

# The Inland See

NEWS FROM

August 13–19, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



## Children at Mass have a lot to teach us

Many years ago, I was sitting in a pew, waiting for Mass to begin, when I noticed a mother with a small child sitting about four pews ahead of me. Mom was kneeling with her eyes closed, obviously in prayer. The child, however, as children will, had quietly slid down to the other end of that same pew and was busily peering over the side, just to see what was there. Given her age, it must have seemed like a long way down.

Unbeknownst to the little one, the priest was headed down that same aisle toward the back of the church. He was older,

tall, clothed from top to bottom in a black cassock, and his head was covered with a shock of pure white hair. As he

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came abreast of the little girl, the child suddenly looked up at him — and up and up and up. By the time she came to the white hair, she couldn’t hold her excitement in any longer. Running across the pew, she shook her mother’s arm. “Mommy, Mommy, was that God?” Her eyes were huge; here they were, in God’s house like her mother had said, and she had actually seen Him!

Both people that morning were offering worship to God, but I can’t

help but think that God smiled a bit at the child. We adults often approach prayer and devotion as serious business — which it is — but something about the total innocence of that child made Him very present to me that morning in a way I had not expected but thoroughly appreciated. It is no wonder that Jesus told us very specifically that unless we became like the little girl at the end of the pew, we might not get to enter His kingdom. In the worship of children, there is no crowding out the voice of God with our own opinions and certainly no pomposity (remember the prayer of the Pharisee). It just is, and that is what makes it so precious.

More recently, I began observing the smallest members of my own parish. There’s Molly, who comes to church with her mother and older sister every Sunday. The only thing about Molly is that she is deaf and has been from birth. Yet, that doesn’t stop her from greeting everyone on the aisle end of the pews with a delighted smile and a vigorous fist bump. Molly loves church; she points and signs and likely participates even more than some of the grown-ups around her. Kind of makes you wonder where the real disability is.

And then there’s the lad, who was too small to carry the cross in procession but gave it his best effort anyway. Last week he was sitting behind me, having just made his first confession the day before. He loudly and proudly prayed the Our Father. The Apostles couldn’t have done better.

The moral of the story? Pay attention to the children; they have a lot to teach us.

VTC • Kay Winchester

*This article was first published in the Summer issue of Vermont Catholic magazine, made through the generosity of the Bishop’s Appeal and the goodwill and prayers of the faithful in the Diocese of Burlington..*

# Upcoming Events



08|17, 24, 31 WEDNESDAYS  
**Summer Reflection Series  
 at Saint 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.

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*



08|17 – 10|28 WEDNESDAYS  
**"The Search" Video Series**  
*St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 - 8:30 pm*

Why are we here? What's life all about? What happens when we die? Have you ever pondered the answers to these questions, or others like them? Do you wonder what kinds of answers the Catholic faith has given throughout the centuries? To get to the crux of the matter, please consider joining us "The Search" video series: viewing, brief discussion, and some light refreshments. **FOR MORE INFO: Connie, sjvgoodnews@gmail.com.**



08|23, 9|13, 27 TUESDAYS  
**Grief & Loss Support Group for  
 Widows/Widowers**  
*St. Mark, Burlington • 9:45 - 11 am*

Society promotes many misconceptions about grief (e.g., emotions are only acceptable at funerals, grief is brief, only immediate family are impacted, . . . etc.) that may hinder the recovery process. There is no single pattern to grief. The benefits of a support group with others who have experienced the loss of a spouse or partner helps universalize your experience. You are not alone, although it may feel that way sometimes. Listening to the experience of others who have traversed rough waters usually lends helpful insights into personal practices. Please join us every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the rectory parlor to explore supportive ways grief and loss can be the entry point for God's healing.



08|23 – 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

Aug 23, Session 8: *The Saving Death and Resurrection of Christ*  
 Sep 13, Session 9: *Receive the Holy Spirit (Jn 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*



09|17 SATURDAY  
**Vermont Catholic Daughters  
 Fall Retreat: The Rosary**  
*Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph  
 9 am – 2 pm*

The Vermont Catholic Daughters Fall Retreat will be lead by Father Brandon Schneider. There will be a series of short talks and Mass will be celebrated during the retreat. Father will be available for confessions. Snacks and lunch will be provided. We will be raising awareness of the need to support our seminarians. There is no fee for this event. However, you must pre-register by September 7, 2022. After that, there will be a late fee of \$10. Please register with Debbie at: dgbrown264@gmail.com



09|24, 25 SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd  
 Level II Course for Adults**  
*Saint Andrew, Waterbury*

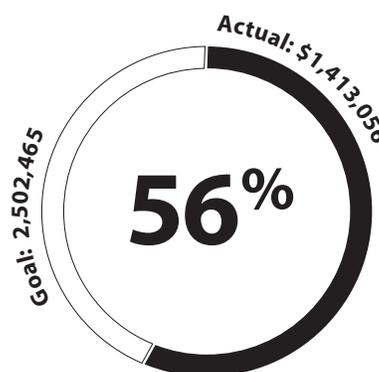
This Level II course builds upon the foundation of the Level I course and prepares catechists to work with 6-9 year old children. Complete dates: Sept 24-25, Nov 5-6, 2022, Jan 7-8, Mar 18-19 (tentative) 2023; May 13-14 (snow make-up date), June 19-25, 2023. Learn more about Catechesis of the Good Shepherd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

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



2022  
**UNITY  
 IN FAITH**

To learn more or make a gift online  
 visit: [bishopsappealvt.org](http://bishopsappealvt.org)



respect  
**LIFE**  
 DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

### AFFIRMING A CULTURE OF LIFE

*Parishioner testimony:* "My niece, Bonnie, was born a week before my sister's 22nd birthday. No one ever said whether abortion was considered, but it must have been. My sister had a tumultuous time in high school, barely graduating. Her life was a mess, as was her relationship with Bonnie's father.

But, for whatever reason, there was no abortion, and Bonnie came into the world. I never saw such a change in a person as when my sister became a mother. It turned her life around, as she later said. Bonnie gave her a reason to live, and to get her act together. She went to college, and eventually became a teacher. My sister was a devoted mother, and Bonnie has grown to be an extraordinary and gifted woman. Truly, "God sends children into the world to save their parents."

**Let us affirm life. Please vote "no" to Article 22.**



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
 DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

## DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON CAREERS

*Diocesan Central Offices, South Burlington:  
 Diocesan Youth & Young Adult Minister*

[vermontcatholic.org/careers](http://vermontcatholic.org/careers)