

Catholic Faith Appeal

“Tell them to
do good...be
generous, ready
to share.” (1 Tim 6:18)



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FROM BISHOP DEWANE



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA OFFICE OF THE BISHOP



January 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As our shared journey of faith is renewed and the 2026 Catholic Faith Appeal begins, I recall the powerful words from St. Paul to Timothy: “Tell them to do good...to be generous, ready to share” (1Tim 6:18). These words capture the beautiful message of Christian stewardship and generosity.

Through the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA), an opportunity is offered to respond to the Lord’s call to love and benevolently serve others. Your giving helps vital ministries and outreach programs and brings Christ’s love to the poor, educates families in the Faith, provides disaster relief in times of difficulty, and forms future priests and leaders within the Local Church. It is precisely your contribution that allows the witnessing of Christ’s command to love God and neighbor in word and deed.

The following pages highlight some of the programs and ministries supported by the CFA. It is my hope you will prayerfully consider making a charitable gift to this year’s Catholic Faith Appeal so that, together, we can reflect the compassion, mercy and generosity of Our Lord.

Thank you for your commitment, prayers and dedication to this shared mission. Be assured of my deepest prayers for you and your loved ones. May the Lord bless you abundantly for your goodness in helping those of God’s children who are most in need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

PARISH, APOSTOLATE & MISSION

Throughout the Diocese of Venice, the Church is present in many forms including Parishes, Missions, and Apostolates. Each of these works together to provide opportunities for the Faithful to join in worship and show their devotion to the Catholic Faith. The Diocese is committed to serving the needs of all the Faithful, regardless of locality, language or ability to travel to a place of Worship. This devotion to serve all is evidenced by the Diocese having 124 Priests, 61 Parishes, 6 Missions and the Celebration of Mass being held in eight different languages including: English, French, Haitian Creole, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

A **Parish** is the heart of Catholic life in a local community. It is an organized, established congregation under the care of a Pastor/Administrator, where the Faithful gather for worship, Sacraments, and spiritual growth. Parishes provide a home for prayer, education and fellowship, fostering a sense of belonging and Faith.

An **Apostolate** is dedicated to specific aspects of Catholic life and service. They may focus on education, healthcare, social justice, evangelization, or charitable works. Apostolates allow laypeople and clergy to live out their Baptismal call by serving others and spreading the Gospel in practical, impactful ways.

A **Mission** extends the presence of the Church to areas where a Parish is not fully established. They serve as centers for worship and pastoral care, often in rural or underserved regions. Missions bring the Sacraments, catechesis, and outreach to communities, helping them to grow toward becoming vibrant Parishes.



EVANGELIZATION

The Department of Evangelization serves as a vital resource for Parishes by fostering outreach programs across the Diocese. Through endeavors like *Theology on Tap* for young adults, *Totus Tuus* summer catechetical program for children and teens, and Diocesan-wide events such as Youth Adoration Nights, the Annual Rosary Congress, and the Annual Youth Rally, the Department helps thousands encounter Christ and grow in Discipleship. These initiatives strengthen Catholic identity, build community, and inspire missionary action among all ages.



This Department spreads the Gospel by drawing hundreds of participants to initiatives that support personal, parochial, and Diocesan challenges. The most recent Annual Rosary Congress involved parishioners from every Parish within the Diocese of Venice. Blessed with growing involvement of youth within the Diocese, your support empowers this growing teen population to deepen their faith and become strong, committed Catholics. This past year, **over 2,000 young adults** took part in the Annual Youth Rally.



VOCATIONS

The Office of Vocations nurtures and guides individuals discerning a call to the priesthood or religious life. Through retreats, theological formation, and spiritual direction, the Office helps men and women explore their vocation with clarity and faith. By fostering a culture of vocations within Parishes and Schools, the next generation of servant leaders is inspired.



Seminarians embark on a journey of spiritual, academic, personal, and pastoral formation. This path is not only rigorous but costs in excess of \$75,000 annually per seminarian. Your gift helps to ensure that financial burdens do not stand in the way of a vocation. The Diocese has **15 seminarians** who are enrolled in their respective levels of academic formation. During the summer, the seminarians assist in Parishes, instruct the young, pray with the Community of the Faithful, and gain valuable pastoral experience.



The Diocese is blessed to have **Religious Sisters** who willingly devote their lives to prayer, service, and compassion as they quietly transform communities through faith education, healthcare where necessary, and spiritual assistance. Your support helps sustain the mission of the Sisters and honors their lifelong commitment to share the witness to the presence of Christ among those whom they assist.



The **Permanent Diaconate**, a vocation in the Catholic Church which allows men, including those who are married, to be ordained as Deacons to serve both at the altar and in the community. They proclaim the Gospel and assist in the Sacraments, where permitted. Deacons are called primarily to serve the Community of the Faithful.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Through our Religious Education Programs, children, youth, and adults are lovingly guided to deepen their knowledge of Our Lord. This may be in preparation to receive a Sacrament or to respond to Christ to be evermore faithful. Our dedicated catechists provide a nurturing environment where participants grow in their understanding of Scripture, Church Teachings, and Tradition. These programs are spiritual milestones that strengthen families, build communities, and deepen lifelong Discipleship.



NOTE: In Religious Education, this past year alone, the Diocese enrolled **9,935** K – 8 students to encounter Christ and His teachings at various levels.



The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the official process for welcoming individuals and families into full communion with the Catholic Church. Last year alone, **552** individuals received this opportunity. OCIA is a faith-filled journey of conversion and formation. Participants come from diverse backgrounds and find a new spiritual home in the Catholic Church. Your support helps to provide resources for formation, training of catechists, opportunities for retreats, and programming that reaches those seeking to grow ever closer to Jesus Christ.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Rooted in Gospel values, our bold Christ-centered mission of educating the whole child nurtures the mind, body, and soul. Diocese of Venice Schools have enjoyed impressive growth over the past five years; a 49% increase in enrollment makes us the fastest growing Diocesan School System in the country. Formed in Faith and educated for excellence, our students have Catholic virtues integrated into every subject and every school activity from preschool to high school. This rigorous, virtue-based curriculum is called “The Gifts of Christ: Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Affability, Fortitude, Humility, and Prudence.” Our Schools, Pastors, principals, and teachers provide the outstanding Catholic Education expected by parents and parishioners. The result is that our Schools produce compassionate leaders who live out their faith for the Church and the world.



STREAM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Every student in every school is trained in engineering and robotic concepts through access to cutting-edge technology and hands-on learning. The emphasis on Faith is matched by academic success with many of our students reading two-grade levels above the National Average. Each year, our graduates are accepted into the finest educational institutions in the country.



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Administrative Services provide the essential structures that assist the Diocese to fulfill its spiritual and pastoral mission, as well as an ecclesiastical management dimension. The professionals, who are employed at the Catholic Center for the Diocese of Venice, ensure responsible stewardship of resources, compliance with Church and civil law, and qualified support for Parishes, Schools, and ministries. All personnel undergo screening and are provided with the appropriate training so that, together, they share in the very mission and vision which is supported by the Faithful of the Diocese.

Buildings and Real Estate - Assists in the construction of new buildings, land acquisition, major maintenance projects, renovation projects, and emergency repairs.

Finance - Oversees the finances of the Diocese, as well as accounting services and support for Diocesan Parishes, Schools, and Missions, and coordinates investment and insurance policies.

Information Technology - Coordinates network management, cyber security, technical support and building systems to improve technical efficiency within Parishes, Schools, and Missions.

Human Resources - Supports clergy, staff, and lay employees with policies, benefits, and training. The Department also oversees compliance, personnel contracts, and risk management, in addition to safeguarding practices.

Respect Life - Promotes the dignity of every human person from conception to natural death. Guided by the Gospel of Life, the mission calls all the Faithful to build a culture that honors life as a sacred gift from God.

Additional Administrative Offices & Departments are: The Offices of the **Bishop, Chancellor, Marriage & Family Life**, and the Departments of **Archives, Communication, Internal Financial Services, Stewardship & Development, Tribunal**, and **Worship**.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities is committed to proclaiming the Social Teachings of the Church and promoting integral human development by alleviating poverty, empowering the human person, advocating for justice, and strengthening individuals and families. In addition, Catholic Charities serves people in need, regardless of faith, through compassionate programs that provide food, shelter, counseling, legal immigration assistance, adoption services, and support for vulnerable populations.



YOUR GIFT IN ACTION



WAYS TO GIVE

Thank you for your generous support! Your contribution helps the Diocese of Venice in Florida, Inc. continue its mission of serving those in need throughout Southwest Florida. Here are the convenient ways you can give:

Online Giving

- Make a secure gift anytime at <https://dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa>.
- Choose from one-time or recurring options through credit card or bank transfer.

By Mail

- Send a check payable to *Catholic Faith Appeal*, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

Pledges

- Commit to a specific amount over a 9-month period (Please note that all pledges must be satisfied by December 31, 2026).

Non-Cash Gifts

- IRA: Although a required minimum distribution (RMD) starts at age 73, the Faithful may donate up to \$111,000 per year from your Individual Retirement Account, tax free to a charitable cause, as early as 70 ½. Spouses may also participate to the same level if they have a separate IRA, giving married couples the opportunity to donate up to \$222,000. The funds must be paid directly to CFA from your wealth advisor in order to qualify.
- Stocks and Securities: Federal Law allows a charitable deduction for the full market value of the appreciated securities on the date of your gift.

Employer Matching

- Many companies match charitable gifts - check with your employer's HR Department to learn more.

For questions, contact Stewardship/Development at (941) 486-4719 or cfa@dioceseofvenice.org.

Bishops' Cornerstone Society

Trustee: \$25,000 and above

Pillar: \$10,000 - \$24,999

Benefactor: \$5,000 - \$9,999

Patron: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Give online! Visit us at www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Total Gift: _____

\$

Amount Enclosed: _____

\$

Balance: _____

\$

☐ Check

(Please make checks payable to *Catholic Faith Appeal*).

☐ Credit card/debit information enclosed

(Please see the reverse side).

☐ Stock

Name of Stock: _____

Number of Shares: _____

☐ Save postage: Email acknowledgements and reminders to: _____

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ready to share."***

(1 Tim 6:18)



Create Your Catholic Legacy Through the Catholic Community Foundation

The Catholic Community Foundation helps you support both the current needs as well as the long-term sustainability of the Catholic Parishes, Schools, programs, and ministries about which you care most within the Diocese of Venice.

The Foundation works with you to find the best ways to give, which will be more beneficial to you and the Catholic entity you want to support.

To learn more about creating your Catholic Legacy, better ways to give, or leaving a bequest in your will or trust, please scan the QR Code or contact the Catholic Community Foundation by using the information below noted.



CONTACT:

941-441-1124

CCF@dioceseofvenice.org

www.ccfdioceseofvenice.org

Credit Card

Please complete the information below.

Charge a one-time gift of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____
 Charge a monthly gift of \$ _____ for _____ months
 Beginning on _____
Month # of months
 (Not past December 31, 2026)

☐ AMEX ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Cardholder's Name : _____
 Credit Card #: _____
 Expiration Date: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____

Direct Debit

Please include a **BLANK VOIDED CHECK**.

Withdraw a monthly gift of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____
 Beginning on _____ for _____ months
Month # of months
 (Not past December 31, 2026)

Signature: _____ Date: _____



SCAN HERE

Note: Pledge payments will be processed on the 1st or 15th of each month after the initial payment (if applicable).

Please complete the front portion of this card. >>>