This challenging year reminds us how our faith sustains us during turbulent times. God never promised us life would be easy, but his Son, Jesus Christ told us that for those who follow Him, “His yoke is easy and His burden light.” With Him, we can weather any storm, bear any troubles. As a community of faith in the Church we have done so through the centuries down to today.

In the fall of 2019, after two years of planning and guided by the results of our first synod in more than 60 years, we launched the Diocese of Burlington's first statewide campaign, Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church. This campaign seeks to mirror the work of Christ as found in Matthew 4:23: “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.”

Each gift to the campaign supports those ministries in our Diocese:

• **Preaching** — building vibrant and welcoming parishes (60 percent to parishes).
• **Teaching** — evangelization through faith formation programs, such as religious education and Catholic schools (20 percent).
• **Healing** — emergency aid to households in crisis (20 percent).

With several leadership gifts committed, we moved forward with full trust in Christ that those who could give, would give. In just three months, we raised $4.4 million with most funds going directly back to our parishes. It was truly an amazing response, raising exactly what we needed to strengthen the mission of the Church in Vermont.

Then the pandemic hit. The campaign had to be put on hold. Many parishes and many people still wanted to give but they asked us to come back this year to make the same request anew. The goals that were developed by your parish council and pastor to address local, immediate needs are still there. In order to meet those goals, I need your generosity.

I humbly ask you to consider a gift to the Christ Our Hope: Building a Vibrant Church campaign. Your gift will continue the work of Christ in Vermont by maintaining a vibrant Church that is welcoming and cares for all.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

Yours in faith and hope in Christ,

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

**09/29, 10/13, 27, 11/10 WED**

**Living Joy Discussion Group**

*Online* - 7 pm

Join us for Chris Stefanick’s *Living Joy: 9 Rules to Help You Rediscover and Life Joy Every Day*. This virtual event explores one rule every other week. Offered by members of the Diocesan Evangelization Committee. Contact pturnley@aol.com for more information.

**10/02 SATURDAY**

**A Life Symposium**

Doubletree, Burlington - 8 am - 3 pm

This day-long conference focuses on issues related to Proposal 5, a dangerous amendment aimed at enshrining the right to abortion in Vermont’s Constitution. FOR MORE INFO: wrlc.net.

**10/02 SATURDAY**

**Our Lady of Fatima Devotions**

Holy Family, Essex Junction - 8 am

Beginning with Rosary at 8 am, Confessions, and followed by Mass at 8:30 am.

**10/03 SUNDAY**

**Fall Fiesta**

St. Peter, Vergennes - 1 - 6:00 pm

Seven members of Viva el Sabor will provide a variety of authentic Mexican and Guatemalan dishes including tacos, chicken and vegetarian tamales, Yucatán slow-cooked pork, empanadas, Guatemalan tamales with asparagus, spinach and cheese, rice pudding and various sweets. Beverages will be sold separately by the youth ministry. There will be a children’s tent and magic show with Tom Verner at 2 pm. There will be outdoor dining under a tent. The cost is $5 per ticket; one ticket for each main meal item. FOR MORE INFO: stambrosestpeter.vermontcatholic.org or email plewis0849@gmail.com.

**10/09 SATURDAY**

**Padre Pio Devotions**

Holy Family, Essex Junction - 8 am

Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass and an opportunity to learn more about Padre Pio.

**10/09 SATURDAY**

**Ordination Mass**

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington - 10 am

The Diocese of Burlington joyfully celebrates the ordination of two men to the diaconate. Mr. Michael Knowles will be ordained to the permanent diaconate and Mr. Brandon Schneider will be ordained to the transitional diaconate by Bishop Christopher Coyne. This event is open for all who wish to attend. For those unable to be with us physically for the liturgy, the Mass will be live-streamed on the Diocesan website. A light reception will follow in the parish hall.

**10/10 SUNDAY**

**Evening Honoring the Life and Teachings of St. John Henry Newman**

Holy Family Church Hall, Essex Junction - 4 - 8 pm

Fr. Kevin Chalifoux and Fr. Matthew Rensch cordially invite you to celebrate the life and teachings of Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman. The evening will include Solemn Vespers, dinner and dessert, and two presentations on the life and thought of Cardinal Newman, featuring a guest speaker from St. Thomas Aquinas College, as well as Fr. Chalifoux. $10 per person/$15 for two/$5 for each additional guest.

RSVP by October 3 to: VermontNewman@gmail.com

**10/13 SATURDAY**

**Annual Women’s Retreat**

St. Catherine of Sienna, Shelburne
8 am - 3:30 pm

Save the date! More information will be released soon. Please stay tuned for details.

**SEPTEMBER 26 – OCTOBER 2, 2021**

**CHALLENGES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE**

Celebrate Priesthood Sunday all week by praying together every day for the priests in our diocese.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

**DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS**

Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:

- Administrative Assistant for Human Resources
- Administrative Assistant for Pastoral Ministries
- Director of Communications
- Accountant
- Diocesan Catechetical Leader
- Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister
- St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
  - Cook — $1000 Sign-On Bonus!
- St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington:
  - Dining Aide — $500 Sign-On Bonus!
- St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: LNA / Caregiver — $500 Sign-On Bonus!
- St. Joseph’s Residential Care Home, Burlington: Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) — $1,000 Sign-On Bonus
- St. Mark Parish, Burlington:
  - Coordinator of Evangelization & Catechesis

vermontcatholic.org/careers