On Ash Wednesday, there will be a collection to support the outreach work of Vermont Catholic Charities, including the Bishop deGoesbriand Grants for Human Advancement. These grants are awarded to Vermont non-profit organizations which are making a difference in the daily lives of people living in their communities.

Since 2011, Vermont Catholic Charities has been awarding Bishop deGoesbriand grants. To date, 180 grants have been given out totaling over $377,000. Agencies receiving funding have included homeless shelters, right to life programs, and food programs for children and families, to name just a few.

Here are a few examples of how these grants impact the lives of Vermonter.

✦ At Martha’s Kitchen in St. Albans, the grant was used to sustain their hours of operation to include 7 days a week. Martha’s Kitchen served over 23,000 meals in 2017 and they continue to see an increase in the number of seniors who do not have food security.

✦ At the Good Samaritan Haven in Barre, the grant was used for the Emergency Shelter Program which provided shelter and support to over 200 people.

✦ At the Addison County Community Action Group, HOPE, the grant gave the agency the ability to respond to clients’ needs for assistance. The agency commented, “Your support has a tremendous impact on our ability to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable populations in our county. Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our community — we truly appreciate it.”

✦ At the Community Emergency Relief Volunteers in Northfield, the grant made a difference in the lives of more than 2296 families (6214 individuals) who visited the food shelf. The coordinator said, “We are grateful for the grant. We cannot imagine what the families would have done without your generosity.”

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent dedicated to reflection, prayer, fasting and good works in preparation for Easter. As we begin this journey, we ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the Ash Wednesday collection - any gift no matter the size makes a difference! As a Catholic community, let’s continue to do Christ’s work here in Vermont and show Christ’s love to our neighbors in their times of need.

Let us embrace the 2017 Ash Wednesday message from Pope Francis, “Lent is the time to start breathing again. It is the time to open our hearts to the breath of the One capable of turning our dust into humanity.”

— Mary Beth Pinard, Director, Vermont Catholic Charities
ORDINATION. Everyone is invited.

of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Father Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses FOR MORE INFO: kalderman@vermontcatholic.org, $10 per youth or $20 per family.

Open to 7-12 graders and parents. Separate sessions for desert. Adults $7, Kids (6-12) $4, Under 6 Free, Family $20. A variety of sauces, gluten free pasta available, salad, rolls &

Valentines Senior Dinner for parishioners ages 60 and older and their guest, after the 10 am Mass at St. Charles.

Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper, maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, discussion, activities, Mass, and other opportunities for personal growth. Cost is $40 per participant, includes food and lodging.

For MORE INFO: ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org, March 14 and in Hinesburg on March 21.

Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff. Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper, maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry, Music Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! The retreat is being offered in Ludlow on March 14 and in Hinesburg on March 21. REGISTRATION: ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org

Father Lance Harlow, will lead the retreat, open to young adults ages 18 and older. The retreat will offer talks, discussion, activities, Mass, and other opportunities for personal growth. Cost is $40 per participant, includes food and lodging.

REGISTER: 802-658-6110 x1130; vermontcatholic.org

VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG/VCM

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

02/11 SUNDAY
K of C Breakfast
St. Peter, Vergennes
8 - 10 am
Come join us for a delicious breakfast of eggs, omelets (to order), hot cakes, french toast, sausage, bacon and more. Adults $8.50, Seniors over 60 $7.50, Kids 6 – 12yrs. $6, Under 6 Free, Families of five or more $28.00.

02/11 SUNDAY
St. Johnsbury Winter Rally
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury
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

02/11 SUNDAY
Valentines Senior Dinner
Sacred Heart/St. Charles Social Center, Bellows Falls - 11 am
Valentines Senior Dinner for parishioners ages 60 and older and their guest, after the 10 am Mass at St. Charles.

02/11 SUNDAY
K of C Valentine’s Day Spaghetti Dinner
St. Louis, Highgate - 11:30 am – 1 pm
Variety of sauces, gluten free pasta available, salad, rolls & dessert. Adults $7, Kids (6-12) $4, Under 6 Free, Family $20.

02/11 SUNDAY
Barre Winter Rally
St. Monica, Barre
4 - 8 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

02/13 TUESDAY
Mass of Thanksgiving
Church of the Annunciation, Ludlow
5:30 pm
Father Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.

02/14 WEDNESDAY
40 Days of Lent for Families
Follow @Dioburlington on social media.

02/16 FRIDAY
First Friday of Lent
Family-focused Stations of the Cross at parishes and the Cathedral

02/16 FRIDAY
Annual Lenten Fish Fry
Bishop Marshall School, Morrisville
5 - 7 pm
Take out or sit down. Cost: $10 per person or $35 for a family of four.

02/16 FRIDAY
K of C Fish Fry
St. Peter’s Parish Hall, Vergennes
5 - 7 pm
Join us for Battered Baked Haddock, fries, macaroni & cheese, green beans, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. Adults $12, Children under 12 $6, Under 6 Free, Immediate family only $35.

02/17 SATURDAY
Diocesan Catholic Men’s Conference
Holy Family, Essex Jct. - 9 am – 4 pm
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,
(802) 658-6110

02/19, 20, 21
Lenten Retreat
Holy Family, Essex Jct., 8:30 am
St. Pius X, Essex Center, 7 pm
Monsignor Richard Lavalley is offering this Lenten Retreat in two locations: Holy Family and St. Pius. Retreat will consist of Mass, a homily by Monsignor Lavalley and the opportunity for Reconciliation.

03/03 SATURDAY
Array of Hope: Awakening Hearts Family Concert Event
St. Michael School, Brattleboro
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. 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.

03/10 SATURDAY
Spaghetti Birthday Cake Dinner
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero
5 pm

03/16, 17, 18
The Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte

03/14, 21 WEDNESDAY
Laetare Living — Lenten Retreats
Annunciation of the BVM, Ludlow
St. Jude, Hinesburg
9:30 am – 3 pm
Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff. Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper, maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry, Music Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! The retreat is being offered in Ludlow on March 14 and in Hinesburg on March 21.

REGISTRATION: ldaudelin@vermontcatholic.org

03/24, 25 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Young Adult Retreat
Mary Theotokos Monastic Retreat Center, Newark,
10 am - 3:30 pm
Father Lance Harlow, will lead the retreat, open to young adults ages 18 and older. The retreat will offer talks, discussion, activities, Mass, and other opportunities for personal growth. Cost is $40 per participant, includes food and lodging.

REGISTER: 802-658-6110 x1130; vermontcatholic.org