

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

“There is no salvation through anyone else.”

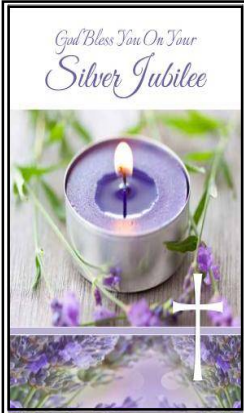
Does a life of joy in knowing you are following the Lord as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life inspire you? Contact the Vocation Office at (802) 658-6110, X 1175 or email: vocations@vermontcatholic.org

YOUR LIFE
HIS CALL



Special Invitation from Rev. Lance Harlow

Father Lance Harlow would like to extend a special invitation to those parishioners whom he has served during his 25 years of priesthood to a special Mass of Thanksgiving on **Tuesday, May 8 at 6:00 pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Windsor** [Father's hometown parish] in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Ordination to the Priesthood. The Select Choir from the Kurn Hattin Homes for Children will provide music for the Mass.



You are all personally invited to attend. Father Lance served at St. Mary Star of the Sea in 1998.

There will be a light reception to follow in the parish hall so you can meet some of the children and staff from Kurn Hattin Homes.

If you are planning to attend the reception, please call the St. Francis Parish Office at (802) 674-2157 so they can order sufficient food.

Congratulations to our Mater Dei Parish Members who were confirmed on Saturday, April 14, 2018.

*Julia Baker
Nicholas Choquette
Shelby Fortin
Grace Giroux
Abigail Gonyaw
Justin Laforce
Daniel Lanoue
Ernest Lillicrap
Kelby McManus
Molly Patenaude
Abigail Pettengill
Julia Paul
Jordan Carpenter*



*and 19 other candidates from other area parish churches who were also confirmed by Bishop Christopher Coyne.
May God Bless You and Your Families.*

Reflection

for this Sunday:

Fourth Sunday of Easter

The fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Good Shepherd Sunday. In each of the lectionary cycles, our Gospel is taken from the 10th Chapter of the Gospel of John. In Cycle B, we hear the middle verses of this chapter. Unless we consider this chapter in the greater context of John's Gospel, we will miss the radical nature of the statement Jesus makes when He declares himself to be the Good Shepherd.



This chapter of John's Gospel follows Jesus' healing of the man born blind and the rejection of this miracle by the Jewish leaders who question Jesus' authority to heal. Jesus responds to this challenge by calling himself the Good Shepherd. He is criticizing the leadership of the Pharisees and the other Jewish leaders. The Pharisees and other Jewish leaders are so angry that they attempt to stone and arrest Jesus. This controversy with the religious leaders continues until Jesus' death.

In the portion of the chapter that we hear proclaimed today, Jesus describes His relationship with His followers as similar to the relationship between a good shepherd and his sheep. As a good shepherd will risk and lay down his life in order to protect his sheep, Jesus willingly sacrifices Himself for the sake of his sheep. Jesus contrasts the actions of the good shepherd with the actions of the hired shepherd who abandons the sheep in the face of danger. The concern of a good shepherd for his sheep is part of the shepherd's job. The actions of the good shepherd, however, are based upon the relationship that develops between the shepherd and the sheep. This is at the heart of the difference between the good shepherd and the hired shepherd. The good shepherd knows the sheep and therefore acts out of love. For the Good Shepherd, this is never simply part of a job; this love-in-action is integral to his identity.

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

Did you know? The Diocese of Burlington is committed to protecting the youth in our care....

The Diocese of Burlington hosts a variety of programs and events in which there is regular contact with children and young people. With many children and young people entrusted to our care, it is our sacred and ethical responsibility to protect the rights of children and be alert to the possibility of child abuse.

If you know or suspect that a minor [person under 18 years of age] has been abused/neglected, you must make a report to local law enforcement or call the Vermont Department for Children and Families [DCF] at **1 - 800 - 649 5285**. This number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. **If a child is in immediate danger of harm, dial 911.** Follow up by making a report to DCF.

The Diocese of Burlington also provides a **Victim Assistance Hotline** for reporting the abuse [in the past or present] by a member of the clergy or other church personnel: **1 - 866 - 485 - 2488**. The Diocesan Victims Assistance Coordinator will respond to calls to the hotline. A report to the diocese does not relieve a mandated reporter of the duty to report child abuse to civil authorities as required by Vermont State Law.

April is



**Prevent Child Abuse
Awareness Month**