• The Office of Multicultural Ministries provides pastoral services and assistance with Catholic ministerial needs for more than 20 diverse ethnic communities within the Diocese of Arlington. Northern Virginia is rich in its diversity and the diocese is continually working to strengthen the numerous Catholic ethnic ministries throughout the region.

• Masses are celebrated on a regular basis throughout the diocese in the following languages; Latin, Spanish, Tamil, Twi, Vietnamese, Korean, Portuguese, French, Albanian, Hungarian, Tagalog, Tigrinya, Cameroonian Pidgin English, Gaelic and American Sign Language.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS:

• More than 1,400 faithful, led by the Filipino community, attended the annual Simbang Gabi Mass celebrated by Bishop Burbidge. The Simbang Gabi, 9 Day Novena of Masses, occurs throughout 20 different parishes in the diocese and holds consecutive Masses preparing the faithful for the birth of Christ.

• The annual Diocesan Mass for Multicultural Communities brought forth over 20 cultural diversities, with a Multicultural Choir combining the voices of diverse choirs.

• The Annual Korean Vocation Conference was held at St. Paul Chung Catholic Church, where local and visiting priests and religious sisters came to share their vocation stories in an effort to promote and inspire vocations within the parish.

• A detailed display of Black Catholic Saints and Saints-to-be was created and shared with a number of different parishes during Black Catholic History month. The Knights of Peter Claver and the Ladies Auxiliary Court 398 presented the displays, sharing the lives of these holy men and women with cause for canonization.

• In May, the Diocese of Arlington combined efforts with the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism to host a Listening Session on Racism. The session was hosted by Bishop Michael Burbidge and Bishop Shelton Fabre, Bishop of Houma-Thibodaux and Chairman of the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee Against Racism. More than 300 people attended to listen to speakers share their stories.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me.”

–Matthew 25:35