The Diocese of Burlington is currently conducting two studies resulting from the Diocesan Synod, one regarding the development of pastoral plans to create vibrant parishes and another to gauge the feasibility of a campaign to support those plans at the parish and diocesan levels.

The Disciple Maker Index Survey is being conducted by the Catholic Leadership Institute; The Feasibility Survey is being conducted by Steier Group. Both the Catholic Leadership Institute and Steier Group are consultants to the Diocese.

“These surveys are equally important,” emphasized Ellen Kane, executive director of development, stewardship and communication for the Diocese of Burlington.

The Disciple Maker Index Survey will help parishes develop a pastoral plan based on their unique strengths and weaknesses.

“The Feasibility Survey will provide information about the type of support available to implement the pastoral plan at the parish level and at the diocesan level,” Kane explained. “These surveys are being done simultaneously because the results of both will help us decide if and how to move forward.”

The Feasibility Survey deadline is March 10 and it can be completed online by going to steiergroup.com/survey, clicking on Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington and entering the password Burlington.

The Disciple Maker Survey deadline is March 31 and it can be accessed at disciplemakerindex.com.

Read an extended version of this article at vermontcatholic.org/2surveys.

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

On the First Sunday of Lent, a special liturgy takes place at the cathedral church in every Diocese. The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion is one part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, a gradual process of conversion and initiation into the Catholic Church for those adults seeking baptism or for those already baptized who seek full communion in the Catholic Church.

Those preparing for baptism are called catechumens while those already baptized in another Christian denomination seeking full communion with the Catholic Church are called candidates.

An important part of the RCIA are the liturgical rites that are celebrated publicly with the parish community. Through the celebration of these rites, the entire parish becomes part of the RCIA process, supporting catechumens and candidates with prayers and words of support, while the catechumens and candidates are slowly integrated into the community throughout the process – even before the celebration of baptism and confirmation. Being initiated into the universal Catholic Church, however, means more than just joining a single parish. The RCIA process reflects this, most especially through the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, where the bishop has an opportunity to meet the catechumens and candidates and support them in their journey to the Catholic faith.

In the celebration, the godparents of the catechumens testify to the efforts the catechumens have taken to prepare.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

03|11, 18, 25 MONDAYS
Acts of the Apostles
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 pm

03|02, 09 TUESDAYS
Bishop Robert Barron’s ‘The Mass’
St. Pius X, Essex Center
7 – 8 pm
We will view one episode each week in this six-part series. There is no cost to attend this event and all are welcome. Refreshments and materials provided by the Knights of Columbus. Series started on March 5. RSVP: call St. Pius X office (802) 878-5997 or email John Ludden vtluddens@gmail.com

03|14 THURSDAY
Bishop Robert Barron’s Catholicism Series
Holy Family, Essex Jct.
9:30 – 10:30 am
Join us for Episode 2 – Happy Are We: The Teachings of Jesus. We will play one episode each week, ending on May 16. Series began on March 7.

03|18 MONDAY
Regional Lay Formation and Diaconate Info Night
Sacred Heart, Bennington
6:30 – 8 pm
FOR MORE INFO: call the church office (802) 899-4632.

03|16 SATURDAY
Marriage Preparation Retreat
Christ the King, Rutland
9:30 am – 3 pm
A one-day Retreat for Engaged Couples. Come take a break from wedding preparation and spend time in prayer, sharing fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. Lunch and materials will be provided – prior Registration is required. There is no cost for this retreat.
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/marriage-preparation-retreat-day-rutland/

03|10 SATURDAY
2nd Annual Vermont Catholic Men’s Conference
St. Anthony, White River Junction • 9 am – 3 pm
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/men/

03|18 SATURDAY
St. Thomas K of C Irish Dinner
St. Thomas, Underhill • 5 – 6:30 pm
Knights of Columbus Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with all the trimmings. Adults: $14, children ages 5-10: $8, maximum of $40 for a family. Children under age 5 eat for free. Take out meals are available. Come and bring the whole family for this traditional Irish Dinner. The parish hall is currently not handicap accessible, but will be soon.
FORMORE INFO: call the church office (802) 899-4632.

03|03 FRIDAYS
St. Ambrose Lenten Fish Frys
St. Ambrose, Bristol • 5 – 7 pm
Meal includes fried or baked haddock, french fries, coleslaw, beverage & dessert. Adults: $12.50, children 9 and under: $6, immediate family of 5: $37.
FOR MORE INFO: call St. Ambrose (802) 453-2488

03|19 TUESDAY
Adoration and Rosary Devotion
on the Feast of St. Joseph
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 7 – 8 pm
In honor to St. Joseph, Blue Army Vermont will lead the rosary and the Litany to St. Joseph, with the special prayer intention for the chronic homeless, homeless youth, immigrants, refugees, and for an end of human trafficking.
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/men/

03|15 FRIDAY
Michael Mette Concert Event
St. Michael School, Brattleboro
7 – 8:30 pm
Join us for MJM7 — the Michael Mette Family Band in concert. Open to the whole family! A good will offering will be taken at the end of the event.

03|23 SATURDAY
High School Retreat
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle la Motte
All High School teens are welcome to join us for a retreat weekend of great talks, fun, fellowship, time for quiet reflection and journaling, confession and more. Father Jon Schnobrich will be an integral part of the weekend, along with other great speakers. $45 per person.
FOR MORE INFO: https://www.vermontcatholic.org/event/high-school-retreat-saint-annes-shrine/