Catholics in the Diocese of Burlington universally have a strong set of beliefs in scripture and Church teaching, which provides a foundation for extending their faith journey,” said Terry Poplava, vice president of ministry development and client services at Catholic Leadership Institute.

According to the results of the Disciple Maker Index Survey which parishioners in the Diocese of Burlington completed last spring, these two categories ranked the highest. Survey questions focused on the three Diocesan Synod priorities — vibrancy, evangelization and communication — and asked participants to rank their parish in categories such as preaching, spiritual growth, discipleship formation, welcoming community and Mass celebration.

While Catholics in Vermont universally have a strong set of beliefs, “this does not translate into a strong missionary impulse,” Poplava said. “Catholics do not feel their parishes are equipping them with the knowledge about the faith to share their faith journey with others or invite others to vocations.”

There is an opportunity for growth in the areas of faith formation and evangelization for all ages.

Catholic Leadership Institute also noted that respondents who strongly recommended their pastors were nine times more likely to strongly recommend their parishes, and, overall, most respondents agreed that preaching was good at their parishes.

The Diocese partnered with the Catholic Leadership Institute to help parish leaders develop pastoral plans that address the synod priority of building vibrant parishes, which includes evangelization and communication. The Disciple Maker Index Survey was the first step in accessing the strengths and opportunities of each parish. Parish teams met during the summer to take a deep dive into the survey results and create goals in one or more of the three synod priority areas based on their parish strengths and opportunities. Each parish will share their final plan with parishioners once it is complete.

“The next step will be moving from documenting a plan to the implementation and measurement of progress,” said Bishop Christopher Coyne. “There are several ways we plan to support parishes in this process including utilizing prescheduled clergy meetings throughout the year, such as Presbyteral Days in early September, to check in on the progress and identify areas where we can provide more support.”

The Diocese has already begun to implement synod recommendations to help improve communication in the parishes. More than 30 parishes have converted to new websites through eCatholic, using a template designed to provide easy access to the information parishioners want most and to share diocesan news and updates. The rest of the parishes are scheduled to transition to the new platform over the next year and a half.

In addition, all the clergy are using uniform email addresses, @vermontcatholic.org, to make it easier to communicate.
and followed by more networking and discussion.
Patrick Leduc, COO & VP of Career and Education Outreach / HR at VSCC will be the October guest speaker. To register or for more information: vermontcatholic.org/vcp

10|23 WEDNESDAY
Mater Christi School
Open House
Mater Christi School, Burlington • 8:30 - 11 am
Mater Christi School is a private Catholic school that combines rigorous, 21st-century academics with a global philosophy in the Mercy tradition. It is a close-knit community and value-centered school where families of all faiths and beliefs are welcome. Register to attend our Open House and learn more about our school, or call 802-658-3992 to schedule a personal tour or shadow day for your child(ren).

10|26 SATURDAY
Harvest Dance
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
7 - 10 pm
A night of dance, laughter and fun with music by Digital DJ. $15 per person, includes food and beverages. RSVP Judy Kanya at kanyaj@comcast.net or Eric Audette at robochef69@yahoo.com by October 18.

### Diocese of Burlington

**CAREERS**

- **Diocese:** Senior Accountant
- **Diocese:** Technical Support Specialist
- **Holy Family St. Lawrence Parish, Essex Junction:** Administrative Assistant
- **Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Williston:** Administrative Assistant
- **The Loretto Home, Rutland:** Residential Care Positions
- **Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven:** Organist or Keyboardist / Choir Director
- **Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Randolph:** Administrative Assistant
- **St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington:** LPN

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

### UPDATES

**GOAL:** $2,700,987

**TOTAL COMMITTED:** $2,128,494

**As of September 30, 2019**

The Diocese partnered with Catholic Leadership Institute to help parish leaders develop pastoral plans that address the synod priority of building vibrant parishes.

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