Holding my grandson in my arms while he sleeps is an amazing gift. Gazing at his long brown eye lashes (his father's), I am brought back to the time when I held my daughter while she slept. I wonder what my mother thought while holding my daughter, and my grandmother holding me as one of her many granddaughters.

Although I inherited memorable genetic traits from my parents, it was their life stories and those of my relatives, elderly friends, teachers and acquaintances that influenced me more. There were times I did not want to listen or stop to take the time as I had games to play and things to do — but reflecting on these graces, I am glad I listened to them and observed their kindness with others. God's presence in these people were both indeed gifts and guidance.

God's gift of life passes from one generation to another, uniting us as a community to raise one another up. What stories or traits do we pass to the next generation as a community of faith? As God's perfect design, how readily do we accept the responsibility, vulnerability and intimacy to trust one another?

It is no coincidence or miraculous alignment of the planets that we recognize and celebrate grandparents and the elderly, the memorial of Sts. Anne and Joachim (the grandparents of Jesus), Natural Family Planning Awareness and the teachings of “Humanae Vitae” all within the same week, July 24-30. We celebrate the lives of our community — the young, the old, the married, the celibate.

As a community, we are all called to support one another and celebrate the life that God has given each of us. How can we support those who are vulnerable in their physical, emotional and spiritual health? How do we support those who are single, widowed, undecided in their vocation or have lost their way?

Share with your homebound parents, grandparents or elderly friends the opportunity to watch the live-streamed 2nd World Celebration for Grandparents and Elderly Day Mass celebrated by Burlington Bishop Christopher Coyne on July 24 from the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Burlington at 10 a.m.

Invite your grandparents or elderly friends to attend Mass with you or ask them how you might pray for them. Call your parish rectory ahead of time to see if there might be a special blessing offered after Mass.

What are the stories our children, our grandchildren and their children will tell about this current time? There are plenty of media sources filtered through the third person. God’s truth, His wisdom, can be found in the interactions with others. Seek the stories of those who have experienced life, those found in the first person and ask how God has been witnessed in their life.

— Terri McCormack, Marriage and Family Life Coordinator, Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington
Upcoming Events

**07/12 – 11|08 TUESDAYS**

**The Creed Professed:**

_a seminar on Part I of the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults_

via Zoom – 7 – 8 pm

This bi-weekly Zoom seminar is being offered as part of the Diocesan “Year of Communion: Unity in Creed, Worship and Life.” The first session was held on May 10. For information and to register: studythecreed@gmail.com

July 12, Session 5: I Believe in God
July 26, Session 6: Man and Woman in the Beginning
Aug 9, Session 7: The Good News: God Has Sent His Son
Aug 23, Session 8: The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ
Sep 13, Session 9: Receive the Holy Spirit (In 20:22)
Sep 27, Session 10: The Church: Reflecting the Light of Christ
Oct 11, Session 11: The Four Marks of the Church
Oct 25, Session 12: Mary: The Church’s First and Most Perfect Member
Nov 8, Session 13: Our Eternal Destiny

**07/13, 20, 27, 08|03, 10, 17, 24, 31 WEDNESDAYS**

**Summer Reflection Series at St. Anne’s Shrine**

St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte • 11:15 am

We hope you can join us for the 11:15 am Mass followed by the presentation. Lunch is available in the cafeteria after the presentation, except for July 27 when you can bring your own picnic lunch. Please call or email us with any questions at (802) 928.3362 or sas@sse.org.

July 13, 14, 15: Rev. Richard Myhalyk, S.S.E., _The Gardens in Sacred Scripture_. This is a three-part presentation. We hope you can join us for one, two or all three!
July 20: There will not be a presentation this week.
August 10: Rev. David Gray, S.S.E., _Topic coming soon!
August 17: Rev. Michael Carter, S.S.E., _Presidents and Piety: Catholic Schools in America_
August 24: Monsignor Peter Routhier, _The Role of Saints in the Life of the Church_
August 31: Rev. Richard Myhalyk, S.S.E., _How We See God: Our Spiritual Lens on Life_

**07/17 – 08|06**

**Totus Tuus**

Vermont’s largest catholic summer program for kids returns, with 12 locations. For more information and to download registration forms, visit vermontcatholic.org/totustuus. Sessions began on June 19.

Remaining list of dates and locations:
July 17 – 22 • Burlington and Vergennes
July 24 – 29 • Newport and Rutland
July 31 – August 5 • St. Johnsbury and Georgia

**07/17 SUNDAY**

**St. Mary’s Church Brunch**

St. Mary, Franklin • 9 am - 12:30 pm

Adults: $12, children 7-16: $8, 6 and under: Free. All you can eat! Take-outs are available.

**07/20 WEDNESDAY**

**Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast**

Chancery Office, S. Burlington
8:30 - 9:30 am

Joseph Patrnchak, principal at Green Summit Partners, a consulting firm that focuses on leadership and organizational development working with a variety of profit and non-profit organizations, will be our next speaker. His talk will address “Listen When God Whispers” and will be presented July 20. Light breakfast foods and beverages will be served. A Zoom option will also be available for those who cannot or do not want to attend in person.

**07/25, 26, 27 MON, TUES, WED Quebec Pilgrimage**

via Bus, roundtrip Vermont – Quebec
Join the K of C Council #297 in St. Albans for a pilgrimage to Quebec. Stops include Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Shrine, Our Lady of the Cape Shrine in Trois-Rivières, St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal and St. Anne’s Shrine in Isle La Motte, Vermont. The cost includes all lodging, transportation and meals.

FOR MORE INFO: Bill Greenwood at (802) 527-0496.

**07/29 FRIDAY**

**Day of Recollection Retreat**

St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle LaMotte
10 am – 3 pm

Come and enjoy a day of recollection here with us at the Shrine. The day long retreat includes Mass and lunch. Cost is $30 per person and reservations are required. To reserve your spot, please call Nancy Dulude at (802) 928-3362.

**07/17 SUNDAY**

**St. Mary’s Church Brunch**

St. Mary, Franklin • 9 am - 12:30 pm

Adults: $12, children 7-16: $8, 6 and under: Free. All you can eat! Take-outs are available.

To learn more or make a gift online visit: bishopsappealvt.org