Catholic Leadership Institute Update

Action Plan Writing Teams prepare strategies to increase parish vibrancy

The Diocese of Burlington’s partnership with the Philadelphia-based Catholic Leadership Institute continues as parishes analyze where they are, where they are going and how to get there. The project is a result of the 2018 Diocesan Synod in Vermont and will help parishes implement the synod’s three priorities: evangelization, vibrant parishes and communication.

The first task of Catholic Leadership Institute’s work in Vermont included the distribution of The Disciple Maker Index Survey. Parishioners throughout the state were asked to complete this questionnaire on paper or online between Feb. 23 and March 31. Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne said the goal of the survey was to provide a “snapshot” of each parish as it exists today.

While Catholic Leadership Institute is analyzing the Disciple Maker Index Survey results, each parish has formed an Action Plan Writing Team made up of the pastor or administrator and four or five parishioners that were appointed by the pastor.

Members of Action Plan Writing Teams are using their love of Christ, love for their parishes and openness to guidance from the Holy Spirit to prayerfully discern and create local pastoral plans that align with the Diocese of Burlington 2018 Synod priorities and goals. They support “the pastor in coming up with priorities for the parish with one to two goals each that are personalized to the parish community but also align with the synod,” explained Eileen O’Dea-Latini, senior client services coordinator for Catholic Leadership Institute.

In March, Action Plan Writing Teams attended one of three Parish Leadership Team Training days: March 15 at St. Monica Parish in Barre; March 16 at Holy Cross Parish in Colchester; or March 30 at Christ the King Parish in Rutland.

At these training days, members of the Action Plan Writing Teams pondered and discussed their responses to questions such as: What does evangelization mean to me? Where am I proclaiming, inviting and encountering Jesus in my family, workplace and neighborhood? How does my parish form me and my fellow parishioners to proclaim, invite and encounter Jesus? How would you describe a vibrant parish? What effective methods of communication exist within your parish? What does your parish do well? What could be done differently?

They also reviewed the 17 recommendations made in “Christ our Hope,” the Declaration of the 2018 Synod of the Diocese of Burlington.

The desired outcomes of the Parish Leadership Team Training were:
+ to deepen a shared understanding of the synod priorities and goals so each parish and its ministries can plan and be fruitfully aligned with them;
+ to understand the purpose of the Action Plan Writing Team;
+ to learn four steps for fruitful planning and implementation; and
+ to begin using the planning process.

After the March Parish Leadership Team Trainings, teams are spending several months planning. In June, they will meet for a two-day session at which they will receive the results of the Disciple Maker Index Survey to aid in the creation of their local parish action plans.

While the desired outcome of this session will be a draft action plan, “the teams may need to further explore a few things given the priorities they determine from the Disciple Maker Index,” O’Dea-Latini said. Some teams will meet several times after the June gathering to complete their action plans.

Implementation of the plans is expected to take place over a three-year period.

“It is my sincere hope and prayer that our efforts will strengthen our parish communities, foster an evangelizing culture in the Diocese of Burlington and further the joyful proclamation of the Good News of salvation,” Bishop Coyne said.

VTC · Stephanie Clary

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06|29 SATURDAY
Celebrate Marriage Enrichment
Christ the King, Rutland • 10 am - 4:30 pm
Come celebrate your marriage at a day-long enrichment that will renew your dreams, increase your passion and refresh and celebrate your marriage. The cost is $30 per couple, which includes workbooks and lunch. REGISTER: Terri McCormack, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, (802)658-6110, ext. 1451

06|29, 30 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Public Veneration of the Relic of the Chains of St. Peter
St. Peter, Rutland • 4:15 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.

07|06 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 9:30 am
First Saturday of every month. Rosary and reconciliation at 8 and Mass at 8:30.

07|07 SUNDAY
Annual Diocesan Family Mass & BBQ
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte • 12 - 4:30 pm
Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Coyne. Bring your own picnic lunch or enjoy a barbecue lunch at the shrine. There is no cost for the BBQ this year. Event will take place rain or shine. For BBQ please RSVP by July 1 to: Terri McCormack, marriage and family life coordinator, tmccormack@vermontcatholic.org or (802) 658-6110 x1451.

07|11 THURSDAY
Chicken Pie Supper
St. Michael, Greensboro Bend • 5 - 6:30 pm
Chicken pie, casseroles, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls, pie and beverage Servings 5 and 6:30 p.m. No reservations. Take out available. Proceeds to benefit the St. Michael’s Altar Society.

07|12, 13, 14 FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY
Steubenville East
UMass, Lowell, MA
Join over 2500 other teens from around New England for a weekend of inspiration, faith, fun and fellowship. You will never be the same after this weekend! Travel by charter bus from Burlington and other locations around Vermont. The Diocese of Burlington took over 100 youth and adults in 2018! All are welcome! Contact your parish about signing up and about the possibility of financial aid. Joined by our amazing priests and seminarians! Estimated cost: $235 (does not include meals on way up and back.)

07|13 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am
The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the second Saturday of each month. Rosary starts at 8:00am 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.

07|14 SUNDAY
St. Mary’s Brunch
St. Mary, Franklin • 9 am - 12:30 pm
Adults $9, children 7-16 $5, 6 and under are free. All You Can Eat!

UPCOMING EVENTS

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS
Diocese: Accountant
Diocese: Development Specialist
Diocese: Manager of Safe Environment Programs
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

Gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal help to build a culture of vocations in Vermont by supporting vocations awareness and discernment opportunities. Learn more at vermontcatholic.org/ministries-programs/vocations.
Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at bishopsappealvt.org.

Vermont Catholic
VERMONTCATHOLIC.ORG/VTC
Ask your pastor where to find free copies of the latest issue of Vermont Catholic Magazine in your parish.

ROMAN CATHOLIC
diocese of BURLINGTON
To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/events