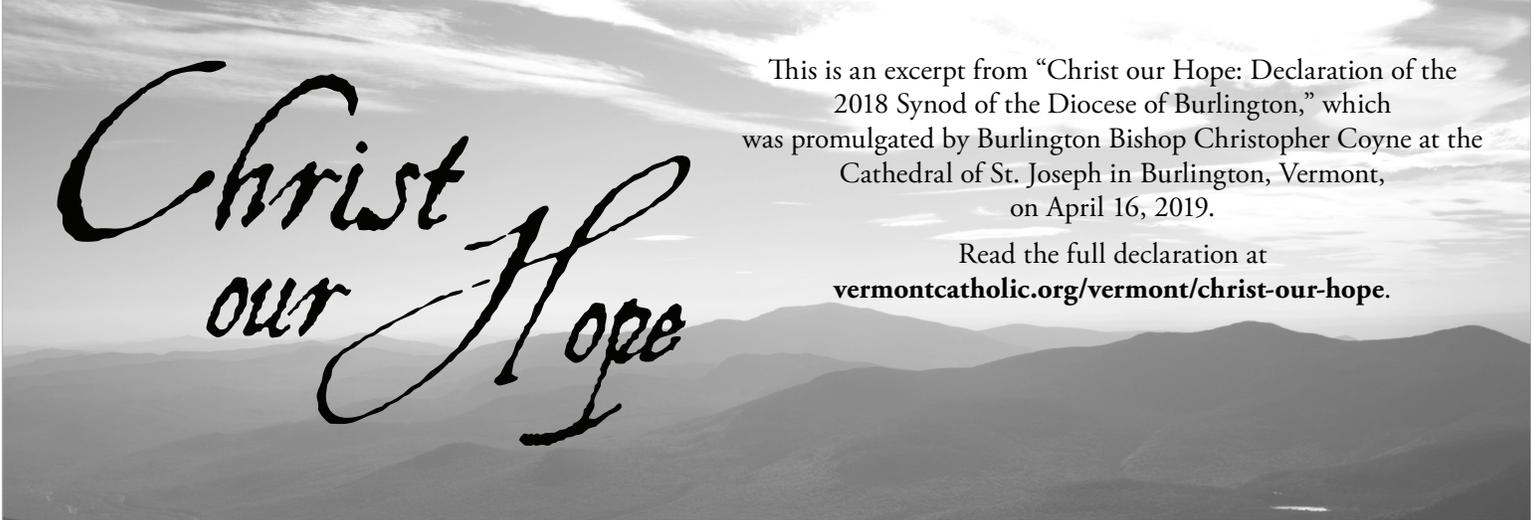


# NEWS FROM The Inland See

August 17–23, 2019

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Christ  
our 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](http://vermontcatholic.org/vermont/christ-our-hope).

## Building Vibrant Parishes

“*A parish is a certain community of the Christian faithful stably constituted in a particular church, whose pastoral care is entrusted to a pastor ... under the authority of the diocesan bishop.*”  
— Code of Canon Law (1983), canon 515, §1

This definition of a parish presents the essential elements that must be considered as the Diocese of Burlington strives to proclaim the Gospel and form and maintain vibrant parishes now and into the future.

A parish is a community united in the universal call to holiness that is given through baptism. While traditionally established and organized territorially, the synod delegates recognized the current reality that people choose their parishes for reasons other than geography. The community that is entrusted to a pastor’s care is less clearly defined and identified than in the past. This reality must be acknowledged if vibrant parishes are to be built up.

This response to the universal call to holiness is expressed in many ways within a vibrant parish, such as through the liturgy and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, “the source and summit of the Christian life” (“Lumen Gentium”).

Additionally, the response to the universal call to holiness within a vibrant parish is expressed in the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, fruits of the Holy Spirit, love for the truths of the faith, regular celebration of the sacraments — which includes weekly Mass — and fidelity to the precepts of the Church.

Parishes are meant to enjoy stability in the present and the future. The synod delegates expressed the fear of some Catholics that the possibility of parish mergers and closures presents a challenge when trying to discuss and plan for the future. If stability is an essential element of parish life, then the Diocese must be able to clearly identify and define the criteria

that will be used to determine if mergers and/or closures are to be part of the pastoral plan to build vibrant parishes.

A parish is entrusted to the pastoral care of a pastor. The synod recognized and affirmed the essential role the pastor plays in ensuring the success of parish life. Vibrant parishes need strong, joyful and inspiring spiritual fathers. Yet there is a need to develop plans to allow priests to focus upon the areas in which they have the greatest expertise, namely, the spiritual and liturgical elements of parish life, while relieving them of the worldly elements of parish life.

With these elements identified, at the direction of Bishop Christopher Coyne, the Diocese of Burlington engaged the Catholic Leadership Institute to help current parishes conduct self-studies to identify if they are vibrant and what areas need to be developed to become vibrant.

The self-studies will focus on four areas of parish life that reflect many of the concerns that were identified in the synodal consultation. A vibrant parish: focuses on the spiritual maturity of its members, including on-going catechesis for all members to deepen understanding and love of the truths of the faith; has a culture of shared leadership between the pastor and parishioners; has a strong focus upon the essential nature of the Sunday Eucharist that is celebrated with beauty and reverence; and encourages and empowers its members to embrace a missionary spirit and become evangelizers.

While parishes differ because of size and location, a vibrant parish embraces all of these areas in some way; thus, a small parish can be a vibrant parish. What is common to both small and large vibrant parishes is participation and commitment of clergy and laity.

As the Diocese moves forward, parishioners must understand that a parish is more about who Catholics are as disciples of Christ and less about buildings and programs.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## 08|21, 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: 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|24 SATURDAY Rutland County Family and Youth Hike

*Christ the King, Rutland • 9 am - 2 pm*  
All families are welcome to join us for Mass and then a great hike to Bald Mountain. Mass at 9:00 a.m. with Father Matthew Rensch, then drive up to the Bald Mountain Trail in Mendon — at the end of Notch Road (off Killington Avenue). Trail is relatively easy. Bring a bag lunch! Hike at your own risk. All are welcome!



## 08|24 SATURDAY Marriage Preparation Retreat Day

*Our Lady of Angels, Randolph • 10:30 am - 5 pm*  
A one-day Retreat for Engaged Couples. Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — prior Registration is required. Please Note: There is no cost for this retreat.  
**FOR MORE INFO:** [vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-randolph/](http://vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-randolph/)



## 08|24 SATURDAY St. Pius X Parish Picnic

*St. Pius X, Essex Center • 4:30 - 7 pm*  
Bring your favorite side dish and join us for

an evening of good fellowship and food as we celebrate our patron saint's feast day.



## 08|31 - 09|02 SATURDAY - MONDAY WWME Family Camp-out & Picnic Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle LaMotte

This event is open to Encountered couples, their families, and everyone who wants to know more about Marriage Encounter and/or enjoys good family fun. Come enjoy fellowship with others who value Faith, Marriage and Family. Visit our info site at <https://sites.google.com/view/wwwmevtcamp> There you will find photos, frequently asked questions and answers, a map of St Anne's Shrine and more.  
**FOR MORE INFO:** Andrea and Aaron at [wwmevt.camp@gmail.com](mailto:wwmevt.camp@gmail.com)



## 09|05 THURSDAY Surviving Divorce

*St. Peter, Vergennes • 6:30 - 8 pm*  
Hope and healing for men and women struggling with being separated or divorced. This small group will meet over several weeks to 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 based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. Participants will find answers to their questions, restore their hope, and begin authentic healing.  
**FOR MORE INFO:** and/or to register by September 5, Sharon (802) 877-6585.



## 09|07 SATURDAY Our Lady of Fatima Devotions

*Holy Family, Essex Junction*  
8 - 9:30 am  
Join us the first Saturday of every month for Our Lady of Fatima Devotions. We begin with rosary and reconciliation at 8 am, followed by Mass at 8:30.



## 09|07 SATURDAY Chicken Pie Supper by Maybelle Dumont

*Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5 pm*  
Adults \$12, Kids \$5



## 09|08 SUNDAY St. Luke Children's Carnival

*St. Luke Fairfax • 11:30 am - 1 pm*  
Knights of Columbus Council 10830 is hosting their Annual Children's Carnival. Event is open to Children of All Ages.



## 09|13, 14 FRIDAY-SATURDAY Young Adult Retreat Dumaine

*Dumaine Retreat Center, Jacksonville*  
Arrive 7 pm Friday, depart, 6 pm Saturday.  
For Young Adults ages 18-39. Cost: \$65, includes meals and lodging. Led by Sisters from the Daughters of Saint Paul.



## 09|14 SATURDAY Padre Pio Devotions

*Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am*  
Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass, then learning about Padre Pio's life, ministry and spiritual gifts will follow in the Holy Family Parish Hall after Mass.



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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

# UPDATE



The Bishop's Annual Appeal supports the Office of Liturgy and Worship, which last year offered 47 presentations and workshops on liturgical ministry to more than 1,100 participants.

Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org).

## DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

*Diocese:* Accountant

*Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Williston:*  
Administrative Assistant

*The Loretto Home, Rutland:*  
Residential Care Positions

*Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Randolph:*  
Administrative Assistant

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

*St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington:*  
LPN

*Vermont Catholic Charities, South Burlington:*  
Senior Accountant

*For More Info:*  
[vermontcatholic.org/careers](http://vermontcatholic.org/careers)