



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

Nov 14

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Please see attached letter from Bishop Dewane regarding the November 16 collection for The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

Development and Stewardship

2008 Catholic Faith Appeal, final mailing will be sent at Thanksgiving time. End of year giving flyers will be delivered to your parish. If you wish to have the end of year giving flyer in a PDF form, please call Deborah Shafer at 941-486-4719.

Plan ahead: 2009 Catholic Faith Appeal Dates:

February 2, Bishop's letter mailed to households

February 7/8, Kick-off Sunday

February 14/15, Preparation Sunday/Lay Presenter or Pastor Talk

February 21/22, Appeal Sunday/Lay Presenter or Pastor Talk & In Pew Collection

Planned Giving: Encourage your parishioners to remember your parish in their estate planning. This can be as simple as a bulletin insert that says, "Please remember (parish name) when you make your estate plans. Bequests are not assessed by the Diocese and can be restricted or unrestricted by the donor. For more information, please call the parish office or Mary Campo at the Diocese of Venice, 941-441-1117."

Office for Religious

Attention Religious Priests, Brothers and Sisters: If you are celebrating your Religious Jubilee this year, or know someone who is, please contact Sister Monica Paul Fraser, O.P. at 941-924-8588 or e-mail her at monicafra@incarnationschool.edu for information.

Respect Life

Catholic Days at the Capitol, March 10-12, 2009: Priests are invited to join Bishop Dewane and the Florida Bishops for the annual Catholic Days at the Capitol in Tallahassee, including the Red Mass with public officials (Bishop Dewane, homilist) at 6:00 PM on March 1. A luncheon with the Bishops, Catholic legislators and participants will follow Mass. Organizations and parishes are encouraged to sponsor participants. For details and registration, including bus and hotel accommodations, contact Jeanne Berdeaux, Diocese of Venice Coordinator, 941-441-1101 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org.

The December 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_dec08_eng.pdf. *WOL* also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*. The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wol_dec08_sp.pdf.

2009 Novena of Masses for Life Parish Participation - Seven parishes have scheduled Masses for the Second Annual Diocese of Venice/Laity for Life Novena of Masses for Life which begins March 25, 2009. 29 parishes participated this year in this beautiful 9-month celebration of Our Lord's development in His mother's womb. If your parish would like to participate in 2009, designate one of your regularly-scheduled Masses on the 25th of one or more months from April through November 2009 as a Mass for Life. These Masses are to be offered for the special intention of "A greater respect for all human life." Additional details and the full schedule will be provided when available. Contact Patricia Bucalo at Laity for Life (239-248-0694) as soon as possible with your selected dates.

National Night of Prayer for Life - The 19th annual National Night of Prayer for Life, the coordinated effort across the United States to pray for God to bring an end to abortion in America, will be observed on Monday, Dec. 8. In our time zone, prayer begins at 9 p.m. and continues until 1 a.m. Parishes are encouraged to participate, even if it is done earlier in the day, as the pastor determines the appropriate time for his congregation. Please contact your Parish Respect Life Representative or the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112 for more information.

Worship and Ministries

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: December 8th the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation and falls on a Monday. Since many parishes have a Sunday evening Mass, the parish needs to decide if it is celebrating a Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent or the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It must be made clear to the faithful in advance that you cannot attend only one Mass to fulfill both your Sunday obligation and Holy Day obligation.

Editors: Attached is the 2008 Advent/Christmas Newsletter. This newsletter can also be found on the Diocese/Worship Web site, www.dioceseofvenice.org.

For couples planning marriage (Northern Deanery): 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 discuss their future together within the Sacrament of Marriage. Non-refundable registration is \$65 per couple and it includes breakfast, lunch and printed materials. For information please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

Marriage Encounter Weekends: This season of thanksgiving, add more great things to your relationship with your spouse by going on a Marriage Encounter Weekend, February 6-8 in Sebring or April 24-26 in Sarasota. Call (941) 962-9904, or Toll free (888) 560-1854 or go to www.wwme.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (*Please publish in your bulletins*)

Communications Department

Looking for a Christmas present that stays with you long after the tree is taken down? Help your family understand today's world in the context of faith by giving a gift subscription to the Florida Catholic newspaper (26 weeks in print and fresh online content 52 weeks a year), we will help balance your perspective. Call (toll-free) 1-888-275-9953 or visit the Web site at www.thefloridacatholic.org to renew or start your subscription today (check, Visa, MasterCard and Discover accepted). Cost: 1 year in-state, \$24; 2 years in-state, \$46; 1 year out-of-state, \$30; 1 year foreign, \$95. Get in the Spirit of the news — Subscribe to the Florida Catholic.

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities ranks in top 1 percent nationwide for fiscal responsibility.

For the seventh consecutive year, Charity Navigator, the largest independent evaluator of charities in the country, has awarded Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., the highest four-star rating. This places the organization in the top 1 percent of charities nationwide for fiscal responsibility. Catholic Charities, one of only 45 charities in the U.S. that have received this distinction consecutively for seven years, operates 32 programs throughout 10 counties in Southwest Florida, serving the needy regardless of race, nationality or creed. For more information visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org or www.charitynavigator.org.

Respect Life

Catholic Days at the Capitol, March 10-12, 2009: Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be the homilist for the annual Red Mass with the Florida Bishops and public officials. Priority issues on life, health, social concerns and education will be discussed with legislators. See your state government in action and pray for our civic leaders. College and high school students and parents are welcome. For details on joining the bus trip, see www.dovrespectlife.org or call 941-441-1101. Space is limited; register early.

Did You Know? According to the Death Penalty Information Center, Florida ranks second in the United States behind California in the number of inmates on death row. Currently, Florida has 387 male and one female death row prisoners. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Cardinal Mooney Students Present "The Nerd": Cardinal Mooney High School's production of the zany comedy "The Nerd" by Larry Shue will be presented November 19 – 22 at 7 pm in the high school music hall, 4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door.

Shakespeare at Bishop Verot: The Bishop Verot Players present *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play by William Shakespeare, November 21-23 at Bishop Verot High School, 5598 Sunrise Drive in Fort Myers. Evening performances are scheduled at 7:30 pm Friday and Saturday and a matinee is scheduled at 2 pm on Sunday. Tickets are \$5.00 and all proceeds will be donated to Hands Together, a mission in Haiti operated by Fr. Tom Hagen, an Oblate of St. Francis de Sales. Program sponsorships are available. For more information please contact Celeste Day at (239) 274-6700.

Apartments for Seniors: Villa Vicente, located at 13071 Palm Beach Blvd. in Ft. Myers, is now accepting residency applications for seniors 62 and older. All apartment homes feature a bedroom, living room, kitchen and bathroom. Each is equipped with central heat and air conditioning, a stove, refrigerator and carpeting. Laundry facilities are provided on each floor, as well as a community room for various activities. For additional information please call the rental office at 239-693-1333.

Saint Patrick Parish: Saint Patrick's 20th Anniversary Celebration Brunch Buffet which will be held at the Bird Key Yacht Club on Sunday, December 7, 2008, from 11:00 am – 2:30 pm. Tickets are \$30.00 per person. For additional information call 941-378-1703.

St. Bernard Parish, Holmes Beach: The Holy Name Society of St. Bernard will hold a **Chicken Bar-B-Q** on Saturday, Dec. 6th at 5pm at the parish. Price per plate is \$12.50, and take-out is available. Council of Catholic Women will also hold a "**Christmas Bazaar**" at the parish that day from 9 am to 7 pm and the following day, Sunday, Dec 7th from 9 am to 1 pm. Enjoy home-made baked goods, crafts, gift baskets, silent auction and much more. For more information on either event, please call the parish office at 941-778-4769.

Cash drawing to benefit Sunlight Home: Only 750 tickets will be sold for a drawing at Sunlight Home on Dec. 18, 2008, and cash prizes will be awarded for \$10,000, \$5,000 and \$2,500. The drawing is being held to purchase a 9-passenger vehicle for the home. Tickets are \$75 each or 3 for \$200 and you need not be present to win. For information call Carol at 261-0681.

"Thanks for the Giving" Gala event to support soup kitchens, food pantries and mobile food services for the poor and hungry in Lee and Collier County, Sunday, Nov 16, 2- 5 pm at FGCU's Alico Arena. For information call 239-462-8444.



The Mustard Seed is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice Department of Communications.

General news will be considered. Send newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org
The pastoral bulletin is available at
www.dioceseofvenice.org/specialissues/parishbulletin.cfm



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

November 14, 2008

To Pastors/Administrators

Dear Fathers:

As you know, Sunday, November 22, 2008, there will be a collection taken up throughout the Diocese for The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD). The information included in this letter may be helpful for you in responding to important concerns regarding the CCHD's prior funding of Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN).

The CCHD has worked to create permanent, community-based solutions to the problem of poverty by funding programs that promote self-sufficiency. Out of these donations, 25% stays within our Diocese to fund local projects that help strengthen our communities. The remaining 75% goes to the CCHD national office to support anti-poverty initiatives across the United States.

During this week's Fall General Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Bishop Roger Morin, Chair of the CCHD Subcommittee to the USCCB informed us that:

Last June, CCHD cut off funding to all ACORN groups when we learned about a major case of embezzlement eight years ago which raised serious concerns about national ACORN's financial accountability, transparency, governance and organizational integrity. Even though CCHD was only funding local ACORN organizations, and not these national structures, we felt it was necessary to cut off CCHD funding and review support of all ACORN groups.

This cut off means that no CCHD grants were given to ACORN groups this year (using funds from the 2007 CCHD collection) and no funds from the coming collection will go to ACORN in any place or at any level. Further, the CCHD's current criteria and guidelines prohibit partisan activity and funding of any group that engages in activities contrary to Catholic moral teaching, whether or not those activities are funded by CCHD.

Finally, the USCCB CCHD Subcommittee and staff are reviewing these existing CCHD's policies, grant agreements, and other safeguards in order to reaffirm and strengthen our protections in areas of Church teaching, financial and organizational accountability, and partisan political activity.

I take this opportunity to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your flock.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Frank J. Dewane". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross symbol at the beginning.

+ Frank J. Dewane

Bishop of Venice in Florida



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

Liturgy Newsletter

Vol. 7, No. 4

November, 2008

ADVENT AND THE USE OF THE JESSE TREE

There are many different symbols that are reminders of the Advent Season; the most traditional is the Advent wreath.

Advent is a time of preparation. A time to prepare our hearts, remembering the first coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also a reminder of the second coming at the last judgment. Advent means coming or arrival. In Aramaic the word is Maranatha meaning “*Come Lord Jesus*” from the Greek Parousia the return of Christ in glory from Matthew 24:29-31.

Advent marks the beginning of the liturgical church year. Advent is a time of prayer and meditation having an anticipatory mood in which we prepare our hearts spiritually for Christ’s coming. This year we are in the Sunday reading of Year B, the year of Mark and the daily readings are from Cycle I. During Advent we read from the prophets in the foretelling of Jesus coming into the world.

The Jesse Tree is another symbol used during the Advent Season in many parishes. The Jesse Tree is a reminder of our salvation history. It bears symbols of the fall of our first parents to the coming of Christ.

The Jesse Tree dates back at least from 12th century France, where it made its appearance in a stained-glass window of a famed Abbey of St. Denis. The Tree derives its name from Jesse, the father of King David. It presented portraits of Jesus’ royal ancestors, with Jesse reposing at the base and Christ enthroned on the top. Christ was surrounded by doves representing the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit as described in one of the Emmanuel prophecies of Isaiah 11:2-3.

On the bare branches of the Tree are placed ornaments that are made to remind us of God’s great gift to us in Christ. Each time a symbol is placed on the Tree we are reminded of God’s saving plan. Some common symbols placed on the Tree are an apple, snake, Staff of Moses, Rose of Sharon, Noah’s Ark, rainbow, Star of David, lion of Judah, Tree trunk and roots, temple of Jerusalem, cymbal, lyre or harp and many others.

What is the ornament that you will place on the Tree to remind you of God’s great gift to us?



Fr. John Mark Klaus,
T.O.R.
Director of Liturgy

Department of Worship and Ministries
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Some reminders as you are preparing for the Advent and Christmas season in your parish

Advent Meaning

Advent has a two-fold character: it is a season that we remember when Christ first came to us and a season when that remembrance directs our hearts and minds to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Advent thus is a period of joyful expectation.

(General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar 39).



The **MEANING** of
ADVENT

Advent weekdays have their own proper Mass texts beginning this year with Evening Prayer I on Saturday, November 29, 2008, and ending mid-afternoon on Christmas Eve. We begin Cycle B-1 on the first Sunday of Advent.

Before December 17, Advent Preface I is used. On memorials of the Blessed Virgin Mary and other saints, the corresponding Preface (P56-57, 66-70) may be used in place of the weekday or seasonal Preface in the Sacramentary.

Official Colors in Advent

The official color for the season of Advent is violet. In order to distinguish between the season and the specifically penitential season of Lent, the bluer violet is used during Advent. *Remember that blue vestments are not authorized for use in the United States.* In the Catholic Church, on the third Sunday of Advent, rose color vestments may be worn.

Perhaps you could do a Christmas Proclamation, known as the “**The Proclamation of the Birth of Christ.**” It can be found at www.USCCB.org/Liturgy under documents, then Christmas Proclamation. This is sung or said after the greeting and introduction of the Christmas Midnight Mass with the Gloria and Opening Prayer immediately following the proclamation.

Blessing Prayer of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath is a popular symbol in church for Advent. Each Sunday the candles of the wreath are lit. The book of Blessings 1519 says that after the Gospel reading the celebrant explains the meaning of Advent.

The Creed and general intercessions follow and at the end of the intercessions the prayer of blessing is said. One of the intercessions could be “That this wreath may constantly remind us to prepare for the coming of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

Advent Wreath Blessing #1519

With hands outstretched, the celebrant says the prayer of blessing:

Lord God, your Church joyfully awaits the coming of its Savior, who enlightens our hearts and dispels the darkness of ignorance and sin. Pour forth your blessings upon us as we light the candles of this wreath; may their light reflect the splendor of Christ, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen. *The first candle is then lighted.*



Third Sunday of Advent

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

December 8th the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception** is a Holy Day of Obligation this year, even though it falls on a Monday. Since many parishes have a Sunday evening Mass, the parish needs to decide if it is celebrating a Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent or the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. It must be made clear to the faithful in advance that you **cannot** attend only one Mass to fulfill both your Sunday obligation and Holy Day obligation.

Christmas Tree Blessing #1587

Holy Lord,
We come with joy to celebrate the birth of your Son,
who rescued us from the darkness of sin
by making the cross a tree of life and light.
May this tree, arrayed in splendor,
remind us of the life-giving cross of Christ,
that we may always rejoice
in the new life that shines in our hearts.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



The Use of Instruments and Decorations

The use of the organ and other musical instruments and the decorating of the altar with flowers should be done in a moderate manner, as is consistent with the character of the season, without anticipating the full joy of Christmas.

REMEMBER THAT THE GLORIA IS NOT SUNG OR SAID ON ANY OF THE SUNDAYS DURING ADVENT.



Advent/Reconciliation Service

Scheduling a time in the parish for a Rite of Reconciliation service is recommended during the Advent season. It is a time for the people of God to prepare for the solemnity of the Nativity. During a penance service, be mindful that this is not a time for spiritual direction.

Notable Days in the Season for 2008



November 30 First Sunday of Advent
December 6 Saturday - St. Nicholas Day
December 7 Second Sunday of Advent
December 8 Monday - The Immaculate Conception, A Holy Day of Obligation
December 12 Friday - Our Lady of Guadalupe
December 13 Saturday - St. Lucy's Day
December 14 Third Sunday of Advent
December 17-24 O Antiphons
December 21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 25 Thursday - Christmas Day
December 26 Friday - St. Stephen's Day
December 27 Saturday - St. John the Apostle
December 28 Sunday - Feast of the Holy Family
January 1 Thursday - Mary the Mother of God, A Holy Day of Obligation
January 4 Sunday - Epiphany
January 11 Sunday - Baptism of the Lord

Ideas for the Season

- ✦ Do Advent Evening Prayer on the four Sunday Evenings of Advent.
- ✦ Have an "O" Antiphon prayer service instead of Lessons and Carols in Advent.
- ✦ Arrange a parish bible study around the readings of the prophets.
- ✦ Schedule an Advent Reconciliation Service
- ✦ Have the children of the parish make the ornaments for a Jesse Tree for the church.
- ✦ Encourage the use of the Advent Wreath in the home and sell them as a fund raiser.
- ✦ Make Advent resolutions on how to prepare our hearts for Jesus.
- ✦ Use an Advent calendar to count down the days until Christmas.
- ✦ Don't rush the season; keep the 12 days **after** Christmas for parish Christmas activities.
- ✦ Suggest a family Advent tree with many small branches and hang good deeds, scriptures quotes, Advent symbols and favorite sayings to live by on the tree as the family waits in expectation for Christmas.

The Conversion of Saint Paul

NOTE: On Sunday, January 25, 2009, we celebrate the Conversion of Saint Paul. Since it is the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Saint Paul, a May 30, 2008, decree authorized the use of the Mass formulary and Lectionary readings for the Conversion of Saint Paul for Mass on that Sunday. It still remains the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. Since there is no Second Reading for the Conversion of Saint Paul, the Second Reading is taken from the Third Sunday in Ordinary time, namely 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. The Creed is said, as is customary for a Sunday Mass.

**RITE FOR RECONCILIATION OF SEVERAL PENITENTS
WITH INDIVIDUAL CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

AN ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Opening Advent Hymn

In the name of the Father...

Greeting: Grace and peace be with you from God the Father and from
Jesus Christ who loved us and is our light.

Glory to God forever. Amen

Opening Prayer: Lord Our God, maker of the heavens, as we look forward
to the coming of our redeemer, grant us the forgiveness of our sins.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Malachi 3, 1-7a

Psalm: Sung or Psalm 85

Second Reading: Rev. 21, 1-12

Gospel: Matt. 3, 1-12

Homily or silence

Examination of Conscience

Brothers and sisters, let us call to mind the goodness of God our Father and acknowledge our
sins, so that we may receive his merciful forgiveness. (*All say the Confiteor*)

Individual Confessions and Absolution

At the end of all the confessions

Proclamation of Praise for God's Mercy

Canticle of Mary/ a sung Psalm

Lord's Prayer

Closing Rite: Go our Father, you chose us to be your children, to be holy in your sight and
happy in your presence. Receive us as a loving Father so that we may share the joy and love
of your holy Church. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing: May the Lord guide your hearts in the way of his love and fill you
with Christ-like patience. **Amen.**

May he give you strength to walk in newness of life and to please
him in all things. **Amen.**

May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Advent Recessional Hymn