The Diocesan Lay Formation Program, as part of the Institute for Missionary Discipleship, is restarting this fall! The program seeks to form laity to assist in leadership roles in their parishes. For example, in serving as RCIA leaders, directors of religious education, facilitating pre-marriage preparation, leading evangelization efforts, facilitating charitable outreach, etc. Key to this formation is inspiring and equipping the laity to serve and evangelize their parishes and communities as missionary disciples.

The aims of the program are:

- To provide enrichment for those who seek adult formation in their Catholic faith by providing a firm and practical foundation in Scripture, Liturgy and Sacraments.
- To call forth, affirm and support the gifts and talents of participants who want to glorify God and serve God’s holy people by fostering a deeper appreciation of the Baptismal call of the faithful to service in the church.
- To provide education, training and support for those called by the Pastor, in consultation with the parish staff and parish council, to service apostolates through continued studies and practical formation.
- To nurture participants’ spiritual growth and fidelity to the Church and to help them to reflect prayerfully and critically on their own experiences in ministry and deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ especially through the Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, prayer and the Liturgy of the Hours.
- To develop an awareness, appreciation and respect for the diversity and complementarity of vocations and states of life, of ministries, of charisms and responsibilities within the Church.

The program is designed to integrate the four pillars of lay formation described in “Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord”: human, spiritual, intellectual and pastoral. Since it is the whole person who serves, the program is designed to enhance all aspects of the individual’s growth. Participants in the lay formation program will meet one Saturday per month from September-May for formation. In addition, there will be roughly two online courses, per academic semester. Prayer and worship with fellow participants are important features of the program. Participants in the Lay Formation Program participate in an annual August retreat. Praying the Liturgy of the Hours together as a group and individually is promoted and encouraged. These experiences will stress the importance of silence and prayer. Participants are also encouraged to meet regularly with a spiritual director who will assist them in their journey with the Lord. During the Pastoral Formation period, participants will undertake a supervised project in an area of service to their Parish Community in order to demonstrate competencies and skills in serving God’s people in the Church.

05|29 Memorial Day Mass at Cemetery
Resurrection Park Cemetery, South Burlington • 10 am
Bishop Christopher Coyne, bishop of Burlington, will celebrate the annual Memorial Day Mass. Bring a chair and an umbrella for shade if necessary. Parking is available in the cemetery or at St. John Vianney Church, adjacent to Resurrection Park Cemetery. In the event of rain, Mass will be celebrated at St. John Vianney Church.

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 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.

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. The first two sessions were held on May 15 and 22, with the next four sessions on June 5, 12, 19, and 26.
FOR MORE INFO: Peggy Angstadt (802) 492-3703, fivestonesofgospa@gmail.com

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: (802) 654-3400, Fr. Lino Oropeza, linooropeza@gmail.com,

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|17, 18 Blessing and Anointing of the Sick and Infirm
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • various times
The blessing and anointing of the sick and infirm will take place following all weekend Masses: Saturday at 7 pm; Sunday at 9 and 10:30 am.

06|18 French Mass
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 10:30 am
French Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Marcel Rainville, S.S.E.

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 pm on Sunday and concludes with lunch on Friday. Space limited due to single room accommodations. Cost: $500.
FOR MORE INFO: fstanne@shift.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 and 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 VCYS 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 kalyzerman@vermontcatholic.org

07|24, 25 Annual Trinkets and Treasures Sale
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 8 am - 4 pm
Annual Trinkets and Treasures Sale! Lower level of the Boucher Building, Saturday and Sunday.

06|24 Third Annual Family Day Retreat: Mary, Our Mother
Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 9 am - 8 pm
Honoring the 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions at Fatima, this popular Family Retreat has something for every member of the family. Featured speakers include our Msgr. Peter Routhier, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Montpelier, and Danielle Bean, publisher, author and host of The Gist on CatholicTV. Cost per family $30, individuals $10, seniors $6.