Not long ago, being Catholic in America may have felt more “mainstream” than it does today, but there has always been a “swimming against the tide” aspect to our faith, beginning with Jesus Himself. Though tides ebb and flow, throughout history Catholics have been called to proclaim the Gospel in its entirety, even when some truths it represents are unpopular.

More than one hundred years ago, in response to a critic who said that the Church “is always the enemy of new ideas,” GK Chesterton wrote, “In the modern world, the Catholic Church is in fact the enemy of many influential fashions… the Church often attacks what the world at any given moment supports.” He went on to explain, using many historical examples, that the Church speaks consistently for Truth and that Truth, while unchanging, can be received quite differently within changing landscapes.

This indicates that what we are experiencing today as Catholics is nothing new. As today’s tide flows, Catholic beliefs around marriage, family, life and sexuality may seem at risk of drowning in the cultural waters. We are called to educate ourselves about Catholic teaching around these themes and to help revive a culture of respect for the dignity of life at all stages.

The Office of Respect Life Ministries assembled a Speakers Bureau that includes priests, catechists, bioethicists and others who can help educate Catholics about critically important topics under the Respect Life umbrella. Speakers are available to present to parish groups and clubs, religious education classes, and general audiences. We can also help parishes collaborate to bring speakers to regional locations by assisting with scheduling, hosting and promotion. Contact respectlife@vermontcatholic.org for details or to request a brochure.

— Carrie Handy, Respect Life Coordinator

Speakers Bureau topics include:

- Defending Life in the Secular World
- Human Dignity and Sexual Integrity for Teens by The Culture Project
- Pro-Life is Pro-Woman
- Natural Family Planning
- Male and Female He Created Them
- Project Rachel
- What Act 39 Means for Catholics in Vermont
- Vermont Catholic Advance Directives
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Threats to Religious Freedom in the U.S.

“Have the courage to go against the tide of current values that do not conform to the path of Jesus.”
— Pope Francis
UPCOMING EVENTS

08|13 Spanish Mass & Confessions
La Salette Shrine, Enfield, NH
2:30 - 4 pm
Fr. John Patrick Sullivan, M.S., who served as a missionary in Argentina for many years, is available for Confessions in Spanish before and after the Spanish Mass. FOR MORE INFO: http://www.lasaletteofenfield.org

08|15 175th Anniversary of the Society of St. Edmund
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte
11:15 am & 7 pm
Mass for the Opening Celebration for the 175th Anniversary of the Society of Saint Edmund, and also the Feast of the Assumption. Candlelight procession following 7 pm Mass.

08|19 Contemplating Creation: A Pilgrimage and Retreat
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
1 - 5 pm
This pilgrimage retreat is inspired by the writings of Pope Francis in “Laudato Si’: Care for Our Common Home” and informed by scripture, story and personal reflection as participants contemplate creation and encounter God in the created world. This is a Year of Creation event sponsored by the Diocese of Burlington and St. John Vianney Parish. FOR MORE INFO: St. John Vianney (802) 864-4166

08|19 Summer Reflection Series
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am

08|19 Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
7 pm
The Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola from Saint Michael’s College, under the direction of Dr. William Tortolano will provide music for the 7:00 pm Mass.

08|22 Senior Meals
St. Jude, Hinesburg
12 - 2 pm
Served on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

08|23 Summer Reflection Series
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am

08|26 Lawn, Lunch and Bake Sale
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero
9 am - 3 pm
FOR MORE INFO: Bette Grennon (802) 372-4092

08|30 Summer Reflection Series
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am
Program begins with Mass at 11:15 am, followed by presentation and lunch.

09|01 – 10|04 Season of Creation
This is a Year of Creation event sponsored by the Diocese of Burlington and St. John Vianney Parish. FOR MORE INFO: http://www.lasaletteofenfield.org

09|03 Healing Service
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
3 pm
Held the first Sunday of each month, with Re. Lance Harlow. Service includes: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration and Charismatic laying-on of hands for physical, spiritual and psychological healing.

09|09 Fatima Centennial Vermont Tour for Peace — Sign of the Cross
St John the Evangelist, Saint Johnsbury
10 am - 12 pm
Event #6 for the reparation for Sin and Conversion of Sinners. With the coordination from the Diocese of Burlington and the RAF-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.

The Diocese of Burlington
CAREERS

• Administrative Assistant
• Rice Memorial High School Substitute Teacher Positions

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

2017 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

DID YOU KNOW that the Office of Finance provides financial and accounting support to all 73 parishes and 23 missions? Learn more about these services supported by the Bishop’s #AnnualAppeal at bishopsannualappealvt.org.

2017 Annual Appeal Report

GOAL $2,789,112
PLEDGED $2,203,983
PAID $1,632,481

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