

2025



DIOCESE OF  
VENICE  
IN FLORIDA

Celebrating  
40  
YEARS



# CATHOLIC FAITH *Appeal*

*“Whoever cares  
for the poor lends to  
the Lord...”*  
(Prov 19:17)



# A Message from Bishop Dewane



**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA**  
**OFFICE OF THE BISHOP**

January 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year the Diocese of Venice in Florida celebrates 40 Years of Service. Throughout this time, those who have come before us, as well as today's faithful, have supported the good works we are called to do as the People of God. In scripture we are taught, "Whoever cares for the poor lends to the Lord...". This reminds all that kindness and generosity toward our brothers and sisters is a blessing to Our Lord and will be returned.

Won't you be part of this call to "lend to the Lord" by donating to this year's Catholic Faith Appeal (CFA)? Your continued generous support is much needed and genuinely valued. Your kindness allows essential programs, ministries and works of mercy to be extended to individuals and families in every stage of life. From disaster relief to caring for the poor, from resources for the underserved to faith formation and education; individuals, families and communities receive compassion and care.

Many of the Diocesan programs and ministries funded through the CFA are highlighted in this brochure. As here presented, the CFA furthers the Mission of the Church given by Christ and impacts those in need throughout Southwest Florida.

May the Lord abundantly bless you in this Jubilee Year 2025, declared by Our Holy Father, for your desire to help those among us in need. Be assured of my continued prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Frank J. Dewane".

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





# PARISHES, MISSIONS AND APOSTOLATES

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Parishes and Missions are communities of faith, action and hope, where the Gospel is proclaimed and lived. Your generosity provides assistance to Parishes and Missions located in financially challenged areas, ensuring a place to worship, pray and receive the Sacraments for generations to come.

To more fully sustain integration into the Church and society, Haitian, Vietnamese and Hispanic Apostolates address the spiritual, educational, social, and where necessary, basic essentials. These vibrant communities host Liturgical celebrations, cultural events and other initiatives to strengthen their groups and promote spiritual well-being.



**122** PRIESTS

**61** PARISHES

**266,379** PARISHIONERS SERVED

**8** LANGUAGES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS



# VOCATIONS

The Office of Vocations seeks to encourage and support young people as they discern God's call to priesthood and consecrated religious life. Discernment for the priesthood is crucial as it ensures those called by God to serve as priests have a deep understanding of their role, are well-prepared to lead the community and contribute to the health and continuity of the Catholic Church. With annual expenses of more than \$75,000 per seminarian, the CFA provides financial assistance needed to educate and form the future generations of Priests.

Religious Sisters dedicate their lives to serving God through prayer, ministry and various works of charity in locations where those most in need are the focus of their efforts. This includes service in educational roles, nurturing the intellectual, spiritual and moral formation of youth.

The Permanent Diaconate Program facilitates the discernment and formation of men called to the role of Permanent Deacon. A five-year formation program of prayer and study helps to prepare them for service in the Church. Deacons assist at the Sacred Liturgy, confer Baptism and witness Marriage. Many Deacons also help their Parishes in other varied ways.



17 SEMINARIANS

23 RELIGIOUS SISTERS

84 PERMANENT DEACONS





# EVANGELIZATION AND RETREAT CENTERS

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The Office of Evangelization reaches out with programs and ministries to Parishes, schools, homes, workplaces, prisons and the larger community. Opportunities to experience the fullness of the Catholic faith are provided so as to draw every person to the Lord. This is accomplished through conferences, retreats, Bible studies, prison ministry, Eucharistic Congresses and other vital initiatives to strengthen the faith throughout the Diocese.



The Office of Youth and Young Adult Outreach coordinates events like the Annual Youth Rally, as well as ongoing Theology on Tap for youth and young adults to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ. The younger generations face numerous challenges in our society. These programs endeavor to illuminate spiritual growth and highlight our faith tradition.

The Office of Marriage and Family Life exists to promote and strengthen families to carry out God's plan allowing the basic unit of society to grow together in holiness and raise children in the Catholic Faith. Engaged couples are formed for sacramental marriage, and married couples are empowered to become active witnesses and supporters of family life.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Campo San Jose Retreat Centers provide an ambiance to inspire a deep personal relationship with the Lord. By removing the distractions and noise of everyday life, one can more clearly listen to the Lord.





# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

In our Catholic Schools, families and students experience a superb education infused with Catholic values, teachings and traditions to prepare students for college and a life of purpose. Students are educated for excellence, formed in faith and sent to serve. Each one of our schools is at capacity and has a waiting list.



**15 SCHOOLS**

**100% GRADUATION RATE**

**6,474 STUDENTS ENROLLED**



# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Celebrating  
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Religious Education prepares children for the sacraments and to face life's challenges. The approach to catechesis is Parish based while emphasizing the family unit. Programs like Totus Tuus awaken children of all ages to the faith, helping them to understand more fully the mystery of Christ and the holiness His call entails.





# CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc., is committed to providing a wide range of assistance to people throughout Southwest Florida. The ever-increasing needs of vulnerable populations are served through 21 sites, offering outreach services that focus on food security, housing, anti-human trafficking, behavioral health, immigration and youth development.

**1,268 PROVIDED HOUSING**

**\$4,180,666 DIRECT ASSISTANCE**

**10,262 SERVICES TO SENIORS**

**1,182 LEGAL IMMIGRATION SERVICES**

**10,546 CHILD AND ADULT EDUCATION**

**39,424 PANTRY AND FOOD SERVICES**

**4,597 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**5,267 SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

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The Catholic Center is staffed with dedicated employees who provide specialized skills and guidance to support the activities of the Diocese. This is complemented by countless volunteers who use their skills to assist Parishes and other entities within the Diocese of Venice. As partners in the Body of Christ, these professionals and volunteers seek to advance the Mission of the Local Church.





# YOUR GIFT IN ACTION



**16%**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS  
& RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**50%**  
MINISTRY  
& PROGRAMS

**12%**  
CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES



**17%**  
PARISHES, MISSIONS  
& APOSTOLATES

**5%**  
VOCATIONS  
& CLERGY



# MAKE A PLEDGE

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YEARS

A pledge is an opportunity to make a more generous and affordable contribution over a ten-month period. The Diocese will send you a monthly reminder.

## GIFT OPPORTUNITIES USING THE 10-PAYMENT PLAN TABLE

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

## WAYS TO GIVE

### CHECK: PAYABLE TO CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

IRA: Although a required minimum distribution (RMD) starts at age 73, you may donate up to \$105,000 per year from your Individual Retirement Account, tax free to a charitable cause, as early as age 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 \$210,000. The funds must be paid directly to CFA from your wealth advisor in order to qualify.

Credit or Debit Card: Send us the information via the pledge card or visit [www.dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa)

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

SCAN HERE



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

For additional information, please call (941) 486-4719 or email [cfa@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:cfa@dioceseofvenice.org)

Give online! Visit us at [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

***"Whoever cares for the poor lends  
 to the Lord..."***  
 (Prov 19:17)





## Create Your *Catholic Legacy* Through the Catholic Community Foundation

The Catholic Community Foundation helps you support the current needs as well as the long-term sustainability of the Catholic Parishes, Schools, programs and ministries that you love within the Diocese of Venice.

The Foundation works with you to find smarter 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, smarter 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.



**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, 2025)**

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
Month # of months  
for \_\_\_\_\_ months  
**(Not past December 31, 2025)**  
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. >>>