

NEWS FROM The Inland See

April 15–21, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



Deacon RJ Dourney to be speaker at next Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast

One of the newest permanent deacons serving the Diocese of Burlington will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of Vermont Catholic Professionals, offering his thoughts on bringing Catholic values to the board room or the work place.

Deacon RJ Dourney, ordained last year, also will offer personal testimony to the power of Catholic networking.

“Over the past 30 years as an executive, I have encountered some of the most hostile, non-Christian environments and managed to remain true to my Catholic faith while succeeding in a business,” said the seasoned entrepreneur and executive who has successfully developed multiple companies throughout the United States, Europe, Central America and Asia including the development of more than 2,000 restaurants. “Though some doors have been closed to me through the years, many more have been opened by God as a result of following a few simple rules.”

He will share these rules while also sharing the impact Catholic networking has had on his career and life. “Still today I benefit from the groundwork I laid through Catholic networking over 25 years ago which has been a financial benefit and spiritual grace,” he said.

A veteran CEO, the Deacon has served as a key executive of both public and privately held companies including Applebee’s, Cusi, Chili’s and The Upper Crust Pizzeria. He also is the founder of Hearthstone Associates, formerly one of the largest privately held restaurant companies in New England.

The founder of Fortis Advisors, Deacon Dourney and his team consult for real estate and senior living community developers, investment bankers, technology and restaurant companies, helping move their businesses to the next level.

He serves on the board of directors of public and private companies and is currently chairman of Zullee Mediterranean Grill and TOMS King, one of Burger King’s largest franchisees.

“We must see the business world as the perfect platform to encourage others to walk towards our Lord Jesus Christ,” he said.

Deacon Dourney is a Distinguished Fellow at Catholic University where he serves on the board of advisors for the Ciocca Center School of Entrepreneurship.

He attended Villanova University where he studied business and economics. He regularly guest lectures at Harvard Business School, Boston College and Catholic University.

“Early in my career I realized I had a choice regarding living my faith. I could live our Catholic values at home, church and with friends and then be secular at work or I could be true to my faith at all times. I chose the latter,” he said. “This has at times both alienated me and drawn me closer to people at work. But regardless of how difficult it has been, I have never regretted being a follower of Christ at work and at home.”



Deacon RJ Dourney — Submitted photo

At work he has never hidden his faith, and as a result there have been numerous times when people in his work life wanted to talk about faith. They had lost their way, and when they saw how comfortable he was being Catholic they asked to talk with him. “Very often it has been as if others simply wanted someone else to walk through the door of being openly Catholic first and they

would follow,” he said.

Deacon Dourney is in full-time ministry as a deacon, serving at St. Charles Church in Bellows Falls, Our Lady of the Valley Church in Townshend and Chapel of the Snows at Stratton Mountain. He also is engaged in prison ministry and supporting Deacon Phil Lawson as he leads the Diocese’s evangelization and “Building Vibrant Parishes” work.

The next Vermont Catholic Professionals networking breakfast will be April 19 beginning at 8:30 a.m. with the speaker at 9.

To register for both the Zoom session and the in-person meeting at the diocesan headquarters, 55 Joy Drive, South Burlington, go to vermontcatholic.org/about/vermont-catholic-professionals.

VTC • Cori Fugere Urban

Upcoming Events



04|16 SUNDAY
So. Burlington Council, Knights of Columbus, Super Bingo

Doubletree, So. Burlington • 10 am - 4 pm

Doors open at 10 am, admission is \$50, pay online by going to kofcvt.org. Proceeds benefit Camp Ta-Kum-Ta. **FOR MORE INFO:** kidsforcamp2020@gmail.com.



04|16 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Chaplet, Adoration, and Confession

St. Mark, Burlington • 1 - 3 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Confession from 1-3 pm. Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 pm. Confessions will be available after the Divine Mercy Chaplet prayer.



04|16 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Celebration

St. Michael, Brattleboro • 2 pm

Holy Hour from 2 to 3pm, during which confessions will be heard. Chaplet of Divine Mercy at 3 pm followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and then a potluck in the youth center to end the Octave of Easter.



04|16 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Chaplet & Eucharistic Adoration

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 2 - 3 pm

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will begin at 2 pm, and the Chaplet (sung) and Benediction will take place at 3 pm.



04|16 SUNDAY
Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Anthony, Burlington • 2 pm

Adoration with Exposition and Benediction, Reconciliation (Confessions), venerate the Divine Mercy image, Silent prayer, Rosary, concluding with praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Catholics and individuals who have been absent from the church and want to return to receive the Graces of His Mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation — Jesus is there waiting for you in the confessional.



04|19 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast

Diocese Offices, S. Burlington • 8:30 am

Join us for our next networking breakfast. Our speaker will be Deacon RJ Dourney. Attend in-person or via Zoom. Learn more

and register at: vermontcatholic.org/vcp.



04|19, 26 WEDNESDAYS
Contemplative Prayer Series

Holy Family-St. Lawrence Parish Center, Essex Jct. 9:15 - 10:15 am

Join us for this series led by Louise Boisvert, a member of Notre Dame de Vie, a Secular Institute, founded in the 20th century by Blessed Marie Eugene of the Child Jesus, a carmelite father.



04|19, 26 WEDNESDAYS
Good News Bootcamp

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 - 8:30 pm

Please join us in discussing how we as Catholics can bring healing, transformation, virtue, and enthusiasm to our world. See topics on our website at stjohnvianneyvt.org/good-news-bootcamp.



04|19 WEDNESDAY
Saint John's Bible Presentation

St. Augustine Church, Montpelier • 7 pm

In 1998, St. John's Abbey and University commissioned renowned calligrapher Donald Jackson to produce a hand-written, hand-illuminated bible. Excerpts of this bible will be presented. **FOR MORE INFO:** go to vecnc.org.



04|29 SATURDAY
Mount St. Joseph Academy Live & Silent Auction Night

Mount St. Joseph Academy, Rutland 6 - 10 pm

Tickets are \$15 per person, with a cash bar available (21 and older only); light hors d'oeuvres; 50/50; and plenty of time to dance with MC Sounds. Purchase tickets through the Development Office at 802-775-0151 ext. 2015 or via email to Carly Ward at cward@msjvermont.org.



05|08 MONDAY
Bereavement Support Group

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 5:15 pm

Bereavement Support Group led by Kyle Sipples. All are welcome to join. In order to encourage discussion, these meetings are confidential.



05|14 SUNDAY
Vergennes Council Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$10/adults, \$6/children 8-12 (\$32 family maximum).



05|14 SUNDAY
Monthly COSP Knights of Columbus Fund Raising Breakfast

Christ Our Savior, Manchester • 9 am - 12 pm

Supporting Parish and Community outreach programs.



05|20 SATURDAY
Walk to Mary

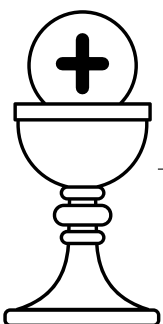
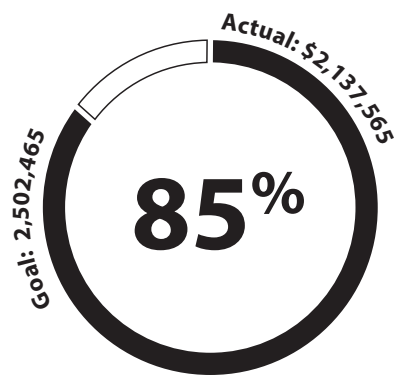
Isle LaMotte • 9 am - 2 pm

Join us for a 2.3 mile walk from St. Joseph, Isle La Motte to St. Anne's Shrine starting at 9 am, praying the Holy Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet while we walk. When we get to the shrine, there will be Mass at 11 am, a break for lunch, then Stations of the Cross for Life at 1 pm. For those who cannot walk with us and would still like to participate, there will also be a Holy Hour of Adoration at St. Anne's Shrine starting at 9:30 a.m. **FOR MORE INFO:** contact Janice (802) 848-3834, janicegodin@myfairpoint.net or Renee (802) 370-2231 or rjpatterson1962@gmail.com with any questions.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



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



Eucharistic TESTIMONIALS

Submit your Eucharistic Testimonial to: revival@vermontcatholic.org

It's spiritual nutrition — missing Mass would be like missing my dinner. It's a reminder that this crazy upside-down world is in fact crazy and upside-down. It helps keep me focused on the things that are truly essential.

— Elizabeth Stuart,
Our Lady of the Valley Parish; Randolph