I won’t be going to visit my mother today for Mother’s Day; she still lives in the family home in a suburb of Boston, and I will be on a parish visitation in Vermont. My brothers and sisters along with her grandchildren will spend time with her for Mother’s Day, and I’ll make sure she gets flowers and her regular Sunday phone call from me.

And I will go to see her next weekend.

Most women of her generation stayed at home and raised their family. She had seven children, and at one point we were all under the age of 11. She somehow managed to take care of us, handing us off to my father when he was free from work and other chores. There were a lot of other large, two-parent families in my neighborhood; we had lots of friends and lots of adult eyes keeping track of all of us.

Mother’s Day usually meant handmade cards and some flowers but not too much else — it was too expensive for all nine of us to have brunch or dinner at a restaurant.

If the weather was nice enough, it was Dad at the grill.

Such was Mother’s Day then.

Things are different now, not so much in the love and care that mothers give their children but more in the circumstances and culture of the family. There are a lot more “blended” families (children of divorced and remarried parents), more unmarried parents with children, more mothers who work a job or two outside the home, more grandparents raising their grandchildren and more single parents — mainly women. These new realities often lead to unintended difficulties and outcomes for children and parents. Even though most are doing the best they can, personal and familial circumstances are often difficult.

Such is Mothers’ Day now.

Though times have changed, what remains the same is a mother’s enduring connection with her children. And as women take on not necessarily more responsibilities — just different ones — they continue to be mothers, a role that they alone can hold, a role worth celebrating.

So as I offer a prayer in thanksgiving for the gift that my mother has been to me and my family, I offer a prayer of intercession for all our mothers, grandmothers and surrogates that in this time and culture, they may love their children with a mother’s heart and receive the help and support that they need from all of us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Yours in Christ,

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

05/13  Fatima 100th Anniversary
Our Lady of Fatima, Craftsbury
6 pm
100th Anniversary of Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima Celebration. Rosary at 6 pm (outside, weather permitting) Mass at 6:30 pm with May Crowning. Refreshments to follow.

05/14  Mother's Day Breakfast
St. Thomas, Underhill Center
8 - 10:30 am
The Knights of Columbus Council #7810 will serve a Mother's Day Breakfast in the parish hall. Cost is by donation. All are welcome! Come and bring the whole family to this delicious breakfast in honor of Mom on her special day.

05/14  Spanish Mass & Confessions
LaSalette Shrine, Enfield, NH
2:30 pm
Mass at 2:30 p.m. in Spanish celebrated by Father John Patrick Sullivan, M.S., who served as a missionary in Argentina for many years. Refreshments after Mass.
FOR MORE INFO: (603) 632-7087, lasaletteofenfield.org

05/15, 22, 06/05, 12, 19, 26
Wild Goose Film Series
Christ the King, Rutland
6:30 - 8 pm
Discover and Develop a Deeper Relationship with The Holy Spirit. Presenting the film series, The Wild Goose with Fr. Dave Pivonka, T.O.R., which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate.
Learn about the attributes of the Holy Spirit, practical application on how to respond, and hear testimonies of people across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.
This series meets on Mondays, 6:30 – 8 pm, May 15, 22, (NO meeting on 5/29 Memorial Day); June 5, 12, 19, 26.
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

05/16  Responding To Domestic Violence In Our Community
O’Brien Community Center, Winoski
6-8 pm
Come learn about domestic violence and what you can do. There will be a panel discussion with representation from various community agencies helping us understand the importance of this issue. The panel will be moderated by Sister Pat McKittrick, University of Vermont Medical Center. Light refreshments will be served. Registration is required.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 847-7222, HealthSource@UVMHealth.org, UVMHealth.org/MedCenterHealthSource

05/17  Mater Christi School Spring Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington
8:30 - 11 am
Mater Christi combines rigorous, 21st-century academics with a global philosophy in the Mercy tradition. From the first day of preschool through eighth grade graduation, we encourage our students to discover their gifts and talents, and become the best version of themselves.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-3992, mcschool.org/about/contact-us/

05/19 - 25
Rice Library/Barnes and Noble Book Fair
Barnes and Noble, Burlington and online
Rice Library and Barnes and Noble Book Fair on May 19th and 20th in the BN store and online at www.bn.com/bookfairs from May 19th to May 25th. Rice students required reading for the school year 2017-2018 and supports the Rice GFSLC Library.

05/19
Sing Praise to God All the Earth
St. John Vianney, South Burlington
7 - 8:30 pm

05/20  Retreat: The Journey of Life
St. Luke, Fairfax
8:30 am - 3 pm
This is a one-day retreat hosted by the Fairfax Knights of Columbus. Father Henry Furman, pastor, will speak about children as the crowning gift of marriage though many couples suffer from infertility.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 849-6205

05/20
Sing Praise to God:
A Conference for Music Ministers
St. Michael’s College, Colchester
9 am - 4:30 pm
The event is for singers, musicians, choir members, choir directors and people who love to sing. Featuring OCP composers Jaime Cortez, Tom Kendzia and Bob Hurd. The cost is $25 per person (caps at $200 per parish).
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-6110 x1460 or register at ocp.org/en-us/sing-praise-to-god

05/21
Turkey Dinner
St. Vincent de Paul, North Troy
11 am
Turkey Dinner with Homemade Pie desserts.
Kids (5-12) $6, Adults $12. Max per immediate family, $32.

06/16, 17, 18
Discernment Retreat 2017
6 pm
This is a three day discernment retreat at Saint Anne’s Shrine. The idea is to walk with young people discerning God’s call. This retreat is great for any young person trying to find their calling in life. The Retreat will begin at 6 pm on Friday and conclude around noon on Sunday.
FOR MORE INFO: Pfr. Lino Orpeza, linoorpeza@gmail.com, (802) 654-3400

06/17
Ordination to the Priesthood
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
10 am
Burlington Bishop Christopher J. Coyne will ordain Deacon Joseph J. Sanderson to the Roman Catholic priesthood.
The faithful of the Diocese of Burlington are invited and encouraged to attend the ordination.

06/18-23
5-Day Silent Retreat in the Ignatian Tradition
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.
FOR MORE INFO: fstanne@pshift.com, (802) 928-3362

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

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