I offer this final column on engaging and understanding young people who have left the Catholic Church on a positive note: studies have shown that young people who do remain in the Catholic Church often do so because of the examples of faithful discipleship they saw in their parents lives. “Young Catholics whose parents regularly attend Mass, are involved in their parishes, and who talk with their children about religious faith are more likely to remain Catholic themselves, compared to those whose parents are less involved in Church and who talk less about religious matters.”¹ In another study, a significant number of young Catholics who have remained in the Church have done so because they were raised by parents who were not just members of the Church, but “disciples,” people who practiced their Catholic faith in all aspects of their lives.² Their parents were people of prayer and Scripture in the home. They lived out the call to serve others in active social ministries and volunteerism. They participated in the Church’s sacramental and liturgical life. They lived the summation of Jesus’ teaching to treat others as they would wish to be treated. They lived ethical and moral lives based on the fullness of the Church’s teaching. And they encouraged their children to do all of these things as well.

Pope Francis in his recent apostolic exhortation on the family and marriage, Amoris Laetitia, stated unequivocally that the “welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church.” This is absolutely clear for the life of the Church. This is why it is so important for us to be supportive and encouraging of our families within our churches. We need to recognize that while the best scenario for children to be nurtured and raised is within a two-parent household of a father and a mother, many of our families are dealing with a different reality. A significant number of our children are being raised by single parents, most often the mother. We have also seen a large increase in the number of children who are being raised by grandparents, aunts and uncles, often as a result of the wreckage of opioid addiction. We need to support all of our families and offer insight and encouragement to all of them to be domestic churches, helping “parents to adopt consistent small habits expressing faith, and making religious practice a fixture”¹ in their everyday lives.

I would also ask us to consider how each of us are called to be disciples and how our example within the church and community can serve as an example of “intentional discipleship” to children and young people.” Who knows, perhaps some young person may see in us someone who is of Christ and his Church and seek to do the same in his or her own life. Remember, we just plant seeds of faith and allow God’s grace to do the rest.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

UPCOMING EVENTS

11|12
K of C Breakfast
Christ our Savior, Manchester Center
9 am
This monthly event is hosted by the Knights after both the 8 and 10 am Masses. Cost is $7 for adults and $3 for children. Proceeds help the Knights support projects aimed at helping many needy individuals and families in the Northshire area.

11|12
Breakfast Buffet
St. Sylvester, Graniteville
9:30 - 11 am
Cost is adults $8, children 11 and under free. The menu will include breakfast casseroles, quiche, fruit salad, bacon, sausage, eggs, pancakes, crepes, French toast, Danishes, donuts, muffins and beverages.
FOR MORE INFO: or reservations, (802) 793-4944.

11|12
Turkey Bingo
St. Theresa Parish Hall, Orleans
11 am
This is a Knights of Columbus benefit. Doors open at 11 am, bingo starts at 1 pm. Prizes include 21 turkeys.

11|12
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Dinner
St. Ambrose Parish Hall, Bristol
5 - 6:30 pm
This is a free annual ecumenical Thanksgiving dinner. The menu will include roast turkey with stuffing and cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes with gravy, squash, green beans, rolls, apple or pumpkin pie, milk, coffee, tea and cider. Clergy from local churches will serve.

11|12
Faith & Science Talk
St. Michael, Brattleboro
6:30 - 8:30 pm
All high school youth are invited to this talk, “The Catholic Church and the Development of Science and Western Civilization” by Bill Gavin, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Burlington. For more information, call the rectory.

11|13
Faith & Science Talk
Our Lady of Fatima Parish Hall, Wilmington
6 - 8 pm
High school youth and adults are invited to this talk, “The Catholic Church and the Development of Science and Western Civilization” by Bill Gavin, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Burlington.

11|13, 20
Gospel of Mark
Holy Family - St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Jct.
7 - 8 pm
Presented by Donna Bibby-Cayole, who has a Masters in Theology from St. Michael's College. Reflections on the Gospel of Mark will pursue an understanding of Jesus as suffering savior, sensitive human being and light of the world in His Resurrection. The format will include teaching, group discussion and sharing of insights into the parables and miracle stories. Please bring a Bible and a notebook.

11|15
Annual Saint Edmund Lecture
St. Michael’s College, Colchester
4:30 pm
Dr. Boyd Coolman from the Theology Department of Boston College will deliver the lecture on the influence of the Victorines on the writing of the Speculum Religiosorum, St. Edmund’s major writing. Lecture will be held in the Roy Room of the Dion Family Center. A reception will follow, at approximately 6 pm, in the Archway Lounge.

11|15
The Wild Goose
Holy Cross, Colchester • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
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. First two sessions ran on Oct. 25 and Nov. 8.
FOR MORE INFO: parishoffice@holycrossvt.org (802) 863-3002.

11|16, 30, 12|7, 14, 21
K of C Men’s Bible Study
Nolin Murray Center, Springfield
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Hosted by Springfield Knights of Columbus Sullivan Council #2628. Topic is “Panorama of the Old Testament”. Knights of Columbus members are encouraged to attend. Please feel free to invite male acquaintances. They need not be Knights of Columbus members or of the Catholic faith. Older teenagers and sons and relatives are welcome. No Bible reading experience necessary.
FOR MORE INFO: John Morin (802) 885-3946, morins4@vermontel.net

11|17
Vermont Collegiate Choral Consortium Concert
St. Michael’s College, Colchester • 7:30 pm
The concert will be held in the McCarthy Arts Center Recital Hall. Consortium includes, the Castleton University Chamber Singers, directed by Sherill Blodgett; the Johnson State College Chamber Singers, directed by Bethany Plessey; and the St. Michael’s College Chorale, directed by Nathaniel G. Lew. The groups will sing together as well as separately. Admission is free, but donations will be appreciated and will help further collaborations.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 654-2284.

11|18
All-You-Can-Eat Hunter’s Breakfast
St. Isidore Parish Hall, Montgomery Center
6 am - 12 pm
Complete breakfast buffet. Adults $10, Children 12 and under $8. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Council 2610.

11|18
Annual Women’s Retreat
Holy Family • St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Jct.
9 am - 4 pm
Come and join Catholic women of all ages as we celebrate the gift of our faith, develop a greater understanding of God’s everlasting Mercy, and ultimately deepen our relationship with Christ! Keynote speaker will be Mother Mary Catherine, founder of the Missionaries of the Word. Registration fee $30.

The Diocese of Burlington

CAREERS

• Human Resources Generalist

FOR MORE INFO:
vermontcatholic.org/careers

CRAFT FAIR & MARKET DIRECTORY

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vermontcatholic.org/careers