



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

April 18, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Bishop Frank J. Dewane announces the following:

Reverend Esteban Soy, retiring as Pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Moore Haven, effective April 30, 2008.

Reverend Edward Pick, retiring as Pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish, Longboat Key, effective May 1, 2008.

Communications Department

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month: Please join the Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in praying for a heightened awareness of needs of the children in our country and throughout the world during the month of April.

Mass for victims of child abuse: On April 25 at 1:00 p.m. at Epiphany Cathedral, Bishop Dewane will celebrate Mass for victims of child abuse. All priests in the Diocese of Venice are invited to participate.

Bulletin Editors: The USCCB has a number of resources available in English and Spanish including posters, prayer cards, brochures and a liturgy guide. Please contact the Communications Department of the Diocese of Venice if you would like to know more newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org.

Internal Financial Services

A **bookkeeping class** will be held on April 29th, 2008 at the Diocesan Catholic Center in Venice from 9 a.m. to approx 3:00 p.m. This class is designed to address proper bookkeeping and theory behind accounting practices as well as debits/credits, reconciling and other basic bookkeeping/accounting functions. (Please note, this is not a QuickBooks class, one will follow). Contact Debbie Hancock, if you have not already notified IFS of your interest in attending.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development and Catholic Relief Services

CRS Fair Trade offers Four Fair Trade Programs: Handcrafts, Coffee, Chocolate, and the Fair Trade Fund to expand CRS Fair Trade Initiatives. To learn more about CRS Fair Trade and to join the CRS Fair Trade Network - an on-line community of concerned Catholics, go to www.crsfairtrade.org and click on the Fair Trader sign up link.

CRS Days of Prayer and Action for Columbia are scheduled April 27-28. For additional information about CRS development and peace building work in Columbia and for prayer, educational and advocacy resources for the Days of Prayers go to:

<http://crs.org/public-policy/prayer-action.cfm>

USCCB/CCHD recently honored the **Coalition of Immokalee Workers** for its grassroots support of poor farmworkers with its Sr. Margaret Cafferty Development of People Award. This award was presented at the Catholic Social Ministry Gathering in Washington, DC. The award is presented annually by CCHD to a group or individual who exemplifies a commitment to the development of people and the elimination of poverty in America.

Regional Safe Environment Training

The following parishes will hold regional Safe Environment Awareness training sessions. All diocesan employees, clergy, religious, laity and volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults, **MUST BE TRAINED** in safe environment awareness issues. If you have not attended a session, please make arrangements to attend. Please contact the parish secretary at the location you wish to attend, and provide your name and telephone number at least two weeks prior to the training. Share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Date/Time

April 24th - Thursday
6pm to 8pm

Central Deanery

St. Francis Xavier
Fort Myers

April 26th - 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 training sessions will be scheduled in the Fall.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (PLEASE PUBLISH IN YOUR BULLETINGS)

Communications Department

Faith adds the Creator's edge to news – and that's a good thing. *The Florida Catholic* newspaper guarantees to balance your perspective. Your pastor supports this ministry and your subscription to the Florida Catholic will help. To renew or begin a subscription to *The Florida Catholic* and, in turn, support your parish, call toll-free 1-888-275-9953 or visit us at www.thefloridacatholic.org, and subscribe day or night (Visa and Mastercard accepted). Price: \$24 per year in Florida; \$46 for 2 years in Florida; \$30 out of state; \$95 per year foreign. **Your Faith. Your Life. Your Community.** Get in the Spirit of the News – Subscribe to the Florida Catholic.

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: "Although prosecutors routinely use 'an eye for an eye' and similar biblical texts in urging the death penalty, scripture scholars refute this interpretation." 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.

Office of Vocations

Do you wonder if you may be called to serve God as a Sister? If so, you are invited to the following discernment retreats.

"Sisters, A Life of Love" a vocation retreat for single, Catholic women from 18-35 years of age will be held at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent in St. Augustine on April 25 - April 26, 2008. The retreat will give you an opportunity to pray and share with the sisters. All meals and accommodations are included. Suggested donation is \$10.00 (Though don't let finances keep you away!) To register or obtain more information: Sr. Kathleen Power (904-610-9228) or Email: ssjflvocations@bellsouth.net.

"Veni Si Amas" a discernment retreat for single, Catholic women from 17-30 years of age who are discerning a call to religious life is being hosted by the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, May 19 – May 22, 2008 at St. Francis Convent, 1 Franciscan Way in Alton IL. Registration fee is \$20.00. To register or for more information contact: Sr. M. Beata Ziegler, FSGM (618-463-2757) or Email: vocations@altonfranciscans.org. Registrations forms can be found on their website: www.altonfranciscans.org (vocation page) – Please send by May 7, 2008.

Worship and Ministries

Diocesan Music Workshop: A diocesan music workshop open to all musicians in the Diocese will be held Saturday, April 26 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Columbkille Parish in Fort Myers. Registration fee is \$20 per person. Additional information and a registration form are posted online at www.dioceseofvenice.org (Offices & Ministries Worship Dept. Links) or by calling 941-486-4725. Clergy are also encouraged to attend.

Beyond Divorce: The Diocese of Venice is sponsoring "A Day of Healing: Beyond Divorce" on Saturday, April 26, at Epiphany Parish in Venice from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program will be presented in the Santa Maria Chapel by Marianne Skrobiak, M.S., M.A., LPC. This is a time to gather with others in a safe surrounding to take a look at How to establish healthy boundaries, How to trust again, forgiveness, letting go and moving on. Fee is \$30 per person which includes breakfast and lunch. For information and/or reservations please call Betty Karsokas at (941) 484-9543.

(NORTHERN DEANERY)

Couples planning marriage: The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, June 21 at our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Venice. The program gives engaged couples the opportunity to speak honestly about their future within the Sacrament of Marriage. The non-refundable registration fee is \$65 per couple which covers breakfast, lunch and printed materials. For information call Betty K at 941-484-9543.

Tridentine Mass Scheduled for Central Deanery –Father James Fryer will celebrate Tridentine Mass at Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, 8121 Cypress Lake Drive in Fort Myers starting Sunday, May 4 at 5:30 p.m. The Mass will be scheduled every first and third Sunday of the month at the same time. For more information call 239-481-7171.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Having served as co-chair of the Save Darfur Rally last year, Bishop Dewane would like to raise awareness about a concert to benefit the refugees of Darfur which will be held Sunday, May 4, at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 104 S. Pineapple Avenue in Sarasota. The Gulf Coast Community Choir Concert is sponsored by Humanity Working to End Genocide, a coalition of civic, religious, business and community organizations in Sarasota and Manatee Counties. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children under 16 years old. For information, please call Sue Morusiewicz at 941-922-1257.



The Mustard Seed is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice, published bi-weekly on Fridays by the Department of Communications. General news and events will be considered for publication.

[e-mail: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org)

The pastoral bulletin is available at
www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm