On Friday June 24th, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This image of Christ recalls the love and mercy that flowed from the pierced heart of Jesus as he hung on the Cross and the love and mercy that continues to flow from the heart of the Church. Out of love for each of us, God through His only begotten Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit, continues to nourish the gift of life in creation and in the life of each person created in His image and likeness, whether in the womb or in hospice care. We are a people of life and a people formed in God’s love. The image of the Sacred Heart compels us to be bearers and sharers of the love that flows from Jesus Christ.

I believe it is helpful for us as Catholics to ponder the mystery of Christ’s love in light of the ruling of the US Supreme Court which overturns Roe vs. Wade and to use that image as a means of forming our response amongst ourselves and in the greater community. While we can rightly applaud the decision of the Court, we must also be vigilant to avoid any language that will further inflame the present public response. I am reminded of the words of the Prayer of St. Francis:

Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred, let me bring your love …

Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light …

Here in Vermont, the Supreme Court’s ruling has no effect on the present legal right to abortion. Our state already has the most liberal of laws allowing for abortion on demand right up to the moment of birth. Additionally, there is a strong effort to amend the State Constitution this November under Article 22, enshrining these laws within the State Constitution. I will soon be issuing two pastoral letters, one to address the serious issues raised by the effort to amend the State Constitution, the other as to how we as Catholics need to continue to promote a culture of life in which we seek to protect all human life from the moment of conception to the moment of natural death, and, in particular, to provide pregnant women and families with the support they need to always choose life.

In the meantime, my prayer is that each of us will continue to abide in the river of love that flows from the Sacred Heart of Jesus, reveling in the gift of life that has formed us in the image of God and recreated us in the waters of baptism.

May the channel of love that flows from Jesus Christ help us to be channels of His peace.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington
Summer Reflection Series at Saint Anne's Shrine
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 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 27: Rev. David Theroux, S.S.E.,
The Corporal Works of Mercy: Faith in Action

August 3: Rev. Richard Berube, S.S.E. and Jeff Firlik,
Good News, Good Notes: The Gospel in Gospel Music

August 10: Rev. David Cray, S.S.E.,
St. Lawrence the Martyr: Dying to Self

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

Day of Recollection Retreat
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 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 at (802) 928-3362.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level II Course for Adults
Saint Andrew, Waterbury
This Level II course builds upon the foundation of the Level I course and prepares catechists to work with 6-9 year old children. Complete dates: Sept 24-25, Nov 5-6, 2022, Jan 7-8, Mar 18-19 (tentative) 2023; May 13-14 (snow make-up date), June 19-25, 2023. Learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd at www.cgsusa.org. MORE INFO: Kathleen Cosentino, kcosentino@madriver.com or (802) 233-3009.

Upcoming Events

Vermont Catholic Professionals NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Wednesday, July 20, 2022
8:30 AM
Diocese of Burlington Offices
55 Joy Drive, South Burlington
Speaker
Joseph Patrnchak,
Principal, Green Summit Partners
Registration
vermontcatholic.org/vcp

Six Reasons to Oppose Proposal 5/Article 22

1. Inhumane
2. Dangerous
3. Exploitative
4. Expensive
5. Unconscionable
6. Consequential

How is the amendment Unconscionable?
Medical professionals would be prevented from conscientiously objecting to participation in procedures that they find morally reprehensible or that go against their best medical judgement.