



The Diocese of Venice in Florida

The Mustard Seed



Pastoral Bulletin

September 7, 2007

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Collection letter – Parishes please include the attached Respect Life collection letter in your September 29-30 bulletin, and see notes about this collection from the Finance Department.

Office of the Chancellor

All immigration matters regarding clergy, religious or laity in the Diocese of Venice are handled through the Chancellor's office. Please contact this office before any arrangements are made.

Catholic Charities

Four Star Rating - Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, has achieved the coveted Four-Star Rating for the sixth consecutive year from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management. Charity Navigator is the number one evaluator of charities. Only 1% of the organizations rated by Charity Navigator have received six consecutive Four-Star Ratings. This ranking indicates that our local Catholic Charities outperforms most charities in America in its efforts to operate in the most fiscally responsible way possible. For more information visit www.charitynavigator.org or www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

Department of Education

Attention pastors, administrators, parish council members, school board members and parish/school development personnel – The Department of Education is sponsoring a Development Seminar on Monday, October 15 from 9:30am – 3pm at the Catholic Center in Venice. The morning presenter is Carol Carter, V.P. Advancement for New College and the afternoon presenter is Dr. Susan Olson, Vice President of Loveland Legacy, Inc. Other presenters include Mary Campo, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Venice and Dr. Philip Flynn III, Executive Director of the Catholic Community Foundation. Participants will learn about soliciting major gifts for schools and parishes. No fee. Breakfast and lunch provided. For information and registration, contact the Education Department at 941-484-9543.

Finance Department

Collection information - On the weekend of October 6-7, 2007, a Diocesan collection will be made for the Respect Life Ministries of the Diocese of Venice. Special envelopes have been provided for this collection. In order to clarify for the parishes and missions, the Respect Life collection should be handled in the same manner as all other Diocesan Collections. Funds should be deposited at the parish or mission level, with one check provided to the Diocesan Finance Office. After the funds have been deposited, all "emptied" envelopes should be returned to the Respect Life Department. Thank you for your support.

Peace and Justice Office

Immigration Update - The Social Security Administration is poised to send out “no match” letters to employers who have workers with social security numbers that do not match the appropriate names in the government databases. These letters would notify employers that they have 90 days to reconcile the discrepancy or face serious penalties. The move represents the latest in the national crackdown on illegal immigrants and the businesses that employ them, since immigration reform appears to be dead. But in response to a lawsuit filed by the AFL-CIO, ACLU, National Immigration Law Center and other organizations, a federal judge has temporarily blocked the letters from being mailed. The organizations believe this will cause widespread discrimination against U.S. citizens and other authorized workers. The “no match” letters are expected to go out in October.

Farmworker Justice. - In a Labor Day statement issued recently, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) pointed out accomplishments in our own diocese as a sign of hope in these times of heated immigration debate. Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, Chairman of the Domestic Policy Committee, cited the recent historic agreements signed between the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ and McDonald’s Corporation and Yum! Brands, the company which owns Taco Bell. The workers stood up for their rights and achieved an increase in wages and better working conditions. Bishop DiMarzio applauded Bishop Dewane and Bishop Nevins for being strong supporters of the farmworkers. The coalition’s next campaign will target Burger King. Currently, CIW is furnishing a new office/meeting center in Immokalee, and has need of several large items, such as desks, office chairs, refrigerators, bike rack, outdoor picnic tables, etc. For more information on needed items contact: brigitte@interfaithact.org.

Environmental Justice- Stricter fertilizer rules will soon take effect in Sarasota County. On August 27, County Commissioners approved this change to help protect area waterways from pollution. Environmental Justice Commission members had supported the new guidelines. For more information, please contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

Respect Life

40 Days for Life - All parishes and organizations are invited to participate in an “all faiths” prayer campaign this fall in Sarasota, part of a national effort called *40 Days for Life*. The event focuses on a silent prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood’s Sarasota abortion facility from September 26—November 4. This Planned Parenthood organization covers 15 counties, including Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto. Parishes are invited to take responsibility for one 12-hour day (or at least half a day for those outside the immediate area). There will also be some special “kickoff” events in Sarasota and Bradenton with guest speaker Dr. Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the weekend of September 22-23. Dr. King is the African American Outreach Director for Priests for Life. She also shares her personal abortion story as a member of the *Silent No More Awareness Campaign*. For details go to www.swflforlife.org.

The October 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/WOL102007Eng.pdf>. WOL also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOL102007Spn.pdf>.

Worship & Ministries

Sacristan Workshop - There will be a workshop for all parish sacristans at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice on Wednesday, September 26 from 1-3 PM. An informational letter and E-mail have been sent out to all parishes, so please make sure that your parish sacristan knows about the workshop and plans to attend. The questionnaire that accompanied the notices must be filled out and returned to the Worship Office.

WRAP - White Ribbon Against Pornography week is October 20 through November 4. This national campaign is intended to educate the public about the extent of the pornography and what we can do to

demonstrate that communities care about decency. You can support this campaign by displaying a white ribbon on your car or person. The Family Life Office will have a quantity of white ribbons available. If your parish would like a supply of ribbons, please contact Betty K or Louise at (941) 484-9543.

Safe Environment Training

The Diocese of Venice is committed to protecting children and vulnerable adults through our Safe Environment Program. Our promise is to prevent abuse, to respond to allegations and to reach out to victims. Our program includes background checks and screening, awareness training and victim assistance, and all priests, religious, deacons, lay employees, and volunteers who work with children or vulnerable adults must participate. All are required to attend a Safe Environment training session offered in various locations throughout the Diocese, and attendance is mandatory.

Contacts for the Safe Environment Program are **Art Fleischer, program coordinator** and **Dr. Kathy Kleinlein, training director**. They can both be reached at the Catholic Center 941-484-9543.

Schedule is as follows. Please contact the parish secretary for selected location at least two weeks prior to the training. These are the only regional training sessions available this Fall, please make plans to attend.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Deanery</u>	<u>Parish</u>
Sept 13	6-8 pm	Central	St.Columbkille Parish, Ft Myers
Sept 15	9:30 -11:30 am	Central	St.Columbkille Parish, Ft Myers
Sept 27	6-8 pm	Southern	St. John the Evangelist, Naples
Sept 29	9:30-11:30 am	Southern	St. John the Evangelist, Naples
Sept 27	6-8 pm	Northern	Incarnation, Sarasota
Sept 29	9:30-11:30 am	Northern	Incarnation, Sarasota
Sept 29	9:30-11:30 am	Eastern	Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Labelle (English and Spanish)

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Office of Stewardship and Development

We Need Your Support! The Blessed Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry will have a fund-raising dinner and silent auction on **Sunday evening, September 30th at University Park Country Club**, located off University Parkway, Bradenton. The cost is \$65 for a fun evening with great music. For more information contact Barbara Mills at 941/358-9316 or bbmills@comcast.net.

Stewardship Day - Noted speaker and author, **Bishop Robert F. Morneau**, will be our keynote speaker at the diocesan third annual Stewardship Day, Tuesday, October 30th, 9am – 3 pm., St. Thomas More Parish in Sarasota. All are welcome. The day will include the Keynote Speech, Mass and workshops. Cost is \$10. To cover a continental breakfast and lunch. Please call 941-486-4719 for more info or to register.

Respect Life Department

National Prayer Vigil - You are invited to join **40 Days for Life**, a national pro-life prayer vigil, from September 26 through November 4. The local event will be held outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in Sarasota daily from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM. For details go to www.swflforlife.org or call 941-321-4201.

2007 Statewide Florida Respect Life Conference - Registration brochure for the Oct. 12-14 conference in Tampa is now available at http://www.flacathconf.org/RespectLife/RLC_Brochure.pdf or call 941-441-1112. Scheduled speakers include Deirdre McQuade and Richard Dorflinger from the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. Deadline for conference registration is September 28th.

Death Penalty Presentation - The Diocese of Venice will host a presentation about Church teaching on the death penalty by Dale S. Recinella and Dr. Susan Ward Recinella on Saturday, October 27. This free seminar begins 1:30 p.m. at St. Ann Hall in Bishop Nevins Academy, 4380 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. Dale serves as the Catholic lay chaplain to Florida's Death Row. Susan, a clinical psychologist for mentally ill adults, serves as Catholic lay minister to the families of the executed. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Need Help? - 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 email project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org.

Gabriel Project Hour of Prayer for Life - The monthly prayer hour will be Wednesday, October 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.

Suncoast People on the Go (SpotGO), a group for Persons with Physical Disabilities between the ages of 21-40, has been formed in collaboration with the Diocese of Venice. The organization combines social, spiritual, sharing and support in a way that meets the needs of the members. Those interested should call Laurel or Barb at 941-727-4327 for additional information.

Office of Vocations

Think God may be calling you to the priesthood? Do you want to talk about it over prayer? **And** later have bite of pizza? Please join **Bishop Frank J. Dewane** for both. **Join us at** Incarnation Parish Chapel, 2901 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota from 5:00 – 7:00 pm on Monday, September 17, 2007. Reserve your pizza by calling the Vocations Office at 941-484-9543. Please tell your friends!

College Seminary Discernment Weekend - St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami is hosting a discernment weekend for young men considering the priesthood. The weekend will include prayer, talks, recreation and casual time with the seminarians. Come and spend a weekend experiencing life at a college seminary. The discernment weekend is scheduled November 2-4, 2007. Please contact the Diocese of Venice Vocations Office at 941-484-9543 for registration information.

Worship & Ministries

Called to Serve? Consider becoming a Deacon. – The Diocese of Venice is taking applications to the permanent diaconate. Candidates must be Catholics in good standing, between the ages of 30 and 55. Applicants must have an Associates degree and be willing to work towards a Bachelors degree during the five-year diaconate training program which includes twelve courses at the Blessed Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Theology and twelve courses with the Diaconate Program. Informational meetings will be held

Saturday, January 24th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at St. Martha's parish, 200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, and St. Leo's parish, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs. A pastor's letter of recommendation and a completed application are required to attend the meetings. For more information contact the Diaconate Office for the Diocese of Venice by calling (941) 484-9543, extension 3080.

Preparing Couples for remarriage - "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. It is being offered from 9 am to 5 pm at San Pedro Parish in North Port on September 29, 2007, and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Sarasota on January 26, 2008. The cost is \$65 per couple. For information and reservations please call Betty Karsokas at (941) 484-9543.

Renew your romance: A weekend of Discovery ... A lifetime of love. September 21-23. Plan to experience a World Wide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Venice, where married couples can get away from jobs, kids, phones and chores and focus only on each other. If you would like greater depth, growth and enrichment in your relationship, you'll like the difference a World Wide Marriage Encounter can make. For information and reservations call (888) 560-1854.

Is your marriage hurting? We invite couples to attend a program which offers help to hurting marriages. A Retrouvaille Weekend (for troubled marriages) will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice on November 16 - 18. Retrouvaille places strong emphasis on communication techniques. For information and/or reservations please call (800) 470-2230 or (239) 395-0810. All inquiries are held in strict confidence.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Catholic Young Adults (20's and 30's, Single and Married)- Join us for an informal get-together in Sarasota at The Friendship Room, St. Martha Parish. Fruitville Rd. and Orange Ave., Sarasota on Tuesday, Sept. 18th at 7:00p.m. For more information e-mail us at djones@dioceseofvenice.org. *Bring friends!!!*

Volunteers Needed for Fatima Anniversary - Ninety years after the Marian apparitions in Fatima, Portugal, Catholics are gearing up to commemorate its jubilee anniversary with two thousand rosary rallies in public squares around the nation. The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property and its America Needs Fatima campaign will host a rosary rally at 10 a.m. on Oct. 13 at Bayfront Park, located next to O'Leary's Restaurant on Bayfront Drive (U.S. Highway 41) and Ringling Blvd. in Sarasota. The event will include a prayer service and a talk, followed by recitation of the rosary by Father Julio B. Rivero, T. O. R., of Sacred Heart Parish in Bradenton. Volunteers are needed to help with planning the rosary rally. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Karen J. Montgomery at 941-776-3609, Father Julio B. Rivero of Sacred Heart Parish at 941-748-2221, or Tom and Marie Ewing at 941-795-0413. A map of parking in downtown Sarasota for the event is available at http://www.sarasotagov.com/InsideCityGovernment/Content/Parking/Parking_HP.htm. Click on "Downtown Sarasota Parking Map" on the left-hand side.

School Fundraiser - Saint Martha School Yee Haw Hoe Down, Saturday, Sept 29th, 20 at Twin Lakes Park Pavilion from 6:00 - 10:30 PM. Cost is \$30 Per Person and it includes Great food, music and dancing. Cash bar will be available. We'll also have games, contests, prizes and much more. **Join us and support a great school!**

English Classes for Adults—Every Tuesday from 7—8:30 pm starting Sept 26 at Jesus the Worker Mission, 881 Nuna Ave. in Fort Myers. Call Teresita Taylor at 239-693-5333 to register.

OTHER EVENTS

Walk in the Park - Remember the joy, talent, love and mischief a beloved child brought into this world and left in our hearts during a **“Forever Remembered”** walk at G. T. Bray Park in Sarasota on October 20, sponsored by members of Children's Memorial and Gardens. Walk for someone in your own family, a dear friend, or a complete stranger because you were touched by their story. For registration or information call (941) 749-6166 or e-mail Memorial4Kids@att.net. Or visit their web site at www.childrensmemorialandgarden.org.

Healing Mission – A Healing Mission sponsored by the Diocese of Palm Beach will be held Oct 5 & 6 at St. Joan of Arc Parish in Boca Raton. A team of international Catholic lay speakers will be participating and leading workshops that teach on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The event is under the spiritual leadership of Fr. John Gallagher, parochial vicar at St. Joan of Arc, also the liaison to the Bishop of the Diocese of Palm Beach, for the Office of Renewal. For more information call 561-392-0007, Ext. 190.

“Come and Pray Retreat”- for anyone 18 and older. (Crossroads Program). September 21-23, 2007, at Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, NY. The theme is **“Mary, Our Refuge and Our Hope”**. If interested, please contact Fr. Peter Sousa, C.Ss.R. at (941) 485-3673.

“Veni Si Amas Retreat”- for Single Catholic women from 17-30 years of age who are discerning a call to religious life. November 9-11 at St. Francis Convent, 2120 Central Ave., Alton, Il. For more information e-mail vocations@altonfranciscans.org or call (618) 463-2757.



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The pastoral bulletin is available at

www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
Office of the Bishop

September 28, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

For many years, the Catholic Church has been at the forefront on the issue of the sanctity of and respect for human life.

In this context, the Diocese of Venice will conduct its first Respect Life Collection in conjunction with National Respect Life Sunday on the weekend of October 6-7, 2007. This special second collection will support various local organizations and programs that request needed financial support from the Church.

Local Pregnancy Resource Centers throughout the Diocese help women choose life for their children. They offer the emotional and spiritual support that is often lacking and provide links to needed financial resources in the community. Maternity homes offer a safe, supportive environment when housing is an issue. After-birth homes provide support for mom and baby so a mother can continue her education to better provide for herself and her child. These programs save and improve lives, but they need funds to continue their good work. Post abortion healing programs like Project Rachel and Rachel's Vineyard help women and men heal from the emotional wounds of abortion.

Respect for life also includes concerns at the end of earthly life and other issues. People find themselves unable to cope with being alone and failing health. They need support and love from their parish family and community.

By sponsoring one collection yearly, each parish will have the opportunity to contribute to organizations that support life from conception to natural death. The funds collected will remain in the Diocese of Venice and will facilitate our witness as a faith community to the value of all human life.

Please be generous in your expression of respect for life. Thank you for your support of this effort. May God bless you!

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice in Florida