



# The Mustard Seed

Catholic Center 1000 Pinebrook Road Venice FL 34285

*Pastoral Bulletin*

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS - WE ARE MODERNIZING AND WILL SOON BE DISTRIBUTING THIS NEWSLETTER VIA E-MAIL ONLY.**

## **Office of the Bishop**

Bishop Frank J. Dewane announces the following clergy appointments:

**REVEREND JAMES COGAN** appointed Parochial Vicar of San Pedro Parish, North Port, Florida, effective July 10, 2007, at the same time relieved of his appointment as Parochial Vicar of St. Ann Parish, Naples, Florida.

## **Office of the Chancellor**

*Hurricane Preparedness* - All parishes, schools, and other diocesan entities are asked to submit the names of two representatives to coordinate pre-hurricane and post-hurricane strategies. Please submit their names, phone numbers, and email addresses to the Chancellor's Office (Fax 941-488-2561), so that the diocese can communicate with them in case of necessity.

## **Communications Department**

*We're Going Green* - In an effort to be good to the environment and cut expenses we will be e-mailing The Mustard Seed instead of printing and mailing it. If we do not have your e-mail address, give us a call at 941-484-9543, or e-mail us at [newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org). If there is something you would like to see in The Mustard Seed please share your ideas with us.

*Reminder for priests* - Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

Priests' Convocation - November 26-29, 2007

Priests' Retreat - May 5-8, 2008

## **Office of Stewardship and Development**

*Save the Date* - Plan now to attend our annual Stewardship Day, October 30th, St. Thomas More Church, Sarasota, and bring along your staff and committees. Workshops will include such topics as: Stewardship 101, Parish registration and census, marketing your parish, giving lay witness presentations, how to run a successful CFA campaign, understanding planned giving; managing diversity in the parish, creating a welcoming community, and more.

## **Peace and Justice Office**

*Farm and Food Policy* - During the summer, the full Congress is expected to debate farm and food policy. The most recent comprehensive law governing farm support passed in 2002 and will expire in 2007. The farm bill concerns food programs for hungry people, justice for disadvantaged farmers in the U.S. and in developing countries, conservation of farm land and water, local food markets, and much else related to production and distribution of healthy food. All members of Congress need to hear from their constituents that our farm policies are not working and that the status quo is not acceptable. Current debate has favored larger producers at the cost of smaller operations. For more information, please contact the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office: 941-484-9543 or [peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org).

## **Real Estate Office**

*Watch Water Consumption* - Much of our area remains under a water emergency, so please check on water restrictions in your area. Watering is only allowed on certain days and specific times, and violators will be cited and fined. Check with your local government on restrictions. Also log on to the South Florida Water Management District website at [www.sfwmd.gov](http://www.sfwmd.gov) for more information and tips on water conservation.

## **Regional Safe Environment Training**

*Keeping Our Children Safe* - The following parishes will hold regional Safe Environment Awareness training sessions. All diocesan employees...clergy, religious, laity..and those volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults, **MUST BE TRAINED** in safe environment awareness issues. If you have not attended an awareness training, you should attend one of these sessions, as your relationship with the diocese is predicated by this training. Please contact the parish secretary at the location you wish to attend with your name and telephone number at least two weeks prior to the training. Please share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Northern</b>	<b>Central</b>	<b>Eastern</b>	<b>Southern</b>
<b>Aug. 9, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>				<b>St. William</b>
<b>Aug. 11, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>				<b>St. William</b>
<b>Aug. 9, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>		<b>St. Raphael Englewood</b>		
<b>Aug. 11, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>		<b>St. Raphael Englewood</b>		
<b>Aug. 9, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>		<b>St. Andrew Parish Cape Coral</b>		
<b>Aug. 11, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>		<b>St. Andrew Parish Cape Coral</b>		
<b>Aug. 16, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>	<b>St. Joseph Bradenton</b>			
<b>Aug. 18, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>	<b>St. Joseph Bradenton</b>			
<b>Aug. 16, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>		<b>San Antonio Deep Creek</b>		
<b>Aug. 18, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>		<b>San Antonio Deep Creek</b>		
<b>Aug. 18, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>			<i>English and Spanish</i> <b>Our Lady Queen of Heaven LaBelle</b>	
<b>Sept. 13, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>		<b>St. Columbkille Parish Fort Myers</b>		
<b>Sept. 15, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>		<b>St. Columbkille Parish Fort Myers</b>		
<b>Sept. 27, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>				<b>St. John the Evangelist</b>
<b>Sept. 29, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>				<b>St. John the Evangelist</b>
<b>Sept. 27, 2007 6 pm to 8 pm</b>	<b>Incarnation Sarasota</b>			
<b>Sept. 29, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>	<b>Incarnation Sarasota</b>			
<b>Sept. 29, 2007 9:30 am to 11:30 am</b>			<i>English and Spanish</i> <b>Our Lady Queen of Heaven LaBelle</b>	

These are the only regional training sessions that will be held in the Fall.

## **Respect Life Department**

The August 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/WOLAugust2007Eng.doc>. WOL features weekly Intercessions for Life and Bulletin Briefs to be used throughout the month. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOLAugust2007SP.doc>.

## **Worship and Ministries Department**

*“To Trust Again” preparation for re-marriage* - Challenges in a second marriage are very different from those in a first marriage and couples planning re-marriage will benefit more from this program. There is a great wealth of information in “To Trust Again” to help them prepare for a second marriage. The program is being offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at San Pedro Parish in North Port on September 29, 2007, and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Sarasota on January 26, 2008.

**Marriage Preparation Programs** - You should have received a packet of brochures and schedules for the 2007-2008 season. If you have not received the information or if you require additional copies, please call Betty Karsokas in the Family Life Office at (941) 484-9543.

## **Catholic Charities**

*Education Programs* - Catholic Charities provides people in need in southwest Florida with 28 education programs in eight cities in our diocese. Adult individuals, families and children who seek help often require education on how to deal with and prevent their problems. Catholic Charities tutors and teaches classes to clients on a variety of life skills. Please send a donation to help people in need through Catholic Charities Education Programs, P.O. Box 1805, Venice, FL 34284-1805.

*New staff* - Philomena Pereira D’Sa is the new chief operating officer (COO) and Robert Saunders has joined Catholic Charities as director of all programs in Collier County. D’Sa will support the staff of the 31 programs across the diocese. She will oversee the fiscal and operational responsibilities of the agency while President/Chief Executive Officer Peter Routsis-Arroyo, in addition to his regular duties, will focus more on expanding disaster preparedness and response services, Catholic Charities Housing, Inc. and the Catholic Charities Foundation. Saunders will oversee programs at the Family Resource Center and the Counseling Center both in Naples, and Guadalupe Social Services in Immokalee. For more information call 941-488-5581 or visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org).

*Hurricane Season is Here - Are You Ready?* Pastors/administrators and those responsible for parish Disaster Preparedness and Response Programs should be reviewing the Catholic Charities Disaster Preparedness and Response Parish Planning Guide. A copy can be downloaded from the Catholic Charities website at [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org). A Hurricane Preparedness Guide for parishioners and individuals is also available on the diocesan website at [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) on the highlights page.

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please publish the following in your parish bulletins:*

## **Department of Communications**

**WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR YOUR MARRIAGE TODAY?** That’s the question the Catholic Church is asking married couples. Through their committees on Marriage and Family Life and Communications, the U.S. bishops are conducting a multi-year National Pastoral Initiative for Marriage to convey the meaning and value of married life for the Church and for society. The initiative will develop guidance and resources, including a pastoral letter to promote, strengthen, sustain and restore marriages. We invite you to visit the campaign website [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org) because you might find some of that information useful.

## **Peace and Justice Office**

“At its core, the environmental crisis is a moral challenge. It calls us to examine how we use and share the goods of the earth, what we pass on to future generations, and how we live in harmony with God’s creation.” (U.S. Catholic Bishops, *Renewing the Earth*).

## **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).

*Did You Know?* In their statement *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops ask us to: “Act by continuing to advocate in state legislatures, in the Congress, in the courts, and in the public square.” 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.

*NFP* - If you have had *Natural Family Planning* training or would be interested in learning it, please contact the Respect Life Department, (941) 441-1101 for information.

## **Office of Stewardship and Development**

*July 22, 2007 (Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

Today’s readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart’s desire – a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

*July 29, 2007 (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

Jesus is describing God’s immeasurable generosity when He says in today’s Gospel, “Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted.” But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards – those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.

*August 5, 2007 (Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time)*

Jesus urges us to be rich in what matters to God. The psalmist warns us against hardening our hearts. Are our hearts open to what really matters?

## **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.

## **Out and About the Diocese**

*Alternatives for Simple Living* - Resources for Responsible Living presents the personal and global benefits of voluntary simplicity, alternative resources and services. We discuss the needs of young adults in increasingly tough times, and share stories, ideas, inspiration and support. Join us on Friday, Aug. 3 at 6 p.m. for a Soup Supper and conversation at St. Columbkille Church, 12171 Iona Rd., Fort Myers. Please call the parish office at 239-489-3973 to register.