

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

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

Bill Atwell ([00:07](#)):

Welcome to the Walk Humbly podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the Diocese and your co-host. We are in the midst of the Bishop's Lenten Appeal season, and we want to say thank you to everyone who has given to the Bishop's Lenten Appeal in particular because this podcast is possible because of the funds contributed to that, that obviously doesn't even mention all of the other ministries and programs that are supported through the BLA so thank you to those who have made those contributions.

Bill Atwell ([00:32](#)):

If you haven't already please rate this podcast or write a review for wherever you're listening. It's a great way to show other people what you're listening to, but also show some encouragement for a Catholic podcast out there. If you're listening on YouTube, please subscribe and then ring that notifications bell. Please sign up for our e-newsletter at [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org) and follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter at Bishop Burbidge. Every day he provides a short Gospel reflection for that particular day. And make sure you're following the Diocese on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. If you'd like to submit a question for Bishop Burbidge, email us at [info@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:info@arlingtondiocese.org), or give us a call at (703) 831-7013. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([01:15](#)):

I'm doing well, Billy. I hope all of our listeners are doing well and staying safe and healthy. It's been a great few weeks being out and about around the Diocese at BLA receptions, the synod listening sessions, that we'll be soon talking about visiting some of our parishes and schools seeing about 700 or 800 people, I believe last Friday, our Catholic Charities Ball. It's been wonderful to see so many of the faithful these past few weeks and mentioning the Catholic Charities Ball. Just thanks for all who attended. Thanks for all who supported it. We've raised, we went way above our goal, which is a recognition of the goodness of our people, understanding that the money and the support we receive go directly to help our brothers and sisters in most need people of all faith and denominations, the basic necessities of life, counseling during these challenging times, just so much good work. To see that work supported was a great uplift to me and to all the wonderful staff and thousands of volunteers of Catholic Charities.

Bill Atwell ([02:22](#)):

Absolutely. And there was a video shown at that ball that really highlighted just a few of the ministries. Again, there's many ministries, but you can go to [youtube.com/arlingtondiocese](https://youtube.com/arlingtondiocese), or go to [ccda.net](http://ccda.net) and take a look at that video. It really highlights some of the more poignant stories over the last year. Bishop, just as I was sitting here, I saw a story that landed that Loudoun County public schools have dropped their mask mandate. Now this comes after our Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin signed a new law that requires schools to allow parents to decide if their child would wear a mask or not. After the executive order was issued a little while back, you had decided that here in the Diocese, we were going to follow that and allow that to be a parental decision. Looks like some of the other counties are starting to come on board now that it's state law, but any initial reaction to this?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([03:08](#)):

Well, no, upon receiving notice of the executive order, we reaffirmed that it is the decision of the parents to make that decision for their children. It's good to see that a county has jumped on board with that. At the same time we reaffirmed that there are protocols and procedures and place at this time, the basic ideas and necessities, we know whether it be the need to wash our hands. If you're showing symptoms to stay home, all those things, none of those things went away. But to recognize the right of the parents and trust them to be responsible, to know what's best for their children, is something that we always want to reaffirm. Because as we always say, our parents are the first teachers, the first guardians of their children.

Bill Atwell ([04:01](#)):

Absolutely. It's good to be vigilant and also see some progress here. It's been a long two or three years now.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([04:06](#)):

Exactly.

Bill Atwell ([04:08](#)):

So two vital pro-life bills just passed the Virginia House of Delegates, and we're urging people to contact their senators now to support these measures as well. The first is HB 304, it's the born alive abortion survivors protection act, which would protect children who survive an abortion, and ensure they receive the same life saving treatment anyone else would receive. The other is HB 212. It's a woman's right to know law that would provide women in crisis the full scope of resources and science based information when considering what is best for their pregnancies. Both bills passed through the House, which is great. Now they go to a Senate committee for review. I spoke with Jeff Caruso when he said it could be as early as today, because the Senate committee meets on Thursdays. He said, most likely they'll be next week or sometime thereafter. Bishop, what are your thoughts on these initial developments in the House?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([04:56](#)):

Well, I'm very encouraged. I hope all of our listeners are certainly very encouraged to see the Virginia House pass these bills. These are extremely reasonable measures that I would hope both parties could support. We have to get to that point where something is reasonable, something is right, something is just, it doesn't matter about parties, it's the right thing to do. I would love to see that mutual support. As you know, you mentioned Jeff Caruso, the Virginia Catholic Conference makes it so easy for all who subscribe to Virginia Catholic Conference. So easy to contact your senators, your elected officials' and it's in a timely manner. and this is certainly timely. Bishop Knestout and I met with our Lieutenant Governor last Wednesday at the Defending Life Day in Richmond. In fact, she reaffirmed that, you know what we always talk about that one email, one message, one phone call really does make a difference. She humorously said, but it was funny. But she was saying, I'm not saying we all know how to read, but we all know how to count. So the point being every email, every phone call, every letter counts.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([06:13](#)):

Who would not support the idea of allowing unborn children to be protected the same way any other person would be, who would contest the idea that women deserve to know the reality of what's truly really happening within their bodies. It would be a tremendous sign for Virginia citizens, certainly for Virginia Catholics and for all of us to see both sides of the legislature come together on common sense, reasonable bills that support women and babies.

Bill Atwell ([06:40](#)):

We were encouraging these bills when we were at defend life day, these were, everyone was going around to their legislator's offices. It was a good time to...

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([06:48](#)):

We were out there and I was really encouraged by our young people. They were filled with passion and zeal To speak maturely and respectfully to their elected officials. [crosstalk 00:07:03]

Bill Atwell ([07:03](#)):

It was milder weather than the march for life.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([07:04](#)):

Yes, exactly. Exactly.

Bill Atwell ([07:06](#)):

That certainly helps. Listen, if you would like to sign up for these alerts and know when they're happening, because sometimes it's a short window of opportunity we have to make our voice heard, go to VA catholic.org, sign up for those action alerts. Right now both of those bills are going to a Senate committee. If you'd like to contact your Senator, go to VA catholic.org and they'll give you all the information to reach out. Bishop, you mentioned in a previous podcast that you were beginning the process for discerning the application of Traditionis Custodes, which is the Holy Father's new legislation for the use of the Traditional Latin Mass. You mentioned that you were going to be speaking with a group of advisors and seeking advice from all of your priests. Where are you in that process now?

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

Well, as you mentioned, Billy, it is a process and it's important for, I think everyone to remember that the process really began last July. We began to hear what the Holy Father was asking. It's not something we have received immediately and began reading and reflecting upon and studying the documents. Obviously we were alerted to the fact that there would be clarifications to some of the points that were made, which came out December 18 in response, we've been working all along. This is a process that has also involved a lot of consultation, and it's important to remember that, before we first received the motu proprio, the Holy Father himself consulted with bishops throughout the world. You know, what is the state of your diocese in this celebration?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([08:45](#)):

To what extent is it pastorally and spiritual helpful? Is there any extent to which this may be a source of concern? Every bishop from around the world was part of that consultation. I think that's always important for us to remember that we are part of a Catholic, a universal Church. We see our diocese, the Holy Father sees the world and he listens to the world. His reflections and his directions are part of that consultation that he took in place. The Holy Father has been extremely patient, I believe in allowing bishops to take the time they need for the implementation. Most bishops really have completed this process. It's taking a little bit longer in the Diocese of Arlington because, quite honestly and frankly, we are somewhat unique in that, of 70 parishes, 21 parishes in one way or another during the week or on Sundays are celebrating the mass in the Extraordinary Form without us having a personal parish that already has been established to set aside for this.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([09:57](#)):

That's very unique to other situations. Many, many bishops are dealing with two parishes or something. That's why it's taken us a little bit longer. It's been very important for me. I first consulted with the priests of those 21 parishes. Even more recently, I met with all priests in a Zoom call with a lot of participation that was lengthy, but very, very helpful. Very, very helpful and respectful, very respectful conversation where priests felt free to share with me their insights. I can assure the faithful of the Diocese that I have received your letters and your emails that have also expressed to me your thoughts on this whole thing, and there are different thoughts from different people. But I've heard mostly people reassuring me that the celebration of the Mass in Extraordinary Form is a help to them, a guidance, a spiritual enrichment for them.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([11:06](#)):

To the extent that we can continue this in the diocese would be just a great blessing for them. I really appreciate those who wrote so respectfully and understanding my position as a bishop, to be faithful and to show fidelity to our Holy Father. Most people who wrote to me understood that, as they know, I have done nothing in both dioceses I have served in to put any restrictions on this Mass, but as a Bishop, I am called to listen, to understand, and to respect the wishes of the Holy Father. This process has been me seeking wisdom and guidance, including from my brother priests, from my advisors on how best to say, okay, where are those situations? Where the Mass in the Extraordinary Form, the traditional mass, can be celebrated without really needing any extra permissions because it fits in to what the Holy Father has allowed.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([12:07](#)):

Are there certain circumstances where—and according to the Holy Father and the response we received, they would be extraordinary circumstances—where we would need to ask the Holy See for specific permissions. What are they? I also appointed Father Bjorn Lundberg as my delegate in this process. He has gathered wonderful priests from around our diocese, representing the vast region that we are, as members of that committee. We have engaged with each other, and now I am awaiting their recommendations for me trying to help me to have that wisdom of how I remain true and loyal and faithful to our Holy Father, and also attentive to the care, spiritual care and nourishment of those who benefit from this. Bottom line is, I think we have a path forward where the Extraordinary Form of the Mass will be celebrated due to the generosity of our priests in faithfulness what the Holy Father has said.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([13:09](#)):

It may certainly will not be exactly as it is now, but that's where we have to step forward as Catholics in being faithful and being united and in praying for one another. We cannot allow this or any other issue to be a source of division, especially at this time in the life of our Church. To all those who wrote to me and concluded your letters by assuring me you're praying for me and for the wisdom I need, thank you. I know that I continue to depend on their prayers. This process is coming to a conclusion and, there will be an implementation of motu proprio that I will explain, and as pastorally as possible to the faithful of the Diocese, after much, much consultation and prayer.

Bill Atwell ([13:56](#)):

Very good, after that Zoom call, I assume, is that when the committee began its work of the assessment?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:01](#)):

I asked it began its work immediately after that. They had already began meeting. But I said, okay, now we've heard now let's go, let's get going. In fact, right after our Zoom call, we had a priest gathering this week on, it's a study day, they actually even took their lunch break to continue their meetings. I think they took me literally when I said in a timely manner.

Bill Atwell ([14:26](#)):

That's wonderful. You have personally attended some of the parish listening sessions for the synod of bishops. You mentioned this actually in the very beginning of this podcast, and you've heard from pastors as well that have held some of theirs. Not jumping to conclusions, because you want all of them to take place and to glean all of the wisdom from it, but are there any common threads you're noticing on the front end of this process?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:51](#)):

Yeah, there are. First of all, it's again, this is very much the style of Pope Francis. Before he meets with bishops in 2023, what is he doing? He's asking bishops and pastors to meet with their people so that their voices can be heard so that when he meets in the synod with bishops in 2023, he has received from around the world, what the bishops are hearing from their people, which includes, and part of the listening sessions should be inviting people who are actively and fully engaged in the Church as well as those who for one reason or another have left the Church. We need to hear all their voices. It is a very fruitful process. As a bishop, or as the pastor leading the sessions in his parish, I'm trying to get to as many as possible, that's all you're doing is listening. That gets people off guard a little bit.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:53](#)):

You're focused, there's several questions the Holy See wants us to focus on, so you need a good facilitator, because we want to stay focused. We want to give everyone proper amount of time to talk, so there are time limits. We have to be clear we're not talking about changing dogma of the Church or specifically talking about the parish Mass schedule. These are larger questions that we need to hear from. You need good facilitators doing it. I've been hearing, again at the parishes, but I've also had listening sessions with the priests, with the deacons, with the women consecrated religious of our diocese. I'll be doing so with our seminarians. I've done so with high school students. We're hearing from, we're going to be doing even ecumenical leaders through my delegate Father Rooney.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([16:44](#)):

We're hearing so many voices. I would say, Billy, that one thing I'm hearing now is that people are saying that when I engage my family members sometimes even who are at odds with the Church or even my colleagues or neighbors, they're very quick to point out, "Yeah, we know what the Catholic Church is against. We know you're against abortion." Well, thank God. I'm glad they know that, right. Or they know our teaching on the sanctity of marriage or whatever. But I think people are making a good point saying I would be in a much better position to engage people if I knew what the Church was doing, what the Church was for. And we had a beautiful opportunity as you mentioned earlier at our Catholic Charities Ball—

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([17:34](#)):

to highlight through tremendous charitable work that our Catholic Charities office is doing in so many ways, same thing with our marriage office, our family life, what we have been doing, to be meeting with victims of sexual abuse by clergy and even by others in professionals or family members, the ministries, we have to help them that myself and members of my team are personally engaging.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:06](#)):

I think they're making a good point is, "Bishop, before we open a door to start talking about Church teaching, let's find those doors that can be open to talk about the beauty of our Church and the goodness of our Church." Then we can begin to talk about the truth of our Church, because everything we do flows from what the Lord himself has taught us, that to love him is to love our neighbor. To love others is to speak the truth courageously and compassionately.

Bill Atwell ([18:37](#)):

You think of the good, the true and the beautiful, and everyone accesses the Church and typically through one of those, they see the beauty and then that draws them into the truth or for some people they need to see the good first, it's the good things that the Church does that gives him an initial feeling of whether or not they would even listen to what we say about what's true. I think that was an interesting point. I've attended some listening sessions and noticed that same trend. If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please contact your local parish. These are being held at the parish level, and some are still getting scheduled right now. There's time to check those out so just contact your local parish and see when they're holding theirs.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:12](#)):

Right. I've asked every parish to do so, for the pastor to be my representative, which is what the Holy Father envisioned, but also to be present at some of these listening sessions within the parish also.

Bill Atwell ([19:26](#)):

Very good. You announced some interesting news this weekend at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, do you mind sharing with the wider audience here?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:32](#)):

Yeah, certainly, it was very exciting news. I met with the cathedral parish and finance councils Wednesday evening, and then I made an announcement at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, which my statement is posted on their website, on the cathedral website. Excuse me, it's particularly exciting news, just a reminder that the Cathedral of St Thomas More is the mother Church of the Diocese, right? That's where the cathedra or—that's where we get the word "cathedral"—the chair of the bishop is, so every parishioner in the Diocese, all 70 parishes, can call the cathedral their Church, their home; it belongs to all of the faithful. Those who belong to the cathedral parish, they have a unique privilege and a unique responsibility that yes, they are a parish community that must thrive, but also they are extremely gracious in welcoming all the faithful to their Church, because that's where we celebrate annually, beautiful celebrations, like the Chrism Mass and the ordination to the priesthood and the diaconate, and the wedding anniversary Masses, it's at the cathedral, it's at the home, the mother Church of the Diocese.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:48](#)):

So after consultation, discussion with a committee of our priests and some of my advisors, I have decided that in preparation for the 50th anniversary of our diocese in 2024, that we would do a major renovation to our cathedral. When I told that to the priests, they broke out in applause. That was somewhat supportive. The history as some know, is that when our diocese was created, we did not have a purpose-built cathedral. St. Thomas More was not built as a cathedral. It was built as a parish church. Then when we were named as a diocese, it was chosen to be the cathedral. So there are many parts of the church building that are dated or do not work as well as the cathedral for our diocese. One of the major interior renovations that will be made is I am going to renovate the sanctuary. One of the keys is to move the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary. As a reminder that in this mother church, throughout our diocese, throughout every parish, it is the Eucharist that is the source and summit and the center of everything that we should do.

Bill Atwell ([22:06](#)):

Because right now it's off to the right and the cathedra's in the middle. [crosstalk 00:22:12]

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([22:12](#)):

Yeah. Sometimes I feel like maybe it's Irish guilt or something, but I feel like I'm higher than where the Lord is in the Tabernacle. I want to change that seat a little bit and also I would really like the opportunity to represent the multicultural dimension of our diocese. We always boast rightfully of being a diocese that is so diverse. I would like, and there's a way we can do this, of having the many cultures of our diocese represented by their patron saints. What a beautiful way to show our diversity in our unity, and other things just to refresh and to give the interior a different look. Another way we will do things to the exterior also, because really when you drive by our cathedral or I should say in Northern Virginia, as you sit in traffic...

Bill Atwell ([23:13](#)):

You slowly crawl.

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

...looking at our cathedral from either side, whether it be from route 50 or from Glebe Road, as one looks over, one does not see something sacred or something holy. so I always think that is a very much missed opportunity to evangelize. So it is going to be clear from the exterior that as you look over, whether it be from route 50 or from Glebe Road, when you look over there, it's going to catch your attention. There is something sacred there, and actually, it's going to force people to look up a little bit in these renovations. Another great reminder that life here on Earth is just a journey and our eyes should always be pointing upward, looking at the things that are above. That's what sacredness, that's what sacred art and architecture is supposed to help us to do, to remind us that which is beyond us, the kingdom that for which we await the fullness of the Kingdom of God in heaven.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([24:20](#)):

So I want people to have the idea of sacred and, who knows, who knows that person sitting in traffic that moment, who sees something sacred and holy say, "I'm going to pull in there. I'm going to pull in there. I'm going to spend some time with God. For some reason, I feel like this is the Lord calling me to do that." I think our cathedral will be a visible, physical symbol of God's Real Presence. It would be a help, I think, a beautiful way to celebrate our 50th anniversary, do something glorious for the Lord, for his dwelling place, for his house. Our Mother Theresa always used to say—and her love, her care,



compassion for the poor, we know—is never to take the sacred, never take beauty away from the poor, because the poor, those doors are always open to the poor. People renovate museums and concert halls, and they renovate athletic stadiums and buildings. Well, guess what, the poor can't get into those buildings.

Bill Atwell ([25:29](#)):

That's such a good point. Especially in DC, where you've got these things in DC, a lot of it's, not everyone can go to the Kennedy Center. It's expensive.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([25:37](#)):

It's expensive.

Bill Atwell ([25:38](#)):

But to hear beautiful music, to see sacred art and have that experience...

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([25:40](#)):

Mother Teresa said that because, don't take that away. I'm assuring the people of this diocese of course, known for their charity, known for their care of the poor, that there is in no way, this renovation in any way will diminish one ministry that is known for its pastoral care and outreach of the poor. In fact, I think it will help to increase our outreach. There will be no cost to the parish, and there will be no cost or debt to the Diocese in this renovation. I do believe that within our diocese, there are certain people who have the means and resources who will be very, very passionate about this project, who would be able to enthusiastically support the project that I will approach privately. To be honest, the Lord gave me a beautiful sign.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([26:42](#)):

The first person I approached to help us with this renovation was generous beyond even what I asked. So that's a good sign, so no cost to the parish, no debt to the Diocese. I will build and renovate. We're not starting new. I'm renovating, what we can do. I am hoping, and I spoke to the priests the other day, that in our golden Jubilee year, the year 2024, we have not made any decisions and we have not spoke in specific ways at all, but I do think Jubilee means mercy. So I do believe that maybe there should be some sort of campaign where we'll have nothing to do with building or anything like that or bureaucracy, but I do think that would be a great year for us as a diocese to do a campaign to support the works of mercy.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([27:33](#)):

We're doing a lot, but what more can we do to help the poor, the hungry, or the homeless, or those who need counseling, or, there's so many things we could do. That would be a process of consultation, but I don't want our campaign in 2024 to be anything other than doing works of mercy. That's why I'm separating the renovation of the cathedral from anything that we would do in our Jubilee year. If there is anyone listening who is excited and enthusiastic to hear about the renovations to our mother church, to which we all belong, and would be willing to help feel free to contact me also.

Bill Atwell ([28:10](#)):



I'm sure anyone that you would approach you would want them to be giving above what they're already giving. Because so many are so generous already that it would not be drawing away from any ministries.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([28:16](#)):

So much goodness, yes.

Bill Atwell ([28:19](#)):

Well, that's wonderful. That's great news. We're looking forward to updates about that as we go. All right. We have a couple questions from the faithful. The first is, is there anything stay-at-home moms can do to feel more connected? She's speaking about Mass, she says that she doesn't feel particularly connected at mass and certainly not at adoration because her four kids, all of which are under eight years old, are not particularly still are quiet. As a parent of three children under eight or eight and under, I could attest to this. Mass is very difficult for us, she says, so any advice just in that spirit of exhaustion almost and Mass and adoration?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([28:56](#)):

Yeah, first of all, our stay-at-home moms, thank you. What a beautiful vocation God has given to you and living that vocation and the way you believe God is asking to do it. I'm so happy to see many stay-home-moms doing what we're seeing a lot throughout our diocese, is forming small groups, making sure that you're getting together with moms who are doing the same thing you're doing, because sometimes you can feel alone and am I the only one feeling the stress or the anxiety of doing this. I'm so happy to know that some parishes or even moms on their own are finding ways to get together. I think that is first of all, a great help. Whenever we celebrate a Baptism or Mass, and we hear the children crying or being a little vocal, I always say that's a beautiful sign.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([29:50](#)):

It reminds us of who we are as a Church, right? We are all God's family. we come at all different ages and we know how much our Lord loved and embraced his children, so no one should feel unwelcome with their children in adoration and or at Mass. I know parents are also realistic and practical. They know the Church, they know we love having their children, but sometimes they understand that, in order for the priests to be able to preach his homily, or for people that have the silence they need, parents make practical decisions of how to still be present there and also respectful of the need of why other people are there also. But I always want our moms and dads and their children to feel very, very welcome and loved and embraced just as the Lord did.

Bill Atwell ([30:53](#)):

Yeah. If I could offer some practical advice to that, now she's got four under eight, so she's maybe got more experience than me, but when dad comes home, sometimes mom needs to cut and run. Come home, take over, wrestle with the kids, whatever you have to do. But mom maybe goes to adoration alone, for a little while and just being able to break away. Then another day dad gets to maybe go do that. But my wife and I have seen great fruit from that gift to each other. It's hard to do, but I do think it makes a difference, especially in the long run.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([31:19](#)):

Yeah. I think it's great respect understanding that as much as so much is essential and needed that husbands and wives are together and they're with their children, all of us need that time to be alone, especially with the Lord. Why? Not because we're being selfish. No. So that I can be strengthened and renewed to be an even better husband or wife, father, or a mother.

Bill Atwell ([31:43](#)):

Absolutely. All right. The next question is I understand that St. Katharine Drexel in Haymarket is breaking ground soon. What is the process for a Catholic community to request and receive a new church? I wonder if there's a buried question in there of someone wants a new church.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([31:56](#)):

I know how about it? That's good.

Bill Atwell ([31:58](#)):

You're about to go through this here with the cathedral in terms of renovation, so what is the process like?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([32:02](#)):

And we've been working with St. Katharine Drexel, we keep making, they've been waiting such a long time and we're making steady progress here and so grateful to that community for their patience. But whenever a parish community wants to undertake a significant construction project, a number of considerations, of course, as you would understand, come into play, including consultation with the parish community. What are our needs? Always that consultation. The financial status of the parish. What can you do? What can you afford? The trajectory of the community's growth, a study, where will this parish be 10, 20 years from now? Is this the right place to build a church? The appropriate sacred architecture. So that's why we have experts here in our diocese, in all those various areas. I have to say our team, whether it be St. Katharine Drexel or our recent churches we have built, they're on the scene.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([32:59](#)):

They go out to the site, they're there to guide the pastor to guide the parishioners through all those different aspects. We're there to help, we're there to support, and if there's a need, we want to make sure we're helping you to fulfill that need, but of course, always as responsible stewards of our resources.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([33:21](#)):

So yeah, there's a lengthy process. I think recently, within the past year and a half or so, I think we've looked at shortening that process to be a little bit more efficient and cutting out some of the maybe barriers that were becoming a little bit burdensome. I think we've took a good look at that, listening to our pastors and tried to make this as user-friendly as possible and to assure them, listen, we're on the same team here. So we have a staff at our diocese that I'm so proud of that are there to assist our pastors every step in the way. It's a process I'm going to be going through, because, along with the rector of the cathedral, Father Posey, I will be held responsible and accountable to the same process that I'm asking my pastors to do.

Bill Atwell ([34:05](#)):

Absolutely. I met with a pastor recently who had gone through a renovation and here's his quote. He said, "I don't know what I would've done without Tim Cotnoir," who is our Chief Finance Officer. You think of finance as an administrative function, but the way he was describing to me, it was a ministry. He was helping that pastor and guiding him through, and it was a parish that financially struggled and had to save for a long time to get to the point where they could afford it. But Tim helped them get there. We've got a construction office that guides them through that process once they get into that phase and working with vendors and subcontractors. It's complicated, and a lot can go wrong, but you've got a team behind you that really helps make it as successful as possible.

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

Andy Schulman at the office of project construction; Ward Jones, our Chief Operations Officer; Tim; they're all there. They're all there to help and really to take some of the burden off our pastors. Absolutely. Because these are the men with the expertise. That's the way the Church works, right? No pastor, no bishop can run a diocese without having people who have the expertise in these fields, but remember, we're on the same team.

Bill Atwell ([35:05](#)):

That must give you great confidence.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([35:06](#)):

Yes, it does.

Bill Atwell ([35:07](#)):

That's great. Bishop, any final thoughts before we close out the podcast?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([35:11](#)):

No, but we are certainly, we know of unrest in our world and tensions, even as we speak this morning, especially as we are praying for peace on the Ukrainian border. Yeah, I do ask all of our listeners to pray specifically for that intention, and one of the most beautiful ways to pray for that is to pray the Rosary, to entrust a peace that only Christ can give to the Mother of Jesus and to pray the Rosary, or at least a decade of the Rosary for that specific attention. Right now, tensions are rising, as we're hearing even as this morning as I was coming over. I think we should be united for peace in our world. Specifically in that area of our world.

Bill Atwell ([35:56](#)):

Absolutely. If you'd close us out with a prayer.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([35:58](#)):

Sure, I ask God's continued blessings upon all the faithful of our diocese. Thank you so much again, everyone for your goodness, for all that you do to help the Diocese carry out the pastoral works, spiritual works, corporal works of mercy, asking God to bless you and your families to keep you safe and healthy and happy and above all holy, as together, in faith and in joyful hope, we walk humbly with our God. Thank you for listening to the Walk Humbly Podcast. Make sure you check out more episodes on iTunes, Google Play Stitcher and Spotify. You can follow me on Twitter at Bishop Burbidge, where I offer gospel reflections each morning and share photos and updates of what is going on in the diocese of

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