



Finding Jesus at San Damiano

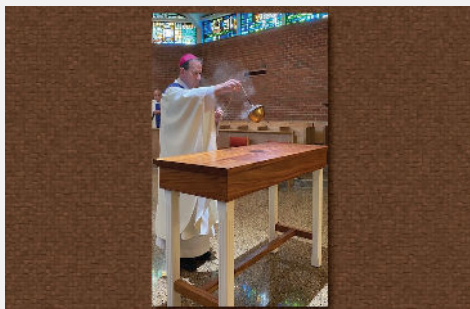
May 2024 | 0006

The Bishop & the Brothers

Bishop Burbidge recently visited San Damiano and blessed a new altar upon which Jesus will become present for years to come. This altar will reside in a quiet side chapel so that the priests of the Arlington Diocese who comprise a true "Band of Brothers" may retreat themselves — singly or in small groups — to rest and recreate with each other as they take a break from their selfless service to our diocesan family (see Mark 6:30-32).

Two of those brothers...Father Juan Puigbo and Fr. Daniel Hanley will be leading retreats for you all in the months ahead. The weekend of June 21-22, Fr. Juan's retreat, [Diving into the Desert: Praying Like the Ancient Fathers](#) will focus on the spirituality and the prayer of those who lived in challenging times and sought ways to live in deep communion with Christ — even as the world about them seemed to be falling apart.

Father Hanley's retreat July 12-14, [Seeking Friendship with Christ as Sons and Daughters of Our Father](#), will consider the difficulties and challenges we encounter in our effort to pray. He will assist his retreatants to form practical resolutions as they seek Jesus in calm quiet prayer — even as they are caught up in lifestyles which are anything but peaceful and serene.



Renew & Revive

by *Father John Riley*

Spiritual Director

San Damiano Retreat Center

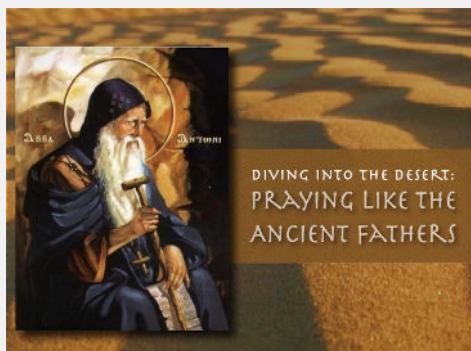
In 1974 Pope John Paul II sent Bishop Thomas Welsh to Northern Virginia to found the Diocese of Arlington. Three Bishops, hundreds of priests, and tens of thousands of new brothers and sisters later, in the Year of Our Lord 2024, we celebrate 50 years of life as a Diocesan Family — and **Renew** our commitment, our vision, and our mission to find and follow Jesus Christ and help others to do the same.

This year also, our **Year of National Eucharistic Revival**, we turn our minds and hearts to treasure and ponder the great Gift and Mystery of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Renewing our vision and understanding of the True Presence of Christ in the Bread of Life is essential to our mission to bring His light and love to our confused world in these challenging and opportune times.

One crucial element of this Eucharistic renewal is a deeper appreciation of the **Royal Priesthood of the Faithful** which is conferred on all Christians in the *Sacrament of Baptism*. Of course the primary effect of Baptism is the washing away of the guilt of Original Sin. We also receive Sanctifying Grace and the Real Presence of God the Holy Spirit is "breathed" into our souls.

Another effect is often overlooked: an indelible "character" is emblazoned on our souls. This "mark" or "seal" in a deep and mysterious way

UPCOMING RETREATS



A Silent Retreat for Men & Women — June 21-23

Join Father Juan Puigbo, Pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish, for

a unique silent retreat. The first Christians faced many challenges from political and spiritual adversaries. The needs of the early Church were very pressing, but Christians learned very soon to trust in the Lord Jesus, their Savior. Their strong relationship with the living God made them giants of Christian spirituality — an excellent example for us in today's troubled world.

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conforms us to Christ and makes us adopted sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father. It also confers on ***all of those baptized*** the power to function as ***priests*** with the ability and responsibility to offer worship in our lives--and in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

What does this mean for those who are not members of the Ordained Priesthood? How do we effectively exercise our Royal Priesthood? First, we must recognize and better understand the reality and nature of this "Baptismal Priesthood." Then, we need to reflect on how best to wield this power for the good of others and greater glory of God.

This year I will be traveling around and about the diocese offering conferences on this topic: ***Renew and Revive Your Eucharistic Spirituality by Recognizing and Exercising your Royal Priesthood.*** For more information or if you would like me to visit your local parish, retreat please [email me](#).

God Love and Bless You!
Father Riley

Fr. Hanley Retreat — July 12-14

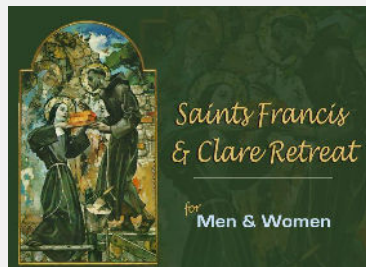


Understanding the life of God within you: Prayer is the most proper activity of a baptized soul. As breathing is a necessary part of bodily life, so prayer is "respiration" in the life of grace. Prayer may be understood simply as opening the will to God — but as simple as this may seem, it is not always easy to live.

Fr. Daniel Hanley will lead this retreat.

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Finding Jesus with Saints Francis and Clare



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July 19-21, 2024. St. Francis of Assisi and the beautiful Lady Clare have fascinated the world for centuries. How can active men and women in the world draw nearer to Our Lord by learning from their Wisdom, imitating their Charity, and finding little ways to embrace their Poverty? Join Father John Riley and a small band of brothers and sisters as we gather in a silent retreat at the feet of Jesus.