Dear Friends in Christ,

Pope Francis has said that “being the Church, being the People of God, means being God’s leaven in this our humanity.” Each of us is called to be the sign of God’s love, hope, and salvation to the world, to build the kingdom of God and joyfully draw others to the faith.

As we celebrate the 170th anniversary of the Diocese of Burlington this year, I am amazed by the many people who have risen to this call with an open heart and given so generously of their time, talent, and treasure to build our Diocese throughout the years. We have grown from humble beginnings of only five priests and a handful of parishes to 55 priests, 63 parishes, 12 Catholic schools, and ministries that serve the elderly and poor. None of this was easy. Our Diocese has faced many challenges including world wars, the Spanish influenza, and the Great Depression. We have survived cultural battles and anti-Catholic sentiment, always staying true to the Gospel. Together, we stand for the sanctity of all life; we educate our youth in the faith; and we care for those on the margins. We celebrate the Mass in communion each week and are strengthened by the Eucharist to share our faith with others.

The foundation of our Diocese was built by our parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. This legacy of faith has been handed over to us. We are the leaven for the next generation. Many of the ministries, churches, and schools built during the past 170 years exist today. It is our responsibility to continue the mission so we can share the beauty of our faith for years to come.

Over the next several weeks, you will be asked to contribute to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal which supports vocations, parishes, Catholic schools, religious education, emergency aid, and so much more. I prayerfully ask that you consider a gift in this special year to honor all those who came before us.

To learn more about the Bishop’s Annual Appeal or to make a gift visit: bishopsappealvt.org.

With gratitude,

Ellen Kane
Executive Director of Development and Communications
### Upcoming Events

#### 05|17, 24, 31 WEDNESDAYS
**Good News Bootcamp**  
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:45 - 8:30 pm

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.

#### 05|19 FRIDAY
**St. Monica St. Michael Family Fun Fair**  
St. Monica, Barre • 3 - 8 pm

Lots of games, attractions, music, and food for the whole family on the campus of St. Monica St. Michael Catholic School.

#### 05|19, 06|02, 09 FRIDAYS
**The Chosen Season 3**  
St. Elizabeth Parish Hall, Lyndonville • 5 - 7:30 pm

Join us for dinner at 5; the show will start at 5:30. If you can’t make it for dinner, no worries — come for the show! Note: we will not meet on Memorial Day weekend.

#### 05|20 SATURDAY
**Walk to Mary**  
Isle La Motte • 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.

#### 05|20 SATURDAY
**St. Peter’s Cemetery Committee – Bingo**  
St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 9 pm

Doors open at 5:00 PM, Bingo starts at 6:00 PM. 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.

#### 05|21 SUNDAY
**“No Other Lake” Film**  
St. Joseph Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 2 - 4 pm

Join us for a viewing of the documentary film “No Other Lake” produced by local Vermonter, Jordan Rowell and Duane Peterson III. A panel discussion will follow. Sponsored by Vermont Mercy Associates.

#### 05|22 MONDAY
**St. John’s Bible Presentation**  
Holy Family Parish Center, Essex Junction • 9 am & 7 pm

The Saint John's Bible, commissioned by Saint John's Abbey, Collegeville, MN, is the first handwritten and illuminated Bible to be produced since the invention of the printing press. Come and view this unique work of art and craftsmanship, and listen to a presentation and discussion about the artists and the story of the making of The Saint John’s Bible.

#### 05|25 THURSDAY
**Our Lady's Kitchen:**  
A “meal and a movie” Night

Free meal for the poor, the hungry, and the lonely.

Join us for an incredible meal, popcorn, and the first two episodes of the Chosen.

#### 06|03 SATURDAY
**First Saturday Devotions**  
All Saints, Richford • 7:30 - 9:30 am

Confessions from 7:30 to 7:50, followed by Mass at 8 am, then devotional prayers. All are welcome!

#### 06|03 SATURDAY
**Blessed Sacrament**  
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 8 am - 5 pm

Confessions at 8 am, followed by Rosary and Benediction and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

#### 06|03 SATURDAY
**First Saturday Devotions**  
St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 8 am

Mass at 8 am, followed by Rosary and Conferences at 8:30 am.

#### 06|03 SATURDAY
**First Saturday Devotions**  
Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am

Every first Saturday starting with Confessions and the Rosary at 8 am followed by Mass at 8:30 am.

#### 06|04 SATURDAY
**Eucharistic Healing Service**  
St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm

Benediction and Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament, offered the first Sunday of the month, with Fr. Lance Harlow.

#### 06|16 FRIDAY
**Worldpriest Rosary Relay**  
Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 11:30 am

Join people around the world in praying the Rosary. Bishop Coyne will lead the Rosary and it will be live-streamed on the Diocesan website as well as aired on Our Lady of Perpetual Help radio.

#### 06|23 FRIDAY
**Diocese of Burlington Theology of the Body Formation Day**  
Blessed Sacrament, Stowe • 8 am - 5 pm

For more information, contact Daniel Lacourrege at dlacourrege@vermontcatholic.org.

#### 07|09 SUNDAY
**Annual Diocesan Family Day Mass**  
St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte • 12:15 pm

Bishop Christopher Coyne will be the celebrant. The shrine will be providing a free-will donation barbecue after the Mass. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic as well as lawn chairs and lawn games.

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### 5-Day Silent Retreat • St. Anne’s Shrine, Isle La Motte

Retreat begins Sunday, June 11 at 7 pm and concludes Friday, June 16 at 1 pm.

The Society of St. Edmund will be conducting a 5-Day Directed Retreat in the Ignatian tradition. Using principles from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, retreatants are invited to contemplate scripture passages in a silent environment, celebrate daily Eucharist and meet with a Spiritual Director each day. Spiritual Directors are specifically trained for this type of retreat and will serve as companions and co-discerners of the Spirit during the retreat. Applicants should be comfortable maintaining an atmosphere of silence and be able to share their prayer experience with a Spiritual Director in a daily meeting of about forty-five minutes.

The cost is $550 per person which includes a private room and all meals. A $250 non-refundable deposit is due with application which can be obtained by calling Joe Gallagher at (802) 928-3362 or via email at jgallagher@sse.org. Space is limited due to private bedroom accommodations and married couples attending will be assigned to separate cabins.