



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

November 30, 2007

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Chancellor

The Diocese of Venice has enlisted Advantage Biometric Group (ABG) as our new provider of fingerprinting (criminal background screening) and data management services. The new fingerprinting process is totally electronic and our past procedures are terminated effective immediately, and no blue, green cards or re-screening forms will be accepted. ABG has provided us with a designated web-based application and registration system which allows Diocesan personnel, volunteers and contractor/vendors a means to process finger-based criminal history background screenings. The fingerprints are submitted electronically to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the results available within 24-48 hours. Details of this process will be outlined in a communication sent through the Diocese on Monday, Dec 3, 2007, the actual effective date of this new fingerprinting process. This information will also be available on the Diocesan website under the Legal Department.

Stewardship and Development Office

Regional Parish Planning Dates for the Catholic Faith Appeal - Pastors, Administrators, CFA Chairpersons and Lay Presenters: please fax or email the names and addresses of those attending and the location where they will attend to: Fax: 941-484-5523 or email: shafer@dioceseofvenice.org

Lay Presenters from 7 pm until 7:30 pm

Pastors, administrators and chair-people for the CFA - 7:30 pm until 8:15

Monday, December 3, 2007

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish, 6600 Pennsylvania Ave., Sarasota
Conference Room (located in Pastoral Office Building)

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Resurrection Parish, 8051 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers
Parish Hall Conference Room

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, 2760 52nd Terrace SW, Naples
Parish Center

Monday, December 10, 2007

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 1441 Spear Street, Port Charlotte
Parish Center

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, 425 S. Tamiami Trail, Osprey
Rooms 4 & 6

Wednesday, December 13, 2007 (change of date from original)

St. Catherine Parish, Sebring

Please RSVP to Mary Campo 941-441-1117.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services

We'd like to remind you of the JustFaith national workshop on Saturday, Dec 1 at Epiphany Cathedral Parish from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come listen to JustFaith author Jack Jezreel. Registration is still open, so please call this office or go to [JUSTFAITH WORKSHOP](#).

JustFaith Graduates – Don't forget the gathering Saturday, December 1, 6:30 - 8:30 PM at St. Columbkille Parish.

Peace and Justice Office

LEAVEN XIV Conference - Sister Maureen Kelleher, R.S.H.M., long-time attorney for the Florida Immigration Advocacy Center and immigration consultant with Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice will conduct two faith and action dialogues at the 2008 LEAVEN Conference, the annual diocesan-wide Catholic social teaching event, at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte on Saturday, March 15. She will discuss issues related to immigration since 9/11 and the Catholic perspective on immigration reform. The bishops of Florida recently issued a document dispelling some of the myths about immigration. If you want a copy please contact the Peace and Justice Office, 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

Farmworker Justice – The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has organized a peaceful march and rally at Burger King corporate offices for November 30 and December 1 to seek increased wages and better working conditions for tomato pickers. Parishioners from Epiphany Cathedral Parish and others throughout the diocese will participate. Regrettably, the farmworkers need more support than ever in their campaign because some of the tomato growers and Burger King are trying to derail this effort and the previous agreements with Yum Brands, and McDonald's Corporation. For more information contact the Peace and Justice Office, 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

Respect Life

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. Please see the bulletin announcements below for the Mass of Remembrance closest to your parish.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be celebrating TV Mass on Christmas Day, Tuesday December 25. On this holiest of days, please make sure homebound parishioners are included in the celebration. The Mass will be televised at **9 am on both WWSB – TV 7 (ABC)** for Sarasota, Manatee, Desoto, Highlands and Charlotte counties, and **WFTX-TV 4 (FOX)** for Collier, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, Glades and Sarasota Counties. WWSB is carried on Comcast, Verizon and Bright House cable Channel 7, and WFTX-TV is carried on Comcast and Time Warner cable channel 4. Following the Mass we will be airing a special holiday program so be sure to tune in. **BULLETIN EDITORS:** *We would appreciate distribution of attached flyer on the TV Christmas Mass, thank you.*

Advent Wreath Prayers - During the Advent season The Florida Catholic newspaper will be posting a PDF download of the Advent Wreath Prayers on its [website www.thefloridacatholic.org](http://www.thefloridacatholic.org) and you can access the prayers by clicking on the button “Advent Wreath Prayer.” Prayers will be posted every Friday in December.

Office of Religious

BULLETIN EDITORS: *Please post these notices in your upcoming bulletins to ensure a successful appeal for the religious in our Diocese*

Week of December 2

Retirement Fund for Religious: The second collection next week benefits elderly women and men religious. More than 19,000 religious have less than 20 percent of the amount needed for projected costs of living and health care. To learn more, visit www.retiredreligious.org.

Week of December 9

The Catholic Church assists the financial need of elderly religious through the national appeal for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Today, 5,452 women and men religious need skilled nursing care that costs an average of \$49,850 each. Please be generous. Learn more about this appeal at www.retiredreligious.org.

Respect Life

Catholic Days at the Capital - Interested in seeing your Florida Legislature in action and visiting your state legislators in Tallahassee? Consider joining others from throughout the diocese for a three-day trip to participate in the annual Catholic Days at the Capitol March 11-13. A highlight of the trip is the annual Red Mass with the Florida Bishops and members of all three branches of the Florida government. For information and reservations, contact Jeanne Berdeaux, (941) 441-1101, Venice.

40 Days for Life - Many thanks to more than 1,300 people (including 80 clergy) who participated in the 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil in front of Planned Parenthood in Sarasota from September 26 to November 4. Participants represented over 80 churches and organizations throughout the area. Many others prayed and fasted at home. To stay informed of future activities, register at www.SWFLforLife.org.

The Collier County Coalition for Life presents “*Making Abortion Unthinkable*,” a DVD presentation, on Saturday, January 12, from 10AM to 4PM at St. William Ministry Center, 750 Seagate Drive, Naples. For information, call Dolores at 239-566-8779 by January 7. Come and learn how to articulate the pro-life position.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a *Bioethics Seminar* on Saturday, March 29, at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish Center, Ft. Myers. Guest speakers will be John Haas and Father Tad Pacholczyk of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. Call Joanne at 239-574-0397 for registration brochure.

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.

Did You Know? The Florida Catholic Conference website has the video “Talking About the Death Penalty” available for viewing in the parish or on one’s home computer. The video is available in both English and Spanish and can be accessed by scrolling down to Death Penalty Video in 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.

10th Annual Prayer Walk for Life - AT LEAST 44 BABIES ARE ABORTED EVERY WEEK IN SARASOTA COUNTY: 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. 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 at St. Martha’s until 5 PM. 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.

Masses of Remembrance

St. Joseph Parish, Bradenton, has designated the 11 a.m. Mass Friday, Dec. 28, for the Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass of Remembrance to honor all children born and unborn who left this world too soon. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for your child and add your child’s name in the “Book of the Innocents.” Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

Epiphany Cathedral Parish in Venice will honor all children born and unborn who left this world too soon at a special 10 a.m. Mass Friday, Dec. 28, for the Feast of the Holy Innocents: Mass of Remembrance. Anyone who has experienced the death of a child is invited to attend. There will be an opportunity to light a candle for your child and add your child's name in the “Book of the Innocents.” A reception will be held in the parish hall following the Mass.

Stem Cell Research – Do you know the facts concerning the stem cell research debate? What’s wrong with embryonic stem cell research? Why has only adult stem cell research been successful? The Florida Catholic Conference has re-released its educational program “Supporting Ethical Stem Cell Research.” Click on <http://www.flacathconf.org/AdvocacyAreas/Health/StemCellResearchEthics/index.htm> to view this multimedia program.

Peace and Justice Office

Water Conservation – In this time of very low rainfall amounts in Florida, it is well to remember the words of the U.S. Catholic Bishops in *Renewing the Earth*. “We in the developed world . . . are obligated to address our own wasteful and destructive use of resources as a matter of top priority.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Christmas Concert—The St. Jude Parish Choir is performing for an evening of Christmas music in both English and Spanish on Friday, Dec 21 at 7 pm at St. Jude parish in Sarasota. The evening will include other holiday festivities and tickets are \$10. For more information call 955-3934.

Verot Family Christmas – The families of Bishop Verot High School are inviting everyone to come share the Christmas spirit on Dec 1 with Mass and festivities. Mass will be celebrated at 6 pm and the festivities, which include a Christmas tree lighting, carol singing, holiday treats, a silent auction and more will be from 7 – 9 pm. For more information call 239-274-6780.

The Success of Our Citizenship Program – Sacred Heart Parish in Bradenton will be recognizing volunteers and students of its Citizenship Program on Friday, December 7 at 4 pm. For more information call 941-714-7829

Save the Date – “Building Bridges Brown Bag Lunch Series” sponsored by the Blessed Edmund Rice School for Pastoral Ministry Alumni Association will feature keynote speaker Father Paul Philibert, O.P., S.T.D., author of *Priesthood of the Faithful: Key to a Living Church and Stewards of God’s Mysteries: Priestly Spirituality in a Changing Church*. Father Philibert’s presentation is “Building Bridges” in Parish Life and Liturgy: On Living the Paschal Mystery. The brown bag lunch series is scheduled as follows:

On **Saturday, April 5, 2008** in the Clausen Family Center Seminar Room at St. John the Evangelist parish in Naples. Then on **Saturday, April 12, 2008** in the parish hall at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Venice. Both sessions are the same and they start at 9:30 am with coffee and end at approximately 2:30 pm. There will be plenty of time for discussion, and please bring your own lunch.

Parish Concert - International Catholic Recording Artists, Kurt and Julie Carrick will join parishioners at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs on Sunday, December 16th at 1pm to celebrate both Advent and our Blessed Mother. Admission is free, but a Free Will offering will be taken. For more information visit www.carrickministries.com.

Trip to Quebec City! - June 15-22, 2008 for the ***International Eucharistic Congress***. Package includes airfare, hotel accommodation, registration, and more. (Pope Benedict XVI is expected to attend) Please contact Fr. Dennis Cooney, (239) 369-1831 for more.



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. The pastoral bulletin is available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm

Christmas Mass on Television



Celebrated by
BISHOP FRANK J. DEWANE
DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

WWSB - TV 7 (ABC)

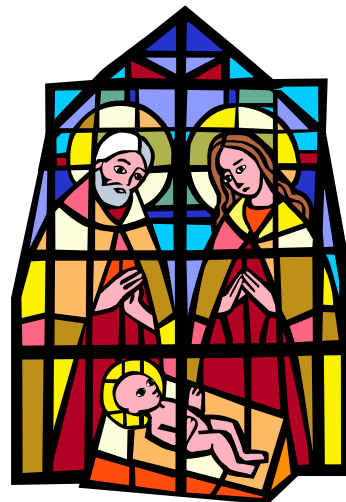
9:00 a.m.

Comcast, Verizon and Bright House cable channel 7
(Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, Desoto,
Highlands, Charlotte)

WFTX - TV 4 (FOX)

9:00 a.m.

Comcast and Time Warner cable channel 4
(Collier, Hendry, Lee, Charlotte, Glades, Sarasota)



*Stay tuned following Mass for a special holiday program
brought to you by the Diocese of Venice.*