



As Catholics, we know we are called to have Christ as the foundation of everything we do. In our diocese we strive to live this out through our services and ministries focused on evangelization, catechesis, and works of mercy. Despite the many challenges we have faced in our world, our country, and our diocese in the past year, we have much to celebrate by having Christ as our sure foundation:

Evangelization

Joyously and in harmony with national trends, more than 150 individuals were welcomed into the Church this Easter through the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults. Notably large groups came from our campus ministry programs at UVM and Norwich University.

Catechesis

There are 2,158 students enrolled in our twelve Catholic schools. Our Office of Religious Education supports 78 parish religious education programs with over 1,200 students. Twelve parishes hosted Totus Tuus summer camp for 463 young campers; 67 teens attended the Steubenville East conference in July 2025.

Hundreds of adults are being engaged through retreats and events such as the annual young adult retreat, the semi-annual women's retreats, the annual men's retreat, monthly Faith Ascending events for young adults, and the quarterly Vermont Catholic Professional networking events.

Works of Mercy

In 2025, Vermont Catholic Charities provided services to 3,474 individuals. The services provided included: emergency aid, prison ministry, counseling services, and residential care.

A common thread shared by these diocesan services and ministries is funding; all are either partly or entirely funded through the Bishop's Annual Appeal. With your generous support we are better equipped to carry out Christ's Great Commission — to share God's love, transform society, and witness to the faith in daily life.

Though the diocese has been in Chapter 11 reorganization since September 2024, we have been able to ensure that all money raised by the Bishop's Annual Appeal be used for the programs, services, and ministries for which they were designated. As we launch the Bishop's Annual Appeal for 2026, this will continue to be my goal and intention.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and support.

God alone suffices!

The Most Reverend John J. McDermott
Bishop of Burlington