Laurie Gagne would say that nonviolence is what the love of God looks like in action. “Jesus calls us to stand in His place, to enter the relationship of love which He shares with the Father. The more deeply we enter this relationship, the more we experience the love of God as a passion, which propels us, as Pope Francis says, toward those who need our help,” she said.

Nonviolence is the “use of power in such a way that promotes the life and dignity of every human being and all of creation,” defined John F. Reuwer, an adjunct professor of nonviolent conflict resolution at St. Michael’s College in Colchester. “This is contrasted with violence, which is the use of power as if someone and parts of creation are not worthy of life and dignity.”

“The early Church was completely pacifist,” said Gagne, former director of the Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice at St. Michael’s College in Colchester and current adjunct professor of peace and justice there. “From gravestone inscriptions, we know that until 170 A.D. there were no Christians who were soldiers because the early Church fathers believed that military service contradicted Jesus’ command that we love our enemies.”

She and Reuwer are scheduled to co-facilitate a workshop, “Nonviolence: Power for Peace and Justice” from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. with registration, coffee and bagels at 8:30. They suggest a $10 donation at the door.

St. Augustine introduced the Just War Theory in the fifth century, and for the next 1,500 years, the Church taught that fighting for a just cause, using limited means, in a war declared by a legitimate authority, was the duty of Christians. “Since the papacy of John XXIII, however, we find one pope after another speaking against war,” Gagne continued. The 20th century was witness to a robust Catholic peace tradition lead by Dorothy Day, Gordon Zahn and Daniel and Philip Berrigan, among others. “But what was remarkable was the advocacy of nonviolence by the Magisterium,” Gagne said, pointing to Pope John Paul II’s encyclical “Centesimus Annus” and the American bishops’ two peace pastorals. “The World Day of Peace Statement issued by Pope Francis this past January is the strongest endorsement of nonviolence by the Church thus far and indicates that it has become mainstream in Church teaching.” Yet as much as the Church is promoting nonviolence today, it hasn’t completely rejected the Just War Theory, and it remains a good standard for evaluating wars that are occurring, Gagne noted.

According to Reuwer, nonviolence is “poorly understood in our culture” because it is depicted as weak in the face of powerful evil, while violence is depicted as the strong defender of the helpless and innocent. “Belief in this contrast is a major reason why war and violence are so persistent and so few resources are allotted to nonviolent means of dealing with evil,” he said.

The workshop he and Gagne will lead presents evidence that nonviolence is the stronger force for good. “If this is true, then we can easily embrace Pope Francis’ call to embrace nonviolence. Think for a moment if we put the money, creativity, and human sacrifice that we put into war and its preparations into nonviolent conflict engagement. The results, I believe, would be astounding.”

The public is invited to attend the workshop, “Nonviolence, Power for Peace and Justice,” on October 21.

“Nonviolence is based on love and has no inherent contradictions, while violence is almost always based on fear and always has contradictions and unintended consequences,” Reuwer said.

For more information on the workshop, email marybethredmond@comcast.net.
UPCOMING EVENTS

10|08 Columbus Day Buffet Breakfast  
St. Rose of Lima, Sa. Hero  
7:30 am

10|08 RJ’s Rice Run/Walk & Kids Fun Run  
Rice Memorial High School  
11am - 2pm
Honour the legendary RJ Noonan, former teacher and long-time cross country and track coach, by participating in this fun 5K or 10K run OR walk. The race starts at Rice, loops up the bike path, by UVM along Spear Street and through the Burlington Country Club. $10/students; $20/adults; $25/day of registration
FOR MORE INFO: Register/purchase tickets at www.rmhsvt.org/riceturns100

10|08 Annual Harvest Dinner  
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte  
12 pm
Turkey with all the trimmings and homemade pies will be served. The cost is $11 for adults; $12 and under $6.

10|08 Annual Harvest Ham Dinner  
St. Thomas Parish Hall, Underhill Center  
4 - 6 pm
Seatings at 4 and 5:15. Takeout meals available. Tickets are $12 for adults, $6 for children 6-12 years, and children 5 and under are free. Purchasing your tickets early reserves your place at the seating of your choice. Tickets are also available at the door, at Wells Corner Market, or by calling the church office at (802) 899-4632. Hall is not handicapped accessible, Hop to see you there!

10|08, 16, 22, 30, 11|12, 20, 12|03, 10 The Bible and the Sacraments  
St Monica, Barre - 6.30 - 8 pm  
11-part Bible study from Scott Hahn's St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology. Objectives: Discover the Old testament roots of the Sacraments instituted by Christ; grow in knowledge of the Sacraments; learn how the 7 Sacraments have the power to transform our lives and shape us for eternity. Program ran on Sept. 17, 25 & Oct. 1 and continues through Dec. 10.
FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalife@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020

10|09 Misa en Espanol  
Saint Michael’s College Chapel, Colchester  
7:30 - 8:15 pm
Este mensaje les recordará el horario de las misas en español que se celebrarán este semestre, las cuales tendrán lugar en la capilla de Saint Michael’s College, a las 7:30 PM. (9h30), los días, 9 de octubre, y 6 de noviembre, 2017

10|13, 14, 15 Fatima Centennial Events  
Our Lady of Fatima, Wilmington  
Friday, Oct. 13: 24-hour Adoration beginning after the 8 am Mass and a spaghetti dinner in the evening.  
Saturday, Oct. 14: Marian procession and rosary before the 5:30 pm Mass.  
Sunday, Oct. 15: consecration of the new shrine to Our Lady of Fatima after the 9 am Mass, followed by breakfast. All are welcome to celebrate the Centennial of the “Dance of the Sun” that took place on Oct 15, 1917.

10|13 Challengers Catholic Variety Show  
McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael’s College  
7 pm
The Challengers first annual variety show will feature singer, songwriter and worship leader Ben Walther. Throughout the evening there will be a medley of gifted priests sharing their talents. The show will be a benefit for diocesan seminarians.
FOR MORE INFO: and tickets, at VTChallengers.org.

10|14 Padre Pio Prayer Group  
Holy Family Church, Essex Jt  
8 - 10 am

10|14 Vermont Harvest Festival  
St. Michael, Brattleboro  
9 am - 5 pm
Vermont made items, baked goods, jams, jellies, large raffle items—including homemade fall quilts, knitted crafts, fall wreaths, lunch and refreshments and many other locally hand made items.

10|14 Youth Rally: Grades 7–12 and Parents  
St. Edward, Derby Line  
11 am - 5:30 pm
Designed for families; includes sessions for parents as well as teens. The rally features Judy McDonald and Ben Walther, and includes fun activities, inspiration, food and Sunday Vigil Mass. The cost is $10 per person or $20 per family

10|14 St. Vincent de Paul Harvest Dinner  
Queen of Peace, Danville  
6 - 8 pm
Please join us for a delicious Harvest Dinner, hosted by the St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Corpus Christi Parish. Tickets are $15 per person. This fundraiser supports the charitable work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, helping our brothers and sister in need in our local community.
FOR MORE INFO: Patrick McWilliams stvdepccc@gmail.com

10|15 Youth Rallies: Middle School and High School  
Christ the King, Burlington  
The Middle School Rally will take place from 12:30 to 6:45 p.m., and the High School Rally will be from 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. Both groups will attend Mass and dinner together from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Both rallies will feature Judy McDonald and Ben Walther and will include fun activities and inspiration. The cost is $10 per person.

10|15 Turkey Dinner  
St. Isidore Parish Hall, Montgomery Center  
12 pm
Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, dressing, rolls, squash, peas, cranberry sauce, pies, coffee, tea or punch. Adults $10; Ages 6-12 $5; Under 6 Free. Benefit: St. Isidore Church

10|15 St. Alphonsus Annual Harvest Dinner  
St. Alphonsus Liguori, Pittsford - 4 - 6 pm
Turkey dinner with all the fixings, desserts, beverages. $12 Adults, $7 Children.

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. Ran on September 18 & 15.
FOR MORE INFO: johnsonwa7@msc.com, (802) 681-7290

10|16 The Gospel of the Patron Saint of Publishers  
Holy Family Parish Center - 7 - 8 pm
Reflections on the Gospel of John by Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E.

10|18 Mass with Healing Service  
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Newport - 5:15 pm
Fr. Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving for 25 years of priestly ordination. Eucharistic Adoration and Healing Service will follow Mass. All invited.

The Diocese of Burlington
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FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

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