Dear Friends,

During these unprecedented times in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have faced personal and collective challenges, including the closing of our churches and the suspension of the public celebration of the Mass, the other sacraments, devotions and funerals. But we have also realized once again something we have known throughout the history of the Church: There is nothing that can stop us from proclaiming the Good News of salvation, caring for the neediest and spiritually feeding God’s flock.

Our ministries have continued in new and creative ways. The Diocese and local parishes now live-stream daily and Sunday Mass as well as devotional prayer and other faith engagement activities. During the shutdown we continued to operate Catholic schools and provide emergency aid and residential care through Vermont Catholic Charities. Now, by the grace of God, we have been able to open our doors to celebrate the sacramental worship of the Church together again.

But we still face many challenges. Prior to the pandemic, I was about to launch the first statewide capital campaign for the Catholic Church in Vermont based on the Diocesan Synod priorities that we spent two years developing. That obviously had to be postponed. Still a great deal of time and money has gone into the planning of this campaign, and the contract with the company I engaged to help run the campaign is running down. All things being equal, I would not be starting a capital campaign at this time. But I think we have to and not just for contractual reasons.

Now more than ever, we need to move forward with our synod priorities and launch the Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church capital campaign. We cannot give up on the future of the parishes and ministries serving the faith community. Many of them have seen significant downturns in terms of funding, and they need our help.

This campaign is rooted in the works of Christ (Matthew 4:23) and the outcomes of the synod to build vibrant parishes (Preaching), strengthen our evangelization (Teaching) and communicate the compassion of Christ in our service to the most vulnerable (Healing).

“And he went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people” (Mt 4:23).

This campaign offers a wonderful opportunity for each parish to use 60 percent of the funds they raise to address specific parish needs with the other 40 percent going to the larger Catholic community to strengthen our faith formation programs and expand emergency aid to the most vulnerable among us.

Next week I will celebrate the official public kickoff at the beginning of the Sunday 10 a.m. Mass that will be live-streamed at www.vermontcatholic.org/tvmass. I invite you to join me or watch at a later time. Please also take the opportunity to watch the Christ Our Hope video which explains why we need to move forward with the campaign and how it will strengthen our church for the future: www.christourhopevt.org.

I have already made a personal pledge of over $10,000 towards the campaign. I ask you to please join me in being generous as well. With Christ as our hope, whatever we raise will be for His glory and the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
**Upcoming Events**

08|13 THURSDAY
Theology on Tap with Fr. Dwight Baker
Switchback Brewery, Burlington • 6:30 pm
We’ll be discussing “Prayer and Your Daily Life.” Grab a blanket or lawn chair and meet us at the brewery. For young adults ages 18-39.

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
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 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 soon.

---

**DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS**

Diocese: Respect Life Coordinator

St. Andrew’s Parish, Waterbury:
Secretary/Bookkeeper

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

---

When the pandemic hit and our churches closed our ministries continued in new and creative ways. We quickly embraced new technology and kept the faith community connected with live-streamed Mass and faith engagement opportunities. Our Catholic schools provided quality online learning and our VT Catholic Charities residential homes cared for the elderly and distributed emergency aid to many families impacted by COVID-19. Your support allowed us to keep going.

**2020 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**

2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal Goal: **$2,651,157**

| 55% | As of July 30, 2020: $1,464,819 |

---

**CATHOLIC FAMILY SUMMER CHALLENGE**

Is your family participating in the Catholic Family Summer Challenge?
Do you have a favorite activity to share?
If you haven’t joined the Catholic Family Summer Challenge Facebook group to check out your competition, it’s not too late!
Check in with Michael Hagen, mhagen@vermontcatholic.com or Terri McCormack, tmccormack@vermontcatholic.com by Aug. 15.

www.vermontcatholic.org/summerchallenge

---

**AUGUST 9 – 15, 2020**

**CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE**

**LOVE NOTE SCAVENGER HUNT**

Write to your spouse how he/she has brought you closer to God in your journey together. Leave clues on where your love note is hidden.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge