



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

March 20, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

In celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection, I wish to extend to all priests, religious sisters and brothers, parish and school staff, and all faithful in the Diocese of Venice a very Blessed and Happy Easter.

May the Spirit of the Risen Christ shelter you with the gifts of Love, the blessing of Hope and promise of Peace. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

† *Bishop Frank J. Dewane*

Communications Department

New Broadcast Time for Bishop's Easter Mass: There has been a change in broadcast time in Sarasota for the Easter TV Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane. Please make sure all homebound and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are informed that the Bishop's Mass will air a half hour later than first scheduled on ABC 7 in Sarasota. The new time is **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** on WWSB in Sarasota. The broadcast time for WFTX Fox 4 in Cape Coral remains the same, from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

Stewardship and Development

Defibrillators Available: Bishop Dewane has accepted a very generous offer from a donor to purchase defibrillators for all of the parishes and missions that do not have one. They will be arriving within the next two weeks. Once it is delivered to the parish, it should be hung according to the directions in a visible and easily accessible place, preferably in the church vestibule. It will come with a training DVD and all parish staff and key church ministers, such as ushers, sacristans, etc. should learn how to use it. It will only be useful if it is used correctly. Once you have received your defibrillator, mounted it, and held training sessions, please notify the Development Office at 941-486-4719. If you are unable to accomplish hanging it or training staff, please call so that we can arrange assistance.

Additional fundraisers such as raffles, auctions and galas may be allowed to assist a parish or mission meet their CFA goal, but must be pre-approved. Approval may be received by contacting the Development Office at least two months in advance of the fundraiser or event. A form will be provided to be filled out prior to the fundraiser and all materials (advertisements, tickets, etc) should clearly state that the fundraiser is for the benefit of the CFA.

Peace and Justice Office

Leaven XIV Conference: Nearly 500 individuals from throughout the Diocese of Venice and from other Dioceses of Florida recently heard Sister Helen Prejean speak at the 14th Annual Leaven Conference at San Antonio Parish in Port Charlotte. All records were broken for attendance at the Peace and Justice Mass celebrated by Bishop Dewane and ten priests. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.

Respect Life

Novena of Masses for Life Schedule: 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>.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please publish in your bulletins)*

Communications Department

Easter TV Mass: Bishop Frank J. Dewane is celebrating Easter TV Mass for the homebound, so please tune in if you cannot attend Mass in person. Please note that the broadcast time in Sarasota is half an hour later than first announced. The Bishop's Mass will air from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on WWSB, ABC 7 in Sarasota. The broadcast time for WFTX Fox 4 in Cape Coral remains the same, from 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.

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? In their bulletin insert Death Penalty Facts and Catholic Church Teaching, the Florida Catholic Conference states: "Life without parole is an effective and less expensive alternative to the death penalty. All death penalty states (other than New Mexico) offer life without parole as a possible sentence in capital cases." 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.

Now is the time to learn what you need to know about making moral medical decisions.

"Decisions for Living" will be presented by Mary Stegman, M.D. on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the St. Joseph Parish Center, 3100 26th St. W., Bradenton. Dr. Stegman is the End-of-Life Issues chairman for the Diocese of Venice Respect Life Department. With wisdom and wit, she will cover such topics as pain management, nutrition and hydration, living wills, health care surrogates, physician-assisted suicide, individual and family concerns. Anyone 18 and older is encouraged to attend. Bring your questions. For more information, call Rosemary Mascaro at 941-761-8480.

April Novena of Masses for Life: The Respect Life Department, in collaboration with Laity for Life, is pleased to announce the April schedule of the Novena of Masses for Life. On Friday, April 25th, the first month of Jesus' development in the womb of Our Lady will be celebrated with a special Mass at the following parishes: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in Parrish at 8:30 am; St. Maximilian Kolbe in Port Charlotte at 8:00 am; St. Peter the Apostle in Naples at 8:00 am; St. William in Naples at 12:00 noon; and St. Catherine in Sebring at 12:00 noon. Please join us at one of these parishes for our continuing meditation on the very beginnings of Our Lord's life - as an unborn child in the womb of His mother. The Masses will be offered for the special intention of "a greater respect for all human life." The complete list of scheduled Masses through November is available at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/2008NOVENAFORLIFESCHEDULE.pdf> or www.LaityforLife.org or call (239) 352-6333 for additional information.

Worship & Ministries Department

Praying & Living the Mass: Fr. Gerard Austin, O.P. will address in a free workshop "What does it mean to participate in the Eucharist?" on April 19 at 9:00 a.m. at Bishop Nevins Academy in Sarasota. This workshop is directed toward those who are active as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, Sacristans, or for anyone involved in Liturgical Ministry who wishes to learn more about the Eucharist.

Peace and Justice Office

Mental Health Services in Crisis: A crisis may be avoided in services to the mentally ill, especially children and youth, if you contact Governor Crist (850-488-7146), Senate President Ken Pruitt (850-487-5299), and House Speaker Marco Rubio (850-488-1450). Or, you can create an e-mail letter at the following: <http://www.5000friends.com/index.cfm/referer/legislator.createMail/ID/416/>. Urge that they enact the mental health parity bill introduced by Representative Ed Homan and Senator Victor Crist. The bill would help preserve and enhance services to the mentally ill in Florida. Our Lord calls on His followers to be concerned for the most vulnerable among us. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org

Office of Vocations

Ever thought of becoming a sister?

Day of Discernment: The Allegeny Franciscan Sisters are having a Day of Discernment for women who are considering religious life, and are between the ages of 19 – 45. It will take place April 11-13 at St. Clare Convent in Tampa. For more information or to register, contact Sr. Mary McNally, OSF at (813) 870 – 6314, FSAVOC@aol.com or www.AllegenyFranciscans.org.

Retreat: "Sisters: A Life of Love" a vocation Retreat for Single, Catholic women from 18-35 years of age is being held April 25 - April 26, 2008 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent in St. Augustine, Florida. Attendees will have an opportunity to pray and share with the Sisters of St. Joseph. All meals and accommodations are included. Suggested donation: \$10.00 To register call Sr. Kathleen Power (904-610-9228) or Email: ssjfvocations@bellsouth.net.



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