

The Inland See

NEWS FROM

August 10–16, 2024

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

An Update from the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation

What uplifting and exciting times we are in! Congratulations to Bishop John McDermott, I am excited for what His new appointment means for the Catholic community in Vermont. Like the Bishop's office, the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation (VCCF) is experiencing changes and growth. Former Executive Director, Ellen Kane, stepped down in April and I was appointed to the position effective July 1. It is a pleasure and a gift to assume a professional role that supports the Catholic faith. I have met many kind people who are willing to answer my many questions! In learning about the organization, and talking to stakeholders, I've noticed that the difference between the VCCF and the Diocese of Burlington isn't always clear or easily understood. I'm grateful to the Diocese for allowing me this article to clarify the difference.

The VCCF was founded in 2015 and incorporated as a non-profit corporation in early 2016. Being a Catholic organization, Bishop Christopher Coyne established a Canonical decree to ensure that the practices of the VCCF align with Catholic teaching and ethics. During its infancy stages, the VCCF received a tremendous amount of in-kind support from the Diocese by way of shared staff services and marketing. Over time, the VCCF has grown significantly, gained financial independence, and is no longer dependent on the help of the Diocese of Burlington. Like an adolescent or young adult, the VCCF is gradually "moving out"!

Today, there are thirteen board members who provide governance and leadership. While the Bishop is a board member, his voting rights are the same as others, not elevated. The VCCF is a separate, nonprofit entity that is a vehicle to support the Catholic way in Vermont, over time or in perpetuity.

The mission of the VCCF is to support and serve Catholic organizations in the state of VT whose activities reflect the compassion of Christ in service to community. There are three main services the VCCF provides: fund management, grant making, and free support for legacy giving for Vermont Catholics.

The VCCF oversees over \$22M in investments, supporting over 115 funds set up by generous donors, which benefit 34 of our parishes, 22 cemeteries, 5 schools, and 20 ministries. Ministries include programs of the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont Catholic Charities, Knights of Columbus, and the VCCF grants program.

Beneficiaries receive an annual distribution from the investment funds. The VCCF also ensures that investments follow the socially responsible investing per Catholic guidelines advised by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). By pooling funds, investments are cost-effective with competitive returns.

Using the annual distribution from three ministry funds, the VCCF launches its grant program each spring. Parishes are doing Christ's work at the local level and these grant funds help to address food insecurity, pay

emergency bills to avoid shut offs or evictions, sponsor senior meals to overcome social isolation, bring Spanish Masses to our English-as-a-second language brothers and sisters, and more! This year, the VCCF was able to provide grants to all 18 organizations that applied, the grant money will serve 1,131 persons directly. With other funding sources, funded organization assist over 20,000 individuals annually.

Lastly, the VCCF has sponsored the use of the software FreeWill for Vermont Catholics. In just twenty minutes, users can create a legally binding will that takes care of their families and can help establish a legacy with parish/school/ministry that matters most to them. Catholic burial wishes and Catholic Advanced Directives are also included. To learn more visit freewill.com/vccf.

To learn more about the VCCF, set up a fund, donate to an existing fund, or just to have a conversation, feel free to email melanie@vtcatholicfoundation.org, call 802-556-4458, or visit our website vtcatholicfoundation.org. You can also find us on Facebook and LinkedIn. Thank you and God Bless!

— *Melanie Sheehan is the Executive Director of the Vermont Catholic Community Foundation.*



Upcoming Events



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. As always, you may bring your own picnic lunch to eat outside. All are welcome!

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|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 Evangelist, 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.



09|01 SUNDAY Eucharistic Healing Service

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

Join us for Adoration of the Most Blessed

Sacrament along with praying over by Father Lance Harlow.



09|06, 07 FRIDAY & SATURDAY Guiding Star Cycle Show

Colchester Meeting House, Colchester

Parent Presentation: Friday 7-8:30 pm

Workshop for Girls: Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

For Girls Ages 9-12. The Cycle Show helps to reduce the fear and anxiety surrounding getting their period for the first time. It promotes body positivity and self-confidence during what can be an awkward phase in a girl's life. To learn more or to register please visit: www.guidingstarproject.com/cycle-show/ or email Valerie Parzyck at vparzyck@vermontcatholic.org



09|07, 10|05 FRIDAYS Free Community Dinner

*St. John the Baptist Parish Hall, Enosburg Falls
5 - 6:30 pm*

Please join us for a Free Meal. Open to anyone who would like a Hot Meal.



Seeking Host Families for Rice Memorial High School International Students

Rice is actively seeking 5 host families for International Students starting in the Fall. We have students coming from: Spain, Germany, China, Finland, and Korea. These students are anxious to experience high school in the US, share our culture, and are a crucial part of our school community bringing diversity, unique perspectives, and spirit! Host families receive a stipend of \$1000/month and provide: a bedroom, 3 nutritious meals/day, study area, internet access, and transportation or carpool to/from school. Rice is also seeking families willing to serve as a "welcome family" to host a student for a weekend. Learn more at: <https://rmhsvt.org/host-family>



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.prometours.com/fr-matthew-rensch/



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