

NEWS FROM The Inland See

December 26, 2020 – January 1, 2021

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

New ministry to support those who are ill, alone

Even in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the parish community of St. Mark in Burlington is moving forward with plans for a new ministry to support those who are ill or alone and in need of prayers.

The Illness Support Ministry, which grew out of the priorities of the 2018 Diocesan Synod, is meant to reach out to anyone who contacts the parish for prayers in the face of sickness, or those who are homebound or in nursing homes.

Often, those who contact the parish may not even be parishioners, said Barry Comeau, parish synod delegate.

One of the primary goals, Comeau explained, is to create an information card for those in need of prayers, which would include addresses, contact information and names of family

members, if possible; anything that would make connecting with the sick possible, especially during this time when visits are restricted because of Covid-19.

The committee — which also includes Marie Forcier, Donna Russell and Jan Hevey — has been hampered by the pandemic in efforts to gather but is deciding on uplifting prayers and messages of support to be mailed to the sick, and to family members in some cases, to let them know they are being prayed for and remembered.

VTC • *Mary Clifford Morrell*

U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Pro-Life and Doctrine Address Ethical Concerns on the New COVID-19 Vaccines

On December 14, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the new COVID-19 vaccines. In their statement, the bishops address the moral concerns raised by the fact that the three vaccines that appear to be ready for distribution in the United States all have some connection to cell lines that originated with tissue taken from abortions.

With regard to the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, they concluded:

"In view of the gravity of the current pandemic and the lack of availability of alternative vaccines, the reasons to accept the new COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna are sufficiently serious to justify their use, despite their remote connection to morally compromised cell lines.

"Receiving one of the COVID-19 vaccines ought to be understood as an act of charity toward the other members of

our community. In this way, being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good."

With regard to the AstraZeneca vaccine, the bishops found it to be "more morally compromised" and consequently concluded that this vaccine "should be avoided" if there are alternatives available. "It may turn out, however, that one does not really have a choice of vaccine, at least, not without a lengthy delay in immunization that may have serious consequences for one's health and the health of others," the bishop chairmen stated. "In such a case ... it would be permissible to accept the AstraZeneca vaccine."

At the same time, the bishops also warned that Catholics "must be on guard so that the new COVID-19 vaccines do not desensitize us or weaken our determination to oppose the evil of abortion itself and the subsequent use of fetal cells in research."

The full statement from the bishop chairmen may be found at: <https://www.usccb.org/moral-considerations-covid-vaccines>

— *Public Affairs Office, USCCB*

CHRIST OUR

Hope

BUILDING A VIBRANT CHURCH



Christ Our Hope Campaign Update

To learn more or make a gift visit: christourhopevt.org.

37%

As of Dec. 16: \$3,570,467

Goal: \$9,582,456

Upcoming Events



01|07, 14, 21, 28 THURSDAYS

Vermont Catholic Book Club:

Silence

via Zoom • 7:30 - 8:30 pm

This January, join us as we read Shusaku Endo's *Silence*. Two missionary priests secretly travel into 17th century Japan at a time when Christians are being persecuted harshly. What does it mean to be faithful to Christ in difficult times? This question and many others are posed in this challenging and gripping novel. We will meet four times to discuss the book and how we might learn from it. Bring a friend! Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/book-study-silence/



01|13, 20, 27 WEDNESDAYS

Family & Faith in the Home

via Zoom • 8 - 9:30 pm

Parents are invited to attend an interactive webinar sponsored by the Diocese of Manchester with guest speakers Mike and Alicia Herson of the Messy Family Project. Mike and Alicia have 10 children, and have much to share with parenting while living the Catholic faith. The webinars are a follows:

January 13, 8-9:30 p.m. – Communication in Marriage

January 20, 8-9:30 p.m. – Messy Parenting 101

January 27, 8-9:30 p.m. – Evangelizing Your Children

Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/family-faith-in-the-home/



01|20 WEDNESDAY

Vermont Catholic Professionals Virtual Event

via Zoom • 8 - 9 am

Our January guest speaker is Deacon Pete Gummere – Bioethicist and Director of the Permanent Diaconate for the Diocese of Burlington. He will be presenting, "Discernment: Family, Career and Service to the Church." Register: vermontcatholic.org/event/vermont-catholic-professionals-virtual-event/

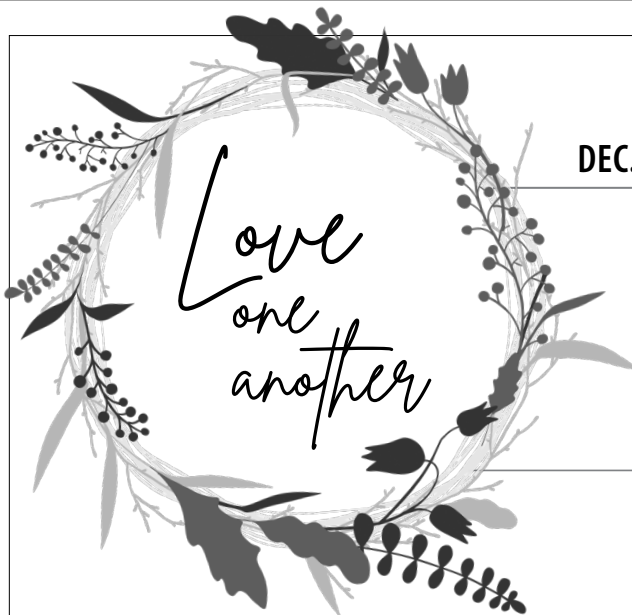


01|21 THURSDAY

"Just Mercy" Book Study Group

via Zoom • 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Mercy Corps, a newly formed group of parishioners at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church, is hosting an online book study for *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson. The series will meet monthly, January through June. Saint John Vianney Church will have copies of the book available for \$10/copy. For more information, to make arrangements to pick up a copy of the book, or to register, please contact Connie McDonald at SJVGoodNews@gmail.com.



DEC. 27, 2020 – JAN. 2, 2021

**CHALLENGES
TO GROW
YOUR
MARRIAGE**

OUR SAVIOR IS HERE.

How do you welcome him into your home?
Together, create a "Welcome to Our Home" feast to honor the Holy Family. Keep those holiday decorations displayed to help celebrate!

vermontcatholic.org/marriagechallenge

CHRIST OUR

Hope

2020 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL



Thank you to all those who have made a gift already. We are more than 20% behind our goal and ask those that can to please consider a gift before the end of the year. You can make a gift online: vermontcatholic.org/donate

100%

2020 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal: \$2,651,157

78%

As of December 16: \$2,068,325