



VERMONT CATHOLIC

*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

Preparing for Lent

e-News Report

Week of February 12, 2012

Report for Region - Northwest VT

Welcome to the Vermont Catholic e-News Report, produced by the Roman Catholic Diocese of Burlington. This news report is designed to keep you informed of important news happening in your geographical location within the Diocese of Burlington and the Church at large.

Region - Northwest VT News

Mass in the Extraordinary Form

ST. ALBANS—The Mass in the Extraordinary Form (or Tridentine Mass) according to the 1962 Roman Missal of Blessed John XXIII is celebrated at Immaculate Conception (St. Mary) Church on the third Sunday of the month (next one is Feb. 19) at 10:30 a.m. as well as most Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. For more information call St. Mary's at 527-7775 or e-mail latinmassvt@live.com.

Christian music concert

ENOSBURG FALLS—There will be a Christian music concert at St. John the Baptist Church on Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. It will feature the Catholic evangelist Paul Koleske. He offers a unique combination of fresh uplifting contemporary Christian music and inspirational spoken word that speaks to the mind, touches the heart, soothes the soul and lifts the spirit.

Mater Christi Middle School

Spotlight Night

BURLINGTON—Mater Christi School will host a Middle School Spotlight Night on Thursday, March 8, from 6-7:30 p.m. For more information, call 658-3992.

K of C Council #7810

hosts Spaghetti dinner

UNDERHILL CENTER—The Knights of Columbus Council #7810 of St. Thomas Church will host a spaghetti dinner on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Included in the dinner will be spaghetti, meat sauce, rolls, salad and drinks. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 6-10. Children five years old and under will be the guests of the Knights. Take out meals will be available.

St. Francis Xavier School Challenge Grant

WINOOSKI—St. Francis Xavier School announced it has surpassed the goal set in its recent 20/20 Challenge Grant, in honor of Msgr. Richard Lavalley.

Three anonymous donors created a Challenge Grant commemorating the pastor's 20 years of service to St. Francis Xavier School and Parish. They agreed to match every dollar up to \$20,000 raised during the St. Francis Xavier School Annual Appeal between Nov. 13, 2011, and Jan. 6, 2012.

In announcing the success, co-chairs of the annual fund, Mike and Stacey Zierak and Mary and Otto Engelberth, said, "We are very pleased to report the community has responded to the challenge with an outpouring of support for the school in Monsignor's honor. The generosity of so many friends put us over the top in our goal of raising the \$20,000, thereby enabling the school to collect the matching funds."

More than \$43,000 was raised by the challenge grant drive.

The total goal of the St. Francis Xavier Annual Appeal, which concludes on June 30, is \$80,000.

St. Francis Xavier School Principal Jesse Gaudette noted the importance of the annual fund to the school: "This money is vital to providing tuition assistance and meeting expenses not covered by tuition alone. The community support enables us to continue to offer an excellent education to students of all economic backgrounds."

K of C Free Throw contest winners announced

WINOOSKI—Winooski Knights of Columbus Council # 2284 and St. Francis Xavier CYO jointly sponsored a free-throw contest on Saturday, Jan. 8 at the Winooski High School gym.

Fifty local youth participated in the event.

The winners are:

Age 10 Boys: Merase Niyonsaba

Age 11 Boys: Tyler Daniels; Girls: Bailey Luter
Age 12 Boys: Gregory Bolger; Girls: Olivia Lesage

Age 13 Boys: Austin Mitchell; Girls: Stephanie Langlais
Age 14 Boys: Mathieu Bergeron



St. Francis Xavier School students who were among the winners are (left to right) Olivia Lesage, Stephanie Langlais, Tyler Daniels, Merase Niyonsaba and Greg Bolger.

The winners were invited to a council reception to receive a K of C winner's certificate and prize (a bookstore gift card). Each winner is eligible to participate in the district level free-throw competition in February.

February classes at the Vermont Genealogy Library

COLCHESTER—Several classes sponsored by the Vermont French Canadian Genealogical Society are open to the public and run from 10:30 a.m.-noon. Donations are appreciated for the classes.

The society's library is located in Fort Ethan Allen with parking and the entrance on Hegeman Avenue across from the Vermont State Police.

The library is open Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Tuesdays from 3-9:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.vt-fcgs.org, or call 238-5934.

The following classes are scheduled:

Genealogy Data in "A War of 1812 Death Register"

Jack Bilow, the author of "A War of 1812 Death Register: Whispers in the Dark" will speak on Saturday, Feb. 11, about his research and the resulting book. The book contains information that will be of interest to genealogists in Vermont and New York. Copies of his book will be available for purchase.

Irish Vital Records Databases

Ed McGuire will discuss "Irish Vital Records Databases" on Saturday, Feb. 18. This is the second of a three-part series on Irish genealogy. It will focus on using the best free and paid websites for civil and parish vital records as well as print sources and repositories.

How to Earn Champlain and Fille du Roi Pins

If you are of French-Canadian descent, it is not very difficult to earn these pins. One pin is awarded for proving your ancestor knew Samuel de Champlain. The other pin is awarded for finding a marriage between a Filles du Roi (daughter of the king) and a Soldats du Carnigan (soldier) in your ancestry. Sheila Morris will take you through the process on Saturday, Feb. 25.



The eighth grade winner and the fifth grade runner-up flank moderator Ian Spencer.

National Geographic sponsors Bishop Marshall School GeoBee

MORRISVILLE—The Bishop John A. Marshall School had its Geo Bee on Jan. 16. Sponsored by the National Geographic Society, it is a national competition for grades four through eight. Students are quizzed on place names, geographic features and cultural features. The winners will go on to represent Bishop Marshall School at the state competition in March.

Catholic Schools Week in Morrisville

MORRISVILLE—The Bishop John A. Marshall School celebrated Catholic Schools Week Jan. 30-Feb. 3 with the national theme of Faith, Service and Academics.

It was a fun-filled week of activities celebrating the school's uniqueness as a Catholic school. Activities included a No Strings Marionette performance of Jack and the Beanstalk; an upper-school students' visit to Rice Memorial High School in South Burlington for Mass, tour of the school campus and lunch; a spirited "Are You Smarter Than a BJAMS Student?" game show; a special Mass and reception for the entire Bishop Marshall School community to honor its many donors, friends, volunteers and trustees; and a variety show displaying many of the students' talents. The exciting week ended with a fifth-to-eighth grade daytrip to Montreal for snow tubing and lunch, and an afternoon of sledding, hot cocoa and snacks for the lower-school students.

Martin Luther King celebration

BURLINGTON—On Jan. 17, Mater Christi School students, staff and adult volunteers gathered in the school's gym to begin a day of remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Instead of focusing on King's efforts to bring justice and equality to America's social system, the school's Diversity Committee highlighted, instead, his efforts to solve the problem of hunger in America and throughout the world.

The purpose of the day was stated by Paul Jette, school principal, in his welcome at the early morning kick-off assembly: "We are going to spend time learning about Dr. King's message to share food and other resources with other nations, other communities, other individuals. We will be thinking about how we can help continue his work here in Vermont."

The day continued with a series of activities for the students, one of which was a "Modified Hunger Banquet" for grades three through eight. By lottery, students were divided into three groups: Table 1 had three to four students who sat at a cloth-covered table with plenty of pretzels, popcorn, fresh fruit, pitchers of water, plates and cups. These students could eat as much as they wanted.

Table 2 had five to six students, desks pushed together, six cups and a bag filled with pretzels and another filled with popcorn. These



Students from Mater Christi School in Burlington participate in a program remembering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

students could choose to have their cup filled with either pretzels or popcorn, not both. They did not have access to water.

Table 3 had 10 to 12 students who would be seated on the floor, and in this area there was one bag of cheese puffs. These students had to line up, wait until all of the students at the other two tables had started eating. Then they each received one cheese puff.

Each table had an adult facilitator who led a discussion with his/her group. Leading questions helped the students to see that their situation represented what is happening currently in the world as they compared each table's population, eating environment and availability of food and water.

Following a debriefing period, the lead facilitator explained that the sizes of the groups mirrored the way income is distributed around the world (15 percent high income, 25 percent middle income, 60 percent low income). This ended with a discussion of the purpose of a hunger banquet and the terms/conditions associated with hunger.

Meanwhile, the kindergarten through grade two children listened to stories specifically chosen for the day, and then they discussed the question, "What is fair?" Next, half of the students were given new pencils and directed to sit in a special section of the room where they were then given other privileges. This continued until someone in the second group said, "That's not fair!" The exercise stopped and a conversation took place about "fairness."

The Hunger Banquet and the pencil activity transitioned to King's message that no one should live in poverty, that everyone should have enough, including enough food.

The day concluded with a prayer assembly in the gym and the decision to have a canned goods drive for the Chittenden Emergency Food Shelf, beginning on Hunger Awareness Day, Jan. 19, and concluding at the end of the month during Catholic Schools Week.

In addition, the students wrote postcards urging the Vermont Legislature to pass HR 234 and expand free school lunch to all low-income children.

Hats off to Bishop Marshall School students

MORRISVILLE—The seventh-grade class at The Bishop John A. Marshall School in Morrisville donated 66 hats and pairs of gloves to the Central Vermont Community Action Council of Lamoille County as part of their winter community service. Many of the hats and gloves were handmade by students' mothers and grandmothers. Here some of the students show some of the hats.



News Around the Diocese

Guidelines For Lent 2012

The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance and works of charity. Ash Wednesday (Feb. 22) and Good Friday (April 6), in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

The rule of fasting states that only one full meal a day can be taken. Two small meals, "sufficient to maintain strength," are allowed, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast, but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from 18 to 59.

Abstinence refers to the eating of meat. The common estimation of the community is used to determine what falls under the category of meat. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years and older.

The substantial observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Self-imposed fasting on other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended.

Parents and teachers should see to it that, even those who are not bound by the laws of fast and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

Marriage Encounter Weekend

STOWE—There will be a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend in Stowe April 27-29. For more information, e-mail Dave and Jennie Erkson at erksonmevt@comcast.net.