Contemplating Creation

A Lenten Journey with the Mystics and Our Common Home

While driving to an appointment recently, I decided to meander by taking a country road. As I rounded the bend, the snowcapped ridge of Mt. Mansfield revealed itself, illuminated by the morning light, radiating the beauty of creation. A lone hawk glided on the winds as I heard the call of the glistening white snow owl perched on a branch near the road. Breathless, I stopped to witness while offering a prayer of gratitude. God caught my attention on the journey in the daily.

In “Care for Our Common Home” Pope Francis reminds us of the sanctity of the earth. “The Spirit of God has filled the world with possibilities, and therefore, from the very heart of things, something new can emerge. Nature is nothing other than a certain kind of art, namely God’s art, impressed upon things, whereby those things are moved to a determinate end.” (Laudato Si, 80)

God teaches us through nature. The nature around us, our own nature, the nature of others and the nature of our relationship with Jesus. As our Lenten scriptures remind us, Christ went “into the dessert” to listen, witness and renew his spirit. Christian Mystics, from the desert mothers and fathers to our present day saints, model this example, pointing towards a profound and deep Mystery of relationship with God in and through all of creation.

You’re invited to join the 4 part series “Contemplating Creation: A Lenten Journey with the Christian Mystics” informed by Catholic teaching and the wisdom of Pope Francis’ words in “Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home.” The series is offered at St. John Vianney Church beginning Sunday, March 19, 1-2:30 p.m. and Mondays, March 20, 27 and April 3 from 7-8:30 p.m.

—Carol A. Fournier, MA, MS, Spiritual Director and Founder, Silver Dove Institute

“God looked at everything God had made, and found it very good.”
—Gen 1:31

In honor of Global Catholic Climate Movement’s Mercy2Earth Weekend, Holy Family-St. Lawrence parish will host a roundtable discussion 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.
UPCOMING EVENTS

03|18
Spaghetti & Meatballs with Birthday Cake Supper
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5-7:45 pm
FOR MORE INFO: Bette Grenon (802) 372-4092

03|18, 25, 04|1, 08
Community Pot-Luck Suppers
St. Isidore, Montgomery Center
6:30 pm
The Knights of Columbus is hosting this series of Community Pot-Luck Suppers during the season of Lent, open to everyone. Please bring a food dish to share. Beverages will be supplied. If you cannot bring a food dish, come anyway.
FOR MORE INFO: armandauclair@gmail.com

03|19, 20, 27, 04|03
Contemplating Creation: A Lenten Journey with the Christian Mystics & Pope Francis
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 1-2:30 pm, 7-8:30 pm
Journey with the Christian Mystics through this 4-part reflection on God's Creation and Christian perspectives on awakening ecological awareness. Informed by Pope Francis' encyclical "On Care for Our Common Home", you'll discover through scripture, selected readings, and small group discussion God's call to creation and transformation in response to the needs of our time. First session is on Sunday from 1-2:30 pm, subsequent sessions are on Mondays 7-8:30 pm. Please RSVP if possible.
FOR MORE INFO: Cindy (802) 864-4166; SJVianney@aol.com

03|19
Immigration and Detention of Mothers and Children
Chapel M St. Mary's, Burlington • 2 - 4 pm
Presentation by Sister of Mercy Kathleen Erickson, who spent 18 years at the US/Mexican border working with immigrants in detention situations. After her return to Omaha, she initiated the immigrant Detainee Accompaniment Program, was an International observer for the Honduran election in 2013, and since then has spent time in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, and as interim chaplain at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. She will lead a presentation/reflection on how our broken immigration system calls us to go deeper as we examine what it means to be human beings in a polarized world. No cost for the event; parking available in the Mater Christi School parking lot. Everyone is welcome.
FOR MORE INFO: Sr. Lindora Cabral (802) 557-4415

03|19
St. Patrick’s Dinner
St. Joseph, Chester
4 - 6 pm
The annual St. Patrick's Day Dinner features corned beef, vegetables, home-baked rolls and homemade pies.

03|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, Feb 2, 9, 16, 19, 26, March 5 and 16. The remaining dates are Mar. 19, 26, and April 9.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 476-7290; stmonicalift@gmail.com

03|20, 27, 04|03, 10
The Christian Mystical Tradition
Christ the King, Rutland
6:30 pm
Father Jim Lawrence is facilitating this 10-part video series, presented by Boston College professor Father Harvey Egan. S.J. Fr. Egan is a highly respected teacher and expert on Mysticism. The first sessions were held on March 7 and 13. Free will offering.
FOR MORE INFO: Fr. Jim Lawrence (802) 282-7277

03|21, 22
Forgiven: The Transformation Power of Confession
Holy Cross, Colchester
Tuesdays 10 am / Wednesdays 6:30 pm
This three session series that provides you with the ability to easily understand the sacrament of Confession. Daytime sessions on Tuesdays, evening sessions on Wednesday. Sessions one and two were held on March 7, 8, 14 and 15. FOR MORE INFO: Monica Cayia (802) 863-3002; holy-crosscvt@myfairpoint.net.

03|23
Taste of Rutland
Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland
6 pm
Numerous area restaurants contribute their signature dishes to help make this annual get together a success. Reserve a table if you cannot bring a food dish, come anyway.

03|24
Stations of the Cross & Confessions
St. John the Evangelist, Northfield
5:30 pm
Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm followed by confessions at 6.

03|24
Our Lady of Calvary Stations: the stations from Mother Mary’s perspective
St. Lawrence, Essex Junction • 7-8 pm
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 878-5331

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

03|25
Afternoon Lenten Retreat
Silence: Gateway to the Soul
St. Dominic Church, Proctor • 12 -6 pm
This video/discussion event is based on the BBC series Into Great Silence which examines the introduction of five average people to sacred silence, based on the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius. Following the video will be a discussion on related topics, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, adoration, an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the regularly scheduled Saturday evening Mass.

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Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
Submit your event to the diocesan calendar!
vermontcatholic.org/calendar

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