

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

January 20–26, 2018



Pursuing justice, RESPECTING LIFE

Both the responsibilities to respect life and pursue justice are founded on the basic principle of the dignity of the human person, created in the image and likeness of God. People sometimes disagree about how to handle pro-life and social justice issues, particularly when it comes to public policy when there are competing interests at play. “This can lead to a false assumption that social justice and pro-life are somehow at odds. They are not,” said Carrie Handy, respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Burlington.

“Acknowledging the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings compels us to be particularly attentive to those who may not be able to care for themselves — the most vulnerable among us,” said Handy.

Vermont Catholic Charities Inc. supports life and justice ministries through its partnership with the Diocese to support Project Rachel (a ministry to those affected by abortion), through caring for residents at residential care homes and through deGoesbriand Grants to agencies supporting life and justice initiatives. “Human life is sacred, and Vermont Catholic Charities is committed to the dignity of the human person,” emphasized Mary Beth Pinard, executive director.

“We do ourselves a disservice when we speak of social justice and protection of life as two separate issues,” said Stephanie Clary, manager of mission outreach and communication for the Diocese. “Protecting life is an issue of social justice and social justice is always an issue of protecting life.”

“In both arenas, the weaker and relatively defenseless are pitted against the more powerful,” said Deacon Peter Gummere, director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese. “In abortion, a tiny human is threatened by a big, powerful human. In assisted suicide, a weak person is invited to die earlier than they would otherwise for the convenience of society.” Pro-life convictions lead Catholics

not only to advocate for the unborn and the terminally disabled but also for others who are weak and marginalized. “It should include sensitivity for the single mom, reaching out to her with a supportive network,” he said. “It should include helping to ensure the wellbeing of the disabled, the sick and others who are marginalized. It should include working to eliminate barbaric practices like excessively harsh conditions in prisons and capital punishment. And we should work toward more ecologically sustainable practices in order to protect our planet.”

“To authentically work for justice in one area we must consider the connectedness of that issue with other aspects of reality,” Clary said. “When we work toward clean water, we quench someone’s thirst. When we reduce carbon emissions and prevent a crop-killing drought, we feed someone’s hunger. When we demand breathable air, we decrease the likelihood of birth defects and increase the life expectancy of elders.”

As Pope Francis points out, “we need to be attentive to the relationships that exist among creation if we truly wish to address injustices and protect life,” she added.

“What the Catholic Church means when it identifies as pro-life is pro all life, not only because all life is connected, but more importantly because all life is of God. It was created with intention, purpose and love and it gives glory to God by its very existence,” Clary said. “We each have our own passions, areas of interest and expertise. The important thing is that we’re always considering the big picture and working together with those of different passions, interests and expertise to collectively pursue justice, the protection of life in our world.”

— Cori Fugere Urban, Vermont Catholic

A version of this article was published on page 50 of the winter 2017 issue of Vermont Catholic Magazine.

UPCOMING EVENTS



01|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. Started on January 18.

FOR MORE INFO: www.9daysforlife.com.



01|21 SUNDAY
Ministry Sunday

Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
After each Sunday Mass

Every parish ministry will have representatives available in the parish hall after each Mass to speak with people interested in learning more about the work we do.

FOR MORE INFO: (802) 442-3141.



01|21 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus Breakfast

St. John Vianney, South Burlington
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|21 SUNDAY
Vermont Ecumenical Council Prayer Service

Catholic Center at UVM, Burlington • 3 pm

The Vermont Ecumenical Council will have a prayer service in observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, co-hosted by Cooperative Campus Ministries — the ecumenical Protestant chaplaincy at the university. The Rev. Dr. John Armstrong, a Chicago-based minister of the Reformed Church in America and scholar of the Reformation, will be the featured preacher. A reception will follow the service.



01|22 MONDAY
Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

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.



01|23 TUESDAY
Senior Meals

St. Jude, Hinesburg
12 - 2 pm

St. Jude Parish offers lunches to area seniors on the second

and fourth Tuesday of each month. Serving begins at noon. All seniors and caretakers are welcome.



01|23 TUESDAY
Panel Discussion on the Reformation

Pomerleau Alumni Center, Colchester
7 - 8 pm

The Vermont Ecumenical Council will sponsor this ecumenical forum with John Armstrong, an expert scholar on the Reformation, commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The forum will feature a presentation by Armstrong about the recent film he helped produce about the Reformation, "This Changed Everything," with responses and commentary by a panel of area Reformation scholars. The forum is free, and all are welcome.



01|24 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directive

Christ the King, Rutland • 6:30 pm

Here in Vermont, many options are available for end-of-life care. Sadly, some of these are morally very troublesome. For this reason, the Diocese of Burlington has created the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive. This document explains Catholic teaching on end-of-life-care and enables you to appoint a healthcare agent to act on your behalf in the event you are unable to communicate or participate in healthcare decisions. The document complies with Vermont's Advance Directive Law as well as with Church teaching. Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive.



01|25, 02|1, 8, 15 THURSDAY
Study: Who Am I to Judge?

Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Jct.
7 - 8:45 pm

A 4-week study from FORMED.org. An in-depth look at the relativistic outlook that pervades our modern world and what we can do about it.

FOR MORE INFO: judy.dufresne@gmail.com



01|25 THURSDAY
Theology on Tap

Hartness House Inn, Springfield
7 pm

Theology on Tap is for young adults ages 20-35. This month's topic is "Theology of the Body" with Fr. Jon Schnobrich, vocation director for the Diocese of Burlington. RSVP: Paul Kendall (802)885-2445 or pkendall@lawrenceandwheeler.com.



01|27 SATURDAY
Liturgical Minister Enrichment

St. Peter, Vergennes

Josh Perry, director of worship for the

Diocese of Burlington will lead a day of enrichment for all lectors, Eucharistic ministers and liturgy committee members in the Addison Deanery. Contact your parish for more information.



02|01 THURSDAY
Christ the King School Open House

Christ the King School, Burlington
5:30 - 7 pm

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. 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.



02|04 SUNDAY
World Marriage Day 2018

St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington
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 IdaudeLin@vermontcatholic.org.



02|01 THURSDAY
Catholic Daughters

St. Veronica, Hardwick

Catholic Daughters Court St. Veronica #1273

meets the first Thursdays, February to June, and August through December.

FOR MORE INFO: (802)586-2899, cda1273@gmtmom.com.



02|10 SATURDAY
Marriage Encounter's Valentine's Dinner Dance

St. Joseph Co-cathedral, Burlington
6 - 10 pm

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



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar:
vermontcatholic.org/calendar

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