Over the last few months I have been approached to offer guidance for the upcoming national election. Many have urged me to endorse one candidate or political party over another. Please know that the Diocese of Burlington does not endorse any individual or political party but teaches that Catholics are encouraged to fulfill their civic duty and vote drawing on both faith and reason to safeguard and ensure the dignity of every human person and promote the common good of all citizens.

That is why I refer all Catholics in our Diocese to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ “Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship,” a comprehensive teaching document on the political responsibility of Catholics, which provides guidance for all who seek to exercise their rights and duties as citizens. This document provides a consistent moral framework regarding the issues facing our nation and world and helps guide choices in elections in the light of Catholic Social Teaching. It can be viewed online here: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/faithful-citizenship/upload/forming-consciences-for-faithful-citizenship.pdf.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

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Merciful Father,

Thank you for inviting each of us to join in your work of building the kingdom of love, justice, and peace.

Draw us close to you in prayer as we discern your call in our families and communities.

Send us forth to encounter all whom you love: those not yet born, those in poverty, those in need of welcome.

Inspire us to respond to the call to faithful citizenship, during election season and beyond.

Help us to imitate your charity and compassion and to serve as models of loving dialogue.

Teach us to treat others with respect, even when we disagree, and seek to share your love and mercy.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Amen

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Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

Over the next week, you will received a Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign packet inviting you to consider a gift over a three-year period. We understand that for some this may not be possible at this time and we ask for your prayers. For others, the amount requested may not be appropriate for your current situation but you can contribute at a different level. Please review the materials and consider what is possible for your family or visit: christourhopevt.org.

To learn more, register for a Christ Our Hope Campaign virtual chat with Bishop Coyne on: Oct. 5 at 7 p.m., Oct. 14 at 3 p.m. or Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. at christourhopevt.org/events.
Upcoming Events

10|06 TUESDAY
The Apostle's Creed:
Reflection Group
Zoom • 7:45 - 8:45 pm
The Apostle's Creed is the oldest of the official creeds of the Church and is still used today as our baptismal creed. Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell for a series of reflections followed by discussion upon the Apostle's Creed. Email gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu to get Zoom information to join.

10|07, 14, 21, 28 WEDNESDAYS
Vermont Catholic Book Club:
Frankenstein
Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Join us as we read Mary Shelley’s famous Frankenstein. We will discuss this chilling tale and some of the deeper moral themes at play. All meetings will be online. Bring a friend!

10|10 SATURDAY
America Needs Fatima
Rosary Rallies
Our Lady of the Valley Parish • 12 - 2 pm
All four mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, Glorious) will be prayed in front of the each of our parish churches (St. Anthony, Bethel; St. Elizabeth, Rochester; and Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph). Come join us and pray to Our Lady to protect our country.

10|10 SATURDAY
Take out Fish Dinner
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 7 pm
Sponsored by St. Peter’s Knights of Columbus in support of St. Peter’s Migrant Workers Program. $10/Adult, $5/child six and under. Reservations: (802) 877-2367.

10|11 SUNDAY
Emmaus Retreat: A Hiking Confirmation Retreat
Jay Peak • 12:15 - 4 pm
Open to all students receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation For registration and more information: vermontcatholic.org/event/emmaus-retreat-a-hiking-confirmation-retreat-2/

10|13 WEDNESDAY
Parent Café
Zoom • 7:30 pm - 8:15 pm
Join other Catholic parents in Vermont for these virtual discussions about life and faith. Learn more at: vermontcatholic/events/parentcafe.

10|21 WEDNESDAY
VCP Networking Event
Zoom • 8 - 9:30 am
Our October guest speaker is Mike Walsh — Managing Director, NFP Insurance. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/event/vcp

10|11 SUNDAY
Ham Dinner Take-Out
St. Thomas, Underhill Center • 4 - 5:30 pm
$12/meal. To order call (802) 899-4632.

OCTOBER 4—10, 2020
CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE

LET’S GET EACH OTHER TO HEAVEN
In Galatians 5:22-23, we read about the 9 fruits of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Pick one to cultivate this week with your spouse. Encourage and challenge each other.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

As we launch the Christ our Hope campaign, we ask that you first prayerfully consider your annual gift to the Bishop’s Appeal which helps support statewide ministries today: bishopappealvt.org. If you are able, we then ask that you prayerfully consider making a gift to our first-ever statewide campaign over a three-year period to ensure the vibrant future of our parishes, schools and ministries to the poor.

2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal Goal: $2,651,157
66% As of Sept. 23: $1,738,271

VERMONT CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
This October, join us as we read Mary Shelley’s famous “Frankenstein.” We will meet four times to discuss this chilling tale and some of the deeper moral themes at play. All meetings will be online, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.
• October 7, 2020
• October 14, 2020
• October 21, 2020
• October 28, 2020
CE Live captioning available.
Questions: mhagan@vermontcatholic.org.

Register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-frankenstein