



Bishop Christopher Coyne (second from left), Burlington priests, Weston brothers and Mercy Sisters

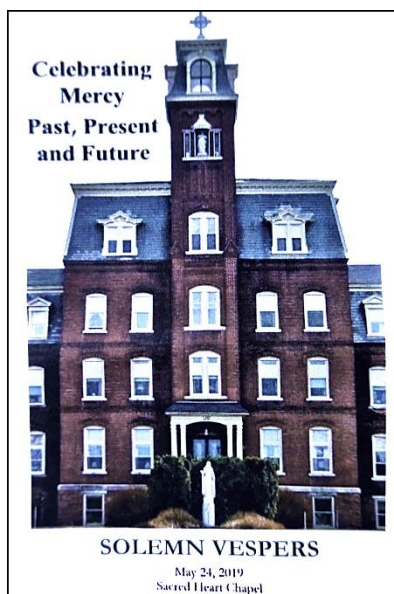
The Local Church

THERE HAS ALWAYS BEEN A SPECIAL FEELING OF BEING A PART OF THE CHURCH which spans the whole world. When we think of all the people of earth who pray the Gospel each day, there is a feeling of humility and gratefulness that fills our hearts.

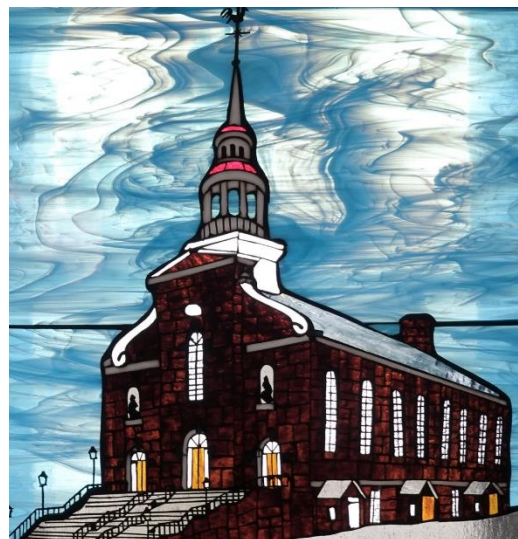
Yet the universal is contained within the local. In our visit with the Bishop of this Diocese, Christopher Coyne, we could sense that Vermont as a whole is connected to the beautiful pastoral direction of Pope Francis. Compassion and gentleness are an authentic way forward for the Church of today.

That was echoed as we gave thanks for the Sisters of Mercy who are closing their motherhouse in Burlington. The feeling again was of a Church that is moving forward, through their associates and the ongoing vision of mercy offered to our suffering world.

The local Church continues to be faithful to the calling of Jesus, "Go, and proclaim the Gospel to the nations." We freely offer all that we can in the sharing of our lives. ■



Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Burlington, Vermont



The Cathedral of St. Joseph, Burlington, Vermont