

NEWS FROM The Inland See

October 14–20, 2023

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON



The facade of St. Peter's Basilica is flanked by two 18th century clocks, built by Giuseppe Valadier. The one on the left shows the exact time in Rome. The one on the right (here) has a single hand, which shows the European mean time.

— iStock photo

Interregnum and diocesan administrator

I have been elected by the College of Consultors, an advisory board which assists in the governance of a diocese, to serve as the diocesan administrator as we await the appointment of the 11th bishop of Burlington. A question that comes up quite frequently in conversations is, “What’s a diocesan administrator and what can he do?” These are legitimate questions. The most precise answer to these questions comes from canons 421 and 427 of the Code of Canon Law, which state:

The college of consultors must elect a diocesan administrator, namely the one who is to govern the diocese temporarily. ... A diocesan administrator is bound by the obligations and possesses the power of a diocesan bishop, excluding those matters which are excepted by their nature or by the law itself.

I understand that this language can seem a bit cold and theoretical, so I would like to provide the following figure as representative for the diocesan administrator, a figure taken from JRR Tolkien’s “The Lord of the Rings” — Denethor, Steward of Gondor. Denethor was given the responsibility of providing leadership in the City of Gondor as the citizens waited for the return of the legitimate king. He had great authority, but he had to understand that he was not the king and so could not perform actions which were reserved to the king himself.

The diocesan administrator has the authority needed to keep the diocese on an even keel as it awaits the appointment of a new bishop, but his authority has limits. Canon 428 provides the

overarching guide for the diocesan administrator: When a see is vacant, nothing is to be altered. This means as administrator I need to avoid undertaking any significant new initiatives or programs or take actions that are reserved to a bishop alone (e.g. ordaining a man to the diaconate). The administrator will work with the diocesan staff and advisory boards to keep things moving along because diocesan life does not come to a halt without a bishop, but the administrator will try to avoid doing anything that could jeopardize the ability of the new bishop from assuming leadership from his first day in office.

What all of this means is that just as I needed prayers when I served as the administrator in 2014 while we awaited the appointment of Bishop Coyne, so I need your prayers as we await our new bishop. If you want a very specific intention to pray for — besides a speedy appointment of our next bishop — it would be that my administration ends a bit more successfully than Denethor’s. Those who have read the books or seen the movies will understand what I mean. If you’re not sure what this means, I encourage you to read the books.

Be assured of my prayers for all our parishes, ministries, parishioners, and ministers, and please pray for me.



In Christ Jesus,

Rev. Msgr. John J. McDermott
Diocesan Administrator

Upcoming Events



10|17 TUESDAY Edward Dowling, SJ: The Apostle to Alcoholics Anonymous

Saint Michael's College, Colchester • 4:30 pm

Dawn Eden Goldstein, an American Roman Catholic author, journalist, and songwriter, will present on her research and finding regarding the influence of Fr. Dowling, SJ, on Bill Wilson, a co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, and the spirituality of the twelve-step movement.



10|18 WEDNESDAY Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast

Diocesan Offices, S. Burlington • 8:30 - 10 am

Donna McSoley, founder of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Radio, will be the speaker. Networking and a light breakfast. Zoom option available. Register here: vermontcatholic.org/vcp.



10|19 THURSDAY Our Lady's Kitchen & Catholic Movie Night – Randolph

Our Lady of the Angels, Randolph • 6 - 8:30 pm

Free meal and a movie! Come one, come all!



10|19 THURSDAY Spanish Mass

St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

With Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P.



10|21, 28, 11|04, 11, 18 SATURDAYS Women's Walking Group

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 9 am

SJV Women's Ministry welcomes interested women to meet and walk together for roughly 45 minutes, usually leaving from the SJV parking lot. It's a great, community-building way to get some steps in and meet some of your neighbors in a slightly social setting. On second and fourth Saturdays we will meet at alternate walking locations which will be announced ahead of time, usually on our website. In the event of inclement weather, check our website for a cancellation notice: stjohnvianneyvt.org/walking-with-wm. FOR MORE INFO: email Connie at sjvgoodnews@gmail.com.



10|21 SATURDAY St. Peter's Cemetery Committee Craft Fair

St. Peter, Vergennes • 9 am - 3:30 pm

Bake Sale and Luncheon.



10|21 SATURDAY The Chosen — Movie Night and Potluck

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 - 6:45 pm

Come join us for a movie night and potluck dinner every third Saturday of the month.



10|22 SUNDAY Nativity Ham Dinner & Priest Appreciation

Nativity of the BVM, Swanton • 12:30 pm

Come show appreciation to our priest at this annual ham dinner.



10|25 WEDNESDAY Mater Christi School Open House

Mater Christi School, Burlington
8:30 am - 11 am

We are excited to welcome you, and to show you how we work together to make Mater Christi School a special place for children to learn and grow. Register: mcschool.org/about/contact-us/



10|26 THURSDAY St. Justin Martyr and the Eucharist

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 7 pm

Fr. Michael Carter, SSE will present on St.

Justin Martyr, who wrote about the Eucharistic celebration in his First Apology, written between 153 and 155 AD. Written for those outside the Church, St. Justin's writing is a simplified explanation of early Christian practices. Discover what ancient practices from the second century, continue down to this day.



10|28 SATURDAY Annual Fall Vermont Catholic Women's Retreat 2023

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Keynote Speaker is Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE. The Theme of the Retreat is: *The Eucharistic Life: Bread of Life & Bread for Others*. Registration Fee: \$30, lunch included

Register at: vermontcatholic.org/womens-retreat.



10|28 SATURDAY Back from the Dead Cemetery Walk

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 7 pm

This event is a candlelit guided evangelization drama through Resurrection Park Cemetery with 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. Walk begins from the Parish Hall.



11|05 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 - 4 pm

Benediction and Exposition of the Most

Blessed Sacrament at 3 pm on the first Sunday of every month with Fr. Lance W. Harlow.



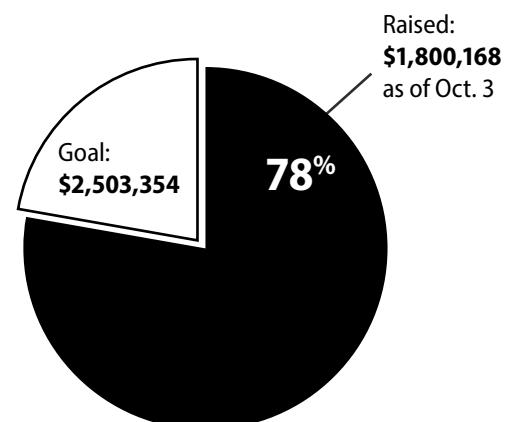
11|06 MONDAY Spanish Mass at St. Michael's College Chapel

St. Michael's College, Colchester • 7:30 pm

Join our mailing list at: mraiville@smcvt.edu.



Progress: 78% to goal



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 19, 2023 • 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Saint Catherine of Siena Parish Hall,
72 Church Street, Shelburne, VT 05482



Registration required:

online: vtcatholicfoundation.org/events/vccf-annual-meeting

email: vccf@vermontcatholic.org

call: 802-658-6110 ext. 1452