



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

January 11, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Bishop Frank J. Dewane announces the following appointment:
Dr. JAMES FETTERMAN is appointed the Scouting Coordinator
for the Diocese of Venice

Office of the Chancellor

Reminder - the Diocese is enhancing its security policy to help deter theft and vandalism. The policy has been sent to all diocesan entities with an attached form to be completed and submitted to diocesan insurance department by January 15, 2008. Please share this policy with parish staff, and for questions please call the Chancellor's Office. Thank you to all of you who have already provided this information.

Communications Department

2008 Election Guide – a copy of the 2008 Election and Political Activities Guide issued by the Florida Catholic Conference will be mailed directly to all parishes. This is to ensure that every priest on official assignment receives this information. If you do not receive a copy of the guide, please request one at newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org.

Safe Environment Awareness Schedule – Please see the attached schedule for upcoming training Safe Environment training sessions.

Office of Stewardship and Development

We are finishing the **Catholic Faith Appeal** for 2007. Congratulations to all of you for your hard work and thanks for your strong efforts. The 2008 CFA will be kicking off in most parishes on January 26-27. Letters from the Bishop will be mailed around January 21, so in your comments on the CFA on January 26-27, you should mention that people will be receiving their letters from the Bishop, and encourage them to respond generously to help the parish and support the work of the Diocese. Ask them to take the time to read the booklet to familiarize them with everything that is accomplished because of their gift. If for some reason you are planning a later kick-off and you would like us to delay the mailing of your first letter, please call Deborah Shafer at 941-486-4719. It is important to have three consecutive weeks to run a strong campaign, so plan ahead.

Please call Mary Campo, 941-441-1117, if you have questions or need assistance in planning your campaign.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services

CCHD/CRS 2008 Diocesan Grant Applications are due postmarked by February 2, 2008. Applications have been sent to all parishes and missions, and are available through the CCHD and CRS Office. Please call 941-484-9543 or email, kirley@diocesofvenice.org

January is Poverty in America Awareness Month – A new Catholic Campaign for Human Development campaign called "Children in Poverty" focuses attention on the nearly 13 million American children living below the poverty line and the constant struggle faced by American families who are trying to survive. Educational Resources for adults and students are available at: <http://www.usccb.org/cchd/index.shtml> and www.povertyusa.org

Operation Rice Bowl (ORB), Catholic Relief Services Lenten solidarity program begins Ash Wednesday, February 6, 2008. In mid December, the **Operation Rice Bowl Community and Parish Guide** was mailed to parishes and schools. This guide is designed to assist in planning for integrating ORB into the life of your faith community. Guide resources include: a timeline for organizing Operation Rice Bowl, Bulletin Announcements/Inserts, Prayer Intentions, a Prayer Service, Homily Notes, and Activity suggestions for Liturgy and School and Religious Education Programs. Online resources in English and Spanish are available at: <http://orb.crs.org>

Bulletin Editors: ORB Parish Bulletin Insert and Bulletin Announcements are available respectively at: http://orb.crs.org/assets/parishes/bulletin_insert.pdf and <http://orb.crs.org/assets/parishes/bulletin-announcements.pdf>

Education Department

Catholic Schools Week - Our schools will be celebrating "Catholic Schools Light the Way" during Catholic Schools Week January 27th through February 2nd. Each school will be celebrating in a variety of different ways including special liturgies, prayer services, open houses, ice cream socials, awards ceremonies, potluck lunches, vocation and career days, parent appreciation and community service projects. Contact your local school directly for a schedule of events.

Peace and Justice Office

Environmental Justice - The Florida Pesticide Review Council will meet January 15 to decide whether to approve the use of methyl iodide as a fumigant. Fifty-four scientists stated in a letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency their concerns about the risks of methyl iodide to farmworkers and people living in rural communities, especially to pregnant women, fetuses, young children and the elderly. Methyl iodide exposure puts people at risk for cancer, thyroid problems, and birth defects. Contamination of drinking water supplies would likely result in the communities near the fields sprayed with methyl iodide. For further information, contact the Farmworker Association of Florida, 407-886-5151.

Respect Life

A Day of Prayer and Penance for Life – All dioceses of the United States please mark Jan. 22 as a day of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through

acts of abortion, and of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. (See General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 373)

All priests are invited to concelebrate Mass and join Bishop Dewane for any of the three prayer vigils for an end to abortion at nearby abortion sites:

Friday, Jan. 18 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Martha/Sarasota

Saturday, January 26 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Charles Borromeo/Port Charlotte

Thursday, February 21 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Cecilia/Ft. Myers

The Mass should be celebrated with violet vestments as an appropriate liturgical observance for this day.

Many churches set aside **January 20 as Sanctity of Human Life** Sunday (Sunday closest to January 22). As you prepare your homily for that weekend, please consider that this is a time when women and men often seek reconciliation for their abortion experiences. They often do not forgive themselves. Project Rachel is available in the Diocese of Venice through the toll free number 877-908-1212 to guide individuals through the healing process.

Presidential Preference Primary Election, Tuesday, January 29

Considerations before heading to the polls

For ourselves, as well as for the good of all in society, it is necessary that we take the time to evaluate candidates and their platforms with a properly formed conscience before entering the voting booth. A conscience developed by Gospel values and Church teachings enables us to make the best choice on Election Day.

As Catholics, we are not single-issue voters and at the same time we recognize that all issues do not carry the same moral weight. Church social teaching urges us to protect the interests of the common good and to defend human life and dignity above all else. A well-formed conscience does not allow us to vote for candidates based solely on their political party affiliation. Our decisions should take into account candidates' positions on issues as well as their integrity, character and past performance.

For resources intended to assist Catholic faithful with properly forming their consciences before casting their votes, visit www.flacathconf.org.

The February 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_Feb.pdf. WOL also features Intercessions for Life and Bulletin Briefs. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOL_2008_Feb-SP.pdf.

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. Click on the date: www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar.cfm or 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 Department

For All Parish Secretaries - 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. Please fax reservations to Louise/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)

The *Liturgical Newsletter* for the Lenten Season can be found on our Web site at www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Communications Department

March for Life - Bishop Dewane will be leading the closing prayer at the annual March for Life Rally on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, January 22, at approximately 1:00 p.m., marking the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to legalize abortion with Roe vs. Wade. It is estimated 100,000 to 150,000 people will attend the rally which will be broadcast on the EWTN television network beginning at 11:00 a.m. and repeated at 10:00 p.m., January 23 at 9:00 a.m. and Saturday, January 26, at 1:00 p.m. The rally is expected to last approximately one hour and will be followed by the march to Capitol Hill. Bishop Dewane also plans to concelebrate the Vigil Mass for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m. The Mass will also be televised live. (See www.marchforlife.org/event/2008%20March%20for%20Life.pdf for details.)

Holocaust Boxcar Display – A boxcar used to transport the doomed to concentration camps during the Holocaust in Europe will soon be on display in Naples. Bishop Frank Dewane is scheduled to speak at the exhibit inaugural at the Naples Depot Museum, 1051 Fifth Avenue South, Naples, on Sunday, Jan 27 at 4 pm. For more information contact the Holocaust Museum of Southwest Florida at 239-263-9200.

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. 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.

2008 elections and registration deadlines:

Primary Election - August 26, 2008

Registration Deadline - July 28, 2008

General Election - November 4, 2008

Registration Deadline - October 6, 2008

ACTION ALERT: Let Your Voice Be Heard

Join the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC) Advocacy Network

Collaborate with Catholics throughout Florida to help encourage lawmakers to defend all human life and promote the dignity of the most vulnerable in our society. Speak out on behalf of the poor, the disabled, the sick or dying, the unborn, the elderly, families and children, farm-workers, immigrants, the imprisoned, and others in need. By raising our voices together, we strengthen the presence of the Catholic faithful in the political arena.

The FCC Advocacy Network informs you of current legislative issues that relate to areas of Church teaching and provides an easily accessible channel of communication to assist you in sharing your concerns with your elected officials. Sign-up by visiting www.flacathconf.org and

clicking on Join FCC Advocacy. There is no cost to participate. For questions or additional information, please contact the Florida Catholic Conference Associate for Communications at (850) 205-6817.

Worship and Ministries

Bishop's Anniversary Mass for Married Couples will be celebrated on Saturday, February 9, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice for all couples married 25, 50 and over 50 years. Because of space limitations only the couples celebrating their anniversaries will attend the Mass, but family and friends may join in the celebration at the reception following Mass in the Epiphany Parish Hall at 2:30 p.m. Couples should contact their parish office to register for the Anniversary Mass. Deadline is February 5th.

A Diocesan Music Workshop, open to all musicians/choir/cantors in the diocese, will be held on 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. For additional information and reservations, contact Louise Tokarski, Diocese of Venice/Catholic Center, 941-486-4725.

Catholic Charities

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.

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 and join guest of honor, Bishop Frank Dewane, in support of Catholic Charities of Lee County. Sponsorships and volunteer opportunities are available. For tickets or more information, please call 239-334-4007.

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

Office of Vocations

Think God may be calling you to the priesthood? Do you want to talk about it over prayer and later pizza? Please join Bishop Frank J. Dewane for both.

Where: St. Leo Church, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs

When: 5:00 – 7:00 pm, **Thursday, January 17, 2007.** 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!

Peace and Justice Office

The Human Family, A Community of Peace - In Pope Benedict XVI's recent World Day of Peace message, he referred to the human community and the environment: "The family needs a home, a fit environment in which to develop its proper relationships. *For the human family, this home is the earth*, the environment that God the Creator has given us to inhabit with creativity and responsibility. We need to care for the environment: it has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion." For a copy of the complete message, contact the Peace and Justice Office at peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543.

JustMatters Environmental Educational Opportunity - Epiphany Cathedral will offer a new 8-week program developed by JustFaith, *God's Creation Cries for Justice – Climate Change: Impact and Response*, beginning January 14, 2008 at 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Cathedral Soy Building in Venice. The sessions will cover: Catholic theology on the environment, reflections on our responsibility for God's creation and how climate change impacts the poor. The general format is a combination of prayer, readings, videos, guest speaker, dialogue, and an actual experience. For more information or to register, contact Darrell Reyka (941-266-7482) or Joan Lilly (941-441-6960).

Leaven XIV Conference Registration Form Available - The March 15, 2008 conference, "Let Me Be the Face of Christ," registration form will be available in mid-January at the Diocese of Venice web site, dioceseofvenice.org. Go to the 'Calendar' and click on the month 'March' and again at the Leaven Conference March 15 entry to access the downloadable form. You can also request a registration form from the Peace and Justice Office at peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543.

Respect Life Department

Bishop Frank J. Dewane will lead three **Prayer Vigils** commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court abortion decisions that legalized abortion at every stage of pregnancy. Priests, deacons, religious and lay people are invited to participate:

Fri, Jan. 18 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Martha/Sarasota and Prayer Walk around Planned Parenthood abortion site (Prayer Walk continues until 5 p.m.)

For details, see www.dioceseofvenice.org. Please join us in prayer.

Sat, Jan. 26 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Charles Borromeo/Port Charlotte and nearby abortion site.

Thurs, Feb. 21 – 8:30 a.m. Mass – St. Cecilia/Fort Myers and Fort Myers abortion site.

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 an informative bulletin insert on the death penalty entitled "Death Penalty Facts and Catholic Church Teaching." This bulletin insert can be accessed and printed 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

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.

Worship & Ministries

“To Trust Again” - Challenges in a second marriage can be difficult. “To Trust Again” helps couples prepare for remarriage. The program will be held Jan 26 from 9am – 5 pm at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in Sarasota. The fee is \$65, and call Betty K at (941) 484-9543 for more info.

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Programs 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.

NORTHERN DEANERY Feb 2, 2008 St Patrick Parish, Sarasota
CENTRAL AND NORTHERN DEANERIES: Feb 23, 2008 St. Vincent DePaul Parish,
Fort Myers
IN SPANISH Mar 1, 2008 St. Jude Parish, Sarasota

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Conference on Saturday, Feb 23, 2008 at St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Fort Myers. The program helps en-

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

St. Martha Catholic Church in Sarasota would like to invite you, in recognition of Christian Unity Week, to a multi-cultural Unity Mass on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. Father Callist Nyambo of All Saints Church in Clearwater will be the presider at this celebration which includes a gospel choir and a reception to follow in the Church Hall.

St. Thomas More will be presenting **The Life of St. Catherine of Siena** on February 15, 2008 at 7:00 PM. Catherine will be portrayed by Sister Nancy Murray, a Dominican nun, *and sister of Bill Murray, the famous comedian and movie star*. Tickets are \$10 and available for purchase in the Church Office or by phone reservations 941-925-9470.

Our Mother’s House in Venice is the recipient of a Build-A-Bear Workshop Foundation Grant. On Tuesday, January 15, 2008, each Our Mother’s House child will participate in a Build-A-Bear Party at Sarasota Square Mall from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Each child will pick out, stuff and dress their own bear.

World Youth Day in Australia – July 2008

Diocesan package includes: 4 star hotel accommodation in downtown Sydney, airfare, meals, and registration. Approximate cost: \$3,600 Contact: Devin Jones, djones@dioceseofvenice.org

OTHER EVENTS

Trip to Quebec City, June 15 – 22, 2008

Intl. Eucharistic Congress. Package to include airfare, hotel accommodation, registration, and more...Pope Benedict XVI is expected to attend. Please contact Fr. Dennis Cooney at (239) 369-1831.

Retired Priests' Retreat will be held Monday, Feb 11 through Thursday, Feb 14, 2008. The retreat will be facilitated by Fr. Paul Borowski, C.Ss.R. A Redemptorist priest originally from Baltimore, Fr. Paul is currently the Director of College Formation at St. Alphonsus Formation Residence in Whitestone, NY. COST: \$325 - includes private room, conferences and all meals. Please return registration form and **non-refundable \$50 deposit** no later than February 1, 2008. Bulletin Editors: Flyer available on diocesan website.

4th Annual 12-Step Clergy Retreat will be held at Ignatius House (the Jesuit Retreat Center for Atlanta), May 19 through May 23, 2008. Additional information about the Retreat, including Director, format, venue, registration, and cost, is available on a flyer on the diocesan website.



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



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

January 11, 2008

My Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ:

Pope Benedict XVI writes in his first encyclical, *God Is Love (Deus Caritas Est)*, “Love is the light – and in the end, the only light – that can always illuminate a world grown dim and give us the courage needed to keep living and working” (no. 39).

With a love that brings radiant light, Catholics in the United States help to build and support parishes in many distant places through the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Your generous donations support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, schools, church construction and renovation, and the spreading of the Gospel message through the mass media.

Your compassionate concern for the Universal Church brings Christ’s light to people and places once covered by a pall of darkness.

Spread the radiant light of love by generously supporting this Collection.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of Venice in Florida

Regional Safe Environment Training

The following parishes will hold regional Safe Environment Awareness training sessions. **All** diocesan employees...clergy, religious, laity..and those volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults, **MUST BE TRAINED** in safe environment awareness issues. If you have not attended an awareness training, you should attend one of these sessions, as your relationship with the diocese is predicated by this training. Please contact the parish secretary at the location you wish to attend with your name and telephone number at least two weeks prior to the training. Please share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Date/Time	Northern	Central	Eastern	Southern
March 6 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm				St. Agnes Naples
March 8 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am				St. Agnes Naples
March 6 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm		Blessed Pope John XXIII Fort Myers		
March 8 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am		Blessed Pope John XXIII Fort Myers		
March 13 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm		Sacred Heart Punta Gorda		
March 15 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am		Sacred Heart Punta Gorda		
March 27 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm	St. Patrick Sarasota			
March 29 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am	St. Patrick Sarasota			
April 10 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs - Sarasota			
April 12 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am	Our Lady Queen of Martyrs - Sarasota			
April 10 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Venice			
April 12 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am	Our Lady of Lourdes Venice			
April 10 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm			St. Catherine Sebring	
April 12 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am			St. Catherine Sebring	
April 10 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm				St. Peter the Apostle Naples
April 12 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am				St. Peter the Apostle Naples
April 24 th - Thursday 6pm to 8pm		St. Francis Xavier Fort Myers		
April 26 th - Saturday 9:30am to 11:30am		St. Francis Xavier Fort Myers		

These are the only regional trainings that will be held in the spring. The next trainings will be scheduled in the Fall. Awareness trainings in Spanish will be announced.