On February 26, our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the 40 days of Lent dedicated to reflection, fasting, almsgiving, and good works in preparation for Easter. One concrete way we can prepare and share our gifts with others is to participate in the collection on Ash Wednesday to support the outreach work of Vermont Catholic Charities, including the Bishop de Goësbriand Grants for Human Advancement. These grants are awarded to Vermont non-profit organizations that are making a difference in the daily lives of people living in their communities.

Vermont Catholic Charities has been awarding Bishop de Goësbriand grants since 2011. To date, over 230 grants have been given out, totaling more than $480,000. What a wonderful expression of our faith — to serve others. Organizations receiving funding have included homeless shelters, right to life programs, and food programs for children and families.

Here are a few examples of how these grants impact the lives of Vermonters.

✦ The Upper Valley Haven in White River Junction received a grant to support the Seasonal Shelter, which helped 87 people stay out of the cold. One client stated, “When I arrived at the Haven I was broken. I felt frozen, totally overwhelmed by all my problems, but the Service Coordinator told me I could do anything.” Julio noticed a sign seeking help at the Mobil station near the Haven. Julio inquired, filled out an application, went on interview, and landed the job. Five weeks after starting work, Julio moved into an apartment with a roommate.

✦ Good Beginnings of Central Vermont received a grant to support its infant carriers and emergency assistance programs. The grant helped a total of 26 families, or 65 individuals (35 parents and 30 children).

✦ The Addison County Community Action Group (HOPE) received a grant to support its food shelf and financial assistance program. The agency commented, “Your support has a tremendous impact on our ability to respond to the needs of some of the most vulnerable in our county. Thank you for your continued commitment and support to our community.”

✦ The Catholic Center at UVM received a grant to buy food to prepare and serve community meals at the Salvation Army. One student commented, “To be part of the community of Burlington or any place we may live in the future, there cannot be an ignorance of the fact that many go without food, warmth, and shelter. It has been a joy and privilege to serve at the Salvation Army in Burlington.”

As we begin this Lenten journey together, we ask you to prayerfully consider participating in the Ash Wednesday collection - any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. As a Catholic community, let’s continue to do Christ’s work here in Vermont and show Christ’s love to our neighbors in their times of need. By sharing our gifts with others, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the good news that Jesus Christ has risen.

― Mary Beth Pinard, executive director of Vermont Catholic Charities Inc.
UPCOMING EVENTS

02/20 THURSDAYS
Surviving Divorce
St. Peter, Vergennes • 6:30 - 8:00 pm
Surviving Divorce is a divorce support group based on the teachings of the Catholic Church that will help bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. This 12-week series begins on February 20. Each session contains video presentations and group discussion that will answer questions, restore hope and begin authentic healing. This program is open to the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling with issues many years later. Contact (802) 877-6585 for information and registration.

02/21, 22, 23 FRIDAY – SUNDAY
Retreat: Re-Reading My Life in the Light of the Gospel
Our Lady of Life Center, Quebec
Retreat for all ages in the Carmelite tradition with teaching by Fr. Michel Vigneau, Trinitarian; teaching given in French with simultaneous English translation.
FOR MORE INFO: www.notredamedevie.org/en

02/22 & 03/21 SATURDAYS
Marriage Preparation Retreats
10 am - 5:30 pm
Spend time in prayer, sharing and fellowship with your fiancé and other engaged couples. February 22 at Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Bennington, and March 21 is at Blessed Sacrament in Stowe.

02/26 WEDNESDAY
Ash Wednesday
Come to Mass and receive your ashes!

02/28, 03/06, 13, 20, 27, 04/03 FRIDAYS
Stations and Soup
St. Michael, Brattleboro • 6:30 - 6:30 pm
On Fridays during Lent, we will pray the Stations of the Cross, followed by soup prepared by various parish groups, served at St. Brigid’s Kitchen.

03/01 SUNDAY
Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 3 pm
Celebrated by Bishop Coyne. During the Rite of Election, the Church “elects” those seeking full initiation into the Church through Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at Easter. The Church also recognizes those already-baptized Christians seeking full initiation into the Catholic Church and pledges the support of prayer as they journey toward Full Communion in the Catholic Church. A small reception follows the liturgy.

03/02 MONDAY
Ageless in the Lord
Christ the King, Rutland • 10 am - 12 pm
Are you aging well? Does aging feel like a thief in the night? Do you think that your age is not the best
age to be? Would you like to have more meaning and purpose in your life? The Ageless in the Lord Lenten Retreat has nothing to do with age, but everything to do with attitude! This retreat will challenge those who are past their mid-life, or are living in their senior years. Register by 2/28/2020: rwcatolic@gmail.com. Cost: $10 includes materials and light refreshments.

03/06 FRIDAY
Lenten Soup Supper for Haiti
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6 - 7 pm
Join us for a modest Lenten meal, with a variety of meatless soups and lots of good fellowship. A free will donation is requested (but not required) and will go to support education and community development at our sister parish in Boc-Banic, Haiti. We will also accept donations of school supplies, which will be collected throughout Lent and shipped to Haiti later in the spring. After the meal, all are invited to stay for Stations of the Cross in the church upstairs.

03/07 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 9:30 am
First Saturday of every month, rosary and reconciliation begin at 8 am and Mass at 8:30.

03/08 SUNDAY
Burlington K of C Pancake Breakfast
St. Mark, Burlington • 8 am - 5 pm
Age 6 to 89, suggested $7, under 6 and over 89, no charge. Maximum per family, $25. Blueberry or plain pancakes, french toast, bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, coffee, tea, milk, orange juice, hot chocolate.

03/09, 16 MONDAYS
Lenten Series
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 - 8:30 pm
“The Journey of the Magi for Lent: A Parable, A Poem, and a Painting” presented by Fr. Richard Berube, SSE.

03/14 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am
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.

03/21, 22 SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Young Adult Retreat at Saint Anne Shrine
Saint Anne’s Shrine, Isle la Motte • 9:30 am - 2 pm

03/21 SATURDAY
Exploring Laudato Si: A Call To Conversion
Mercy Ecospirituality Center, Benson • 10 am - 3 pm
Explore the spiritual roots of the environmental crisis as outlined in the encyclical Laudato Si. Along with considering key themes of the encyclical, the workshop will also invite participants into experiential and prayerful reflection on how the natural world is revelatory of God, and of our kinship with all. Co-led by Anne Curtis, RSM (Executive Director of Mercy Ecology) and Arlene Flaherty OP , (Director of the Office of Justice and Peace, School Sisters of Notre Dame) women religious committed to the process of their own ecological conversion and to accompanying those who also want to take this journey. Registration: mercyfarm@mercyecology.org or (802) 537-4531 by March 10.

DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

Diocese: Finance Officer
Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales School, Bennington: Administrator
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Full-Time LPN or Med Tech — $1000 Sign-On Bonus
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Part-Time LPN or Med Tech
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Full-Time LNA or Caregiver — $500 Sign-On Bonus
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Part-Time LNA or Caregiver
Vermont Catholic Charities: Counselor-Full Time

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers