A love of books compelled Marci Hayes of Our Lady of Good Help Church in Brandon and her 13-year-old daughter to join an online book club sponsored by the Diocese of Burlington.

“A story has a unique ability to span time and connect the reader to the author as well as with all of those who have ever read the story. I found this to be true during the book club,” she said of the weekly April online gatherings to discuss “The Screwtape Letters” by C. S. Lewis.

The book club was born during the Covid-19 pandemic when Michael Hagan, manager of religious education and catechesis for the diocese, sought a fun way to form a community, learn about the Catholic faith and share faith journeys.

“Through reading a 75-year-old tale, I joined others in conversation, prayer and fellowship. I most enjoyed witnessing how a story can bring a community and families together,” Hayes said.

Tricia Sulva of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Charlotte has participated in a variety of classes and presentations that Hagan has offered. “He is wonderful at offering insight into the particular topic, and I always come away with a richer understanding of our faith,” she said. “This [book club] offered an opportunity to still be able to come together as a community and as a way to deepen my faith.”

There were about 20 participants in the free weekly online gatherings; they joined from throughout Vermont and from Florida and California.

“A faith-based book club can be a fun and low-pressure form of Christian accompaniment. Books tend to have a unique way of influencing our spiritual lives,” Hagan said. “As we enter into new characters, stories and worlds, we begin to ask questions that we might not have asked before. A book club allows us to share those insights and questions with other people who are reading the same book on the same journey of faith.”

Sulva said this opportunity “to engage with others way beyond our own backyard is amazing.”

She continued, “Experiencing this online event has heightened my awareness that there are people everywhere who I can share my love for God and our beautiful faith with. For me this is extremely comforting. And it fills me with greater hope.”

For information on future book clubs, go to vermontcatholic.org.

To support this ministry, go to bishopsappealvt.org.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban
Diocese of Burlington Online Ministry Opportunities

May 3–9, 2020

Mass, Adoration, Rosary, and the Office of the Dead

Daily (Monday – Friday)  
8 AM  **Eucharistic Adoration** (30 min) — Livestream — www.vermontcatholic.org/tvmass

Daily (Monday – Friday)  

Daily (Monday – Friday)  
12:05 PM  **Mass** — Livestream — www.vermontcatholic.org/tvmass

Sunday  
10 AM  **Mass** — Livestream — www.vermontcatholic.org/tvmass

**Office of the Dead** will be livestreamed on www.facebook.com/DioBurlington, and also available on www.vermontcatholic.org/spiritual-resources.

Friday, May 8

8 AM  **Office of the Dead, Morning Prayer**

4 PM  **Office of the Dead, Evening Prayer**

8 PM  **Office of the Dead, Night Prayer**

Online Ministries

**Daily (Monday – Friday)**

**Bishop Coyne’s Daily Reflections** — www.facebook.com/DioBurlington

and www.vermontcatholic.org/about/office-of-bishop/dailyreflections/

For the below offerings, we encourage people to register. Find the event on our diocesan calendar (www.vermontcatholic.org/events) and sign up, or contact mhagan@vermontcatholic.org. All events are FREE. Some of these will also be live-streamed on the diocesan Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DioBurlington).

Monday, May 4

7:30 PM  **Praying with the Scriptures** (30 min) — Michael Hagan

Tuesday, May 5

10:30 AM & 7 PM  **Encountering Jesus Bible Study** (30 min) — Deacon Phil Lawson

1 PM  **Online Ministry 101 — Keeping Your Parishioners Connected**

(religious ed, study groups, small groups, etc.) — Michael Hagan & Jennifer Ploof

Wednesday, May 6

3 PM  **Family Fun! Quiz Game** (30 min) — Terri McCormack & Michael Hagan

4 PM  **Forming Young Disciples Today** — Bill Gavin

Thursday, May 7

no online ministry scheduled

Friday, May 8

3 PM  **Parenting with Grace, Part 1** — Bill Gavin

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**Diocese of Burlington CAREERS**

**Diocese:** Respect Life Coordinator

**The Loretto Home, Rutland:** Director of Nursing — $7,500 Sign-on Bonus!

**Sacred Heart / St. Francis de Sales School, Bennington:** Administrator

**St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:**

- Full-Time LNA or Caregiver — $500 Sign-On Bonus
- Full-Time LPN or Med Tech — $1000 Sign-On Bonus
- Part-Time LNA or Caregiver

**St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:**

- Part-Time LPN or Med Tech
- Maintenance Supervisor
- Night Shift Caregiver

For More Info: www.vermontcatholic.org/careers