

Digital academy grants Press Release

For immediate release

Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

55 Joy Drive

So. Burlington, VT 05477

Contact: Ellen Kane at (802) 846-5837 or ekane@vermontcatholic.org

BURLINGTON--The Diocese of Burlington's St. Therese Digital Academy, an online Catholic high school with a rigorous program grounded in the Catholic faith, has received two grants totaling \$116,000 to support the development of a digital learning platform, curriculum and marketing.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Catholic Communications Campaign awarded \$96,000 and Our Sunday Visitor awarded \$20,000 to provide access to a Catholic education to families limited by geography and for Catholic formation courses and catechism education for children and adults.

"This support will provide us with the resources necessary to develop Catholic formation courses for Catholics young and old who desire to continue grow in their knowledge of our Catholic faith beyond the traditional means, Faith formation is no longer hindered by conflicting work, school or extra-curricular schedules," said Burlington Bishop Christopher J. Coyne. "We want to reach out to people and provide as many options as possible to grow in their faith; to do so we must embrace technology."

The academy works with parents in their roles as primary educators by offering an online Catholic high school with flexible options to assist in their child's education while also providing weekly local opportunities for enrichment courses, community service projects and social and spiritual formation.

"This format of a Catholic high school overcomes the obstacles of no Catholic school nearby. We are serving military families whose children would otherwise not be able to have access to a Catholic education such as Okinawa, Japan," said Lisa Lorenz, superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Burlington and principal of the digital academy.

"Without funds like this our efforts would be very difficult," she said. "It will permit Catholic education to reach beyond brick and mortar, as well as being able to offer a more affordable Catholic high school."

St. Therese Digital Academy currently enrolls five students, and there are three other high schools in the

statewide diocese: Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington, Mount St. Joseph Academy in Rutland and St. Michael High School in Brattleboro.

For more information about the online academy, go to stdavt.org.

###