Dear Parishioners,

Recently, I announced plans to convene the first diocesan synod in Vermont since 1962.

Its purpose is to establish a pastoral plan for the immediate future of the Catholic Church in Vermont and to establish particular laws and policies to do so. This will be at least a yearlong project and is a serious undertaking by the Church.

While I will serve as the convener and presider, the membership of the synod will contain both ex-officio members of the clergy and laity as well as representatives of religious communities, lay fraternities and at-large representation such as young people, parents and minority communities.

Before the sessions of the synod are convened — hopefully next spring — all of the members of the Catholic community will be invited to participate in a preparation process in which they will be asked to pray, to listen, to learn and to discern what the future pastoral plan for spreading the “good news” of the Church in Vermont should be. This will take place on the parish level, the deanery (regional) level and the diocesan level. It will include personal meetings but could also make use of new digital and social media means of communication.

After this work of preparation is completed, I will convene the synod to meet in the necessary sessions to complete the work of discernment and planning and to then enact the policies, laws and directives to carry out that plan in the Vermont Church. I will seek input from all. I will listen to all. And I will discern with you all.

Yours in Christ,

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

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

05|20
Shrine Opening
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
7 pm
St. Anne’s Shrine will reopen for the 2017 pilgrimage season with the 7 pm Mass. Also, Mass will be celebrated on Sunday, May 21, at 10:30 am. A 9 am Sunday Mass will be added to the schedule on June 18, and a weekday 11:15 am Mass will begin on June 26.
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

05|21
Parish Celebration
Our Lady of Good Help, Brandon
10 am
Confirmation will take place at St. Ambrose Church in Bristol on May 16 at 7 pm, and confirmation students from Our Lady of Good Help Parish will be honored at a coffee social after the 10 am Mass in the parish hall.

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.

05|21
Dismas House Dinner & Auction
Holiday Inn, Rutland
3 pm
This is the 27th annual Rutland Dismas House Dinner & Auction. Doors will open at 3 pm. Tickets are $60 and must be purchased in advance.
FOR MORE INFO: dismasofvermont.org/rutland or (802) 775-5539

05|21
Fish Fry
St. Ambrose, Bristol
5 – 7 pm
There will be a fish fry fundraiser to help member youth to go to the Steubenville Conferences and Vermont Catholic Youth Serve. The menu will include fried fish and French fries. Tickets are $10 a person and can be purchased from a teen or by calling 468-7277.

05|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. This first session was held on May 15, with next sessions on May 22, (NO meeting on 5/29 Memorial Day); June 5, 12, 19, and 26.
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

05|23
Tortolano Concert
St. Michael’s College, Colchester
12:15 pm
William Tortolano, professor emeritus of fine arts at St. Michael’s College, will give his 51st concert on the Casavant organ in the college’s Chapel of St. Michael the Archangel. The two-manual, 14-stop pipe organ was installed in 1966 and is dedicated to Tortolano. The eclectic program incorporates musical favorites of the professor and also manifests the many tonal colors of the instrument. The concert is free and open to the public.

06|03
Fatima Centennial Vermont Tour for Peace — Sign of the Cross Annunciation of the BVM, Ludlow
10 am - 12 pm
Event # 2 for the reparation for Sin and Conversion of Sinners. With the coordination from the Diocese of Burlington and the WAFC-Our Lady’s Blue Army Vermont, parishioners throughout Vermont will be able to take part in the celebration of the Centennial of Grace which will happen at 7 selected churches in Vermont from May through October.

06|15
Application Deadline for the Lay Formation Program
A two-year diocesan program preparing lay people for ministries in their parishes and communities. Begins in August.
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org

06|16, 17, 18
Discernment Retreat 2017
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. Retreat begins at 6 pm on Friday and concludes at noon on Sunday.
FOR MORE INFO: Pfr. Lino Orupesa, linoorupeza@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.

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@psifh.com, (802) 928-3362

06|23, 24, 25
Vermont Catholic Youth Serve 2017
UVM, Burlington
Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to explore what it means to show Christ’s love at the second annual Vermont Catholic Youth Serve 2017! The weekend will be a time for praying, learning, socializing, building friendships, celebrating, growing in faith and more! Opportunities for serving the community will be provided on both Friday and Saturday, and service hours can be earned through these opportunities. Holy Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation will be offered throughout the weekend. The cost for VCY S is $75 per participant, however the Early Bird Cost is $60, if paid by May 31st. This fee covers all meals and lodging. Adult help is also needed for the success of this program.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-6110 x1130, or kalderman@vermontcatholic.org

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

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