From November 3-9, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates National Vocation Awareness Week. The word ‘vocation’ comes from the Latin word vocare, which means ‘to call’. Simply put, ‘vocation’ is a calling from God. The Church teaches that every person is called to become a saint, and in this we have a shared calling from God. A specific path, however, has been marked out for each one of us by God, so that by following it, we may do God’s will, grow in holiness, and help lead others into the mystery of the Divine Life. Very often we equate the term ‘vocation’ strictly with ‘priest’ or ‘nun.’ Vocation, however, encompasses the single life, married life, religious and consecrated life and the priesthood. Although these states in life are varied, holding different expectations and specific responsibilities, every vocation is necessary and plays an important role in the Church meant for the building up of God’s Kingdom.

Discernment plays a significant role in determining the vocation to which a person is called and becomes clearer when engaged from several perspectives. Daily prayer, including regular Mass attendance aside from the Sunday obligation, time spent in Eucharistic Adoration, reading and reflecting on the Sacred Scriptures and other spiritual texts, the Rosary, regular spiritual direction, and good faith-based conversations with family and friends are among the most important tools for healthy discernment for the person considering a particular vocation, and provide much needed guidance for all of us called to helpful encouragement among those discerning.

Throughout the Diocese of Burlington, parish vocation teams have taken root in the goal of helping establish and promote a ‘culture of vocations.’ The Vocation Chalice Program offers an opportunity for every family to receive in their home for one week a designated chalice from the parish and pray for an increase in vocations throughout the diocese. Parishes offer Holy Hours to help people discern and know their vocation through specifically designed readings, meditations and prayerful reflections. A weekly general intercession included in the Prayers of the Faithful is an opportunity to recall the Lord’s words to his disciples to “ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest” (Matthew 9:38). May these prayers provide all of us with the strength and zeal to invite more young men to consider a vocation to the priesthood and young women to ponder the possibility of religious or consecrated life. Encourage priests to speak about the themes of ‘vocation,’ ‘discernment’ and ‘prayer,’ especially as it relates to their own calling from God. May each of us do our part in helping establish, build and promote a ‘culture of vocations’ in Vermont so that many more people may hear God’s call, respond generously, and find true joy and fulfillment in following God’s will for their lives.

For clarification about any of these initiatives, or if you know a young man or woman who may be considering a priestly or religious vocation, please contact Father James Dodson, Director of Vocations, at (802) 658-6110 ex.1175.

— Fr. James Dodson, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Burlington

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/events
music is a personal expression of thanksgiving and praise as he celebrates 25 years of service to the parish.

11|22, 23, 24 FRIDAY – SUNDAY
Walking with Mary on my Life Path
Our Lady of Life Spiritual Center, Saint Paul d’Abbotsford, QC
Retreat for all ages in the Carmelite tradition, teaching by Fr. Laurent Marie, o.c.d., given in French with simultaneous English translation. FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/walking-with-mary-on-my-life-path/

11|24 SUNDAY
Thanksgiving Dinner
All Saints Dorion Hall, Richford • 12 - 1:30 pm
Cost: By donation.

11|26 TUESDAY
Rice Memorial High School STUNT NITE
Flynn Center, Burlington
2 Shows: 4pm and 8pm. All seats, both shows — $20.

11|11,18 MONDAYS
Distinctly Matthew: The Most Quoted Gospel
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
Join us for three Monday evening sessions with Father Richard Berube. Series started on November 4.

11|16 SATURDAY
8th Annual Vermont Catholic Women’s Retreat
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am - 4 pm
How do you listen, show gratitude, and rest in the mercy of Christ? How can we, as women, be beautiful to God? Discover and be transformed. Keynote speaker: Donna-Marie Cooper O’Boyle, Author of more than 30 books, Speaker, EWTN TV and Radio Host.

11|17 SUNDAY
Organ Recital
Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington • 3 pm
Donald McMahon will perform a recital at the organ. The performance is free and open to the public.

11|07 THURSDAY
Presentation: Servant of God Black Elk
St. Augustine, Montpelier • 7 - 8:30 pm
Presentation: Nicholas Black Elk, an Oglala of the Lakota Sioux, Servant of God. He became a Catholic in 1904. As a catechist he is credited with bringing over 400 people to the Faith. In 2017 the Vatican authorized his cause for canonization. The presenter, Dr. Damian Costello is a vice-postulator of Black Elk’s cause for his canonization, and author of Black Elk: Colonialism and Lakota Catholicism and a member of St. Augustine Parish.

11|09 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am
The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the second Saturday of each month at Holy Family. 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.

11|09 SATURDAY
Veterans’ Appreciation Dinner
St. Luke, Fairfax • 5 - 6:30 pm
Proceeds to benefit The Steven Siller Tunnel to Towers Charity, to provide homes and scholarships to the Widows and Children of Fallen Service Members.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Senior Accountant
Diocese: Technical Support Specialist
Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Williston: Administrative Assistant
The Loretto Home, Rutland: Residential Care Positions
Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Randolph: Administrative Assistant
Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven: Organist or Keyboardist/Choir Director
St. Joseph Residential Care Home, Burlington: LPN
Vermont Catholic Charities: Counselor

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

CRAFT FAIR & MARKET DIRECTORY

11|09 Catholic Daughters Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair, Holy Family Hall, Essex Jct., 9 am to 3 pm
Holiday Vendor & Artisan Fair, St. Ambrose, Bristol, 9 am to 2 pm

11|16 Holiday Craft Fair, St. Andrew, Waterbury, 9 am to 3 pm
Holiday Craft Fair, St. Francis Xavier, Winooksi, 9 am to 4 pm

GOAL: $2,700,987
TOTAL COMMITTED: $2,169,968
as of October 14, 2019

Fr. James Dodson is the new Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Burlington.
Consider supporting this initiative with a gift at bishopsappealvt.org.