



Catholic Faith Appeal

*"Let us not grow
tired of doing
good,
for in due time
we shall reap our
harvest." (Gal 6:9)*



Diocese of Venice
in Florida

2023

Bishop Dewane



January 2023

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

May the blessings of Christ be with you and your family as we begin this New Year filled with the grace of Our Lord. Please accept my sincere appreciation for your continued support of the Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA).

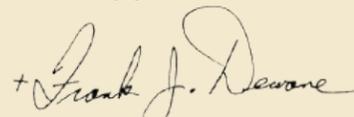
Due to the generosity of kind people like you, the Diocese of Venice has been able to continue the good works of the Church. Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Marriages and Ordinations have been celebrated with great joy among the Faithful. As people of hope, we mourn the death of loved ones. In the material realm, we continue to feed the hungry, visit the sick and the elderly, shelter the homeless, and shepherd our children in the Faith.

There is much to celebrate in our lives. However, scripture reminds us, "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest" (Gal 6:9). Therefore, I come to you with an invitation to support this year's Catholic Faith Appeal.

Many of the Diocesan programs and ministries funded through the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. As can be seen, the CFA furthers the mission given by Christ and impacts many individuals, families, and communities. I invite you to be a part of this undertaking and implore you not to "grow tired of doing good".

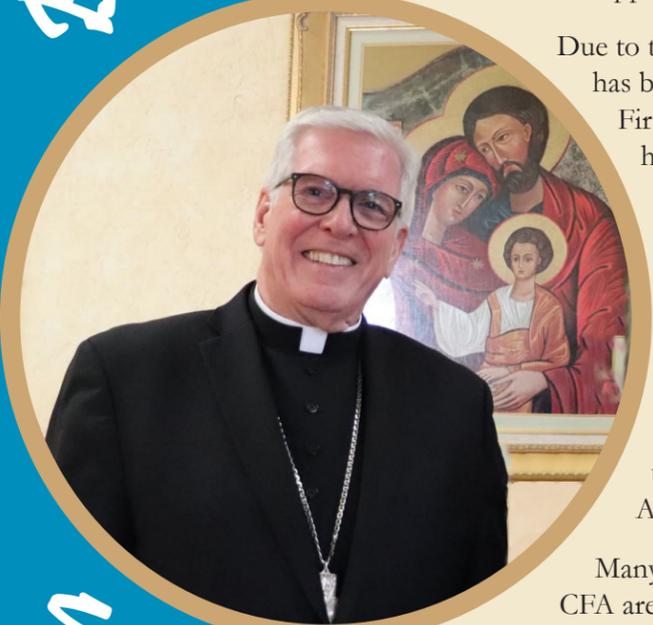
May the Lord abundantly reward your desire to help those among us in need. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



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

Message from



The **Office of Vocations** works in collaboration with Parishes and Schools across the Diocese to raise awareness of God's calling in the life of each person. The three primary functions of this office include promoting vocations to the Priesthood and religious life, assessing and evaluating candidates who present themselves for consideration, and overseeing the human, spiritual, academic, and pastoral formation of seminarians.

The **Permanent Diaconate Office** provides support in the discernment process as well as during formation. Currently, formation entails five years of study, prayer, and human and pastoral preparation. Further guidance is provided to the Deacons in their ministry by recommending resources and organizing events for continuing formation and



spiritual growth.

The **Religious Sisters** within the Diocese of Venice provide support and resources to individuals discerning the call to a religious vocation. Primarily, the Sisters serve in positions that educate, form, and promote a deeper spiritual life. It is often in Parishes and Schools located in financially challenged areas where the Sisters serve as they themselves live a life of poverty. In a unique way, they serve as a human and spiritual resource.



Seminarians also need our spiritual and material support to sustain them in following Our Lord's call. Currently, twelve seminarians are preparing to serve the Faithful in the Diocese of Venice. With yearly expenses of over \$75,000 per seminarian, the CFA provides the financial assistance needed to educate and form our next generation of Priests.



Vocations

Seminarians

Evangelization

The mission of the **Office of Evangelization** is to infuse a spirit of promoting the Faith in all corners of Diocesan life – in homes, Parishes, Schools, prisons, workplaces, and the wider community as a whole. This offers every person the opportunity to draw closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church. Our local Church accomplishes this through Men’s and Women’s Conferences, promotion of bible studies, retreats, Prison Ministry and Eucharistic Congress, etc. Areas of outreach include strengthening the Faith of practicing Catholics, inviting former Catholics to return home, and reaching out to those searching for Our Lord.

The Diocesan Youth Rally, coordinated by the **Office of Youth and Young Adult Outreach**, attracts nearly 2,000 teens each year. The event invites individuals

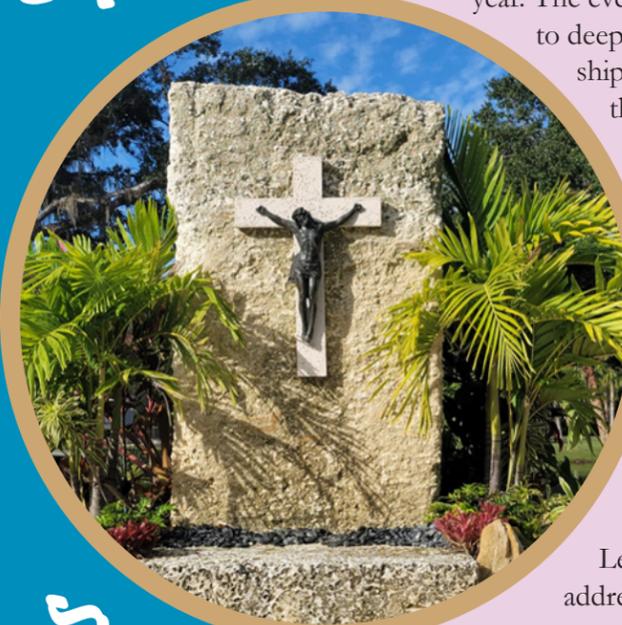
to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through motivational talks, inspirational music, and testimonies. The day often includes a Eucharistic Procession and a closing Mass.

The office also brings the Faith to where young adults socialize.

Lectures and reflections address the challenges our young, culturally diverse youth face in their realities of living in today’s society and in their community.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Campo San José Retreat Centers are available to the Faithful for individual or group retreats. The centers are located on serene grounds, allowing one to step away from the daily noises and distractions to focus solely on one’s relationship with the Lord.



Retreat Centers



Parish activities are at the center of most Catholics’ spiritual life. It is there that Holy Mass is celebrated and where one receives the Sacraments. Through a Parish community or movement, intentional disciples are formed by way of teaching the Gospel and promoting good works.

The CFA supports **Parishes and Missions** located in financially challenged neighborhoods, often aiding the broader community through food pantries, serving as disaster relief distribution sites, and providing necessary counseling.



For those unable to physically participate in the liturgical life of the local Church due to illness, mobility issues, or incarceration, the **Department of Communication** coordinates a televised Catholic Mass each Sunday. In addition, many Parishes livestream Mass on their websites. The broadcast brings the Lord’s healing and comfort to these individuals who often experience a sense of isolation. Televised liturgies also serve as a means of evangelizing those who want to know more about the Catholic Faith or those being

drawn back to the Church.

The Diocese is blessed with diverse cultural groupings and Mass is celebrated in eight different languages each Sunday.



The Haitian Ministry and Hispanic Apostolate aid in the integration of these populations into the life of our Diocese through spiritual workshops, formation retreats, and Masses in their native languages. They contribute their faith traditions to the local Parish.



Parishes

Apostolates



Charities

Catholic Charities, Inc. of the Diocese of Venice provides life's basic necessities through a myriad of outreach services. Programs include the following:

- **Our Mother's House:** Transitional housing has been offered to homeless mothers and their children since 1987. The program's mission is to offer single mothers and their preSchool-age children a safe and secure environment. The result is increased self-sufficiency through education, vocational training, and personal growth.
- **Casa Maria Soup Kitchen:** Free hot lunches are available for homeless individuals and migrant workers Monday through Friday.

- **The Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center:** Low to moderate income families and individuals are assisted through a variety of programs and services. This includes the *Choice Food Pantry* and the *Family Food Outreach Program* that delivers bags of food to families in need who do not have access to assistance. The *Empowerment Program* guides individuals on the path to self-sufficiency with emergency financial assistance for transportation, rent, and utilities. Food for the weekend is provided to homeless elementary students through the *Weekend Power Pack Food Program*.

- **Golden Gate Seniors:** Collier Senior Center partners with Catholic Charities to provide services such as a daily hot lunch program, job placement, and a food pantry. Also offered are educational seminars, financial assistance, and mental health counseling. Since isolation and loneliness are significant problems among the elderly, the Golden Gate Senior Center also provides a vast variety of recreational and developmental activities. The center has a membership of 1,300 seniors.



The Diocese of Venice's **Office of Marriage and Family Life** strives to equip the Faithful to live out God's plan for marriage and family in all stages of life.



Each year, couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 50 plus years in marriage are invited to a Mass where they are honored and recognized. The ceremony is a spiritual celebration of the beauty of a couple's fidelity, sacrifice, and joy in their sacramental commitment to one another.

For engaged, newly wed, and long married couples, marriage conferences, such as *Together in Holiness*, are available. These conferences aim to inspire couples to grow together in faithful union.



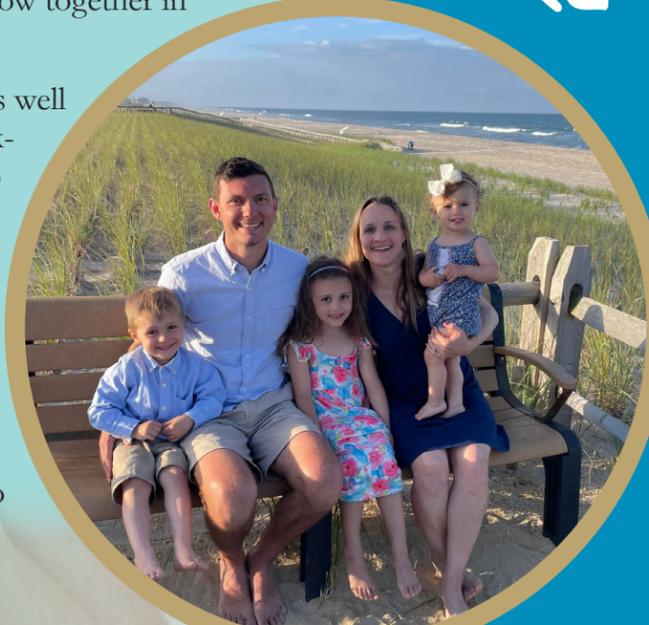
Safe Haven Sunday as well as a variety of workshops are offered to parents seeking assistance in addressing the current culture issues with their children.

The **Office of Marriage and Family Life** encourages couples planning for marriage to utilize a virtues-based, mentor-led program, *Witness to Love*. This program integrates modern principles of psychology and the virtues to help couples facilitate and talk about their relationship to one another and to God.

The newly engaged choose a married couple from the Parish to serve as mentors before and through the early stages of their marriage.

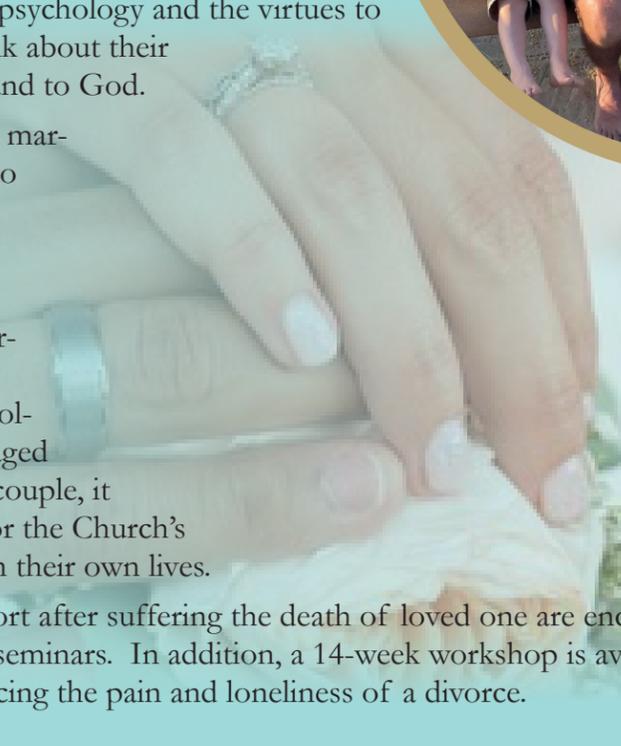
This relationship has two purposes: it deepens the understanding of the Church's theology of marriage for the engaged couple and, for the married couple, it reawakens an appreciation for the Church's understanding of marriage in their own lives.

Further, those seeking comfort after suffering the death of loved one are encouraged to attend bereavement seminars. In addition, a 14-week workshop is available to support individuals experiencing the pain and loneliness of a divorce.



Marriage and

Family Life



Education

The **Office of Religious Education** equips faith formation leaders with the support, training, and resources to fulfill the pastoral mission of evangelizing and catechizing the Faithful, ever conscious of the unique and diverse needs of each Parish.



Guidance for hiring catechetical personnel, celebration of Sacraments, and religious education curriculum are within the scope of the office. Training events and meetings for Directors of Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, and the RCIA are held throughout the year.



The **Catholic Schools** of the Diocese of Venice are committed to academic excellence while incorporating spirituality into every aspect of the curriculum.

Our Catholic Schools seek to instill students with Faith, virtues, and knowledge to guide and support them throughout their lives.

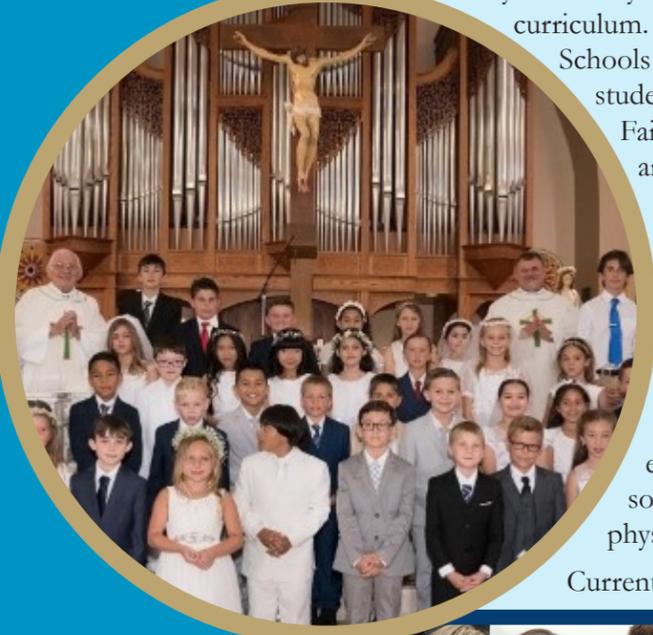
Athletics and extracurricular activities are also integral parts of the education. The Schools focus on the education of the whole person: spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and cultural.

Currently, there are 5,840 students enrolled in our fifteen Schools. These Schools have evidenced a 26 percent growth rate over the last two years and, when compared to pre-pandemic enrollment, has increased by 32 percent.

In the future, these students will be the adults sitting in the pews, the Priests celebrating Mass, or the Religious Sisters serving the poor. This is made possible because of the faith-enriched education they receive in Catholic Schools today.



Catholic



Employees and volunteers are crucial to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel and sharing the faith at the Diocese of Venice. Adequate facilities are also necessary to meet the needs of the Parishioners and wider community.

Staff, working in the departments located at the Catholic Center, serve the Faithful in Southwest Florida by providing guidance and administrative services. These professionals help ensure that all resources are utilized efficiently and responsibly.

The services provided to our Parishes, Schools, and other Diocesan entities include the following:



The **Internal Financial Services Department** oversees and coordinates financial reviews carried out by independent CPA firms every three years for all Parishes, Schools and Missions. This department performs operational and follow-up reviews of Diocesan entities in the off years. In addition, the department provides training sessions for bookkeepers, business managers and financial administrators.

In order to recruit and maintain the nearly 1600 employees, the **Human Resources Department (HR)** provides a full scope of services for all Diocesan entities. The department is responsible for employee relation consultation, benefits design, mediation processes, recruiting strategies and regulatory compliance issues.

Background checks for Priests, religious, employees and volunteers are also handled by HR through its **Safe Environment Program**.

The **Building and Construction Department** oversees the maintenance of Parish, School, and Ministry buildings throughout the Diocese. Furthermore, the staff guides Pastors and Administrators through the construction process and assures compliance with all applicable codes and laws. This ensures a safe



and effective environment for worship and ministry. After Hurricane Ian, this department coordinated all restoration activities for the 30 Parishes and 10 Catholic Schools that sustained damage.

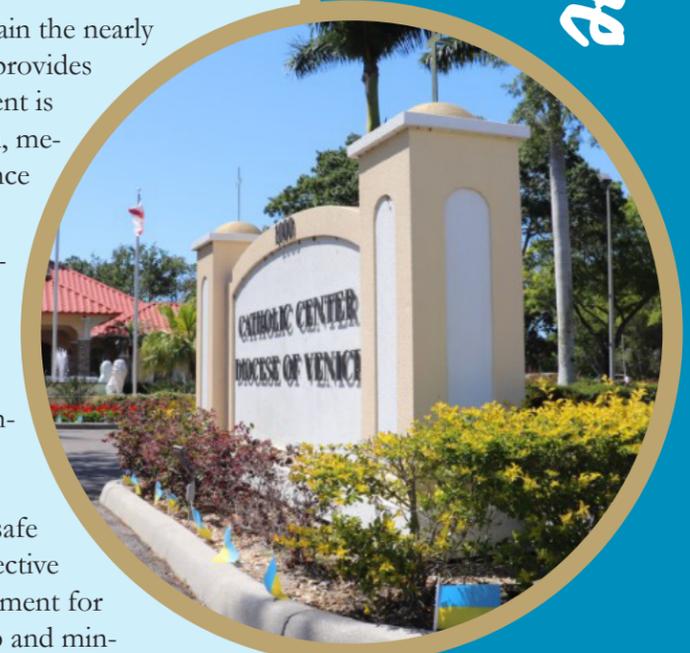
The Diocesan **Office of Information Technology** enables staff, Parishioners, and students to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by continuously improving secure, cost-effective technology. In addition, the office coordinates protection from the latest online threats through education and proactive communications.

Additional Administrative Offices

- Office of the Bishop
- Office of the Vicar General
- Office of the Chancellor
- Finance Department
- Legal Department
- Marriage Tribunal
- Risk and Insurance Office
- Worship Office

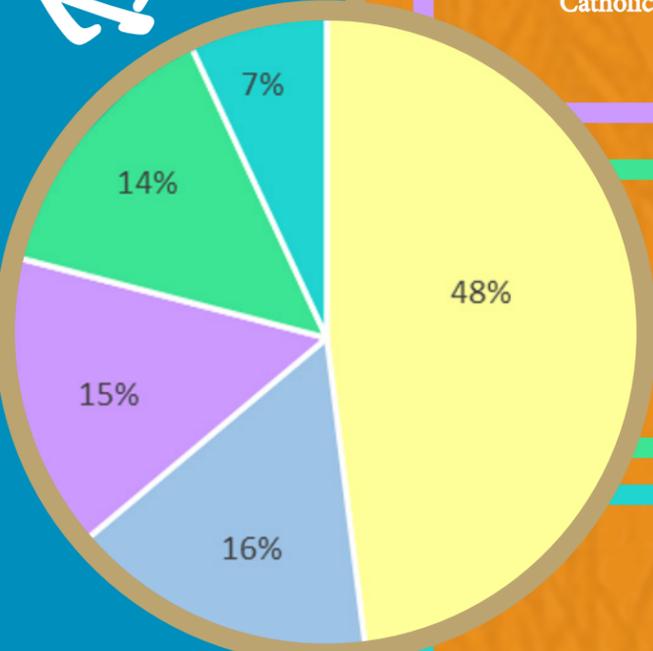
Administrative

Offices



Difference

Making a



Ministry, Outreach, and Services: 48%

Evangelization • Youth & Young Adult Outreach • Office of Stewardship and Development • Respect Life Department • Worship Office • Parish Services • Hispanic Apostolate • Prison Outreach • Catholic Center Administrative Services • Marriage Tribunal • Inter-Religious Affairs and Ecumenism Office • Bishop's Office and Episcopal Duties • Marriage Preparation • Family Life Outreach • Haitian Apostolate • Campus Ministry • Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat Center • Campo San José Retreat Center

Support of Parishes, Missions & Convents: 16%

Worship sites located in financially challenged communities

Catholic Education: 15%

Catholic Schools Department • Office of Religious Education • Catholic School Subsidy

Catholic Charities: 14%

Shelter for homeless mothers and their children • Affordable housing for veterans, seniors and families • Food pantries and kitchens • Counseling • Clothing banks • Shower Program for the homeless • Disaster Response and Recovery Program • After-School Reading Program • Head Start Program • Anti-Human Trafficking Programs

Vocations and Clergy Support: 7%

Seminary Education and Formation • Permanent Diaconate Formation • Continuing Education for Clergy • Office of Religious Life



MAKE A PLEDGE

Pledging allows you to make a more generous and affordable contribution.

The pledge can be spread out over ten months. You may pledge with the initial payment while the remaining balance can be donated anytime during the next nine months. The Diocese will send you monthly reminders.

GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN

| Gift Amount | Initial Payment | 9 Monthly Payments |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| \$50,000 | \$ 5,000 | \$ 5,000 |
| \$25,000 | \$ 2,500 | \$ 2,500 |
| \$15,000 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 1,500 |
| \$10,000 | \$ 1,000 | \$ 1,000 |
| \$ 5,000 | \$ 500 | \$ 500 |
| \$ 2,500 | \$ 250 | \$ 250 |
| \$ 1,000 | \$ 100 | \$ 100 |
| \$ 500 | \$ 50 | \$ 50 |

Thank you for your support!

For additional information, please call 941-441-1130

WAYS TO GIVE

Check: payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal

IRA: Although a required minimum distribution (RMD) starts at age 72, you may donate up to \$100,000 per year from your Individual Retirement Account tax free to a charitable cause as early as age 70½. Spouses may also participate to the same level if they have a separate IRA, giving married couples the opportunity to donate up to \$200,000. The funds must be paid directly to the CFA from your financial advisor in order to qualify.

Credit or Debit Card: Send us the information via the pledge card or visit www.dioceseofvenice.org.

Gift of Securities: Federal law allows a charitable deduction for the full market value of the appreciated securities on the date of your gift.

GIVING SOCIETIES

Bishop's Cornerstone Society Gift Levels

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trustee | \$25,000 and above |
| Pillar | \$10,000 to \$24,999 |
| Benefactor | \$ 5,000 to \$ 9,999 |
| Patron | \$ 2,500 to \$ 4,999 |

Leadership Society Gift Levels

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Steward | \$1,500 to \$2,499 |
| Angel | \$1,000 to \$1,499 |
| Friend | \$ 500 to \$ 999 |

BARCODE

Give online! Visit us at www.dioceseofvenice.org

Last Gift Amount:
(as of December 10, 2022)

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: _____

of Shares: _____

"Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest." (Gal 6:9)

Consituent ID

Addressee

Address

City/State/Zip

Parish ID/Name:

Phone Number:

Email:

What Will Be Your Catholic Legacy?

The Catholic Community Foundation of Southwest Florida partners with you to help support both the current needs and the long-term sustainability of Catholic Parishes, Schools, programs, and ministries that you love within the Diocese of Venice.

Information, tools, and assistance are provided to help you pass along your Faith, values, and beliefs to future generations. We also make sure your gifts will only be used as you originally intended.

Please prayerfully consider creating your Catholic Legacy through a bequest in your will or trust or by way of other gifting options available through the Catholic Community Foundation. For more information, please scan the QR Code or contact us by using the information below.



941-441-1124 | MORSE@DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG | 1000 PINEBROOK RD, VENICE, FL 34285
WWW.CCFDIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG

For online giving, please visit www.dioceseofvenice.org or for additional information about the CFA, please call 941-441-1130

Credit Card

Please complete the information below.

Charge a *one time* gift of \$ _____

Charge a *monthly* gift of \$ _____ for a total of \$ _____

Beginning on _____ for _____ months
Month # of months
(Not past December 2023)

Type: ___ Visa ___ Mastercard ___ AMEX ___ Discover

Holder'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 2023)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

A blank voided check is required to process your gift.

Note: Pledge payments will be processed on the 15th of each month after the initial payment (if applicable).
Please complete the front portion of this card.