

NEWS FROM The Inland See

August 28 – September 3, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Religious education *update*



Shown is the woodcut, “Christ preaches in a room” attributed to the Master of Delft, 1503, in the collection of the Rijksmuseum, Netherlands. — Creative Commons image

The purpose of evangelization and adult education is to invite people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church. “That invitation and the foundation and meaning such faith offers is all the more relevant given the isolation, unrest and confusion that is so prevalent in our current time,” said Deacon Phil Lawson, executive director of pastoral ministries for the Diocese of Burlington.

Religious education did not stop even in the Covid-19 pandemic. “Our faith is based on a relationship with Jesus Christ, which is fostered in part through religious education,” he said. “The best way to kill a relationship is to stop communicating, right? And so we can never stop inviting people to that relationship with Jesus and do everything we can to foster that relationship, especially when times are the toughest.”

Parishes used online learning, virtual classes and some in-person (following Covid protocols) classes to provide religious education during the pandemic and will continue to follow diocesan safety protocols.

Every parish should either have its own religious education program or cooperate with a neighboring parish to provide religious education for young people. Deacon Lawson is optimistic that there will be an increase in enrollment in religious education classes over last year, given the progress that has been made regarding the pandemic.

Numerous parishes continue to use the classroom model for educating children in the faith. “However, this continues to decline due to the realization that for various reasons this model has not borne the fruit desired, the renewed focus on

families being the primary venue for the faith to be taught and lived and a continued challenge in recruiting qualified catechists for each grade,” Deacon Lawson pointed out. An increasing number of parishes are using family-based religious education programs.

Asked about the lower age at which Vermont Catholic children are making their confirmation, he said that all transitions are challenging, “but we are moving in the right direction, both in terms of giving young people the graces necessary to live a life of faith earlier, while emphasizing that the growth and education in faith are lifelong.”

Meghan Tracy Cade, director of religious education at Christ the King-St. Anthony Parish in Burlington, noted that since elementary-age students are now receiving confirmation, she sees the process more closely of their spiritual growth: “I am very proud of our confirmandi; they strengthen my faith in the future of our Church.”

Adults enter full communion with the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. “There are as many beautiful ways and stories as there are people. Interestingly, and perhaps not surprisingly, the pandemic forced many people to re-examine priorities and the deeper meaning of life,” Deacon Lawson said. “And that lead many of our RCIA participants to the Church.”

Evangelization, he continued, is best done one person at a time, which is what Jesus is seen doing throughout the Gospels. It is important, then, to inspire and equip Catholics to be ready to answer questions about the faith and invite others into the life of the Church.

There are many resources available, like Ascension Press’ “Bible in a Year” podcast that has been near the top of the Apple Download list since it debuted in January. “I don’t know that Catholics have ever had so many good and enjoyable resources at their fingertips,” Deacon Lawson said. “And it is encouraging to see local parishes and groups exploring and creatively utilizing them in communities in person and online.”

Cade has been encouraged in the various resources the Diocese has provided. “Deacon [Lawson] gifted me with an excellent series of meditations on The Eucharist. Their emphasis on helping our students to understand The Real Presence has been very helpful in guiding my lesson-planning,” she said.

Catechetical Sunday was scheduled for Sept. 19 this year with the theme “Say the Word and My Soul Shall Be Healed.”

“This is a fitting theme for the year as Jesus offers all of us and the world the healing it so badly needs and desires. Our call is to continue to offer that ‘Word’ to all,” Deacon Lawson said.

The Office of Evangelization & Catechesis is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Upcoming Events



09|01, 15, 21, 10|13, 27, 11|10 WED
Living Joy Discussion Group
Online • 7 pm

Join us for Chris Stefanick's Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Life Joy Every Day. This virtual event explores one rule every other week. Offered by members of the Diocesan Evangelization Committee. Contact pturnley@aol.com for more information.



09|04 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Rosary, Confessions and Mass.



09|11, 10|02 SATURDAYS
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass and an opportunity to learn more about Padre Pio.



09|18, 10|09 SATURDAYS
National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Babies
All Saints Cemetery, Richford • 9 am

Join us for a prayer service with scripture reading, hymns, and recitation of the Holy Rosary.



09|25 SATURDAY
Vermont Catholic Daughters of America Retreat
Our Lady of Angels, Randolph
 9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Deacon Gesualdo Schneider will lead us in a retreat as we spend a day with "Jesus' Family." This event is free, will include lunch, and is open to all women aged 18 and over. There will be an opportunity for a goodwill donation to support the K of C's purchase of an ultrasound machine for a mobile clinic in the Burlington area. Registration is required. Registration is open to all women 18 years of age and older. Please email: Deb, dgbrown264@gmail.com by Sept. 17.



10|02 SATURDAY
A Life Symposium
Doubletree, Burlington • 8 am - 3 pm

This day-long conference focuses on issues related to Proposal 5, a dangerous amendment aimed at enshrining the right to abortion in Vermont's Constitution. **FORE MORE INFO: vrlc.net.**



10|09 SATURDAY
Ordination Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
 The Diocese of Burlington joyfully celebrates

the ordination of two men to the diaconate. Mr. Michael Knowles will be ordained to the permanent diaconate and Mr. Brandon Schneider will be ordained to the transitional diaconate. This event is open for all who wish to attend. For those unable to be with us physically for the liturgy, the Mass will be live-streamed on the Diocesan website. A light reception will follow in the parish hall.



10|10 SUNDAY
Evening Honoring the Life and Teachings of St. John Henry Newman

Holy Family Church Hall, Essex Junction • 4 - 8 pm
 Fr. Kevin Chalifoux and Fr. Matthew Rensch cordially invite you to celebrate the life and teachings of Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman. The evening will include Solemn Vespers, dinner and dessert, and two presentations on the life and thought of Cardinal Newman. \$10 per person/\$15 for two/\$5 for each additional guest.

RSVP by October 3 to: VermontNewman@gmail.com



10|10 SUNDAY
Annual Women's Retreat
St. Catherine of Sienna, Shelburne
 8 am - 3:30 pm

Save the date! More information will be released soon.



DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocesan Central Offices: Development and Communication Coordinator

Diocesan Central Offices: Diocesan Catechetical Leader

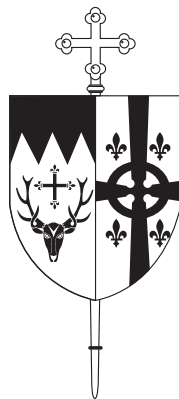
Diocesan Central Offices: Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister

Diocesan Central Offices: Accountant

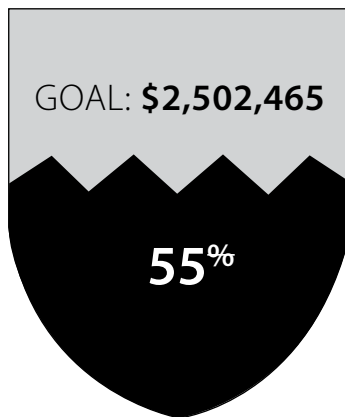
St. Joseph's Residential Care Home, Burlington: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) – \$1,000 Sign-On Bonus

St. Mark Parish, Burlington: Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

vermontcatholic.org/careers

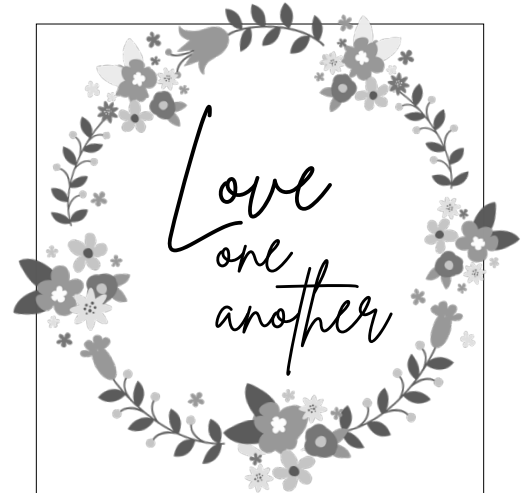


BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL
2021
 UPDATE



As of Aug. 18, 2021: **\$1,374,647**

To learn more or make a gift visit:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline



AUGUST 29 – SEPTEMBER 4, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

HONOR

How do you honor each other in your marriage? Are there vices that dishonor your spouse? This week take time to fast from one vice that is a detriment to your relationship and replace this with an act of love or service for your spouse.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge