

Catholic Faith Appeal: A Mission of Hope

During the Pandemic

It is known to all that the liturgy is the source and summit of our spiritual expression to God. Nothing can substitute in our Faith for the Eucharist. During the Pandemic we all had to adjust in expressing charity, prayer and faith. It is precisely these factors that support the good works that all are called to do. To celebrate the Eucharist and accomplish good works, the paradigm changed during the Pandemic.

In this time of separation due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Parishioners learned new practices to become further connected with their commitment to the Catholic Faith. With our Brothers and Sisters in Christ supporting the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA), the necessary resources were made available to strengthen this deep connection. The following are just some examples of how this was accomplished.

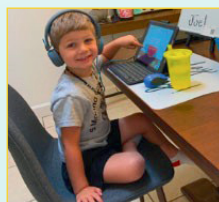
Spiritual Growth



In addition to the normally televised Mass on Sunday for the homebound, live-streaming of the daily Mass and Rosary provided comfort and peace to many.

Educational and Faith Formation

With the closing of the schools came the need to offer distance learning for students. The development of virtual resources was imperative in continuing the intellectual growth of the students in our Catholic Schools. Resources further provided teachers the ability to lead discussions, as well as a mechanism for students to ask questions. Religious education classes were provided to students and youth groups through distance learning sessions, offering continuity of Faith formation.



Charitable Outreach



Due to company closures and a surge in unemployment, feeding those in need became an even greater demand for Southwest Florida. During a six week period alone, Catholic Charities distributed food to over 30,000 individuals and 9,100 households.

In addition, Catholic Charities provided tele-mental health counseling through which over 500 individuals have received support either via phone or video.



Catholic Charities will continue to focus on feeding and counseling those in need as long as the effects of COVID-19 persist.



Pastoral Care

Every baptized Catholic is called to evangelize. In order to teach and equip individuals to spread the Gospel, The Office of Evangelization offered live, interactive Bible study via social media. Parents were able to access home activity kits to engage with their children on their Faith formation journey. Prayer lines, daily Mass readings, and curbside confessions were organized at various Parishes throughout the Diocese.



Administrative Outreach

The Diocesan Departments of Communications, Information Technology (IT) as well as Stewardship and Development corroborated to assist Parishes following the announcement of the temporary suspension of Masses. These departments addressed the various needs of Parishes by providing resources relating to on-line communication. In an effort to provide one more opportunity for Parishioners to support their Parish, while sheltering in place, the Diocese offered its on-line giving platform. The IT Team handled numerous requests from Parish staff for assistance in updating websites as well as setting up staff to work remotely.

With Masses temporarily suspended, Parishes continued the mission of helping those with spiritual, educational and charitable needs. The Catholic Faith Appeal is a mission of hope for many in our community.
Thank you for your ongoing support.

**“The generous
will be blessed,
for they share...
with the poor.”**

(PROVERBS 22:9)

2020



Diocese of Venice in Florida
~ 35th Anniversary ~

**Catholic
Faith
Appeal**

The Diocese of Venice strives to meet the spiritual, pastoral and charitable needs of the People throughout the ten counties it serves.

Gifts made to the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA) provide assistance to individuals, families and communities in need through key outreach programs and educational opportunities. This brochure highlights some of the many good works and initiatives made possible by YOUR support of the CFA.

Please consider making a generous gift to the Catholic Faith Appeal.

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Venice, Inc. strives to stabilize and strengthen needy men, women, children and families by guiding them onto the path of self-sufficiency.



One such effort is **Casa San Juan Bosco Farm Worker Housing** which is a development located in Arcadia that provides quality and affordable homes to area farm workers and their families. Within the community, the **Casa San Juan Bosco After School Activities Program** provides youth opportunities to develop skills, accrue knowledge and explore career paths through projects and events on a broad spectrum of topics from agriculture to robotics to mock government as well as the English language. Partnering with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension Services, children are currently learning how to grow and care for food producing plants.



The Office of Evangelization provided two opportunities to take part in the latest Apologetic Conferences. The first at Resurrection Parish and the second at Epiphany Cathedral. Both events focused on clarifying the true teachings of the Catholic Faith.



The events included inspirational talks, Mass, the opportunity for Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In addition, part two of the **Scripture Series** was hosted on March 7. The theme of the day was "Salvation" and the talks focused on the power of redemption, almsgiving and the Eucharist.



Catechists, catechetical leaders, youth ministers, and Catholic school teachers took part in the **Diocese of Venice Catechetical Day 2020**. Hundreds gathered at Bishop Verot Catholic High School for a day designed to inspire, enlighten and refocus religious educators across the Diocese.

Bishop Frank J. Dewane celebrated the Mass and offered words of encouragement to the catechists.

The emphasis of the day was that the primary responsibility of catechists is to focus on the students. However, they are also responsible for drawing the parents into the process and to reintroduce them to the truths of the Faith. The catechists cannot replace the parents but rather complement and/or supplement the work of the parents who are the first and best educators of their children.



More than 450 representatives from the Diocese of Venice, including Bishop Frank J. Dewane, attended the National March for Life in Washington, D.C.



Members of **Parish Finance Councils** were invited to attend a seminar sponsored by the Diocesan Finance Department which was offered at different locations. The goal of the evening was to share information about Diocesan financial policies, as well as practices and procedures.

The Office of Family Life Outreach organized a Mass celebrated by Bishop Frank J. Dewane "Honoring Widows and Widowers" at St. John the Evangelist Parish. Hundreds gathered for the Mass which served as an important opportunity to recognize those who have suffered the loss of a spouse. The Bishop called the widows and widowers an inspiration and gift to the community as they stand strong in their faith, even with a loss that may continue to impact them deeply.



In February two **Anniversary Masses** were celebrated by the Bishop in honor of couples who live the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony each day. More than 600 couples from across the Diocese gathered at Epiphany Cathedral and St. Leo Parish. Congratulations to all of the happy couples who renewed their wedding vows and stand as a symbol of love and commitment for the world.



February 2 was **Family Day** at St. Michael Parish in Wauchula. Motivational and spiritual talks were offered for all ages plus fun activities and prayer for more than 500 parishioners.

The Catholic Faith Appeal provides the direct support enabling these vital works of faith and service to be carried out. For that reason, please consider participating generously in this year's CFA. Thank you!