In 2017, there were 93 Catholic Men’s Conferences around the country. All seeking to address a need. What does it mean to be a Catholic man of faith today? How can I be the husband, father, son, brother and man that the Lord is calling me to be? These are good questions! And so growing numbers of men have been coming together to learn, to pray, to be inspired and to be strengthened to live out their faith in their families and in the wider world. The Diocese of Burlington is very excited to announce that it will be hosting our 1st ever Diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference on **Saturday, February 17, 2018**.

Dr. Ray Guarendi will be our keynote presenter. Dr. Ray is a father of ten, clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker and national radio and television host. His radio show, “The Dr. Is In” can be heard on over 440 stations and Sirius XM channel 130. His TV show, “Living Right With Dr. Ray” is aired in 140 countries.

In addition, Fr. Tim Naples, author of “You Are That Man” will speak on male spirituality and David Allbee, husband, father and teacher, will offer practical tips and advice.

This past November, the Diocese of Burlington hosted its 7th annual Women’s Retreat, which sold out. The question came up, why don’t we do something similar for the men? Wives, mothers, daughters, sisters, perhaps this men’s conference can be given as a gift to the husband, dad, son, or brother in your life. Perhaps even as a Valentine’s Day Gift this year.

Pope Francis in his document on family life, “The Joy of Love” offers some strong words of encouragement to men. Let us take the opportunity, in this Diocesan “Year of the Family” to step up to the plate and become the Catholic men of faith that we are called to be.

More information and registration information can be found at [vermontcatholic.org/men](https://vermontcatholic.org/men)

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_Deacon Phil Lawson is the Executive Director of Evangelization, Catechesis, Divine Worship, Marriage and Family, & Respect Life_
The St. Thomas Knights of Columbus monthly Country Breakfast is an all you can eat, which includes juice, fruit, eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, home fries, and coffee and tea. The cost is by donation.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**01|14 SUNDAY**

Knights of Columbus Country Breakfast<br>
St. Thomas Parish Hall, Underhill Center<br>8 - 10:30 am

This open house event takes place during the annual Catholic Schools Week. Teachers will be present, and classrooms will be open with student work displayed. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the school, ask questions and get a feel for some of the activities and learning opportunities at the school. Christ the King School is a Catholic elementary school in Burlington serving learners of all faiths from three years old through eighth grade. For the past 77 years it has focused on providing a high quality, values based, rigorous and rewarding learning experience for students. The comprehensive curriculum focuses on the development of the whole child; body, mind and spirit. Students are encouraged to discover and to develop their God-given gifts and to become people of character who possess a love for learning and a zest for life. Attend the open house or schedule a tour by contacting osteel@cksvt.org or calling (802) 862-6696. For more information, go to cksvt.org or to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching for CKSVT.

**01|17 WEDNESDAY**

Re-engage the Occasional Catholic<br>Holy Cross, Colchester<br>6:30 - 8 pm

Bishop Coyne presents, with livestreaming on facebook.com/DioBurlington.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Dcn. Phil Lawson (802) 658-6110 x1453, plawson@vermontcatholic.org

**01|18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26**

9 DAYS FOR LIFE
9 Days for Life is an annual period of prayer and action focused on cherishing the gift of every person’s life. Surrounding the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (January 22, 2018) the overarching intention of the centerpiece novena is the end to abortion. However, the novena also highlights many other facets of respecting each other’s God-given dignity, especially by respecting human life at every stage and in every circumstance.

**FOR MORE INFO:** www.9daysforlife.com

**01|21 SUNDAY**

Knights of Columbus Breakfast<br>St. John Vianney, South Burlington<br>8 - 11:30 am

Serving all of your breakfast favorites: scrambled eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage and breakfast potatoes. Cost: adults $6 children $4 family $15 under 6 free.

**01|22**

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children<br>The General Instruction of the Roman Missal designates January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, “In all the Dioceses of the United States, January 22 shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.” As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

**02|01 THURSDAY**

Christ the King School Open House<br>Christ the King School, Burlington<br>5:30 - 7 pm

**02|03 SUNDAY**

World Marriage Day 2018<br>St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral, Burlington<br>10 am

Bishop Coyne will celebrate Mass and give recognition to those couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries in the year 2018 (5, 10, 15, etc...). Couples can also choose to celebrate in their parish (and still receive a certificate from the Bishop) on the following Sunday, Feb. 11. Please register through the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, Marriage and Family Life at ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.

**02|04 SUNDAY**

World Marriage Day 2018<br>St. Joseph’s Co-Cathedral, Burlington<br>10 am

Bishop Coyne will celebrate Mass and give recognition to those couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries in the year 2018 (5, 10, 15, etc...). Couples can also choose to celebrate in their parish (and still receive a certificate from the Bishop) on the following Sunday, Feb. 11. Please register through the Office of Evangelization & Catechesis, Marriage and Family Life at ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org.

**02|10 SATURDAY**

Marriage Encounter sponsored Valentine’s Dinner Dance<br>Location TBD<br>6 - 10 pm

**FOR MORE INFO:** Gary & Lynn Root, vtroot@together.net

**02|11 SUNDAY**

St. Johnsbury Winter Rally<br>St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury<br>10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Open to 7-12 graders and parents. Separate sessions for parents. Featuring Bob Rice, renowned worship leader. $10 per youth or $20 per family.

**FOR MORE INFO:** kalderman@vermontcatholic.org, (802) 658-6110 x1130

**02|14**

40 Days for Families<br>Follow @Dioburlington on social media.

**02|16**

First Friday of Lent<br>Family-focused Stations of the Cross at parishes and the Cathedral

**02|17**

Diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference<br>Holy Family, Essex Jt.

The Conference will include lunch and Mass with Bishop Coyne. Keynote speaker will be Dr. Ray Guarendi. Other speakers include Fr. Tim Naples and David Allbee. Cost: $30. **FOR MORE INFO:** vermontcatholic.org/men or call Diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis at (802) 658-6110.

**03|03 SATURDAY**

Array of Hope: Awakening Hearts Family Concert Event<br>St. Michael School, Brattleboro<br>1 - 7 pm

The Array of Hope concert is a wide-ranging live concert experience that features multiple musical acts, motivational speakers and thought-provoking films. Array of Hope is a journey of faith, hope and love, that entertains the audience, touching and transforming hearts through powerful witnessing to God’s love for us. The Diocese of Burlington invites the WHOLE FAMILY for this vocation night with Father Jon Schnobrich and Bishop Coyne. Focused on ages 7–12 grade.

**03|16, 17, 18**

The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte