

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD



**8121 CYPRESS LAKE DRIVE
FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33919**

PASTOR: Very Rev. Stephen E. McNamara, V.F.

PAROCHIAL VICAR: Fr. Oliver Toner

DEACON: Michael Esper

ADMINISTRATOR: Bonnie O'Connell

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS ED: Joanne MacPeck, M.A.

ORGANIST: Connie Kish

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Leslie Gaitens-Kopper

SUNDAY MASSES & CONFESSIONS: See Inside

BAPTISMS & MARRIAGES: For these Sacraments,
please notify the Church Office as soon as possible so
that we may be able to accommodate you. Thank you.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Please fill out registration card and
return to ushers or to the church office

RCIA - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults:
Tel. 482-6883 or 481-7172

RELIGIOUS ARTICLES STORE: Tel. 437-9876

RELIGIOUS ED OFFICE: Tel. 482-6883

YOUTH MINISTRY OFFICE: Tel. 481-5144

PARISH OFFICE: Tel. 481-7171 or 481-7172
E-mail: parishoffice@resurrectionch.org Fax 481-8007
www.resurrectionch.org

**TREASURES FOR HOME & FAMILY: 489-3540
(THRIFT SHOP)**

July 15, 2007

GO AND DO LIKEWISE

Miss Collins, the dean of students at Olympic High School, was past the point of scolding Matt, though she liked him very much. "Four detentions in two weeks are too many."

Still Matt wouldn't tell. It was only after Miss Collins went on a morning neighborhood patrol that she found out the real reason for Matt's tardiness. Thump, thump, thump, came the wheelchair down the stairs. It was Matt, steadying Shawnetta as he helped lower her down the stairs and then push her to the corner bus stop.

"She's a girl in my parish youth group," Matt explained to Miss Collins.

There are many ways to describe Matt's actions—a random act of kindness, making a difference one person at a time. Jesus would understand. When the lawyer correctly identified the good Samaritan as the one who had treated the injured man with compassion, Jesus said simply, "Go and do likewise" (Luke 10:37).

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**Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
July 15, 2007**

Christ Jesus . . . is the head of the
body, the church.
— *Colossians 1:15, 18*

MASSSES FOR THE WEEK

SAT. JULY 14- SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES
3:30 †Doris O'Brien by Joan Busch
5:00 †Rick Georgeson by Lessl Family
SUN. JULY 15
8:00 ♥People of the Parish
9:30 †Ralph Buonocore Sr. by Family
11:00 †Courtney Cahill by Sheer Family
MON. JULY 16
8:00 †Hilda & Thomas Marcellus by Family
TUE. JULY 17
8:00 ♥Marie E. Coleman by Joseph & Shirley Halizak
WED. JULY 18
8:00 ♥†Liv. & Dec'd Members of Women's Guild
THU. JULY 19
8:00 †Donna Freeman by Mary E. & Robert Geiger
FRI. JULY 20
8:00 †Jeanne M. Ruffing by Carol Hunt
SAT. JULY 21
8:00 †Frank Sliva by Cecelia Malloy & Family
SAT. JULY 21- SUNDAY VIGIL MASSES
3:30 ♥People of the Parish
5:00 †John E. Daly by Mary Jo Daly
SUN. JULY 22
8:00 †John J. Sutschek by John J. Sutschek
9:30 †Courtney Cahill by Nina & Grif Griffin
11:00 †Florence & Stephen Walsh by Mary & Dan Walsh

RESURRECTION PRAYER LINE MINISTRY - For prayer requests call Mary Lou Fitzpatrick, 454-6752. Give your first name & prayer petition. Should you reach an answering machine, please leave your phone number so that we can call you back. Petitions are prayed for 31 days. **Prayer Line volunteers are needed** to pray & answer prayer requests. Take this opportunity to help someone else and still be able to choose your own time.

CONFESSIONS - Saturdays 2:15-3:15PM, 30 min. before Sunday Masses or by appointment.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS All those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith especially **Aida Severino**

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE POOR BOXES;
THEY ARE THE BREAD BOXES OF THE
POOR!**

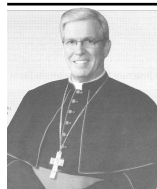
TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The word of the Lord is very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts (Deuteronomy 30:10-14).

Psalms — Turn to the Lord in your need, and you will live (Psalm 69) or *Psalm 19*.

Second Reading — Christ Jesus is the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15-20).

Gospel — The Samaritan traveler was moved with compassion at the sight of the man stripped and beaten by robbers (Luke 10:25-37).



**DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP - JULY 2007**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The National Black and Indian Mission Collection was instituted 123 years ago to service the Catholic Church in Black and Native American communities. In its more than one hundred year history, the collection has been of significant help to parishes and school in areas which struggle to maintain services and programs for their families. The collection which was taken up last year allocated special grants to the Gulf Coast States where hurricanes and flooding destroyed churches and schools in many Black and Native American communities.

The Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Dioceses of Biloxi and Houma-Thibodaux have expressed their gratitude for the generosity of individuals, dioceses, and organizations throughout the United States in coming to their aid. It will take several years for the Gulf Coast parishes and schools to totally recover, and the truth is that many never will recover. This, then, is a critical time for all of us to do what we can to continue to help these dioceses who serve the Black and Native American communities, whose families are among the poorest of the poor. The spiritual and temporal needs provided by churches and schools are of vital importance to sustain these families, giving them hope for the future. The good news is that, as a result of your generosity last year the **Nation Black and Indian Mission Collection**, there has been definite progress.

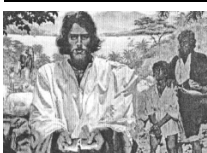
Your continued assistance to our brothers and sisters in these areas is needed now more than ever, and I ask everyone in the Diocese of Venice to be as generous as possible to the **2007 National Black and Indian Mission Collection**, which will be taken up in all of the parishes in the Diocese next weekend, July 21/22. With our prayers and financial assistance, let us all share in the rebuilding efforts of the Church in these suffering communities.

Sincerely in Christ, Bishop Frank J. Dewane

BISHOP FRANK J. DEWANE IS CALLING FOR APPLICANTS TO THE DIACONATE to serve the continuing ministerial needs of our Diocese, such as prison ministry, port chaplaincies, nursing home and hospital ministry, police and fire departments, and Newman Centers in diocesan colleges. Those ordained to the Diaconate must be between the ages of 35 and 60 years by 2013. Two Saturday informational meetings will be offered for inquirers and their wives: St. Martha's Parish, **Sarasota, on Sept. 8**, and Ascension Parish, 6025 Estero Blvd., **Ft. Myers Beach, Sept. 22**. For info call Bill Ledroga, 941-378-7070.

WEEKLY SUNDAY OFFERING**July 8, 2007**

Registered families with envelopes: 2450

Envelopes received: 658 (27%) **\$14,606.50**Remaining fam. & visitors: 1792 (73%) **\$ 2,849.50****Total offering:** **\$17,456.00****Thank You****ST. VINCENT DePAUL OFFERING****July 9 - July 15****\$ 875.00****Thank you!**

**2007 ANNUAL
CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL:
TOGETHER IN CHRIST**

Please join our parish family by making a sacrificial gift to CFA. Your gift helps to pay our parish share of the cost of our diocesan programs. Once we reach our assessment goal of \$359,000, the Diocese returns all "over-goal" funds to our parish for use in our own ministries. Please join us in supporting our larger Catholic family. You can make a pledge that can be paid out until the end of the year, or you can make your gift by credit card, direct card, stock donations, or by check. Checks should be made payable to the Catholic Faith Appeal. Envelopes for this purpose can be found in the pews or entrances of the church. Thank you.

2007 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL STATUS**Assessment: \$359,000****Pledged: \$349,337.78 - 97.31% of Assessment****Actual Payment: \$296,453.23****Thank you!****FLORIDA CATHOLIC****TEEN AND YOUNG ADULT SURVEY**

After a year of conducting focus groups with teens and young adults and people who minister to them, we are in the final stages of gathering information through a Teen Survey and Young-Adult Survey. The surveys are designed to give *The Florida Catholic* critical information for the development of Web site areas designed specifically for Catholic teens and another for Catholic young adults ages 20-35. **We are asking teen and young adults to please take 10 minutes of their time to fill out the appropriate survey that may be accessed at www.thefloridacatholic.org. Thank you.**

**SUMMER TIME EVENINGS
WITH ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL**



Church of the Resurrection will be having a four-week Bible Study on St. Luke's Gospel on Mondays 7:00PM - 9:00PM, **July 30, Aug 6, Aug 20 and 27th**. This study will appeal to you spiritually and intellectually. Luke's Gospel comes alive in its historical settings and contemporary applications. The wisdom of the Fathers and the teachings of the Church is illuminated through the help of the Bible Study Guide. This course will be taught by Loretta Duquette, who has a MA in Catholic Studies from Notre Dame Pontifical Institute. **Please call Joanne at 482-6883 or Mary 481-7171 to reserve your study guide.** Cost of the study guide is \$8.50.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PLANNING
FOR SEPTEMBER 2007**

Classes will resume Sept. 4 & 5, 2007. Confirmation Class will be Wednesdays 6:15PM - 7:30PM beginning October 3, 2007.

WHY DID GOD MAKE US? TO KNOW LOVE AND

SERVE - The goal of all Religious Education is to acquire and deepen Christian faith and identity. Walking in faith involves studying, praying with scripture, church traditions and doctrines (knowing God); participation in the Sacraments (loving God) and forming our conscience to use our time and talent wisely (serving God).

WITNESSES ARE NEEDED! Pope John Paul II reminded us that "at the heart of catechesis we find, in essence, a Person, the Person of Jesus of Nazareth" (Catechesi Tradendae, p.6). "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses" (On Evangelization in the Modern World, 1975).

PASSING ON THE FAITH - If we are to catechize effectively, not only must we witness to our faith and be willing to share our faith story with those we are catechizing, but we must also employ the best teaching tools. I am reminded of the Chinese Proverb: "I hear...and I forget. I see...and I remember. I do... and I understand."

COME AND SEE...FORMATION SESSIONS FOR CATECHISTS Wednesday evenings **Aug. 22 and Aug. 29, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** **Catechists Needed: GR. 1 & 6 on Tuesday; K & GR. 5 on Wednesdays, Pre-K 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sundays. Confirmed High School parishioners are needed for assistants.** Please call Joanne, 482-6883

RCIA Inquiry Sessions are always available for adults who are interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. Please call Joanne, 482-6883

SUMMER RETREAT:

Priests, seminarians and pro-life leaders are invited to a Retreat in Amarillo, TX, **Aug. 15-21**, You are welcome to attend all or part of it, as your schedule allows. For more details, please visit www.priestsforlife.org/retreats or email Ray at retreats@priestsforlife.org.

PLEASE NOTE: COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS on Sunday mornings will resume on Sunday, August 5.
ALSO NOTE: PARISH OFFICE HOURS as of July 1 - August will be 8:00a.m. - 3:00p.m., closed 12:30 - 1:30p.m.

August 2007 Highlights



ETERNAL WORD TELEVISION NETWORK • 5817 OLD LEEDS ROAD • IRONDALE, AL 35210

NEW PROGRAMS

SAINTS: Gospel Artists

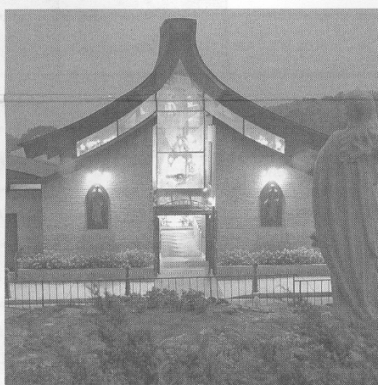
NEW. EWTN Presents. A group of Canadian young adults traverse the rich spiritual landscape of Italy, visiting the holy sites of the great heroes of the Church: its Saints and Blesseds. *Airs August 1 at 10PM, August 5 at 8AM. (60 mins.)*

DIALOGUE OF FRANCIS AND CLARE

NEW. Musical Special. A concert by American friar, Fr. Robert Hutmacher, OFM and performed in the Porziuncula in Santa Maria degli Angeli, Assisi. *Airs August 5 at 1:30PM, August 11 at 3AM. (60 mins.)*

FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS:**Catholic Financial Stewardship**

NEW. Catholic Compass. Veritas Financial Ministries founder, Phil Lenahan, joins Franciscan University Presents host Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, and panelists Dr. Regis Martin and Dr. Scott Hahn for a look at monetary issues from a Catholic perspective. *Airs August 5 at 10PM, August 7 at 2PM & August 10 at 4AM. (60 mins.)*

**MASS OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, WITH THE FRANCISCAN MISSIONARIES OF THE ETERNAL WORD, IRONDALE, ALABAMA**

LIVE Mass. *Airs LIVE August 15 at 8AM; Encores August 15 at 12PM & 6:30PM; August 16 at 12AM. (90 mins.)*

EWTN GLOBAL SHOWCASE

WHERE THE SAINTS GO

A documentary look at the life of St. John Vianney, the beloved parish priest sought out by thousands for his profound spiritual advice and mystically enlightened confessions. *Airs August 4 at 8PM, August 5 at 2AM & August 9 at 1PM. (60 mins.)*

**ST. CLARE OF ASSISI**

A look at the life of St. Clare of Assisi (foundress of the Poor Clares). Captivated by the burning words of St. Francis, she forsook her noble heritage and embraced a life of poverty out of love for Christ and Him Crucified. *Airs August 11 at 8PM, August 12 at 2AM & August 16 at 1PM. (60 mins.)*

MAXIMILIAN: Saint of Auschwitz

Actor Leonard Defilippis displays exceptional talent portraying the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe in this one man play depicting Kolbe's profound devotion to the Mother of God, and his heroic response to the hatred of the Nazis. *Airs August 18 at 8PM, August 19 at 2AM & August 23 at 1PM. (90 mins.)*

THECLA: A Life Spent for the Gospel

This fascinating drama tells the story of Thecla Merlo, the foundress of the Daughters of St. Paul. *Airs August 25 at 8PM, August 26 at 2AM & August 30 at 1PM. (60 mins.)*

CATHOLIC COMPASS

FAMILY THEATER:**Father Pat / World's Greatest Mother**

Family Theater Productions presents the life of Fr. Patrick Peyton, who made a huge impact on the Catholic faithful. Also, Family Theater Productions offers a look at the Virgin Mary as the role model for all mothers. This glimpse at Mary's life through drama and song includes footage of actresses Gene Lockhart, Loretta Young and others. *Airs August 12 at 10PM, August 14 at 2PM & August 17 at 4AM. (60 mins.)*

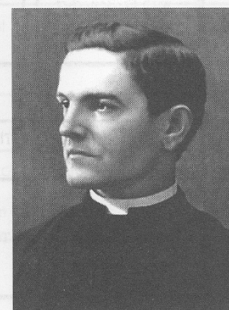
FR. JUSTIN FIGAS: Beyond the Airwaves

A documentary look at the life and legacy of Fr. Justin Figas, a Franciscan radio evangelist. *Airs August 19 at 10PM, August 21 at 2PM & August 24 at 4AM. (60 mins.)*

FAMILY THEATER: The Joyful Hour

The story of Joseph and Mary is told with interspersed teaching regarding the rosary. Actor Pat O'Brien and family are shown praying the rosary. *Airs August 26 at 10PM, August 28 at 2PM & August 31 at 4AM. (60 mins.)*

EWTN GALLERY

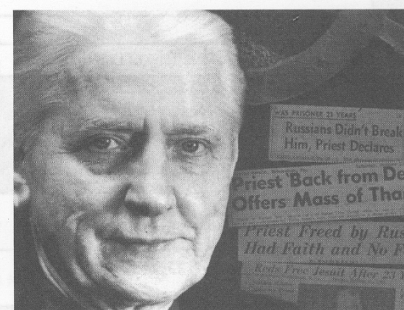
**LIFE AND LEGACY OF FATHER MCGIVNEY**

A documentary look at the life and legacy of Father Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, whose short life left a

lasting impact on the world. *Airs August 6 at 3AM & 6:30PM. (60 mins.)*

CHRONICLES OF A HOLY MAN

A look at the life of St. Alberto Hurtado, a Chilean Jesuit dedicated to helping youth and homeless street children. *Airs August 13 – 17 at 3AM & 6:30PM; August 15 at 3AM & 5:30PM. (60 mins.)*

**GRAVE IN PERM:****The Father Walter Ciszek Story**

A story of the resurgence of Catholicism in Russia, with a focus on the life of Father Walter Ciszek: a Roman Catholic priest convicted of being a "Vatican Spy," who spent twenty-three years in Soviet prisons. *Airs August 22 at 3AM & 6:30PM. (60 mins.)*

LITURGICAL CONFERENCE 2007 - The Conference will take place at the Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel in Orlando, **August 23-25**. The Easter Triduum of the passion, death, and resurrection of the Lord is the centerpiece of the Church's year of grace. We will explore its pastoral dimensions in the context of the ninety days of Lent and Easter. **This conference**, sponsored by the Office of Liturgy of the Diocese of Orlando is **for clergy, pastoral musicians, school music teachers, liturgists, pastoral ministers, as well as catechumenate, environment, and liturgy teams**. For info call the Diocese of Orlando, 407-246-4800 or www.orlandodiocese.org for the conference schedule and registration forms.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE ALTAR FLOWERS in celebration of someone's anniversary/birthday as a memorial or in thanksgiving please call Barbara, Parish Office, 481-7172. The loved one's name as well as the name of the donor (if wished) will be printed in the bulletin. **Flowers are needed for the last two weeks of JUNE and the months of JULY and AUGUST.**



This week's flowers are:

In Memory of

Grace Gropp by Husband, Joseph

Enrique J. Gonzalez by His Daughter & Son-In-Law

Rick Georgeson by His Loving Wife, Kathy

FLOWER TENDER NEEDED

Would you like to serve the Lord by tending his flowers in church? We are in need of one or two volunteers for our Flower Committee. Please call Judy at 287-1237, if you are interested.

THRIFT SHOP NEWS: We have many sofas, chairs, end tables, headboards, lamps, small appliances and more. Everything in the store is **20% off, clothing 50% off**. We are located at 9250 College Pkwy., just before McGregor Blvd. Look for our white truck in the driveway. Call 489-3540 for info.

STEWARDSHIP IS GRATITUDE THAT OVERFLOWS!

Whenever someone gives you a wonderful gift you didn't expect, you might be moved to do something nice in return. That's where stewardship starts. At its very core, **stewardship is thankfulness that overflows into giving of your time, treasure and talent as a way of thanking God for all He gives us**. How can you practice stewardship in your own life? **Put God first**. Let nothing come in the way of your attendance at Mass and your personal prayer time. Open your heart wide to God and listen to His response. **Get involved in your parish**. Where can you use your talents? Greeter before Mass? Eucharistic minister to visit the sick and homebound? Extra help during CCD classes? Call the parish office, 481-7172, to find out. **Build up the Body**. Each day, try to be Jesus to someone. Think of ways you can live His teachings in all aspects of your life. The miraculous thing about showing gratitude to God is that He then gives you even more for which you can be thankful. (Reprinted - *Growing in Faith*, 9/2003)

RESURRECTION CALENDAR

ALL events take place in the Parish Center, unless otherwise stated.

Baptismal Class, 2nd Tuesday of month, 7:00p.m.

Bereavement Ministry, for the grieving, call Dona, 275-7875.

Beyond Bereavement, Mon., 8:30AM, library, Cecilia, 437-2367.

Craft Club, Tuesdays, 8:30AM to 10:30a.m.

Rosary, before daily Masses; Tues. & Thurs., 2:00a.m, church.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, after 8:00a.m. Mass, every 1st Friday, chapel.

Bridge Club, Thurs., 1:30p.m.

Coffee & Doughnuts, resumes in August.

Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Novena, Saturdays after the 8:00a.m., church.

Your child has told you he/she is gay. There is a support Group. Call Sharon at 454-6284.

MINISTRY OF THE SICK

When being admitted to the hospital, *it is imperative that you give the name of your parish, state that you are Catholic and WISH TO BE SEEN BY A PRIEST*, otherwise you might not be visited. If you go through the emergency room, 99% of the time your name and parish will not get on the Catholic list. Please be sure that the admissions office is notified. The following hospitals are the responsibility of the parish in which they are located.

- Gulf Coast Hospital - visited daily by Blessed Pope John XXIII Parish, 561-224
- Lee Memorial Hospital - visited daily by St. Francis Xavier Parish, 334-2161
- S.W. Regional Medical Center - visited daily by St. Cecilia's Parish, 936-3635
- Lee Memorial Health Park - visited daily by St. Columbkille Parish, 489-3973

A priest is on call 7 days a week, 24 hours a day for the above hospitals at the above telephone numbers.

Parishioners at Hospitals and Nursing Homes (within our parish boundaries) are visited by Resurrection priests as follows:

- All Hospitals: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
 - Nursing Homes & Shut-ins: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
- Also, Lay Ministers visit the shut-ins Monday through Friday. Should you be missed, please call the church office, 481-7172.

BEREAVEMENT & BEYOND

All widows, widowers or others suffering the loss of a loved one, are invited to join our informal discussion group for coffee and for the desire and comfort of a deeper relationship with God through prayer and friendship. Meetings are every Monday morning following the 8:00a.m. Mass for one hour in the Parish Center. We'd love to see you there. Questions? Phone Cecilia, 437-2367.

HAPPINESS - Since happiness is nothing else but the enjoyment of the Supreme good, and the Supreme good is above us, no one can be happy who does not rise above oneself. -- St. Bonaventure

SCHOLARSHIP FUND – A Catholic education is often out of reach for families in our migrant community who are usually struggling just to get by, but you can help a needy child attend one of our high schools by contributing to the **Brother Joseph Shields Memorial Scholarship Fund**. The scholarship helps pay for tuition and additional expenses. This past school year the fund made it possible for six children to attend all three of our high schools, St. John Neumann in Naples, Bishop Verot in Fort Myers and Cardinal Mooney in Sarasota. The Brother Joseph Fund was established by the Diocese of Venice Foundation for the Care of Migrant Poor to recognize the contributions and spiritual commitment of Brother Joe Shields. To make a contribution please contact the Finance Department at the Diocese of Venice at 941-484-9543 or mail in your contribution to The Brother Joseph Shields Memorial Scholarship Fund, Diocese of Venice Finance Dept, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

World Youth Day will take place next summer, **July 15 - 20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia**, and the Diocese of Venice will be there. World Youth Day is the Catholic Church's week of events for youth and with youth. It gathers thousands of young people from around the world to celebrate and learn about the Catholic faith and to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures. The event will mark the first visit to Australia of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. If you are interested in knowing more about this wonderful experience contact Devin Jones at the Catholic Center and his number is 941-486-4723 or e-mail him at djones@dioceseofvenice.org.

MAGNIFICAT

All women are invited to a prayer breakfast sponsored by *Magnificat* which will be held Sat., **August 4**, 9:30a.m. - 12:30p.m., Three Oaks Banquet and Conference Center, Estero. The speaker will be Tricia Wynne Lansing, founder of *One Accord Music Ministry*. In 1987, *Tricia and One Accord* began doing Gospel Concerts in Christian churches of all denominations in New York and Pennsylvania. In 1992, her ministry began an outreach to inmates at a maximum security prison in upstate N.Y. She and her husband currently continue this work in Florida prisons. Come hear this talented singer share the story of how a "stay at home mom" of seven children has been called to share God's miraculous gift of new life with churches and prisons. Advanced registration is required by mail. Please send a \$20 check payable to *Magnificat Ft. Myers* to Joanne Tarantino, 16550 Heron Coach Way #206, Ft. Myers, FL 33908 (481-6967), or Joyce Michel, 3650 Bonita Beach Rd. #26, Bonita Springs, FL 34134. Info? Call 992-4872.

Request must be postmarked by July 27th.

"Bioethics is an exceedingly important discipline for the future of our society, addressing critical issues in science and life. This discipline cannot afford to compromise its integrity as new controversies arise, selling its soul to powerful special interest groups like universities or biotech companies." (Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. *The Southern Cross*, 4/12/07)

Would you like to learn more about our Catholic faith, study theology and nurture your spirituality? The Blessed Edmund Rice School can help you achieve this goal at a very reasonable price. Whether you choose to audit a class or enter into our diploma or M.A. programs, you will be pleasantly surprised to learn that our classes are taught regionally throughout the diocese at a parish near you. To learn more, visit the Rice School website at www.riceschool.org or call 941-766-7334.



Our Lady of Mount Carmel Feast Day July 16th

Hermits lived on Mount Carmel near the Fountain of Elijah (northern Israel) in the 12th century. They had a chapel dedicated to Our Lady. By the 13th century they became known as "Brothers of Our Lady of Mount Carmel." In 1726 the universal Church celebrated "Our Lady of Mount Carmel." For centuries, the Carmelites have seen themselves as specially related to Mary. St. Teresa of Avila called Carmel "the Order of the Virgin." There is a tradition that Mary appeared to St. Simon Stock, a leader of the Carmelites, and gave him a scapular, telling him to promote devotion to it. The scapular is a modified version of Mary's own garment. It symbolizes her special protection and calls the wearers to consecrate themselves to her in a special way. Obviously, no magic way of salvation is intended. Rather, the scapular is a reminder of the gospel call to prayer and penance—a call that Mary models in a splendid way.

Prayer To Our Lady of Mount Carmel

"Flos Carmeli" - Prayer of St. Simon Stock
O beautiful Flower of Carmel, most fruitful vine,
Splendor of Heaven, holy and singular,
who brought forth the Son of God, still ever remaining
a Pure Virgin, assist me in this necessity.
O Star of the sea, help and protect me!
Show me that Thou art my Mother.
O Mary, conceived without sin,
pray for us who have recourse to Thee!
Mother and Ornament of Carmel, Pray for us!
Virgin, Flower of Carmel, Pray for us!
Patroness of all who wear the Scapular, Pray for us!
Hope of all who die wearing the Scapular, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Friend of the Sacred Heart, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Chaste Spouse of Mary, Pray for us!
St. Joseph, Our Patron, Pray for us!
O sweet Heart of Mary, Be our salvation! Amen.

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.