



The Mustard Seed



Pastoral Bulletin

May 29, 2009

DIOCESAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office of the Bishop

Invitation to a celebration - The 50th Anniversary of the Priestly Ordination of Bishop John J. Nevins will be celebrated on Sunday, June 7, 2009, with Mass at 3:00 p.m. in Epiphany Cathedral, followed by a reception in the parish hall.

Education Department

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 a current schedule of upcoming training sessions. Please post and share this information with all parish/school staff and volunteers.

Finance Office

Parish business offices are asked to submit all funds for the ***Catholic Relief Services*** collection to the Diocese Finance Office no later than Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Parish business offices are asked to submit all funds for the ***Operation Rice Bowl*** and ***Holy Land/Good Friday*** collections to the Diocese Finance Office no later than Monday, June 8, 2009.

Your cooperation and understanding on these deadlines is much appreciated!

Respect Life

For those parishes participating in the June Novena of Masses for Life - here is a suggested "Prayer of the Faithful" for Thursday, June 25 (End of THIRD Month): "For all unborn babies at the end of the THIRD month of life in their mothers' wombs – now with tiny fingernails and unique fingerprints – That Our Lord Jesus, Who also knew that third month in Our Lady's womb, will bless their fathers with the strength to protect them from all harm"... *Let us pray to the Lord.*"

Catholic Charities

Ms. Tonya Thomas-Schrott named new Director for AFCAAM, the African Caribbean American Ministry program with Catholic Charities in Fort Myers. Ms. Thomas-Schrott brings a wealth of leadership experience in both business and non-profit organizations in Southwest Florida. Two major programs of AFCAAM include the “After School Reading Program” and the Mentoring Program which services over 1,000 youth within Lee County communities.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS (Please publish in your bulletins)

Communications Department

TV Mass features local parishes - Featured parishes during June TV Masses are St. Martha Parish and Epiphany Cathedral. Please join Fr. Patrick Wilson and Fr. John Ludden for the celebration of Mass. The complete TV Mass schedule with a list of times and broadcast stations is available at <http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/news/tvmass.cfm>. Copies of all TV Masses are available to the public. For more information contact the Communications Department at 941-486-4714 or e-mail Visner@dioceseofvenice.org.

Put on hold? Stuck in traffic? Maybe God's calling you to pray - Long moments on hold or stuck in traffic might be God-given moments for prayer. That's what Sheila Garcia, associate director at the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, says in “Ten Pointers for Family Prayer.” The list can be found at http://www.foryourmarriage.org/interior_template.asp?id=20399049

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops renew long-term and urgent call for health care reform - Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y. offered the U.S. bishops' principles and criteria for health care reform in a May 20 statement to the Senate Committee on Finance's Roundtable Discussion on “Expanding Health Care Coverage.” The full text of Bishop Murphy's statement is available online at <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/national/2009-05-usccb-health-care-statement.pdf>.

Catholic Charities

Child care volunteers needed - Our Mother's House of Catholic Charities in Venice is searching for volunteers to care for the children in the child care center. Volunteers spend four hours assisting with the children. High school students are welcome and can earn volunteer hours. Our Mother's House is a residential program committed to helping homeless mothers and their preschool children attain self-sufficiency. Anyone interested in volunteering for the program, please contact Elizabeth at 941-244-9048, ext. 104 or at omhvolunteer@comcast.net.

Free Homebuyers Class - Catholic Charities of Manatee County, a HUD-certified counseling agency, will hold an English Speaking First Time Homebuyers Class at the agency's office located at 1219 16th Street West, Bradenton. The class is free of charge and will be held Saturday, June 20 from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. To take part in the class or for more information, please call 941-714-7829.

New call center needs volunteers - Volunteers are needed to man the newly created call center for the Emergency Financial Assistance Program of Catholic Charities in Sarasota. Volunteers must have an interest in talking with people who are looking for assistance, have good people skills and be able to keep accurate records of calls. Work days available are Monday through Friday for two hour shifts. Anyone interested please call Jeanette Wozniak at 941-379-9111, ext. 300.

Attention Amateur Radio Operators - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice Disaster Response Team responds in the immediate aftermath of a disaster anywhere in the diocese. To service the emergency and back up communications needs of these teams is the Disaster Amateur Radio Network (DARN). Please contact Bob Sullenberger at 941-497-5422 or bob.sullenberger@verizon.net for more information about joining.

Development and Stewardship

Pilgrimage to Italy! There are just a few seats left for the Pilgrimage to Italy in September with Bishop Frank Dewane. If you are interested in learning more, please call Mary Campo at 941-441-1117. Raffle tickets for the CCW raffle of two seats for this Pilgrimage are available by calling Fran Patterson at 239-540-7116. The raffle tickets are \$100 and are limited to 250 chances.

Peace and Justice Office

Support Efforts to Resolve Israeli-Palestinian Conflict — Violence in the Holy Land has left both Israelis and Palestinians in misery. Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands, illegal settlements, and wall constructions have devastated the Palestinian economy. At the same time, suicide bombings and rocket attacks have terrorized Israelis. Catholics should express their support for strong U.S. leadership on behalf of Middle East peace. For further information, contact Dr. Stephen Colecchi at USCCB Office of International Justice and Peace, scolecchi@usccb.org, 202-541-3196 or the Diocesan Peace and Justice Office, peace&justice@dioceseofvenice.org, 941-484-9543.

Respect Life

June Novena of Masses for Life: The Respect Life Department, in collaboration with Laity for Life, is pleased to announce the June 2009 Mass schedule. On Thursday, June 25th, the third month of Jesus' development in the womb of Our Lady will be celebrated with a special Mass at the following parishes:

- St. Bernard in Holmes Beach at 8:30 a.m.
- St. Frances Xavier Cabrini in Parrish at 8:30 a.m.
- Our Lady of the Angels in Lakewood Ranch at 8:00 a.m.
- St. Patrick in Sarasota at 8:00 a.m.
- St. Maximilian Kolbe in Port Charlotte at 8:00 a.m.
- Sacred Heart in Punta Gorda at 8:30 a.m.
- St. Isabel in Sanibel at 8:30 a.m.
- Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Bokeelia at 8:30 a.m.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe in Immokalee at 6:30 p.m. (Creole)
- St. Peter the Apostle in Naples at 8:00 a.m.

- St. Paul in Arcadia at 8:00 a.m.
- St. Michael in Wauchula at 7:00 p.m. (Spanish)
- St. Catherine in Sebring at 12:00 noon
- St. James in Lake Placid at 9:00 a.m.

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.

Natural Family Planning - classes available now. Debunk the Myths! Get the Facts! Check out the Truth! Call Jeff and Lisa Stalnaker at 239-303-9257 for more information and to register.

Summer session: June 14, 6-9 p.m.; July 26, 2-5 p.m.; and August 23, 2-5 p.m.

Fall session: Sept 4, 6:30-9 p.m.; Oct 2, 6:30-9 p.m.; Nov 6, 6:30-9 p.m.

All classes held at St Raphael's in Lehigh Acres. Note: Other classes are available in Naples and Bradenton. Call 941-441-1101 for details.

Did You Know? - On the "Question and Answer" page of the USCCB *Catholic Campaign to End the Use of the Death Penalty* web site, it states: "We can't know whether God has a purpose for a person's life, even one who has committed a terrible crime and must spend his or her life behind bars." All questions and answers may be found online at: http://www.usccb.org/deathpenalty/questions_answers.shtml. For further information, please contact the diocesan Respect Life Department at 941-441-1112.

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.

OUT AND ABOUT THE DIOCESE

Eucharistic Adoration/Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place on Wednesdays, 8:30 to 5:45 p.m. at St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, 411 Spear Street, Port Charlotte.



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Regional Safe Environment Training - Summer 2009

The following parish will hold Regional Safe Environment Awareness training session. **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
Thursday, June 11 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm				**St. Peter the Apostle - Ministry Center Naples
Saturday, June 13 th 9:30am to 11:30am				**St. Peter the Apostle - Ministry Center Naples
Thursday, June 18 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		Resurrection Fort Myers		
Saturday, June 20 th 9:30am to 11:30am		Resurrection Fort Myers		
Thursday, June 25 th 6:00pm to 8:00pm		St. Maximilian Kolbe Port Charlotte		
Saturday, June 27 th 9:30am to 11:30am	TBA - Sarasota			

****If you plan on attending the training at St. Peter the Apostle, please call the ministry center at 239-775-9576 to register.**

These are the only regional trainings that will be held until Fall 2009.