

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

February 17–23, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## Protecting Yourself at Life's End

Physician assisted suicide became legal in Vermont with the passage of Act 39 in May of 2013. This law enables a physician to write a lethal prescription for a terminally ill person to end his or her life.

To make it legal for a physician to enable a sick person to end his or her life is fraught with problems. Even in places where assisted-suicide laws contain so-called protections, there is no way to fully prevent potential for abuse. In contrast to the Oregon law, on which Vermont's law was originally modeled, Vermont's Act 39 has almost no protections, making an even more terrible law out of another terrible one. Among the problems, Act 39:

- ✦ does not require a patient to have "capacity" or to be "capable" at the time the drugs are ingested;
- ✦ does not require a patient to self-administer the lethal dose nor does it require any review to ensure that a person was not coerced to ingest the drugs;
- ✦ does not require State oversight, nor an autopsy to ensure a person was not murdered;
- ✦ does not require a physician or health care professional to be present at the time the drugs are ingested;
- ✦ does not require a witness to be present at the time of death;
- ✦ does not have provisions to investigate allegations of abuse.;
- ✦ does not require tracking of lethal prescriptions nor oversight to ensure safe disposal of lethal drugs;
- ✦ does not require notification of family;
- ✦ does not bar a guardian or health care agent from making the request for the lethal drugs.

While proponents of Act 39 claim it is about "choice in dying," the reality is that for vulnerable people — particularly those with terminal illnesses and limited resources — there can be subtle pressure to "choose" assisted suicide as a "health care option." After a legal battle last year in which the Alliance Defending Freedom won a ruling that says the current law does not mandate health care providers to present assisted suicide as a "health care option," a bill has been proposed (H 640) that appears indirectly aimed at

forcing them to do just that. Imagine your trusted doctor giving you a terminal diagnosis, and then discussing a lethal prescription for ending your life early as a viable "care" alternative. How would that make you feel?

In this climate, it is more important than ever to have a Vermont Catholic Advance Directive (VCAD). This document allows you to express your wishes for end of life care, and enables you to appoint a healthcare agent to act on your behalf in the event you are unable to communicate or participate in healthcare decisions. The document complies with Vermont's Advance Directive Law as well as with Church teaching.

The Respect Life Office Speakers Bureau offers an educational presentation and speakers who can help unpack the process of completing a VCAD. Parishes are encouraged to contact [respectlife@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:respectlife@vermontcatholic.org) to arrange a presentation.

Complete advance directives packets are available online at [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org) or can be obtained through the Respect Life Office. They will be mailed free of charge upon request.

— *Carrie Handy, Respect Life Coordinator*

### Advanced Directive Presentations

The Diocese of Burlington has created the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive which explains Catholic teaching on end of life care and enables you to appoint a healthcare agent to act on your behalf in the event you are unable to communicate or participate in healthcare decisions. Join Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere for a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive:

Fr. Lively Parish Center, St. Johnsbury	TUESDAY February 27	6:30 pm
Blessed Sacrament Parish Center, Stowe	WEDNESDAY March 14	1 pm & 7:00 pm
Most Holy Trinity, St. Theresa Parish Hall, Orleans	THURSDAY March 22	6:30 pm



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
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To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:  
[vermontcatholic.org/calendar](http://vermontcatholic.org/calendar)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



02|19, 20, 21  
**Lenten Retreat**

*Holy Family, Essex Jct., 8:30 am  
St. Pius X, Essex Center, 7 pm*

Monsignor Richard Lavalley is offering this Lenten Retreat in two locations: Holy Family and St. Pius. Retreat will consist of Mass, a homily by Monsignor Lavalley and the opportunity for Reconciliation.



02|24, 25 SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
**Young Adult Retreat**

*Mary Theotokos Monastic Retreat Center,  
Newark, 10 am - 3:30 pm*

Father Lance Harlow, will lead the retreat, open to young adults ages 18 and older. Retreat will offer talks, discussion, activities, Mass, and other opportunities for personal growth. Cost is \$40 per participant, includes food and lodging.  
**REGISTER: 802-658-6110 x1130; vermontcatholic.org**



03|03 SATURDAY  
**Array of Hope: Awakening Hearts Family Concert Event**

*St. Michael School, Brattleboro • 1 - 7 pm*

The Array of Hope concert is a wide-ranging live concert experience that features multiple musical acts, motivational speakers and thought-provoking films. The Diocese of Burlington invites the **WHOLE FAMILY** for this vocation night with Father Jon Schnobrich and Bishop Coyne. Focused on ages 7–12 grade.



03|03 SATURDAY  
**Wintertastic Celebration and Auction**

*Mount Anthony Country Club, Bennington  
6 pm*

This is a benefit for the educational programs at The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. Buy a table of eight for \$225; individual tickets are \$30. To donate or purchase tickets contact Kathy Murphy at [1kathy.murphy@gmail.com](mailto:1kathy.murphy@gmail.com).



03|10 SATURDAY  
**Spaghetti Birthday Cake Dinner**

*St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5 pm*



03|11 SUNDAY  
**K of C Breakfast**

*St. Peter, Vergennes  
8 - 10 am*

Come join us for a delicious breakfast of eggs, omelets (to order), hot cakes, french toast, sausage, bacon and more. Bring your family and friends!! Adults \$8.50; Seniors over 60 \$7.50 and Kids 6–12yrs. \$6. Children under 6 years old are free. Immediate families of five or more \$28.



03|14, 21 WEDNESDAY  
**Laetare Living —  
Lenten Retreats**

*Annunciation of the BVM, Ludlow  
St. Jude, Hinesburg  
9:30 am – 3 pm*

Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff. Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper, maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry, Music Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! The retreat is being offered in Ludlow on March 14 and in Hinesburg on March 21.

**REGISTRATION: [Idaudelin@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:Idaudelin@vermontcatholic.org)**



03|14 WEDNESDAY  
**Mass of Thanksgiving**

*St. Charles, Bellows Falls  
7 pm*

Fr. Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



03|27 TUESDAY  
**Taize Prayer**

*Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales,  
Bennington • 7 pm*

The parish choir will offer its annual Holy Week Service of Silent Prayer, Song, and Adoration of the Cross in the Tradition of Taize. Taize is a village in the hills of Eastern France that is home to an ecumenical community of religious Brothers who have dedicated their lives to prayer and works of charity.



03|06, 07, 08 FRIDAY – SUNDAY  
**Rachel's Vineyard Retreat**

*Northern Vermont*

This weekend retreat offers an opportunity for healing for hearts wounded by abortion. Men and women can express and release painful post-abortion emotions and begin the healing process in a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment.  
**FOR MORE INFO: or to register call (802) 658 4118.**



04|14 SATURDAY  
**Mass of Thanksgiving**

*Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston  
7 pm*

Fr. Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



04|20, 21, 22 FRIDAY – SUNDAY  
**Esto Vir — Be a Man!  
The Father/Son Retreat**

*Mary Theotokos Monastic Retreat Center,  
Newark*

Retreat will include hiking and other outdoor adventures in the beautiful mountains of the Northeast Kingdom and Lake Willoughby, food, lodging, and talks by Father Jon Schnobrich. The weekend will run from 7 pm on Friday to noon lunch on Sunday. Cost is \$75 per father and son (additional \$25 with two sons). For fathers, and sons 6th grade and up. Registration deadline is April 10th.

**FOR MORE INFO: or to register, [kalderman@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:kalderman@vermontcatholic.org), (802) 658-6110 x1130.**



04|27, 28 FRIDAY & SATURDAY  
**New Evangelization Summit**

*Holy Cross, Colchester*

Vermont will be hosting the Live-Streamed New Evangelization Summit out of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada joining thousands of others throughout North America. Summit will run 6:30–9pm on Friday and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday. Hear speakers like Curtis Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, George Weigel, and Patrick Madrid. Cost is \$40 per person and will cover materials, snacks and lunch on Saturday.

**FOR MORE INFO: [newevangelization.ca/](http://newevangelization.ca/) or contact Deacon Phil Lawson at (802) 658-6110 ext. 1460**



**ARRAY OF HOPE**  
AWAKENING HEARTS

**MARCH 3, 2018**

CONCERT 1–4 PM • MASS 4 PM

DINNER & VOCATION PROGRAM 5–7 PM

[vermontcatholic.org/youthministry](http://vermontcatholic.org/youthministry)



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