



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

October 3, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

World Mission Sunday: This special collection is to be taken up the weekend of October 18/19, so please be sure your bulletin editors have a copy. Also see attached letters. For more information about this important celebration of the universal Church, please visit the special World Mission Sunday web site: www.iamamissionary.org.

Reminder for priests: Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:
Priests' Convocation - December 1 - 4, 2008.

Communications Department

Election activity reminder:

Bulletin editors - please remember the following bulletin inserts.

- **Bishops' Election Year Statement - October 11 & 12.**
- **Bishops' Statement of support for Amendment 2 - Marriage Protection - October 18 – 19.**

If you use a bulletin company, please contact your representative to order the inserts. Both the Election Year statement and the Marriage statement can also be accessed in PDF form on the Florida Catholic Conference web site at: <http://www.flacathconf.org/Election2008.htm>.

Florida Catholic Collection: The special collection for our diocesan newspaper is scheduled for November 2, 2008. The Florida Catholic home office mailed informational packets to all parishes over the summer, so you should have information available. Please contact the Communications Department if you need the information.

Department of Education

Catechetical Day: Catechetical Day is scheduled Saturday, October 25, 2008 at St. Francis Xavier School, 2055 Heitman Street in Fort Myers from 8am-3pm. Keynote speaker is Dr. Carole Eipers, Vice President and Executive Director of Catechetics for William H. Sadlier, Inc. Dr. Eipers will speak on the topic *Word of God: Transforming Power of Catechesis*. There are breakout sessions in the morning and afternoon as well as publishers displaying their materials to purchase. All pastors, catechists, directors of religious education, school teachers and principals are invited to attend. Registration fee is \$30 per person which includes continental breakfast and lunch. Contact the Education Department at (941) 484-9543 to register.

Safe Environment Training: All diocesan employees—clergy, religious, laity must undergo Safe Environment Training. Volunteers who have routine contact with children or vulnerable adults are reminded that attendance of Safe Environment Training is required. 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.

Bulletin editors: Attached is the current schedule of upcoming training sessions, please post and share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Stewardship and Development

Stewardship Involves Planning, so please PLAN to attend the 2008 Annual Stewardship Day on October 21st Our Lady of Light Parish in Fort Myers, 9am-3pm. RSVP-ASAP so that we can PLAN the lunch. Call 941-486-4719. Excellent speakers and workshops have been planned! Bishop Dewane is planning to attend and Mass will be celebrated at noon. Stewardship is also about gratitude and we are grateful for your attendance!

Thinking about a Capital Campaign? Invite Mary Campo to your finance/pastoral council meeting to present a power point presentation to inform and prepare you for what is involved and to avoid costly mistakes.

CFA: If you are still under goal the time has come to formulate a strategy to bridge the gap. Please call Mary Campo to discuss ideas and options. 941-441-1117.

Respect Life

Novena Masses for Life: For those parishes participating in the October Novena of Masses for Life, here is a suggested "Prayer of the Faithful" for Saturday, October 25 (End of SEVENTH Month):
For all unborn babies at the end of the SEVENTH month of life in their mothers' wombs – now able to taste and yawn and recognize their mothers' voices – that Our Lord Jesus, Who also knew that seventh month in Our Lady's womb, will guide those who minister and teach in His name to risk every worldly opposition in defense of innocent human life ...
Let us pray to the Lord

Worship and Ministries

Liturgical Calendar Advisories: An insert of Liturgical Calendar advisories is available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/pdffiles/pdf_worship/liturgicalcaladvisories08.pdf.

As a reminder, **All Saints Day** falls on a Saturday and is **not** a Day of Obligation this year. Please read the insert about the rules pertaining to having funeral and wedding Masses on this day. Also read about the changes on how to do the Liturgy of the Hours for All Saints Day and All Souls Day. ***Even though All Souls Day falls on a Sunday this year, we do not say or sing the Gloria, but we do say the creed.***

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communications Department

Reminder: Monday, Oct. 6 is the deadline to register to vote. If you still have not registered the Florida Catholic Conference has an online registration form, visit <http://www.flacathconf.org/Resources/voterregwebform.pdf>.

The U.S. bishops remind us: "In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." As part of their Candidate Questionnaire Project, the Florida Catholic Conference, Florida Knights of Columbus, Florida Catholic Conference and Florida Catholic newspaper remind you to see how the candidates stand on issues by going to www.informedcatholicvoter.com.

Respect Life

Pray for an End to Abortion: Jesus said to the disciples shortly before He was put to death, "Could you not keep watch for one hour?" (Mark 14:37 & Matthew 26:40) Children are being put to death at Planned Parenthood every week. Over 67,000 preborn babies have been destroyed in Sarasota since 1973. There is no wake, no funeral. Someone needs to pray for them. Will you pray one hour outside Planned Parenthood in Sarasota during **40 Days for Life** which ends November 2? To sign up for an open hour, e-mail sarasota40df1@yahoo.com or call (941) 716-6510.

October Novena of Masses for Life - The Respect Life Department, in collaboration with Laity for Life, is pleased to announce the October schedule of the Novena of Masses for Life. On Saturday, October 25th, the seventh month of Jesus' development in the womb of Our Lady will be celebrated with a special Mass at the following parishes: **St. Michael the Archangel in Sarasota at 8:00 am; St. Raphael in Lehigh Acres at 8:00 am; St. Peter the Apostle in Naples at 8:00 am; and St. Paul in Arcadia at 4:00 pm.**

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.

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 a recent letter to Governor Crist imploring him to end executions, the Bishops of Florida stated: "Killing another human being perpetuates violence in our society. We must respect all life, even those who have done great wrong."

The entire letter may be found online at: <http://www.flacathconf.org/Publications/pressreleases/Prsrel08/Henyard9-17-2008.htm>. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

NORTHERN DEANERY

Death Penalty Presentation: Join us for an informative presentation entitled: "Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty" on Wednesday, October 15, 2008 at 7 p.m. in St. Michael the Archangel Parish Center, Sarasota. Marina Kopko, Assistant Director of the Diocese of Venice Respect Life Department, will share Catholic Church teaching on this issue. The parish center is located at 5394 Midnight Pass Road. For directions or additional information, contact Terry Buchnowski at 941-926-0018.

Peace and Justice Office

Farmworker Justice: At a recent meeting in Orlando of the Farmworker Justice Committee of the Florida Catholic Conference, the delegate from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers spoke of efforts to have the Subway Restaurant chain join Taco Bell, McDonald's and Burger King in bringing fair wages and better working conditions for tomato pickers in South Florida. Parishioners are invited to contact Subway officials (local or national) and urge them to enter into an agreement with CIW to help reduce poverty among the farmworkers. Contact Mr. Fred DeLuca, President, Subway Franchise Headquarters, 325 Bic Drive, Milford CT 06460. For more information, go to the CIW website (ciw-online.org).

Catholic Charities

Save the Dates!

Catholic Charities Ball: The 20th Anniversary Catholic Charities Ball will be held, Saturday, January 10, 2009 at the Ritz Carlton in Sarasota. Hosted by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, the gala will be themed "An Evening in Ireland." All proceeds will support services and programs for those in need in Sarasota

and Manatee counties. Join us for a festive evening amid the splendor and charm of Ireland. Volunteers are needed and sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please call Catholic Charities at 379-5119 or email cathcharsrq@comcast.net.

Our Mother's House Wine Tasting Event: The 8th Annual Our Mother's House Wine Tasting Event will be held Thursday, February 26, 2009 at the Plantation Golf and Country Club in Venice. The guest of honor will be Bishop Frank J. Dewane. All proceeds will ensure that the mothers and children will receive the programming and support services they need. Volunteers are needed and sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please call Our Mother's House at 941-485-6264 or email ourmothershouse@comcast.net.

Venetian Charity Ball: The 10th Annual Venetian Charity Ball will be held Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the Harborside Convention Center in Fort Myers. Hosted by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, the gala will benefit Catholic Charities of Lee County. Volunteers are needed and sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please call 239-337-4193 or email ecortes@ccslee.org.

Emerald Ball: The 24th Annual Emerald Ball will be held Saturday, March 14, 2009 at the Hilton in Naples. Hosted by Bishop Frank J. Dewane, the gala will benefit Catholic Charities of Collier County. Volunteers are needed and sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please call 239-455-2655 or email michelle@catholiccharitiescc.org.

Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance: The 7th Annual Boots and Bandannas Dinner Dance will be held Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Mission Valley Country Club in Venice. The guest of honor will be Bishop Frank J. Dewane. All proceeds will benefit Catholic Charities of DeSoto County. Volunteers are needed and sponsorship packages are available. For more information, please call 863-494-1068 or email diana_herbert@embarqmail.com.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Spirituality and Retreat Center

"Come to the Water" Monthly Days of Prayer:

Wed., Oct. 8, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Topics: "Prayer, Conversation with God" and "Ruth W. of Georgia"

Wed., Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Topics: "Ways of Loving" & "Teresa of Calcutta"

The Day of Prayer \$25 fee includes continental breakfast, lunch and 2 conferences. Facilitator is Fr. Freund, CSsR. Mass will follow the second conference. For information and reservations call 941-486 0233.

A **Couples' Retreat** is scheduled Nov. 7 – 9, 2008. It will be facilitated by Fr. Freund, CSsR. Registration fee is \$300 per couple. Please RSVP by 10/29/08 with \$50 deposit. For information call 941-486 0233.

Vocations

College Seminary Discernment Weekend: St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami is hosting a discernment weekend for young men, junior in high school and older, 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. All meals and accommodations are included. When: November 7-9, 2008. RSVP: The Diocese of Venice Vocations Office for registration and transportation information, 941-484-9543.

Sisters: A Life of Love: A Vocation Discernment Retreat for Women 18-35 yrs. Do you wonder if you may be called to serve God as a Sister? If so, this retreat is for you! Prayer, meals, Mass at the Cathedral and sharing with the Sisters of St. Joseph as well as time for personal prayer before the Blessed Sacrament are all included in this retreat! All accommodations are included. When: October 24, 2008 – October 25, 2008. Suggested donation: \$10.00 (though don't let finances keep you away). To register or obtain more information, contact Sr. Kathleen Power at ssjflvocations@bellsouth.net, 904-610-9228, or www.ssjfl.org. Deadline for registration: October 19th.

Worship & Ministries

Separated & Divorced Ministry: A discussion group for separated and divorced people will be offered at San Antonio Catholic Church in Port Charlotte on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 9:00 starting October 15. To register, please contact Sr. Colleen McGinnity at 941/624-3799. All are welcome.

(NORTHERN DEANERY)

For couples planning marriage: The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, November 22, at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Venice, to give engaged couples the opportunity to dialogue honestly about aspects of their future life together within the Sacrament of Marriage. Registration is \$65 per couple and it includes breakfast, lunch and printed materials. This fee is non-refundable. For information please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

For couples planning marriage: (Spanish Language) The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, November 1, at St. Jude Parish in Sarasota. Registration is \$50 per couple which includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Please call Frances at 941-955-3934 for reservations.

(CENTRAL DEANERY)

For couples planning marriage: The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Conference on Saturday, November 8, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Myers, to help engaged couples prepare for the Sacrament of Matrimony. Registration is \$65 per couple, and it includes a continental breakfast and lunch. This fee is non-refundable. For reservations please call Betty K at 941-484-9543.

(EASTERN DEANERY)

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Program on Saturday, October 18, at St. Catherine Parish in Sebring, to help engaged couples prepare for their future together and to gain insights into married life. Registration is \$65 per couple, and it includes a continental breakfast and lunch. This fee is non-refundable. For reservations please call Betty K at 941-484-9543.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Catholic Charismatic Conference: **Bishop Frank J. Dewane** will be the celebrant at a special Mass which will be the centerpiece of the two-day Catholic Charismatic Conference being held at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Port Charlotte on October 31 and November 1. The bilingual conference will also include a flag procession of more than 50 charismatic groups in the Diocese. The conference features excellent presentations on Church teachings and outstanding religious music. Come join spiritually motivated Catholics to give praise and worship. Prayer teams will be available for those needing individual prayer. Registration forms are available for download at www.dioceseofvenice.org. For more information call Andrea Green at 863-699-9395 or Carla Velasquez at 941-323-2687.

Pro-Life Banquet: On Saturday, November 8th, 2008, Ave Maria Students For Life will host its' 4th annual Pro-Life Banquet at Ave Maria University. A Vigil Mass will be celebrated at 4:00PM in the Oratory, followed by cocktails and dinner at 5:30 PM. Keynote Speaker will be Johanna Dasteel - Senior Congressional Liason for the American Life League. All proceeds will support students attending the March For Life in Washington DC. For reservations and details please call 239-280-2473 or email studentsforlife@avemaria.edu.



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 notices will be considered. Please e-mail copy to: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org

Regional Safe Environment Training - Fall 2008

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. *No one should attend Safe Environment Training until their fingerprints have cleared.* Continued employment/volunteer status requires that you attend one of these sessions. **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. Due to the sensitive nature of this training, no children are permitted to attend.

Date/Time	Northern	Central	Eastern	Southern
Oct. 18 th 10:00am to 12noon		St. Therese Mission		
Dec. 4 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		St. Maximilian Kolbe		

These are the remaining regional trainings left in 2008. The next trainings will be scheduled in the Spring 2009.

Awareness trainings in Spanish will be announced.