

For immediate release  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington  
55 Joy Drive,  
So. Burlington, VT 05403  
Contact: Ellen Kane, 846-5837 or [ekane@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:ekane@vermontcatholic.org)

#### Diocese of Burlington launches new community foundation

BURLINGTON-- A new Catholic foundation in the Diocese of Burlington is aimed at supporting Church activities and helping people in need.

The mission of the new Vermont Catholic Community Foundation is to support and serve apostolic activities of the Church and make grants to nonprofit organizations in the statewide Diocese of Burlington that reflect the compassion of Christ in service to the community.

“Our purpose is to provide pathways for caring people to leave a legacy that will shape the future of our Catholic Church,” said Ellen Kane, executive director of the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation. “Whether donors wish to support their own parish, a specific ministry or Catholic education, VCCF is the mechanism that will bring the Catholic community together to build the foundation for generations to come.”

There are limited resources available in Vermont to support Catholic activities and education; many of the existing foundations in the state will not make grants for religious purposes or to religious organizations. Often parishes and schools compete with one another for support from the same few donors. “The foundation fills a gap by providing professional, faith-based investment services to Catholics who wish to further the mission of the Church,” Kane explained.

The Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, and the funds will be separate. The foundation will allow the Catholic community a choice to support what they value most and to shape the evolution of the faith in Vermont.

The foundation will respond to the needs of the donors by offering more choice about what they want to fund and will offer planned giving options such as bequests, endowments, trusts, charitable gift annuities, insurance and specialty assets.

“In addition, our investment policies reflect our faith,” Kane said. All investments meet the Catholic ethical standards required by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops guidelines.

Bishop Christopher Coyne wholeheartedly supports and encourages the work of the Foundation: “I thank Ellen Kane and Rick Cote (board member) for all of the hard work and time they put into making the VCCF a reality and I want to encourage parishes, organizations and the people of the Diocese to be generous to the Foundation by establishing endowments that will serve the Church here in Vermont now and the future. May God bless all that we do and say in his name.”

The board is seeking members so all regions of the diocese are represented. Current members are: Brydon Beasant, Realtor, Pall Spera Company; Richard Cote, assistant vice president of advancement and chief of staff at Dartmouth College; Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne; Elizabeth Fitzgerald, Healthcare Business Exec. ; Msgr. John McDermott, vicar general of the diocese of Burlington and pastor of Christ the King-St. Anthony Parish in Burlington; David Mount, Westaff owner; Jon Pizzagalli; and Kane.

For more information, contact Ellen Kane at [ekane@vermontcatholic.org](mailto:ekane@vermontcatholic.org) and look for the new website in October: [vtcatholicfoundation.org](http://vtcatholicfoundation.org).