The Diocesan Synod, called for by Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne in 2017, will convene this fall.

During the past year, the preparatory commission has met monthly to facilitate three consultation phases with the faithful of Vermont.

The first phased asked: As the Catholic Church in Vermont, what are we doing well? What are we doing that we could be doing better? What are we not doing that we should be doing? Parishes hosted listening sessions during which individuals could respond to the questions. A report from each parish was submitted to the Diocese and individuals could also submit responses via an online survey or email.

Seven priority areas were identified based on the responses to this first phase of consultation: reach out to youth and young adults; reach out to Catholics and non-Catholics who might feel marginalized; build stronger and more welcoming communities; communicate the Church’s message more clearly and effectively; evangelize and catechize adults; strengthen prayer life; and emphasize vocations.

During the second phase of consultation, individuals were asked to rank the importance of the seven priorities that were identified in phase one. Multigenerational evangelization, effective communication of the Church’s message and more welcoming and vibrant parish life rose to the top of the priority list.

During the first two phases of consultation, each pastor chose a delegate(s) to represent his parish(es) during the synod proceedings. The body of delegates met twice during the summer to further discuss the consultation results and next steps forward. This included forming working groups devoted to each of the top three priorities.

For the third phase of consultation, delegates and clergy were asked to specifically list one thing each that they (as an individual) can do, that their parishes can do and that the Diocese can do to address each of the three priorities identified in phase two.

Delegates will meet a final time on September 8, before the synod convenes on Saturday, Oct. 13 at Immaculate Conception Church in Burlington. Additional synod meetings will take place on Oct. 27 and Nov. 10 at locations to be decided.

The task of the synod will be to discuss and decide how the Church in Vermont most effectively moves forward with the information and recommendations that have been gathered throughout the synod preparatory process. While delegates are the ones responsible for official participation in synod proceedings, everyone is welcome to attend as observers of this significant faith event for the Catholic Church in Vermont.

Following the synod, Bishop Coyne will issue a letter summarizing the findings of the synod and laying out a plan for implementing the recommendations of the synod throughout future years.

For more information about the 2018 Diocesan synod, visit vermontcatholic.org/synod.

— Stephanie Clary, manager of mission outreach and communication, Diocese of Burlington

Originally published Vermont Catholic Magazine, Fall 2018.
UPCOMING EVENTS

09|09 SUNDAY
St. Luke Annual Children’s Carnival
St. Luke Rectory, Fairfax • 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
Hosted by the Fairfax Knights of Columbus. Games, food, prizes & fun. Open to all ages! Rain date: Sunday, September 16. Cost: (covers games and prizes): $3.00 per child, $10 max per family.

09|16 SUNDAY
Chicken and Biscuit Dinner
All Saints Dorian Hall, Richford • 12 pm
$10 for adults, $8 for senior citizens, $5 for children 5-10 years, free for children under 5 years.

09|16 SUNDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directive Presentation
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Swanton
2 - 4 pm
Here in Vermont, many options are available for end-of-life care. Sadly, some of these are morally very troublesome! For this reason, the Diocese of Burlington has created the Vermont Catholic Advance Directives. Join Deacon Pete Gummere for a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directives.

09|10, 17, 24, 10|01, 08, 15 MONDAYS
The Mass: 6-part Series
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
7-8 pm
This is a six-part presentation of Bishop Robert Barron’s The Mass series. Walk through the Liturgy with Bishop Barron and you will be transformed through insights on this most privileged and intimate encounter with our Lord Jesus Christ.

09|12 WEDNESDAY
Youth Ministry 101 Training
St. Michael, Brattleboro • 6 - 8 pm
This foundation in Youth Ministry workshop will include an overview of the USCCB document “Renewing the Vision”, as well as basic concepts in Youth Ministry. Open to anyone seeking to improve their skills and understanding for reaching today’s youth with the Gospel. Part of the ongoing Diocesan ‘Deeper Waters’ workshops throughout Vermont. FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

09|18 WEDNESDAY
Youth Ministry 101 Training
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Williston
6:30 - 8:30 pm
This foundation in Youth Ministry workshop will include an overview of the USCCB document “Renewing the Vision”, as well as basic concepts in Youth Ministry. Open to anyone seeking to improve their skills and understanding for reaching today’s youth with the Gospel. Part of the ongoing Diocesan ‘Deeper Waters’ workshops throughout Vermont. FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

09|22, 23 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Young Adult Retreat
Dumaine Retreat Center in Jacksonville
9:30 am - 7 pm
For young adults ages 18-39. Cost is $65 and includes meals and lodging. Spiritual Director is Father Jon Schnobrich, Diocesan Vocation Director. Register Now! FOR MORE INFO: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/young-adult-retreat/

09|14 FRIDAY
The Michael Baker Green Wave Open Golf Tournament
Rutland Country Club
This is a benefit for MSJ Academy.
FOR MORE INFO: Development office (802) 775-0151 x2020 or development@msjvermont.org

09|14, 15 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
Indoor Tag Sale
Our Lady of Grace, Colchester
Friday 8 am to 4 pm, and Saturday 8 am to 1 pm. Games, books, jewelry, small electronics, sports equipment, bake sale and much more.

09|15 SATURDAY
Polish Food by St. Stanislaus Parish
Town Hall, West Rutland • 5 - 9 pm
Parishioners of St. Stanislaus Church in West Rutland will sell pierogis at the town block party: $5 for a half dozen, $10 for a dozen.

09|16 SUNDAY
Meditation
The Michael Baker Green Wave Open Golf Tournament
Rutland Country Club
11:30 am - 12 pm
A time for reflection and spiritual growth. Registration required. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-0151 x2020 or development@msjvermont.org

09|16 SUNDAY
Spiritual Formation
Holy Family Church, Essex Lane
11:30 am - 1:30 pm
A time for spiritual growth and reflection. Registration required. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-0151 x2020 or development@msjvermont.org

09|20 FRIDAY
Youth Ministry Training
Immaculate Conception Church, Wolcott
6 - 8 pm
A time for youth ministry leaders to come together and learn from one another. Registration required. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-0151 x2020 or development@msjvermont.org

09|21 SATURDAY
A Day for Vocations
Holy Family Church, Essex Lane
9:30 am
A day for young men to explore the vocation to the priesthood. Registration required. FOR MORE INFO: (802) 775-0151 x2020 or development@msjvermont.org

09|22 SUNDAY
Youth Ministry 101 Training
Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Williston
6:30 - 8:30 pm
For anyone seeking to learn more about Youth Ministry. Part of the ongoing Diocesan ‘Deeper Waters’ workshops throughout Vermont. FOR MORE INFO: or RSVP, wgavin@vermontcatholic.org

Roman Catholic
Diocese of Burlington
To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/events

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON
CAREERS
Diocese: Groundskeeper
Diocese: Marriage & Family Life Coordinator
Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
Diocese: Youth and Young Adult Ministry
Administrative Assistant
Vermont Catholic Charities: Accountant
St. Luke / Ascension Parish, Fairfax: Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis
St. Peter / St. Ambrose, Vergennes/Bristol: Youth Ministry
Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales, Bennington: Part-time Coordinator of Catholic Youth Ministry and Evangelization
For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL
The Bishop’s Annual Appeal helps subsidize the quarterly mailing of Vermont Catholic Magazine. It also supports Vermont Catholic news and eNews, The Inland See bulletin, and diocesan social media accounts. Follow @DioBurlington on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and donate in support of these communications at bishopsappealvt.org.

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