‘Prayer: The Faith Prayed’
Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 18

Each year in the month of September, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Catechetical Sunday, a day on which we commission the various teachers and catechists who will be serving in our parishes. The work of these professionals and volunteers is so important in fostering the life of faith in our diocese, especially as we encounter a culture that is more and more non-religious, even atheistic in its foundation.

This year’s theme, “Prayer: The Faith Prayed” is one that touches the very roots of faith in Jesus Christ, that communion that we know in Him through our communal and individual prayer. Through prayer and the sacraments, we build up that relationship with Jesus that helps us to “know Him, to love Him and to serve Him.” Many of us desire to add more prayer to our lives because we sense it to be the deep well that quenches our thirst for God. Yet, in our busy lives we often set aside prayer as something we will get to “later in the day” but then, sadly, never do. And that’s a shame. Because once we do take the time to really pray and listen, we, like the prophet Elijah, are able to hear the voice of God as a whisper passing by the door of our souls and we are consoled and strengthened.

I recently returned to one of my favorite books on prayer, Emilie Griffin’s “Clinging: The Experience of Prayer.” I don’t know how many times I’ve read it, but it never fails to draw me in, especially with the words of the first few sentences:

“There is a moment between intending to pray and actually praying that is as dark and silent as any moment in our lives. It is the split second between thinking about prayer and really praying…. It seems, then, that the greatest obstacle to prayer is the simple matter of beginning, the simple exercise of the will, the starting, the acting, the doing.”

Heavenly Father, please help me to pray.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

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‘Once we do take the time to really pray and listen, we, like the prophet Elijah, are able to hear the voice of God as a whisper passing by the door of our souls.’

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JUBILEE for TEACHERS

SEPTEMBER 18 • 3 PM
ST. JOSEPH CO-CATHEDRAL
20 Allen St., Burlington

Catechists and school teachers are invited to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy and pray together for all Catholic educators. Light refreshments will be served after the celebration.

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LIFE IS PRECIOUS
POSTER & VIDEO CONTEST

MAKE A POSTER OR VIDEO

THEME: “All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation.” - Pope Francis

ENTRY DEADLINE: NOV. 2, 2016

PRIZES: 1ST = $75, 2ND = $50, 3RD = $25

CONTACT: Bill Gavin
lifeisprecious@vermontcatholic.org
802.658.6110 ext. 1240

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UPCOMING EVENTS

09|18 Jubilee for Teachers St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington 3 pm Catechists and school teachers are invited to celebrate the Holy Year of Mercy and pray together for all Catholic educators at the St. Joseph Co-Cathedral located at 20 Allen St., Burlington. Light refreshments will be served after the celebration.

09|18 All Saints/Our Lady of Lourdes Parishes Annual Turkey Dinner Dorian Hall, Richford 12 pm until all are served All Saints and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes will sponsor their annual turkey dinner. It will take place in Dorian Hall on Main Street in Richford, across from St. Joseph Church. The menu will include roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, squash, tossed salad, rolls, cranberry sauce, pickles, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, punch, milk and water. The cost is $10 for adults, $8 for senior citizens, $5 for children age 5-12 and free for children under five. FOR MORE INFO: Linda at All Saints Rectory, (802)848-7741 or janiegodin@myfairpoint.net

09|24 Right to Life Auction Dinner St. John Vianney Parish Hall, So. Burlington 5:30 pm The Chittenden County Right to Life Annual Dinner and Auction. Reservations required. FOR MORE INFO: Ethel Rousseau, 802-893-1168 or jeannineyoung@ameritech.net

09|25 “Inspire: Called to Love” Lake Placid Olympic Arena, N.Y. The Diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y., is hosting a conference. Speakers include Bishop Robert Barron, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles; Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne; columnist George Weigel; and Jennifer Fulwiler, a writer from Austin, Texas, who converted to Catholicism. Registration required. FOR MORE INFO: Nicole Kass, 802-893-1168 or Nicole.Kass@comcast.net

09|28 to 11|06 40 Days for Life Observance Williston and Rutland This non-denominational, annual 40 days of prayer to end abortion brings together participants from faith communities throughout Vermont for peaceful vigil in front of the Planned Parenthood clinics in two locations. These locations are Talcott Road, Williston, and 6 Roberts Ave., Rutland. Sign up for vigil hours online at 40days4life.com. FOR MORE INFO: Agnes Clift, williston40 Days, 802-310-9520 or Delta Warnecke, Rutland 40 Days at 802-287-0354

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|01 United for Life Rally 75 Talcott Road, Williston 12 pm The 40 Days for Life United for Life National Team Rally.

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: Jeannine Young, lifechain4newport@gmtmom.com

10|08,22,11|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 Kany, 802-878-6152, kanyaj@comcast.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: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org, 802-658-6110 x 1131

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,” “X70” 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 Kaylina, 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|20 Domestic Violence Workshop Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Junction 10:30 am October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The Diocese of Burlington is hosting a free workshop titled, “Responding to Domestic Violence in Our Communities.” The event is directed to priests, parish secretaries, parish staff, directors of religious education, youth ministers, lay people and the wider counseling and medical community. Lunch will be included. FOR MORE INFO: call 802-658-6110 x 1145

PRAYER INTENTIONS
Please follow the keeping in your prayers:

09|19 Rev. Antony Pittapilly, SDV 09|26 Rev. Joseph Romano
09|20 Rev. Francis Prive 09|27 Priestly and Religious Vocations
09|21 Rev. Gerald Ragis 09|28 Priests Who Are Having Difficulty
09|22 Rev. Soosai Raj 09|29 All Deceased Priests
09|23 Rev. Charles Ranges, SSE 09|30 All Our Seminarians
09|24 Rev. Donald Ravey

To submit your event for possible inclusion in this calendar go to vermontcatholic.org/calendar