The Inland See

Christ Hope

This is an excerpt from "Christ our Hope: Declaration of the 2018 Synod of the Diocese of Burlington," which was promulgated by Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington, Vermont, on April 16, 2019.

Read the full declaration at vermontcatholic.org/vermont/christ-our-hope.

Evangelization

Open wide the doors for Christ." —Pope St. John Paul IIⁱ
The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church. It is a task and mission that the vast and profound changes of society make all the more urgent. Evangelizing is the grace and vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity. She exists in order to evangelize.ⁱⁱ

Evangelization is joyfully bringing the Good News of salvation to others. Catholics have something precious to share — their faith — and by virtue of their baptism, they are called to evangelize all people. This evangelization effort is centered in the person of Jesus Christ and the salvation that He accomplished through His life, death and resurrection. This salvation is offered to all and continues in and through His Church. As such, Christ must be the center of individual, parish and diocesan faith, as well as our efforts to welcome others into the Church and engage and transform the world.

But in order to accomplish this task, Catholics must continue to evangelize themselves so that they may more deeply recognize and understand the wonderful gift they have received. They must then joyfully and sincerely bring that gift to others, including young adults who have left the Church or are ambivalent toward it and young parents to assist them in raising their children in the faith. These works must be sustainable and regularly assessed for effectiveness.

Members of the Church are thus called to holiness of life from which — strengthened by the Church's sacraments — they derive the ability to live joyful lives and charitably perform acts of spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

This is never a solitary journey of faith. The essential nature of the Church is communal. While each believer responds individually to faith in Jesus Christ, that faith is lived out within the communion of the Church, the Body of Christ. The task of evangelization is therefore not just to call others to a private belief in Jesus Christ but to a belief that is found in and through the Church and its sacraments. This is most especially true of the Eucharist, the "source and summit" of the Church's sacramental life. iii The Church's sacraments are both the means and enactment of the

call to individual and communal action. By their very nature, the sacraments evangelize, catechize and form the Holy People of God.

The task of evangelization is different from catechesis. While they are closely related and must work together, evangelization focuses on the will, helping people to desire the gift of salvation; and catechesis focuses on the intellect, teaching people the truths of the faith. Nevertheless, catechesis — "instruction by word of mouth" — is the necessary sibling of evangelization so that we may not only believe but know in Whom and what we believe.

Synod delegates recognized the particular importance of evangelizing youth, young adults and young families; a focus on them should be included in evangelization efforts.

Synod delegates also emphasized that care must be taken so that the celebration of the sacraments is done with attention and dignity. In particular, the Mass needs to draw participants to a deeper spirituality by containing engaging music and challenging preaching. All liturgy should be celebrated according to the Church's rubrics and texts that often evangelize in ways that bear great fruit.

Attention should be given to special opportunities for evangelization such as at baptisms, weddings and funerals. Synod delegates called for evangelization to be part of every outreach parishes do, such as marriage preparation, sacramental preparation, social gatherings and soup kitchens.

Interior renewal requires a profound change of mind and heart, and personal spiritual growth must be rooted in the Eucharist (especially through Sunday Mass attendance), devotion to the Blessed Mother, embracing the teachings of the Catholic Church, engagement in parish life and works of mercy and the willingness to sacrifice.

In addition, synod delegates emphasized strong faith formation is needed to nourish and challenge the faithful to make the practice of the faith and prayer part of their daily lives.

iSt. John Paul II, Homily for the Inauguration of his Pontificate (Oct. 22, 1978), ¶ 5.

iiSee St. Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Nuntiandi (Dec. 8, 1975), ¶ 14.

iiiSecond Vatican Ecumenical Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium (Nov. 21, 1964), no. 11; cf. Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy Sacrosanctum Concilium (Dec. 4, 1963), no. 10; Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed., 2000), no. 1324.

UPCOMING EVENTS



07|31 - 08|28 WEDNESDAYS

St. Anne's Shrine Summer Reflection Series

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte • 11:15 am - 1 pm

Begins with Mass at 11:15. Remaining dates: July 31 Bro. Francis Hagerty, S.S.E. St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Ascension of Jesus: Bringing About the Kingdom of God, August 7 Rev. Lance Harlow, The Transfiguration and Our Transformation, August 14 Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E., A Woman Clothed with the Sun and a Crown of Twelve Stars, August 21 Rev. David Theroux, S.S.E., The Apostle Paul and His Letter to the Galatians, August 28 Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E., Surprising Conversions: Peter, Paul and the Woman at the Well. Lunch is also available for purchase in the café.



08|01, 02, 03 THURS, FRI, SAT **Annual Rummage Sale**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 9 am 2 pm
The annual "Back to School Rummage Sale"
with additional flee market items is coming up. Come get
great deals, priced by the bag. All proceeds benefit Vermont



08|01 – 09|26 THURSDAYS

Right to Life. Event held at Parish Hall next door to church.

The Wild Goose: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit

St. John the Baptist, Castleton • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Join Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR in this incredible 14 part video series which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. No class on Sept. 5.



08|03 SATURDAY

Our Lady of Fatima Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 9:30 am
First Saturday of every month. Rosary and

reconciliation begin at 8 and Mass at 8:30.



08 03 SATURDAY

Blood Drive

St. Isidore, Montgomery Center • 9 am - 2 pm Hosted by St. Isidore Parish and sponsored by

Montgomery Emergency Services. Local raffles with prizes. To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS. New donors are needed. Please consider giving the gift of life. Walk-ins are welcome!



08|03 SATURDAY

K of C Bingo

All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am - 5 pm Doors open at 11:30 AM, games start at

1:00 PM. Refreshments and pull tickets will be available. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.



To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: **vermontcatholic.org/events**



VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG/VTC





GOAL: \$2,700,987

TOTAL COMMITTED: \$1,478,789

as of July 15, 2019

The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports work with the Catholic Leadership Institute, including the Disciple Maker Index Survey, training, and consultation for each parish on growing in vibrancy.

Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at **bishopsappealvt.org**.

Bishop's
Annual
Appeal

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Accountant

Diocese: Seasonal Groundskeeper

Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Williston: Administrative Assistant

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions

St. John the Baptist, Bennington: Keyboardist/Choir Director

St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN

Vermont Catholic Charities, Burlington: Accountant

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers