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Bishop Burbidge ([00:00](#)):

This is Bishop Michael Burbidge and you are listening to the Walk Humbly podcast.

Billy Atwell ([00:08](#)):

Welcome to the Walk Humbly podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese, and your co-host. We have a very special podcast today, but all podcasts that we do here at the diocese, including the Walk Humbly podcast, is sponsored by and made possible by the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. It supports a lot of ministries throughout the diocese, but that includes the communications office, so those who have given to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal and the Catholic Communications Campaign, you have made this possible. So thank you so much.

Billy Atwell ([00:35](#)):

Sign up for our e-newsletter at arlingtondiocese.org. You can also follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter @bishopburbidge, where every day you can read a short gospel reflection for that particular day.

Billy Atwell ([00:45](#)):

Also, make sure you're following the diocese on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. If you have a question for Bishop Burbidge, send it to info@arlingtondiocese.org, or give us a call or text us at (703) 831-7013. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how you doing?

Bishop Burbidge ([01:01](#)):

Billy, I'm doing great. Great to be with you and to be with all my young friends in Christ who are participating in our annual Work Camp.

Billy Atwell ([01:09](#)):

Absolutely. Yeah. So this is a special one. We're recording on location from Work Camp 2022. We've got hundreds of volunteers gathered here for a week of faith and service to those in most need. We've got a full podcast with a lot of great questions from young folks. But before we dig into all that, a lot has happened since the last podcast we had. In fact, you met with your brother bishops for your annual US Conference of Catholic Bishop's spring meeting. Any highlights from that that you want to...

Bishop Burbidge ([01:36](#)):

Yes. So, as I mentioned before in the podcast, the bishops meet from around the country every November in Baltimore, and that's very much a kind of a heavy agenda business-type meeting, a lot of issues to discuss, elections to make, things like that.

Bishop Burbidge ([01:55](#)):

In June, we always go to a different diocese, but every three years, we put aside the business agenda, and we have more of a retreat fraternal time. And so this was one of those years, and we were able to gather as brother bishops. But the whole week there was no, all the committee meetings had to be done before Monday. That's when the retreat began. And we were very blessed that the Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, Archbishop Fisher was our retreat director. And it gave us the time that, to be honest, we usually don't get in November. Usually that schedule is so full, so packed, we're running from, you really don't even get a chance to talk to one another.

Bishop Burbidge ([02:41](#)):

But this past week we had time to pray together. We had, of course, mass every day together. We prayed together. We had holy hours together. We met in smaller groups to discuss what we were hearing during the retreat. And I have to tell you, Billy, it really was a really special time. I came home spiritually renewed and energized, got to know a number of bishops I did not know, speak with other bishops I usually don't get a chance to speak with. And I think it sets us up well for a meeting in November. I think it created the right atmosphere.

Bishop Burbidge ([03:17](#)):

Bishops aren't spared from what we're facing in societies these days, with many different issues, different opinions, different ways of looking at things. But you know what? One thing we do have in common is we all love the Lord. We all love the church, and we got to experience that this past week. It was great.

Billy Atwell ([03:33](#)):

That's wonderful. I'm glad you had that. You've talked before about how that fraternity with other bishops is important. Starting today, actually, is the beginning of the World Meeting of Families, and it's taking place in Rome. We even have some Diocese of Arlington parishioners who are going to be offering a keynote to address at one of the sessions.

Billy Atwell ([03:51](#)):

Bishop, what should people know about the World Meeting of Families?

Bishop Burbidge ([03:54](#)):

Yeah. And so, the Holy Father, as we know, often tells us that the strength that we have as a society will come from strong and holy families. And so, He is [inaudible 00:04:10] this world meeting to meet with families, a beautiful theme that they chose, family love, a vocation and a path to holiness. So what a beautiful theme that is. And it's concludes the year of Amoris Laetitia, which was the cyclical of our Holy Father five years ago. So it's the fifth anniversary of that.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:33](#)):

And this meeting is a little bit different. It's for invited guests only. Usually it's open to the public. But this one is a little bit different in that it's invited guests. And as you mentioned, we have some from our diocese will be attending. And Ever and Soren Johnson have been asked to be speakers, and they're going to give a topic on discernment in daily family life.

Bishop Burbidge ([04:58](#)):

So, we're well-represented there.

Billy Atwell ([05:01](#)):

Yeah, absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:01](#)):

And the Holy Father asked that we have our own celebration, which we did just a couple Saturdays ago at our Diocesan Family Life Festival, which I had mass. And after the mass, there were all kinds of music and activities. And it was so great to see families from throughout our diocese, out on the grounds there, and a real reminder that all of us are called to be holy families. So that means that's the families who we love and respect each other, our parents, our siblings, our children and spouses. We pray together, and we're always willing to forgive one another.

Bishop Burbidge ([05:45](#)):

And so it was my prayer at that mass that the Diocese of Arlington will be renewed in having holy families, such a gift to the church.

Billy Atwell ([05:54](#)):

That's very good. And we should all be praying for the World Meeting of Families, that it's successful and brings forth great fruit.

Billy Atwell ([06:00](#)):

This coming weekend we have a diocesan pilgrimage to Philadelphia. This is a busy week, lots going on here in the diocese, a lot of great things to cover. This is one of many pilgrimages that'll be taking place going to Philadelphia, most being conducted by parishes. This is part of our preparatory year -- three preparatory years we're having, leading up to our Golden Jubilee in 2024, our 50th anniversary as a diocese. So some might wonder, why Philadelphia?

Bishop Burbidge ([06:25](#)):

Yeah. It has nothing to do with the current bishop being from there, first of all. Nothing to do with the cheese steaks, nothing like that. But this is the year that is, as you mentioned, our preparation for our 50 anniversary. We've dedicated this whole year to the Eucharist. And Philadelphia is blessed with two saints who were known for their devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Saint John Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia who started the 40-hours devotions, which we had in our diocese this past year, and Saint Katharine Drexel who founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, both known for their love for the Eucharist.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:10](#)):

And their shrines are there, Saint John Neumann on Girard Avenue there in Philadelphia. Saint Katharine Drexel is at the Basilica Cathedral in Philadelphia. So we're going there on pilgrimage together to honor those two saints. We'll have prayer and mass there. And we also will visit the seminary, Saint Charles, where a number of our priests studied and were formed as priests.

Bishop Burbidge ([07:39](#)):

So very much looking forward to this trip. And again, with a focus on the Holy Eucharist.

Billy Atwell ([07:44](#)):

You have a little experience at Saint Charles seminary as well?

Bishop Burbidge ([07:46](#)):

Yeah. [inaudible 00:07:47] that. I might be able to give a little inside -- baseball there.

Billy Atwell ([07:50](#)):

Yeah. Right. And last topic before we get into the Work Camp issues as well, we've just finished a lengthy synodal process, and that followed after a strategic planning process we did here in the diocese. And this is part of the upcoming Synod of Bishops in Rome. We've spoken about this in the past on the podcast, but my questions are really just, do you have a timeline for when that public synopsis/document might be released, and what kind of issues should people expect to see reflected in that document?

Bishop Burbidge ([08:19](#)):

Yeah. So, thanks for asking. So yes, we've concluded all the listening sessions that we had this past year, which were very, very fruitful. All of our parishes had at least one, many multiple. I was able to attend some of the parish listening sessions at various groups, listening sessions. In fact, we began with our high school students. That was our first listening sessions.

Billy Atwell ([08:42](#)):

That's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([08:42](#)):

That was so, so inspiring. I mean, the young people really shared their experience of where they've encountered Christ in a church, where they maybe have met obstacles in a church, how they celebrate their faith, or maybe where they find it difficult to share their faith. And that really was really part of the listening sessions throughout the diocese.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:02](#)):

And so, how, as a church or diocese, how are we helping people to encounter Christ? Or where are there obstacles? How can we better promote the truth, the goodness, the beauty of our faith? And we learned a lot. And so what we're asked to do now is to summarize the themes that surface the most, that we heard consistently.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:28](#)):

But here's the challenge. We only get 10 pages to do it.

Billy Atwell ([09:32](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:32](#)):

So after hundreds and hundreds of listening sessions, I have to submit a report to the Holy See via the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. That report is due June 30th. I'm happy you to say it is completed.

Billy Atwell ([09:48](#)):

Oh, good.

Bishop Burbidge ([09:49](#)):

Just a final proofreading today. And I'll send it off probably today to the USCCB. And then, what we'll do, since June 30th is the deadline, we're going to make sure that they have received it. And then once they have received it, then we will make that entire 10-page report public, to all the faithful in the diocese; and we'll be using your office, our social media, our website, the Catholic Herald, to make that readily available, so everyone in our diocese can see the fruits of their listening sessions.

Billy Atwell ([10:22](#)):

Very good. Well, thank you for that update. So we now have others. We'll move on to Work Camp, which is why we're here and recording here on location. So we introduce our Director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry, Kevin Bohli. Kevin, welcome.

Kevin Bohli ([10:37](#)):

Thank you, Bishop. Thank you, Billy. Thanks for having me here.

Bishop Burbidge ([10:39](#)):

Kevin, it's great to have you on the podcast. As I mentioned earlier, this is -- when I came to the Diocese of Arlington about six years ago, I heard about this Work Camp that the Diocese of Arlington had. I had no idea what it was, and my first experience of it, I was in awe of what takes place here. And here I am five years later, and I still have that sense of awe. It's just one of the most incredible things I think is done for young people. But for those maybe who hear or are hearing about the Work Camp for the first time, just could you explain that? The history of Work Camp in our diocese and how far it's come?

Kevin Bohli ([11:16](#)):

Sure. So Work Camp started back in the early '90s. So it's over 30-years-old at this point. And it started out just as a couple parishes, just got together and did their own camp, and it's grown over the years. So I participated back in 1994 as a contractor. Then when I became the director of this office back in 2000, I really thought that there was a lot of growth potential for it. And so many parishes were interested in bringing more and more.

Kevin Bohli ([11:42](#)):

So we've built it over the years to, right before the pandemic, we were over 800 young people. And then you throw in all the contractors and the adult leaders, you're well over 1,200 people coming together to live in a school for a week and serve throughout the community with around that school.

Bishop Burbidge ([11:57](#)):

Yeah. So could you just explain what is, I know we started the day-to-day at 7:00 AM with mass. Can you just run through what the typical day is like for all those here?

Kevin Bohli ([12:08](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. So Work Camp is pretty intense. It's obviously we want to start the day with Jesus. We start with the Eucharist. And so wake-up music starts at 6:30 in the morning, and we get the young people out of the beds. And well, when I say beds, I use that term lightly. They're sleeping on air mattresses on the floor of a school. And they get up and they have about a half hour to make it down to what we've set up as the church. The gymnasium is transformed into a church.

Kevin Bohli ([12:34](#)):

And so we have mass. And so it was great to have you there for mass this morning. And then they quickly grab their breakfast. They hop in their minivans. They head out, and they do service from roughly 9:00 to 4:00 each day. And we're talking pretty intense. We're a lot of roofs, a lot of wheelchair ramps. We do pretty significant projects. And then they head back, they get a shower, they grab dinner together. There's a little bit of social time. And then we have an evening program, which always consists of some good speakers, some good music, some games, some fun, some videos highlighting the day, but then it always wraps up with a strong message of why we're here doing this.

Kevin Bohli ([13:09](#)):

And then by 10:30, they're in their beds and sound asleep, getting ready for the next day.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:14](#)):

It's a long day with that balance of work and prayer, right?

Kevin Bohli ([13:18](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([13:18](#)):

It's incredible to see. And last night is always, one of my favorite nights, is that we also make available to the students the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So how proud I was that we have 30, some of our priests available last night. And as soon as we began, so many students, the lines were just incredible celebrating God's mercy, and then concluding with the Eucharistic procession around the auditorium there. It was very, very inspiring.

Kevin Bohli ([13:50](#)):

Yeah. It's absolutely beautiful. And by this point in the week, we've been talking about God's love for them so much that their hearts are just ready. So suddenly when they finally have the chance to get to confession, we say, "Okay, confession lines are open." Boom. The whole gym jumps up, and they want to jump in line.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:04](#)):

Right. Now, how do you find out about the people who need help or need work done?

Kevin Bohli ([14:11](#)):

Yeah. So once we figure out where the school is that we're going to be staying, we contact all the social service agencies in that area, and we let them know here's what we want to do. And so they start giving us the contacts. They start sending us the names of the residents. And then my staff goes out and visits each one. We check what kind of projects we can do there.

Kevin Bohli ([14:27](#)):

So even just yesterday, I was standing out in front of the school, and a gentleman drove up and said, "How do I get my house on the list?"

Bishop Burbidge ([14:32](#)):

Wow.

Kevin Bohli ([14:33](#)):

And he stood there and spoke for a little while about his particular need, because the community starts to know here we are and what we're doing.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:39](#)):

And there's an expert contractor with each group, right?

Kevin Bohli ([14:42](#)):

Yeah. The only way we can possibly accomplish these kind of jobs is, so there's typically five young people on every site, one adult leader that's really there to look out for the young people and their safety, but then a contractor that gives their whole week to come and provide their expertise in how to do these projects.

Bishop Burbidge ([14:57](#)):

How difficult was it to adapt the COVID era to ensure Work Camp [inaudible 00:15:03]?

Kevin Bohli ([15:02](#)):

Yeah. So this is our first, so 2019 was our last one. So it's been three full years since we were doing a Work Camp like this. So yeah, I don't know if you, 2020, we did a very, a distance version where people had to stay almost at home. And then in 2021, we did a little bit more around each parish, but we're really happy to be back here now, but just even finding a school system that was willing to open up their doors for us in the midst of this pandemic was very difficult.

Bishop Burbidge ([15:27](#)):

Right. And part of it, too, is the engagement with the people on site, right? Not necessarily Catholics, but just people who are in need.

Kevin Bohli ([15:35](#)):

That's right.

Bishop Burbidge ([15:36](#)):

There usually is an engagement by the end of the week.

Kevin Bohli ([15:39](#)):

Right. Yeah. So, we try to find places where there's actually going to be a resident there during the day, because so much of this is for the young people to be meeting the residents and to be talking and sharing life together. Because oftentimes we come thinking we're here to provide something for these residents, but by the end of the week, we go home and discover that, no, these residents are actually providing something for us and really changing our lives as well. So we want to create that interaction.

Kevin Bohli ([16:01](#)):

And in the midst of COVID, that has become difficult, but we've found a lot of projects where we're working outside predominantly, not so much inside. And the residents are so excited that these young people are coming to spend their week here.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:12](#)):

Kevin, we know that when you're talking about finding the sites, getting the expert, contractors, the staff, the volunteers, this is a year-long preparation, isn't it?

Kevin Bohli ([16:24](#)):

That's right. Yeah. Yeah, so at this point, we're already talking about next year, where we'll be, and then, yeah, it takes a whole year to get all the sites. But then even just the parishes. In October is when they need to register for next year. Sometimes we'll get emails in May that say, "Hey, I want my child to go to Work Camp."

Kevin Bohli ([16:38](#)):

"Oh, that started back in October." So it fills up really quickly.

Bishop Burbidge ([16:41](#)):

Well, I know I speak with our young people in just expressing profound thanks to you, the members of your team, and all of our adult contractors, volunteers, and staff. We couldn't do it without them. So, thank you so much for your leadership too, Kevin.

Speaker 4 ([16:59](#)):

Thank you, Bishop [inaudible 00:17:00].

Bishop Burbidge ([16:59](#)):

Appreciate it. Yep.

Billy Atwell ([17:01](#)):

Very good. All right. And we're going to welcome up some of the young people who are participating this week. It's going to be Matthew, Keegan, Grace, Caroline, and Naify. Bishop, while they're getting settled in here, I have a question for you. After the pandemic, like Kevin had said, it's been a few years since we've been in a position like this. Did you ever think we would be back to actually having in-person major gatherings like this?

Bishop Burbidge ([17:23](#)):

I really didn't. I was glad that we were able to do it locally, but I remember saying to Kevin, I said, "Kevin, I don't know. Are we ever going to find, post-COVID, a school or county that's going to allow 800 or whatever kids come and take over their building for the week?"

Kevin Bohli ([17:44](#)):

Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([17:44](#)):

I said, "I just can't see that happening."

Bishop Burbidge ([17:46](#)):

And Kevin says, "Bishop, we will have Work Camp. Trust me." And sure enough, here we are. And I'm just so thrilled that we're able to continue this great tradition in our diocese.

Billy Atwell ([17:58](#)):

Yeah. If anybody could, [inaudible 00:17:59]

Bishop Burbidge ([17:59](#)):

And I speak to college kids, and they'll say to me, they said, "Bishop, it was Work Camp that transformed my life."

Billy Atwell ([18:04](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:07](#)):

So, it's [inaudible 00:18:07]

Billy Atwell ([18:06](#)):

Yeah, my wife attended a number of them, and she still talks about it to this day.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:09](#)):

Yeah.

Billy Atwell ([18:09](#)):

Yeah. It's very, very powerful. So, welcome to each of the guests. So let's start maybe with, so again, it's Matthew, Keegan, Grace, Caroline and Naify. Maybe you start just with what parish you're from. So Matthew, where are you from?

Matthew ([18:21](#)):

I'm from Good Shepherd Catholic Church, clearly.

Billy Atwell ([18:24](#)):

Right.

Matthew ([18:25](#)):

Yeah.

Billy Atwell ([18:26](#)):

All right. Very good. Keegan?

Keegan ([18:28](#)):

I'm from Saint Matthews. It's a Catholic church in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Billy Atwell ([18:31](#)):

Very good. Grace?

Grace ([18:33](#)):

I'm from Saint Raymond's in Springfield.

Billy Atwell ([18:35](#)):

All right.

Caroline ([18:36](#)):

I'm from Saint Louis in Alexandria.

Billy Atwell ([18:40](#)):

All right. Very good.

Naify ([18:41](#)):

I'm from the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Winchester.

Billy Atwell ([18:44](#)):

Very good.

Bishop Burbidge ([18:44](#)):

And that's a great thing. There's there's students here from all around the diocese, right? That's probably a great advantage. You're all meeting friends that you would never have known unless you participated in Work Camp. So, it's great. Great to have you here. Could you tell us, maybe just go around again real quickly? Just tell us what you're working on this week, what your project is?

Matthew ([19:06](#)):

Yeah. So we are building a wheelchair ramp for someone who has a wheelchair. We might end up building or fixing windows later, but we don't know with time-wise, and the windows also haven't gotten there yet. So, yeah, [inaudible 00:19:23]

Bishop Burbidge ([19:22](#)):

That's great. That's great. Keegan?

Keegan ([19:26](#)):

Yeah, like Matthew said, we're working on a wheelchair ramp. We have a lot of it done. We should be done by maybe early Thursday, late Wednesday. We're making a lot of good progress, and we have God to thank for that.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:36](#)):

Great. Grace?

Grace ([19:38](#)):

Yeah. I think our group has worked really well together, and we've made a lot of progress. So I think we'll definitely be able to get the windows done.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:45](#)):

That's great.

Caroline ([19:46](#)):

Yeah. They pretty much said it all. We're all on the same crew.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:50](#)):

Are you on the same crew?

Caroline ([19:50](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([19:53](#)):

Oh, you're all on the same crew. Do you know some of the other projects people are working on? I know roofing, right? A lot of roofing.

Caroline ([19:57](#)):

Yeah, roofing is a big one.

Keegan ([19:59](#)):

And there's a lot of wheelchair ramps to be done as well right now.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:00](#)):

Wheelchair. Decks.

Keegan ([20:00](#)):

Decks, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:02](#)):

All that stuff. There's even some plumbing and things like that being done.

Keegan ([20:04](#)):

Oh, wow.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:04](#)):

Yeah.

Caroline ([20:04](#)):

I think someone's painting a house, too.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:07](#)):

Painting a house.

Caroline ([20:07](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:08](#)):

It's incredible. Really is. Well, that's excellent. So tell me, so as young people, you have all kinds of options, the summertime, of how you could spend a week. And yet you chose to spend a week, which is a significant amount of time here doing some really hard work and some long days. Why did you choose to do that? Why'd you choose to participate?

Matthew ([20:34](#)):

So my brother, he went for four years, and so I always looked to him as an example. And so, I wanted to go for the longest time, and when I, so I've gone, this is my third time. This is my first time it's a big thing. And it's a great way to grow closer to God and meet people that I would normally not talk to.

Bishop Burbidge ([20:53](#)):

Thank you. Thank you, Matthew. Keegan?

Keegan ([20:56](#)):

Yeah, like Matthew said, it was a really great experience the first time I went. Talking with other people in my parish who have been to Work Camp also, they said it was a really uplifting experience, a really good connection with God. And I wanted to experience that. So I went last year. It was the smaller Work Camp. It was the COVID Work Camp. And I got an awakening. It was, a great experience. And I wanted to see what it was like full throttle this year, post-COVID

Bishop Burbidge ([21:19](#)):

Great.

Grace ([21:21](#)):

So my sister came to Work Camp 2019, 2020, and she said she really enjoyed it. So I wanted to come, and we're on the fourth day, and I'm very grateful I came already.

Caroline ([21:33](#)):

Yeah. I went 2019 when it was fully going, and I really liked it. I just enjoyed just being in a huge group with a bunch of teens who are my age who share my religion, and also strengthening my relationship with God. But yeah, it's a great week, and I look forward to it every year, but this is my last year.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:53](#)):

Oh, okay. You'll be back someday as one of the group leaders.

Caroline ([21:56](#)):

Yeah. I definitely want to come back to home base.

Bishop Burbidge ([21:58](#)):

All right. Great. Could anyone talk to me about the reaction? Have you encountered the people you're helping? Is there anything significant there?

Keegan ([22:11](#)):

Yeah. It's a really good experience. We try to spread and of course the word of God to our resident, and they're awfully great and welcoming to the word of Christ, and it's a really good experience.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:23](#)):

So you talk about your faith with them.

Keegan ([22:24](#)):

Yeah. Yeah, no, normally we try to invite them out for lunch, and we talk about our devotions every day.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:30](#)):

Right.

Caroline ([22:31](#)):

Yeah. And they were very gracious to put some ice pops in the freezer for us that we could snack on in between working. That was great.

Bishop Burbidge ([22:41](#)):

Right. I heard a powerful story from one of your friends this morning, and the individual where they're working just was, he was happy they were there to do work, but wasn't initially the most gracious in encountering them. And as the couple days went on, there they were yesterday having lunch together. And it was the first time they saw him smile.

Bishop Burbidge ([23:14](#)):

And he says, "I just never knew there were still such good people like this out in the world. And something has changed in me, my hope."

Bishop Burbidge ([23:25](#)):

And I thought, wow, that's really powerful, because we never know how the Lord's going to use what we do to transform the hearts and the lives of people. And that's what you guys are doing. So, I really appreciate that.

Bishop Burbidge ([23:41](#)):

How has this past year or past two years, let's say, I know the COVID pandemic has impacted all of us, right? How has that changed your perspective on what really matters in life?

Matthew ([23:55](#)):

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It has made me realize the importance of faith, because it's been a kind of a challenging time to, especially with me going to school and stuff, you don't see all your friends all the time as much. And so you need to rely on God to know to help get out of the struggle that you're in.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:14](#)):

Yeah. Yeah. Thank you. Thanks for sharing that. Yeah.

Keegan ([24:19](#)):

I know personally with me with COVID, I've had a lot of time to reflect and think, and it's been a great opportunity to work on myself and specifically with God and strengthen my relationship with Jesus.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:30](#)):

Great.

Grace ([24:33](#)):

Yeah. I think I really needed this week to kind of take a break from actual life, leave my phone at home, and kind of have a week in prayer and service. And I've met a lot of new friends, and I really like that.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:45](#)):

So that's part of the week, right? Because I don't see any you on cell phones.

Grace ([24:50](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:50](#)):

You give up your phone the whole week?

Grace ([24:51](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Matthew ([24:51](#)):

We do.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:52](#)):

Wow.

Grace ([24:52](#)):

Surprisingly easy. I didn't think it was going to be.

Bishop Burbidge ([24:55](#)):

You probably thought it was going to be impossible, right? But you found it easy.

Grace ([25:00](#)):

Yeah. I really like the break actually.

Bishop Burbidge ([25:02](#)):

It gives you a sense of freedom, doesn't it?

Grace ([25:04](#)):

Mm-hmm.

Bishop Burbidge ([25:05](#)):

Yeah. Because we could be so just attracted to, can't put it down. So yeah, I was wondering, I said, "Usually I see young people on the phones all the time." I didn't see any of you. So that's the reason.

Caroline ([25:15](#)):

Yeah. What was the question? I think, okay. I think at the beginning of COVID, when everything shut down, I totally embraced my faith, and I started reading my Bible every day. And I just felt so on fire. But as COVID stuck around, I kind of fell off the edge a little bit and went back to normal life. And this week is really good for my regrowth and just finding that relationship where I was before. Of course, I'm not going to be on fire all the time, but just the reminder that He's always there and that I'm not forgotten or anything like that, it's really uplifting.

Bishop Burbidge ([25:54](#)):

Yeah. It also reminds us that's how God made us, right? To be in communion with one another. We need one another. And I think that's what you're saying. We're lifting up each other, encouraging each other in faith. So, that's good.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:09](#)):

So how about for a young person? They haven't yet made their way to Work Camp. They keep thinking about it, and he keeps saying, "Well, maybe next year I'll go." What would you say to a young person thinking about coming to Work Camp?

Keegan ([26:25](#)):

It's a really great experience, both in the religious aspect and also the social aspect. If you're looking for a lot of new friends, Work Camp is a great place to go. If you're not really extroverted, just staying with your crew also gives you a lot of opportunities to meet new people. And if you want to be more extroverted, you have thousands of other kids waiting to be meeting you and talking with you and sharing their faith.

Bishop Burbidge ([26:51](#)):

That's great.

Caroline ([26:53](#)):

Yeah. I mean, I agree. I tried to get a bunch of my friends to go this year, and they ended up flaking a little bit, but it is. It's a great environment, and we go through some tough things with some of the showers and obviously, the sleeping arrangements.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:09](#)):

There are some long lines there? Yeah.

Caroline ([27:10](#)):

Yeah.

Keegan ([27:10](#)):

It's always cold.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:12](#)):

It's always cold?

Keegan ([27:13](#)):

It's always cold.

Caroline ([27:14](#)):

Yeah. But I would totally recommend going just for a week and trying it out.

Bishop Burbidge ([27:21](#)):

Yeah, that's right. Kind of like sometimes those sacrifices, things that aren't convenient, kind of help to build our character, right? To make us to make us stronger. We celebrated mass today or the Feast of the Patron Saint of the Diocese of Arlington, Saint Thomas Moore. Anything providential about that? Is there anything that you think his examples teaching us this week?

Matthew ([27:50](#)):

Yeah, so I think he was a martyr. He died for his faith, so he suffered for God. We are kind of doing a lot of physical labor outside and sleeping on the floor. So it's kind of a lot. Not quite as extreme, but kind of like suffering.

Bishop Burbidge ([28:07](#)):

No, it's true. That was part of the reading today, right? That if you, you lose yourself to love God, to serve others, that you're considered blessed in His kingdom. And so I'm sure Saint Thomas Moore is watching over all of you and very, very proud of you, and what his beautiful phrase is something we all hope to embrace, that we are always, no matter what, even when it's difficult, we're God's servants first. Right? And that's what brings us our joy.

Bishop Burbidge ([28:39](#)):

And I know you're bringing a lot of joy to the people that you're meeting out in the project where you're doing your work and your projects. I think you're giving them as you're giving me a great sense of hope, and you are all, and your friends and all of you are such gifts to our diocese, such gifts to our church. And I'm very, very proud of you. And I ask God's blessings to be upon you, to keep you safe and to protect you and that this week remains for you a wonderful memory of how God has acted in your life.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:16](#)):

And I want to thank you, my young friends, for being part of this conversation, and have a great day today. And I know you have some work to do. And so, thanks for allowing some of your time to be with us and our listeners. Thank you, everyone.

Naify ([29:31](#)):

Thank you.

Caroline ([29:31](#)):

Thank you for having us.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:32](#)):

Yes. Great.

Billy Atwell ([29:32](#)):

You guys can hang out while we finish up the podcast, because we have some questions from your colleagues. Actually, one of you, I think maybe even submitted one of these questions.

Bishop Burbidge ([29:39](#)):

Are these from the Work Camp [inaudible 00:29:41]?

Billy Atwell ([29:40](#)):

Yeah. So yesterday during dinner, which I know is a dangerous thing to get in between anyone and their food, but I went around and asked people, do you have a question you'd want to ask the bishop for his podcast? And so I've got a whole list of those here, Bishop, so are you ready?

Bishop Burbidge ([29:53](#)):

Okay. All right.

Billy Atwell ([29:55](#)):

So the first one I thought was pretty funny, and you'll understand in a moment. What do you do with your free time? And then I followed up with, does he have free time? I look at your schedule. I'm not sure you have any.

Bishop Burbidge ([30:06](#)):

Yes. There's not a lot, but I always say, it's always a very good busy.

Billy Atwell ([30:12](#)):

Yeah. Right.

Bishop Burbidge ([30:13](#)):

It's true for all of us, as you guys are just discerning your vocation, right? If you love what you're doing, if you're passionate about what you're doing, it doesn't feel like work. And so thank God I love serving the Lord in this wonderful diocese, but I do. I do save up free time when I can to be with my family, because

I don't get to see them a lot. So I have a brother, nieces, a nephew and grand nieces, a nephew. So I like to, we always try to spend a week together in the summer.

Bishop Burbidge ([30:43](#)):

I do have good priest friends, both at the other two diocese I served as well as here. And so I enjoy getting together with them socially or whatever. So, I do get some free time.

Billy Atwell ([30:57](#)):

I remember one time I said, "I didn't see anything on your calendar for Saturday."

Billy Atwell ([31:02](#)):

You said, "Oh yeah. I had the day off. I went and I had a parish mass that was an hour away in the morning. And then I stopped and visited with some priest I hadn't talked to in a while for lunch. And I was off by 2:00."

Billy Atwell ([31:11](#)):

I said, "That's not a day off. It's a lot of travel and work." I said, "So I think we have different definitions of this." But so the next question, that was from someone from Holy Family. The next question is from someone from Holy Trinity, said, "What's the hardest part of being a bishop?"

Bishop Burbidge ([31:26](#)):

The hardest part about being a bishop, I would say is, as a parish priest you're in your parishes, right? You see your priests every week, right? And he sees you every week. And so you get to know each other. You form a relationship and all those kind of things. The hardest part for a bishop is, as much as I love going to our 70 different parishes, I'm never in the same parish week after week. So I don't get that opportunity to get to know and to form those bonds and those relationships.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:03](#)):

So, when I became a bishop, that was my hardest adjustment, but there's also advantage of that, because I get no parish is the same. So I get to see all 70 parishes and all the goodness that's going on.

Bishop Burbidge ([32:16](#)):

The other part, too, is I think when you try to feel called to be a priest, you're going there to it helps serve the Lord and his people and bring joy and make them happy. Sometimes as a bishop, you have to make decisions, whether it be personnel or resources or things asserted to our faith. And sometimes not everyone's happy with the guy who makes the decision. That was really a hard adjustment for me. I don't really enjoy conflict that much, but when you're the decision-maker, you have to know that that is to be expected.

Billy Atwell ([32:57](#)):

Yeah. What do you watch on Netflix? Or do you have a favorite TV show?

Bishop Burbidge ([33:01](#)):

It's funny. I didn't even know I had Netflix on my TV. And so my brother recommended that I watch a movie on Netflix, a basketball movie called, I think Hustle. Is that what it's called? It was NBA. Of course it was filmed in Philadelphia and things like that. So I did watch that the other night. I enjoyed it, but I love watching sports. That is really one of the things I do... I should say relaxed. I get too passionate about it, but if I do have time, I love watching college sports or pro-football.

Billy Atwell ([33:40](#)):

Very good. All right. This next question. I said, I have to ask it because I don't know the answer. I said, "I heard you blessed a bunch of Irish pubs when you first came to the diocese. Is that true?" I've never heard this before, but I've got to ask.

Bishop Burbidge ([33:52](#)):

Did you say bless or visited?

Billy Atwell ([33:55](#)):

They said blessed.

Bishop Burbidge ([33:56](#)):

No, I did bless one. I do remember blessing one Irish pub when I came here, but I think that's it.

Billy Atwell ([34:04](#)):

Okay. That was a pretty smart move, though, a bunch of Irish Catholics probably hanging around there. This question, what made you decide to become a bishop?

Bishop Burbidge ([34:13](#)):

That's always an interesting question. You don't decide to be a bishop in the Catholic Church. They tell you, right? So, they have a process that they seek recommendations, and they get feedback. And a lot of people participate in the feedback, other bishops, priests, religious lay people, anyone that knows you, but you don't even know you're being considered to be a bishop, even though this process is going on.

Bishop Burbidge ([34:41](#)):

So you simply get a phone call and just say, "The Holy Father has named you Bishop, and you're to say yes," and that's it. And your life changes. And so most of the bishops I know, myself included, all we ever wanted to do was to be a parish priest. And yet God has a plan for each one of us. And I've always been taught and come to know it's true that when we say yes to what God is asking, sometimes it's very different than what we expect. But if we say yes to what He's asking, it always works out. And this isn't what I would've chosen for myself, but it's brought me profound joy in doing. And that's what I pray for all of you and your friends, that you say yes to what the Lord's plan is for you. It will always bring you joy if you do that.

Billy Atwell ([35:37](#)):

All right, then we've got two questions that were somewhat similar, so I'll ask them together. One was from Holy Trinity, the other from someone at Saint Raymond's, what's the most miraculous thing to ever happen to you? And then the other one was, have you witnessed the miracle? Figure those are kind of [inaudible 00:35:48]

Bishop Burbidge ([35:48](#)):

Yeah, never in a dramatic way. I've never had a vision or anything like that. But truly, and I really say this sincerely, is that there's never a day as a priest that you're not aware of the greatest miracle. When you stand at the altar and celebrate mass, and through your prayers and consecration, the bread and the wine are transformed to the body in blood of Christ. You never take that casual. You know this is a miracle in which I'm participating.

Bishop Burbidge ([36:34](#)):

And so, that's probably the greatest miracle. And also maybe all of you guys would be able to say the same that we've all had difficult times at our lives and struggles. Say, "How am I ever going to get through this? Where am I going to find the strength to deal with this?" Whether it be the death of a loved one or some sort of cross you're carrying yourself. And all of a sudden, somehow, some way, you manage to persevere, and you manage to rise to the occasion. And you're made aware of that I didn't do that by myself, so I think those miracles happen in our lives. Would any of you ever say you've experienced something miraculous in your life?

Keegan ([37:21](#)):

I guess I kind of have with the kind of I've come from a dark past. I mean, I've done a lot of bad things. I mean, it's been pretty rough, but I've recently, since I was confirmed, tried to pursue a better life in Christ, and it's been a great experience.

Bishop Burbidge ([37:37](#)):

And you know the difference, right?

Billy Atwell ([37:39](#)):

Yeah, of course. Thanks for sharing that [inaudible 00:37:42].

Bishop Burbidge ([37:41](#)):

Of course.

Billy Atwell ([37:42](#)):

Appreciate that. Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([37:44](#)):

Very good.

Billy Atwell ([37:45](#)):

All right, the next question is not quite as high-brow as that one. This one is, what's your favorite flavor of ice cream? We're going to take a step back for a moment.

Bishop Burbidge ([37:53](#)):

That's such a hard question. I'm not adventurous at all, so chocolate chip, I would say.

Billy Atwell ([37:59](#)):

That's good.

Bishop Burbidge ([38:00](#)):

Mint chocolate chip.

Billy Atwell ([38:02](#)):

Okay. The original, right? If you had to change your name as some religious men and women have to do when they enter religious life, what would that be? That was someone from [inaudible 00:38:10]. Was that you, Caroline? Okay. She [inaudible 00:38:11].

Bishop Burbidge ([38:11](#)):

That's a good question. That's a good question. Someone asked me that question right before the election of our Holy Father. And they said, "So if you were elected Pope, because you have to change your name, what name would you choose as Pope?" It was one of the grade school kids asked me that.

Bishop Burbidge ([38:28](#)):

And I said, "I would choose, I would become Pope Francis." I said Francis, and this was before the new Pope came, Francis. And I was like, "Oh my goodness, this is incredible." But that's actually my confirmation name. It's the name. I love Saint Francis of Assisi. It's the name of my father, my brother, my nephew, my grand nephew. So I think it would've been Francis.

Billy Atwell ([38:52](#)):

That's a great one. All right. What was your faith journey like as a teenager?

Bishop Burbidge ([38:58](#)):

Well, I would say... Keegan, I don't think your experience is too much different than many of ours, is that faith is never a straight line, right? And even in the lives of the saints, we see that there are some dark times. There are times where our faith, I think you were saying too, Caroline, that there's some times that you're on a high, right? And there's other times that not so much so. There's sometimes that our prayer lives are strong. Other times they're not.

Bishop Burbidge ([39:32](#)):

There was a period in time where if I was going to church, it was just to fulfill duty, at best. And wasn't about a relationship with the Lord. So, I've gone through struggles like that. Never to the point of despair, but certainly not living my faith as passionately, as consistently as I should have.

Bishop Burbidge ([40:00](#)):

And Keegan, like you, I, through the grace of God knew that something was missing. I wanted to turn that around, and God has helped me. So, how about you Matthew? Any...

Matthew ([40:16](#)):

So, what's the question?

Billy Atwell ([40:17](#)):

Your faith life.

Matthew ([40:18](#)):

Oh, yeah. So I was born into a Catholic family. Catholic and Star Wars was my life my entire life. But I was just classic Catholic, going to a Catholic school my whole life. But every once in a while, there's something that comes up that just challenges me. And I need to try to overcome it. That's why my favorite part about being Catholic is the sacrament of confession. Because if I mess up, I can always ask for forgiveness.

Bishop Burbidge ([40:52](#)):

Yeah. God wants us to be able to begin anew, right?

Matthew ([40:55](#)):

Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge ([40:56](#)):

Yeah. Caroline? Anyone else?

Billy Atwell ([40:58](#)):

And there's so many priests in our diocese willing to [inaudible 00:41:00]. I was so inspired yesterday to see how many priests showed up to offer confession. I mean, we were almost having trouble finding enough space for all the priests that turn out to offer that liberation.

Bishop Burbidge ([41:10](#)):

That's because they love our young people.

Billy Atwell ([41:12](#)):

Absolutely.

Bishop Burbidge ([41:12](#)):

And that was really evident last night.

Billy Atwell ([41:14](#)):

One of the questions actually relates this, so I want to reorder some of these. One that said, "Have you ever had a dark night of the soul experience where you didn't feel God responding to your prayers? If so, how did you work through it? But if not, what advice would you have for somebody?" So somebody that was Keegan a year or two ago, or someone that's in that spot where they just, they're not feeling. They're maybe going through the motions, maybe not. What would you ask them to kind of build into their life to re-energize their faith and to reinspire themselves in the faith?

Bishop Burbidge ([41:39](#)):

Right. And I think just the sense of being honest with yourself, that if you are hurting, or there's a certain wound or there's something you're struggling with, that's okay. But you've got to bring it to the light. If you keep it to yourself and deep within, that it can never be healed. So you expose it. You expose it to

God. You bring that to your prayer, "Lord, this is what is hurting me. This is a wound that feels really very deep or hurt I'm experiencing. You bring it to the Lord.

Bishop Burbidge ([42:18](#)):

And maybe even sometimes with trusted people that God places in your life, because he uses them as His instruments. So sometimes it could be a teacher or a counselor or a trusted friend that you're able to share with you don't have to pretend that everything's perfect. This is something I'm dealing with.

Bishop Burbidge ([42:43](#)):

And then you're patient in the sense of God's never going to abandon you, but we sometimes want immediate results. I pray, so therefore the answer happens. But sometimes that's a process, and it's in God's time, but God will always give you what you need. And sometimes it's different, like I said, than what you expect. But not to panic if things are not as strong in your faith life as you want or prayer life, or if you are hurting, it's part of our human condition and that Christ entered into to help us and to heal us. And He will always do that.

Bishop Burbidge ([43:27](#)):

But the more you're able to not keep it within, but give it to God and those that He sends to help you, the better.

Billy Atwell ([43:37](#)):

Very good. All right. The last question, who is your favorite seminarian? Now, I know you don't have an answer, but you know who does have an answer?

Bishop Burbidge ([43:47](#)):

Who?

Billy Atwell ([43:47](#)):

Every seminarian.

Bishop Burbidge ([43:49](#)):

Every seminarian, yes. Every seminarian-

Billy Atwell ([43:50](#)):

They have an answer to that one.

Bishop Burbidge ([43:52](#)):

... has their favorite. Well, I do tease the seminarians. So, we're sponsoring two seminarians from Cameroon, from the Diocese of Kumbo, who, they're very much at war in their country, and they have vocations, but not all the resources they need to educate seminarians. So that bishop asked me if we, as a diocese, because of the good generosity of our people who support vocations, our seminarians, would we be able to assist them in their training?

Bishop Burbidge ([44:25](#)):

And so this past year we have adopted John and Christian, two of our seminarians from Cameroon who will do some service here after they're ordained, and then return home. But I say that they're my two favorite seminarians because they refer to me, which is a custom in their country, as my Lord. So in their country, instead of saying your excellency or bishop or whatever, their custom is to say my Lord.

Bishop Burbidge ([44:53](#)):

And I say, "Well, no, in our country, it's okay to say bishop."

Bishop Burbidge ([44:57](#)):

And they go, "Yes, my Lord."

Bishop Burbidge ([44:59](#)):

I'm like, "You are my favorite seminarians."

Billy Atwell ([45:02](#)):

It's a raising the bar for the other seminarians, right?

Bishop Burbidge ([45:06](#)):

But I really do love, sincerely, all of our seminarians. They're just like the apostles. You know how the Lord called the apostles? They were all different. They all had different personalities. They all had different temperaments. They all had different gifts and weaknesses. And you look at our seminarians, it's the same way. Their personalities vary, their temperament, their gifts. And yet they share the same call, and their hearts are, are so good. They just want to serve the Lord and others.

Bishop Burbidge ([45:42](#)):

I cannot be more, we are blessed in this diocese. We're close to 50 seminarians, but it's not the number that makes me proud. It's the quality of our seminarians, and who are now, I was so touched walking the halls the other night, last night, when confessions were being heard. And I walk in the hall to get to my seat where I was going to hear confessions. And I looked, and two of the priests that I just ordained on the first Saturday in June, I just ordained them.

Bishop Burbidge ([46:16](#)):

They were sitting there with their stoles on as priests hearing confessions. I got chills. And I'm like, "I've known them as seminarians. And now they're the Lord's priests."

Bishop Burbidge ([46:27](#)):

And we are just so blessed in this diocese with such great seminarians of priests, and as you mentioned in the beginning podcast, Billy, the generosity of our faithful, who support the Bishop's Lenten Appeal, and so much of that goes towards forming and training our future priests.

Billy Atwell ([46:44](#)):

Absolutely, absolutely. The work that we're talking about here at Work Camp, it's all done by our Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. The whole team turns out. Everybody's on board. If you'd

like to learn more about the ministry, for youth our ministry, it's arlingtondiocese.org/youth-ministry. They're also on social media, so just, you can look them up there.

Billy Atwell ([47:03](#)):

And again, thank you to all who support the diocese through the Bishop's Lenten Appeal and through their parishes. That's made Work Camp possible, and all of these materials and the logistical needs have been made possible through financial gifts, but also a lot of time investment.

Billy Atwell ([47:18](#)):

Bishop, we went through a lot on this podcast, but do you have any final thoughts?

Bishop Burbidge ([47:20](#)):

No. Again, just renewed thanks to everyone who makes this Work Camp possible. But to my guests who participated in this discussion, I just want to say to you, and please convey this to your friends, that we are very proud of you, and you give us great hope for the future of our church. And your goodness and your good hearts are so evident. And I just ask God to continue to bless you and your friends, and that He will continue to speak to your heart, and that you will come to discern and know the very special path and plan He has chosen for you.

Bishop Burbidge ([48:01](#)):

So, let's just promise to pray for each other, and ask for that grace, that together, we walk humbly with our God.

Billy Atwell ([48:08](#)):

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