Our Lady of Grace Catholic Parish

595 East Main Street · Avon Park, Florida 33825

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time **February 8, 2009**

The Star Thrower

One day, a man was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a young person reaching down to the sand, picking up something and very gently throwing it back into the sea. As he got closer, he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?" The young person paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish into the sea."

"Why are you throwing starfish into the sea?" he asked. "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in they'll die." "But, don't you realize that there are miles of beach here and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!" The young person listened politely. Then knelt down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "Made a difference to this one."

LET EACH ONE OF US MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE 2009 CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL

Parish Office
· Phone: (863) 453-4757
· Fax: (863) 453-2620
· Monday through Friday
9 AM to 2:30 PM

Pastor
Fr. Nicholas McLoughlin

Spanish Apostolate
Fr. José Gonzalez

Deacon
Fred Simon

Pastor Emeritus
Fr. Gerald Grogan

Assisting Clergy
Fr. Robert Onze
Fr. John Belfield
Fr. Leo Frechette

Administrative Assistant
Betty Heiring

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from our Pastor's desk

2009 Bishop's CFA: 'Making a Difference'

Dear parishioners: There is a story told about a young person who heard that the Messiah had come. He went from house-to-house in his village announcing the 'good news.' He knocked on the door of the village Rabbi. The kindly Rabbi invited him to come in. Almost breathless, the young man announced the news to the Rabbi. Being a wise old Rabbi he did not over react. He got up slowly from his chair, walked slowly over toward a bay-window which overlooked the village square. He pulled the curtain back and gazed down at the hustle and bustle in the village square. With a tinge of sadness in his face, he turned back to the young person who had made the announcement that the Messiah had come. "No," the Rabbi said, "He has not come. If he had come, things would be different in the market place."

Jesus Makes a Difference: How different were things in the market place during the lifetime of Jesus? Things were very different! Today's Gospel (Mk 1: 29-39) illustrates this for us. Jesus had just left the synagogue adjacent to the house of Peter and Andrew.

Mark's Gospel tells us that "Simon Peter's mother in law lay sick with a fever." What does Jesus do? Mark tells us, "He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her." What was the reaction? Mark continues, "When it was evening, after sunset, they brought him all who were ill… he cured many who were sick with various diseases." Jesus became involved in people's lives: in their "broken heartedness," in their "wounds." These were signs that the "Messiah" had come. The word Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning "anointed one." To understand the meaning of the word "Anointed" we need to go to Luke's Gospel where it records the beginning of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. Jesus came to the synagogue as was his custom on the Sabbath in his home town of Nazareth. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because **he has anointed** me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of the sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord."* Luke continues, *"Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him."* What does Jesus do? He says, *"Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"* (Luke 4: 16-21). The word Messiah means "anointed," or, one who is commissioned to do something. To do what? *"To bring glad tiding to the poor… To proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free…"* To make a difference in people's lives! To bring healing and wholeness to the "broken hearted" and to the "wounded!" To be involved in the marketplace!

The Church can make a difference: The Diocese of Venice, through a series of agencies, programs, and services, continues the work of Jesus in the lives of people, particularly those who are most in need. Bishop Dewane, in the Diocesan Catholic Faith Appeal, is appealing for our support so that we can continue to offer a variety of programs, services and ministries to those who are "broken hearted" or are "wounded" so that we can make a difference in their lives. This requires the participation of the 'total Body of Christ' and its outreach is all-inclusive.

Father Nick

A few of the ways the Catholic Faith Appeal 'makes-a-difference.'

Jesus reaches out to heal broken marriages through the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal: 50% of all marriages in the U.S. fail in the first 20 years of marriage, many of them Catholic marriages. The Diocesan marriage tribunal ministers to bring healing and wholeness to many of these marriages which are irretrievably broken. The Catholic Faith Appeal funds five Canon lawyers who are specialists in the theology of marriage and, also funds the salaries of notaries and secretaries in that office.

Jesus Reaches out through Catholic Charities: 10% of the CFA goes to support the work of Catholic Charities, which, in turn, makes up 25% of its budget. In 2007, Catholic Charities served 40,166 of your neighbors in need through 31 programs and 22 locations. *You make a difference in people's lives.*

Jesus reaches out through the Respect Life Office: it pays two full time salaries of staff that direct and coordinate Respect Life issues with a network of volunteers in all 55 parishes and missions which make up the Diocese. This includes overseeing and supporting a number of "Our Mothers' Homes' for young single pregnant girls who are experiencing stress related pregnancies. It includes directing and overseeing a number of Pregnancy Crisis Centers, which provide pregnancy testing and counseling for girls and women experiencing stress related pregnancies. It involves going to visit Catholic grade and high schools to do Respect Life Education with students. It includes coordinating the Diocesan Parish networks in contacting State and Federal legislators on important Life issues – such as FOCA, embryonic stem research.

Jesus reaches out through the two people who work in the Peace and Justice Office. They organize 300 volunteers throughout the Diocese who lobby Congress for adequate funds for poverty programs, minimum wage, environmental, housing and immigration issues, debt relief and foreign aid to developing countries. *You can make a difference in people's lives.*

Caritas: 19 missions, parishes and convents located in poorer areas of the Diocese of Venice are supported through the Catholic Faith Appeal. In addition, a fund is reserved for a one-time support of various or educational needs. These are just some of the services the Diocese offers.

How can I make a difference? Our Lady of Grace Parish receives an assessment from the Diocese of Venice in the amount of 26% of total income from the offertory for 2008. That is how the CFA Parish goal is determined. Let's say, for example, that the total offertory income for OLG parish for 2008 was $400,000. The Parish goal, based on the Diocesan assessment formula of 26%, would be $104,000 for 2009. It is in the best interest of the Parish that each parish family donates or pledges a larger amount to the Annual CFA, even if that reduces your contribution to the offertory. Whatever the Parish contributes to the CFA over and above the goal amount is returned to the Parish – tax free – to be used for new or developing Parish programs and services. If we do not meet our CFA goal, the balance of the goal is taken from the Offertory account. It is like double taxation. Each Parish family, both resident and seasonal, will be asked to make a commitment to the 2009 CFA on Saturday and Sunday, Feb 21 & 22.

OLG Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes & Paris

Our Lady of Grace Parish will undertake an 8-Day Pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes and Paris, March 27 to April 3, 2009. Fr. Nick will be our spiritual leader. The cost of the trip is $2,500: it includes all hotels, transportation, breakfast and dinner, taxes and tips, etc. Contact Mary Hutchison at c130hutch@comcast.net or (863) 453-0450.

Coffee & Goodies after 8 AM Mass

Coffee and Goodies Friday, Feb. 13, 8:30 – 9:30 AM, after Mass, in the St. John Bosco Youth Center. Everyone is invited. Bring your friends. Come and make a friend.

New Parish Council for K of C

The Knights of Columbus is forming a new Council in Our Lady of Grace parish. Catholic men from age 18 and up are invited and welcome to join. Please call Don 402-0423 or Joe 314-9754. The Knights of Columbus will be running a recruitment drive in the very near future.

Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to a special anniversary Mass in their honor at 11 AM on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice. Family and friends may join in the celebration at the reception. Please call the Parish office for reservations no later than February 10, 453-4757, or call the Diocese, (941) 484-9543.

Teen Youth Get-together

Parish teens, grades 6-12, are invited to the Wednesday get-together, 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the St. John Bosco Youth Center for food and drinks and fun and games.

Meeting for Confirmation Parents

There is a meeting for parents of candidates preparing for confirmation in the Grogan Center at 7:15 PM, Sunday, February 8. It is important that all parents are present.

OLG Parish to Offer Class

OLG Parish Nurse Ministry will be offering a free lecture on “Maintaining Effective Drug Safety: MEDS” Dr. Dennis Mungall, Pharm D of Florida Hospital will be the presenter. The lecture is on Thursday, February 12, at 2 PM in the Grogan Hall. Those interested in learning more about safe medication use, help with bridging the coverage gap, prescription assistance and much more are welcome. This lecture is open to the public. Pre-registration is not required. For more information, call 453-4750 or 453-7323.

Bereavement Meeting

If you have lost a loved one and are still going through bereavement, join others who have had a similar experience on Monday, February 16 at 4 PM in the St. John Bosco Youth Center.

"Love is a canvas furnished by Nature and embroidered by imagination."

1st Annual Valentines Dinner-Dance-Ball

Saturday, Feb 14, 7-10pm

Prime Rib Dinner with Assorted Drinks

$15.00 per person · $120 for table of 8

Grogan Center Hall

'Have I shown you lately that I love you?'

Sacramental Life of the Parish

Baptisms:
Baptismal orientation is the first Sunday of each month. Ceremonies are performed on the second Sunday.

Marriages:
Adequate preparation is required. Call the parish office six months in advance.

Ministry to the Sick:
Arrangements can be made to have a priest and/or a Eucharistic minister visit on a regular basis, if necessary. Call the parish office.

Registration
Permanent and seasonal members are encouraged to register. Registration cards are available at the main church entrance.

Schedule of Masses and Prayers

Saturday
8 AM with Confession
at 8:30 AM (Nov - May)
Vigil 4 PM
7 PM Spanish

Sunday
8 AM and 10:30 AM
Life Teen Mass 6 PM

Holy Days
Vigil 5:30 PM
8 AM

Daily Mass
Monday - Friday 8 AM

First Friday
Mass and Holy Hour
8 AM

First Saturday
Mass at 8 AM

Confessions
Saturday 3:30 PM

Readings for the Week of February 8, 2009

Sunday
Job 7:1-4, 6-7
1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23
Mark 1:29-39

Monday
Genesis 1:1-19
Mark 6:53-56

Tuesday
Genesis 1:20–2:4a
Mark 7:1-13

Wednesday
Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
Mark 7:14-23

Thursday
Genesis 2:18-25
Mark 7:24-30

Friday
Genesis 3:1-8
Mark 7:31-37

Saturday
Genesis 3:9-24
Mark 8:1-10

Next Sunday
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46
1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1
Mark 1:40-45

Please Note: Names will be left on the prayer list for one month. If you would like a name to be kept longer on the list, please call the parish office.

Mass Intentions for The Coming Week

Saturday, Feb. 7
4 PM ..... Special intention for John & Joan Gunn on their 50th wedding anniversary
† Ron Kowalski by Cathie Kowalski
† Gordan Evans by Loretta Evans
7 PM ..... Spanish Mass

Sunday, Feb. 8
8 AM ..... † Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
† Phil Sanborn by the Crystal Lake Rosary Group
† Josephine & Charles Behal by Ed & Lila Behal
10:30 AM ..... † Karl Hemker by Albert & Carole Dumbleton and family
Special intention for Gerald & Anne Burke on their 62nd wedding anniversary
† Steve Koebbe by Mom & Dad
6 PM ..... Life Teen Mass

Monday, Feb. 9
8 AM ..... † Betty Burns by Leah & Joseph Grecko
Mass of Thanksgiving for Melville Riley by Pauline Njie

Tuesday, Feb. 10
8 AM ..... † Harold F. Kanaley by Claire Kanaley
† Frank Goodwin by his family

Wednesday, Feb. 11
8 AM ..... For our parish family

Thursday, Feb. 12
8 AM ..... † Manuel Gonzalez by Gabrielle Gonzalez

Friday, Feb. 13
8 AM ..... † Robert L. Wiechert by Jim & Suzanne Hawk

Saturday, Feb. 14
4 PM ..... † Joffre Nassour and Mary Budusky by Helene Nassour
† Arlene Naida by Charles Naida

Sunday, Feb. 15
8 AM ..... † Evelyn Bilski by Ferdinand Bilski
† Marie Carducci by Rocky Carducci
† Margaret Core by her sisters Rose Mineo & Evelyn McLean
10:30 AM ..... † Arlene Naida by Charles Naida
† Judi Heiring by her mother

Please pray for the sick...

Sheri Viera
Joan Southworth
Kathleen Meusel
Joan D'Amanda
Jane Papale
The Mariano Family
Mary Trypuc
Ron Kowalski
Marty McDonough
Dale Pounds
Bob Bland
Rainald Gervais, Jr.
James Curtis
Agnes Belfield
Betty Freeman
Philip Cooper
Jason Pearson

And also for...

Holy Mary,
Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the
hour of our death.
Amen.

those who care for the sick,
deceased members and benefactors of the parish,
especially Wilma Heiring who died this past week,
and our loved ones.

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Top Left, the inside of the synagogue, next to Peter's house, from which Jesus came to heal Peter's mother-in-law.

Top right - View from the Sea: Capernaum: Jesus made Capernaum his home during the years of his ministry: "Leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum" (Matt 4:13). Peter, Andrew, James and John were fishermen living in the village. Matthew the tax collector also lived here. **The house to the left above** is the actual view down into the house where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law.

Jesus and Healing: Today's Responsorial psalm (147) sums up the mission and ministry of Jesus: "Praise the Lord who heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Today's Gospel (Mk 1:29-39) graphically shows Jesus making a difference in people's lives. It states, *"On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew… Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever… He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her… When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill… he cured many who were sick with various diseases…"*

The Church continues the Healing ministry of Jesus: The Gospel of Mark records ten consecutive healings at the beginning of his Gospel. These were signs that the reign of God was present. There were different kinds of healings. Today's Gospel records Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law who had a fever. Every century and civilization formulates their own understanding of diseases, their causes and their cures. In the Biblical days of the New Testament, it was blindness, leprosy, lameness. In our society, concerns are about cancer, heart attacks, stress related illness, alcohol and drug addictions, with the new plague and pandemic in today's world being aids. There are social dis-eases, situations where we are 'ill-at-ease' with different social groupings of people. There is an emerging emphasis in our health care system on holistic healing. **Bishop Dewane, in today's CFA**, is appealing for our support for the various ministries, programs and services which bring healing and wholeness to the "brokenhearted" and "wounded" and make a difference throughout the Diocese. Won't you help to make a difference?