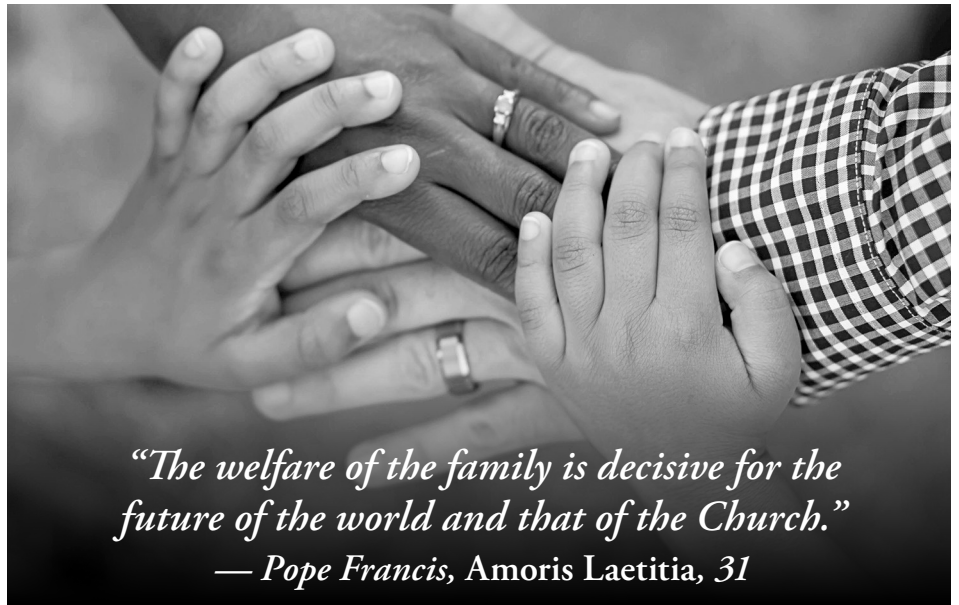


NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 30, 2017 – January 5, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



“The welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and that of the Church.”
— Pope Francis, *Amoris Laetitia*, 31

Year OF THE *Family* THE JOY OF LOVE

In 1994, Pope John Paul II, now St. John Paul, announced a Year of the Family with a particular call to contemplate the life of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. He said that the “Holy Family is the beginning of countless other holy families.”

Throughout his papacy, St. John Paul often spoke of the many attacks on the family institution itself — poverty, migration, cultural and societal changes, etc. — and how urgent it was to rediscover the value of the family and to help it in every way to be as God wanted it to be. He said, “The family is a human and divine reality that should be defended and promoted as a fundamental social good.”

This coming year, the Diocese of Burlington will celebrate our own Year of the Family with a particular focus on Pope Francis’ apostolic exhortation on the family, “*Amoris Laetitia*” (“The Joy of Love”). The exhortation clearly shows how the teaching of St. John Paul has proven more than prophetic. All of the challenges to family life of which he spoke are still present to us today and in some instances, even worse now.

At the same time, we face new challenges such as the redefinition of marriage itself, the isolating and alienating tendencies of digital culture and the opioid crisis in America.

In the “Joy of Love,” Pope Francis unambiguously confronts these challenges while offering a hopeful message that challenges

us to be courageous believers who strive to live as holy families and encourage the healthy lives of families in our culture.

Like last year’s Year of Creation, this Year of the Family offers us a year to ponder the Church’s teaching on the family and embrace it ourselves.

“The most beautiful thing that God made, the Bible says, was the family. He created man and woman, and He gave them everything. He gave them the world! Grow, multiply, cultivate the Earth, make it produce, make it grow. He presented to a family all of the love that He made in this marvelous creation. ... All of the love that God has in Himself, all of the beauty that God has in Himself, all of the truth that God has in Himself, He gives to the family. And a family is truly a family when it is able to open its arms and receive all of this love.” — *Pope Francis at the World Day of Families in Philadelphia, 2015*



Yours in Christ,

Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

**This column was originally published on page 4 of the winter 2017 issue of Vermont Catholic Magazine.*



Year OF THE Family

EVENTS 2018



02|04
World Marriage Day 2018
St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, Burlington
10 am



02|10
Valentine's Dinner Dance
Sponsored by Worldwide Marriage Encounter



02|11
World Marriage Day Celebrations at Parish Weekend Masses



02|11
Winter Youth Rallies with Parent Track
Barre and St. Johnsbury



02|14
40 Days of Lent for Families
Follow @DioBurlington on social media.



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



02|17
Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference
Holy Family, Essex Jct.



03|03
Array of Hope Family Event
St. Michael, Brattleboro



MARCH & APRIL
Diocesan Pre-Cana Retreat days
3 Saturdays around the state as part of new Diocesan Pre-Cana format



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



04|20, 21, 22
Father-Son Retreat
Mary Theotokos Retreat Center,



MAY
National Foster Care Awareness Month



05|13
Mother's Day



06|17
Father's Day



06|23
Annual Troy Family Day



07|08
Annual Family Mass with Bishop Coyne
St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte
12:15 pm



07|22-28
National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week



AUGUST & SEPTEMBER
Kurn Hattin Homes Shoes for Children Campaign



08|25
Year of the Family Conference
Diocese of Burlington



08|21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26
World Meeting of Families with Pope Francis
Ireland



08|31, 09|01, 02, 03
Worldwide Marriage Encounter Family Camp-Out
Saint Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte



08|09
Grandparents Day



10|07
Family Healing Service
St. Joseph Co-Cathedral, Burlington



11|17
Annual Diocesan Women's Retreat



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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