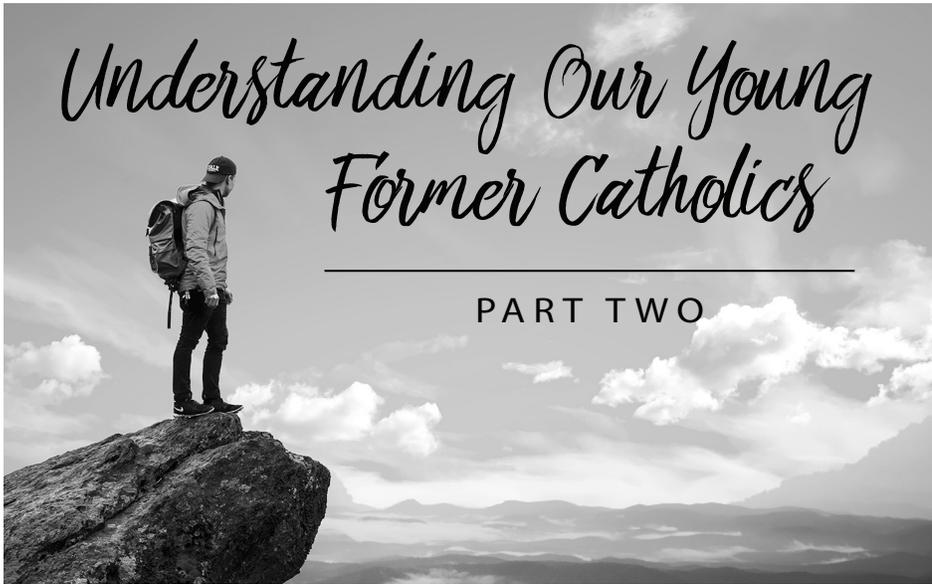


NEWS FROM The Inland See

September 23 – 29, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Understanding Our Young Former Catholics

PART TWO

In Part 1 of this series, I wrote concerning the results of a recent survey out of Notre Dame University regarding “Former Young Catholics,” young people who have left the Church.* As I mentioned, one of the first findings of the report is that former Catholic young adults still (mostly) believe in and interact with/pray to God. The implications are that the majority of former young Catholics are not moving toward atheism or agnosticism and that they are still open to some experience of the Divine. The challenge is to get them to want to come back so as to know and experience the Divine as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in the faith of the Catholic Church. At least there is a starting point.

The second major finding was that “formerly Catholic emerging adults tend to be uncomfortable with firm statements about who or what God is. They like to keep such matters open-ended.” They are not alone in this way of thinking. It is generational: “... what works for one person might not work for someone else, and very few statements

can or should be made about God, faith, and morality.” As one young man put it, “I’m so okay with the uncertainty. I think the most beautiful works of art are the ones that lead you to asking questions as opposed to those trying to supply answers to what something is.” Sounds like the Socratic method to me, the asking and answering of questions so as to draw out ideas and underlying presumptions. We also call it apologetics.

Implications and opportunity:

Within the Catholic tradition, theology is often defined as “faith seeking understanding.” If these young adults are people of “faith,” meaning they have some form of nascent or basic faith in

the Divine or even in Jesus, then there is an opportunity here for us to engage them in a dialogue of faith and reason — faith seeking understanding. As stated in the report, “The effective formation of Catholic youth today need not obfuscate or compromise Church teachings, but will most likely best convey them in an open, confident, exploratory, and dialogic mode.”

In other words, a rote memorization of the truths of the Catholic faith is not going to do it. Explaining the whys or what of our faith, flowing out of our disciple relationship with Jesus, in a way that allows for open exploration of those truths, may lead to good results.



Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

ACTION FOR ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Celebrating a Year of Creation

September 30 • St. Michael’s College

Register at: vermontcatholic.org/actionforecojustice

**Manglos-Weber, Nicolette and Christian Smith, “Understanding Former Young Catholics: Findings from a National Study of American Emerging Adults,” Notre Dame University, 2017.*



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Submit your event to the diocesan calendar!
vermontcatholic.org/calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS



09|25, 10|01, 08, 16, 22, 30, 11|12, 20, 12|03, 10

The Bible and the Sacraments

St Monica, Barre • 6:30 - 8 pm

11-part Bible study from Scott Hahn's St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Objectives: Discover the Old testament roots of the Sacraments instituted by Christ; grow in knowledge of the Sacraments; learn how the 7 Sacraments have the power to transform our lives and shape us for eternity. Program began on September 17.

FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalift@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020



09|25, 10|16, 23

Adult Enrichment: "Laudato Si"

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
9:45 - 11 am or 7 - 8:15 pm

This four session adult enrichment series will study and share insights in regard to Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*. Began on September 18.

FOR MORE INFO: johnsonwa7@msc.com, (802) 681-7290



09|26

Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue Symposium

Saint Michael's College, Winooski • 4-5:15 pm

The Edmundite Center for Faith and Culture at St. Michael's College is commemorating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation with a symposium on the Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue. Bishop Christopher Coyne will offer a welcome and speak about ecumenism in Vermont. Three panelists will make presentations

FOR MORE INFO: Fr. David J. Theroux, SSE, (802) 654-2320; dtheroux@smcvt.edu



09|26

Workshop on the Ministry of Hospitality

Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex • 7-8 pm

Led by Josh Perry, Director of the Diocesan Office of Worship.
FOR MORE INFO: or to RSVP (802) 878-5331.



09|28, 10|05, 12, 19, 26, 11|02

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven
6:30 - 7:30 pm

"Unlocking The Mystery Of The Bible," an eight-part study featuring Jeff Cavins. First two sessions were held on Sept. 14 & 21. Cost of \$20 includes a session overview, talk notes, discussion questions and Bible timeline chart.

FOR MORE INFO: Paul Turnley, pturnley@aol.com, (802) 645-0955; Rosie Doran, Rosemarieadoran@yahoo.com, (802) 265-8635; or Father Vincent Odoemenam (802) 265-3135.



09|25

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

St. John Vianney, South Burlington • 7 pm

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program educates and forms adults in the Catholic faith. If you or someone you know wants to become a Catholic or simply wants a better understanding of the Catholic faith, consider participating in the program. There is no charge.



09|28

Outcasts, a Grassroots Film

Davis Center at UVM, Burlington
7:30 pm

Outcasts is a powerful documentary from Grassroots Films that shows the work of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal as they serve the poor in some of the toughest neighborhoods. Co-sponsored by Joseph's House, the Catholic Center at UVM, and the Catholic Student Association at UVM, this event offers a unique opportunity to view the film, ask questions of friars and one of the film's producers, and learn about ways to get involved locally. Prior to the screening, there will be a Holy Hour with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at the Catholic Center at UVM at 6 pm. The event is free, but tickets are required. Tickets available at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and UVM Catholic Center.

MORE INFO: outcaststhemovie.com, 802-862-8403 or 802-951-4290



09|29, 30, 10|01

Youth Leadership Weekend Retreat

Camp Guggenheim, Ogdensburg, NY

A Vermont group will depart from and arrive back at the new Bishop Brady Center, 55 Joy Drive in South Burlington. Departure is at 4 pm on Sept. 29 and return is scheduled for 3 pm Oct. 1. The cost is \$70 per person.

FOR MORE INFO: Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry (802) 658-6110 x1130 or vermontcatholic.org/YouthLEAD.



09|30

Action for Ecological Justice: Celebrating a Year of Creation

Saint Michael's College, Colchester
10 am - 5 pm

Join Bishop Coyne at this main event for the Year of Creation. Keynote address by Dr. Carolyn Woo (former CEO & president of Catholic Relief Services) followed by sessions on local and global issues related to Pope Francis' encyclical, *"Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home."*

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/actionforecjustice



09|30

Chittenden County Right to Life Annual Dinner and Auction

St. John Vianney Parish Hall, South Burlington
5:30 pm

Annual fundraising event. Reservations required.
FOR MORE INFO: Eileen Haupt (802) 899-4882



09|30

Essex Catholics for Haiti Fundraiser: Live Music and Dancing

Holy Family-St. Lawrence Center, Essex Jct.
7-10 pm

Bonnie and Ron Tucker will play music from the '50s, '60s and '70s and teach square dancing. Desserts and beverages offered. Suggested donations are \$10 per person.

The Diocese of Burlington CAREERS

- Administrative Assistant
- Development Donor Systems Specialist
- PT Administrative Assistant / Medical Billing Specialist
- Rice Memorial High School
— Substitute Teacher Positions
- Rice Memorial High School
— Assistant Coach, Boys' Prep Hockey

FOR MORE INFO:

vermontcatholic.org/careers

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

When the Bishop's Annual Appeal (then, the Bishop's Fund) began in 1958, it raised \$250,000 to provide counseling services, assist Catholic schools, provide emergency aid, and support vocations. Today, the diocesan-wide appeal raises nearly \$3M to sustain many of the same ministries supported over its 58-year history, but also an ever-expanding range of apostolates. Learn more about what the appeal supports today and give at bishopsappealvt.org.

