



The Diocese of Venice in Florida



The Mustard Seed

Pastoral Bulletin

February 20, 2009

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Most Reverend Frank J. Dewane announces the following appointments:

Reverend Russell Wright as Parochial Vicar of St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Naples, effective February 23, 2009. At the same time he is relieved of his duties as Ascension Parish, Fort Myers.

Following the provisions of Canon Law and presentation of the appropriate religious superiors, this is to announce the following appointments:

Reverend Marc Pierre Lussier, M.S.A. as Parochial Vicar of Holy Cross, Palmetto, effective February 23, 2009. At the same time he is relieved of his duties as Temporary Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Moore Haven.

Office of the Chancellor

Chrism Mass: Please hold the date for the Chrism Mass which will take place on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at Epiphany Cathedral. If there are any priests in your parish observing 25 or 50 years of priesthood, please contact Carol Compton at 941-441-1128.

Education Department

Safe Environment Training: All diocesan employees—clergy, religious, laity must all undergo Safe Environment Training. Volunteers who have routine contact with minors 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 a Spring schedule of upcoming training sessions, please post and share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Education Conference: The Diocesan Education Department invites all parish priests to the annual Education Conference on Monday, March 16, 2009, 8:00 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. at Bishop Verot High School in Fort Myers. The day will begin with a continental breakfast and exhibits. Dr. Sarah Wannemuehler will be the keynote speaker, discussing cyber issues in Catholic Schools and parish programs. Please RSVP to Betty Halpern, 941-484-9543x3038, at the Diocesan Education Department to place your reservation, no later than March 1, 2009.

Respect Life

The March 2009 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_march09_eng.pdf. WOL also features *Intercessions for Life* and *Bulletin Briefs*, this month including "A Pro-Life Prayer for Our President and Public Officials." The Spanish version is at: http://www.usccb.org/prolife/liturgy/wol_march09_sp.pdf.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

Anniversary Edition: The special Diocese of Venice 25th Anniversary “Year of Celebration” edition of the Florida Catholic is now available at your local parish. A complimentary copy of the special edition was mailed to more than 85,000 families were mailed a copy courtesy of the Diocese. Limited extra copies of the special edition are available on request at 941-486-4701 or reddy@dioceseofvenice.org. The newspaper highlights the history and some of the many programs and personalities of the Diocese of Venice including current and archived photographs. Please pick up this special newspaper TODAY!

Long-Sleeve Relief Drive: The Florida Catholic is sponsoring its fourth annual Long-Sleeve Relief Drive and because of demand has added a Food-Diaper-Personal Hygiene Drive during Lent. The drives will begin Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, and end Palm Sunday, April 5. Your help to feed and clothe the needy is greatly appreciated. For information on item needed and drop-off locations visit the Florida Catholic website at www.thefloridacatholic.org. For more information contact Mary St. Pierre at 321-527-3122 or e-mail mstpierre@thefloridacatholic.org.

Respect Life

Annunciation Mass for Life: You are invited to celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation on March 25, 2009 to pray for "a greater respect for all human life" at one of the following locations:

Epiphany Cathedral/Venice – 12:30 PM
Our Lady of Lourdes/Venice – 8:00 AM
Our Lady of Light/Estero – 6:00 PM
Ascension/Ft. Myers Beach – 8:00 AM
Quasi-Parish of Ave Maria Oratory – 5:15 PM
Our Lady of Guadalupe/Immokalee – 7:00 PM

This is the first in a series of Masses celebrating the 9-month period from the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord through the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. Specially-designated Masses on the 25th of each month throughout the Diocese will present a special opportunity to meditate on the progressive development of Our Lord in His mother's womb. The complete schedule will be posted at www.dovrespectlife.org. To register please contact Jeanne Berdeaux in the Diocesan Respect Life Office at 941-441-1101 or Berdeaux@dioceseofvenice.org.

Natural Family Planning: Want to follow the Church's teaching for your marriage?

Three-part series of classes are scheduled as follows:

Naples – Medical office of Angela Flippin-Trainer, M.D., (Collier Blvd.), Saturdays at 10:00 AM - March 7, April 4 & May 2, call 239-774-1355 for details or to register.

Lehigh Acres – St. Raphael Parish, beginning Friday, April 17, 6:30 PM, call Lisa & Jeff Stalnaker, 239-303-9257 (Couple to Couple League) for details or to register.

Catholic Bioethics Seminar: Cardinal Javier Barragan of Mexico and speakers from the National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia will present a bioethics seminar on Saturday, March 21, at Church of the Resurrection Parish Center, Fort Myers. Catholic and non-Catholic healthcare workers, clergy, teachers, catechists, students, and anyone interested in these topics are welcome. CME credits and Nursing Contact Hours are available. To register or request a brochure, call 239-573-5458 or course director Dr. Stephen Hannan, 239-849-6908.

Did You Know? The execution of Wayne Tompkins on February 11, 2009 was the 67th in Florida since the reinstatement of the death penalty in 1976 and the 1st in 2009. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

Peace and Justice Office

15th Annual Leaven Conference: As part of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Diocese of Venice, the Leaven Conference will mark its 15th anniversary on March 7, 2009. The Leaven Conference, “Hunger—A Faith-filled Response,” will address how people of faith can respond to the hunger crisis. A variety of workshops based on Catholic social teachings will inform and involve participants in promoting the common good. These workshops will address topics such as dignity of the human person, call to community, human rights, option for the poor, dignity of work, pursuit of justice and peace and care for God’s creation. To register see the Leaven Conference brochure available on the diocesan web site www.dioceseofvenice.org, contact the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or e-mail peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

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: March 13- 15, 2009. RSVP: The Diocese of Venice Vocations Office by March 11, 2009 for registration and transportation information, 941-484-9543.

Worship and Ministries

A Day of “Hope”: People struggling with divorce or separation may find hope in a day of reflection to be held Saturday, March 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center in Punta Gorda. The day of reflection will be facilitated by Fr. Dennis Cooney of St. Raphael Parish in Lehigh Acres. For information please call the Office of Ministries at (941) 484-9543.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Red Mass to be Celebrated in Sarasota: Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate the second annual Red Mass in Sarasota County on Friday, March 13, 2009 at 3:30 PM at Church of the Incarnation Parish in Sarasota. Catholic judges, lawyers, their families and staff are invited to attend. A reception will follow at the church hall. Please send RSVP or inquiries before March 6, 2009 to either Charla Burchett, Esq. (941-951-1866) or Evelyn L. Moya, Esq. (941-321-2990; moyalex@comcast.net).

Catholic Men’s Conference: A Catholic Men’s Conference will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28th from 8:30 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. at Bishop Verot High School in Ft. Myers. The Conference’s speakers include Jesse Romero, Steve Wood and Gus Lloyd. Cost of registration is \$20 for adults, \$5 for students; scholarships also available. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. The conference will conclude at 2 p.m. with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane. All men and their sons are invited. Wives and mothers, please encourage your husband and sons to attend. Register online www.dioceseofvenice.org and click on the Men’s Conference link.

Women of Faith, Women of Action: Bishop Frank J. Dewane invites all women of the Diocese to “*Women of Faith, Women of Action: Making a Difference Through Prayer and Service*,” a one-day conference to be held on March 14, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Naples. The conference promises a day of spiritual renewal, solidarity and personal growth for Catholic women of all ages (15 and above). Bishop Dewane will begin the day with celebration of the Mass at 8:30 a.m. Registration fee is \$30 and box lunches are available for \$8. To register call Ellen Bachman at 941-776-9097 (office) 941-721-7393 (home) or Wendy Dawson at 941-776-5658, or e-mail Ana Romillo at anaromillo@yahoo.com. A registration form is also available on the diocesan website www.dioceseofvenice.org by clicking on the “Women of Faith, Women of Action” link.

“Fish n’ Flix” Lenten Series: Young adults at Church of the Resurrection in Fort Myers will be spending Friday evenings during Lent sharing a fish dinner and a movie, and then discussing the spiritual implications of the movie. The series begins February 27 and if you are interested in nourishing body and soul with good food and good fellowship contact Lea Pascotto Coordinator of Faith Development at lea@resurrectionch.org. **Bulletin editors:** a flyer with a list of dates and movies is available on the Diocesan website calendar at www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/calendar.cfm. Click Feb. 27.

“Way of the Cross” Presentation: St. John Neumann High School, 3000 53rd Street SW in Naples is hosting the Franciscan Mystery Players free presentation of “The Way of the Cross” on Sunday, March 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Through the use of special lighting and sound this moving dramatic meditation promises to be a high point in our Parish Lenten journey. All are welcome.

Lenten Parish Mission: All are welcome to the Lenten Parish Mission to be held at Blessed Pope John XXIII Catholic Church, 13060 Palomino Lane in Fort Myers. The events are scheduled on Sunday, March 22 at and Monday-Wednesday, March 23-25. Featured Mission Speaker is Fr. Melvin Shorter, C.P. For more information contact the parish office at 239-561-2245.

Lenten Retreat: Our Lady Queen Of Martyrs Parish is holding a Lenten Retreat with Bob Canton March 2 – 4. Topics include; “Wholeness Through God's Love,” “What is Temptation and How To Overcome It”, “Repentance and Forgiveness--a key to restoration and wholeness,” “Receiving the power of God's love.” For more information contact the parish office at 941-755-1826.



The Mustard Seed is an official publication of the Diocese of Venice, published bi-weekly on Fridays by the Department of Communications. Notices of general interest will be considered for publication. Send copy to: Department of Communications, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice FL 34285, e-mail: newsletter@dioceseofvenice.org
Or fax: 941-486-4766.

Regional Safe Environment Training - Spring 2009

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 or you may register online at www.dioceseofvenice.org. 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
March 19 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm	St. Joseph	St. Columbkille		St. Peter the Apostle
March 21 st 9:30am to 11:30am	St. Joseph	St. Columbkille	St. Margaret <i>(SPANISH ONLY)</i>	St. Peter the Apostle
March 19 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		St. Charles Borromeo		
March 21 st 9:30am to 11:30am		St. Charles Borromeo		
April 2 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm				St. Ann
April 4 th 9:30am to 11:30am				St. Ann
April 16 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		Sacred Heart - PG		
April 18 th 9:30am to 11:30am		Sacred Heart - PG		
April 16 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		St. Leo		
April 18 th 9:30am to 11:30am		St. Leo		
April 23 rd 6:00pm to 8:00pm	St. Michael the Archangel			
April 25 th 9:30am to 11:30am	St. Michael the Archangel			

These are the only regional trainings that will be held in the spring. The next trainings will be scheduled in the Fall 2009.