As the 2017 Bishop’s Annual Appeal wraps up at the end of this fiscal year, June 30, we are grateful to the Catholic community for donating time, talent and treasure to support ministries and services vital to the future of the Catholic Church in Vermont.

The success of this Bishop’s Annual Appeal has resulted in the expansion of the New Evangelization program, youth ministry events statewide, revamping of our catechism and Pre-Cana programs, new communication platforms, launch of the Diocesan Synod, standardization of our Catholic schools’ curriculum and so much more. It also helps sustain on-going parish, school and community services such as financial aid to Catholic schools, Vermont Catholic Charities emergency aid, cemetery maintenance, Diocesan Tribunal, vocations and priest benefits.

All of this was accomplished with a minimal increase to the ministry and program budget from FY 2016 to cover annual cost-of-living raises.

“Fiscal responsibility is a priority,” said Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne. “We were able to strategically reallocate resources from program to program without hiring a lot of new staff. In fact, our Bishop’s Appeal goal was $100,000 less this year compared to last year.”

In addition, the Diocese has created new avenues for the lay community to donate their time and talent on committees, such as the Pastoral Council, which is another valuable resource that allows the Diocese to do more with less.

None of this would be possible without the support of parish pastors and administrators. They are the driving force behind the success of the Bishop’s Appeal.

More than 50 percent of the parishes and missions with an appeal goal met or exceeded their pledge goal. Another 17 parishes were at 90 to 99 percent of pledged goal. A total of 11,182 families pledged to make a gift this year. A few highlights include:

✦ Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Ludlow, has 173 percent of goal pledged and 165 percent paid.
✦ St. Stephen Parish, Winooski, was the first to meet its goal and has 124 percent of goal pledged.
✦ Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Wilmington, increased pledges by 32 percent compared to last year and has 99 percent of goal pledged.

We are grateful for every single gift and pledge to invest these resources in ministries and programs that serve each parish, school and the larger Vermont Catholic community.

— Ellen Kane, Executive Director of Development, Stewardship & Communication

Originally published in the Spring 2018 issue of Vermont Catholic magazine.

Called to Holiness – Year of the Family video series

Pope Francis tells us, “the work of handing on the faith to children...helps the whole family in its evangelizing mission” (“Amoris Laetitia” 289). How can parents hand on the faith successfully? One of the biggest opportunities is through family prayer, especially by adapting prayer to the interests and capacities of each family member.

The Albee Family, living in Winooski, shares some of the unique ways in which they weave prayer into their family life in the April Called to Holiness video. View it on the @DioBurlington facebook page or at vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/marriage-family.
UPCOMING EVENTS

04|23 MONDAY
Chaplet of Divine Mercy
on Facebook Live
Facebook Live: @DieBurlington
11:20 am - 12:00 pm

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. To help commemorate the month, the Diocese of Burlington is broadcasting a Divine Chaplet of Mercy to Facebook Live. We will pray for healing for all who suffer from abuse or neglect, especially those who experienced abuse by a member of the clergy or Church personnel. Tune into the live feed on the diocesan Facebook page to pray alongside us. The video will remain available on the diocesan Facebook page following the conclusion of the live feed.

04|27, 28 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
New Evangelization Summit
Holy Cross, Colchester
Vermont will be hosting the Live-Streamed New Evangelization Summit out of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada joining thousands of others throughout North America. Summit will run 6:30-9pm on Friday and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday. Hear speakers like Curtis Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, George Weigel, and Patrick Madrid. Cost is $40 per person and will cover materials, snacks and lunch on Saturday. FOR MORE INFO: newevangelization.ca/ or contact Deacon Phil Lawson at (802) 658-6110 ext. 1460

04|28 SATURDAY
Silent Day Retreat
St. Paul d’Abbotsford, Quebec
9:30 am – 7:00 pm
Teaching will be given in English by a Carmelite friar. There will be Mass and confessions. The day includes lunch and fellowship over dinner.
FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org.

04|28 SATURDAY
K of C Chicken Pie Supper by Maybelle Dumont
Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph
5 pm
Knights of Columbus fundraiser. Adults $12, children $5.

04|29, 30 & 05|01 SUNDAY—TUESDAY
Surge Of The Heart Parish Mission
St. Mary Star Of The Sea, Newport
5:45 – 7 pm
Surge of the Heart is a LIVE three evening deep-dive into the truth and beauty of Catholicism with renowned speaker and author Jon Leonetti. Surge of the Heart is an evening you will laugh, grow, be inspired, and never forget! Bring your family and friends. First Nights topic: Who Is God and why love him?

05|05, 06 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family Church, Essex Junction
Rosary and Reconciliation, followed by Mass.
8 am on Saturdays and 9 am on Sundays.

05|05 SATURDAY
Craft and Vendor Sale
St. Amadeus, Alburgh
9 am - 2 pm
Sale is free to attend. Vendors: one table $15, two tables $20. Option to set up Friday afternoon. FOR MORE INFO: Maurice Gauthier (802) 796-4418 or (80) 309-4731.

05|06 SUNDAY
Organ Recital
Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales, Bennington
3 pm
Donald McMahon will perform an organ recital, joined by Susan Green, celebrated Bennington-area trumpeter and music educator. The program will include compositions by Franz Josef Haydn, Johann Sebastian Bach, Alan Hovhaness and Cesar Franck. All facilities at the church are accessible to those who may have special needs, and convenient, off-street parking is available on the church property. The recital is free and open to the public.

PRESENTATION: Vermont Catholic Advance Directives — How and Why
Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive (VCAD) and distribute VCAD preparation packets at this presentation. FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org

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