On April 12, priests from throughout the Diocese of Burlington joined Bishop Coyne at St. Joseph Cathedral in Burlington for the celebration of the Chrism Mass. The Chrism Mass brings the diocesan community together as the bishop blesses the priests of the Diocese and blesses the holy oils that will be used in the sacramental life of the Church during the coming year.

Rally for Life 2022
Hundreds of pro-life Vermonters gathered in Montpelier on January 22, the 49th anniversary of the landmark US Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. This was the largest rally of its kind in our capital city to pray, march, and learn. The Court’s 1973 decision ruled that women in the United States had a fundamental right to abort their babies. Currently, Vermont has the most progressive abortion laws in the country and is seeking to add language to the Vermont constitution this November with a vote on Article 22. If it passes, Article 22 would allow abortions up to the moment of birth with no restrictions on the procedure or on those that perform abortions.

Deacons
In March, seven deacon candidates were initiated into the Ministry of Acolyte. The candidates are: Christopher Noble, Patrick Leduc, R.J. Dourney, John Magnier, Josh McDonald, Thomas Lovett, and Robert Begley.

Rosary Thursday
Bishop Coyne was the first U.S. bishop to lead Rosary Thursday, an initiative of World Priest Rosary Apostolate, on Jan. 27, accessible on Zoom with people from all over the world.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this Year of Communion: Creed, Worship & Life, we celebrate our unity in faith as one Catholic community. Our doors are wide open again and we are called to gather in person in prayer, song and worship. With great joy we celebrate our births, baptisms, and weddings; we mourn the loss of our loved ones; we feed the hungry and visit the lonely; we shepherd our children in the faith as they embrace the sacraments; and each week we come together to worship and receive the Eucharist, as one body in Christ.

Our pastoral ministries are thriving as our community is hungry to be together once again. We have much to celebrate — the largest number of candidates seeking the Rite of Election in more than seven years, the most deacons initiated into the Ministry of Acolyte, the largest Rally for Life, steady increases in Catholic school enrollments, and so much more. But we need your support to keep the momentum going. The last two years have impacted many financially, including the Bishop's Annual Appeal which supports all these ministries, including emergency aid to the rising number of families in crisis. Please prayerfully consider a gift this year, so our Catholic Church can continue to thrive.

In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. — Romans 12:5

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Rev. Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

WAYS TO GIVE

GOAL: $2.5 MILLION

25% Catholic Schools
Superintendent’s Office and Catholic Schools Subsidies

30% Catholic Charities
Emergency aid and support services

22% Catholic Ministries & Services
Cemeteries, Archives, Parish Financial Services, Safe Environments, Tribunal and Vocations

13% Communication
Vermont Catholic magazine, archdiocesan social media, online news and community outreach

10% Pastoral Ministries, Catechesis, Faith formation, Family and Marriage, Permanent diaconate, Respect Life and youth ministry

Allocation of Funds Percentages allocations are based on our assessment of present need and might change due to unforeseen circumstances, but donations will only be used to support these ministries.
YOUR GIFT AT WORK

The following stories provide a glimpse of the impact of your gift to the Bishop's Annual Appeal. Any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.

School visits
To honor the Diocese of Burlington Catholic schools, Bishop Coyne celebrated Masses at each school in the state. In January he stopped by St. Michael School in Brattleboro and The School of Sacred Heart St. Francis de Sales in Bennington. However, the fun didn't stop in February. His trips included a stop at St. Francis Xavier School in Winookski and Mater Christi School in Burlington.

In March, Bishop Coyne went to Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington, Good Shepard School in St. Johnsbury, St. Paul School in Barton, The Bishop John A. Marshall School in Morrisville, Chist the King School in Burlington, St. Monica-St. Michael School in Barre and Mount St. Joseph Academy and Christ the King School in Rutland.

Overall, Catholic schools' enrollment has been on the rise the last several years.

Confirmations
Bishop Christopher Coyne confirmed nearly 600 students throughout the Diocese in April and May. “The help of the Holy Spirit, given in confirmation, is sorely needed as our young people face an ever-increasing range of social issues and pressures,” said Josh Perry, director of the Office of Worship.

Support for our facilities in need
All of our diocesan schools and several parishes received a total of $1 million in grants from the Diocese to address immediate capital needs. Many of these were immediate needs that had to be addressed to avoid additional damage and expense.

Rite of Election
The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated March 6 at St. Joseph Cathedral in Burlington. There were 40 people in attendance who were seeking full communion in the Catholic Church at Easter with a total of 58 people involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults process throughout the Diocese. This is the most in the seven years since the bishop has led the statewide Diocese. Bishop Coyne welcomed another four men and three women caders at Norwich University on Easter Sunday evening.

“It is reminder to me of the enduring call of the faith of the Church to people who are seeking meaning and hope in their lives and the offer of eternal salvation in Jesus Christ,” said Bishop Coyne. “Times and circumstance may change, but the Church endures through the ages.”

Ordination of 2 priests
Bishop Coyne ordained two transition-deacons, Deacon Gregory Caldwell and Deacon Brandon Schneider, to the priesthood at a special Mass in May.

Men's and women's retreats
Successful, well-attended spiritual retreats took place recently in the Diocese of Burlington, one for men and one for women.

The Annual Men's Retreat took place March 19 at Our Lady of the Angels Church in Randolph. The keynote speaker was Father Scott Gratton, pastor of Our Lady of the Angels in Randolph and Our Lady of the Valley Parish in Bethel and St. Elizabeth Church in Rochester and a Vermont Army National Guard chaplain. The theme of the retreat was “Band of Brothers.”

Eighty men attended the day of fellowship. Commented one: “This is my first Men's Retreat as a Catholic after converting a few years ago. Now I know what I have been missing all those years!”

The Diocesan Women's Retreat, “The Heart of Prayer” took place April 2 at Our Lady of the Angels Church. The keynote speaker was Sister Barbara Cline, FSE. Sixty women attended both the fall and spring retreats.

“The whole retreat was simply amazing!” said one participant. “It was a joy to be with so many women devoted to God.”

Vermont Catholic Charities
The continuing Covid-19 pandemic along with rising costs, isolation and other factors have heightened the need of the population we serve and have brought new families to us for help.

Emergency Aid
George is a single father of two teenage children. He had fallen behind on rent. One of his children uses support services in the community. Therefore, George was committed to remaining in their home and community. Vermont Catholic Charities assisted with some back rent and helped him apply for additional assistance to ensure all his back rent was covered. George stated, “I am grateful for your support and relieved that my family can remain in our home.”

Ron and Deborah have three school-aged children. Due to Covid-19, Deborah had to take time off from work to care for her children at home. The loss in wages and the increase in food costs put the family in a temporary financial crisis. Vermont Catholic Charities assisted with a food card. Ron and Deborah commented, “This support was a godsend at a stressful time for our family. God bless you and thank you for all you do to help others.”

Communications Update 'Coffee with Bishop Coyne'
Coffee with Bishop Coyne launched on November 10, 2021. During this weekly video series, Bishop Coyne and Alayna Masker, digital media manager for the Diocese, discuss topics that include current diocesan events as well as those pertaining to the Catholic Church.

As part of our effort to increase communication throughout the Diocese, almost every parish has converted to the new eCatholic site which provides online giving and is easy for parishioners to navigate. In addition, the Vermont Catholic News site launched a new notifications application that allows Catholics to get the latest news automatically delivered to the device of their choice.

The following stories provide a glimpse of the impact of your gift to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal. Any gift, no matter the size, makes a difference.