

NEWS FROM The Inland See

August 9–15, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Recently, I traveled to Italy with my two young-adult daughters. Along with the spiritual graces of visiting Rome during the Jubilee Year of Hope, there were also opportunities to reflect on the dignity of every life.

Sadie, my younger daughter, has Down syndrome, so one purpose of our trip was to attend the Jubilee of People with Disabilities in Rome. It was a beautiful sight to see thousands of pilgrims, many in wheelchairs, with their families and caregivers, who had come from all over the world to celebrate together, and to be celebrated by the Catholic Church.

The other reason for our trip was to join a pilgrimage tour of Rome and Assisi. Over the course of our group's week together, several pilgrims shared with me how moved they were by Sadie's presence, as well as the tender care and companionship given by her older sister Colleen. One pilgrim named Sadie our group's MVP — most valuable pilgrim.

I loved that term and thought it could be used as a metaphor for those fellow "pilgrims" in our lives who need our attention or care, for an infinite number of reasons, whether for a lifetime, a

season, or even a single moment.

Saint Paul tells us to "Humbly regard others as more important than yourselves, each looking out not for his own interests, but (also) everyone for those of others" (Phil 2:3-4). An MVP draws us outside ourselves as we look out for their interests.

I observed several examples of this on our pilgrimage, such as, adult children accompanying their senior mother — their MVP — for assistance, as well as for companionship.

One pilgrim's life-affirming response to an incident showed me another example in an unexpected way.

Our group was enjoying conversation over dinner in the dining room of our hotel one evening, when a large group of Italian middle-schoolers on a field trip, stormed into the room like a tsunami of energy and noise. I wasn't alone in grumbling about this loud intrusion.

One of our fellow pilgrims, however, whose profession is a pediatrician, had a different take. He embraced their energy, remarking, "Great to see and hear kids living life. Good to be 12!"

When the same throng of youths

rocketed into the dining room the next evening, our pilgrim pediatrician was ready for them. He stood up and led our group in welcoming the students with applause and cheers. The kids were a bit stunned at first, but quickly recovered and joined in, egging us on.

I had to laugh when the next week, the newly elected Pope Leo XIV, referred to young people as "a volcano of life." Perhaps he had encountered the same boisterous group of students!

Our fellow pilgrim's response to that "volcano of life" was a glorious exhibition of life-affirming Christian love toward those whose presence might have otherwise been unappreciated.

In that particular moment in time, the students became MVPs. Their value was affirmed.

To me, it was a lesson in finding MVPs in unexpected situations, even annoyances, and using the opportunity to affirm their God-given dignity.

— *Eileen Haupt is a parishioner at St. Thomas in Undehill, has volunteered for the pro-life cause for many years, and served as the respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Burlington.*

Upcoming Events



08|13, 20, 27 WEDNESDAYS Saint Anne's Shrine Summer Reflection Series 2025

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am - 2 pm

The Society of Saint Edmund invites you to the Summer Reflection Series, held every Wednesday in July and August. Each program begins with Mass at 11:15 a.m., followed by a presentation. Lunch will be available for purchase in the café, or feel free to bring your own picnic to enjoy outdoors.

Wednesday, August 13 — Father David Theroux, SSE
What's in a Name? Pope Leo XIV and the Spiritual Underpinnings of Rerum Novarum

Wednesday, August 20 — Monsignor Peter Routhier
Jubilee Year of Hope: Why We Celebrate

Wednesday, August 27 — John Kenney, Professor Emeritus, Religious Studies, Saint Michael's College
Saint Monica: A Life of Grace



08|13 WEDNESDAY St. John Henry Newman Series of Sermon Seminars

via Zoom • 6:30 pm

Fr. Matthew Rensch will read and present on St. John Henry Newman's sermon, Parochial and Plain Sermons, Volume III, Sermon 13 "Submission to Church Authority." For the Zoom link, go to: vermontcatholic.org/event/st-john-henry-newman-series-of-sermon-seminars/



08|14 THURSDAY Chicken Pie Supper

St. Michael, Greensboro Bend • 5 - 6:30 pm

Seatings at 5 pm and 6:30 pm. Chicken pie, baked beans, casseroles, goulash, cranberry sauce, cole slaw, veggies, rolls, and choice of homemade pie for dessert. Gluten free available. Take outs available. Sponsored by Catholic Daughters Court St. Veronica #1273 and co-sponsored by Catholic Financial Life Chapter St. Jean. Catholic Financial Life will match a portion of the net proceeds to benefit the parish.



08|25, 09|22 MONDAYS Cor Formation

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

Cor Formation for men is held on every third Saturday in the church basement. This is an opportunity for men to grow closer to Jesus' through prayer, formation, and fraternity. Coffee and donuts are provided.



08|28 THURSDAY Our Lady's Kitchen: A Meal with a Movie

Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 6 - 8 pm

Potluck dinner followed by popcorn and a movie. The movie is *The Chosen*, season 3, episodes 7 & 8.



08|30-09|02 SAT-TUES Marriage Encounter Family Camp-Out and Picnic

Would you like to share good times and the outdoors with friends and families that share the same values of faith, marriage, and a love of nature? This

annual event invites FAMILIES and friends to gather in the great outdoors for FUN around a FIRE, sharing FOOD, FAITH, and FELLOWSHIP. The Family camp-out is both for the Encountered and not yet Encountered, so bring friends, family, and other couples to make some great memories. Location to be determined. Contact Aaron and Andrea for more information, (802) 223-6561 or email abrassvt@gmail.com.



09|03 - 11|19 WEDNESDAYS Surviving Divorce Support Ministry

Holy Rosary, Richmond • 7 - 8:30 pm

Surviving Divorce features twelve video presentations that cover topics such as shock and grief, anger and forgiveness, money issues, dealing with children and a former spouse, and annulment and remarriage. This program is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Contact Deacon Josh McDonald at jmcdonald@vermontcatholic.org.



09|06 SATURDAY 2025 St. Paul's School Golf Tournament

Barton Golf Club • 8 am

Registration is at 8 am with a Shotgun Start at 9 am. \$50 per person, \$15 for golf carts. Learn more at: vermontcatholic.org/event/2025-st-pauls-school-golf-tournament.



09|06, 10|04 SATURDAYS First Saturday Mass

*Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Fair Haven • 7:30 am
Rosary at 7:30 am, Mass at 8 am.*



09|06, 10|04 SATURDAYS 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.*



09|06, 10|04 SATURDAYS Knights of Columbus Bingo

All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am - 3 pm

Parish Hall. Doors open at 11:30 am and the games will begin at 1 pm. Homemade lunch, desserts & beverages will be offered. Pull tickets will be available! Proudly sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council #2610.



09|07 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

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

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



09|12 FRIDAY Essex Community Dinner

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

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 available at 6 pm.



09|13 SATURDAY National Remembrance for Aborted Babies

All Saints Cemetery, Richford • 9 - 10 am

Please join us for a prayer service as we pray to remember all aborted babies, bring healing to their parents, and hopefully bring an end to abortion. Rain or shine. Please bring your rosary beads and a chair if desired. Event sponsor is All Saints Parish, Richford. There is no cost for the event and it lasts about an hour.



09|24 WEDNESDAY Chris Stefanick & Reboot!

St. Francis Xavier, Winooski • 7 - 9 pm

This high-energy, 2-hour event with internationally acclaimed speaker Chris Stefanick will awaken your faith, reignite your joy, and equip you with tools to live the life God created you for: A life of JOY. It will help you rediscover the JOY you were created for, and is perfect for everyone — even friends, family and children (12+) who may not be actively practicing their faith. buytickets.at/reallifecatholic/1663037



BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Goal: \$2,200,000

Current: \$1,789,693
as of 7/30

81%

How to Give:

Online:
vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Call:
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Bishop's Annual Appeal
55 Joy Drive
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