The Diocesan Synod is drawing to a close, and I hope to be able to publish the Synod report at this year’s Chrism Mass during Holy Week. I thank all involved for their hard work and efforts in bringing the synod to a good conclusion.

During the Synod process we identified several priorities that will strengthen our parishes and guide the diocesan master pastoral plan for the future. Before we make any final decisions regarding the long-range plan for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington, I would like to hear from you once again.

During the next few months, you will all be asked to share your thoughts regarding our needs and the possibility of conducting a major fundraising effort in our Diocese. While your feedback will enable us to determine potential support for the master-plan projects, the main thrust of this fundraising effort will be to strengthen parishes and schools. If we, as a faith community, choose to move forward, the planning study will provide us with information to identify prospective campaign leaders and to establish a realistic campaign goal.

Parishioners will have access to a fact sheet that details all the proposed needs and will be invited to respond in a variety of ways. Some parishioners will be personally interviewed while others will have the option to mail in a survey or to go online to answer questions.

The Steier Group, our development firm, will compile results from the study and present it to our capital campaign advisory committee comprised of pastors and diocesan and community leadership. At that time, we will make an informed decision regarding the implementation of our master plan.

This process is extremely important. Each and every member of the diocesan family is encouraged to participate. Your input is valuable as we plan for the future of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
UPCOMING EVENTS

02|10 SUNDAY
Messe en Français
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington
7 pm
Monthly Mass in French with music by the African communities. Open to the public. Excellent opportunity for French students to develop their oral skills. Fr. Lance W. Harlow, Rector of the Cathedral, is the celebrant.

02|16 SATURDAY
February Dance
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct
7 - 10 pm
Music by Digital DJ. $15 per person or $25 for two, includes food and beverages. Call the parish office for reservations: (802) 878-5331.

02|15, 16, 17
3-day retreat for 36-50-year-olds
Our Lady of Life, Quebec
One hour and 40 minutes from the Burlington area. Teaching given by Father Arnaud, a priest of Our Lady of Life, as well as members of Our Lady of Life. (Passport or enhanced travel document needed.)
FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyoflifeinstitute.org.

02|16 SATURDAY
Youth Ministry Training — YM 101
Christ the King, Rutland • 9 - 11 am
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. Presented by Father Dwight Baker, chaplain at the University of Vermont. Open to anyone seeking to improve their skills and understanding of Youth Ministry and reaching today’s youth with the Gospel. Please RSVP to wgavin@vermontcatholic.org.

02|10 SUNDAY
Messe en Français
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington
7 pm
Monthly Mass in French with music by the African communities. Open to the public. Excellent opportunity for French students to develop their oral skills. Fr. Lance W. Harlow, Rector of the Cathedral, is the celebrant.

02|16 SATURDAY
February Dance
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct
7 - 10 pm
Music by Digital DJ. $15 per person or $25 for two, includes food and beverages. Call the parish office for reservations: (802) 878-5331.

02|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

02|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

03|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

03|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

03|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

03|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

03|02 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 10:30 am - 5 pm
Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided — there is no cost for this retreat. Prior Registration is required: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-stowe/

Regional Lay Formation Program and Diaconate Information Nights

The Diocese of Burlington reinstituted two formation programs in 2017. Now, the Lay Formation Leadership and Diaconate Formation Programs are in the process of recruiting their next classes of applicants.

To further the goals of recruiting and developing lay people able to function in a variety of ministry roles proper to the laity, Deacon Phil Lawson, executive director of evangelization and catechesis, will lead a number of discussions throughout the Diocese in which he will present the details of the Lay Formation Leadership Program and discuss the roles for which the program prepares people.

Joining him will be Deacon Pete Gummere, director of the permanent diaconate. He will discuss the role of the diaconate in the Church and go over the selection and formation processes.

The discussions will take place in seven locations in the Diocese, as listed at right.

For more information, contact Deacon Phil Lawson plawson@vermontcatholic.org, 802-448-3513, or Deacon Pete Gummere pgummere@vermontcatholic.org.

Information Nights Schedule

Each session will run from 6:30 – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, February 13  Blessed Sacrament, Stowe
Wednesday, February 20  St. Mary, Springfield
Thursday, February 21  Christ the King, Rutland
Tuesday, February 26  St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
Wednesday, February 27  St. Theresa, Orleans
Tuesday, March 5  Holy Angels, St. Albans
Monday, March 18  Sacred Heart, Bennington