



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

December 14, 2007

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Bishop Frank J. Dewane announces the following clergy appointment:

REVEREND MARC PIERRE LUSSIER, M.S.A. is to be appointed Temporary Parochial Vicar at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Moore Haven, Florida, and St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, effective January 1, 2008, and at the same time, relieved of his appointment as Temporary Administrator of St. James Parish, Lake Placid, Florida.

Office of the Chancellor

Please be advised that effective immediately, the Diocese is enhancing its security Policy to assist with Detering Theft and Vandalism. The policy has been sent to all diocesan entities with an attached form to be completed. Please share this policy with parish staff. For questions please call the Chancellor's Office. Thank you.

Communications Department

The movie *The Golden Compass* is playing in theatres in this area. Television trailers of this film can make it seem like a C.S. Lewis or J.R.R. Tolkien children's story containing some noble Christian morals. However, it must be noted that the author of the story, Philip Pullman, is a self-proclaimed atheist who has stated his view that Christianity is, "a very powerful and convincing mistake." He adds that his goal is to, "undermine the basis of Christian belief", and that, "my books are about killing God...I am all for the death of God." It is encouraged, especially for parents, that you review this information before going or taking your children to see the film.

Christmas Day TV Mass – Please remember to announce that Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be celebrating TV Mass on Christmas Day, Tuesday December 25. Our homebound parishioners should be 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:** *An informational flyer is available on the diocesan website calendar at www.dioceseofvenice.org.*

Mustard Seed – Please be aware that there is no Mustard Seed published during Christmas Week, so the next issue will be distributed January 11. Because of this we are now including additional dated bulletin announcements.

Peace and Justice Office

World Day of Peace, January 1, 2008. Since 1968, the first day of the year has been celebrated by Catholics as *World Day of Peace*. In this year's message from the Holy See, Pope Benedict XVI will focus on the one human family conceived by God as a community of peace. The Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has prepared a bulletin insert for parishes on its web site, explaining the history of this event at www.usccb.org.

National Migration Week, January 6-12, 2008. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration has provided a wide variety of resources for parishes and schools on its web site (www.usccb.org/mrs). Among the materials to help parishioners welcome the immigrant are a poster, prayer card, bulletin insert and an activities calendar. For further information, contact the Peace and Justice Office peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543.

Respect Life

The January 2008 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/WOL_2008_Jan.pdf. WOL also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOL_2008_Jan-SP.pdf. Special *Preaching for Life* and *Intercessions for Life* sections are available for the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade. **Bulletin Editors:** An informational flier on the 10th Annual Prayer Walk for Life to be held January 18, 2008 at St. Martha's Parish in Sarasota is available for download on the diocesan website calendar. http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/pdf/files/pdf_respectlife/prayerwalk2008flier.pdf. A black-and-white PDF of the flier suitable for insertion in parish bulletins can be obtained by emailing Kopko@dioceseofvenice.org.

Worship & Ministries

Remember that the Advent Season begins with the First Sunday of Advent and ends Monday morning the 24th. Some parishes already put out their Christmas wreaths, Christmas messages and other Christmas things outside their Church on the First week of Advent. Let us remember to stay true to our churches liturgical seasons and not celebrate like the secular society around us. The Christmas Season begins December 24 and ends on The Baptism of the Lord this year on January 13th.

Anniversary Mass - February 9, 2008 Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate the Annual Wedding Anniversary Mass at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice at 1:00 p.m. for couples celebrating 25, 50, and 50 plus years of marriage. Please FAX reservations to Louise at the Family Life Office (941) 484-1121 on a timely basis and use a new sheet for each transmittal.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Dept

2008 Election Dates and Voter Registration Deadlines – The Florida Catholic Conference is reminding everyone that in order to vote in Florida, a citizen who is 18 years of age or older must be registered with their county supervisor of elections at least 29 days prior to the election in which he or she wishes to vote. Registration deadline is **December 31, 2007** for the Presidential Preference Primary which is scheduled **January 29, 2008**. Early voting starts January 14, so contact your county supervisor of elections. If you are not registered, visit www.flacathconf.org and click on "Register to Vote." Also review *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* while on the FCC website.

Catholic Charities

Show of Shows benefits Sugar Bowl Fund - The Knights of Columbus and Catholic Charities present the Sugar Bowl Show of Shows at the Venice Community Center on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 7 p.m. in Venice. The performance will star the John Salerno Big Band and his "American Songbook", with guest vocalist Debbie Keeton. Also featured will be the Todd Charles Comedy Spectacular. All proceeds from the event will support the Sugar Bowl Fund, a Catholic Charities and Knights of Columbus program that helps needy families in crisis. Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be the guest of honor. Come enjoy a night of comedy, magic, musical standards, dancing, and a Christmas sing-a-long. For ticket information call Catholic Charities at 379-9111.

Catholic Charities Ball offers an Evening in Italy - Experience an elegant Italian Carnevale atmosphere with unique entertainment, ambiance and richness in cuisine at the Catholic Charities Ball, An Enchanted Evening in Italy. This black tie event will be held Thursday, January 24, 2008 at the Ritz Carlton Ballroom in Sarasota. Proceeds from the Catholic Charities Ball will fund the agency's programs in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Join Bishop Frank Dewane, the guest of honor, for an exquisite evening while supporting a worthy cause that helps the most needy in our community. For ticket information, please call Catholic Charities at 488-5581.

Save the Date for the Venetian Charity Ball - The 9th Annual Venetian Charity Ball will be held Saturday, February 9, 2008 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa. Save the date for this black tie event that supports Catholic Charities of Lee County. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. For tickets or more information, please call 239-334-4007.

Boots and Bandannas – Also save the date for the Sixth Annual Boots and Bandannas dinner and dance fundraiser for Catholic Charities of DeSoto County, Saturday, March 8th at the Mission Valley Country Club in Nokomis. The event includes a silent auction, dinner and dancing. Bulletin Editors: a flyer is available on the DOV website calendar at www.dioceseofvenice.org calendar.

Respect Life

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 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' 15-minute DVD *A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death* stands as a call for the nation to abandon the use of the death penalty and move one step closer to building a culture of life. You can purchase a copy for \$9.95 from USCCB Publishing at <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=626>. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-441-1112.

Feast of the Holy Innocents Masses:

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 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.

St. Martha Parish in Sarasota will honor all children born and unborn who left this world at a special 9 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 add your child's name in the "Book of the Innocents."

Weekend of Dec. 22-23, 2007

Pray For Mothers Tempted By Abortion: The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the 10th Annual Prayer Walk for Life on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 in Sarasota. Mass times are 8:30 AM, noon (Latin) and 5:30 PM at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Shuttle bus service will be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood. The Prayer Walk will conclude at 5 PM. Those unable to walk are encouraged to pray in the church. Join us for an hour or the entire day. Additional details can be found on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/prayerwalk2008flier.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Weekend of Dec. 29-30, 2007

Show Your Support For The Sanctity Of Life: 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). Prayers will continue through the day 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. More details are on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/prayerwalk2008flier.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Weekend of Jan. 5-6, 2008

At Least 2000 Babies Are Aborted Every Year In Sarasota County: The Diocese of Venice and St. Martha Parish will co-sponsor the 10th Annual Prayer Walk for Life on Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 in Sarasota. Mass times are 8:30 AM, noon (Latin) and 5:30 PM at St. Martha Church (Orange Avenue at Fruitville Road). Shuttle bus service will

be provided from St. Martha's to Planned Parenthood. The Prayer Walk will conclude at 5 PM. Those unable to walk are encouraged to pray in the church. Join us for an hour or the entire day. Additional details can be found on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/prayerwalk2008flier.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Weekend of Jan. 12-13, 2008

Pray For An End To Abortion: 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). Prayers will continue through the day 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. Those unable to walk are invited to pray in the church. Additional details can be found on the Prayer Walk flier at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/prayerwalk2008flier.pdf>. Questions? Contact the Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

NORTHERN DEANERY

The monthly *Gabriel Project Hour of Prayer for Life* will be Wednesday, January 2, 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.

"*Stem Cell Research: Fact or Fiction?*" will be presented by Dr. Daniel J. Pepin on Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the St. Leo Catholic Church Activities Building, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs. Dr. Pepin is a consultant on bioethics, a professor of anatomy and physiology and an instructor of human biology. Using a medical-scientific approach, this informative program explores embryonic and adult stem cell research, including the most recent studies. For further information, contact Kate Cogan at 239-495-3003.

Worship & Ministries

For Northern Deanery:

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, February 2, 2008, at St. Patrick Parish, Sarasota, to give engaged couples the opportunity to dialogue honestly about aspects of their future life together within the Sacrament of Marriage. Registration is \$65 per couple and it includes 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, February 23, 2008 at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Myers, to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Registration is \$65 per couple, and it includes a continental breakfast and lunch. This fee is non-refundable. For reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

A Diocesan Music Workshop open to all musicians in the diocese will be held January 22-23, 2008, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center. A Registration Form is available on our web site (www.dioceseofvenice.org) Worship & Ministries/Office of Worship/Links. The deadline for registration is January 7, 2008. For additional information, contact Louise Tokarski, Diocese of Venice at 941-486-4725.

Peace and Justice Office

LEAVEN XIV Conference, March 15, 2008. - 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 conference is the annual diocesan-wide Catholic social teaching event, and it is being held at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte on Saturday, March 15. Sister Kelleher 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 myths about immigration, and Bishop Dewane distributed it to diocesan clergy. If you would like a copy contact the Peace and Justice Office, 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Christmas Concert—The St. Jude Parish Choir and Church musical bands are performing for an evening of Christmas music in both English and Spanish on Friday, Dec 21 at 7 pm at St. Jude parish, 3930 17th St. in Sarasota. The evening will include other holiday festivities, including a reception following the concert. Proceeds benefit the rectory building fund. Tickets for the concert are \$10, and they are available before and after Masses, or at the parish office. For more information call St. Jude Catholic Church 941-955-3934

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.

Benefit Concert for the Rebuilding of Sacred Heart – Father Jerry joins Starr Parodi, Louis Price of the Temptations and other performers to help raise money to rebuild the Church in Punta Gorda. Three concerts are planned; Jan 11, 12 and 13 at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center in Punta Gorda. For tickets and more information on the lineup contact Sacred Heart (941)639-3957 or www.sacredheartfl.org.

OTHER EVENTS

4th Annual Canonical Retreat for 12-step Clergy will be held in Atlanta, May 2008. The retreat is to be held at Ignatius House, the Jesuit Retreat Center for Atlanta, from Monday through Friday, May 19 through May 23, 2008. For more information contact Father Stewart Wilber the Retreat Coordinator by phone at 770-712-1692 or e-mail him at s.wilber@mindspring.com.



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



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 10, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last year more than 40,000 people in our diocese received help from Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice through 31 various program sites. Every day Catholic Charities assists people who are facing problems they cannot solve alone. They need your generosity and support.

Jesus taught us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, etc. Catholic Charities nourishes the poor through its own food pantries and vouchers at local grocery stores. It offers certificates for clothes and shoes to vulnerable individuals and families, and provides services at Bethesda House in Sarasota, and Joseph's Place in Venice to people with special needs.

Catholic Charities welcomes all who seek help, regardless of race, religion or national origin. Your donation to its Christmas Appeal will enable Catholic Charities to provide services in keep with the teaching of Jesus Christ.

Please help Catholic Charities by contributing to its sixth annual Christmas Appeal, which will go to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

May God continue to bless you in this Holy Christmas season.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice in Florida