



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



# The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

January 25, 2008

## DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Office of the Bishop**

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI has generously granted a *plenary indulgence to the faithful on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the apparition of our Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette Soubirous*. This is special for the Diocese of Venice because we have a parish named Our Lady of Lourdes. The specific conditions of this indulgence are listed in the attached general remarks on indulgences.

*As a reminder*, all Pastors and Administrators should have received my letter pertaining to the recruitment of new members to the Diocesan Insurance Committee. Recommendations should be submitted to the Chancellor's office no later than January 31, 2008. (Please see the attached letter and recommendation form for specific details.)

### **Office of the Chancellor**

**Chrism Mass** - Please hold the date for the Chrism Mass which will take place on Tuesday, March 18, 2008, at 10:30 a.m. at Epiphany Cathedral. If there are any priests in your parish observing 25 or 50 years of priesthood, please contact Carol Compton at 941-441-1128.

### **Office of Stewardship and Development**

**CFA materials** - Posters, the CFA video and other materials are being sent to parishes. Please check materials to make sure that you have received everything you have requested. Bishop Dewane's letter, a brochure, pledge card and return envelope are being mailed directly to your parishioners. They should all receive these packages before Commitment Sunday, February 9 and 10th. If you need assistance, please call the Development Office at 941-486-4719.

### **Education Department**

**To all parish priests** - The Diocesan Education Department would like to invite you and your associate (s) to come, as our guest, to the annual Education Conference on Monday, March 10, 7:45 a.m.-3:15 p.m. at Bishop Nevins Academy in Sarasota. The day will begin with a continental breakfast. Brother Robert Bimonte, FSC, Executive Director of the Elementary Dept. of the National Catholic Educational Association will be the keynote speaker. Please call Betty Halpern, 941-484-9543x3038, at the Diocesan Education Department to place your reservation.

### **Catholic Charities**

**Job Openings** - Diocese of Venice, Inc. has job openings for District Director in Lee County and in Sarasota/Manatee Counties. The positions require the candidate to lead a staff of 20 staff in enhancing current programs and developing new services. As a member of the management team, the director will work on Diocese-wide initiatives. An advanced degree in social work or a related human services, 5 years or more administrative, supervisory and program development experience, fund-raising and grant management skills are required. The positions offer competitive salary and excellent benefits. Catholic Charities is an equal opportunity employer. Send resume by email to: [suarez@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:suarez@dioceseofvenice.org) or fax to: 941-486--4758 or mail to: Catholic Charities, P.O. Box 2116, Venice, FL 34284-2116.

## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)**

### **Communications Department**

**2008 Primary Vote** – the Florida Bishops are asking the Catholic faithful to review the statement from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops prior to entering the voting booth for the January 29, 2008 Presidential Primary. Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Bishops of the United States.

**Long-Sleeve Relief Drive 2008 - The Florida Catholic** newspaper will begin its third-annual Long-Sleeve Relief Drive (LSR), Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6 through Holy Thursday, March 20 to collect long-sleeve- cotton shirts for farmworkers who harvest the fruits and vegetables we eat. Long-sleeve shirts protect the workers from pesticides, insects and sun exposure. Parishes, religious education classes, schools and individuals are encouraged to participate in the drive. The shirts are distributed through Catholic collection agencies throughout Florida. For more information on the drive, please visit the Florida Catholic Web site at [www.thefloridacatholic.org](http://www.thefloridacatholic.org) or e-mail Mary St. Pierre at [mstpi-erre@thefloridacatholic.org](mailto:mstpi-erre@thefloridacatholic.org).

### **Catholic Charities**

**Venetian Ball** - Bishop Dewane will be the honoree at the ninth annual Venetian Charity Ball which benefits Catholic Charities of Lee County. The ball will be held Saturday, February 9 at the Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa at 6 p.m. The event will feature a cocktail hour, silent and live auctions, dinner and dancing to the music of Alter Ego. Tickets are \$150. Catholic Charities programs help many needy families in the Diocese. Sponsorships for the 2008 Venetian Charity Ball are available, so call Caroline at 239-849-3841. For reservations or information call Catholic Charities of Lee County at 239-337-4193.

**Volunteer Tutors Needed** - The new Catholic Charities Refugee Youth Program in Collier County needs tutors to help elementary to high school age refugee students with homework. Bi-lingual tutors are helpful. For more information, call Sharon Kirkpatrick at Catholic Charities of Collier County at 239-455-2655.

### **Peace and Justice Office**

**LEAVEN Conference Registration Flyers Available** - Sister Helen Prejean, renowned advocate for the abolition of the death penalty, will deliver the keynote address at the 14th annual peace and justice conference in the Diocese of Venice on March 15 at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte. You can choose three break-out workshops dealing with a variety of local, national and international social justice issues. There will be three workshops conducted in Spanish. Fr. Celestino Gutierrez, Luz Corcuera, and Martha Hill will facilitate a workshop on One Body: Sameness and Diversity, once in Spanish and once in English. To download a registration form or to learn more about the conference, go to [www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar). Then go to March, 2008 and click on March 15, LEAVEN Conference. You will find the link to the flyer at the end of the event description. You can also request a registration flyer from the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543.

### **Respect Life**

**Prayer Vigil** - Bishop Dewane will be leading a Prayer Vigil for Life marking the 35th anniversary of the Supreme Court abortion decisions that legalized abortion at every stage of pregnancy. Priests, deacons, religious and lay people are all invited to participate. On Thurs. Feb. 21, the bishop will celebrate 8:30 AM. Mass at St. Cecilia Church in Fort Myers. Mass will be followed by the rosary at the abortion center at 3900 Broadway Ave. in Fort Myers. Those who choose to remain in church for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the vigil may do so. Closing Benediction for all will be at approximately 11:30 AM. Mark your calendar and tell your friends! More details to come.

***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](mailto:project.rachel@dioceseofvenice.org).

***Did You Know?*** In their bulletin insert Death Penalty Facts and Catholic Church Teaching, the Florida Catholic Conference states: "To the extent that there is any correlation between imposition of the death penalty and violent crime, the incidence of violent crime and murder of law enforcement officers is greater in states with the death penalty." The entire bulletin insert may be found online at: <http://www.flacathconf.org/AdvocacyAreas/RespectLife/DeathPenalty/DeathPenaltyFactsTeaching9-13-07.pdf>. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 1-941-484-9543.

#### NORTHERN DEANERY

The monthly ***Gabriel Project Hour of Prayer for Life*** is scheduled Wednesday, February 6, 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.

#### SOUTHERN DEANERY

***Stem Cell Research: Fact or Fiction?*** San Marco Church on Marco Island will present this cutting edge program by Dr. Dan Pepin on Thursday, February 28 at 9:15 am, repeated at 7:00 pm. Dr. Pepin is the Consultant on Bioethics for the Diocese of Venice and a professor of Anatomy and Human Biology. Embryonic stem cell research is one of the most controversial issues today. Learn the medical-scientific facts in an understandable manner. For more information contact Mary Ann Hansen, 239-394-3393.

#### **Peace and Justice Office**

***Living Non-Violent*** - Russell Banner, Coordinator of Pax Christi Manasota Chapter and Peace and Justice Committee at St. Joseph Parish in Bradenton will facilitate two workshops on living non-violently at the ***LEAVEN XIV Conference***, "Let Me Be the Face of Christ," at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte on Saturday, March 15, 2008. Registration forms are available on the diocesan web site ([dioceseofvenice.org](http://dioceseofvenice.org)) at the 'Calendar' March 15 event listing, at parish offices, and at the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice FL 34285, 941-484-9543, [peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org).

#### **Vocations Office**

***College Seminary Discernment Weekend***, March 7-9, 2008 - 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. Please RSVP to the Diocese of Venice Vocations Office, 941-484-9543 by February 29, 2008. For transportation please call.

#### **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. Priests from parishes of the anniversary celebrants are encouraged to attend. Couples should contact their parish office to register for the Anniversary Mass. Deadline is February 5th.

**Calling All Eagle Scouts** - Eagle Scouts are invited to the 2008 Eagle Gathering & Lunch at 11 am on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers. Come celebrate the 2007 Eagle Scouts and connect with other Eagle Scouts in Southwest Florida. For reservations call Margie Byers at 239-936-8072 or e-mail her at [mbyers@bsamail.org](mailto:mbyers@bsamail.org).

## OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

**Army Chorus Concert in Osprey** - The U.S. Army Chorus from Washington, DC will present a concert of classical, patriotic and familiar songs at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Osprey on Monday, January 28th at 7 PM. The men of this chorus are selected from among the nation's finest musicians. No tickets are needed for this wonderful concert, but a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Catholic Faith Appeal.

**World Youth Day in Australia, July 2008** – The Diocesan package includes: 4 star hotel accommodation in downtown Sydney, airfare, meals, and registration. Approximate cost: \$3,600 Contact: Devin Jones, [djones@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:djones@dioceseofvenice.org).

**International Eucharistic Congress** – A trip to Quebec City for the International Eucharistic Congress is scheduled June 15 – 22, 2008. Package includes airfare, hotel, registration, and more. Pope Benedict XVI is expected to attend. For more information contact Fr. Dennis Cooney at (239) 369-1831.



*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](mailto:newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org)**  
(no later than seven days prior to publication date.)

The pastoral bulletin is available at  
[www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm)

## Plenary Indulgence on the 150th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes

On the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of the Apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Grotto of Massabielle near Lourdes, a daily Plenary Indulgence is granted to the Christian faithful who, from 8 December 2007 until 8 December 2008, devoutly and in accordance with the established conditions, visit the Grotto of Massabielle, as well as those who, from 2-11 February 2008, visit a blessed image of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes solemnly displayed for public veneration in any church, oratory, grotto or suitable place.

### General Remarks on Indulgences

1. This is how an indulgence is defined in the *Code of Canon Law* (can. 992) and in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (n. 1471): "An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints".

2. In general, the gaining of indulgences requires certain prescribed *conditions* (below, nn. 3, 4), and the performance of certain prescribed *works* (nn. 8, 9, 10 indicate those specific to the Holy Year).

3. To gain indulgences, whether plenary or partial, it is necessary that the faithful be in the *state of grace* at least at the time the indulgenced work is completed.

4. A *plenary indulgence* can be gained only *once a day*. In order to obtain it, the faithful must, in addition to being in the state of grace:

- Pave the interior disposition of *complete detachment from sin, even venial sin*;
- *Have sacramentally confessed* their sins;
- *Receive the Holy Eucharist*;
- *Pray for the intentions of the Supreme Pontiff*.

5. It is appropriate, but not necessary, that the sacramental Confession and especially Holy Communion and the prayer for the Pope's intentions take place on the same day that the indulgenced work is performed; but it is sufficient that these sacred rites and prayers be carried out within several days (about 20) before or after the indulgenced act. Prayer for the Pope's intentions is left to the choice of the faithful, but an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" are suggested. One sacramental Confession suffices for several plenary indulgences, but a separate Holy Communion and a separate prayer for the Holy Father's intentions are required for each plenary indulgence.

6. For the sake of those legitimately impeded, *confessors* can commute both the work prescribed and the conditions required (except, obviously, detachment from even venial sin).

7. Indulgences *can* always be applied either to oneself or to the souls of the deceased, but they cannot be applied to other persons living on earth

**In order to allow the fruits of renewed holiness to grow from this blessed commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the apparition of our Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette Soubirous, Pope Benedict XVI has generously decreed that the gift of a Plenary Indulgence be granted according to the following conditions:**

A) If, during the year running from 8 December 2007 until the end of 8 December 2008, they devoutly visit the following places, preferably in this order - 1) the parish baptismal font used for the Baptism of Bernadette; 2) the house of the Soubirous family called the "cachot"; 3) the Grotto of Massabielle; 4) the chapel of the hospice where Bernadette made her First Communion - and pause to reflect for an appropriate length of time at each of these Jubilee sites, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, some legitimate form of the Profession of Faith, and the Jubilee prayer or some other Marian invocation.

B) If, from the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord on 2 February 2008 until the end of the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes on 11 February 2008, which is also the 150th Anniversary of the Apparition, they devoutly visit a blessed image of the Holy Virgin Mary of Lourdes in any church, chapel, grotto or other suitable place in which it is solemnly displayed, and in the presence of that image perform some pious act of Marian devotion, or at least pause to reflect for an appropriate length of time, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, some legitimate form of the Profession of Faith, and the Jubilee prayer or some other Marian invocation.

C) The elderly, sick, and all those unable to leave home for a just cause, if they consciously reject all sin and have the intention to fulfill the above-mentioned conditions as soon as possible, are likewise able to obtain - at home or wherever they may be - a Plenary Indulgence, if, between the days of 2 and 11 February 2008, they complete a "spiritual visit" (to the aforementioned places) in the desire of their heart, recite the prayers indicated above, and trustingly offer the pains and discomforts of their own lives to God through Mary.