On Oct. 22, the Church celebrates World Mission Sunday, calling for a renewed focus on and prayer for the Church’s mission to share the Good News of Salvation with the world. Included in Pope Francis’ message for this day is a call for a “holy audacity” in discovering new ways to bring the gift of salvation to the world.

The Church exists to evangelize. Recall Jesus’ last commission to the Apostles, often called the Great Commission, “to make disciples of all nations…” (Mt. 28:19-20). This is the Church’s — our — mission.

We can read the stories of those who have gone before us for inspiration. St. Paul, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Ignatius, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Francis Xavier, St. Francis de Sales, St. Peter Claver, to name but a few. There are countless men and woman through the centuries who have carried the Gospel message to the ends of the world. Each of them, inspired by Christ, possessed the holy audacity to offer everything for the love of God. Our own founding shepherd, Bishop DeGoesbriand, possessed that same holy audacity as he left home for this country, coming to Vermont with nothing, but trusting that “God will provide.” And God did! Recall that there were seven churches in Vermont when he arrived, and 71 when he was finished; the number of priests in Vermont increased from five to 50.

In our own day and age, Pope Francis reminds us that “the world vitally needs the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” We must be the missionaries in our communities and on the peripheries, joyfully sharing the love, peace, joy and purpose that Jesus offers the world.

To be “holy” is to be “set apart.” By virtue of your Baptism, you were set apart for God. You were set apart for a mission. To remain “holy” is to remain closely connected to Jesus Christ, especially in the Eucharist. Thereby, when you are holy, you radiate Jesus Christ and when people see you, they discover Jesus Christ (cf. Raoul Plus, SJ). “Audacity” is the “willingness to take bold risks.” There is a risk in every mission. Admittedly, it takes a special boldness to proclaim the Gospel in our world today. Yet, a mission undertaken in love is the most fulfilling and life-giving of all.

There is a holy audacity in simply saying to the Lord, each and every day, “Lord, I am yours. Use me as your instrument however you see fit.” That’s what each of the saints did, and see what the Lord did with them!

As Pope Francis ends his message for this World Mission Sunday, “May the Virgin Mother help us to say our own ‘yes,’ conscious of the urgent need to make the Good News of Jesus resound in our time… May she intercede for us so that we can acquire the holy audacity needed to discover new ways to bring the gift of salvation to every man and woman.”

— Deacon Phil Lawson is the Executive Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, Divine Worship, Marriage and Family and Respect Life for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
UPCOMING EVENTS

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Radio is now live!
Listen at 105.5 WRXJ

10[22, 30, 11]2, 12, 20, 10[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, 8 & 16 and continues through Dec. 10.
FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalift@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020

10[22]
K of C Brunch
St. Elizabeth, Lyndonville • 11:30 am
After the 10:30 Mass the Knights of Columbus Council #13574 will host a brunch featuring eggs, pancakes, bacon, corned beef hash and home fries.

10[22]
Annual Nativity Ham Dinner
Nativity of the BVM Parish Hall, Swanton, VT
11 am - 1 pm
Serving baked ham, mash potatoes, squash, coleslaw, baked beans, carrots, rolls & homemade pies. Adults $10, Children (6-12) $6, Family $30. Sponsored by the K of C.

10[22]
Praise & Worship
All Saints, Richford • 5 - 6 pm
Bill Gavin, Director of Youth Ministry from the Diocese of Burlington, will lead us with Praise & Worship during a Holy Hour which includes adoration and confession. A potluck dinner will follow at the Dorion Hall.

10[22]
Mass in French
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington • 6 pm
Mass will be celebrated in French by Fr. Harlow assisted by the Congolese African community providing beautiful music. Tout le monde est le bienvenu!

10[23]
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[25]
Mater Christi School Fall Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington • 8:30 - 11 am
We are a close-knit community and value-centered school where all are welcome! Our school combines rigorous, 21st-century academics with a global philosophy in the Mercy tradition. A Mater Christi education transforms our students’ futures and prepares them to transform our world.
FOR MORE INFO: or to register, (802) 658-3992

10[25, 11]8, 15
The Wild Goose
Holy Cross, Colchester • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
The Wild Goose is a three-part series on discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit. Learn how the Holy Spirit can enrich your life, give you strength and power over the things that hold you back from the true freedom, peace and joy that God wants for you.
FOR MORE INFO: parishoffice@holycrossvt.org (802) 863-3002.

10[28]
Catechist Formation Day
Holy Cross, Colchester
9 am - 1:30 pm
This half-day program is specifically aimed at our catechists, coordinators, and directors of religious education. Pastors are more than welcome to join as well! Participants will attend workshops of their choice — ranging from learning more about the faith to how to engage parents in the parish — and have the opportunity to network and share best practices with other catechists around the state.
FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP to Lori Daudelin at ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.

10[28]
Sisters of Mercy Bazaar
Mater Christi School, Burlington
9 am - 2 pm
Featuring home grown/canned goods of many varieties, fudge and new or gently used items including books, toys, knit goods, household items and decorations.

10[28]
St. Ann Farm Harvest Dinner
St. Ann, Milton
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Sponsored by the Milton Knights of Columbus, the menu includes baked ham, homemade baked beans, squash, potatoes and homemade apple and pumpkin pies. Cost is adults $14, students $10, seniors $12 and children under 6 free. The cost for an immediate family is a maximum of $48. Take-outs will be available.
FOR MORE INFO: or advance tickets call rectory at (802) 893-2487 during business hours.

11[02]
All Souls' Mass with Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 7 pm
All Souls’ Day Mass with the Vermont Gregorian Chant Schola with Gregorian Chant in Ordinary Form.

11[02, 16, 30]
Floral Arranging
St. Jude, Hinesburg
7 - 8:30 pm
The St. Jude Parish altar designers are offering a three-part class on flower arranging. Each week participants will make an arrangement for personal use or for the altar. The class is free, flowers will be provided. Register by Oct 20 to suemcguire@comcast.net.

11[04]
Birthright Annual Dinner
Holy Family Parish Hall, Colchester
6 pm
Annual dinner for Birthright, a pregnancy service providing pregnancy assistance and alternatives to abortion to those in need in Chittenden and surrounding counties.
FOR MORE INFO: and to register, Birthright at 802 865 0056 or birthrightbtv@gmail.com

11[05]
Healing Service
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington
3 pm
First Sunday of the month Healing Service: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Eucharistic Adoration and Charismatic laying-on of hands for physical, spiritual and psychological healing.

The Diocese of Burlington CAREERS
- Development Donor Systems Specialist
- Human Resources Generalist
- PT Administrative Assistant / Medical Billing Specialist
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

FOR MORE INFO: stmonicalift@gmail.com; (802) 476-4020

FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP to Lori Daudelin at ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.