



The Diocese of Venice in Florida

The Mustard Seed



Pastoral Bulletin

Sept 21, 2007

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Reverend Joseph Stearns appointed Pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Sarasota (Siesta Key), effective October 1, 2007, at the same time relieved of his appointment as Pastor of St. William Parish, Naples.

Office of the Chancellor

The Diocese of Venice is in the process of replacing fingerprint cards with an optical scanning system as required by a new law which became effective on July 1, 2007. This system will be more efficient and less time consuming. Further details will be forthcoming.

CCHD /Catholic Relief Services

JustFaith Introductory Workshop – presented by JustFaith author and founder, Jack Jezreel, and hosted by Epiphany Cathedral Parish, Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. At 2:00 p.m., two alternative sessions will be offered: 1) Facilitating the JF program in your parish with Jack Jezreel, and 2) Opportunities for Action and Partnership in CCHD, CRS and other social justice initiatives within the Diocese of Venice.

JustFaith Graduates - are invited to a JF Graduate Gathering with Jack Jezreel, hosted by St. Columbkille Parish, Friday, October 26, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Parish Center. Reservations are requested. Call 941-484-9543 or email kirley@dioceseofvenice.org by October 15.

Department of Education

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. There is no fee, and breakfast and lunch will be provided. For information and registration, contact the Education Department at 941-484-9543.

Peace and Justice Office

Environmental Justice - Early in September, Pope Benedict XVI addressed participants in Greenland attending a conference, “The Arctic: Mirror of Life.” He stated: “Care of water

resources and attention to climate change are matters of grave importance for the entire human family. Encouraged by the growing recognition of the need to preserve the environment, I invite all of you to join me in praying and working for greater respect for the wonders of God's creation!"

New Catholic Website - The Catholic Coalition on Climate Change has launched a web site at: www.catholicsandclimatechange.org. This site provides Catholic teaching references on climate change, other resources, suggested actions, and updates on the work of the Coalition. Information on a series of Coalition sponsored hearings around the country can be found at the web site.

Respect Life

Respect Life Sunday is Oct. 7 - Suggested talking points are provided by the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities on page 3 of the Liturgy Guide found in the 2007 Respect Life program packet. The Liturgy Guide is also available online at: <http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/LiturgyGuide.pdf>.

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.

Date	Time	Deanery	Parish
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)

Worship and 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. Please make sure your parish sacristan knows about the workshop and plans to attend.

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 wearing a white ribbon or displaying one on your car. The Family Life Office will have a quantity of white ribbons available. If your parish would like a supply of ribbons, please contact Betty Karsokas or Louise Tokarski at (941) 484-9543.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Catholic Charities

Immigration Forum – The Catholic Charities Manatee Office is hosting an informational forum called “Foro de Inmigración, Dinero y Foreclosures,” or “Forum on Immigration, Money and Foreclosure,” on Friday, October 5 at 10:45 am at St. Jude Parish, in Sarasota. The forum should clear up misinformation being circulated in the Hispanic community through scams by people posing as immigration lawyers. Many people have been victimized by these imposters, and this forum is to inform the community about options and benefits. For more information contact the Catholic Charities Manatee Office at 941-714-7829.

Food Pantries Need Your Help - Catholic Charities in Lee County could use donations to stock up its two empty food pantries. The food is distributed to individuals and families in need, so please help us give parents a way to provide for their hungry children. If you would like to assist, please send your donation to Catholic Charities of Lee County, 2133 Winkler Ave suite 310, Fort Myers, FL, 33901. Or call us at (239) 334-4007. Donations will be used to assist Catholic Hispanic Social Services in Fort Myers and Bonita Springs.

Save the date! - *Saturday, February 9, 2008* is the date, and the event is Lee County’s “**Annual Venetian Charity Ball**” at Sanibel Harbor Resort in Fort Myers. You are invited to join **Bishop Frank J. Dewane** for a memorable evening. All proceeds from the ball will help support Catholic Charities programs and services in Lee County. Catholic Charities serves people of all ages, faiths, and backgrounds, when and where they need it most. For more information on the Venetian Charity Ball, or to volunteer to help, please contact Catholic Charities of Lee County at (239) 334-4007.

Tutors and Sponsors needed – Students struggling with homework, reading, math, spelling and FCAT preparation need help, and proper tutoring can make a big difference in how well they do in school. Catholic Charities of Lee County sponsors an after-school tutoring program offered at service centers in Fort Myers and Bonita Springs. Help is needed with both volunteer tutors, and sponsorships to cover the fee for children whose parents cannot afford the \$5.00 weekly fee. The tutoring program is offered 32 weeks during the school year, and a \$20.00 donation makes it possible for a child to receive tutoring for a month. If you would like to volunteer as a tutor, or sponsor a child for tutoring, please contact the following Catholic Charities social service centers; Hispanic Services of Fort Myers at (239) 337-4193, the Haitian Center at (239) 334-2234, and Hispanic Services of Bonita Springs at (239) 390-2928.

CCHD/CRS

You are invited! A National JustFaith Introductory workshop will be held Saturday, October 27, 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Epiphany Cathedral Parish. Please join us for this workshop presented by JustFaith founder and author, Jack Jezreel. Save \$5 by registering by October 6 when the fee is \$15.00. After that date registration is \$20.00.

Peace and Justice Office

Want to get involved? Members of the Environmental Justice Commission for the Peace and Justice Office of the Diocese of Venice recently held a presentation about Catholic social

teaching and water conservation to diocesan directors of religious education. If you are interested becoming a member of the Commission, or learning more about it please contact us via e-mail at peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or call 941-484-9543. The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled October 9, 2007.

Respect Life Department

40 Days for Life – What’s all the excitement about 40 Days for Life? See for yourself at www.SWFLforLife.org. All parishes and organizations in the Diocese of Venice are invited to participate in the 40 Days for Life “all faiths” prayer campaign this fall in Sarasota. A silent prayer vigil will be held in front of Planned Parenthood’s Sarasota abortion facility from September 26 through November 4. This facility serves 15 counties, including Manatee, Sarasota, Charlotte, Lee, Hardee, Highlands and DeSoto. Parishes throughout the diocese are invited to take responsibility for one 12-hour day (or at least half a day for those outside the immediate area). See www.swflforlife.org for additional information.

Statewide Respect Life Conference - The registration brochure for the 2007 Statewide Florida Respect Life Conference, Oct. 12-14 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.

“Holy Hour” for Respect Life – St. Jude Parish, 3930 17th St., in Sarasota is holding a bi-lingual Adoration Hour, or “Hora Santa,” of the Blessed Sacrament in honor of Respect Life Month. Services are being held the first Friday of each month from 7 to 8 p.m., and they are in both English and Spanish so that everyone is included. For more information call St. Jude Parish at 955-3934.

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 his book *The Biblical Truth About America’s Death Penalty*, Dale S. Recinella writes: “. . . the American death penalty fails miserably in every possible respect to meet any of even the most minimal biblical standards” (p. 343). Come and meet Mr. Recinella and his wife Dr. Susan Ward Recinella on Saturday, October 27 at St. Ann Hall in Bishop Nevins Academy, 4380 Fruitville Rd., Sarasota, FL. Their presentation begins 1:30 p.m. For further information or to register, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941- 441-1112.

Office of Stewardship and Development

We Need Your Support! The Blessed Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry prepares laity who feels called to ministries in the Catholic Church by means of formal theological education and spiritual formation. A fund-raising dinner and silent auction will be held 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 our 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. Registration fee is \$10, and this covers a continental breakfast and lunch. Please call 941-486-4719 for registration or information.

Office of Vocations

Think God may be calling you to the priesthood? Do you want to talk about it over prayer? And then later have some pizza? Please join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for both on Monday, October 5 from 5 to 7 pm at Resurrection of Our Lord Church, 8051 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers. Reserve your pizza by calling the Vocations Office at 941-484-9543. P.S. Is there someone you want to tell about this meeting? Please tell them!

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.

“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.

Worship & Ministries

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.

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.

“A Wedding is a Day, A Marriage is a Lifetime” - The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, October 27 at St. Catherine Parish in Sebring. The cost is \$65 per couple. This program is recommended for all couples contemplating matrimony in the Catholic Church. For information and/or reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

A Spanish One Day Marriage Preparation Program will be held at St. Jude Parish in Sarasota on November 3. For reservations and information please contact Francis at St. Jude Parish (941) 955-3934.

Spanish Marriage Preparation Classes are offered at St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Naples on six consecutive Tuesday evenings from October 2 through November 6. For registration please call St. Peter the Apostle Parish at (239) 774-3337.

(For Northern Deanery)

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, October 20 at Epiphany Cathedral Parish in Venice, 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 K at (941) 484-9543.

(For Central Deanery and Southern Deanery)

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Conference on Saturday, November 10, 2007 at S. Vincent dePaul Parish in Fort Myers, to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. The cost is \$65 per couple which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Dan Schutte, Composer, Entertainer and Leader of Christian Music To Perform and Lead a Workshop in Venice - Dan Schutte, internationally renowned contemporary composer and performer of Christian music will appear and sing many of his compositions at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, FL on Friday evening, October 5, 2007 at 7 pm. A workshop for liturgists and church musicians and vocalists is scheduled for the following morning at Epiphany at 10 am. Workshop Topic: *Fostering a Community of Hospitality*. There is no admission charge for either the concert or the workshop. For more information, call Epiphany Cathedral office at 941-484-3505.

Christian Rock Concert in Sarasota - Join us on Sunday, October 14th at 6:00PM at St. Thomas More Church, to hear the chart-topping Christian rock group "1 Crew" live in concert. Come see & hear "Love is a beautiful thing", "Everybody's got a song to sing", "No plan B" and many more! Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door. Tickets are on sale at St. Thomas More, 2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota or Living Word Christian Store, 5421 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. Come meet the band after the concert! For more information call 941-923-1691.

Caring for the vulnerable – If you are involved with ministries to the sick and homebound, hospital and hospice, join us on Saturday, October 20th from 9am – 12 noon at Saint Columbkille Parish Center, 12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers for a presentation by Rev. Gerard Austin, O.P., S.T.D., professor for the Rice School for Pastoral Ministry. Rev. Austin's presentation is entitled *PASTORAL CARE OF THE SICK: Anointing, Viaticum, Praying with the Sick and the Dying, Living as a Preparation for Dying*. To register, or for more info call 239-489-3973.

OTHER EVENTS

Candlelight Vigil For Domestic Violence Awareness - To be held on October 11 at 6:00 pm at the Community Education Center, 4940 Pan American Blvd., in North Port.

Come and show support for the victims of domestic violence. Sponsors include Domestic Abuse Shelter Homes, Jewish Family & Children's Service, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center, Salvation Army, Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE), Senior Friendship Centers, and The Women's Resource Center of Sarasota County. Only by ending silence and speaking about Domestic Violence can we stop this tragedy. For further info contact Wendy Hernandez (941) 539-8957 or e-mail whernandez@jfcs-cares.org. This project was initiated through The Grassroots Leadership Initiative Program which is provided by SCOPE.



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

e-mail: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org

(no later than seven days prior to publication date.)

The pastoral bulletin is available at

www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm