I will soon be heading off for a summer vacation. Those of you who follow me on Facebook have seen my posts over the years from Pine Point, Maine, complete with photos of sun and rain, surf and turf, and long walks at the water’s edge. I’m fortunate enough to be able to spend time with a large number of family and friends, to relax and recharge. I always make sure I use all of my vacation days. After all, that’s what they’re there for. And believe it or not, I even think I am being a bit virtuous in this.

“What?” you might say, “Taking a vacation is virtuous? Surely, the bishop jests.” Not at all. I am sitting-on-a-beach-chair-reading-a-good-book-drinking-a-frosty-beer serious and I offer the encouragement of the saints themselves for your consideration.

St. Augustine in his treatise “On music” wrote, “I pray thee, spare thyself at times: for it becomes a wise man sometimes to relax the high pressure of his attention to work.”

St. Thomas Aquinas draws upon the writing of Aristotle and even promotes relaxation as virtuous, “Just as man needs bodily rest for the body’s refreshment, because he cannot always be at work — since his power is finite and equal to a certain fixed amount of labor — so too is it with his soul, whose power is also finite and equal to a fixed amount of work.” The remedy St. Thomas offers is the virtue of eutrapelia, the virtue of “playfulness” or “fun,” intended to refresh the person in both body and soul. Now, Thomas does place some guidelines on this: the “play” must not be immoral or “wicked,” it must be in moderation, and it is intended toward a good end, namely to renew and refresh. But, it really is intended to be fun and playful as well.

So, here is my encouragement: Even if you can’t get away to the coast of Maine or the lakeshore or any place at all for a vacation right now, make sure you try and grab some downtime to relax and refresh body and soul and practice the virtue of eutrapelia, so as to be refreshed to go out and take care of all the other duties of life and faith. A good balance between work and play is good for the soul.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**07/16**
St. Mary Church Brunch & Kayak Raffle
St. Mary, Franklin
9 am - 12:30 pm
Adults: $9; Children 7-16: $5.6 & Under: Free! All You Can Eat! Winner of Kayak Raffle will be picked at the Brunch.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 933-2496 or (802) 285-6730

**07/14**
Vermont Knights of Columbus Annual Pilgrimage
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
The Vermont Knights of Columbus annual Pilgrimage and Installation of Officers. Mass at 12:15 pm celebrated by Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne.

**07/16**
Totus Tuus
St. Ambrose, Bristol
“Totus Tuus” is Latin for “totally yours” and is a Catholic youth program dedicated to sharing the Gospel and promoting the Catholic faith through catechesis, evangelization, Christian witness and Eucharistic worship. The goal of Totus Tuus is to help young people grow in their understanding of their faith and to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.
Students in grades one through eight can participate in the day program, and high school students can participate in the evening program.

**07/17-21**
Vacation Bible School
Holy Family-St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Junction • 9 am - 12 pm
Annual Vacation Bible School every morning. Everyone welcome — Catholic or non-Catholic.
FOR MORE INFO: John McMahon (802) 878-5331

**07/19**
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am
FOR MORE INFO: St. Anne's Shrine (802) 928-3362 or saintannesshrine.org

**07/26**
Buffet Breakfast
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero
7:30 am
FOR MORE INFO: Bette Grenon 372-4092

**07/26**
NY Knights of Columbus Pilgrimage
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
12:15 pm

**07/26**
Summer Reflection Series
Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am

**07/26**
Feast of Saint Anne
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am and 7 pm
Celebrate the Feast of Saint Anne with Mass at 11:15 am or at 7 pm, followed by the traditional candlelight procession.

**07/30**
St John Bosco
75th Anniversary Celebration
St John Bosco, Stamford • 11:45 am
Mass at 11:45 am with a picnic to follow immediately afterward. Father Charles DeNotaro, who opened this mission church, was a student of John Bosco in Italy.
FOR MORE INFO: Jim Bushika (802) 694-1483, jimbushika10@yahoo.com

**08/05 - 08/11**
Camp Guggenheim
Lower Saranac Lake, NY
This summer the Diocese of Burlington is partnering with the Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY, with their summer camp series at Camp Guggenheim, located just two and a half hours from Burlington in the Adirondack Mountains on Lower Saranac Lake. This camp is fun and serves as an opportunity for youth to grow in their love of God and the Church. The diocese will provide transportation from Burlington for the weeks of July 30-Aug. 4 (13-15-year-olds) and August 6-11 (16-18 year-olds).
FOR MORE INFO: rcdony.org/youth/guggy.html

**08/12**
Fatima Centennial Vermont Tour for Peace — Sign of the Cross
Saint Mary’s Star of the Sea, Newport
3 - 5 pm
Event #5 for the preparation for Sin and Conversion of Sinners. With the coordination from the Diocese of Burlington and the WAF-Our Lady’s Blue Army Vermont, parishioners throughout Vermont will be able to take part of World’s celebration of the Centennial of Grace which will happen at 7 selected churches in Vermont from May through October.

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**2017 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT**

DO YOU KNOW the many ways in which teens are connecting to their faith throughout Vermont? Whether it's altar serving, serving the poor, praying before the Blessed Sacrament, learning about faith, attending the March for Life, or putting on a Stations of the Cross — young people are seeking and serving God here in the Green Mountain State. Your generous donations have a significant impact on Vermont's Catholic youth.

Donate to the 2017 Annual Appeal at bishopsannualappealvt.org/give

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**Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington**

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