It has been a busy year in the office of Religious Education and Catechesis. I’m pleased to give a picture of religious education in the Diocese and also share three exciting updates: our first-ever Totus Tuus training in Vermont, the renewed adult catechesis in our Lay Formation program and our new partnership with Franciscan University’s Catechetical Institute.

Most of my effort goes into supporting our parish catechetical leaders in our parishes. Religious education looks different depending on where you go. For example, most parishes have a weekly, religious education model. However, some parishes are considering, or already practicing, a family formation model, and a number of parishes are looking to adopt Catechesis of the Good Shepherd into their programs. While there are many challenges to religious education and catechesis in Vermont, we are working to set new goals and build upon the good work our parishes are already doing.

It has been an exciting year for Totus Tuus. For the first time, we conducted Totus Tuus training here in Vermont, at the beautiful St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle LaMotte. This is an important and intense preparation period for our missionaries before they go to our parishes for the summer. We hosted two Vermont teams and a team from the Diocese of Portland. Our missionaries learned theology, how to teach children, lots of crazy camp songs and how to balance it all with a challenging daily prayer life. This training bore much fruit as evidenced by each of our teams’ successful six weeks of teaching and witnessing to first-through-12th-grade students in 12 parishes throughout the Diocese. We were excited this year to grow from 10 parishes to 12 by adding Christ the King in Burlington and Christ the King in Rutland.

We have also revamped our Lay Formation program. Adult members of our community applied and were accepted to learn how to better minister to people in the parish, how to grow in their spiritual lives and how to deepen their intellectual understanding of the Catholic faith. I oversaw the intellectual portion by bringing in experts to teach courses, including Old and New Testament. The courses are a combination of interactive online content plus in-person discussion during monthly meetings.

Another exciting update is our partnership with Franciscan University’s Catechetical Institute. This online platform will be how our parish catechetical leaders will renew their certifications. We are excited about these workshops because we hope they will continue to raise the standard of religious education in Vermont, starting with each parish catechetical leader. While this is an online program, it puts each learner in contact with a Vermont mentor. These mentors are currently being trained, and the whole certification program goes live next year.

Thank you for your support, both through prayer and generous donations to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal, which allows us to continue these and many other efforts.

— Michael Hagan, coordinator of catechesis and religious education for the Diocese of Burlington
08|29 WEDNESDAY
Deeper Waters — Youth Ministry Training
Nativity, Swanton
6 - 8 pm
This will be a general overview of many of the concepts in Youth Ministry, along with practical and fun ideas to engage today's youth. Open to any adults seeking to improve their skills in reaching today's youth with the Gospel. Evening will include very practical ideas, along with reflections upon St. John Bosco, patron saint of youth and more!
FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

09|01 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction,
8 - 9 am
Rosary and reconciliation at 8, followed by Mass.

09|02 SUNDAY
Mozart Festival Concert
Our Lady of the Snows, Woodstock
4 - 5:30 pm
Concert features selections of Mozart masterpieces, led by celebrated violinist Scott Woolweaver, closes with St. Thomas Aquinas' Ave Verum. Free and open to the public.

09|05 WEDNESDAY
Youth Ministry Training — Interactive Youth Ministry
St. Augustine, Montpelier
6:30 - 8:30 pm
Interactive Youth Ministry will be a workshop on practical and fun ideas to engage today's young people. Open to anyone seeking to develop practical skills for reaching youth. Come ready to have some fun! This workshop is part of ongoing youth ministry trainings happening all over Vermont this year.
FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

08|19 SUNDAY
St. John the Baptist Annual Chicken Barbecue
St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls
11 am - 1 pm
Price: $10. Dinner includes: 1/2 chicken, roll, salad, pickles, milk and dessert

08|19 SUNDAY
Feast of the Assumption Picnic
Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland
12 - 2 pm
Picnic to feature hot dogs, hamburgers, Italian sausage, salads, soda, dessert and more. There will be music, children's activities, best cookie contest, make your own sundaes and Italian cookies and other delicacies for sale! Cost is $6 per person — $15 per family — children under 5 are free. All proceeds will go to the Calvary Cemetery Fund.

08|22 WEDNESDAY
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am - 2 pm

08|23 THURSDAY
MSJ Summer Barbecue and Open House
Mt. St. Joseph Academy, Rutland
6 - 8 pm
The Athletic Association is hosting its annual back-to-school BBQ for all MSJ families to kick off the 2018-2019 school year. This event is a great way to meet our new students and incoming families and mingle with returning families and friends. The MSJ Parent Information night will also be held on the 23rd, prior to the BBQ at 5 pm in the MSJ Chapel.
FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-0151

08|29 WEDNESDAY
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am - 2 pm
Edmundite Father Richard Berube presenting, “Treasures from the Edmundite Archives and the Stories They Tell.” Mass, followed by presentation and lunch.

08|29 SATURDAY
Year of the Family Conference
Capital Plaza Conference Center, Montpelier
9:30 am - 4:00 pm
The Diocese of Burlington will host a Year of the Family Conference aspiring to equip parish leaders with tools and resources to more effectively support and reach out to families and individuals in their parishes and in their communities, as inspired by Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of Love” (“Amoris Laetitia”). Continental breakfast, coffee and lunch provided. To learn more and register: vermontcatholic.org/event/year-of-the-family-conference/

08|29 WEDNESDAY
Summer Reflection Series
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte
11:15 am - 2 pm
Edmundite Father Richard Berube presenting, “Treasures from the Edmundite Archives and the Stories They Tell.” Mass, followed by presentation and lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Catechist formation days throughout the state empower 75 teachers of over 2,000 students who are enrolled in Diocesan religious education programs. Support faith formation for all with a gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal at bishopsappealvt.org.