I sit down for the third time today in a meeting room to tell yet another family their loved one is dying and will probably not make it back home.

The patient I have been taking care of for years is getting to walk his daughter down the aisle; praise God the treatment worked!

A patient’s husband embraces me and thanks me as we say the final goodbye and watch her being laid to eternal rest.

I see the sunlight shine on a patient as he walks out of the hospital; having defied all odds, he is reunited with his family once again.

As physicians, we rejoice, mourn, pray and sit in silence with our patients on a daily basis. We are therapists, sisters/brothers, mothers/fathers, sons/daughters, neighbors, mediators, healers, pastors and friends all rolled into one. We enter this professional journey for the love of working and helping other people, curiosity in pursuit of knowledge, research and love of teaching. Most of the time this profession gives us much more than we can ever repay it.

For Catholic physicians, however, medicine is more than a profession. It is a vocation — a divine call to manifest God’s sacrificial love for others and the Church by fulfilling one’s own commitment and obligations in medicine. It is our duty to bring faith and medicine together in order to uphold the dignity and truth of the wholeness of the person we seek to heal.

Physicians — the persons writing your scripts, ordering your tests, always seemingly running behind — are the same people who have been late to family dinners, missed out on holidays, fallen asleep agonizing over their daily decisions, trying to uphold their faith in a profession with ever-growing demands on them.

How can we help physicians recapture the true nature and joy of their vocation in Christ in a world trying to dismantle the union of the body and soul?

One answer is fellowship.

As the Catholic dictionary describes, fellowship is the body of the faithful bound together by a common faith in Christ, common worship, and common allegiance to the Church’s divinely established authority. In fellowship, physicians and other healthcare professionals can find a place to be grounded, a place to recharge, learn, vent, pray, mourn, be heard and themselves be healed. The Catholic Medical Association provides such opportunities for anyone working in the medical profession, and forming a local guild brings these opportunities to the local level. As the CMA describes, guilds not only provide fellowship but also education, the ability to serve the local Church and public and a base for medical students and residents to find guidance, mutual support and witness.

There has been growing interest in forming a guild of the CMA in Vermont in support of those working in the medical profession. In pursuit of this endeavor, a group of physicians and clergy have come together to embark on this journey. To better understand the needs and interest here, we invite anyone working in any aspect of healthcare to come to a night of evening prayer with a reception to follow at the rectory with Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne. Family members also are welcome to join us in prayer, fellowship and discussion.

— Dr. Marta Kokoszynska, is an instructor, pulmonary and critical care medicine, at the University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine.

Calling all Healthcare Professionals

Evening prayer and reception for healthcare professionals

Saturday, June 1 • 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Evening prayer
St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington

Reception
Cathedral rectory

Register: vermontcatholic.org/CMAeveningprayer
05|27 MONDAY
Memorial Day Mass
Holy Family Cemetery, Essex Junction
8:30 - 9:30 am
Bring a lawn chair. If the weather is inclement, Mass will be celebrated in the church.

05|27 MONDAY
Memorial Day Mass
Saint Sylvester Cemetery, Websterville
9 am - 10 am
Bring a lawn chair to the Mass at the Cemetery. In case of inclement weather, the Mass will be at 9 am at Saint Sylvester Church, Graniteville.

06|01 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 9:30 am
First Saturday of every month. Rosary and reconciliation begin at 8 am and Mass at 8:30.

06|01 SATURDAY
Blood Drive
St. Isadore, Montgomery • 9 am - 2 pm
Hosted by St. Isadore Parish and sponsored by Montgomery Emergency Services. Local raffles with prizes. New donors are needed. Please consider giving the gift of life. Walk-ins are welcome!

06|01 SATURDAY
Evening Prayer and Reception for Healthcare Professionals
The Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington
5:30 - 7:00

06|05 WEDNESDAY
VCC’s 2nd Annual Vermonters Helping Vermonters Event
St. Michael’s College • 6:30 pm
Tickets $50 per person: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/2nd-annual-vermonters-helping-vermonters/

06|07, 08, 09 FRI, SAT, SUN
Spring Into Summer Yard and Rummage Sale
St. Thomas, Underhill Center • 9 am - 5 pm
The yard sale will feature house wares, dishes, toys, miscellaneous items. The rummage sale will feature spring and summer clothing for children and adults. there will be a food bargains – meatball subs, cinnamon buns and pasta sauce. FOR MORE INFO: call the rectory at (802) 899-4632.

06|08 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction
8 - 10 am
Second Saturday of each month. Rosary starts at 8 am followed by Mass. Special Intentions for the intercession of Saint Padre Pio and then learning about Padre Pio’s life, ministry and spiritual gifts will follow in the Holy Family Parish Hall after Mass.

06|08 SATURDAY
K of C Bingo
All Saints, Richford • 11:30 am - 5 pm
Doors open at 11:30 am, games start at 1 pm. Refreshments and pull tickets will be available.

06|08 SATURDAY
Blessed Parish Vocation Workshop
Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph
9 am - 2:30 pm
Cultivating a culture of vocations in our parishes and in our Diocese. The day will include witness talks, sharing ideas with each other, prayer, Mass and fellowship. FOR MORE INFO: susan@vermontcatholic.org.

06|09 SUNDAY
50th Anniversary of the Closing of Central Catholic
St Mary, St. Albans • 9:15 am - 12 pm
Please join us after the 9:15 Mass to remember our catholic school that closed in 1969. Cake, coffee and reminiscing afterwards in the Parish Center. All alumni are welcomed!

UPCOMING EVENTS