

# NEWS FROM The Inland See

October 1-7, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

*from the Bishop*

## Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I speak to you today as your brother and your bishop. I do so not as a politician but as a pastor, seeking to offer guidance to you, the faithful, in light of the two significant challenges that have existed in our state for many years, even prior to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court overturning *Roe vs. Wade*.

The immediate challenge we face is the continuing efforts to enact state laws and policies that incentivize and encourage the right to an abortion as the first response to an unplanned pregnancy, culminating in the drive to amend the Vermont State Constitution this November enshrining these laws within the state constitution. The larger, more complex challenge to address is a culture that no longer prioritizes the support of families and children, especially the poor and the single parent so as to lessen the factors that lead to an abortion. Allow me to address the immediate challenge first.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe vs. Wade* has no effect on the present legal right to abortion in the State of Vermont. Our state already has the most liberal of laws allowing for abortion on demand right up to the moment of birth. Efforts to amend the state constitution this November under Article 22 will enshrine these laws within the state constitution. Known as Article 22, the "Reproductive Liberty Amendment" reads, "That an individual's right to personal reproductive autonomy is central to the liberty and dignity to determine one's own life course and shall not be denied or infringed unless justified by a compelling State interest achieved by the least restrictive means."

I ask you to consider with great seriousness the implications of this amendment. Our state constitution not only serves as the foundation for the enactment of our state laws and interpretation of those laws within our judicial system, it also serves to enshrine the values that we should hold as a people of the State of Vermont. Do we really want to enshrine amongst our values something as vague and misguided as a "right to personal reproductive freedom?" Should we not instead continue to value first and foremost the right to life of all human beings including the child in the womb? Should we not focus instead on the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" by enacting laws and policies that directly confront the reasons why people choose to have an abortion by creating a "culture of life?"

In this context, it is important that I recall for you the Catholic Church's great history of moral and social teaching. Careful and prudent attention to this moral tradition and social teaching should be indispensable to our lives as Catholics in all aspects including and beyond the rights of children before birth, including and beyond the proper attitude toward children and family.

The "common good" in Catholic social teaching assures us that the political order is not an inescapable conflict of mutually exclusive human rights. It is possible to support the life and dignity of all people through the right harmony of family, society, state and global community. We can protect the sanctity of all life while addressing the complex issues that lead to abortion. This would include working towards a just wage, enacting laws requiring maternity and paternity leave, striving to provide adequate healthcare, daycare, and housing - these and all those factors that when not adequately provided can lead to the unfortunate choice of an abortion.

In this light, I state again that the intent to establish in the state constitution a legal endorsement of actions that are intrinsically evil — mainly that of electively procured abortion during all months of pregnancy — is directly opposed to the Church's moral and social teaching and does not serve the "common good." We ought to oppose this intent with the goal of creating a "culture of life" by forming true legal expressions of the dignity of human life, incorporating the affirmation of the praiseworthy commitments of parenting and of the rights and responsibilities of both children and parents.

In conclusion, I ask you to exercise your rights as a citizen of the State of Vermont and vote "No" on Article 22 this November. I also encourage you to work with your local legislators to enact policies and laws that support a "culture of life" that values not only life in the womb but life outside of the womb. I enjoin your prayers for the essential works of charity and for every opportunity to witness to the truth of the dignity of life. The praying of the rosary by individuals and groups of the faithful and times of Eucharistic Adoration in our parishes are most commendable for prayer in our parishes. May all of our prayers bring those we serve, especially the vulnerable and most in need, to know the goodness of Christ, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

To read the full pastoral letter go to: [vermontcatholic.org/respectlife](http://vermontcatholic.org/respectlife)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Christopher J. Coyne*



The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne  
Bishop of Burlington

# Upcoming Events



10|04, 11, 18, 25, 11|01, 08 TUESDAYS  
**The Chosen, Season 2 Discussion Group**

*St Pius X, Essex • 6 - 8 pm*

Are you familiar with The Chosen TV series? Each session includes optional viewing of that week's episode from 6 pm to 7 pm on the big screen TV, followed by the group discussion and prayer from 7 pm to 8 pm. Sign up at: [essexcatholic-communityvt.flocknote.com/signup/97532](http://essexcatholic-communityvt.flocknote.com/signup/97532) or contact John Ludden at [vtluddens@gmail.com](mailto:vtluddens@gmail.com)



10|04, 11, 18 TUESDAYS  
**The Christian Crisis of Teen Doubt (3 part series)**

*St. John the Evangelist, Northfield • 6:30 pm*

Join us for a 3-part series presented by Joe Blanchette on insights into this problem and how we can help our youth (and perhaps you) be better prepared to explain "why we believe what we believe" about our Catholic Faith. Pizza served at 6 pm.

Oct 4, Part 1: Dealing with Youth Doubt

Oct 11, Part 2: The Resurrection: A Hoax?

Oct 18, Part 3: Doubt: Threat or Opportunity?



10|05 WEDNESDAY  
**What you need to know before you vote on Article 22/Prop 5**

*Pierson Library, Shelburne • 6:30 - 8 pm*

Presented by Representative Anne Donahue and Matthew Strong, Executive Director of Vermonters for Good Government. This event is sponsored by St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Shelburne.



10|07, 14, 21, 28 FRIDAYS  
**SoulCore**

*Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 9 - 10:30 am*

SoulCore is an apostolate that intentionally engages the whole person in the sacred experience of the rosary. Integrating the prayers of the rosary with core strengthening, stretching and functional movements to nourish body & soul and encourage deeper reflection on the virtues. A gentle path to grow in virtue and cultivate interior peace. What to bring: Mat, water, weights optional (1-3lbs) Who should come? Everyone! SoulCore is self-paced and can be modified for any ability



10|08 SATURDAY  
**Ordination Mass**

*St. Joseph Cathedral, Burlington • 10 am - 12 pm*

The Diocese of Burlington joyfully celebrates the ordination of seven men to the permanent diaconate by Bishop Christopher Coyne. All are invited to join us in the Cathedral for this solemn liturgy of Ordination. A reception will follow in the Cathedral Parish Hall.



10|08 SATURDAY  
**Bingo**

*St. Peter, Vergennes • 6 - 8 pm*

Doors open at 5 p.m., Bingo starts at 6 p.m. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. This event is sponsored by St. Peter's

Cemetery Committee to benefit the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.



10|09, 11|20, 12|18 SUNDAYS  
**3 Part Series on The Christian Crisis of Teen Doubt**

*St. Catherine of Siena, Shelburne • 5:30 pm*

Join us for a 3-part series presented by Joe Blanchette on insights into this problem and how we can help our youth (and perhaps you) be better prepared to explain "why we believe what we believe" about our Catholic Faith.

Oct. 9, Part 1: Dealing with Youth Doubt

Nov. 20, Part 2: The Resurrection: A Hoax?

Dec. 18, Part 3: Doubt: A Threat or Opportunity?



10|11, 25 & 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](mailto:studythecreed@gmail.com)

Oct 11, Session 11: *The Four Marks of the Church*

Oct 25, Session 12: *Mary: Church's First and Most Perfect Member*

Nov 8, Session 13: *Our Eternal Destiny*



10|16 SATURDAY  
**St. Peter's Cemetery Committee Craft Fair with Bake Sale & Luncheon**

*St. Peter, Vergennes • 9 am - 3 pm*

Come shop our handmade crafts! This event benefits the on-going efforts for cemetery improvements.



10|16 SUNDAY  
**Third Annual Celebration in Honor of St. John Henry Newman**

*Holy Family, Essex Junction • 4 - 8 pm*

Chanted Solemn Vespers followed by dinner and two presentations. Please RSVP by October 10: [vermontnewman@gmail.com](mailto:vermontnewman@gmail.com). \$15 per guest/ \$25 for two / \$10 for every additional guest



10|19 WEDNESDAY  
**Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast**

*Diocesan Offices, S. Burlington • 8:30 am*

Vermont Catholic Professionals is a group of individuals involved in the business and professional communities in Vermont. Our next speaker is James Ulager, MD. There will be a light breakfast foods and an opportunity for networking. **FOR MORE INFO** or to register to attend in-person or via Zoom, visit [vermontcatholic/vcp](http://vermontcatholic/vcp).



10|19 WEDNESDAY  
**Knights of Columbus Virtual Career Fair**

*Online • 7 - 8 pm*

Are you looking for a career path with financial stability that

also provides spiritual fulfillment? Consider a career as a Knights of Columbus Field Agent. **Attend at:** [tinyurl.com/kofccareers](http://tinyurl.com/kofccareers)



10|21, 22, 23, 24 FRIDAY - MONDAY  
**Light of the World Retreat**

*Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct.*

Light of the World is a weekend retreat experience where participants personally encounter Christ through the presentation of the basic Gospel message. It is for all who want to build their relationship with the Lord, who want to understand how important Jesus is in their lives, and how much He loves us and wants to walk with us. There will be time for prayer, renewing of sacraments, Mass and small group discussions. Snacks and meals provided. **FOR MORE INFO:** [essexcatholic.vermontcatholic.org/light-of-the-world-retreat](http://essexcatholic.vermontcatholic.org/light-of-the-world-retreat) or email [ecc.engage@gmail.com](mailto:ecc.engage@gmail.com).



10|29 SATURDAY  
**Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk**

*Resurrection Park, S. Burlington • 6:45*

Join us for a candlelit guided evangelization drama through Resurrection Park. A guide will lead groups through a portion of Resurrection Park cemetery while encountering actors playing the roles of various saints and martyrs who come alive to tell their stories. This is a very peaceful walk with reflective stops along the way. Meet us in the St. John Vianney Parish Hall in South Burlington. Recommended for ages 12+.

## BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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

