

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

October 29 – November 4, 2022

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

A gift from God

October was Down Syndrome Awareness Month, a time, according to The Jerome Lejeune Foundation, when “we applaud caregivers, families and medical professionals — but most of all, we applaud all the wonderful people with Down syndrome.”

As in most years during Down Syndrome Awareness Month, our family joined other families in our area who have a child with Down syndrome for the annual local Buddy Walk. Collectively, our children at the gathering ranged from infants to adults.

Though the children and adults with Down syndrome differ in abilities and personalities — and though our families are from all different backgrounds — there is an understanding among us. We get one another. There is a beautiful acceptance and appreciation for the family members with Down syndrome. Our children are valued.

There is a special quality that individuals with Down syndrome possess that is difficult to explain unless you have had the privilege of knowing someone with that extra 21st chromosome. I think the late Dr. Jerome Lejeune (considered Venerable by the Catholic Church) captures that quality perfectly: “Their ligaments, their muscles, are so supple that it adds a tender languor to their way of being. And this sweetness extends to their character.”

That sweetness of character, I think, is what we pick up on. The more people who get to know a person with Down syndrome, the more those qualities can be appreciated, and the more acceptance there is. And the more people there are with Down syndrome, then the more exposure people will have to them.

But what happens when their numbers disappear from our communities as a result of the routine practice of prenatal testing and abortion? A 2012 study estimated that about 74 percent of babies prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted in the U.S. (For various reasons, not all babies with Down syndrome are diagnosed prenatally, so, that high percentage does not reflect the overall reduction in Down syndrome births.)

Overall reduction in Down syndrome births is estimated each



year in an annual study, People living with Down syndrome in the USA: Births and Population. The 2022 update (for year 2016) estimates the overall reduction in Down syndrome births, due to abortion, was about 36 percent.

The previous study estimated 33 percent, so there has been an uptick in the percentage of babies with Down syndrome aborted. Future years will show whether the implementation of Non-Invasive

Prenatal Screening, introduced in 2011, is having an effect on Down syndrome births.

The findings for Europe are even more devastating. The 2022 update estimates that the effect of abortion on overall newborn births is 56 percent. In other words, Europe is reducing Down syndrome births each year by over a half.

This huge reduction in Down syndrome births is unbearable to think about. Thousands of innocent babies' lives extinguished each year on both continents. Significantly fewer families blessed with a child with Down syndrome. Significantly fewer children with Down syndrome to get to know and appreciate. Less understanding for those who struggle for acceptance.

On a positive note, life expectancy for individuals with Down syndrome has dramatically improved over the decades. The U.S. study shows that life expectancy was, “53 years (mean) and 58 years (median)” in the 2010s.

I was talking to my daughter Sadie recently, about how, typically, babies get 23 chromosomes from the mom and 23 from the dad. We've talked about this before, so she's familiar with the concept. I told her, “In your case, of course, you have an extra chromosome that comes from...” Before I could complete my sentence and without skipping a beat, she said, “It comes from God!”

Wow! Now that is a young lady who knows her worth.

It is so incredibly sad that so many expecting parents don't recognize the value of their own child. If only they knew what my daughter knows.

— *Eileen Haupt is respect life coordinator for the Diocese of Burlington.*

This article was originally published at nationalrighttolifenews.org.

Upcoming Events



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 or contact John Ludden at vtluddens@gmail.com



11|04, 11, 18, 25 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



11|06 SUNDAY
DeGosbriand Council #279 Vocation Breakfast
Cathedral of St. Joseph Parish Hall, Burlington
 9 - 11:30 am

This old-fashioned, all-you-care-to-eat pancake breakfast benefits seminarians or religious aspirants. The breakfast feast will feature all of your favorites: bacon, sausage, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, French toast, coffee, juice, butter, and real Vermont maple syrup and more. Admission is \$10 or \$25 for a family of four. Take-out containers are available.

The goal of the Knights of Columbus DeGosbriand Council # 279 Vocation Pancake Breakfast is to raise scholarship funds to be used by seminarians and those in religious formation for books, car insurance, maintenance, travel during vacations, clerical clothing, emergency expenditures, and other living expenses.



11|07 MONDAY
Mass in Spanish
Saint Michael's College Chapel, Colchester
 7:30 pm

Contact Fr. Marcel Rainville, S.S.E. at (802) 654-2848 to be placed on our email list.



11|08 TUESDAY
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
 Oct 25, Session 12: *Mary: Church's First and Most Perfect Member*
 Nov 8, Session 13: *Our Eternal Destiny*



11|11 FRIDAY
Catholic Variety Show
St. Michael's College, Colchester • 7 pm

The Catholic Variety Show is back and in-person. The evening of family-friendly entertainment presented by priests of the Diocese of Burlington will take place at the McCarthy Arts Center at St. Michael's College. Featured will be Fr. Lance Harlow, Fr. Steven Marchand, Msgr. John McDermott and Fr. Joseph Sanderson. All proceeds will benefit the seminarians of the Diocese of Burlington. Tickets are \$15 each online or \$20 each at the door. Only 300 seats available. For more information, go to VTchallengers.org.



11|12 SATURDAY
Vermont Craft & Product Fair
St. John the Evangelist Church, Northfield
 9 am - 3 pm



11|15, 17, 29, 12|01 TUES & THURS
Walking With Families: Tackling the Tough Topics Around Human Sexuality
Online • 7 - 8 pm

This series of discussions will share the beauty of the

Catholic Church's teachings on Theology of the Body as well as offer practical tips and suggestions from local professionals, clergy, religious and lay persons about how to talk about the gift of our sexuality, respond to gender identity issues, and more with our youth, our parents, our family, and friends.

Please join us from 7 to 8 pm, for the presentation and time for questions. Presenters include: Father Jon Schnobrich, Jessica Whelan, ND,FCPI,MCI, Sharon Trani, MSN, MAFT, APRN/Nurse Practitioner, Marriage and Family Therapist, Daniel Lacourrege, Diocesan Catechetical Leader, Sister Paul Mary Dreger, FSE, Campus Ministry, Marie Antunes, Administrative Secretary Waterbury, Moretown, Waitsfield. You can choose to attend any and all presentations. Learn more and register at: vermontcatholic.org/event/walking-with-families/



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. Part 1 was held on Oct. 9.

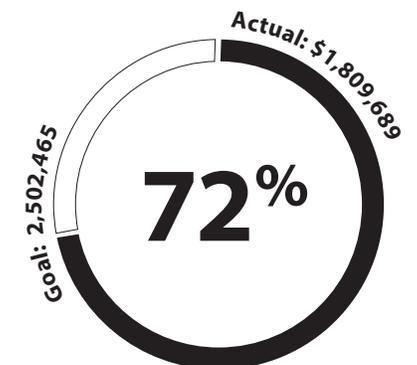
Nov. 20, Part 2: The Resurrection: A Hoax?

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

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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



First Saturday Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary — November 5

In these times, let us seriously consider one of the important messages from our Lady of Fatima — the First Saturday devotion for Reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This includes attending five consecutive first Saturday masses, going to confession within eight days, receiving Holy Communion, and meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary for fifteen minutes.

All Saints, Richford	Confession 7:30 am, followed by First Saturday Mass at 8 am, then devotional prayers.
Essex Catholic Community	The Saturday Vigil Mass may be used for the First Saturday Devotion: St. Lawrence at 4 pm and St. Pius X at 4:30 pm.
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington	Confession at 3 pm, Rosary at 4 pm and Vigil Mass 4:30 pm.
St. Mark, Burlington	First Saturday Mass at 9 am.

Does your parish offer special Marian devotion? Post it to the diocesan calendar and we will list it in *The Inland See*: vermontcatholic.org/events/community/add