Hello Directors of Youth Ministry,

Bishop Burbidge invites all teens of the Diocese to join him at RALLY 2017! This annual event is an opportunity for the young Church in the Diocese of Arlington to gather each year to pray, learn, and celebrate the Catholic faith. RALLY includes Mass with Bishop Burbidge, Eucharistic Adoration, inspirational speakers and entertainers, breakout sessions, inflatable games, music, and more! RALLY is our largest gathering of Catholic young people every year; we are hoping for over 1000 high school students to participate this year!

We recommend that you hang the enclosed posters in the entrance to the Church and stand outside of your parish Masses to invite every high school student that walks by! We left a blank space underneath the artwork for you to include your contact information, due dates, etc. We will send an e-mail in September with information about the promo video which will be posted online.

When we gather together at RALLY it is much like a family reunion. If your parish does not attend, you are missed, and it diminishes the experience for the whole diocese. Please consider canceling your regular scheduled Sunday activity to place an emphasis upon this one annual diocesan gathering of young people that the Bishop has invited all to attend.

This year’s RALLY will be held on:
SUNDAY, October 22, 2017 – Bishop O’Connell High School, Arlington, VA.
Registration check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m. and the day will finish by 8:00 p.m.
$25 per person includes dinner (not lunch!) and a t-shirt.
1 (fully compliant) adult leader for every 10 youth.

On the day of RALLY, please eat lunch before arriving at the event. Check-in will begin at 11:30 a.m. Snacks will be available in the afternoon; dinner will be at 4:45 p.m.. The Mass for the day will be at 3:30 p.m. and it will fulfill the Sunday obligation. The celebrant will be Bishop Burbidge, who is attending this event for the first time.

We spend more than $25 per person to put together this event. However, if the money keeps you from being able to register some teens, or if you have specific teens who cannot afford the $25, please do not hesitate to call the our office and we can work something out. We would never want money to be a reason that a teen misses this experience.

We have some great speakers and performers for this year including:

- **Sarah Swafford** - Sarah speaks nationally to people of all ages on a variety of topics such as: emotional virtue, dating and relationships, modesty of intentions, and interior confidence. She shares her message at school assemblies, retreats, rallies, and conferences including SEEK (FOCUS) and Steubenville Conferences. Sarah is the founder of Emotional Virtue Ministries.
- **321 Improv** – 321 Improv creates a unique, interactive comedy experience unlike any you’ve been part of before. Audiences ranging in size from 50 to 10,000+ people have enjoyed the experience of laughing together in an evening of hilarious, clean entertainment while building stronger bonds within marriages, families, friends, community and the church.
- **Ben Walther** – Ben is a singer, songwriter, worship leader, husband and father. He has been making music for more than 15 years. Ben travels across the country leading worship and sharing his gifts with God’s people.

Please be sure to pass this information to all of the high school teenagers in your parish! Don’t forget the Junior Legion of Mary, the scouts, sports leagues, the Knights, Squires, Hispanic programs, High School Religious Education, or any other youth groupings that may occur in your parish.

On the RALLY webpage (http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/Youth-Ministry/RALLY) you can also read more about the performers, download the event poster and permission slip, and receive the online registration link and instructions. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call the Office of Youth Ministry at (703) 841-2559.

We look forward to seeing you at RALLY (and don’t forget to bring your release forms!)