Cemetery Pre-planning Q&A
with Peter Beauregard,
Director of Facilities and Catholic Cemeteries

What is pre-planning?
Pre-planning is making your cemetery and funeral arrangements prior to your death. This allows your wishes to be known, thus eliminating an incredible burden on your loved ones during the very stressful and painful hours after your death. Pre-planning is a concrete sign of your love for surviving family members. Catholic Cemeteries family services counselors are trained to assist you in this important task.

What are the benefits of pre-planning?
The most obvious benefit is that you will relieve your loved ones of the burden of making your cemetery and funeral arrangements at a time of tremendous grief. Your advance planning will give your family the guidance they need to feel comfortable that they are carrying out the decisions you made.

Pre-planning may prevent disagreement among survivors at an emotionally charged time and can assure that emotional over-spending does not occur. By preplanning and prefunding cemetery and funeral arrangements, you may be creating exempt assets should you ever have to go on public assistance.

The costs of cemetery property have been escalating at the rate of 100 percent every 10 years. By purchasing in advance, you are locking in a today’s pricing.

At what age should I consider pre-planning cemetery and funeral arrangements?
Adults of any age who make their own decisions should have a plan. Like your will, it can be revised throughout your life as needs change. In general, the earlier you plan, the more options you have. Your cemetery and funeral arrangements will probably never cost less than they do today. Statistics show that 43 percent of all deaths are unexpected; we are not guaranteed any tomorrows.

Why should I choose to be buried in a Catholic cemetery?
First and foremost, Catholic cemeteries are a vital part of our Church’s heritage of caring for and burying the bodies of the dead in blessed ground — one of the corporal works of mercy.

Since our cemeteries are an extension of the ministry provided in your parish community, our Catholic cemeteries are gathering places of remembrance, consolation and communal support. The Eucharist is celebrated in the cemeteries at some times during the year. Religious symbols, which are expressive of our heritage of faith, are seen throughout our cemeteries. A caring staff dedicated to the mission of serving God’s people tends the grounds and offices.

Choosing a Catholic cemetery as a final resting place is a statement of your belief that, even in death, the people of God await the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. Your Catholic cemetery gives you a place where your loved ones can come to remember you and all generations past and future.

The Bishop’s Annual Appeal supports the oversight of several Catholic cemeteries and guidance for all Catholic cemeteries in Vermont. To make a donation, go to bishopsappealvt.org.
Upcoming Events

**08|09 SUNDAY**
**Young Adult Hike, Camel’s Hump**
Monroe Trail, Duxbury • 12 pm
Hike with Fr. Dwight Baker—pray we won’t be rained out this time! Bring food, water, and sturdy hiking shoes. RSVP to rlavallee@vermontcatholic.org. For directions to trail, call Bill Gavin (802) 881-7795.

**09|05 SATURDAY**
**Our Lady of Fatima Devotions**
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
First Saturday of every month. Rosary and reconciliation at 8 am and Mass at 8:30.

**09|05-07 SATURDAY-MONDAY**
**WWME-VT Community Family Camp-out and Picnic**
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte
Accommodations include Cabins, Tent, and RV sites. This event is open to Encountered couples, their families, and anyone who wants to know more about Marriage Encounter and our community. For more info: https://sites.google.com/view/wwmevtcamp

**09|26 SATURDAY**
**Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate**
10 am
The Diocese of Burlington celebrates with great joy the Ordination of the Permanent Diaconate of five men to serve the Catholic Church in Vermont. More information will be posted in the coming week.

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**DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS**

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator
St. Andrew’s Parish, Waterbury: Secretary/Bookkeeper
St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Cook
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

For More Info: vermontcatholic.org/careers

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**CHALLENGE**

*CATHOLIC FAMILY SUMMER CHALLENGE*

www.vermontcatholic.org/summerchallenge

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**AUGUST 2 – 8, 2020**

**CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE**

WHAT IS YOUR CHOSEN ADVENTURE?

Last month the two of you hopefully made a list of adventure or hobbies to explore to try together. Which one did you choose? Make a plan for this month to start and share your idea at tmccormack@vermontcatholic.org

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge