



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

October 17, 2008

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane announces the following appointment:

Very Reverend John J. Ludden as Vicar for Priests for the Diocese of Venice, effective October 15, 2008.

Forum on Immigration: An immigration forum for priests of the Diocese will be held November 20 at Resurrection Parish in Ft. Myers. The CEO of Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami will be the keynote speaker. All clergy on active assignment are expected to attend. For more information contact the Peace and Justice Office of the Diocese of Venice.

Communications Department

Marriage Sunday – The Bishops of Florida have designated October 19 as Marriage Sunday, and this is a reminder that your bulletins should include the statement on Marriage Protection from the Bishops this Sunday.

Parishes that use bulletin companies should have ordered and received the inserts. *Bulletin Editors* who print their own can still contact the Communications Department for a PDF file of the statement, or visit www.flacathconf.org/Election2008.htm to obtain one. The Florida Catholic Conference offers the attached introduction, sample intercessions and conclusion for use in your Sunday Prayers of the Faithful.

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 don't and would like that information.

Department of Education

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!

Peace and Justice Office

Farmworker Sunday November 23, 2008: The Bishops of Florida have designated November 23 as Farmworker Sunday. The Florida Catholic Conference offers suggestions to parishes, parishioners and small groups for planning activities during the weekend before Thanksgiving Day, November 22-23, at the following link. www.flacathconf.org/advocacyareas/socialconcerns/farmworkers/farmworker%20sunday.htm. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or by e-mail at peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

Respect Life

Word of Life Series: The November 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_nov08_eng.pdf. ***WOL*** also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wol_nov08_sp.pdf. Feel free to use some of the *Bulletin Briefs* in October.

2009 Novena of Masses for Life Parish Participation: To date, seven parishes have scheduled Masses for the Second Annual Diocese of Venice/Laity for Life Novena of Masses for Life, which will begin on March 25, 2009. The first Novena of Masses for Life this year has been very successful, with 29 parishes around the Diocese participating. For 2009, we hope to have even more parish participation. Please let us know if your parish would like to be part of this beautiful 9-month celebration of Our Lord's development in His mother's womb. All that is necessary is that you designate one of your regularly-scheduled Masses on the 25th of one or more months from April through November 2009 to be offered for the special intention of "A greater respect for all human life." Additional details and the full schedule will be provided to you when they become available. Contact Patricia Bucalo at Laity for Life (239-248-0694) as soon as possible with your selected dates.

Office for Religious

Attention Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters: If you are celebrating your Religious Jubilee this year, please contact Sister Monica Paul Fraser, O.P. as soon as possible so that she can send you the information forms to prepare for the celebration. Contact her at 941-924-8588 or e-mail monica-fras@incarnationschool.edu. If you know of someone new to the Diocese who will be observing Jubilee, please let her know.

Worship and Ministries

Liturgical Calendar Advisories: An insert of Liturgical Calendar advisories is available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/pdf/files/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.***

Workshop for Sacristans: The third workshop for Sacristans is scheduled at Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church in Sarasota from 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Presentations on the Church environment include Advent/Christmas seasons and church decoration ideas. The fee is \$15.00 a person and includes lunch. Registration forms can be obtained from the Diocesan Worship website www.dioceseofvenice.org. Each parish should have received a letter of invitation and a registration form in the mail. Please encourage your sacristan or decorating committee members to attend this meeting.

Schutte Sacred Concert and workshop: Dan Schutte, renowned composer of contemporary Christian song ("Here I Am, Lord", "Sing a New Song", "You Are Near", "City of God") will be presented in a sacred concert at Epiphany Cathedral, Friday evening, November 14th, at 7pm. There will be no admission charge. Dan Schutte will also present a workshop Saturday morning November 15th at 10:00 in the Cathedral's back chapel called "a Morning of Faith Sharing." This 2-hour workshop will be the first half of a diocesan music workshop at the Cathedral that day. The sacred concert and music workshop are open to all people of the Diocese.

White Ribbon Against Pornography week (WRAP): From October 26 through November 2 we mark White Ribbon Against Pornography Week (WRAP). This is a good time to educate the public about pornography and the continuing fight against it. Show support for the effort by wearing or displaying a white ribbon during WRAP Week, or any day of the year. Raise awareness by telling people why you are wearing the white ribbon. The Family Life Office has a supply of ribbons, so please call Betty K or Louise at (9451) 484-9543 to get yours.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS *(Please publish in your bulletins)*

Communications Department

Marriage Sunday, October 19, 2008: The Bishops of Florida have designated October 19 as **Marriage Sunday** and have issued a statement in support of Amendment 2 (www.flacathconf.org/Election2008.htm). While the Florida Bishops have issued their own response to the defense of marriage, this is a major concern for the whole Church. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is committed to the rediscovery of the value of marriage, family, society and the common good. In order to help Catholics understand why this is such a critical issue for our society and our Church, the USCCB is also making available *Between Man and Woman*, a statement approved by the bishops in 2003 to state and diocesan Catholic leadership. The statement is available electronically at <http://www.usccb.org/laity/manandwoman.shtml> (English) and <http://www.usccb.org/laity/manandwomansp.shtml> (Spanish).

Faithful Citizenship: As the November election approaches, Catholic dioceses in Florida, as well as around the country are stepping up efforts to help Catholics understand Church social teaching. We want you to vote with a well-formed conscience. Our efforts revolve around **“Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,”** the document approved last November by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). Please visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org to stay informed.

High school artists invited to help design Christmas art for The Florida Catholic:

The Florida Catholic is asking aspiring high school artists to participate in a competition to select artwork for the front page of the newspaper’s Christmas edition. Artists should find inspiration from the Bible quote **Luke 2:10-19**. Deadline for submissions is November 10. The Florida Catholic is a faith-based newspaper, so artists are asked to stay within appropriate themes. Winning artists will receive a \$50 gift credit card. Selected artwork will be displayed online at www.thefloridacatholic.org for public viewing the first week in December. Winning entries will be featured inside the print edition of the newspaper, Dec. 19. For design guidelines and information contact Mary St. Pierre at mstpierre@thefloridacatholic.org.

Catholic Charities

Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities holds open house:

Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities will hold an open house on Sunday, November 23 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The program which offers transitional housing for mothers and preschool children who find themselves homeless is based in a complex located at 221 Harbor Drive North in Venice. The two-year residential program assists mothers with education, job skills, childcare and parenting. Our Mother’s House is committed to providing homeless mothers and their children a safe and secure environment in which to achieve self-sufficiency through education, vocational training and personal growth. Witness how Catholic Charities and the Diocese of Venice help at-risk mothers survive difficult times. Light refreshments will be served. Catholic Charities serves and empowers ALL in need regardless of race, nationality or creed. For more information, please call Our Mother’s House of Catholic Charities at 941-485-6264.

Catholic Community Foundation

Did you know the Charitable IRA rollover has been extended?

Support our Catholic schools and support our Catholic ministries. Please remember The Catholic Community Foundation of SW Florida, Inc. in your will and estate plans. To take advantage of tax savings or for more information please call 941-441-1124 or info@ccfswf.org.

Peace and Justice Office

Environmental Justice Forum on Water Issues: On Saturday, November 15, 2008 the Environmental Justice Commission of the Diocese of Venice Peace and Justice Office will sponsor a forum on water issues and responsible action by religious and civil partners at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. Registration is open for this half-day forum, which will begin with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane at 8:30 AM and will feature acclaimed author Cynthia Barnett (*Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S.*), Commissioner Patricia Glass (Southwest Florida Water Management District), Commissioner Jon Thaxton (Sarasota County), Sr. Patricia Siemen, OP (Director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence in Miami). The program will include audio-visual presentations and discussions with an emphasis on action to conserve and protect diminishing water supplies. Early registration (before November 1) is \$15 and includes continental breakfast and a box lunch. For more information, contact the Peace and Justice Office (peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org or 941-484-9543). ***Bulletin Editors:*** Registration information can also be found on the diocesan calendar at <http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar.cfm>.

Respect Life

Join Bishop Frank J. Dewane and ***40 Days for Life*** National Campaign Director David Bereit in praying over the new Planned Parenthood “Megabortuary” at 736 Central Avenue, Sarasota, on Sunday, November 2, at 3:00 PM. This new 3-story building, Planned Parenthood’s Headquarters for 15 counties, will be one of the largest Planned Parenthood centers in the country and the largest in Florida. Over 67,000 abortions have been reported in Sarasota County since Roe v Wade. Let’s line the sidewalks and pray for an end to abortion and the harm it does to women and children. Pray for an end to abortion. ***Bulletin Editors:*** Churches in other counties can add the following local abortion statistics since the 1973 Roe v Wade decision:

Lee - over 53,000

Charlotte - over 4,000

Collier - over 8,000 (1973-1998)

or the 10 counties of the Diocese of Venice - over 134,000

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 a recent letter to Governor Crist imploring him to end executions, the Bishops of Florida stated: “. . . we are reminded that executions diminish us as a civil society and perpetuate a culture of death instead of a culture of life that acknowledges all are created in God’s image.” 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.

Vocations

College Seminary Discernment Weekend: St. John Vianney College Seminary in Miami is hosting a discernment weekend for young men, junior in high school or 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 in this retreat scheduled October 24 - 25, 2008. Suggested donation is \$10.00, but 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 is October 19.

Worship & Ministries

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

(SOUTHERN DEANERY)

For couples planning Marriage: Follow the Way of Love Marriage Preparation program will be held on Saturday, November 15, at St. William Parish in Naples. This program provides quiet time specifically designed to give couples planning marriage the opportunity to dialogue honestly about their prospective lives together. Registration is \$65 per couple. This fee is non-refundable. For reservations please call Michael Mahr at 239 261-4883.

Retrouvaille helps improve troubled marriages: Retrouvaille is an international program to help overhaul marriages that are in danger of dissolving. Retrouvaille places strong emphasis on the communication techniques needed to repair hurting marriages, including a concentrated weekend and six post-weekend Sunday afternoon sessions. There is still hope. The next **Retrouvaille weekend will be held in Venice on October 31 - Nov. 2.** Please call Steve and Linda Smith at (239) 395-0810 or (800) 470-2230. All inquiries are held in strict confidence.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Dreams Are Free School Bar B Q & Silent Auction: Come enjoy a Bar B Q dinner, dancing, and auction while helping a worthy cause. This event benefits the scholarship fund at The Dreams Are Free School for children with learning disabilities. The Bar B Q will be held on Friday, November 14, 2008 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Hall, Bishop Nevins Academy, 4380 Fruitville Road in Sarasota. Tickets for food are \$10 each. Auction Tickets are \$1 each or 12 for \$10. No purchase of contribution is necessary and a donation is greatly appreciated. For information or to buy tickets-call 941.366.4010.

Bulletin Editors: a Flyer available on at <http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar.cfm>.

St. John Neumann Open House: St. John Neumann High School in Naples will be hosting an OPEN HOUSE 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday Nov. 2, for prospective students and parents in the school gymnasium. Discover the difference a Catholic, college-preparatory education makes. Call 239-455-3044 ext. 207 for more information. The school is located at 3000 53rd St. SW, Naples.



The Mustard Seed is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice, published bi-weekly on Fridays by the Department of Communications. General news will be considered for publication, please send info to newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org. The bulletin is also available at www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissuesparishbulletin.cfm.

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
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.