate Change and Care of God's Creation". SASI is supported by The ROUNDTABLE Association of Diocesan Social Action Directors, USCCB/Department of Social Development and World Peace, Catholic Charities, Catholic Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services and Just Faith Ministries. Additional information is available through this office and online at:

<http://www.nplc.org/roundtable/events/summerinstitute07.htm>



Peace and Justice Office

Environmental Justice. A member of the Environmental Justice Commission of the Peace and Justice Office, Christine McBride, made public comments on June 6 at a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency hearing in Fort Myers regarding the proposed re-registration of several agricultural fumigants. Three farm worker groups, environmental groups, a national pesticide action organization, one Native American, and others were represented at the meeting in solidarity with The Farmworker Association of Florida in opposition to the re-registration of these pesticides, which have been found to have an adverse impact on farm workers, as well as, on our air, water and soil.

Another member of the Environmental Justice Commission, Michael Holsinger, will testify July 11 at a public hearing on Sarasota County's proposed fertilizer law, which could become the strictest in the state, a move to improve the county's water quality.

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

Minimum Wage. Thank you to all who responded to requests from the Peace and Justice Office to contact U.S. Senators and Representative on raising the federal minimum wage. The legislation passed and on May 25, President Bush signed into law the first increase in minimum wage in over a decade. In three steps over two years, the minimum wage will increase from \$5.15 to \$7.25 for all U.S. workers.

Respect Life Department

The July 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/WOLJuly2007Eng.doc>. WOL features Intercessions for Life and Bulletin Briefs. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOLJuly2007SP.doc>.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please publish the following in your parish bulletins)

Office of Stewardship and Development

Would you like to learn more about our Catholic faith, study theology and nurture your spirituality? The Blessed Edmund Rice School can help you achieve this goal at a very reasonable price. Whether you choose to audit a class or enter into our diploma or M.A. programs, you will be pleasantly surprised to learn that our classes are taught regionally throughout the diocese at a parish near you. To learn more, visit the Rice School website at www.riceschool.org or call 941-766-7334.



World Youth Day

World Youth Day will take place next summer, July 15 - 20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia, and the Diocese of Venice will be there. World Youth Day is the Catholic Church's week of events for youth and with youth. It gathers thousands of young people from around the world to celebrate and learn about the Catholic faith and to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures. The event will mark the first visit to Australia of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. If you are interested in knowing more about this wonderful experience contact Devin Jones at the Catholic Center and his number is 941-486-4723 or e-mail him at djones@dioceseofvenice.org.



Peace and Justice Office

“To ensure the survival of a healthy planet, we must not only establish a sustainable economy, but must also labor for justice both within and among nations. We must seek a society where economic life and environmental commitment work together to protect and to enhance life on this planet.” (U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*, 1991)



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 ask us to: "Advocate for public policies that better protect society from perpetrators of violence and do not resort to the death penalty." 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.

Worship and Ministries Department

For couples planning marriage The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, August 4, at Incarnation Parish in Sarasota to give engaged couples the opportunity to dialogue honestly about aspects of their future life together within the Sacrament of Marriage. The cost is \$65 per couple which covers breakfast, lunch and printed materials. This fee is non-refundable. For information please call Betty Karsokas at 941-484-9543.

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