



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

Nov 16, 2007

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Collection for Retirement Fund for Religious - The 20th national annual appeal for the Retirement Fund for religious will be conducted in all parishes December 8th and 9th. Coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office of the USCCB in Washington, the appeal benefits the projected \$9 billion retirement liability of the nation's religious orders. Donations have enabled religious institutes to stabilize retirement funds, leverage local fundraising and assist capital campaigns. More than 37,000 Catholic religious are now past age 70. More than 5,000 women and men require skilled nursing care. The average Social Security benefit for religious women is approximately one-third that paid to the average U.S. beneficiary. Ninety-four percent of donations are awarded to religious institutes. For further information, you may go online to www.usccb.org/nrro or contact Sr. Monica Paul, O.P., www.monicafras@incarnationschool.edu or 941-924-8588.

Chancellor's Office

It has come to our attention that an organization which is not affiliated with the Diocese of Venice has been advertising a so-called "Southwest Florida Catholic Lay Assembly" in several parish bulletins throughout the Diocese. We take this opportunity to point out that the said organization does not have any Diocesan support or association and therefore, should not be advertised in the Parish Bulletins. Further there should be no inserts into the bulletin or any announcements of this event. No gatherings by the said groups should occur on parish or school premises. Please feel free to contact the Chancellor's Office with questions. Thank you.

Building Policies - The updated Building and Construction Policies and Guidelines that was recently sent to all pastors and administrators is now available on our Diocesan website. This updated policy contains necessary information pertaining to the planning, feasibility, development, negotiation and implementation process. It also stresses the current needs and concerns of building and construction requirements. All parishes considering renovations or planning new buildings, please consult with these policies and guidelines.

Communications Department

Contact us at newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org if you have information on the following things:

Remember Our Troops – As the holidays are here, we want to remember our troops around the world through diocesan publications. Please let us know by Nov 27 who from your parish is serving in the armed forces.

Holiday Giving – Keep us posted on what your parish or school is doing to give to the less fortunate this holiday season.

Freelancers - the Communications Department is looking for freelance writers and photographers to contribute to The Florida Catholic. If you are interested contact us.

Bulletin Editors and other parish staff – To augment communication between the Diocese and parishes, we are producing a communications guide. Please e-mail Communications Director Adela Gonzales White at agwhite@dioceseofvenice.org with suggestions and ideas on items and information you would like to see included.

Event Flyers – Please note that many of the events we have included in the Mustard Seed have accompanying flyers that can be downloaded from the diocesan website (www.dioceseofvenice.org) calendar on the date of the event. You can print as many of these flyers or posters as you need to help promote diocesan and parish events. A special note will be included for bulletin editors when a flyer is available.

Catholic Charities

Positions Available - Catholic Charities has a full-time Administrative Assistant position for the Immigration and Counseling Services programs in Ft. Myers. Applicant must be bilingual in English and Spanish, and must have superior organizational, office and communication skills as well as good written and spoken English skills. Please fax resume to Jim Mills at 941-952-9133. Catholic Charities also has 2 full time positions for caseworkers in the Ft. Myers office. Applicants must have a minimum of a high school diploma and one to two years experience within a human service environment. They must be bilingual with English and Spanish required. Please fax resume to 941 486-4758.

Office of Stewardship and Development

Stewardship Day – The Diocesan Stewardship Day generated a lot of excitement! Keep up the momentum! If your parish leadership is interested in moving ahead with a stewardship committee, we can help. Mary Campo will gladly meet with you to help get started. Resources are also available through this office.

Worship and Ministries

Advent Newsletter - Please see the attached Advent Newsletter, which can also be found on the Diocesan Worship web site at (www.dioceseofvenice.org) under Office of Ministries.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Saturday this year and, as always, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses may be celebrated on Friday, December 7 for the Vigil and Saturday morning, December 8 for the Feast. Saturday afternoon Masses are for the Second Sunday of Advent, not the Holy Day.

Mark your calendar - on February 9, 2008 Bishop Frank Dewane will celebrate the Annual Anniversary Mass for couples celebrating 25, 50, and 50 plus years at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice at 1:00 p.m. A packet will be sent to all parishes in mid December.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

The Florida Catholic - Every work day, the staff of our diocesan newspaper *The Florida Catholic* prays together. We invite you to join with us in daily prayer for the poor, for Church and world leaders, for peace, respect for life, vocations, and for those who have asked for our prayers. Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.thefloridacatholic.org.

Catholic Charities

Christmas Appeal - The sixth annual Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal needs your support to provide help and create hope for children, families and individuals who seek our help. Your gifts provide funding for programs and services of Catholic Charities throughout the Diocese of Venice all year long. A full 93 cents of every dollar from the Christmas Appeal will be used to help those who need help the most. Last year Catholic Charities served more than 40,000 people including impoverished children, lonely elderly, the refugee, migrant farm workers and families in crisis. Catholic Charities serves and empowers all in need, regardless of race, nationality or creed. To donate to the Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal, please send a donation to Catholic Charities, 6900-29 Daniels Parkway, Box 334, Fort Myers, FL 33912.

Benefit for Families in Crisis – “Show of Shows to dazzle with entertainment while benefiting families in crisis.” The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. will present the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows featuring both well-known local and national entertainers. The event will raise funds for the Sugar Bowl Fund, a program that assists families who live in South Sarasota County and Northern Charlotte County that are experiencing an economic hardship. The event will be held Wednesday, December 19 at 7 p.m. at the Venice Community Center. The John Salerno Band with guest jazz vocalist Debbie Keeton is the featured performance along with the Todd Charles Comedy Spectacular. The evening will include musical standards, a Christmas sing-a-long, special guests, a comedy variety, and dancing. Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be the guest of honor. General seating is \$20 per person and VIP seating is \$30 per person. VIP tickets include a wine and cheese social prior to the show. All proceeds from the event will go to the Sugar Bowl Fund. For more information about the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows or to purchase tickets, please call Catholic Charities of Sarasota County at 379-9111. **BULLETIN EDITORS:** *Flyers of the Show of Shows are available for download of the diocesan website at www.dioceseofvenice.org. Click on the calendar and check the date of the event.*

Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services

(BULLETIN EDITORS—Please use in your bulletins AFTER the Appeal: November 24-25 or December 1-2)

THANK YOU! The national and diocesan offices of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) wish to extend their thanks to our parishioners who generously contributed to the CCHD Collection. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers living below the poverty line and for community groups working to make long-term change. Visit www.usccb.org/cchd to learn more and to see how your support is making a real difference.

(In Spanish)

¡Muchas gracias! Las oficinas nacionales y diocesanas de la Campaña Católica para el Desarrollo Humano (CCHD, por sus siglas en inglés) desean extender su agradecimiento a nuestros feligreses que contribuyeron generosamente a la Colecta de la CCHD. Los exhortamos a seguir orando por nuestros hermanos y hermanas que viven por debajo de la línea de pobreza, y por los grupos comunales que trabajan por suscitar un cambio de largo plazo. Visiten www.usccb.org/cchd para conocer más y ver cómo su apoyo constituye un verdadero aporte.

JustFaith Workshop - Early Registration for the national JustFaith workshop is available until November 16, and the reduced fee is \$15. Please join us as we learn more about our Catholic Social Teaching tradition from JustFaith author, Jack Jezreel, Saturday, Dec 1 from 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at Epiphany Cathedral. Registration is available on the diocesan website (www.dioceseofvenice.org) calendar for December. Registration is also requested for the JustFaith Graduate Gathering Saturday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at St. Columbkille Catholic Church in Fort Myers. Please call 941-484-9543 or email kirley@dioceseofvenice.org.

Peace and Justice Office

Faith and Action. Join your Catholic friends and become a Social Justice Advocate. Register, at no cost, with the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office. Contact your lawmakers and help integrate Gospel Values in public policies. You will receive fact sheets on certain issues. Call 941-484-9543. E-mail: peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org. Write: 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

Environmental Justice. Join the Diocesan Environmental Justice Commission. Help start a parish-based task force on the environment. Help to increase awareness on the Church's teachings in regard to the care of God's creation. Call 941-484-9543. E-mail: peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org. Write: 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

Respect Life Department

Feast of the Holy Innocents - People who have experienced the death of a child have a particularly difficult time around Christmas. A Mass of Remembrance can help them deal with their grief. The Feast of Holy Innocents on Dec. 28 is especially appropriate for a Mass of Remembrance for children. We encourage you to designate one of your regularly scheduled Masses for such a remembrance and have the celebrant preach a bereavement homily. A few copies of the special *Book of the Innocents* published by the USCCB are available at no charge through the Respect Life Department. The book is particularly appropriate to use for such a Mass. Please call Marina Kopko at 941-441-1112 or email Kopko@dioceseofvenice.org if you plan to have a Mass of Remembrance or if you would like a *Book of the Innocents* to use in your parish.

SAVE THE DATE: The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the 10th-annual Prayer Walk for Life to end abortion on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 in Sarasota. Registration starts at 8 AM. Masses will be at 8:30 AM, noon (Latin) and 5:30 PM at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Eucharistic Adoration and other prayers will continue through the day. You may come for an hour or the entire day. Shuttle bus service will be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood, where participants are encouraged to walk and pray for an end to abortion. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

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? The Florida Catholic Conference website has an informative PowerPoint presentation on the death penalty available for viewing in the parish or on one's home computer. "The Death Penalty: Working for Consensus Against" can be accessed by scrolling down to Resources under: <http://www.flacathconf.org/AdvocacyAreas/RespectLife/DeathPenalty/index.htm>. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-441-1112.

NORTHERN DEANERY

The monthly ***Gabriel Project Hour of Prayer for Life*** will be Wednesday, December 5, 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 Stewardship and Development

Year End Tax Planning Tip: Contribute appreciated stock before December 31, 2007 to your parish and deduct 100% of the current market value of the stock without paying the tax on the gain. Consult with your tax advisor to see if you can save on your 2007 income tax. To donate stock to your parish or the CFA please call Deborah Shafer, 941-486-4719, for instructions.

Worship and Ministries

Advent Newsletter - Please see the attached Advent Newsletter, which can also be found on the Diocesan Worship web site at (www.dioceseofvenice.org) under Office of Ministries.

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception is on Saturday this year and, as always, is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses may be celebrated on Friday, December 7 for the Vigil and Saturday morning, December 8 for the Feast. Saturday afternoon Masses are for the Second Sunday of Advent, not the Holy Day.

(For Southern Deanery)

For couples planning marriage in the Catholic Church - "Follow the Way of Love" a one day Marriage Preparation Program will be held on Saturday, December 8, at St. William Parish in Naples. The cost is \$65 per couple. For reservations please call Michael Mahr at (239) 261-4883.

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. 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 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on January 26, 2008 at our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Sarasota. Our . The cost is \$65 per couple. For information and reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE AND OTHER EVENTS

Organist Needed – St. Jude Parish is in need of an organist for Saturday and Sunday Masses, plus funerals. Please contact Farther Celestino Gutierrez at 941-955-3934 if you would like to help.

Benefit Food and Toy Drive - The Nav-A Gator Grill, located at 9700 SW Riverview Circle in Arcadia, is sponsoring a food and toy drive to benefit Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. Each person who makes a donation will receive \$5 off the price of a ticket for the Nav-A- Gator’s famous Wilderness Cruise. Reservations for the cruise can be made by calling 941-627-3474. Donations of food and new toys will be provided to Catholic Charities for distribution to families in need. For more information, call Catholic Charities of DeSoto County at 863-494-1068.

Help Dreams are Free - Hazelton Nurseries is offering fresh Fraser Fir Christmas trees available the week of Thanksgiving. Poinsettias grown locally and good quality. “A portion of the proceeds will go to Dreams are Free School. Please e-mail jcritser@hazeltinenurseries.com.

Our Mother’s House – Jacaranda Trace is holding its first annual Spirit of Christmas Charitable Gift Market on Friday, November 30 from 1 to 4 pm at 3600 William Penn Way in Venice. Our Mother’s House is listed among the charities that will benefit from the proceeds. For more information call 941-408-2050

Catholic Young Adults (20’s and 30’s, Single and Married) in the Sarasota Area

Please join us for upcoming events!!!

St. Martha's Coffeehouse discussion group, Monday, Nov. 19, 7 to 8:15 p.m., St. Martha Parish, Fruitville Road and Orange Ave., Sarasota, contact: Gerry at pateg1@verizon.net

First Friday Adoration, Friday, Dec. 7, 7 to 10 p.m, Incarnation Catholic Church on Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota, contact Devin at djones@dioceseofvenice.org. For more information check out our meeting schedule at:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/24bh3p> or e-mail: djones@dioceseofvenice.org.



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** or E-mail: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org
The pastoral bulletin is available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Liturgy Newsletter

Vol. 5, No. 3

November 2007

O ANTIPHONS

Advent comes upon us quickly. It begins at the beginning of December and when the secular world is reminding us that we need to focus on Christmas, the liturgical world talks about Advent. That season of waiting and expectation. A time we are reminded to be still and to actively listen to the readings from the prophets of old that tell us that the Messiah will come. Advent is that time to prepare our hearts and minds spiritually, remembering the first coming of Jesus into the world at Christmas and of the second coming of Jesus at the end of time. As Mary pondered all the events that happened concerning the birth of Jesus in her heart, so we too are called to do the same. We may want to ponder how could Jesus love us so much to come to earth, suffer and die to save us from our sins?

Many families have the tradition of praying and lighting the candles on the Advent wreath during Advent, so why not pray the O Antiphons and perhaps draw and place the symbols on a Jesse tree in the home or at church? The Jesse Tree has symbols that remind us of salvation history, beginning with the fall of our first parents to the coming of Christ.



The O Antiphons are said during Evening Prayer beginning the 17th of December to the 23rd, and said before the Gospel canticle. There are seven different Antiphons. The song that goes with each day is the favorite Advent hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," but there are also other hymns that use these verses.

The seven verses are:

O Wisdom, O Sacred Lord, O Flower of Jesse's Stem, O Key of David,
O Radiant Dawn, O King of All the Nations, and O Emmanuel.

Why not have an O Antiphon Advent service in your parish where there would be reading of the O Antiphons, Scripture readings from Isaiah and the prophets and singing of the O Antiphons and other Advent hymns. For those parishes that do Lessons and Carols, this could be a great alternative showing our Catholic heritage and singing the Advent hymns we know, as we await the coming of Jesus again in our hearts.

Fr. John Mark Klaus,
T.O.R.
Director of Liturgy

Department of Worship and Ministries
1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice FL 34285 • 941-484-9543

Here are some things to remember when you are preparing for the Advent and Christmas season:

Advent Meaning

Advent has a two-fold character: it is a season that we remember when Christ first came to us and a season when that remembrance directs our hearts and minds to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of joyful expectation.

(General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar 39).

Advent weekdays have their own proper Mass texts beginning this year with Evening Prayer I on Saturday, December 1, 2007, and ending mid-afternoon on Christmas Eve. We begin Cycle A-2 the first Sunday of Advent.

Before December 17, Advent Preface I is used. On memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary and other saints, the corresponding Preface (P56-57, 66-70) may be used in place of the weekday or seasonal Preface in the Sacramentary.

Official Colors in Advent

The official color for the season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between the season and the specifically penitential season of Lent, the bluer violet is used during Advent. *Remember that blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States.* In the Catholic Church, on the third Sunday of Advent, rose color vestments may be worn.

Perhaps you could do a Christmas Proclamation, known as the "**The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ.**" It can be found at www.USCCB.org/Liturgy under documents, then Christmas Proclamation. This is sung or said after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Midnight Mass with the Gloria and Opening Prayer immediately following the proclamation.

Blessing Prayer of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a popular symbol in church for Advent. Each Sunday the candles of the wreath are lit. The book of Blessings 1519 says that after the Gospel reading the celebrant explains the meaning of Advent. The Creed and general intercessions follow and at the end of the intercessions the prayer of blessing is said. One of the intercessions could be "That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. We pray to the Lord."



Advent Wreath Blessing #1519

With hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing:

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

The first candle is then lighted.

Christmas Tree Blessing #1587

Holy Lord,
We come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son,
who rescued us from the darkness of sin
by making the cross a tree of life and light.

May this tree, arrayed in splendor,
remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice
in the new life that shines in our hearts.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Use of Instruments

The use of the organ and other musical instruments and the decorating of the altar with flowers should be done in a moderate manner, as is consistent with the character of the season, without anticipating the full joy of Christmas.

REMEMBER THAT THE GLORIA IS NOT SUNG OR SAID ON SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT.

Advent/Reconciliation Service

Scheduling a time in the parish for a Rite of Reconciliation service is recommended during the Advent season. It is a time for the people of God to prepare for the solemnity of the Nativity. If you do a penance service, remind your priests that this is not a time for Spiritual Direction.

Notable Days in the Season

December 2	First Sunday of Advent
December 6	Thursday - St. Nicholas Day
December 8	Saturday - The Immaculate Conception, a Holy Day of Obligation
December 9	Second Sunday of Advent
December 12	Wednesday - Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 13	Thursday - St. Lucy's Day
December 14	Friday - St. John the Cross
December 16	Third Sunday of Advent
December 17-24	O Antiphons
December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25	Tuesday - Christmas Day
December 26	Wednesday - St. Stephen's Day
December 27	Thursday - St. John the Apostle
December 28	Friday - Holy Innocents
December 30	Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family
January 1	Tuesday - Mary the Mother of God a Holy Day of Obligation
January 6	Sunday - Epiphany
January 13	Sunday - Baptism of the Lord



ADVENT QUIZ

1. What are the six seasons which make up the liturgical year?
2. What does the word Advent mean?
3. How many weeks are there in Advent?
4. What are the “comings” of Christ we celebrate during Advent?
5. What liturgical colors are used during the Advent season?
6. What are some symbols used during the Advent season?
7. What are some of the major themes of Advent?



Answers: 1. Advent, Christmas, Lent, Triduum, Easter and Ordinary Time.
2. Coming or arrival. 3. Four. 4. Christ's birth and the events surrounding His coming into the world as Man, Christ's Second Coming at the end of time.
5. Violet and Rose. 6. Wreath, light, Jesse Tree, etc. 7. Joyful expectation, preparation and hope.



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 2007

My Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Our retired religious priests, sisters, and brothers have dedicated their lives to ministry, following the call of Our Lord. Their commitment is continuously carried out lovingly and unselfishly. These religious men and women only wish to serve others, never thinking about pleading for themselves.

In that regard I would like to speak for them now. Your generosity of past years in responding to the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection has exceeded all expectations. Even with this generosity, the annual cost of elder care continues to escalate. With the majority of their number past their sixth decade, and their projected unfunded retirement in the billions, these stewards of faith need our support.

Religious institutes continue to be challenged to meet escalating health care costs of medicine, therapy and skilled nursing care. With the wage earning capacity waning and fewer vocations to take the place of wage earners, the situation is critical. Many religious institutes have divested themselves of property and spent down the resources they had. The Annual Retirement Fund for Religious contributes mightily to the challenges faced by these institutes of men and women religious.

Thank you for contributing generously when the Annual Retirement Fund for Religious is taken up in your parish the weekend of December 15 & 16. May Almighty God bless and reward you for your generous response to this appeal.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice in Florida