



NEWS FROM The Inland See

April 10–16, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

‘Our words are to be at the service of the *Divine Word*’

It is easy for human beings to become overwhelmed by words. Endless news reports, social media and idle chatter consume so much time and energy, and to what end?

All too often words are set against each other for reasons of power, correctness, control or manipulation. There seems to be a war going on in this “world of word-craft.”

During His sacred Passion, our blessed Lord experienced this in His humanity, but rather than engaging it, he put an end to it by fulfilling Isaiah’s prophecy: “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth” (Is 53:7).

As He is, so we are to be.

We rationalize, however, the avalanche of words coming at us, or from us, by insisting that it is necessary for work or to stay updated, connected and informed; this may be partially accurate. But more importantly is the answer to the question of whether any, or all, of these words lead us and others deeper into relationship with Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate.

In short, all of our words are to be at the service of the Divine Word. This reality is certainly on full display in the homilies of St. John Chrysostom, known as “Golden-Mouth” for the eloquence with which he preached in the fourth and early fifth centuries. Or, fast-forwarding roughly 800 years, we may note the thorough and unparalleled rhetoric of St. Thomas Aquinas.

And yet, isn’t it interesting that this year the Church asks us to consider St. Joseph, the man called by God to be the husband of and protector and provider for His most perfect creature, our Blessed Mother, and the foster-father of His Son, the Word made flesh.

And what’s more is that this saintly man never utters one word in the entirety of Sacred Scripture! It would be unreasonable to believe that St. Joseph never spoke during the course of his earthly life, but we can be certain that nothing he ever said

was deemed by God to be necessary for our salvation since it is not included in Sacred Scripture.

At this time in the Church’s history, we are confronted by the “secret life” of St. Joseph, particularly in his relationship to the Mother of God and the Incarnate Word.

To remain close to Jesus and Mary and grow in one’s relationship with them — as St. Joseph did — requires faith, hope, love, trust, commitment and sacrifice. Certainly, doubt and anxiety are a part of life, but they become manageable the more one’s soul follows the will of God, is in union with His Word and strengthened by His grace.

Let us, then, take every opportunity to engage more fervently and robustly a life a prayer, especially time with our Lord in Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament, and meditate with our Blessed Mother and St. Joseph on the life of Christ through the Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. For the more consistently this becomes the desire of our soul and practice of our life, the more we, like St. Joseph in union with the Blessed Mother and safeguarded by God’s Almighty Word, will love the Church, fight to defend Her dignity and honor, protect Her children from the terror of demons and work for the salvation of souls so that God’s faithful may experience the grace of a happy death.

These may be beautiful and powerful words, but unless and until they propel us to be caught up in our fascination with the Divine Word of God, we will remain perplexed by the faithful and committed silence of St. Joseph — a man who reveals in God’s Providence that words are oftentimes overrated, but the relationship we have to the Word Incarnate is what truly transforms our life, our family, our culture, our history and our vocation.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

— **Father James Dodson is vocation director
for the Diocese of Burlington**

From the Spring 2021 issue of Vermont Catholic magazine.

Upcoming Events



04|11 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Sunday Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 2 - 4 pm
 The devotions will begin with Confession from 2 – 3 PM, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and singing of the Divine Mercy Chaplet.



04|14 WEDNESDAY
Parent Cafe — Blessed are They That Mourn
Zoom • 7:30 - 8:15 pm

Join Michael Hagan and Terri McCormack to discuss how suffering equips us with the strength to comfort and understand others. Short presentation on the second Beatitude, discussion, and prayer. www.vermontcatholic.org/event/parent-cafe-blessed-are-they-that-mourn/



04|17 SATURDAY
Msgr. Thomas Ball — 10th Anniversary Memorial Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 8 am

Msgr. Thomas Ball was a long-time rector of The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Burlington. The Knights of Columbus honor guard will be present along with Celia Asbel as Music Director.



04|28 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Professionals Virtual Event
Zoom • 8 - 9 am

Our April guest speaker is Mary Anne Sheahan, Execu-

tive Director — Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Program, Vermont Business Roundtable. Learn more: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event-2/



05|01 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
 Rosary, Confessions, Mass at 8:30 am.



05|08 SATURDAY
Food Drive at Cathedral of St. Joseph and St Mark Churches
Burlington • 9 - 11 am

The Knights of Columbus de Goesbriand Council # 275 is conducting a food drive at both churches, with drop-off in the parking lot of nonperishable food items to benefit the North End Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation.



05|13 THURSDAY
The Ascension of the Lord
Solemnity

We commemorate the day Jesus ascended into heaven. Read about the Ascension in Acts 1: 6-12.



05|23 SUNDAY
Pentecost
Solemnity

We commemorate the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostles. Read about Pentecost in Acts 2: 1-13.



To learn more or make a gift visit:
christourhopevt.org

Goal: \$9,582,456

46% As of
 March 31, 2021:
\$4,392,707



APRIL 11–17, 2021

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

DIVINE MERCY

Ask Jesus for Divine Mercy in your marriage by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet together:
www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/pray-the-chaplet

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Staff Accountant

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Director of Nursing — Up to \$7,500 Sign-on Bonus!

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide – \$500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland: Full-Time and Part-Time LNA or Nurse Aide — \$500 Sign-On Bonus for Full-Time!

The School of Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington: Principal

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers