When the Covid-19 pandemic hit last year, more and more people began to — or increased — work from home. With it came both advantages and challenges: the former including not having to get “dressed up” for work, saving on transportation costs to get to work and eating a more nutritious lunch out of the refrigerator rather than eating at a fast-food restaurant with coworkers.

But there are challenges too, like not lingering too long at the breakfast table with loved ones, not getting distracted by household chores and not going to the cupboard for snacks too often.

Our work habits may have changed, but we can — and always can — draw inspiration from St. Joseph the Worker who probably did much of his work right at home.

Maybe he would have liked to spend more time in conversation with his wife, Mary, or instructing and laughing with his son, Jesus. But Joseph had a job to do — support his family — and he would have disciplined himself to get his carpentry projects done.

St. Joseph is an example of the holiness of human labor, the dignity of which is seen as participation in the creative work of God.

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker • May 1

May 1 is the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker. In 1955, Pope Pius XII established the feast day to foster deep devotion to St. Joseph among Catholics and in response to the “May Day” celebrations for workers sponsored by Communists. He said, “The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work.”

May 1 is also May Day (International Workers’ Day) and reflects Joseph’s status as the patron of workers.

In the Litany of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus is referred to as the “glory of home life” and “model of artisans.” He was a carpenter, a working man: “Is this not the carpenter’s son?” (Mt 13:55).

St. Joseph also would have known what it was like to be out of work, as he took his family and fled to safety from King Herod in Egypt, leaving his own work behind. So whether you are not working, working at home or working at your job site, St. Joseph the Worker can be a model; he can show us how to infuse our work — or search for work — with faith, with hope and with love.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban

There will be parish food drives for local food shelves throughout the diocese on:

Saturday, May 1 & Sunday, May 2

Please contact your parish for more information.
04|28 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Professionals Virtual Event
Zoom • 8 - 9 am
Our April guest speaker is Mary Anne Sheahan, Executive Director — Vermont Talent Pipeline Management Program, Vermont Business Roundtable. Learn more: www.vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event-2/

05|01 SATURDAY
Our Lady of Fatima Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Rosary, Confessions, Mass at 8:30 am.

05|08 SATURDAY
Padre Pio Devotions
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Rosary starts at 8 am followed by Mass, Special Intentions for the intercession of Saint Padre Pio and then learning about Padre Pio.

05|08 SATURDAY
Food Drive at Cathedral of St. Joseph and St Mark Churches
Burlington • 9 - 11 am
The Knights of Columbus de Goesbriand Council # 275 is conducting a food drive at both churches, with drop-off in the parking lot of nonperishable food items to benefit the North End Food Pantry. Please consider making a donation.

CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE
Caring in Times of Conflict
Take this online quiz, offered by Dr. Greg Popcak and his wife Lisa, to determine how you can work together to discover solutions to conflict: www.catholiccounselors.com/catholic-counselor-quizzes/healthy-marriage-habits-quiz-5-caretaking-in-conflict/

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

April 25 – May 1, 2021

Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay
Friday, June 11, 2021 • 2 p.m.

- Live-streamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington
- Rosary to be led by Bishop Christopher J. Coyne
- Join us on www.vermontcatholic.org or facebook.com/DioBurlington/
- Learn more about the Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay at worldpriest.com/annual-global-rosary-relay/
- Questions? Email Valerie Parzyck at vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org
- How many Vermonters can we get praying the Rosary together? Join us to find out!

CHRIST OUR Hope
2020 Bishop’s Annual Appeal

Goal: $2,651,157

87% As of April 12, 2021:
$2,300,676

Thank you to all those who have made a gift already. We ask those that can to please consider making a gift. You can make a gift online at: vermontcatholic.org/donate