



DIocese OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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July 31, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Church is called to be a light to the world and to bring the Good News to all people. Entrusted with the care of the Diocese of Arlington, I fervently desire not only to shine the light of truth for all to see, but also to set aflame the hearts of the faithful with this truth. This way, this light will share the warmth of Christ's love and allow His mercy to transform our society.

We must never forget, "The message of salvation in Jesus Christ is intended for all people despite their social, cultural, racial, ethnic, or economic differences" (NDC, 52). No longer can we rely on our cultural heritage or the reputation of our Church to draw people to Christ. Rather, it is the witness of individuals, formed in the faith and aflame with love for the faith, who will extend the invitation to the Kingdom of God and who will share His love with those most in need.

Every baptized person is called to bear witness and to share this Good News. Now, more than ever, dedicated and enthusiastic catechists are needed to teach what we believe, how to live what we believe, and how to respond in faith to the challenges of this world. Faith formation must occur in our homes, classrooms, and beyond our buildings. We must go out "to every stratum of human society in a wide variety of catechetical settings, with the resolute intention to transform all society and renew the face of the earth" (NDC, 52).

The ministry of faith formation is my priority for the Diocese of Arlington. I implore you to respond to this pressing need and to help me with this great work. I ask all Catholics to recommit themselves to faith formation, and I pledge diocesan resources and my prayerful support to the catechetical ministries of this diocese.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington