

The Inland See

News from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington



November 22–28, 2025

“...listen to each other and enjoy walking together.”

— *Pope Leo XIV, Synod Jubilee Closing Mass Homily*

I had the opportunity to travel to Rome for the Synod Jubilee October 24 to 26, 2025. This was unexpected given our current diocesan circumstances, but Bishop McDermott asked if I would be open to going “if he could secure funding.” This ended up being provided through the generosity of the Vermont Knights of Columbus.

I went with high hopes, eager anticipation, and some trepidation as I was traveling solo and the lone representative of my diocese. Those hopes and anticipation were realized as I experienced the universality of the Catholic Church and the vibrancy of a Church seeking to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, guided by our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, building on the vision laid out by Pope Francis.

It was incredibly moving to be with Pope Leo for an hour and 40 minutes on Friday evening. It was duly noted how he had participated in every stage of the synodal process: as a Bishop in Peru for the initial stage, as head of the Dicastery of Bishops for the second stage during the October sessions in 2023 and 2024, and now as our Holy Father for this implementation stage. It was edifying to watch him taking notes as the seven continental regions gave their reports, and then answering each question extemporaneously with a mixture of warmth, wisdom, and even some humor. I was particularly moved to hear the affection with which he addressed the Latin American Church, the tenderness with which he spoke to the Middle Eastern Church, and the



Many of the U.S. bishops and pilgrims attending the Jubilee of Synodal Teams and Participatory Bodies pose for a group photo Oct. 25, 2025, in the Paul VI Audience Hall at the Vatican. — Lola Gomez/CNS photo

warmth he showed to both the African and Asian Churches. His presence and actions among us that evening were an experience and model of synodality.

I enjoyed the companionship of fellow synod pilgrims from around the world. I think of my new friends from Lithuania as we searched for the special gate to enter for the Pilgrimage to the Holy Door. Together, we ended up going through four security checks as we navigated one wrong entrance after another! I think of the friendly delegation from Alaska, the priest from Thailand, the auxiliary bishop that I was partnered with in one of the sessions, the delegation from England, and I could go on. It was a gift to join these fellow pilgrims from around the world in prayer, workshops, and conversations.

For me it still feels surreal. A few weeks ago, I was sitting with some 2,000 brothers and sisters in Christ, learning from each other, praying together, and together seeking to discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us on mission in a true spirit of synodality.

As a deacon, it was a once in a lifetime experience to assist at Mass with Pope Leo and have the privilege of distributing Communion to the faithful from around the world in St. Peter’s Square.

On the return flight home (Rome to Zurich to Montreal), I ended up sitting next to a “fellow traveler” who had been in Rome for a different conference. She had noticed me praying and mentioned how nice that was to see. She shared that she was Orthodox and we would go on to spend much of the long flight sharing stories of family life, children, and work in a spirit-inspired atmosphere of listening and encouragement. In a certain sense it was a very “synodal” conversation. It was perhaps a very fitting way to end a pilgrimage on synodality, being in communion with one another through our common Baptism in Christ, truly listening to one another, and ultimately encouraging each other in our Christian mission in this life.

— *Deacon Phil Lawson is the executive director of Pastoral Ministries for the Diocese of Burlington.*

Diocesan Event Calendar • vermontcatholic.org/events



11|24 MONDAY

Cor Formation

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 7:30 pm

Cor Formation is an opportunity for men to grow closer to Jesus through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Snacks and beverages are provided. Contact Mike Bullock, (802) 598-8179/mtn6@gmavt.net for more information.



11|25, 12|02, 09 TUESDAYS

What is the Catholic Worker?

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 7 pm

A Catholic Worker House of Hospitality is an intentional community built upon the principles of Micah 6:8. "You have been told what is good, and what the LORD requires of you: Only to do justice and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." We're working to bring the Catholic Worker to Vermont. Come join one of our meetings to learn more and see if it's something you'd want to be involved in!



11|29 – 12|20 SATURDAYS

SoulCore

St. Andrew parish hall, Waterbury • 9 am

Activate your mind, body, and soul: stretch, strengthen, and pray. SoulCore is an integrated faith and fitness class to the prayers of the rosary with a self-paced workout. Bring a mat and water. Suggested \$10.



11|30 SUNDAY

St. Andrew's Parish 150th anniversary kickoff

St. Andrew, Waterbury • 6 - 8:00 pm

To begin the year of festivities leading up to the completion of 150 years, we'll celebrate the feast day with an evening prayer service and dessert reception. Bishop John McDermott will preside for the evening prayer, at 6 pm. The dessert reception will follow at St. Leo's Hall at 7 pm.



12|01 MONDAY

Tourtiere Pie Sale

Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Swanton

Deadline to order is December 1. Pies will be ready on or after December 6. \$15 for a 9" pie. Call or text (802) 363-1452 to order. Proceeds to benefit Kenny Gagne's wheelchair accessible van expenses.



12|01, 02, 03 MON, TUES, WED

Advent Retreat

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8:30 am

Advent Retreat will be given by Monsignor Richard Lavalley, pastor emeritus of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Winooski. Monsignor will preach at the 8:30 am Mass at Holy Family. Following Mass, he will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and spiritual consulting. Come join us as we will begin the Holy Season of Advent with much spiritual nourishment.



12|04, 11, 18 THURSDAYS

Reflections on Marian Consecration with Fr. Tim Naples

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 5:15 - 7:15 pm

This Advent, you're invited to join us for a three-part series with Fr. Tim Naples – Reflections on Marian Consecration:

Total consecration and the example of St. Maximilian Kolbe. We will begin with a short video, followed by discussion. The gathering will use a hybrid model; in person in the Fr. Davignon lounge OR over Zoom, whatever works best for you. **FOR MORE INFO:** Fr. Tim at tnaples@vermontcatholic.org.



12|06 SATURDAY

First Saturday Mass

Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven • 7:30 am

Rosary at 7:30 am, Mass at 8 am.



12|06 SATURDAY

First Saturday Devotions

All Saints, Richford • 7:30 am

Please join us on the first Saturday of every month for confessions starting at 7:30 am followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 8 am. Following Mass we pray the First Saturday Devotional prayers. All are welcome.



12|06 SATURDAY

First Saturday Mass

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am

Every first Saturday starting with Confessions and the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.



12|06 SATURDAY

All Saints Christmas Bazaar

All Saints, Richford • 9 am - 2 pm

Please join us in Richford to shop for a unique Christmas gift from our vendors and relax to some breakfast or lunch or take a chance at our teacup auction including gift cards from local businesses, and so much more.



12|06 SATURDAY

Annual Christmas Bazaar

St. Patrick, Wallingford • 9 am - 2 pm

There will be crafts and baked goods, take out will be available for soups, macaroni and cheese, chili, and baked beans. Silent auction, themed baskets, over 50 items, once-loved room, and raffles. Returning this year is the lunch in!



12|06 SATURDAY

St. Peter's Cemetery Association Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's Cemetery Committee to benefit cemetery improvements.



12|07 SUNDAY

Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 - 4:30 pm

Father Lance W. Harlow will conduct a Eucharistic Healing Service, with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament along with praying over by Father Harlow.



12|07 SUNDAY

Life Teen Life Night

Fr. Lively Center, St. Johnsbury • 5 - 7 pm

All teens in grades 6-12 are invited to gather

for dinner, games, teachings, and prayer.



12|12 FRIDAY

Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 5:30 - 7 pm

Essex Community Dinners are provided in order to grow and promote our community! They are also intended to feed the lonely and needy among us. These meals are free to all but donations are appreciated to cover parish expenses. Take-out dinners are also available, starting at 6 pm, for those who still need to avoid crowds.



Thank you to all the generous supporters who helped the Bishop's Annual Appeal reach its goal. Pastoral needs remain, consider a gift today.

101% **Raised: \$2,218,775**

Goal: \$2,200,000

How to Give:

Online:

vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:

802.658.6110 x 1102

Mail:

Bishop's Annual Appeal

55 Joy Drive

South Burlington, VT 05403

