

NEWS FROM The Inland See

January 2–8, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Pope Francis proclaims Year of St. Joseph

In a new Apostolic Letter entitled “Patris corde” (“With a Father’s Heart”), Pope Francis describes St. Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows.

The letter marks the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX’s declaration of St. Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. To celebrate the anniversary, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special “Year of St. Joseph,” beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021.

The Holy Father wrote “Patris corde” against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which, he says, has helped us see more clearly the importance of “ordinary” people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this, they resemble St. Joseph, “the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence.”

St. Joseph, in fact, “concretely expressed his fatherhood” by making an offering of himself in love “a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home,” writes Pope Francis, quoting St. Paul VI.

And because of his role at “the crossroads between the Old and New Testament,” St. Joseph “has always been venerated as a father by the Christian people.” In him, “Jesus saw the tender love of God,” the one that helps us accept our weakness, because “it is through” and despite “our fears, our frailties, and our weakness” that most divine designs are realized.

“Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser,” emphasizes the Pontiff, and it is by encountering God’s mercy especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation that we “experience His truth and tenderness,” because “we know that God’s truth does not condemn us, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us.”

Joseph is also a father in obedience to God: with his “fiat” he protects Mary and Jesus and teaches his Son to “do the will of the Father.” Called by God to serve the mission of Jesus, he “cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption,” as St. John Paul II said, “and is truly a minister of salvation.”

At the same time, Joseph is “an accepting Father,” because he “accepted Mary unconditionally” — an important gesture even today, says Pope Francis, “in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident.” But the bridegroom of Mary is also the one who, trusting in the Lord, accepts in his life even the events that he does not understand,

“setting aside his own ideas” and reconciling himself with his own history.

“Patris corde” highlights “the creative courage” of St. Joseph, which “emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties.” “The carpenter of Nazareth,” explains the pope, was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting in divine providence.” He had to deal with “the concrete problems” his family faced, problems faced by other families in the world, and especially those of migrants.

— *Catholic News Service/Vatican Media*



A Nativity scene is pictured as Pope Francis leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican Dec. 16, 2020. — CNS photo/Vatican Media

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As of Dec. 16: \$3,570,467

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Upcoming Events



01|07, 14, 21, 28 THURSDAYS

Vermont Catholic Book Club:

Silence

via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm

This January, join us as we read Shusaku Endo's *Silence*. Two missionary priests secretly travel into 17th century Japan at a time when Christians are being persecuted harshly. What does it mean to be faithful to Christ in difficult times? This question and many others are posed in this challenging and gripping novel. We will meet four times to discuss the book and how we might learn from it. Bring a friend! Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-silence/



01|13, 20, 27 WEDNESDAYS

Family & Faith in the Home

via Zoom • 8 - 9:30 pm

Parents are invited to attend an interactive webinar sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester with guest speakers Mike and Alicia Herson of the Messy Family Project. Mike and Alicia have 10 children, and have much to share with parenting while living the Catholic faith. The webinars are a follows:

January 13, 8-9:30 p.m. – Communication in Marriage

January 20, 8-9:30 p.m. – Messy Parenting 101

January 27, 8-9:30 p.m. – Evangelizing Your Children

Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/family-faith-in-the-home/



01|20 WEDNESDAY

Vermont Catholic Professionals Virtual Event

via Zoom • 8 - 9 am

Our January guest speaker is Deacon Pete Gummere – Bioethicist and Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Burlington. He will be presenting, "Discernment: Family, Career and Service to the Church." Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event/



01|21 THURSDAY

"Just Mercy" Book Study Group

via Zoom • 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Mercy Corps, a newly formed group of parishioners at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, is hosting an online book study for *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The series will meet monthly, January through June. Saint John Vianney Church will have copies of the book available for \$10/copy. For more information, to make arrangements to pick up a copy of the book, or to register, please contact Connie McDonald at SJVGoodNews@gmail.com.



JAN. 3–4, 2021

**CHALLENGES
TO GROW
YOUR
MARRIAGE**

HAPPY 2021!

Make a dating folder or notebook. Make a list of 5 dates you've each enjoyed, and 5 dates that were not so fun.

Share why and make notes, to remind yourselves!

Challenge yourselves to daily share what you are each grateful.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

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2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Thank you to all those who have made a gift already. We are more than 20% behind our goal and ask those that can to please consider making a gift. You can make a gift online: vermontcatholic.org/donate

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

78%

As of December 16: \$2,068,325