“Perfection of the life or of the work?” will be the topic of the next keynote speaker at the Vermont Catholic Professionals networking meeting.

The speaker, Laurie Brands Gagne, is the retired director of the Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice at St. Michael’s College in Colchester.

Her presentation will be on Jan. 19.

The title comes from a poem by William Butler Yeats entitled “The Choice.”

“I’ll be talking about the importance of that choice and what it means to integrate one’s work-life with one’s whole life as a Christian,” said Gagne, of South Burlington, who worships with the St. Michael’s College community.

Gagne received her doctorate in systematic theology from the University of Notre Dame and taught religious studies for many years at Trinity College of Vermont. While at Trinity, she wrote The Uses of Darkness: Women’s Underworld Journeys Ancient and Modern, which was published by University of Notre Dame Press (2000) as well as a number of articles on philosopher/mystic Simone Weil and the spiritual journey.

When Trinity closed in 2001, she began a new phase of her career teaching “Peace and Justice” at St. Michael’s College.

Outside the classroom, Gagne was an activist, beginning a nationwide campaign on behalf of Congolese women in 2010 and helping to found the Vermont Ibutwa Initiative, a non-profit that assisted women who are survivors of rape in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Now retired, she has edited a book on Simone Weil (“Love in the Void”), serves on Burlington’s Mater Christi School Board of Trustees and gives workshops for the Catholic Nonviolence Initiative.

Continuing her activism, she served as a member of Meta Peace Team, an unarmed force for civilian protection, for a month in Palestine in 2018 and conducted a fact-finding trip to Ibutwa’s projects in South Kivu, DRC in 2019.

Among her awards, Gagne received from Trinity College in Burlington the Sister Katherine O’Donnell Outstanding Faculty Award (1988) and from St. Michael’s, the Vermont Campus Compact Award for Excellence in Community-Based Teaching (2012).

“I would advise Catholic professionals to take the time to share their faith with each other and how it might apply to their work. Without support, it is easy to let merely professional goals override the goals we all should be striving for, namely, wisdom and love,” Gagne said.

The purpose of Vermont Catholic Professionals — founded in 2018 — is to join Catholic men and women and others with shared values from the business and professional communities to encourage intellectual discussions, to foster professional and faith-based relationships and to inspire service and charity to the community in Vermont. Events take place quarterly with a professional development speaker that is relevant to the business and professional communities in Vermont.

For more information about Vermont Catholic Professionals and the location of the Jan. 19 event, go to vermontcatholic.org/vcp.

**VTC • Cori Fugere Urban**

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**Wednesday, January 19, 2022 • 8 a.m.**

Laurie Brands Gagne, retired director of the Edmundite Center for Peace and Justice at St. Michael’s College in Colchester

Register at: vermontcatholic.org/vcp
course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event coming this Lent, Josh Perry, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission with instruction about adoration, followed by a holy hour.

02|06 SUNDAY
Marriage Anniversary Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
Are you and your spouse celebrating a milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2022? Catholic married couples who wish to be recognized are invited to the Marriage Anniversary Mass. To register please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or (802)658-6110, ext. 1131.

02|22 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
Online • 7 pm
Join us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

01|04, 11, 18, 25 TUESDAYS
Courageous Women Bible Study
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am or 6:30 pm
For this study we will use, “Courageous Women: A Study on the Heroines of Biblical History” by Stacy Mitch, written with a female audience in mind yet it is equally approachable for men. There are 8 sessions; participants are welcome to attend as many or as few as they can. FOR MORE INFO: Connie McDonald (802) 864-4166 x204 or SJVGoodNews@gmail.com

01|05, 19, 02|02, 16, 03|02, & 16 WEDNESDAYS
Resisting Happiness Book Club
Online • 7 pm
Come explore with us Matthew Kelly’s book Resisting Happiness at 7-8 pm every other Wednesday for six weeks. Free book and study guide, contact ptturnley@aol.com.

01|07, 21, 02|04, 18 FRIDAYS
The Challenge Club for Catholic Girls
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston • 6 - 8 pm
Challenge is a club for girls to grow in virtue, friendship and their Catholic faith. FOR MORE INFO: contact Mary Niekrewicz, mary.of.vt@gmail.com, (802) 878-5538 or Audrey Walko, audreycgsvt@gmail.com, (802) 373-9564.

01|16 SUNDAY
DeGoesbriand Council 279
Burlington Pancake Breakfast
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 8:30 - 11:30 am
Sponsored by Knights of Columbus DeGoesbriand Council 279. By donation, the suggested donation is $8.

01|25 TUESDAY
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Online • 7 pm
Join us in November when Deacon Phil Lawson presents on Saints Philip, Athanasius and Lawrence. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

02|05 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.

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02|25 SATURDAY
Adoration Mini-Mission with Holy Hour
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Not sure what adoration is all about? Or maybe you’ve not been to adoration for awhile and could use a refresher course? In anticipation of a 40 Hours of Adoration event coming this Lent, Josh Perry, the diocesan Director of Worship, will be offering a mini-mission awith instruction about adoration, followed by a holy hour.

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Marriage Anniversary Mass
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am
Are you and your spouse celebrating a milestone anniversary (e.g. 5, 10, 15, 20...55, 57) in 2022? Catholic married couples who wish to be recognized are invited to the Marriage Anniversary Mass. To register please contact Nicole Hamilton at nhamilton@vermontcatholic.org or (802)658-6110, ext. 1131.

02|12 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.

02|22 TUESDAY
Saints and Sinners
Online • 7 pm
Join us in February when Fr. Robery Murphy presents on Saints Therese of Lisieux. There will be time for prayer, small group and large group discussion. For more info: vermontcatholic.org/saints-and-sinners.

BISHOP’S ANNUAL APPEAL 2021 UPDATE

GOAL: $2,502,465
75%

As of Dec. 14, 2021: $1,875,133
To learn more or make a gift visit: vermontcatholic.org/giveonline

Love one another

Family CHAMPIONS

CHASELLES TO GROW YOUR MARRIAGE
JANUARY 2–8, 2022

Consider the vows you shared at your wedding, “I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.” Take time this week to reflect on how you can each honor each other in your relationship while re-establishing the intimacy and trust. Share with each other what you desire in your future together. Be wary of judgement as you are on the same team.

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

Scheduling “family time” on the calendar can be challenging when everyone is pulled in so many directions. What do you want your children to remember about you? Intentionally carve out time daily to spend together with a game night, story hour, or retelling a favorite bible story from when you were a child.

vermontcatholic.org/familychampions