St. Peter Claver was born in the village of Verdú in Spain in 1580 and entered the Jesuits at the age of 20. He volunteered for the Spanish colonies and was sent to Grenada where he arrived in the port city of Cartagena in 1610. Cartagena was a slave-trading hub, and 10,000 captive Africans poured into the port annually, crossing the Atlantic from West Africa under conditions so foul that an estimated one-third died in transit. Working with another Jesuit priest, Father Alonso Sandoval, Father Claver quickly turned his attention to the plight of the captives. He often headed to the port as soon as a slave ship arrived, caring for them both on the ships and in the nearby yards with medicine, food, bread, brandy, lemons and tobacco.

During the time of the year when the slave ships did not normally arrive, Father Claver traveled the country, visiting plantation after plantation to give spiritual consolation to those enslaved. He continually encountered opposition for his advocacy on behalf of the enslaved people, but he persevered in doing so for more than 40 years. During his ministry it is estimated that he personally catechized and baptized 300,000 slaves.

He died in 1654, in complete poverty after a long illness. He was canonized by Pope Leo XIII in 1888 and is the patron saint of African Americans.

This Wednesday, Sept. 9, is the Memorial of St. Peter Claver. I invite everyone to celebrate the feast in a special way this year through the sacrifice of the Mass in reparation for sins against the Sacred Heart of Jesus and especially in reparation for sins based upon race. Additionally, I encourage each parish and Catholic school on that day to host a Holy Hour or to celebrate the special “Stations of the Cross: Overcoming Racism” seeking the particular intercession of St. Peter Claver to end the scourge of racism in our midst and to turn our hearts to remember that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ.

For more information, visit our website at www.vermontcatholic.org/liturgy-worship.

Josh Perry is director of worship for the Diocese of Burlington.
Upcoming Events

**09|09 WEDNESDAY**
**Christ Our Hope Campaign Chat with Bishop Coyne**
Zoom • 7 pm
Register for a Zoom hour long chat with Bishop Coyne to learn more about the campaign and why we must move forward now: www.vermontcatholic.org/events/

**09|15, 29, 10|13 WEDNESDAYS**
**Parent Café**
Zoom • 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm
Join other Catholic parents in Vermont for these virtual discussions about life and faith. Each session includes a brief prayer and presentation, setting the stage for open and honest conversation on that week’s topic. Join us for any or all sessions!

**09|20 SUNDAY**
**Emmaus Retreat: A Hiking Confirmation Retreat**
Waterbury • 1 – 6:15 pm
FOR MORE INFO: vermontcatholic.org/event/emmaus-retreat-a-hiking-confirmation-retreat/

**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. 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

**CHRIST OUR HOPE 2020 BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL**

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

As we kick-off the Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign to renew our parishes, strengthen our faith formation programs and increase emergency aid to people in crisis, we ask you to please first consider a gift to the Bishop’s Appeal. We understand that these are challenging times and some may not be able to do more. We are grateful for whatever you can offer and ask for your prayers for the success of the campaign.

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

62% As of Aug. 26: $1,647,811

**SEPTEMBER 6 – 12, 2020**

**CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE**

**WHAT IS LOVE?**

Explore 1 Corinthians 13: 1-13 by taking turns reading each verse. After you read, take time to share which verse or verses reminded you of your married love. Share why.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

**TRAPPED BY TIME**
TUESDAY, SEPT. 1 7:30 – 8:15 PM

**WHAT PRAYER LIFE?**
TUESDAY, SEPT. 15 7:30 – 8:15 PM

**LIFE IS A BALANCING ACT!**
TUESDAY, SEPT. 29 7:30 – 8:15 PM

**YOUR HABITS — THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY!**
TUESDAY, OCT. 13 7:30 – 8:15 PM