



## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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July 11, 2022  
*Memorial of St. Benedict, Abbot*

Dear Friends in Christ:

I write to you on the occasion of the celebration of the final Mass at St. Benedict Labré church. While this church itself was dedicated in 1947, the community of St. Benedict Labré has been a mission of the Catholic Church in Vermont since 1922, exactly one hundred years. One can well imagine and remember, both personally and collectively the baptisms, funerals, weddings, Masses, celebrations of life and the other Sacraments of the Church that have taken place in this mission and its two churches. While these holy realities may no longer take place in St. Benedict Labré Church, as members of Mater Dei Parish, all of this will continue in each of you and in the life and worship of the parish.

I wish to express my gratitude to the Vocationist Fathers for their ministry among you and to Fr. Scott Gratton, a native son of your parish, for his presence with you this day.

The closing of a church is never a happy moment. It's like saying good-bye to the family homestead. As the family home often invokes memories of love, support, and faith, may you carry from this church the same as well.

Continuing to ask God's blessings on all the faithful of Mater Dei Parish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Christopher J. Coyne*

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne  
Bishop of Burlington