

NEWS FROM The Inland See

August 26 – September 1, 2017

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Understanding Our Young Former Catholics

PART ONE

The numbers are bleak. Roughly half of Catholic teenagers lose their Catholic identity by their late 20's and of those who still self-identify as "Catholic," very few have any connection with the Church. While this is something I think most of us have realized or experienced for quite a while, it is rather stark to see the statistics in plain black and white. It is worrisome, worrisome for the Church and worrisome for them.

In my travels around Vermont over the past two and half years, when I ask people "What are some of the concerns you have?" the top two are almost always, "What is going to happen to our small parishes?" and, "What can we do to keep young people and families in the Church?" Both of these are serious topics that will obviously be discussed in the upcoming preparations for and convening of next year's Diocesan Synod. In keeping with this, I thought over the next few months I might offer some information and statistics that will help educate us about some of the substantial issues involved around these areas of concern.

I recently received a report from Notre Dame University that summarizes an extensive survey of young people who have left the Catholic Church.* The report seeks to understand first the reasons for their leaving the Church, second who these young people are now, and finally, some implications for forming committed Catholic youth. It does so through the use of six significant findings, the first one of which I will mention today:

They are still believers. Former Catholic young adults still (mostly) believe in and interact with (some version of) God. Only 19% no longer believe in God. While the practice of prayer is less common, "57% of former Catholic emerging adults still pray at least sometimes."

Implications and opportunity: "Leaving the Catholic Church rarely means becoming an atheist. Many former Catholics still believe in God or some other divine force.... This is not fundamentally different from emerging adults who are raised in other faiths. It demonstrates a widespread trend in this generation of moving away from organized religion but retaining a belief in and connection with the divine. These youths (and emerging adults) may be open to discussions about the nature of God that are more sophisticated and inviting than some may imagine."

So they are "spiritual," but not "religious." Perhaps there is an opportunity to convince them that both are good choices: spiritual and religious.



Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

*Manglos-Weber, Nicolette and Christian Smith, "Understanding Former Young Catholics: Findings from a National Study of American Emerging Adults," Notre Dame University, 2017.

ACTION FOR ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Celebrating a Year of Creation

September 30 • 10 AM – 5 PM
St. Michael's College

Register at:
vermontcatholic.org/
actionforecojustice

UPCOMING EVENTS



08|25, 26, 27

St. Thomas Parish Yard Sale

St. Thomas, Underhill Center • 9 am - 5 pm

This 3-day yard sale will feature housewares, sporting goods, furniture, dishes, toys, tools and miscellaneous items. The rummage sale will feature fall and winter clothing for children and adults. There will also be a food concession stand. The event takes place rain or shine.
FOR MORE INFO: call the rectory at (802) 899-4632.



08|30

Summer Reflection Series

Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am

Part of the Summer Reflection Series featuring Diocesan and Edmundite Clergy. Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E. will present, "The Cardinal, the Pilgrimage, and the Priest who died from it. An episode in Edmundite history and a lesson in the meanings of pilgrimage". Program begins with Mass at 11:15 am, followed by presentation and lunch.



09|03

Healing Service

St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington • 3 pm

Held the first Sunday of each month, with Rev. Lance Harlow. Service includes: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration and Charismatic laying-on of hands for physical, spiritual and psychological healing.



09|09

St. Paul's School Annual Golf Tournament

Barton Golf Club, Barton

\$40 per person fee includes golf, meal and prizes. Co-sponsored by Catholic Financial Life and Most Holy Trinity Parish.
FOR MORE INFO: Barb (802) 525-1126.



09|09

Fatima Centennial Vermont Tour for Peace — Sign of the Cross

St. John the Evangelist, Saint Johnsbury

10 am - 12 pm

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.



09|09

Chicken Pie Supper

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 5 pm

Adults \$10, Kids \$5. Take out available.

FOR MORE INFO: Jim Kirkpatrick (802) 276-3014.



09|10

St. Luke's Annual Children's Carnival

St. Luke, Fairfax

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Hosted by the Fairfax Knights of Columbus: Games, Food, Prizes & Fun, open to all ages! Earn a ticket for playing and a ticket for winning! Tickets can be used to purchase prizes! Cost: \$3 per child or \$10 per family. Enjoy a yummy hot dog with a drink for \$1.



09|14

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible

Our Lady of Seven Dolours, Fair Haven

6:30 - 7:30 pm

"Unlocking The Mystery Of The Bible," an eight-part study featuring Jeff Cavins, will be presented Sept. 14 to Nov. 2. Cost of \$20 includes a session overview, talk notes, discussion questions and Bible timeline chart.

FOR MORE INFO: Paul Turnley, pturnley@aol.com, (802) 645-0955; Rosie Doran, Rosemarieadoran@yahoo.com, (802) 265-8635; or Father Vincent Odoemenam (802) 265-3135.



09|18, 25, 10|16, 23

Adult Enrichment: "Laudato Si"

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington

9:45 - 11 am or 7 - 8:15 pm

This four session adult enrichment series will study and share insights in regard to Pope Francis' Encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*.

FOR MORE INFO: Wilma Johnson johnsonwa7@msc.com, (802) 681-7290



09|25

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

St. John Vianney, South Burlington

7 pm

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program educates and forms adults in the Catholic faith. If you or someone you know wants to become a Catholic or simply wants a better understanding of the Catholic faith, consider participating in the program. Classes will begin on Sept. 20 at 7 pm in the church hall. There is no charge.



09|26, 27, 28

Community Clergy Training to Support Rural Veterans

Training topics include: Military culture and

the wounds of war, Potential roles of clergy while assisting with Veteran care, VA Suicide Prevention, and Building Community Partnerships. Trainings to be held in Colchester (9/26), Randolph (9/27) and Brattleboro (9/28).

FOR MORE INFO: Ben Kaler, Veterans Experience Office, Benjamin.kaler@va.gov, (603) 722-5843



09|28

Screening of Outcasts, a Grassroots Film

Davis Center at UVM, Burlington • 7:30 pm

Prior to the screening, there will be a Holy Hour with the Friars at The Catholic Center at UVM at 6 pm. Following the film, there will be a Q & A with one of the Executive Producers and the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal. The event is free, however, tickets are required and can be picked up at The Catholic Center or Joseph's House.

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FOR MORE INFO:

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