



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

July 10, 2026

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As my time as Bishop of the Diocese of Venice comes to a close, I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your prayers and support during my tenure as your Bishop.

To the Priests, Deacons, and Religious serving in the Diocese, I express my gratitude for your dedication to serving the People of God and for your assistance in carrying out my ministry. Looking back on my twenty years as Bishop, so much has been accomplished that would not have been possible without all of you!

The witness and support of the lay Faithful, especially through your contributions of time, talent, and treasure, has helped this Diocese to grow and become a community of vibrant faith. Indeed, I am pleased and very proud of the Catholic Faithful of the beautiful Diocese of Venice.

During my time as Bishop, we have weathered many challenges, including a number of significant hurricanes, as well as issues of political, theological or administrative nature. These have not always been easy, but thanks to your prayers and support, we have been able to overcome these trials. In addressing these matters, offense was never my intention, and my utmost priorities have been fidelity to Divine Revelation, the teachings of the Church, and on the good of all.

After twenty years, Southwest Florida is now my home, and I intend to remain in the area. All of the people of the Diocese will continue to be in my prayers, and I will assist our new Bishop however I am able. Thank you all for being a wonderful community of faith, hope and love.

Know that the Diocese is in good hands as we welcome Bishop Emilio. Please join me in praying for our new Shepherd as he begins his Episcopal ministry.

This opportunity is taken to extend to you the assurances of my continued consideration, as well as my prayers for you and your family.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Apostolic Administrator of the
Diocese of Venice in Florida

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