



The Diocese of Venice in Florida

The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

March 7, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communications Department

TV Easter Mass: Bishop Frank J. Dewane is celebrating Easter TV Mass. Please make sure all homebound and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are aware of the schedule. The Bishop's Mass will air from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. on WWSB, ABC 7 in Sarasota and from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. on WFTX Fox 4 in Cape Coral.

Easter Stories: The communications department is searching for interesting Easter stories for The Florida Catholic and the local press. Please let us know how your parish or school is marking Holy Week. You can e-mail us at agwhite@dioceseofvenice.org or reddy@dioceseofvenice.org.

Office of Stewardship and Development

CFA Reports: Reports are being posted on Fridays; however, it takes at least a week to upload donor information into our system, so reports will not be entirely accurate. Your patience is appreciated. Please remember that we are unable to accept the following:

- Cash, or checks payable to the parish, submitted without a CFA envelope filled out by the donor
- Envelopes created by the parish rather than the CFA envelopes provided by the Development Office

We will gladly accept checks payable to the CFA. If you need additional CFA envelopes please call us at 941-486-4719.

Respect Life

Word of Life: The April 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_April08.pdf. WOL also features Intercessions for Life and Bulletin Briefs. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/WOL_April08-SP.pdf.

Prayer Initiative: 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 priests who would like to be our guests at the luncheon. 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:

<http://www.dovrespectlife.org/2008NOVENAFORLIFESCHEDULE.pdf>

Worship & Ministries

Sacristan Workshop: Director of Worship for the Diocese of Venice, Fr. John Mark Klaus, TOR is offering a Sacristan Workshop on March 8 from 10 a.m. to noon at Our Lady of Light Parish in Fort Myers. The name of this free workshop is “*How, as a sacristan, can I prepare for the Triduum? What do I need to have ready?*” All parishes are invited to attend.

Music Directors and Choir Members: Support from all choir members will be appreciated at the Chrism Mass being held at Epiphany Cathedral, March 18 at 10:30 a.m. Two rehearsals will be held: the first on Thursday, March 13, at Our Lady of Lourdes at 6:30 pm and the second on Saturday, March 15 at Epiphany Cathedral at 10 a.m. On the day of the Chrism Mass, warm-up will be held at Epiphany Cathedral at 9:30 am. Please join us.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

TV Easter Mass: Bishop Frank J. Dewane is celebrating Easter TV Mass for the homebound, so please tune in if you cannot attend Mass in person. The Bishop’s Mass will air from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m. on WWSB, ABC 7 in Sarasota and from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. on WFTX Fox 4 in Cape Coral.

Respect Life Department

Calling All Doctors to the National Catholic Bioethics Conference: Bishop Frank J. Dewane is strongly encouraging all Catholic physicians in the Diocese of Venice to attend a one-day conference on bioethics on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish Center in Fort Myers. The symposium, entitled “*Faith Based Bioethics: Catholic Tradition in Healthcare*” will be presented by experts from the nationally renowned National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. Presenters include Dr. John Haas and Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D. Topics include stem cell research, cloning, artificial reproduction, brain death, and extraordinary versus ordinary means of treatment at the end of life. Whether the issue is embryonic stem cell research, human cloning, euthanasia or physician assisted suicide, Catholic physicians are called to enlighten the discussion with the clear instruction of the Catholic Church. This is the mission of the Catholic physician. The Catholic doctor must know not only the biology, but also the moral theology that governs the practice of medicine. This requires study and prayerful reflection. Bishop Dewane will attend the conference and speak to the physicians in attendance at an organizational meeting to discuss the future direction of the Catholic Physicians Guild. The sponsoring organization is Lee Memorial Health System. Six Hours of Category I CME are available. The admission fee is \$25. Reservations can be made with Joanne Gorgone at Lee Memorial Health System, Joanne.gorgone@leememorial.org, telephone 239-574-0397. Or contact Dr Steve Hannan, course director, at 239-849-6908.

Annunciation 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, so if you would like to attend please make your reservations. 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 cosponsored by the Respect Life Department (www.dovrespectlife.org).

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 U.S. Supreme Court ruled it is constitutional to execute an innocent person if constitutionally required procedures were followed (*Herrera v Collins*)." 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 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.

Office of Vocations

"Sisters: A Life of Love": This is a vocation retreat for Single, Catholic women from 18-35 years of age. *Do you wonder if you may be called to serve God as a Sister? If so, we invite you to our discernment retreat. It will be held at the Motherhouse and will give you an opportunity to pray and share with the Sisters of St. Joseph.* All meals and accommodations are included. When: April 25, 2008 (4:30pm) – April 26, 2008 (3pm). Where: Sisters of St. Joseph Convent, St. Augustine, Florida. Suggested donation: \$10.00 To register or obtain more information: Sr. Kathleen Power (904-610-9228) or Email: ssjflvocations@bellsouth.net.

Worship & Ministries

First Diocesan Red Mass to be Celebrated in Sarasota: Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be celebrating the first-ever in the Diocese of Venice 'Red Mass' for lawyers and judges of the 12th Judicial Circuit at St. Martha Parish on Friday, March 14, 2008 at 4:00p.m. The purpose of this Mass is to invoke the Holy Spirit to provide grace and guidance to those who work in our civil legal system. All attorneys and judges of Manatee, Sarasota, and DeSoto counties are invited to attend. For more information contact Evelyn L. Moya, Esquire at moyalex@comcast.net.

Feast of St. Joseph, La Festa di San Giuseppe: Reverend Jerome A. Carosella, Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Boca Grande will preside over the Eighth Annual Italian Mass for the Feast of St. Joseph on Saturday, March 15 at 12:30 pm at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. There will be the traditional blessing of the bread which will be distributed to the congregation at the end of Mass. Everyone is invited to attend this celebration honoring the foster father of Jesus and patron of the Universal Church.

Chrism Mass: Parishioners are invited to attend the Chrism Mass at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 18, at Epiphany Cathedral. The Chrism Mass is traditionally the occasion to celebrate the jubilees of the clergy. Diocesan and religious, active and retired priests, as well as visiting clerics will participate in this annual Holy Week event at which they will renew their priestly commitment. The faithful are encouraged to attend as a sign of their support for Bishop Frank J. Dewane and his priests.

NORTHERN DEANERY

Gathering Day of Prayer for High School Students: 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.

Retrouvaille helps improve troubled marriages: There is still hope. Retrouvaille is an international program to help overhaul marriages that are in danger of dissolving. It places strong emphasis on communication techniques needed to repair hurting marriages. These techniques include a concentrated weekend and six post-weekend Sunday afternoon sessions. The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held in Venice on March 28-30. Please call Steve and Linda Smith at (239) 395-0810 or (800) 470-2230. All inquiries are held in strict confidence. *Bulletin editors: please run this announcement as many times as possible prior to March 28.*

Couples planning marriage: The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, April 5 at St. Raphael Parish in Englewood to give engaged couples the opportunity to speak honestly about their future within the Sacrament of Marriage. The fee is \$65 per couple and this non-refundable fee covers breakfast, lunch and printed materials. For information please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

Marriage preparation in Spanish language: The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Class in Spanish on Saturday April 5 at St. Jude Parish in Sarasota. For information please call Frances at (941) 955-3934.

FOR CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DEANERIES

For couples planning marriage: The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Conference on Saturday, April 12 at St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Fort Myers to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. The fee is \$65 per couple and this

Non-refundable fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

Separated and Divorced Ministry Workshop: The Separated and Divorced Ministry is hosting a workshop April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Santa Maria Chapel at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. The program presenter will be Marianne Skrobiak, M.S., M.A., LPC a well-known author, retreat director, inspirational speaker and spiritual mentor. Come and find spiritual nourishment, understand that you belong and have a purpose, and reconnect with God, yourself and others. The fee is \$30 per person and will include a continental breakfast and lunch. For more information please call Louise or Betty K. in the Family Life Office at (941) 484-9543. *Bulletin Editors: Please repeat this bulletin until April 18th weekend*

Calling all Moms!- 3 M'S for 3 S's: (*Mothers Meeting Mothers for Spirituality, Sharing, Support*) Moms of all ages are invited to a workshop on Saturday, April 19, at San Antonio Parish, Port Charlotte, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mothers will gather together, connect, share, laugh, and pray as they support each other and grow into their whole selves. Fee will be \$25 (if paid by April 11th,) \$30 after April 11th. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. Baby sitting will be available for a nominal fee. For information and reservations please call Louise or Betty K. in the Family Life Office at (941) 484-9543.

Peace and Justice Office

Leaven XIV Conference Registration. The March 15, 2008 conference, “Let Me Be the Face of Christ,” registration form, including descriptions of the various workshops being offered on peace and justice issues, is available for download on the calendar date at the Diocese of Venice web site, www.dioceseofvenice.org. You may also register at the door on the day of the conference at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte. The fee is \$20 for the full program (8:00 AM – 2:10 PM), \$10 for Sr. Helen Prejean’s keynote address only (9:00 AM). There is a special \$10 student rate for the full day conference. For further information contact the Peace and Justice Office at peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

“WHY CATHOLIC” SEMINAR: Jim Burnham, a well-known Evangelist, is conducting a series of talks on “***Why Catholic***” at a seminar being held at San Antonio Church in Port Charlotte on Saturday, April 5 and hosted by the parish Council of Catholic Women. You will discover the biblical basis for your Catholic beliefs. Topics include “*How to Prove the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist,*” “*Are Jesus and Mary in Competition?*” and “*How to Keep Your Kids/Teens Catholic.*” The seminar is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the fee includes a box lunch. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door, and they can be purchased at Gospel Gifts and St. Rita’s Gifts in Port Charlotte, or at San Antonio’s Ministry Center. For more information: jenovak01@gmail.com or call 941-613-5909. Catechetical credits will be offered.

JustMatters Climate Change Program at St. Columbkille Parish: St. Columbkille parish in Fort Myers will offer the 8-week JustMatters module on Climate Change on Friday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 AM, beginning on April 4, 2008. JustMatters is sponsored by JustFaith. Those interested in attending may call the St. Columbkille Parish office at 239-489-3973.

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.



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