Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for? (John 20:15)

Early in the morning of the third day after Jesus was crucified and died, his disciples had returned to the tomb where he had been laid to finish the burial rites, cleansing and anointing his body. When they arrived, they found the tomb empty and Jesus’ body missing. Distraught, they began their search but they found they were not alone. In John’s Gospel, Mary Magdalene meets two angels, quickly turns away and sees a man standing in the garden, someone she does not recognize at first — Jesus. “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” He then speaks her name, “Mary.” Now she knows who he is and she rushes and embraces him. Suddenly her grief, her loss, her fear is lost in amazement as she meets her Lord and friend, Jesus, standing alive once more.

How often in our lives when we face moments of grief, of loss, and of confusion do we find ourselves just as adrift as the early disciples on that Easter morning? When a loved one dies, we can wander through the burial rites, feeling numb or overwhelmed, doing what needs to be done as we lay them to rest. But, we can also stand in the hope of the resurrection, occasioned by the truth of the empty tomb, as a person of faith. And there is the rub — a person of faith. For if we are going to seek Jesus in our moments of need and truly possess the hope of salvation, we need to know Jesus as our friend and brother, true God and true man. My encouragement to all of us on this Easter morning is that we all seek to know Him, to love Him, and to serve Him in this life so that we may know Him perfectly in the next. It is a call to mission:

It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle.

It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal. — St. John Paul II

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

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Easter Message from Bishop Coyne

5-Day Silent Retreat in the Ignatian Tradition
June 18–23, 2017 • 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 7:00 pm on Sunday and concludes with lunch on Friday. Space limited due to single room accommodations.

Cost: $500. Applications and further info: 802-928-3362 or fstanne@pshift.com.
UPCOMING EVENTS

04|17  Celebration of Mary, Mother of Life  
Notre Dame de Vie Center, Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, QC • 10 am - 3 pm  
On Easter Monday, you are invited to come celebrate Our Lady of Life: the joy of Mary in the light of the Risen One, her glorious Son, Jesus. The Eucharist will be followed by a festive meal and fellowship.  
FOR MORE INFO: parish office (802) 878-5331

04|19  Evening Prayer for Healing  
Offered in Four Locations (see below) • 7-9 pm  
Please join us at one of the four locations as we gather to pray for those who have suffered, or are currently suffering, from abuse and neglect. Support the victims and survivors of our community by praying for healing, hope, and increased awareness about abuse and neglect so that no more will suffer. Locations: 1. Christ the King/St. Anthony, Burlington 2. Christ the King, Rutland 3. Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary/St. Louis, Swanton and 4. St. Charles, Bellows Falls.  
FOR MORE INFO: Office of Safe Environment Programs: esleeper@vermontcatholic.org, 802-658-6110 x1219

04|21–23  Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Weekend  
This Rachel’s Vineyard Retreat Weekend offers a safe place to rebuild and heal hearts broken by abortion. This is a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where men and women can express and release painful post-abortion emotions to begin the healing process.  
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-4118

04|22  St. Ambrose Casino Nite  
7:30 - 10:30 pm  
St. Ambrose Parish Hall, Bristol  
Play Craps, Roulette, or Black Jack. Tickets are $20 per person and include $200 in Gaming Chips. Everyone has a chance to win great prizes. This year’s Door Prize: $250 VISA Gift Card. Appetizers & refreshments will be available.  
FOR MORE INFO: Sue Grover (802) 453-2488

04|23  Divine Mercy Devotions — The Sung Chaplet  
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 3-4 pm  
Confessions will be heard beginning at 2 pm and after the service which is at 3 pm.  
FOR MORE INFO: parish office (802) 878-5331

04|23  Mercy for our Common Home  
Holy Family-St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Junction • 5-7 pm  
In honor of Global Catholic Climate Movement’s Mercy2Earth Weekend (Earth Day—April 22 and Mercy Sunday April 23) the parish will host round table discussions on parish initiatives for creation sustainability. Topics will include renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management, clean water, living simply, impacts on communities, and eco-spirituality. Evening prayer focused on Pope Francis 2016 statement “Show Mercy to our Common Home” will accompany the discussion.  
FOR MORE INFO: sclaryst@vermontcatholic.org

04|28, 29  Indoor Lawn and Rummage Sale  
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Junction • 9 am - 5 pm  
Members of Catholic Daughters Court Fanny Allen #1060 are seeking items for their indoor lawn and rummage sale. Drop off your items to Holy Family Parish Center (lower level) on Thursday, April 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. They are accepting good, clean, usable and ready to wear clothing and footwear for all age groups; bedroom; bathroom and kitchen items; and with miscellaneous lawn sale items. No large appliances/furniture, ski exercise equipment, Reader’s Digest/National Geographic books, car seats or baby furniture.  
FOR MORE INFO: Louise (802) 878-8407, Brooke (802) 878-5679

04|29  Day Retreat  
Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center, Quebec • 8 am - 9 pm  
There are of the Child Jesus can help us on our faith journey, showing us how to use everything we experience as a way to enter more deeply into God’s Love. You are invited to a day of prayer, sacraments, teaching and fellowship at Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center in Quebec. The car-pool leaves the St. Francis Xavier Rectory in Winooski at 8 am and returns by 9 pm. The $30 fee includes lunch, supper and snacks.  
FOR MORE INFO: Rectory (802) 655-2290 or Teresa email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org

04|29  Spaghetti Supper  
Saint Sylvester, Graniteville • 4:30 pm  
Join us for the fourth annual spaghetti supper with homemade meatballs and sauce, salad, rolls, assorted desserts and beverages. Seatings at 4:30 and 6 pm, adults $10, children 11 and under free. Take-outs will be available by reservation.  
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 793-4944

04|30, 05|01, 02  Parish Mission  
Saint Monica, Barre • various times  
This parish retreat features Father Dan Cambra of the Marianos of the Immaculate Conception, who will give the homily at each weekend Mass and offer confessions with a talk on Sunday at 6:30 pm and a talk Monday and Tuesday at 9 am.  
FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalift@gmail.com

04|30  Health and Wellness Fair  
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 11:30 am - 1 pm  
FOR MORE INFO: Doris Van Mullen RN (615) 390-9965

05|05, 06  Catholic Scout Retreat  
Mt. Norris Scout Camp, Eden • 5 pm  
Scout Retreat for Catholic Scouts ages 11 - up. All scouts, leaders, and parents are welcome to come pray with us. There will be cabins but, for those who are hearty, tent sites are available. The theme is “God Doesn’t Test, HE Calls.” A vocations-themed retreat, there will be lectures, movies, campfire, prayer and fun activities. $40 per person.  
FOR MORE INFO: David Ely (802) 862-5109, Elyfamily6@aol.com, vermontcatholicscouting@gmail.com

05|07  Free Organ Recital  
Sacred Heart/St. Francis de Sales, Bennington • 3 pm  
Donald McMahon, organist and director of music for Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish, will perform works such “Sonata Cromatica” by A.L. Bames, and “Fantaisie in A Major” by Cesar Frank, as well as works by Camille St.-Saens, Giovanni Morandi, David J. Johnson and others. All facilities are accessible to those with special needs.  
FOR MORE INFO: parish office (802) 442-3141 x5

05|12, 13  New Evangelization Summit  
Holy Cross, Colchester • 6:30 - 9 pm  
The Burlington Diocese will host its first official satellite site for the live-streamed “New Evangelization Summit” out of Ottawa, Ontario Canada. The cost of $35 per person will cover materials, snacks and a meal on Saturday.  
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org

Submit your event to the diocesan calendar! vermontcatholic.org/calendar

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