Each October, Catholics in the United States observe “Respect Life Month,” highlighting our commitment to protecting the dignity of all human life from conception until natural death. This year’s theme, “Moved by Mercy,” focuses on ways we can do this by means of the works of mercy.

Performing the spiritual works of mercy can sometimes be more challenging than attending to corporal works when it comes to life issues. Here in Vermont, where abortion laws are among the most permissive in the country, and where physician-assisted suicide is legal, pro-life views are often met with derision, animosity and misunderstanding.

And yet it is our duty to “Instruct the ignorant, counsel the doubtful, and admonish the sinner,” even—and perhaps especially—when it’s unpopular. Knowing and being able to articulate where we stand is important if we are to be “salt, light and leaven” in the effort to build a culture of life and to pursue public policy that respects the dignity of the human person in all areas.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops wisely refrains from endorsing specific candidates, but that doesn’t mean they are silent on the importance of pro-life issues in the creation of public policy. In their document, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, available online, they admonish Catholics not to place on equal footing the “different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed.”

This October, challenge yourself to be ready to speak up on behalf of life the next time the opportunity arises. You can find helpful resources on the Diocesan Website under “Respect Life.”

— Carrie Handy, Respect Life Coordinator

“An Inland See” (Howard Coffin (L. Brown and Sons Printing Inc.: Barre, Vermont, 2001)) tells a brief history of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington from its birth until the new millennium (2000). Then Bishop Kenneth A. Angell initiated the project, declaring that “it is the duty of Catholics who live today to record, preserve and pass on our story to those yet to come.” In his introduction to the completed book, he encourages readers to “now do likewise, adding our own moments in history and passing them along.” That is the hope for this new, diocesan bulletin, “News from The Inland See” — to add our own moments to the history of the Catholic Church in Vermont. Each week, you will find information about upcoming events and opportunities in this one-page bulletin insert. Consider attending, volunteering at, or praying for the various happenings of our diocese and be a part of the moments that contribute to the Catholic Church in Vermont today.
UPCOMING EVENTS

10|01
Respect Life Month
Vermont parishes
October is Respect Life Month. Catholic parishes throughout Vermont will offer prayer, public education and pastoral care initiatives in recognition of Respect Life Month. The theme this year is “Moved by Mercy” in keeping with the Year of Mercy declared by Pope Francis. FOR MORE INFO: Check your parish bulletin to find out how you can participate.

10|02
Respect Life Life Chain
Several Locations
Respect Life Sunday Masses will be offered in recognition of the sanctity of all human life. Life Chain, a 1-hour, interfaith silent witness calling for an end to abortion, will take place in several Vermont communities.
- BURLINGTON, 2 to 3 pm, Main Street, beginning at the intersection with South Union Street.
- MONTPELIER, 2 pm in front of the Statehouse.
- NEWPORT, 2 pm, 100 Main St.
FOR MORE INFO: Rachel Warden, 802-878-6152, rwan@comcast.net

10|03, 11
Catholics in the Public Square: The 2016 Elections
St. Michael’s College, Colchester
4:30 pm (10|03) & 7 pm (10|11)
- “The Duty to Vote and Imperfect Candidates”
  Presented by Teresa Stanton Collett, professor of law at St. Thomas University School of Law and held in the Roy Room of the Dion Family Center at St. Michael’s College.
- “Allowing the Gospels to Transform our Politics Rather than our Politics the Gospels”
  Explored by Eli S. McCarthy, adjunct professor in the Peace and Justice Program in the Berkley Center for Religion, Justice and Peace at Georgetown University and held in the Recital Hall of McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael’s College.
These events are free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Edmundite Center for Faith and Culture. FOR MORE INFO: Dr. Edward Mahoney at emahoney@smcvt.edu or 802-654-2578

10|04
The Mass in Time
Holy Family Church and Hoehl Room
7 to 9 pm
The Mass in Time: Three reflections on how we got from the Last Supper to our own Sunday Mass. These reflections will focus how the Mass has developed through history, from its earliest development to our own contemporary celebration. Each presentation is taken from a Eucharistic hymn familiar to many Catholics.
- “Down in adoration falling/Let the sacred Host we hail.” Eucharist to Mass to Blessed Sacrament.
- “Faith for all defects supplying/Where the feeble senses fail.” What should our own Sunday experience be, and how do we get there (without fighting)? Presented by Fr. Richard Benube, SSE.

10|05, 22, 11|5, 19, 12|03
Marriage Enrichment Retreat
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Junction
7 pm to 8:30 pm
Six sessions for couples of all ages. There is a purposeful need and desire that can only be fulfilled in your marriage. Explore the mystery, wonder, joy, and the meaning of this beautiful sacrament with your spouse. This retreat is based on the video series BELOVED from the Augustine Institute. FOR MORE INFO: Judy Kanya, 802-878-6152, kanya@comcast.net

10|09
Harvest Dinner at the Shrine
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
12 pm to 3 pm
St. Anne’s Shrine is hosting a Harvest Dinner serving turkey with all the fixings and assorted baked goods for dessert. $30 per family of 4, $12 per adult and $7 per student. The parish hall is located across the street from the church. FOR MORE INFO: contact the office at STALPHONSUS5@MYFAIRPOINT.NET

10|09
Prayer for Healing and Hope
Catholic Center Chapel at UVM
1 pm to 3 pm
Prayer for all who have been affected by abortion and talks about the healing, mercy and forgiveness God longs to offer. There will be a short presentation on the aftermath of abortion and God’s peace and healing offered through the Catholic Church’s Project Rachel Ministry. There will be opportunities for reflection and confession along with Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel. FOR MORE INFO: respectfullife@vermontcatholic.org, 802-658-6110 x1131

10|15 & 10|16
Fall youth rallies
Christ the King Parish, Burlington
Sat. 4 pm to 8:30 pm, Sun. 10 am to 4:30 pm
Cooper Ray will be featured at the Diocese of Burlington’s fall “Mercy Lives-Live Mercy” youth rallies. The high school rally on Oct. 15 will include Sunday Vigil Mass, inspiring talks and games. The middle school rally is Oct. 16, the day will include Sunday Mass, inspiring talks and games. The cost is $15 per person.
FOR MORE INFO: 658-6110 ext. 1240

10|15
VT Christian Rock-Toberfest
North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington
7 pm
Featuring 3-time Dove Award winner Chris August who has a new single, “Roots.” Also performing favorites like “Starry Night,” “7x70” and “The Maker.” Jonny Diaz is well known for his previous #1 single, “More Beautiful You” and his current radio hit single “Breathe.” A new and upcoming young artist from Wyoming, Skylar Kaylyn, will join these artists. FOR MORE INFO: VTChristianMusic.com

10|16
Jubilee for the Sick
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
3 pm
The Year of Mercy celebration in the Diocese of Burlington continues with a Jubilee for the Sick (healing service).

10|16
Harvest Dinner
St. Alphonsus Parish Hall, Pittsford
4 to 6 pm
St. Alphonsus Parish Annual Harvest Dinner serving turkey with all the fixings and assorted baked goods for dessert. $30 per family of 4, $12 per adult and $7 per student. The parish hall is located across the street from the church. FOR MORE INFO: CONTACT THE OFFICE AT STALPHONSUS5@MYFAIRPOINT.NET

Check out the new Vermont Catholic online news: VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG

VERMONT CATHOLIC

FACEBOOK
TWITTER
INSTAGRAM

THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON
CAREERS:
• Vermont Catholic Charities, Inc., Controller
• Manager of Catechesis
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

FOR MORE INFO: VermontCatholic.org/careers