Happy Catechetical Sunday!

On Sunday, September 17th, we recognize and support the religious educators that give their talent and time to educate our children in the Catholic faith. Outside of the home, this is one of the most delicate and important ways in which our children can be formed in Catholicism. However, the job of a catechist is not merely to teach our children facts about God and the Bible. Catechists everywhere strive to invite their students into relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship with Christ is the most important relationship that they, and we, will ever have. As we begin the school year, I encourage you to support your catechists and your parish religious education program in any way that you can. Thank your catechists for their time and effort.

As we reflect on the importance of religious education, Catechetical Sunday also provides us with a good opportunity to remember that we can all be catechists, in one way or another. Whether we are a parent, grandparent, son or daughter, neighbor or co-worker, we are called to preach the Good News in our actions and our words. All of us, then, have some opportunity to teach others about Christ! However, the Catechism tells us that “whoever is called ‘to teach Christ’ must first seek ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ’” (Catechism of the Catholic Church 428). In other words, we cannot give what we do not have. We first need to have a relationship with Jesus Christ if we are going to be successful in guiding others to a relationship with Him.

Let us take a few moments, then, to consider our relationship with Jesus Christ. Like any strong relationship, our friendship with Jesus requires time, communication and a knowledge of the other. What are some ways, this week, that we can grow in relationship with Jesus? Try something new — take five minutes for silent prayer, attend a daily Mass, read your Bible before bed, etc. Be creative and grow closer to our Lord! In this way, you will be better equipped to help bring others to Him.

In conclusion, take the time to appreciate your catechists and the important work that they do in your parish. Whether or not you are a catechist in your parish, you have opportunities in your daily life to teach others about our faith. To be able to do this well, we need to consider our own relationship with Christ — and take some time to deepen that relationship so that we can authentically pass it on to others, just as it has been passed on to us.

— Michael Hagan, Coordinator of Religious Education and Catechesis, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington

ACTION FOR ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

Celebrating a Year of Creation

September 30 • St. Michael’s College

Register at: vermontcatholic.org/actionforecojustice
UPCOMING EVENTS

09/17 End of Life Care for Catholics
St. Peter, Vergennes • 11:30 am
Potluck lunch (please bring a dish to share)
followed by a presentation by Deacon Pete Gummere, Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese and bioethicist. Sponsored by St. Peter’s Pro-Life Committee.
FOR MORE INFO: bdperron@gmail.com, (802) 877-3971. Also St. Peter’s Rectory at 802-877-2367

09/17 All Saints / Our Lady of Lourdes Turkey Dinner
Dorion Hall, Richford • 12 - 2 pm
Roasted turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, squash, salad bar, rolls, cranberry sauce, pickles, assorted desserts, coffee, tea, punch, milk, water. Cost: $10 adults, $8 seniors, $5 children 5-12 yrs., FREE for children under 5 yrs.

09/17 The Bible and the Sacraments #1
St Monica, Barre • 6:30 - 8 pm
11-part Bible study from Scott Hahn’s St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology: Features a 30 minute DVD segment followed by guided discussion. Objectives: Discover the Old Testament roots of the Sacraments instituted by Christ; grow in knowledge of the Sacraments; learn how the seven Sacraments have the power to transform our lives and shape us for eternity.
FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalift@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020

09/17 Adult Enrichment: “Laudato Si’
St John the Baptist, North Bennington
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: johnsonwa7@msc.com, (802) 681-7290

09/20 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)
St John the Evangelist Church, St. Johnsbury
Classes for adults interested in becoming Catholic or being confirmed will begin on Sept. 20.
FOR MORE INFO: call the rectory (802) 748-8129

09/21, 28, 10/05, 12, 19, 26, 11/12 Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven
6:30 -7:30 pm
“Unlocking the Mystery Of The Bible,” an eight-part study featuring Jeff Cavins. Program began on Sept. 14 and runs through 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.

09/24 8th Annual Knights of Columbus Rutland Council 232 Golf Classic
Proctor Pittsford Country Club, Pittsford
11 am
Registration starts at 11 am, with the shotgun start at 1 pm and dinner at 5 pm in the Council Hall on Merchants Row.
Cost is $240 per team of four, which includes greens fees and two carts.
FOR MORE INFO: SASEigfried@gmail.com

09/23 Beatification of Servant of God Fr. Stanley Rother
Live Broadcast on EWTN
11 am
EWTN Global Catholic Network will broadcast the “Beatification of Servant of God Fr. Stanley Rother,” first U.S.-born martyr, live from the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City, OK, with an encore at midnight.

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. There is no charge.

09/28 Outcasts, a Grassroots Film
Davis Center at UVM, Burlington
7:30 pm
Outcasts is a powerful documentary from Grassroots Films that shows the work of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal as they serve the poor in some of the toughest neighborhoods. Co-sponsored by Joseph’s House, the Catholic Center at UVM, and the Catholic Student Association at UVM, this event offers a unique opportunity to view the film, ask questions of friars and one of the film’s producers, and learn about ways to get involved locally. Prior to the screening, there will be a Holy Hour with the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal at the Catholic Center at UVM at 6 pm. The event is free, but tickets are required. Tickets available at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and UVM Catholic Center.
MORE INFO: outcaststhemovie.com, 802-862-8403 or 802-951-4290

09/30 Action for Ecological Justice: Celebrating a Year of Creation
Saint Michael’s College, Colchester
10 am - 5 pm
Join Bishop Coyne at this Year of Creation event. Keynote address by Dr. Carolyn Woo (former CEO & president of CRS) followed by sessions on local and global issues related to Pope Francis’ encyclical, “On Care for Our Common Home.”
Adult $35, Student: FREE. Includes breakfast and lunch.
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/actionforecojustice

The Diocese of Burlington
CAREERS

• Administrative Assistant
• Development Donor Systems Specialist
• PT Administrative Assistant / Medical Billing Specialist
• Rice Memorial High School — Substitute Teacher Positions
• Rice Memorial High School — Assistant Coach, Boys’ Prep Hockey

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

2017 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL REPORT

Did you know that every year the Bishop’s Annual Appeal provides financial support to Vermont Catholic Charities to provide: residential care to approximately 200 residents; emergency aid for 1,814 people (1,082 adults and 732 children); counseling for 146 clients (2,812 counseling sessions) and prison ministry visits to 80 inmates per week? Catholic Charities’ four residential care homes also receive annual in-kind support from the Diocese totaling $1.35 million to care for one of the highest percentage of Medicaid residents in the state.