



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

February 8, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Chancellor's Office

A *calendar listing* has recently appeared in the community pages of local media advertising a "CATHOLIC MASS." This listing refers to "Mary Mother of Jesus Catholic Community House Church"—no such worship site exists within the Diocese, nor is it recognized by the Diocese of Venice. Further, the individual identifying herself as an ordained "R.C. female priest" is not a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. Please inform the faithful that for all information on Churches of the Diocese of Venice visit www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Public Speakers and Temporary Faculties Requests: Updated forms can now be located on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofvenice.org under Diocese/ Policies/Personnel Screening Policies/Forms. As a reminder, please make sure that forms are received in this office **at least one month** prior to the event. Guest speakers/performers/actors should not be invited to speak until they have been approved by the Diocese. Please be sure that all sections have been completed clearly with as much information as possible, including telephone and fax numbers. Forms should be faxed to this office at 941-488-2561.

Scam Alert: Please be aware that an individual claiming to be one of the Diocesan priests has been calling different parishes requesting money and credit card information. He claims the money is needed for the funeral of a parent. If you receive any such phone calls, please inform this office as soon as possible.

Communications Department

Papal Mass Tickets: The Diocese could be receiving a limited number of tickets to the Papal Mass in Washington D.C. on April 17 and New York City on April 20, 2008. Diocesan staff or parishioners interested in tickets, please contact Deborah Visner in the Communications Office at (941) 486-4714. If tickets are available, they will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. (Note: The deadline for ticket requests is February 14, 2008 for the New York City Mass.)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development/Catholic Relief Services

The Catholic Relief Services Collection, scheduled for March 1-2, supports emergency relief, human development and peace initiatives in 99 countries. This collection helps fund the work of: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), Justice, Peace, and Human Development (formerly , The Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church (SCDC) and The Holy Father's Relief Fund. Additional information regarding this collection and the agencies it supports can be found at www.usccb.org/crscollection. Prayer Cards, Bulletin Inserts, Clip Art, Pulpit Announcements and other parish resources in English and Spanish can be found at: <http://www.usccb.org/crscollection/resources.shtml>

Education Department

All parish and school religion teachers are encouraged to hear Mr. Jack Conroy speak on Thursday, February 28, at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte. The topic is *Interfaith Relations – What do we have in common?*. Gathering is at 9:30 a.m. with the keynote speech beginning at 10:00 a.m. Contact Betty

Halpern in the Education Department to register at (941) 484-9543x3038 or email at halpern@dioceseofvenice.org. There is no fee for the day which includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Safe Environment Training

Please see the upcoming safe environment training **schedule attachment**. New, updated materials will be available in the beginning of March.

Respect Life Department

Bulletin Editors: An informational flier on the Prayer Vigil for Life to be held February 21, 2008 at St. Cecilia Parish in Fort Myers is available for download on the diocesan website calendar. Click on the date: www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar.cfm or http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/pdffiles/pdf_respectlife/prayervigil08.pdf.

The March 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_March08.pdf. WOL also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOL_March08-SP.pdf.

The Respect Life Department, in collaboration with Laity for Life, announces a special prayer initiative for 2008, a Novena of Masses for Life. The Novena begins with the celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on Monday, March 31 at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. All priests are invited to concelebrate the Mass. Please contact the Respect Life Department with the names of any priests who would like to be our guest at the luncheon. Then, on the 25th of each month from April through November, Masses at selected parishes in each deanery have been scheduled for the intention of "a greater respect for all human life." The complete list of scheduled Masses is available at: www.respectlife.org.

Information Technology Department

The Diocese IT Department is pleased to pass on discount pricing for computers and laptops to our parishes, schools, missions, and other diocesan entities. IT has negotiated excellent prices for desktops (around \$800 including flat-screen monitor) and laptops (around \$1,200.00). These are commercial strength DELL computers, supplied with a 3-yr warranty, and do not include application software (MS Office, etc.). The actual cost of the equipment may vary depending on individual requirements (memory, hard disk, etc.), but does reflect a 40+% savings.

To take advantage of these discounts, orders must be placed through the Diocese; the equipment will be delivered directly to you and you will be invoiced by the Diocese. For more information or to place an order, contact Judy Piper at (941) 484-9543 ext. 3032.

Internal Finance Services

As a reminder, please note: the updated Policy & Procedures Manual has now separated Bequests into account # 4515 from Gifts & Donations which are recorded in account 4080. This moves Bequests into the non-assessable category.

New Accounts:

Acct# 6130 Equipment Repair & Maintenance

Acct# 6150 Janitorial/Cleaning (note: remove the word cleaning from the 6110 account title and cleaning supplies from the Description; acct 6110 should read: Building Repairs & Maintenance).

Acct#6380 Other Taxes

SCHOOLS/TEACHERS – New IRS Section 409A Requirement:

Relates to: school districts that choose to offer their employees an election between being paid over the school year and being paid over a 12-month period. The IRS requires the employee to:

- ✦ Give a written (or electronic) election to the employer that notifies the employer that the employee wants to spread out the compensation.
 - ✦ The election must be made before the beginning of the work period (for example, before the first day of the school year for which the teacher is paid).
 - ✦ The election must be irrevocable, so that it can't be changed after the work period begins.
 - ✦ The election must state how the compensation is going to be paid if the election is made (for example, ratably over the 12 months starting with the beginning of the school year).
- No particular form is necessary for the election and it does not have to be filed with the IRS.

Please refer to IRS Bulletin: 2007-46 and Frequently Asked Questions: Sec. 409A and Deferred Compensation. IRS website address is: www.irs.gov

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

Celebrate World Marriage Day on February 10, 2008. A covenant between a man and a woman, marriage is a reflection of God's love for his people. For information and ideas on how to celebrate World Marriage Day in your community, visit: <http://wmd.wwme.org>. To access practical resources for couples on caring for or preparing for their marriage, including a marriage tip of the day, monthly marriage quiz and book review, and what the Church teaches about marriage, visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' site: <http://www.foryourmarriage.org>.

Catholic Charities

The 7th Annual Our Mother's House Wine Tasting and Dinner will be held Thursday, February 28 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. at the Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice. This signature fundraising event for Our Mother's House will feature Chinese, Silent and Live Auctions. Tickets are \$45 per person. Our Mother's House is committed to helping homeless mothers and their preschool children attain self-sufficiency. All funds raised at the event will be used to ensure that the mothers and children receive the programming and services they need. For tickets or sponsorship information, please call 941-485-6264 or email ourmothershouse@comast.net.

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.

Attention Amateur Radio Operators in Collier Count.: You can make a difference.

The Diocese (of Venice) Amateur Radio Network, (DARN), has a single mission, to provide emergency or back up communications for Catholic Charities' Disaster Response Teams. Licensed Amateur Radio Operators are needed to help with communications. For more details/information contact Bob Sullenberger at 941-497-5422 or email him at bob.sullenberger@verizon.net.

Respect Life Department

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! For additional information, please see the informational flier at

http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/pdf/files/pdf_respectlife/prayervigil08.pdf.

Faith-Based Bioethics: Catholic Tradition in Health Care CME Conference – Physicians, nurses, clergy, educators and anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic approach to ethical issues in health care are invited to a conference on Saturday, March 29, at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish Center, Ft. Myers. Guest speakers will be Father Tad Pacholczyk and Dr. John Haas of the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia (www.ncbcenter.org). To register contact Joanne Gorgone at (239) 574-0397.

Annunciation Mass & Luncheon with Bishop Dewane – You are invited to a special celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on Monday, March 31, at Epiphany Cathedral, Venice. Bishop Dewane will celebrate an 11:00 AM Mass and will be the guest speaker at a catered luncheon in the parish hall afterwards. These events launch the 2008 Novena of Masses for Life, a series of 8 monthly Masses scheduled around the Diocese from April 25 through November 25, marking the months of Jesus' development in the womb of Our Lady. Please join us to launch this beautiful season of liturgical meditations on Jesus in the Womb. Luncheon tickets are \$25 to be prepaid no later than March 24. Make checks payable to Laity for Life, Inc. and mail to P. O. Box 111478, Naples, FL 34108. Visit www.LaityforLife.org or call (239) 352-6333 for additional information. This event is sponsored by the Respect Life Department.

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? In their bulletin insert *Death Penalty Facts and Catholic Church Teaching*, the Florida Catholic Conference states: "The average murder rate is 5.3 in death penalty states and 2.8 in states without the death penalty (murder rate is murders per 100,000 population). As a region, the South accounts for more than 80% of the executions and has the highest murder rate." 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

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.

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

Worship & Ministries

NORTHERN DEANERY

The Northern Deanery of the Diocese of Venice is hosting a Gathering Day of Prayer for High School Students at Epiphany Cathedral on Palm Sunday, March 16, 2008. The afternoon will include time for prayer, socialization, Liturgy and Dinner & Evening Prayer on Venice Beach. Also, Youth Ministries are encouraged to collect and bring their money for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development Rice Bowl campaign. For more information, contact Nathan Boock at 426-4729.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Paul Todd Concerts coming up to benefit SOLVE Maternity Homes and the Gabriel Project. Todd is a critically acclaimed composer, singer, and keyboard artist. He will be performing a wide range of music from Paul Todd originals to traditional favorites. Concert dates are:

Sunday, February 10, 7PM – Our Lady of Lourdes/Venice – to benefit SOLVE Maternity Homes (see below for details and ticket information).

Monday, February 11, 7PM – St. Michael the Archangel/Siesta Key, Sarasota – to benefit Gabriel Project, a one-on-one mentoring program for pregnant women in the Sarasota area – a program of the Respect Life Department and the Sarasota parishes. Tickets can be purchased at St. Michael's parish office (349-4174) or by mail (call Kathy at 346-0229). Tickets will also be available at the door.

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 in our society today. But what is fact and what is fiction? Educating people that stem cell research can be pursued without destroying countless numbers of innocent human beings is of the utmost urgency. Learn the medical-scientific facts in an understandable manner. San Marco Parish Center, 851 San Marco Rd, Marco Island. Information: Mary Ann Hansen, 239-394-3393.

Trip to Quebec City, June 15 – 22, 2008 for 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.

St. Martha's Early Learning Center, a program of Catholic Charities, is having an Annual Fund Raising Event selling coupon books for the Sarasota / Bradenton and surrounding areas for 20.00. The coupons are good for restaurants, entertainment/recreation, and retail/services. Contact Elizabeth Williams, Vanessa Walters or Georgia de la Rosa at (941) 366 1395 or email your questions to the school at: stmarthas@verizon.net. If you would like to have a coupon book please send \$20.00 plus \$4.60 for priority mail, (add 1.00 for each additional book) for priority mail (a total of 24.60) to the school at the following address:

St. Martha's Early Learning Center
1658 4th Street
Sarasota, FL 34237



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.

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.