

NEWS FROM The Inland See

January 11–17, 2025

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

“Rejoice with those who rejoice”

“Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the saints as our own; be generous in offering hospitality ... Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep” (Rom 12:12-13).

This section of Saint Paul’s Letter to the Romans speaks about Christian behavior with words of exhortation and direction, which if one were to follow them carefully, one could end up becoming a saint! That is, of course, the idea for all of us. It takes a lifetime to become holy and one meets individuals throughout the course of one’s life who help us grow in holiness in the exercise of hope, patience, and perseverance with people.

Thirty-three years ago when I was in my third year of seminary studies at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, I volunteered at the infirmary for the Sisters of Charity just down the road from the seminary. These elderly sisters in the infirmary were the spiritual descendants of their foundress, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton. The program was called “Wheel-a-Nun” or something catchy like that. The idea was to visit infirm Sisters who had no family or visitors. I was assigned to Sister Rosalia.

Sister Rosalia was in her eighties

and bedridden by disposition, not by any medical condition. Once a week I traveled to the infirmary to visit her. Our conversations were initially limited for lack of things to discuss because there was nothing eventful happening in her life. And then, I thought of the above passage from Saint Paul: “Rejoice with those who rejoice.” Because Sister’s mind was often confused, she thought that I taught at the boys’ school. There was no boys’ school, which I had to explain to her every time, which seemed somewhat disappointing to her. So, I decided to make up stories about “the boys” for her amusement. The next time she asked how the boys were doing, I replied: “Oh, Sister, they were very bad today misbehaving in class and I had to get after them.” To which she would reply, “Boys are like that! What else did they do?” She would listen, laugh, and give advice to me for “the boys.” She was rejoicing because she had found value in these stories and recognized something familiar from her earlier, healthier days. As our visits continued over time, she

also shared with me. She would save me a cookie from her lunch tray which she wrapped up multiple times in a paper napkin, in order for me to have a snack. There was no use convincing her otherwise. She found purpose in being thoughtful and having someone for whom to care.

One time I went to her room and she wasn’t there. I feared the worst. I asked one of the Sisters’ where Sister Rosalia was and she said, “It’s a miracle! Sister Rosalia’s gotten out of bed.” She had wheeled herself somewhere to get something for me. She hadn’t been out of bed for a very long time. We all rejoiced that afternoon at her renewal of life.

In the summer between my third and fourth years, Sister Rosalia died. I didn’t find out about it until I returned to the seminary that August. I wept knowing that I would not see her again. Our time together with “the boys” had come to an end, but God had provided us with a lot of rejoicing in her final months.

— **Father Lance Harlow is pastor of Corpus Christi Parish based in St. Johnsbury.**



Progress

GOAL: \$2,503,354

89%

\$2,227,741

as of December 18



Website:
[vermontcatholic.org/
giveonline](http://vermontcatholic.org/giveonline)

Call:
802.658.6110 x 1102

Mail:
Bishop's Annual Appeal
55 Joy Drive
South Burlington, VT 05403

Upcoming Events



01|16, 23, 30 THURSDAYS

Jubilee Year Book Study

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

We are hosting a book study on *The Way of Beatitude: Living Radical Hope In A World of Division and Despair*, by Fr. Casey Cole, OFM. FOR MORE INFO: stjohnvianneyvt.org/beatitude-book.



01|16 THURSDAY

Spanish Mass

St. Peter, Vergennes • 7 pm

Spanish Mass with homemade Mexican meal to follow. All are welcome! Bilingual Missalettes are available.



01|17, 24, 31, 02|07 FRIDAYS

Alpha Film Series

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

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions to discuss life and faith in an informal, fun, and friendly environment. Each of the sessions begins with a meal, followed by a brief video on a broad question of the Christian faith.



01|18 SATURDAY

Historic Preservation Committee BINGO

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Please join us for bingo in the parish hall. Doors open at 5 pm and games start at 6 pm. This is a family friendly event. All cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold. Proceeds to benefit the on-going efforts for the bell tower and the church.



01|19 SUNDAY

Bereavement Ministry

St. John the Evangelist, St. Johnsbury • 1 - 2 pm

An opportunity to pray and share with others who have lost a loved one, in a comfortable setting. We meet in the rectory on the third Sunday of every month.



01|22 WEDNESDAY

Vermont Catholic Professionals Networking Breakfast

Chancery Office, S. Burlington • 8:30 am

Featured speakers from Christ the King School in Burlington: Kelley Alderman, principal; Jessica Tomkowicz, associate principal; and Jon Hughes, director of admissions and school advancement, will present as a team. Breakfast foods and beverages provided.



02|01 SATURDAY

First Saturday Mass

Our Lady of Seven Dolors, Fair Haven • 7:30 am
Rosary at 7:30 am and Mass at 8 am.



02|01 SATURDAY

First Saturday Mass

Holy Family, Essex Junction • 8 am
Confessions, Rosary at 8 am, Mass at 8:30 am.



02|01 SATURDAY

Cemetery Committee Bingo

St. Peter, Vergennes • 5 - 8 pm

Family friendly event. Cash prizes, 50/50 raffle. Refreshments sold.

World Marriage Day Mass

Sunday, February 16

10 a.m.

Holy Cross, Colchester

Those celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2025 are invited to this special Mass with their families. A reception follows in the parish hall.

To register or for more info: vermontcatholic.org/marriage-day-mass



Creighton Model FertilityCare™ System Introductory Session

World-class, wholistic women's healthcare
for teens, women, couples



Dr. Jessica Whelan

Saturday, January 18 at 10 a.m.

Saturday, March 8 at 10 a.m.

These are live sessions,
presented by Dr. Jessica Whelan.
Time for Q&A will be available
at the end of the presentations.

Take the first step in learning the Creighton Model
and becoming empowered in your own
reproductive health and family planning.



To learn more and register:
drwhelan.com/services

Our center is formally affiliated with:

