

Vermont Catholic Charities participates in national 'We Are There' campaign

Jermont Catholic Charities has joined with the Catholic Charities network around the country to participate in 'We Are There', a national awareness campaign highlighting the life-giving services Catholic Charities agencies provide in their local communities. The campaign includes national media advertising as well as targeted local advertising promoting Catholic Charities agencies like ours. This campaign will continue through early 2025.



Charities agency are tailored to the specific needs of the vulnerable members of their individual communities. For Vermont Catholic Charities that means assisting individuals and families with emergency aid, counseling services, prison ministry, and residential care homes. In 2023, Vermont Catholic Charities served over 3,595 individuals through our programs. The impact of our services can best be illustrated through client stories.

What does the national footprint of Catholic Charities look like?

There are 168 independent Catholic Charities agencies and 3,900 service locations spread out across the United States, including its five territories. Catholic Charities agencies are ministries of their local dioceses and their bishops. Collectively, the Catholic Charities network served more than 15 million people last year.

How similar are Catholic Charities agencies around the country?

There is an old saying: if you've visited one Catholic Charities agency, you've visited one Catholic Charities agency. While we all serve the same purpose and are part of a shared network, each Catholic Charities agency is unique. Catholic Charities agencies serve the specific needs of the most vulnerable populations in their local communities. The types of people in need and the services they require can vary significantly from community to community. What remains constant throughout the country is that vulnerable people know that they can turn to Catholic Charities when they need assistance.

What is Catholic Charities USA?

Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) is the national membership organization for Catholic Charities agencies. Vermont Catholic Charities is one of 168 members of CCUSA. CCUSA provides trainings, convenings, intermediary funding and other resources to its member agencies and advocates on behalf of the Catholic Charities network and the people it serves. CCUSA planned and organized the We Are There campaign in partnership with its member agencies.

What kind of people does Catholic Charities serve?

Catholic Charities serves people in need, regardless of their faith or background. The services offered by each local Catholic

Elizabeth is a single mom with two school-aged children. She works full-time but fell behind on her utility bill and was worried about a disconnect. We assisted with the utility bill. She stated, "Thank you very much. I appreciate your kindness, humility, and high moral values. I am very grateful for the help that I was in dire need of."

Megan and Dan shared the impact of counseling on their relationship: "Our marriage was good the first few years, and then we became overwhelmed with the stressors of children, work, etc., and in addition did not have good communication and conflict-resolving skills. We lived in silent misery and even considered divorce but are so glad we decided to go to marriage therapy. Our marriage is better than ever."

Mike had just been released after 12 years of incarceration and was in desperate need of warm clothing as well as items to help set up his residence. Vermont Catholic Charities provided vouchers to help acquire the items he needed. "I am grateful for this support to assist me in getting a good start to re-establishing myself as a productive member of the community," he said.

"My mother is the dearest woman in my life, so I thank you for making her feel loved, cared for, and safe. Your infectious smiles, silly jokes, kind words, and all acts of love allow us to appreciate the true gifts in our lives. You make a difference in our lives... and are appreciated and loved in our hearts," wrote one child of a resident.

For 95 years, guided by our faith, Vermont Catholic Charities does what we do because we are Catholic, not because those we serve are Catholic. To learn more about Vermont Catholic Charities, visit www.vtcatholiccharities.org

To learn more about the We Are There campaign, visit catholiccharitiesusa.org/we-are-there

— Mary Beth Pinard is the executive director of Vermont Catholic Charities.

Upcoming Events



08|04, 09|01 SUNDAYS

Eucharistic Healing Service

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 3 pm Join us for Adoration along with praying over

by Fr. Lance Harlow.



08 08, 14, 21, 28

St. Anne's Shrine Summer Reflection Series 2024

St. Anne's Shrine, Isle La Motte • 11:15 am

The programs begin with 11:15 a.m. Mass followed by a presentation. Lunch is available for purchase in the café beginning with the July 10 reflection. As always, you may bring your own picnic lunch to eat outside. All are welcome!

Thursday, August 8 • Fr. David Theroux, SSE The Transfiguration

Wednesday, August 14 • Fr. David Theroux, SSE Maximilian Kolbe: A Life Lived for Others

Wednesday, August 21 • Fr. Richard Berube, SSE Who did you say? Lesser-known followers of Jesus in the Gospels

Wednesday, August 28 • John Kenney, Emeritus Professor, Religious Studies, Saint Michael's College Who was Saint Augustine and What did he confess?

08|10 SATURDAY

Essex Community Dinners — St. **Lawrence BBQ**

Holy Family Parish Hall, Essex Jct. • 5:30 pm Once a year in August, we combine our Community Dinner with our annual feast of St. Lawrence BBQ. Thus, this month's dinner is on Saturday night instead of Friday. Menu: chicken & ribs, corn on the cob, cole slaw, baked beans, roll, and watermelon. Come join us for dinner!



08|15, 09|19 THURSDAYS

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.



08|17, 09|21 SATURDAYS

Men's "Cor" Formation St. John Vianney, S. Burlington • 10 am

Calling all men to fellowship, prayer and a

deeper faith! All men welcome, Coffee and donuts provided. COR Formation will be held on third Saturday of the month.



08|18 SUNDAY

Bereavement Ministry

St. John the Evanaelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 pm An opportunity to pray with and to share with

others who have experienced the loss of a loved one. We meet the third Sunday of each month in the rectory. We invite our own parishioners and those from other parishes to join us. All discussions are confidential. For additional information, please call Deacon Pete Gummere (802) 274-0942.



08|18, 09|15 SUNDAYS

Eileen George Book Study

Most Holy Name of Jesus, Morrisville • 2 pm Meets the third Sunday of the month in the

Crosby Center, Fr. Lance Harlow will continue the book study of Eileen Georges' first book, Beacon of God's Love. All are invited.



08|20 TUESDAY

One-day Pilgrimage to the St. Kateri Shrine

via coach bus

Join us for a one-day pilgrimage to the St. Kateri Shrine in Kahnawake, Quebec, outside of Montreal. Pickups and dropoffs in Middlebury and South Burlington. For details and the Registration Form, contact Fr. Schneider at bschneider@vermontcatholic.org or (802) 388-2943.



09107, 10105 FRIDAYS

Free Community Dinner

St. John the Baptist, Enosburg Falls • 5 - 6:30 pm Please join us for a Free Meal. Open to anyone

who would like a Hot Meal.

FREEWILL

August is National Make-A-Will Month, and there's so much you WILL accomplish by creating an estate plan. From protecting your loved ones close to your heart to making a generational impact on the Catholic organizations that have shaped your life, you WILL ignite your legacy for decades to come. To start your documents today scan the QR code provided below (it takes about 20 minutes), or visit bit.ly/MAWM VCCF.

If you have any questions about

the FreeWill software or the VCCF in general, please feel free to contact VCCF Executive Director, Melanie Sheehan, at 802-556-4458 or email: melanie@ vtcatholicfoundation.org.





Pilgrimage to Rome

April 28 - May 8, 2025

Consider joining Fr. Matthew Rensch on a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Orvieto, Cascia, and Norcia, among other sites. The pilgrimage will visit the Eucharistic Miracles and three incorrupt saints. A ProRome tour manager will accompany the group. Private bus transportation, four-star hotels, Catholic tour guides, all tours and tickets, daily breakfast are all included in the price. First payment due in October.

Details here:

www.prorometours.com/fr-matthew-rensch/



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