



The Mustard Seed



Pastoral Bulletin

April 3, 2009

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Happy Easter!

“The tomb is empty. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. Easter is a time of spiritual renewal... a time to proclaim the strength, the joy and the hope of the Resurrection. The risen Christ is a comfort in a world filled with challenges and sorrows. Through our faith let us reach out to others, especially those suffering from the impact of these difficult economic times. The Easter message of hope speaks to us all. Have a blessed Easter.”

+Bishop Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice in Florida

On April 24th 1994, Pope John Paul II recommended this prayer be recited by all Catholics as a prayer for the Church.

Prayer To Saint Michael The Archangel

*St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.*

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

*May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,
and do thou,*

O Prince of the heavenly hosts,

by the power of God,

thrust into hell Satan,

and all the evil spirits,

who prowl about the world

seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

During this time of drought in Southwest Florida, let us pray for relief for God's Creation.

Prayer for Rain:

Almighty God, we are in need of rain.

We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear!

We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs. But You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are dependent on You.

Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice, and the rivers will sing Your praises, and the hearts of all will be made glad. Amen.

Office of the Chancellor

Chrism Mass - Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate the Chrism Mass on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, 10:30 a.m., at Epiphany Cathedral with a luncheon for clergy following the Mass.

50 years – Bishop Emeritus John J. Nevins, D.D.

50 years – Rev. Msgr. Robert J. Coll, Reverends Richard R. Thompson, Edward Lynch, Thomas J. Palko, O.S.F.S., Gerard Austin, O.P. and Desmond Finerty

25 years – Reverends Pedro Roman, O.P., David Arle and Teofilo Useche
Reverend Deacons Robert Nimon, Pedro Lopez, and Terry Farrell

Respect Life

New Teaching Couple - The Respect Life Department is pleased to announce the addition of a new teaching couple for Natural Family Planning in the Bradenton area. Afra and Ryan Beggy have been trained by the Couple to Couple League and will begin training on Sunday, April 26 at 3:30 PM at St. Joseph parish in Bradenton.

Novena of Masses for Life Schedule - On the 25th of each month from April through December, Masses at selected parishes in each deanery have been scheduled for the intention of "a greater respect for all human life." The complete list of scheduled Masses is available at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/NovenaofMasses'09-FINAL.pdf>.

Suggested Prayer - For those parishes participating in the April Novena of Masses for Life, here is a suggested "Prayer of the Faithful" for Saturday, April 25 (End of FIRST Month): *"For all unborn babies at the end of the FIRST month of life in their mothers' wombs - their tiny hearts already beating – That Our Lord Jesus, Who also knew that first month in Our Lady's womb, will protect them throughout their gestation ... Let us pray to the Lord."*

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

Easter TV Mass – Easter Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane will be available for the home-bound across the entire Diocese both live and in its pre-recorded format. Shut-ins in Sarasota and Charlotte Counties who subscribe to Comcast Cable will be able to watch the 11 a.m. Easter Mass live from Epiphany Cathedral on SNN Channel 6. A pre-recorded Easter Mass celebrated by Bishop Dewane will also be available at the regular time; **8:00 a.m. on WFTX Fox 4** in the Southern and Central Deaneries; **10:00 a.m. on WXPX ION Television Network** across the Northern and Eastern Deaneries (please check your local cable listings).

Masses for Victims of Child Abuse - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and in conjunction with the Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, (USCCB) Bishop Frank J. Dewane will celebrate two Masses for Victims of Child Abuse. The first Mass will be at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice on Friday, April 24th at 12:30 p.m. The second Mass is scheduled at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Naples on Thursday, April 30th at 12:30 p.m.

Rally for Darfur – Bishop Frank J. Dewane is co-chair of the **Rally for Darfur: Humanity Working to End Genocide** which will take place at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19 at the First United Methodist Church in Sarasota. All proceeds will be used for humanitarian aid for the refugees of genocide in Darfur. Please make plans to attend. For more information go to www.humanityworkingtoendgenocide.org.

Save the Date –Yom Hashoah, the Annual Hour of Remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust, will be held at 2:30 pm on Sunday, April 26 at Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West in Venice. Holocaust survivors and people of all faiths are invited to the service where candles will be lit in memory of the millions who perished during the Holocaust. Guest speaker for this year's service is His Eminence Cardinal William Keeler, Archbishop Emeritus of the of Archdiocese of Baltimore.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a proposal earlier this month to rescind the Bush Administration conscience protection regulation. The public now has until April 9 to submit comments. To assist you, we have set up a special webpage on conscience protection: www.usccb.org/conscienceprotection

Catholic Charities

Amateur Radio Network needs operators - The Catholic Charities Disaster Amateur Radio Network is looking for volunteer radio operators for its fully equipped UHF/VHF radio base stations in Port Charlotte at the Peace River Regional Hospital. There are no fees or meetings involved, only a once a month on-air exercise. This is an excellent opportunity to serve your community by providing emergency communications for the Catholic Charities Disaster Response Team in an aftermath of a disaster. For more information email bob.sullenberger@verizon.net or call 941-497-5422.

First Time Homebuyers Class Free of Charge - Catholic Charities of Manatee County, a HUD-certified counseling agency, will hold an English Speaking First Time Homebuyers Class on April 25 at the agency's office located at 1219 16th Street West in Bradenton. The class is free of charge and will be held from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn financial literacy such as how to avoid foreclosure, develop a budget, improve credit scores, and save money among other money management topics. Upon completion of the First Time Homebuyer Class participants will receive a certificate that will make them eligible to apply for the Manatee County SHIP Program which offers a loan for down payment and closing costs assistance. This class will be offered in English. Future classes will be offered in Spanish. To take part in the class, please call 941-714-7829 or visit Catholic Charities of Manatee County to register.

Development and Stewardship

Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Frank Dewane - In honor of the anniversary of the Diocese, Bishop Dewane will lead a pilgrimage to Italy, visiting Venice, Assisi, Florence and Rome from September 28th until October 9th, 2009. For details on the trip, please call Mary Campo, 941-441-1117.

Win a trip to Italy for two for only \$100! The Central Deanery Council of Catholic Women is holding a drawing for two tickets for the Pilgrimage to Italy with Bishop Frank J. Dewane in September. Donation per ticket for the drawing is \$100 and is limited to 250 entries. Tickets may be obtained by calling Fran Patterson at (239) 540-7116. The drawing date is June 9, 2009. The CCW is mailing two tickets to each parish in the Central Deanery. If unsold by May 1st please return them in the envelope provided.

Vocations Office

Do you ever wonder whether God is inviting you to consider a life of love as a religious Sister? If so, this retreat is for you! Visit with the Sisters of St. Joseph and hear their stories of prayer and consecrated service throughout Florida. Celebrate Mass in the Cathedral; spend personal prayer time before the Blessed Sacrament; enjoy meals and sharing with the Sisters during this retreat on Friday April 24 – Saturday, April 25 at the St. Joseph Motherhouse in St. Augustine, Florida. Suggested donation is \$10 (but don't let cost keep you away). To register or obtain information, contact Sr. Kathleen Power at ssjflvocations@bellsouth.net, 904-610-9228, or www.ssjfl.org. Deadline for registration is Friday, April 17th.

Worship and Ministries Department

Lectors/Readers – The diocesan Sacrament and Rites Committee a gathering of lectors and readers from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at St. Catherine Parish in Sebring, The workshop is presented in English and Spanish and is suitable for all levels. The workshop will answer questions such as: Who is the lector? What is their role in the liturgy? Also suggested are a few ways to prepare ourselves to be the best that we can be. Registration fee is \$10 per person and forms are available on the Diocese of Venice web site www.dioceseofvenice.org/officeofministries/worship, or please call 941-484-9543.

Is your marriage hurting? A Retrouvaille Weekend (for troubled marriages) will be held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center in Venice from May 15-18, 2009. We invite couples to attend this program which offers hope and help to couples whose marriage is hurting. Retrouvaille places strong emphasis on communication techniques. For information or reservations please call (800) 470-2230 or (239) 395-0810. All inquiries are held in strict confidence.

Marriage Encounter Weekend - The Easter season is a time of great joy, and couples can bring more happiness to their marriage this season by attending a Marriage Encounter weekend. A Marriage Encounter is a very private way to improve communication between husbands and wives, and make good marriages even better. Pope Benedict XVI strongly supports improving marriage. The next Marriage Encounter weekend is scheduled April 24th to 26th in Sarasota. For information call (941) 962-9904 or Toll free 1-**888**-560-1854.

For couples planning marriage - The Diocese of Venice will hold a one-day Marriage Preparation Program on Saturday, June 6, at St. Raphael Parish in Englewood. The program gives engaged couples the opportunity to discuss honestly a future together in the Sacrament of Marriage. Registration is \$65 per couple (non-refundable) which includes breakfast, lunch and printed materials. For information please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

(CENTRAL DEANERY AND SOUTHERN DEANERY)

Follow the Way of Love –The Diocese of Venice will hold a marriage preparation program for engaged couples on Saturday, April 25, at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Naples from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program is designed to deepen and enrich the couple's relationship with each other. The non-refundable registration fee is \$65 per couple, and the fee includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For reservations please call Betty K at 941-484-9543.

For couples planning marriage – To assist engaged couples preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony, the Diocese of Venice will hold a Pre Cana Conference on Saturday, April 18, at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Myers. Registration fee (non-refundable) is \$65 per couple, and this includes a continental breakfast and lunch. For reservations please call Betty K at (941) 484-9543.

Peace and Justice Office

Leaven Conference Leads to Increase in Advocates – More than 40 parishes and 10 Catholic organizations were represented at the 15th Anniversary of the Leaven Conference held March 7 at Our Lady of Light Parish in Fort Myers. In his remarks, Bishop Frank J. Dewane commented on the need for more Social Justice Advocates, and the call was answered. Currently there are 360 social justice advocates to help bring Gospel values to public social policies. Our thanks all volunteers who helped make the conference a success. To become a social justice advocate please request a registration form (no cost involved) from the Peace and Justice Office at 941-484-9543 or e-mail peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org.

Respect Life

Natural Family Planning - Engaged or married and thinking of having children? Married with lots of kids? Just had a baby or going through a "change of life" and confused about fertility? Please join us to learn about Natural Family Planning (NFP), a natural way to postpone or achieve a pregnancy using a woman's natural fertility. It is medically safe, 99% effective and said to have a positive effect on a couple's marriage. Learn of God's vision and plan for your marriage and family. The Couple to Couple League is offering an NFP course starting Sunday, April 26 at 3:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bradenton. Please contact Afra or Ryan Beggy at (941) 753-2372 for more information.

(SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL DEANERIES)

Bulletin Editors: please substitute corresponding contact information for your area.

** The Couple to Couple League is offering an NFP course starting Friday, April 17, at 6:30 PM at St. Raphael Church in Lehigh Acres; call Lisa & Jeff Stalnaker, 239-303-9257.

*Contact Angela Flippin-Trainer, M.D., Collier Blvd., Naples, 239-774-1355.

Did You Know? Ron McAndrew, a national consultant on the death penalty and a former warden with execution experience, will present "**A Second Look at the Death Penalty**" at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at St. Charles Borromeo Parish Center, 2500 Easy Street in Port Charlotte. Those who favor the death penalty are particularly invited to attend. For further information, please contact Dan Greenlick at 941-627-5502 or the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

April Novena of Masses for Life: The Respect Life Department, in collaboration with Laity for Life, is pleased to announce the April schedule of the Novena of Masses for Life. On Saturday, April 25th, the first month of Jesus' development in the womb of Our Lady will be celebrated with a Mass at the following parishes:

St. Bernard in Holmes Beach at 8:30 a.m.
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in Parrish at 4:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Lourdes in Venice at 8:00 a.m.
Mision de Jesus Obrero in Ft. Myers at 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
Mision de San Jose in Ft. Myers at 7:30 p.m. (Spanish)
St. Vincent de Paul in Ft. Myers at 4:00 p.m.
Our Lady of Guadalupe in Immokalee at 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
St. Peter the Apostle in Naples at 8:00 a.m.
Holy Martyrs Mission In LaBelle at 5:00 p.m. (Spanish)
St. Michael in Wauchula at 5:00 p.m.
Our Lady Queen of Heaven in LaBelle at 5:00 p.m.
St. Catherine in Sebring at 9:00 a.m.
St. James in Lake Placid at 4:00 p.m.
St. Paul in Arcadia at 5:30 p.m.

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 December is available at: <http://www.dovrespectlife.org/NovenaofMasses'09-FINAL.pdf> or call (239) 352-6333 for additional information.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Easter Concert - "*The Seven Last Words of Christ*" by Theodore Dubois will be presented free of charge by the Naples Chorus & Orchestra at St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Naples at 4:00 p.m. on April 7, 2009. For more information please call 239-775-8460.

Kolbe's Kids - On April 13 *Kolbe's Kids*, a pre-school at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Church in Port Charlotte, will begin registration for the 2009-2010 school year. Established in 1996, *Kolbe Kids* serves 3 to 5 year olds. Please contact Cindy Kuykendall at 941-258-3287 for more information.

Affordable Housing - Villa Vincente Apartments, located behind St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Fort Myers Shores, is a HUD-subsidized apartment community which currently has no waiting for people who need affordable housing. Please contact Amanda Peters at 239-693-1333 for information.

1st SW Florida Catholic Chamber Expo will be held Sunday, April 26th from 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at the St. Katharine's Drexel's Parish Hall. Businesses and ministries from all parishes in the Diocese are welcome to attend. Please call Judy Bicking at 239-283-8080 or email: islanddecor@embarqmail.com to reserve booth space at the Expo.



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