The Inland Sec

'VENI Sancte Spiritus'

he first time I sensed the presence of the Holy Spirit, I was four years old.

It was late. I'd had a difficult time falling asleep. My room had been invaded by shadows, each growing more and more sinister by the headlights of passing cars.

I'd called for my parents several times. The last time they came in to comfort me, they made it clear it would be the last time or there would be consequences. Once the door was closed, it wasn't just shadows that frightened me. There was something there. Something awful.

I remembered hearing at church, that the Holy Spirit was called "The Great Comforter." Knowing I couldn't call my parents again, I began to pray. I told the Holy Spirit I was frightened. There was something scary in my room, to please take it away and comfort me.

I was surprised to suddenly feel cold as it was summer, goosebumps spread from my wrists to my shoulders. Then it was as if a balloon expanded with air, displacing the frightening atmosphere I had felt in my room, until my entire room was overtaken with peace.

I knew my prayer had been answered. I fell asleep feeling calm and comforted.

This is how I met and understood the third person of the Trinity, years ago, as a small, scared, vulnerable child. I learned to call upon him ever since. I call when I am frightened or need clarity and wisdom.

On Pentecost, we celebrate the arrival of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. Before Christ ascended into heaven, he told them his Spirit would arrive to comfort them. It is through the Holy Spirit that we experience God here, with us.

The liturgy of Pentecost includes one of the more striking medieval texts in the Roman Missal, "Veni Sancte Spiritus,"



The Pentecost, by El Greco, 1597, Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain. — Wikimedia image

or "Come Holy Spirit." The text is poetry. Its truth moves through my body as I read it, reacquainting me to the Holy Spirit. "Veni Sancte Spiritus" gives me new language to use as I call upon him. Through its words I learn more about who the Holy Spirit is and I learn to trust him.

"Come, Holy Spirit, come!/ And from your celestial home/ Shed a ray of light divine!"

In his First Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul tell us that the gifts of the Holy Spirit include understanding and wisdom. We call upon the Holy Spirit to come from heaven, to bring light, "shed a ray of light divine," to enable us to see and understand the spiritual more clearly.

"You, of comforters the best;/ You, the soul's most welcome guest;/ Sweet refreshment here below."

"The soul's most welcome guest." Isn't he?

St. Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans that our very crying out, our longing for God, is the Spirit affirming that we are his children. We belong to him. When we sense his presence, we catch a glimpse of God's glory, even if

just for a moment. What a refreshment that is to find comfort when we had none.

"O most blessed Light divine,/ Shine within these hearts of yours,/ And our inmost being fill!"

In the Acts of the Apostles, St. Paul says that in the Holy Spirit, "we live and move and have our being." He fills us up and without the Holy Spirit we are hollow.

At Pentecost, we remember that first arrival of the Holy Spirit. The "Veni Sancte Spiritus" renews my understanding of the Holy Spirit, reminding me to call on him and he will be near.

- Shemaiah Gonzalez Catholic News Service

UPCOMING EVENTS



06|13 - 09|26 THURSDAYS

The Wild Goose: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Join Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR in this incredible 14 part video series which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. This adventure consists of Fr. Dave speaking on an attribute of the Holy Spirit, a practical application on how to respond to the Holy Spirit and testimonies of people from across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God.



06 14 FRIDAY

Holy Hour of Adoration for Vocations & BBQ

Catholic Center UVM, Burlington • 6 pm
The Diocesan Priest Schola will be singing Vespers during
the Holy Hour and the Knights of Columbus DeGoesbriand
Council #279 and the Vocation Office will be sponsoring a
BBQ immediately following. All are invited — please RSVP for
the BBQ to Susan Wing at susan@vermontcatholic.org.



06 15 SATURDAY

Ordination Mass

St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 10 am
Deacon Robert Little and Deacon Kevin

Chalifoux, seminarians for the Diocese of Burlington, will be ordained to the priesthood. The faithful of the Diocese of Burlington are invited and encouraged to attend to offer Vermont's newest priests their prayerful support.



06 15 SATURDAY

Italian Night Dinner

St. Amadeus, Alburgh • 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Pasta, a variety of sauces, chicken cacciatore,

garlic bread and dessert. Adults \$10, Children 7-12 \$5, 6 and under are free.



06 15 SATURDAY

Benefit Concert

St. Augustine, Montpelier • 6:30 - 9 pm
Proceeds will benefit Annunciation House in

El Paso, Texas, which provides shelter, food medical and other services for undocumented refugees crossing the border.



06|15 SATURDAY

Moonlight in Vermont Dance

St. Raphael, Poultney • 7 - 10 pm \$50/couple includes dancing with the band

called Enerjazz. There will be food, drinks, prizes and real music — such as Glen Miller, Harry James, Guy Lombardo.



06 16 SUNDAY

Father's Day Brunch

St. Mary, Franklin • 9 am - 12:30 pm Adults \$9, children 7-16 \$5, 6 and under are

free. All You Can Eat!



06|22 SATURDAY

Family Retreat Day

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Troy • 9 am - 8 pm "Love, Live in Me" — with guest presenter

Mark Mallett. Pre-Register by June 15, 2019: www.SHSVSI. com/retreat or Retha Piette at (802)323-2422, rethap53@ amail.com



06|29, 30 SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Public Veneration of the Relic of the Chains of St. Peter

St. Peter, Rutland • 4:30 pm & 11 am

To celebrate our patronal Feast of St. Peter and the 146th anniversary of the dedication of St. Peter Church, a relic of the Chains of St. Peter will be available for public veneration during each of the weekend Masses. This link of chain is a second class relic, which means it came into direct contact with St. Peter, our first pope.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Accountant

Diocese: Development Specialist

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator

Diocese: Seasonal Groundskeeper

Diocese: Superintendent of Schools

The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland: Billing and Administrative Support Assistant

St. Joseph Kervick Home, Rutland: Director of Nursing

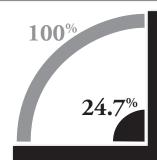
St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN

*Vermont Catholic Charities, Burlington:*Accountant

For More Info:

vermontcatholic.org/careers





GOAL: \$2,700,987

TOTAL COMMITTED: \$666,572

as of May 28, 2019

A vibrant parish is a welcoming parish. Did you know that the Bishop's Annual Appeal supports 69 parishes and 118 churches in Vermont?

Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at **bishopsappealvt.org**.

Bishop's
Annual
Appeal



VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG/VTC

Ask your pastor where to find free copies of the latest issue of *Vermont Catholic* Magazine in your parish.



To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: **vermontcatholic.org/events**