

NEWS FROM The Inland See

March 3-9, 2018

FOR THE DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

STATEMENT OF Bishop Christopher Coyne ON **Abortion** **ISSUES**



As Catholics, we believe abortion is gravely contrary to the moral law and that procured abortion is a moral evil. Over the past month, two significant events have taken place — one national, one local — both connected with the promotion of abortion.

On Jan. 29, the U.S. Senate rejected a bill to ban most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy. The 20-week ban, named the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, was a particularly important piece of legislation for all those who seek to protect human life because more and more children born as early as 20 weeks into gestation are now surviving into full and healthy lives. It is a sad reflection on the state of the issue that the rights of one human being (the mother) supplant the rights of another human life (the child), one that can at that gestational age exist outside of the womb.

The second incident involves the decision of the University of Vermont Medical Center in Burlington now to provide services for elective abortions.

With other abortion providers throughout Vermont, why is it even necessary for the state's largest medical facility to offer this service?

There was no public discussion of this change to a long-standing public policy, and there was no consultation with many of the doctors, nurses, caregivers and staff of the medical center about the impact this decision would have on them. At the very least, Covenant Health, the Catholic healthcare system that owns the Fanny Allen Campus (formerly the Catholic Fanny Allen Hospital), which is leased to the UVM Medical Center, should have been made

aware of this change given that its lease agreement with UVM prohibits procedures such as abortion. Covenant Health had no knowledge of any change in policy regarding abortions. It was only after my office asked Covenant Health to make an inquiry that we were told elective abortions are now being performed at UVM but none are taking place on the Fanny Allen campus.

If abortion were just one more medical procedure — as pro-choice proponents contend — then it need not require any further administrative action to be offered within the hospital or in a Senate vote than any other procedure.

But abortion is not merely a medical procedure. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its sole end. God alone is the Lord of life from its beginning until its end: no one can under any circumstance claim for himself the right directly to destroy an innocent human being."

That is why I was shocked and saddened by the news that the UVM Medical Center is now offering elective abortions. That is why this decision deserved the careful consideration of input given by those who work at and are served by this hospital.

We take this to heart, and we take this to our lawmakers and policymakers. We continue to raise our voices and be heard as we pray and act to defend life.



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF BURLINGTON

To see more events or to submit your event to the diocesan calendar: vermontcatholic.org/calendar



Christopher J. Coyne

The Most Reverend Christopher J. Coyne
Bishop of Burlington

UPCOMING EVENTS



03|04 SUNDAY
K of C Pancake Breakfast
Nativity of the BVM, Swanton
 8 am - 12:30 pm

Serving pancakes, scrambled eggs, home fries, bacon, sausage, muffins, donuts, fruits and drinks. Adults \$9, 6-12 years old \$5, families \$25. Proceeds to benefit the Vocation Fund and Br. Lawrence Machia Ordination trip.



03|09, 23 FRIDAY
St. Ambrose 18th Annual Lenten Fish Fry
St. Ambrose Parish Hall • 5 - 7 pm

Join us for "All You Can Eat" fish fry. Fried or baked haddock, French fries, coleslaw, beverage & dessert. Adults \$12.50, children nine and under \$6, immediate family of five \$37.



03|10 SATURDAY
Spaghetti Birthday Cake Dinner
St. Rose of Lima, South Hero • 5 pm



03|11 SUNDAY
K of C Breakfast
St. Peter, Vergennes
 8 - 10 am

Come join us for a delicious breakfast of eggs, omelets (to order), hot cakes, french toast, sausage, bacon and more. Bring your family and friends!! Adults \$8.50; Seniors over 60 \$7.50 and Kids 6-12yrs. \$6. Children under 6 years old are free. Immediate families of five or more \$28.



03|14, 21 WEDNESDAY
Laetare Living — Lenten Retreats
Annunciation of the BVM, Ludlow
St. Jude, Hinesburg
 9:30 am - 3 pm

Lenten Parish Retreats for all Parish Volunteers and Staff. Are you active in your parish: secretary, bookkeeper, maintenance help, Religious Education, Funeral Ministry, Music Ministry, etc...? Join us for a day of prayer, fellowship, and inspiration! The retreat is being offered in Ludlow on March 14 and in Hinesburg on March 21.
REGISTRATION: Idaudelin@vermontcatholic.org



03|14 WEDNESDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directives: How and Why
Blessed Sacrament Parish Hall, Stowe
 Two times: 1 pm and 6:15 pm

Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive (VCAD) and distribute VCAD preparation packets at this presentation. The VCAD complies with Vermont's Advance Directive Law as well as with Church teaching.
FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org



03|14 WEDNESDAY
Mass of Thanksgiving
St. Charles, Bellows Falls • 7 pm

Fr. Lance Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



03|17 SATURDAY
Silent Day-Retreat in the Carmelite tradition
St. Paul d'Abbotsford, QC
 9:30 am - 7 pm

Opportunity to give God time to love and transform us. Teaching given by a Carmelite Friar in French with simultaneous translation available. Mass, lunch and fellowship over dinner. Drive takes about 1 hour 45 minutes; enhanced travel document or passport necessary.
FOR MORE INFO: email@ourladyofifeinstitute.org



03|17 saturday
K of C Annual Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner
St. Thomas, Underhill Center
 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Adults \$14, Children (5-10) \$8, with a maximum of \$35 per family. Children under 5 are free. Take-out meals will be available. Hall is not handicapped accessible. Come and bring the whole family for this tasty Irish dinner to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!
FOR MORE INFO: call the church office (802) 899-4632.



03|22 THURSDAY
Vermont Catholic Advance Directives: How and Why
St. Theresa's Church Parish Center Orleans
 6:30 pm

Bioethicist Deacon Pete Gummere will lead a discussion on the Vermont Catholic Advance Directive (VCAD) and distribute VCAD preparation packets at this presentation. The VCAD complies with Vermont's Advance Directive Law as well as with Church teaching.
FOR MORE INFO: respectlife@vermontcatholic.org



03|25 SUNDAY
Praise & Worship
All Saints, Richford
 4 - 5 pm

Praise & Worship led by Bill Gavin from the Diocese of Burlington, including adoration and confessions until 5 pm. A potluck meal will follow the event at Dorion Hall. Please come and join us in prayer, adoration and fellowship.



03|27 TUESDAY
Taize Prayer
Sacred Heart Saint Francis de Sales, Bennington • 7 pm

The parish choir will offer its annual Holy Week Service of Silent Prayer, Song and Adoration of the Cross in the Tradition of Taize. Taize is a village in the hills of Eastern France that is home to an ecumenical community of religious Brothers who have dedicated their lives to prayer and works of charity. Taize compositions consists of litany-style melodies and refrains that become increasingly prayerful with each repetition.



04|06, 07, 08 FRIDAY - SUNDAY
Rachel's Vineyard Retreat
Northern Vermont

This weekend retreat offers an opportunity for healing for hearts wounded by abortion. Men and women can express and release painful post-abortion emotions and begin the healing process in a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment.

FOR MORE INFO: or to register call (802) 658 4118.



04|03 TUESDAY
Sacred Relics of the Saints: Treasures of the Church
St. Augustine, Montpelier • 6 pm

Fr. Carlos Martins of the Companions of the Cross has a special ministry of bringing sacred relics to the faithful. He will talk about relics and then invite attendees to examine and venerate the 150+ relics that will be displayed. These relics are of famous saints as well as of relatively unknown saints, some modern and some very ancient. Join us!



04|14 SATURDAY
Mass of Thanksgiving
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Williston
 7 pm

Fr. Harlow will celebrate Mass as part of his Masses of Thanksgiving in honor of his Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Everyone is invited.



04|20, 21, 22 FRIDAY - SUNDAY
Esto Vir — Be a Man! Father/Son Retreat
Mary Theotokos Retreat Center, Newark

Retreat will include hiking and other outdoor adventures in the beautiful mountains of the Northeast Kingdom and Lake Willoughby, food, lodging and talks by Father Jon Schnobrich. Registration deadline is April 10th.
FOR MORE INFO: or to register, kalderman@vermont-catholic.org, (802) 658-6110 x1130.



04|27, 28 FRIDAY & SATURDAY
New Evangelization Summit
Holy Cross, Colchester

Vermont will be hosting the Live-streamed New Evangelization Summit out of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada joining thousands of others throughout North America. Summit will run 6:30-9pm on Friday and 8:30 am to 4:30 pm on Saturday. Hear speakers like Curtis Martin, Sr. Ann Shields, George Weigel, and Patrick Madrid. Cost is \$40 per person and will cover materials, snacks and lunch on Saturday.
FOR MORE INFO: newevangelization.ca/ or contact Deacon Phil Lawson at (802) 658-6110 ext. 1460

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