Years ago my own young son refused to drink from his sippy cup unless it first went into the microwave. After a while, I realized that he was watching me place my coffee mug in the microwave and then drinking it. So as a solution, I would place his sippy cup in the microwave for something like 3 seconds. My son would watch and wait for the “beep” indicating it was done. I would pull out the sippy cup, upon which my son would happily drink from it. Our kids are watching us!

Saint Pope John Paul II, watching his own dad growing up, described it as his “first seminary.” John Paul II grew up during World War II and then under the Communist occupation of Poland. His dad was a general in the Polish army. John Paul, as a young boy, recalled waking up in the middle of the night and often seeing his dad on his knees in prayer. That image and example made a deep and lasting impression on the future pope.

As fathers, we have both the privilege and responsibility of forming our children and grandchildren in the faith. Since our actions often speak louder than our words, let me offer three simple suggestions for you on this Father’s Day:

✦ Thank God for all the men who have been “Father Figures” in your life. Each of us is here and the men we are because of the men the Lord has placed in our lives, who have helped to form us and modeled for us what it means to be men, husbands, and fathers. Take a moment to thank God for each of these men!

✦ Bless your kids/grandkids. When you put your kids to bed or when they or the grandkids leave the house, give them a blessing. The Bible has numerous examples of fathers blessing their children. This can be as simple as making the sign of the cross on their forehead when you give them a hug and a kiss goodnight or goodbye.

✦ Pray. Each night before you go to bed, add this simple prayer, “Lord, help me to be the man You want me to be.” If you are a husband and a father, add these as well, “help me to be the husband and father You want me to be.” Watch this prayer, and your openness to letting the Lord help you, strengthen you to be everything He is calling you to be.

May God bless all of you this Father’s Day!

— Deacon Phil Lawson, Director of Evangelization and Catechesis, Diocese of Burlington
UPCOMING EVENTS

06|17, 18  
Blessing and Anointing of the Sick and Infirm  
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte  
The blessing and anointing of the sick and infirm will take place following all weekend Masses: Saturday at 7 pm; Sunday at 9 and 10:30 am.

06|18  
Father’s Day Breakfast  
St. Thomas, Underhill Center  
8 - 10 am  
Knights of Columbus Council #7810 will serve a buffet style breakfast, cost by donation. (Hall not handicapped accessible)  
FOR MORE INFO: Theresa Gingras (802) 899-4632

06|18  
St. Mary’s Brunch & Raffle  
St. Mary, Franklin  
9 am - 12:30 pm  
Join us for St. Mary’s Annual Father’s Day Brunch & Raffle. Adults $9; Children 7-16 yrs. $5, 6 & under Free. All you can eat! Tickets for an “Old Town” Kayak with Paddle & Life Jacket will be on sale. Winner will be drawn on July 16.  
FOR MORE INFO: (802)2933-2496 or (802)285-6730

06|18  
French Mass  
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte  
10:30 am  
French Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Marcel Rainville, S.S.E.

06|18-23  
5-Day Silent Retreat in the Ignatian Tradition  
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte  
The Society of St. Edmund will conduct this retreat using principles from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Retreatants will be invited to contemplate scripture passages, celebrate daily Eucharist and meet with a Spiritual Director each day. The retreat begins at 7 pm on Sunday and concludes with lunch on Friday. Space limited due to single room accommodations. Cost: $500.  
FOR MORE INFO: fstanne@pshift.com, (802) 928-3362

06|19, 26  
Wild Goose Film Series  
Christ the King, Rutland  
6:30 - 8 pm  
Discover and develop a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit. Presenting the film series, The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka, T.O.R., which is awakening God’s love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. Learn about the attributes of the Holy Spirit, practical application on how to respond, and hear testimonies of people across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. This series meets on Mondays. The first four sessions were held on May 15, 22, and June 5 and 12 with the next two sessions on June 19, and 26.  
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

06|23  
Project Rachel Consecration Mass  
Chancery Chapel, 55 Joy Drive, S. Burlington  
9:30 am  
A relic of St. Therese of Lisieux is now being housed with Project Rachel staff, and will be included at all retreats and events of this important post-abortion healing ministry. A Consecration Mass to place the Project Rachel Ministry under the patronage of St. Therese will take place on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Mass will be celebrated by Msgr. Richard Lavallee. A light reception will follow.  
FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org

06|23, 24, 25  
Vermont Catholic Youth Serve 2017  
UVM, Burlington  
Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to explore what it means to show Christ’s love at the second annual Vermont Catholic Youth Serve 2017! The weekend will be a time for prayer, learning, socializing, building friendships, celebrating and growing in faith and love! The cost for VCYTS is $75 per participant. This fee covers all meals and lodging. Adult help is also needed for the success of this program.  
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-6110 x1130, or kaiderman@vermontcatholic.org

06|23  
Golf Extravaganza  
Mount Anthony Country Club, Bennington  
1 pm  
This popular afternoon of golf and enjoyable buffet dinner will include a raffle. Funds raised go to The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales. The Golf Scramble costs $125 ($90 for MACC members) and includes golf, dinner, gifts and prizes. Dinner alone is $25 for adults and $15 for children 12 and under.  
FOR MORE INFO: Jason Morrissey (802) 442-0377 or jasonmorrissey@comcast.net, Matt Maroney (802) 447-8610 or ammaroney@msn.com

06|24, 25  
Trinkets and Treasures Sale  
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte  
8 am - 4 pm  
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

06|24  
Third Annual Family Day Retreat: Mary, Our Mother  
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy  
9 am - 8 pm  
Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima, this popular Family Retreat has something for every member of the family. Featured speakers include our Msgr. Peter Routhier, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Montpelier, and Danielle Bean, publisher, author and host of The Gift on CatholicTV. Cost per family $30, individuals $10, seniors $6.  
FOR MORE INFO: www.SacredVincentIgnatius.com

06|24  
Ham and Strawberry Shortcake Supper  
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5 pm  
FOR MORE INFO: Bette (802) 372-4092

06|24  
Italian Night  
St. Amadeus, Alburgh • 5 - 7 pm  
Italian dinner and a raffle. Proceeds will benefit the new flooring fund for the Parish hall. The cost: $10 for adults, $5 children 7-12, under 7 are free. Take out will be available. Please call the hall during the dinner to place an order: (802) 796-6000.

2017 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

Did you know that the new director of Liturgy and Worship, Josh Perry, is working with parishes to enhance music and the Mass celebration this year? Learn more about his plans and why your support to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal matters in the Liturgy and Worship video at bishopsannualappealvt.

Donate to the annual appeal at bishopsannualappealvt.org/give.