

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

October 17-23, 2020

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Emotions mixed as Catholic schools reopen

From apprehension to zeal, Catholic school teachers and parents were feeling a variety of emotions as they prepared to resume in-person learning for the 2020-21 school year.

The Covid-19 pandemic — which necessitated distance learning only for the last few months of the previous school year — made preparing to open school doors for in-person learning complicated by safety protocols and tainted by safety concerns.

As part of the reopening task force, Mollie Bachner, a Rice history teacher, was confident that Rice was taking all the precautions necessary to ensure safety “With Vermont’s current low levels of virus, I think we can open safely. I think Rice has a good plan, and as long as community levels stay low, we should be okay to continue in-person instruction.”

Like any parent, Rice parent Sarah Jones had concerns about the health of her child and family as well as what happens if students need to move back to online studies. “Although Rice did an amazing job with the switch to online learning, I think it is important for the students to be in the classroom with teachers and friends as long as it is safe,” she said.

Though parents praised their children’s teachers for their efforts during remote learning, many expressed concern for the social needs the at-home learning does not address. “The kids missed the day-to-day interactions with their teachers and their friends. They need to go back to school as much for their

mental health as for their academic advancement,” said Chris Messineo, parent of students at St. Francis Xavier School in Winooski and Rice.

There are, obviously, safety concerns too. “While I am grateful that we are returning to in-person learning, it doesn’t mean that there is no fear associated with it,” said Colleen Moore, parent of two St. Francis Xavier School students. “My husband and I have had long discussions about what level of risk we are comfortable with. I check the department of health website daily, and we both listen to the experts and discuss their advice.”

Carmen Tarbox, a teacher at St. Paul School, is changing her teaching strategies in keeping with safety protocols. Her students will sit in assigned seats at an end of a table, and they will have their own supplies, own manipu-

latives and weekly rotated educational toys. Nothing can be shared without disinfecting first.

Eileen Barendse, a teacher at St. Francis Xavier School saw her two children — who thrive in their classroom settings — struggle with remote learning last spring. “The shared energy of a group of students, the animated instruction from teachers, the discussions, the questioning, the struggles and the breakthrough moments, are as much a part of the learning experience as the tasks themselves,” she said.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban



Pre-K teacher Mickey LaBonte and Principal Eric Becker from Saint Francis Xavier School in Winooski wearing their masks. — Robin McCormick photo



Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

A portion of the funds raised through the *Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church* campaign will support aid to Catholic schools through the faith formation fund established in the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation. This will ensure stable income for our Catholic schools and other vital faith formation ministries, especially in times of crisis. To learn more about the campaign or make a gift online visit: www.christourhopevt.org.

7%

As of October 7: \$732,292

Goal: \$10,000,000

Upcoming Events



10|20, 27, 11|03, 10, 17 TUESDAYS
The Apostles Creed: Reflection Group

Zoom Meeting • 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. Why does the Apostle's Creed matter? What does this creed actually say? Why is it important for us today? What does it tell us about our faith and how we ought to live? Join Seminarian Greg Caldwell for a series of reflections followed by discussion upon the Apostle's Creed. Email [gcaldwell@saintmeinrad.edu](mailto:g Caldwell@saintmeinrad.edu) to get Zoom information to join.



10|21 WEDNESDAY
VCP Networking Event

Zoom Meeting • 8 - 9:30 am

Our October guest speaker is Mike Walsh

— Managing Director, NFP Insurance. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/event/vcp



10|21, 28 WEDNESDAYS
Vermont Catholic Book Club: Frankenstein

Zoom Meeting • 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. The first two sessions were on Oct. 7 and 14. More info: vermontcatholic.org/event/book-club-frankenstein



10|22 THURSDAY
Virtual Theology on Tap

Zoom Meeting • 7 - 8:30 pm

Young adults are invited to a discussion led by Fr. Jon Schnobrich on Pope St. John Paul II and the Gospel of Life, in honor of his feast day. Grab your favorite brew and join in! Register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/virtual-theology-on-tap-with-fr-jon-schnobrich/



10|25 SUNDAY
Catholic Principles of Voting

St. Michael, Brattleboro • 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Fr. Kevin Chalifoux and Fr. Matthew Rensch

will be offering a brief lecture on the authority of the Church in forming our conscience, why voting is a moral act and what responsibility we have to vote with an informed conscience, how we are to weigh various issues, as well as an overview of certain further principles to be employed when dealing with particular issues of the 2020 election. Space is limited. Please RSVP to vermontnewman@gmail.com if you would like to reserve a spot.



10|29 THURSDAY
Theology on Fire

UVM Catholic Center and Maille Dairy Farm, Burlington • 6:45 - 8 pm

Young adults are invited to gather for Theology on Fire, a series of conversations on theological topics. We'll begin with Mass at the UVM Catholic Center at 6pm. Following, join us at the Maille Dairy Farm, just 15 minutes away on Dorset

Street. Bring a lawn chair and warm clothes! On October 29, Fr. Matthew Rensch will lead our discussion on "Conscience and the Holy Spirit."



11|07 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 9:30 am

Join us the first Saturday of every month.

Rosary and reconciliation begin at 8 and Mass at 8:30.



11|14 SATURDAY
Save The Date: Women's Retreat 2020

Zoom Meeting • 8 am - 4 pm

The Women's Retreat this year will virtual, meeting online through Zoom. Please note that there will be no cost to participate in this event, which will be a modified day in comparison to "in-person" retreats. More information on how to register (online) will be shared in the coming weeks, as well as the details of the Retreat.



11|14 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 - 10 am

The Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the second Saturday of each month. Rosary starts at 8am followed by Mass, Special Intentions for the intercession of Saint Padre Pio and then learning about Padre Pio's life, ministry and spiritual gifts will follow in the Holy Family Parish Hall after Mass.



OCTOBER 18-24, 2020

CHALLENGES
 TO GROW
 YOUR
 MARRIAGE

PLAY THE "NOT SO NEWLYWED" GAME

On separate answer sheets (a piece of paper numbered 1-5) write your answers and then share after you are done. This is an opportunity to rediscover the different times of your marriage and what you each remember. Go ahead and laugh at any discrepancies in your memories!

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

CHRIST OUR

Hope

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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: bishopsappealvt.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.

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

67%

as of October 7: \$1,788,079