For Brittany Czekaj, development donor systems specialist in the Office of Development and Stewardship for the Diocese of Burlington, the best part of working at diocesan headquarters in South Burlington is being in an environment where she shares her faith with her colleagues. “We are all working toward the same goal of spreading the Good News and serving the Church,” she said.

The environment is one aspect of working at 55 Joy Drive that draws people to employment and internships with the Diocese. But there’s more: Daily Mass, helping people, making a difference and developing skills are among the benefits employees and interns mention when reflecting upon their work.

“What I like best about working for the Diocese has to be the people. They’re all so different but they’re all thoughtful and nice. They’re like a second family all working together toward the same mission,” said Denise Watson, an accountant in Parish Accounting Services.

Previously she worked as a finance associate at a Burlington nonprofit; she has worked for the Diocese since 2017.

“Unique benefits of working for the Diocese are that it’s not your typical accounting job in tax or audit. You’re doing everything from accounts payable, to accounts receivable, invoicing, analysis, budgeting, payroll, dealing with fixed assets etc.,” she said. “You’re helping priests and secretaries with limited accounting backgrounds, and you’re making a difference through positive communication.”

The Diocese has 41 employees and last summer had three interns: one in finance, one in development and one in safe environment programs.

Czekaj, who has worked for the Diocese since November, previously worked as a credit and collections specialist for a large business.

“I had previously thought of working for the Diocese; however, I did not believe that there would be a position fit for me,” she said. “It did not occur to me that finance and data management were all performed in-house. When I thought of the Diocese, my mind would immediately go to thinking about evangelization and catechesis.”

Daily Mass has become Czekaj’s favorite benefit of working for the Diocese. At first, she often went home for lunch, but daily Mass in the chapel in the diocesan headquarters, The Bishop Brady Center, has become a priority, and she often serves as a lector. “This has greatly enhanced my daily prayer life and even my calmness, in spending time with the real presence of the Eucharist,” she said.

Working with people that share the same Catholic faith has more of an affect on an employee than one may realize, Czekaj said: “In my previous work, people tended to be more negative, which can really affect one’s demeanor and daily work. My colleagues here are very positive, driven and faith-filled individuals. Starting our meetings with prayer and our luncheons with grace really sets the tone for what we do.”

She also likes the camaraderie among employees and monthly birthday lunches. And she looks forward to her first summer with adjusted hours so the Friday work days end at noon.

“Finding this position was most definitely part of God’s plan for me,” Czekaj said. “I previously prayed about my career path as I felt the call to do something more fulfilling. Even in the few months that I have been working at the Diocese, I just know that this is what I was called to do.”

Current openings in the Diocese are posted at vermontcatholic.org/careers.

Read Part II of this story in next week’s The Inland See bulletin.

— Cori Urban, Vermont Catholic
Vermonters helping Vermonters

Taste the Best Vermont Has to Offer

✓ Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 PM
✓ Saint Michael’s College
✓ $50 per person
✓ Music by the Cassarinos
✓ Local food and brews!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

05|13, 20, 27 SUNDAYS
Life in the Spirit Seminar
St. Peter, Vergennes • 1 - 3 pm
Seminar led by Deacon Dan Pudvah on the four Sundays of May. This powerful seminar experience offers an opportunity to learn more about the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity and how to form, renew or deepen your personal relationship with Jesus. These sessions are free and all are welcome. Series began on May 6.

05|15 TUESDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directives — How and Why
Sacred Heart St. Francis, Bennington 3 pm & 7 pm
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

05|16 WEDNESDAY
Mater Christi Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington 8:30 - 11 am
Mater Christi is a private Catholic school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Mercy Education System of the Americas. From the first day of preschool through eighth grade graduation, we encourage our students to discover their gifts and talents. A Mater Christi education prepares them to help transform the world.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 658-3992 or mcschool.org

05|18 FRIDAY
Christ The King ‘Fore” The Crusader Kids Golf Tournament
Penton/Pittsford Country Club, Pittsford • 1 pm
4 Person Scramble. $400 per team includes 2 carts, participant gifts and post play dinner.
FOR MORE INFO: marybethlennox@yahoo.com

05|19 SATURDAY
A Day for Church Musicians
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe 9:30 am - 2:00 pm
The Diocese of Burlington presents this workshop for liturgical musicians: music directors, cantors, instrumentalists, choir members and folk groups. It will feature time for networking with others and presentations from local musicians on the role of the cantor and a panel to field questions on building and maintaining a music program, breakout sessions on creative keyboarding, the psalms, and selecting liturgical music. The day will conclude with a hymn-sing.
FOR MORE INFO: tinyurl.com/vcathmusic

05|20 SUNDAY
Rutland Dismas House Annual Dinner/Auction
Holiday Inn, Rutland 3 - 8:30 pm
The keynote speaker this year is William Cope Moyers, author of “Broken: My Story of Addiction and Redemption,” son of journalist and past White House Press Secretary Bill Moyers. William Moyers has been in recovery since 1994 and has devoted his life to working with others who struggle with addiction and their families. Tickets ($60) must be purchased by May 14. No tickets will be sold at the door.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-5539, dismasofvt.org/rutland

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THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

• Counselor/Psychotherapist Position with Vermont Catholic Charities, full/part time
• Intern: Development Systems Specialist
• Manager of Safe Environment Programs position, part time

FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/careers

ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

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