

NEWS FROM The Inland See

April 27 – May 3, 2024

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

Spiritual Director Training Program UPDATE

This past year, the Diocese of Burlington offered a first-ever spiritual director training program facilitated by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. This was launched to increase the availability of trained spiritual directors in the diocese.

Thirteen men and women — including a number of deacons and one priest — recently completed Year One of the three-year program.

The training has been substantial, including four full and rigorous weekends of formation, practicums, lectures, reading, lots of time focused on Praying with the Scriptures, human psychology and development, and for those continuing on to Year Two, participation in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises. It should be noted that the diocese investigated numerous training opportunities for spiritual directors, and this one, facilitated by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary stood out for its rigor, fidelity, and practicality.

Spiritual direction is a time-honored ministry in which one trained person assists another person in growing closer to God. The director helps facilitate a three-way conversation with the Lord, along with the directee and the Holy Spirit. “The focus of this kind of direction is the relationship itself between God and the person. ... Spiritual direction of this kind focuses on what happens when a person listens to and responds to a self-communicating God” (“The Practice of Spiritual Direction,” Barry and Connolly). Contrary to the name, the “director” is less directive and seeks through a contemplative, evocative approach the way the Lord is leading the directee. This is especially true in the Ignatian method of St. Ignatius of Loyola



in which the participants are being formed.

The Church continues to encourage this beautiful ministry:

As she has never failed to do, again today the Church continues to recommend the practice of spiritual direction, not only to all those who wish to follow the Lord closely, but to every Christian who wishes to live responsibly his baptism, that is, the new life in Christ. — Pope Benedict XVI

The next step for the 12 participants moving on to Year Two in their training is to begin actually directing others, while being supervised. As they meet with directees generally on a monthly basis, they will also

be meeting with a supervisor and confidentially discussing their experience of this ministry.

Each of the participants will be working with two to five directees at this time.

If you are interested in both participating in spiritual direction as well as helping these men and women learn to be spiritual directors, you can check with your parish to see if you have someone locally in the program or you can reach out to Deacon Phil Lawson at plawson@vermontcatholic.org.

Please join me in thanking the Lord for these men and women who have prayerfully responded to this call from the Lord, are devoting a large amount of time to formation, and are now willing to serve the good people in the Diocese of Burlington in drawing closer to our Lord.

— **Deacon Phil Lawson is the executive director of pastoral ministries for the Diocese of Burlington. He can be reached at plawson@vermontcatholic.org.**

Upcoming Events



05|01, 08, 22, 29 WEDNESDAYS
Discover The Our Father Prayer
Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Junction
9 - 11 am

In preparation for the year of the Jubilee 2025, we will study The Our Father with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. We will meet for four Wednesdays in May (1, 8, 22, 29) following the 8:30 am Mass, in the Hoehl Room.



05|02, 16, 23 THURSDAYS
The Church in the Modern World
via Zoom • 9 - 10 am

Fr. Henry Furman is leading a study every Thursday at 9 am online via zoom. The current study is "The Church in the Modern World" and began on Thursday, April 11. Please contact the rectory at stmichael@vermontcatholic.org if you'd like to join us.



05|04 SATURDAY
Day Retreat in Honor of Mother Mary

St. Paul d'Abbotsford, Quebec • 10 am - 4 pm

Our Lady of Life Institute is offering a day retreat with Mother Mary. The day will include prayer, teaching in the Carmelite tradition, silence, Holy Mass and fellowship. \$25, lunch is included. The Center is approximately an hour and 45 minutes from the Burlington area. To register: ndv@ndvyamaska.org.



05|05 SUNDAY
Rosary & May Crowning

Our Lady of Fatima, Craftsbury • 4 pm

Rosary outside by the Our Lady of Fatima statue, weather permitting, followed by May crowning and a light meal. Sponsored by Catholic Financial Life, Chapter St. Jean N443.



05|04 SATURDAY
Free Community Dinner

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 - 6:30 pm
Open to all who would like a hot meal.



05|07 TUESDAY
Our Lady's Kitchen Luncheon

St. Anthony, Bethel • 11 am

Free meal! Come one, come all!



05|08, 15 WEDNESDAYS
The Wild Goose: Discovering a Deeper Relationship with the Holy Spirit

via Zoom • 6:30 pm

Come experience the beauty and freedom of God's Love by the Holy Spirit. Come understand in a powerful way that we are in fact totally, irrevocably and unconditionally "lovable." This series began on April 24. For link and study guide, email wildgooseosp@yahoo.com.



05|09 THURSDAY
Spanish Mass

St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

Fr. Timothy Danaher, O.P. will be offering Mass in Spanish. A meal will follow the Mass.



05|10 FRIDAY
Essex Community Dinner

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm

These meals are free to all but donations to cover parish expenses are appreciated. Take out dinners are also available.



05|11 SATURDAY
St. Peter's Resale Closet SALE

St. Peter's Parish Hall, Vergennes
8 am - 4 pm

This annual clean out the "closet" sale will include clothing (men, women, children), houseware goods, books, puzzles, and toys. This sale helps with the overflow of quality goods from our thrift store, St. Peter's Resale Closet Shop. Prices are by donation!



05|12 SUNDAY
Knights of Columbus Breakfast Buffet

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 - 10 am

\$12 adults, \$7 children 8-12, \$38 immediate family maximum.



05|16 THURSDAY
BINGO

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Doors open at 4:30 and the first game begins at 6:30. Come join the fun with friends and family. Bring a non-perishable food item(s) and receive two free game sheets for the "winner take all" game. All food items are donated to the local Food Shelf.



05|18 SATURDAY
St. Peter's Cemetery Committee-Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 8 am - 5 pm

Doors open at 5 pm, Bingo starts at 6 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|18 SATURDAY
Walk to Mary

Isle La Motte • 9 am - 2 pm

2.3 mile walk from St. Joseph's Church to St.

Anne's Shrine starting at 9 am (approximately one hour). Holy Hour of Adoration at St. Anne's Shrine starting at 9:30 am, Mass at 11 am. We will have lunch after Mass, please bring your own. We will walk/pray the Stations of the Cross for Life at 1 pm, with time after that to walk the grounds. **FOR MORE INFO: contact Janice (802) 848-3834, janicegodin@myfairpoint.net or Renee (802) 370-2231, rjpatterson1962@gmail.com.**



05|18 SATURDAY
Men's "Cor" Formation

St. John Vianney, S. Burlington

10 - 11:30 am

Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a deeper faith! You are invited to participate in COR Formation. COR Formation will be held on third Saturdays. All men are welcome. Coffee and donuts provided.



05|24, 25, 26 FRI, SAT, SUN
Rachel's Vineyard Healing Retreat

Saranac Lake, NY

Step into a new day! Find hope and healing at Rachel's Vineyard after-abortion healing retreat. Register online: rcondy.org/pro-life. More info: Diocese of Ogdensburg Respect Life Office: (518) 524-0774.



05|31 FRIDAY
Saints Shuffle 2024

Millstone Trails in Websterville

4:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Seventh annual community fun run/walk aimed at benefiting St. Monica-St. Michael School. Participants can choose between a virtual option or join in person on a scenic trail that passes historic granite quarries at the Barre Town Forest. Race day registration will also be available. Registration is \$25 for participants aged 14 and younger and \$35 for those aged 15 and above. For more info or to register, visit the event's website at runsignup.com/Race/VT/Websterville/SaintsShuffle or contact cmeyer@stmonica-stmichael.org.



05|31 FRIDAY
Holy Hour for Vocations

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 6:30 pm

You are invited to join seminarians and clergy as we pray for vocations in our diocese.



06|01 SATURDAY
Transitional Diaconate Ordination

Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington • 10 am

Luan Tran is scheduled to be ordained this year to the transitional diaconate. All are welcome. The Mass will also be live-streamed to the diocesan website: vermontcatholic.org/news/communication/tv-mass.



06|09, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 SUN - FRI
5-day Directed Retreat

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte

The Society of St. Edmund will be conducting a 5-Day Directed Retreat in the Ignatian tradition. The retreat begins at 7:00 pm on Sunday, June 9 and concludes with lunch on Friday, June 14. The cost is \$550 per person which includes private room and all meals. To register: contact Joe Gallagher at (802) 928-3362 or info@saintannesshrine.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte

HOUSEKEEPER

Full-time benefits include: health/dental insurance, PTO, 403(b) w/ match

Contact Abbi at (802) 928-3362
or astumpf@saintannesshrine.org