Inspired by the “Hope, Help and Healing” symposium held at Catholic University in July 2016 (see right), the Diocese of Burlington is presenting a free workshop aiding in developing tools to reach out and help victims of domestic violence. This workshop is open to all Priests, Parish Administrators, Parish Staff, DRE’s, Youth Ministers, Principals, Teachers and Lay People.

Domestic abuse and violence refers to a pattern of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult in an intimate relationship over another. It is not a private matter. Domestic Violence…is defined by the Centers for Disease Control as a serious, preventable public health problem that affects millions of Americans.

This FREE Diocesan Workshop on “Responding to Domestic Violence” will take place on February 22nd from 10:30am-2:00pm at Holy Family Parish Center in Essex Junction.

Featured speakers will include: Dr. Sharon O’Brien from the Catholic University of America and the Director of Catholics for Family Peace for Family Peace and Tom Mott, Director of Counseling Services at Vermont Catholic Charities, along with numerous others.

To learn more information or to RSVP go to vermontcatholic.org/domesticviolence or contact the Diocese at 802-846-5813, plawson@vermontcatholic.org.

Additional resources can also be found at Catholics For Family Peace: catholicsforfamilypeace.org

— Phil Lawson, Director of Evangelization & Catechesis and Marriage & Family Life, and Tom Mott, Director of Counseling Services for Vermont Catholic Charities

The symposium was designed for clergy and pastoral leaders who want to assist people harmed by domestic abuse and violence in their communities.

A number of sessions addressed a diocesan- and parish-based response to domestic abuse and violence in collaboration with Catholic Charities agencies and other church and community resources.

Organizers said the symposium had several objectives, including to consider a comprehensive definition of domestic abuse and violence; to acknowledge that we as a church sometimes fail to respond adequately to the suffering of our sisters and brothers harmed by domestic abuse and violence; to develop a local action plan that offers hope, help and healing to those harmed by domestic abuse and violence; and to discuss how to promote communication among Catholic community leaders from across the nation to address the issues of domestic abuse and violence.

“Pope Francis’ view of the church as a field hospital is very relevant to this symposium,” said Art Bennett, who is president and CEO of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia.

“The church should be a place to help the wounded and those who are in battle. We should be willing to stick our necks out and help people who are suffering from this problem,” he told CNS.

Catherine Hassinger, who works at Catholic Charities in Arlington, Virginia, said the outcome of the conference “is to help people within the Catholic culture to recognize what symptoms of domestic violence are and how prevalent it is.”

“We should encourage and motivate others to take action and do something” about domestic abuse, Hassinger said.
UPCOMING EVENTS

02|09, 12, 16, 19, 26
03|05, 16, 19, 26, 04|09

The Bible and the Virgin Mary
Saint Monica Parish, Barre • 6:30-8 pm
This twelve session series is based on Scott Hahn’s book: Hail Holy Queen. Each session will start with a 25-30 minute DVD followed by group discussion. This series ran on Jan. 22 and Feb 2. The remaining dates are Feb. 9, 12, 16, 19, 26, Mar. 5, 16, 19, 26, and April 9. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 476-7290; stmonicalift@gmail.com

02|09, 16, 23, 03|02, 09, 16, 23, 30

Scripture Study on the Eucharist
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
7-8:30 pm
Why does the Church call the Eucharist the “source and summit” of the Christian life? Deepen your understanding of the mystery and wonder that is the Eucharist — and how it will transform our lives! This series ran on Jan. 26 and Feb 2. The remaining dates are Feb. 9, 16, 23, Mar. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. FOR MORE INFO: Judy (802) 825-8035

02|04

French Canadian Supper
Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Richmond 5-6 pm
Supper features French Canadian style pea soup and tourtiere (meat pie). $10 suggested donation to benefit the charities of Rosary Council of the Knights of Columbus 4684. FOR MORE INFO: Doug St Amour (802) 372-9204

02|05

World Marriage Day Mass
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington 10 am
Join us for this special Mass to celebrate World Marriage Day here in the Diocese of Burlington.

02|06

Mass in Spanish
St. Michael’s College, Colchester 7:30-8:15 pm
Saint Michael’s College offers Mass in Spanish once monthly during the academic year. FOR MORE INFO: Campus Ministry (802) 654-2333

02|12

K of C Parish Breakfast
St. Peter, Vergennes • 8-10 am
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 877-2367

02|12

Spanish Mass
La Salette Shrine, Enfield, NH • 2:30 pm
Confessions in Spanish available, refreshments served after Mass. FOR MORE INFO: lasaletteofenfield.org or (603) 632-7087

02|15

Mater Christi Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington 8:30-11 am
The public is invited to visit Mater Christi School for a tour of the school and to chat with staff members. Visitors will be able to visit classes with 3-year-olds through students in grade eight. The school is known for its strong academic, values-centered program, and popular after school, sports and music programs. FOR MORE INFO: Melissa Senesac msenesac@materchristischool or (802) 658-3992

02|16

ALO, Catholic Moms’ Connection
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
6:45-9 pm
A gathering of Catholic mothers which provides fellowship, nurturing and a sense of community for women. Meets the 3rd Thursday of every month. Desserts and coffee, free childcare. We have a speaker or a discussion of a topic of interest each month. Always time for support and encouragement in raising our kids. FOR MORE INFO: Judy Kanya, kanyakj@comcast.net or (802) 878-6152

02|17

Rice Memorial High School Student Application Deadline
South Burlington
FOR MORE INFO: Christy Bahrenburg (802) 862-6521 or rmhsvt.org

02|18

Winter Blast: High School
St. Monica , Barre • 3-7:30 pm
Join us for the Barre Winter Blast winter youth rally for high school students.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-6110 ext. 1240

02|19

Winter Blast: Middle School
St. Monica , Barre • 10:45 am - 4:30 pm
Join us for the Barre Winter Blast winter youth rally for middle school students.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-6110 ext. 1240

02|22

Domestic Violence Workshop
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
10 am - 2 pm
This is a free workshop hosted by the Diocese of Burlington. 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: (802) 658-6110 x1453

02|24

Our Lady of Rosary Makers
Holy Family-St. Lawrence, Essex Jct.
3-5 pm
Our Lady of Rosary Makers would like to invite anyone interested in making rosaries to come join this rewarding ministry. We meet on the fourth Friday, 3-5 pm. No experience necessary, instruction and material provided. These rosaries will be delivered to missionaries around the world.
FOR MORE INFO: Jean Rabner (802) 598-7724

03|17

High School for a Day Part II
Rice Memorial High School, S. Burlington 8:00 am - 2:30 pm
4-6th graders are invited to attend Rice’s annual High School for a Day (HS4D) Part II, a unique opportunity for elementary school students to familiarize themselves with Rice, our faculty and students. RSVP by February 24.
FOR MORE INFO: Christy Bahrenburg (802) 862-6521 or rmhsvt.org

03|18

Take Time for God
Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, Quebec 9:45 am - 7 pm
This is a silent day-retreat focused on contemplative prayer in the Carmelite tradition. Teaching will be given by Msgr. Richard Lavalley and Teresa Havas. The day includes Mass, Reconciliation, Evening Prayer, buffet lunch in silence and fellowship during supper.
FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org

03|24

Nurturing the Treasures of Our Baptismal Grace
Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, Quebec 7:30 pm
This retreat begins on Friday March 24 and ends Sunday afternoon. It is focused on silent prayer, following the teaching of Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Child-Jesus, o.c.d.
FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org

VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG/VCM
Submit your event to the diocesan calendar! vernontcatholic.org/calendar

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