

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

October 31 – November 6, 2020

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## DIOCESE ANNOUNCES *Pastoral Associates* PROGRAM

When it is not possible to appoint a full-time parish priest or a parish administrator due to a shortage of priests, there is another way for a diocesan bishop to provide for the pastoral care of a parish community: pastoral associates.

This new position will ensure the care of and flourishing of Vermont parishes into the future.

“In order to sustain Christian life and to continue the evangelizing mission of the community, the diocesan bishop may entrust a share in the pastoral care of a parish to a deacon, to a consecrated religious or layperson or even to a group of persons” such as a religious institute or association,” explained Deacon Phil Lawson, executive director of evangelization, catechesis, divine worship, marriage and family and respect life for the Diocese of Burlington.

To train candidates to be pastoral associates, the Diocese is instituting a Pastoral Associate for Parish Life Training Program. Applications for the one-year formation program will be accepted in the spring, and the program will begin in August for the academic year 2021-2022.

It is designed to equip individuals with knowledge and skills to serve their parishes. This service will take the form of parish administration, pastoral care, pastoral counseling, finances, sacramental preparation, liturgical planning and assistance, human resources and faith formation.

The sessions will be facilitated by Deacon Lawson, Deacon

Chris Keough, various diocesan leaders and individuals with experience serving in this role.

In addition to in-person formation in Vermont, students will complete a course from the Pontifical College Josephinum entitled “Best Practices in Parish Administration.”

The Diocese will cover the majority of the cost of this program. Each participant will be asked to contribute \$250 in tuition.

“We know that we have a real priest shortage at this time. This has necessitated the researching of additional means of caring for our parishes, while freeing up our priests to spend more of their time on that which they alone can do, in the areas of sacramental ministry and spiritual care,” Deacon Lawson said. “However, this should not be seen as simply trying to plug a hole, but an opportunity to build vibrant parishes and move our parishes from mere maintenance to mission; drawing more workers into the vineyard who are inspired and equipped to joyfully share the Gospel.”

To be eligible for the program, a candidate must be a Catholic in good standing. The normal prerequisite for submitting an application is successful completion of the Diocesan Lay Formation Program or similar previous formation. In addition, three letters of recommendation, including one from the applicant’s current pastor, are required.

For more information, email Deacon Lawson at [plawson@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:plawson@vermontcatholic.org).

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban



## Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

A portion of the funds raised through the *Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church* campaign supports these types of ministries through the faith formation fund established in the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation. This will ensure stable income for vital faith formation ministries, especially in times of crisis. To learn more about the campaign or make a gift online visit: [www.christourhopevt.org](http://www.christourhopevt.org).

16% As of October 20: \$1,569,715

Goal: \$10,000,000

## Upcoming Events



### 11|03,10,17 TUESDAYS The Apostles Creed: Reflection Group

Zoom Meeting • 7:45 - 8:45 pm

The Apostle's Creed is the oldest of the official creeds of the Church and is still used today as our baptismal creed. Why does the Apostle's Creed matter? What does this creed actually say? Why is it important for us today? What does it tell us about our faith and how we ought to live? Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell for a series of reflections followed by discussion upon the Apostle's Creed. Email [gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu) to get Zoom information to join.



### 11|04 WEDNESDAY Mount St. Joseph Academy Open House

Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland • 5 - 7 pm

For prospective students and their families, the open house will include student-led tours and teacher-student presentations. Families will be greeted by a student ambassador who will lead them through a guided tour of the school. Faculty and staff will be on-hand to answer questions. Light refreshments will be provided.



### 11|07 SATURDAY Our Lady of Fatima Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 9:30 am

Join us the first Saturday of every month.

Rosary and reconciliation begin at 8 and Mass at 8:30.



### 11|12 THURSDAY Theology on Fire

UVM Catholic Center and Maille Dairy Farm,  
Burlington • 6:45 - 8 pm

Young adults are invited to gather for Theology on Fire, a series of conversations on theological topics. We'll begin with Mass at the UVM Catholic Center at 6pm. Following, join us at the Maille Dairy Farm, just 15 minutes away on Dorset Street. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothes! On October 29, Fr. Matthew Rensch will lead our discussion on "Conscience and the Holy Spirit."



### 11|14 SATURDAY Women's Retreat 2020

Zoom Meeting • 8 am - 4 pm

The Women's Retreat this year will virtual, meeting online through Zoom. Please note that there will be no cost to participate in this event, which will be a modified day in comparison to "in-person" retreats. More information on how to register (online) will be shared in the coming weeks, as well as the details of the Retreat.



### 11|22 SUNDAY Holy Hour Prayers in One Accord

St. John Vianney, South Burlington • 3 pm

The Blue Army friends are hosting this special intention prayers with Adoration, chanted Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the Litany of Reparation in honor to the Blessed Sacrament. Please come and pray together, Jesus is waiting for you. Ask and you shall receive.

## DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

*Diocese:* Respect Life Coordinator

*St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland:*  
Resident Services Coordinator

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,  
Burlington:* Full-Time LPN or Med Tech  
— \$1000 Sign-On Bonus

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,  
Burlington:* Part-Time LPN or Med Tech

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,  
Burlington:* Full-Time LNA or Caregiver  
— \$500 Sign-On Bonus

*St. Joseph's Residential Care Home,  
Burlington:* Part-Time LNA or Caregiver

*For More Info:*

**[vermontcatholic.org/careers](http://vermontcatholic.org/careers)**



**Choose a time to pray together with this prayer,** every morning, during the day, or at bedtime. If the time you both chose didn't work, try another time.

*God, thank you for the gift of my spouse and the gift of our marriage. Also, thank you for [whatever you are thankful for today].*

*God, help me to be loving and kind to my spouse and to serve our marriage with your grace. I also ask for [name your petitions].*

**[vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge](http://vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge)**

CHRIST OUR

*Hope*  
2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



As we launch the Christ our Hope campaign, we ask that you first prayerfully consider your annual gift to the Bishop's Appeal which helps support statewide ministries today: **[bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org)**. If you are able, we then ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to our first-ever statewide campaign over a three-year period to ensure the vibrant future of our parishes, schools and ministries to the poor.

**100%**

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

**71%**

as of October 21: **\$1,877,688**