

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

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

Tom Shakely ([00:08](#)):

Welcome to the Walk Humbly podcast from the St. Clare Studio here in the Diocese of Arlington. I'm Tom Shakely, chief communications officer for the Diocese, and I'm joined by our host, Bishop Michael Burbidge. Welcome, Bishop.

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

Thank you, Tom. Great being with you and our listeners today.

Tom Shakely ([00:23](#)):

It's such a pleasure. It's been a wild few weeks. We last spoke just two weeks ago, but it feels like much longer. Many things to talk about today.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([00:32](#)):

Also, hard to believe it's the end of January. I have no idea where that month went.

Tom Shakely ([00:37](#)):

The beauty of that though is that the days are getting longer. You missed that.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([00:42](#)):

That is correct. That is true. Very true.

Tom Shakely ([00:42](#)):

It's a joy. But amidst joys, there's also a heartache. I know Bishop, yesterday you offered Mass at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More for the victims of the tragic air collision that took place earlier this week. Claimed the lives of 67 souls over the Potomac near Reagan airport.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([01:00](#)):

So tragic. I know with all of our listeners, our hearts are broken, knowing of the loss of life in this tragic accident and incidents and hearts are just pouring out and love for their family members as well. And it's tragic. And when it's so close to home too, really, that reality is very, very difficult. But no matter where you are, the loss of lives in such a tragic event is devastating.

([01:35](#)):

Oftentimes in a situation like that, there could be a tendency for people to feel helpless, as if there's nothing we can do, but that's not true for people of faith. And that was reflected yesterday in the midst of that tragedy. As you mentioned, I was privileged to offer Mass at our cathedral and we decided to do that early in the morning and yet so many people gathered.

Tom Shakely ([02:08](#)):

That's true.

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

Because we can do something. We can first of all gather together in faith as a community, which is always uplifting to walk through a heavy cross like this together, but then most importantly, united around the altar at the holy sacrifice of the Mass in the perfect way to entrust those who have died to the Lord's infinite love. Praying, "Lord, receive them, receive their souls, embrace them in your infinite love."

[\(02:42\)](#):

We prayed, especially at the Mass for their families. "Lord, we know that you alone can give the consolation the strength, the peace that they need at a time like this. We entrust that to you, Lord." And we also prayed for first responders who we know are always there to help at a time like this. And it's at that same Mass that we, in faith, are reminded of the Lord's promises that all who are united to him and his cross, he promises and revealed perfectly in his own cross and resurrection that suffering will be transformed to glory and death to life. And wasn't it beautiful yesterday, providentially that the reading for that day at Mass from the letter to the Hebrews said, "The one who makes these promises is trustworthy." And so that's our consolation, that's our hope that we're constantly invited to share with others, but especially in moments like this.

Tom Shakely [\(03:56\)](#):

Thank you, Bishop. Yeah, thank you for celebrating that Mass. And if you weren't there or if you want to see it, we did live stream it and you can find that on the Catholic Diocese of Arlington YouTube channel.

[\(04:08\)](#):

Well, Bishop, any new presidential administration naturally brings with it many changes I'm sure we'll be talking about in the months and years to come. But a major focus right now for President Trump and the White House just since his inauguration has been immigration policy. Immigration, of course, as a topic has been contentious and divisive for years, decades, even probably in America. You now are choosing to speak out with a new pastoral statement. You speak about the Catholic imperative of upholding human dignity and the common good. And we'll link, of course, to the pastoral statement in the show notes here for listeners. But Bishop, what led you to speak out at this time?

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(04:49\)](#):

Well, first of all, thank you for highlighting Tom, that it is a pastoral statement. I do not speak as a politician, I do not speak as an elected official. I speak as a pastor, as a shepherd of souls and that's what I hope is reflected in this statement that is being released and issued this morning. So thank you for mentioning that.

[\(05:14\)](#):

And first, as Bishop and pastor, I know firsthand so many of those immigrants across our diocese, migrants, refugees who through their goodness and faithfulness contribute so much to our Church and to our country. And over the past generation, immigrants have settled within our diocese from 20 or more nations.

Tom Shakely [\(05:38\)](#):

That's incredible.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(05:39\)](#):

It is. And they have enriched our diocese with their great faith or devotion to our Lord and their families. And as Christians, we celebrate. We celebrate all our brothers and sisters and pray especially for those

living among us who may fear at this time. And so we have to pray for discernment and consultation. I felt called to speak now because the United States under the new administration is adopting approach to immigration that is being carried out in these days.

[\(06:13\)](#):

And this is very sensitive because we are talking about the protection of our land, adherence to the Constitution, the respect and the upholding of the dignity of all human persons. And so the whole point of the pastoral letter is to see all these through the eyes of faith, through the light of faith. And that's what we're trying to do. It's very sensitive. I'm out and about a lot these days and especially this week and I am hearing many different people's perspectives on this issues coming from lots of angles.

Tom Shakely [\(06:54\)](#):

Right, I imagine.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(06:55\)](#):

But to bring it all together in a way that is able to do both, protect the common good, uphold the dignity of the human person needs faith to be involved in the process. And so thus is the reason for my statement. And we want our elected officials to consider the common good in such a way.

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

So what does the Church teach? The Church teaches, as does our Constitution, that a political community exists to protect the family and human dignity. We are always defend and protect the most vulnerable even as we defend the rights and duties of nations to govern themselves and to safeguard the common good. The point is this. As Christians and especially those of us who are Christian lawmakers, we must uphold a both-and approach to human dignity and the common good. That's our call.

Tom Shakely [\(07:57\)](#):

You can't just take one.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(07:58\)](#):

You can't. And we can do that. We can definitely do that. And as principles of Catholic social teaching, human dignity and the common good must not be brought into conflict. So that's what the Church is. So what are the Church's core concerns? We speak about the Church as our mother. We always say, "Mother Church, Mary, Mother of the Church." So let us ask, "What does our mother want for us?"

[\(08:27\)](#):

When addressing the topic of migration, the Church has historically emphasized two crucial points. First, the rights of persons to the integrity and unity of their families no matter where they settle. Second, the right of all to the spiritual care afforded by the sacraments. And obviously as a matter of justice, our basic material needs must always be met, food and clothing, etc. At the same time, remember the both-and. And the Church emphasizes about human dignity and the common good. The both-and.

[\(09:01\)](#):

The Church has always shown the greatest concern for all that is right, for all that is just, for respect for the rule of law. Sadly, some of those who have entered our country legally or illegally have committed very serious crimes. There must be consequences for such behavior as there is no place for violence, human trafficking, or gang activity in our society. We should therefore keep in mind that law

enforcement officers who dedicate their lives to protecting us and our country must not be treated as the enemy, nor should any person who is an immigrant or a migrant or a refugee be labeled or falsely categorized or be described in terms that are disrespectful to who we are as a child of God, to who we are as a human person. And so again, you see the both-and coming together.

[\(10:07\)](#):

So what are some of the takeaways here? And this is what I hope to accomplish in my letter or my statement. I think what America needs is a national immigration policy that reflects the Catholic Christian commitment to human dignity and the common good. Archbishop Broglio, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has made it very known, very clear to the president, the vice president, and their team that he and the leadership of the conference stand ready and willing to talk about this issue.

[\(10:45\)](#):

And Archbishop Broglio have made it clear that progress will be made if we're willing to sit at the same table and speak heart to heart, eyeball to eyeball, listen to each other, and together with the grace of God and enlightenment in the Holy Spirit, we can find a path forward that respects the law of our nation and upholds the dignity of the human person. There doesn't have to be the conflict that so many are seeing these days.

[\(11:19\)](#):

And so the Church will continue to have that discussion, to enter into that dialogue. Also stress that the Church, we don't support open borders because we need to ensure that there is policies that allow people to enter our country. And we would love to see pathways for legal entry as citizens that should always celebrate as we have done throughout our history. The contributions that immigrants bring, ensure the protection of vulnerable and uphold the common good. What I think we're all seeking for, what I pray is that there's a humane and peaceful immigration policy that is just in compassionate and restores confidence in the rule of law. That's a summary.

Tom Shakely [\(12:11\)](#):

That's it.

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

If you want to hear the summary or my statement, that's it. That restores a policy that is just, compassionate, restores confidence in the rule of law. We stand for justice. We're not against the enforcement of law, but for its application with mercy and understanding and for the good of all persons and the good of our country.

[\(12:38\)](#):

And so everyone, to the extent that we can discuss and debate these issues, we can contribute in a way that if we do so respectfully. And as we listen to one another, don't in any way contribute to the harsh rhetoric that we often hear when this topic is discussed. And to do it as believers, to do it as Christians, to do it in imitation of Christ. We as a Church will never ignore the mandate. The mandate is to serve the gospel of life, to serve persons who need us to provide for them in their needs. But let's talk about this issue as followers of Christ and always with the respect and sensitivity that is necessary.

Tom Shakely [\(13:26\)](#):

Thank you very much, Bishop, for walking us through that. And again, we'll link to your full statement in the show notes. Really grateful especially for you sharing your heart on why you wrote it now, what you're speaking about and what you mentioned there about that Church commitment, the core commitment to the family, the unity and integrity of the family regardless of circumstances or location and especially their access, all of our access to spiritual care of the Church. That is such a wonderful message to hear, especially at this time. I wonder since we know there is so much uncertainty, would you be willing to offer maybe a prayer now for just all those affected by this issue, migrants, law enforcement officers, political officials?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:07](#)):

Yeah, thank you, Tom. Sure. Almighty God, we do entrust our country. We entrust the common good. We entrust all persons to your loving care and protection and providence. We know that you're with us always, that you're always in our midst. We ask for the grace, the wisdom, the strength that we need now to carry out your laws, your commands, your gospel in the way that you've asked us to do. So these are challenging and difficult times, Lord. And it's only you and your presence and your grace that will help us to move forward in the directions that will bring honor and glory to you. And for all these blessings, we come to you in faith through Christ our Lord.

Tom Shakely ([14:49](#)):

Amen. Thank you Bishop. Well look, we're talking about among other things, the goods of life. And of course we just recently marked the national March for Life in Washington DC along with Life Fest here in the Diocese of Arlington. That was last Thursday and Friday for Life Fest, January 23rd and 24th. And on Friday, January 24th was the March for Life. Incredible day at Eagle Bank Arena for Life Fest. And then of course all those folks there present gathered in Washington to march for life, witness to the good of life.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:23](#)):

So inspiring Tom, it was really to be at the Basilica Shrine for the five o'clock Mass last Thursday to see that shrine, that's a huge Church to see that filled the night before the march, people praying and asking God's grace for all of human life to be celebrated and welcomed and protected. And then go back. I left a shrine and went to the Eagle Bank Arena for our Life Fest. And what an incredible gathering that was with our young people. So many young, young people, they do a great job to engage young people. They have the music that uplifts their spirits. They had this great speaker. You could see when the speaker was talking, just real engagement, real powerful influence. Confessions were being held. It was a vigil. So confessions were being held. So many of our priests were there to celebrate that beautiful sacrament.

([16:24](#)):

And then we conclude the night. I say this every year, it always amazes me because it's all this hooting and hollering and an arena and then all of a sudden we have Eucharistic procession. And I always say only Jesus could bring that crowd to absolute silence. And that's what you witness as I carry our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the arena and pause and to see the young people and all who gather, realizing it is Jesus right now gazing upon them, gazing upon them as his beloved son, as his beloved daughter. And they gazing back on him. Whoever rejoices whenever we gaze, put our gaze upon him, just such an inspiring and prayerful, prayerful celebration, all meant to help us to be strengthened with the graces we need for what we were to do the next day.

([17:18](#)):

So we began the day of the March for Life with Mass, the perfect way of beginning the day. We fed the kids some Chick-fil-A, so that was good.

Tom Shakely ([17:26](#)):

So they were ready to go.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([17:26](#)):

That helped them a little bit. And then we went to our nation's capital and we marched for life. How did we march? Peacefully, joyfully because we have the truth and I think that's what confounds people who oppose our position on the gospel of life. "Why are these people out in such great number? Why is the younger generation joining them? Why do they even reflect joy?"

([17:58](#)):

It's because we have the truth. We have the gospel of life. All that is true. And when you embrace truth and walk in truth, joy will always follow and the truth will always triumph. While we saw that with the overturning of Roe versus Wade, we still know however that elected officials who serve in our nation's capital and back home at states need to see us both at the state level and at the federal level.

Tom Shakely ([18:24](#)):

So much more to do.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:24](#)):

Yes, because there's so much more work to do. Abortion remains legalized in a greater part of our country. So sadly. So this march, this energy, just incredible, incredible witness. And then I was so proud to see so many of our faithful this past week in our Virginia's capitol in Richmond.

Tom Shakely ([18:43](#)):

That's right.

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

Engaging legislators. So you see it all comes together. How do you live and proclaim the gospel of life? Prayer, witness, advocacy. And we've saw that in great, great ways in just these past seven days.

Tom Shakely ([18:59](#)):

That's beautiful. That's beautiful. And it's a shot in the arm for all of us too. I think the March for Life, especially the annual tradition of it, there's nothing like it in American history.

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

No.

Tom Shakely ([19:08](#)):

Social movements, they come and go in American history, the March for Life, 50 plus years of steadfast advocacy. And I mean as somebody growing up in the Northeast always humbled, like whether at the National Shrine or somewhere else you encounter people. I just came from a few hours away. You encounter people, where do you come from? And they say, "Well, we took a bus from Wisconsin or we drove from North Dakota." And I think, "Oh my goodness."

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

I know. I know.

Tom Shakely ([19:33](#)):

How weak am I in comparison?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:34](#)):

Right? I know. And usually I felt this year maybe we didn't get enough graces because the weather was beautiful.

Tom Shakely ([19:41](#)):

That's true.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([19:41](#)):

How many Marches for Life do you remember when it was snowing and raining and windy? And I always say, "Well, at least we're getting more graces this way." But I was not complaining about the nice weather the other day.

Tom Shakely ([19:53](#)):

Well, thank you. Thank you so much, Bishop, for your good witness and I'll let you do for the cause for life. On the similar topic as a part of the culture of life, Bishop, you recently released a pastoral letter titled The Christian Family: In Vitro Fertilization and Heroic Witness to True Love. And if you're listening and you haven't seen this letter or read this letter yet, I certainly encourage you to visit our Diocesan website [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org). We'll link to the letter as well. But Bishop, please tell us about your good letter and of course video as well. You did a short video sharing the key takeaways, the messages for the people who maybe don't have the time to read the full letter.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:33](#)):

You even talked me into reading it myself for people.

Tom Shakely ([20:36](#)):

That's true. That's true.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:38](#)):

Had to twist my arm on that one. No, I'm only kidding. The more we can get the letter out, whether it be the letter itself, which I hope people would read in its entirety, but the video is a nice summary and if you want to listen then that's fine also.

Tom Shakely ([20:53](#)):

All channels, all audiences. That's right. Yeah. It's available on the Walk Humbly podcast as an episode. You can hear Bishop read it in his voice. You can watch the shorter video for the key messaging or you can tune in on YouTube as well for the full listen as well as download the full letter.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([21:09](#)):

Right. And thank you. Thank you, Tom. I think this is providential maybe that this topic is following what we just discussed because it is all about the gospel of life. So thank you for that.

[\(21:20\)](#):

And again, this is another sensitive pastoral topic that you're, I think we did seven drafts of this letter because it's a pastoral sensitivity and you want to speak the truth and educate and inform, hopefully inspire, but you want to do it in love and with pastoral sensitivity. Every one of us knows someone who is carrying a cross, it's a heavy cross for married couples who are experiencing infertility. We know that. We know the Lord is with them in the midst of carrying that cross. But this is a very sensitive topic. So I pray that everyone knows that the letter was written and given to you by me with that hope of being pastorally sensitive, always trying my best to give you the truth and love and it address the dignity of human life, the witness that faithful Christian families offer, and also the Church's teaching on IVF.

[\(22:20\)](#):

Fertility and in vitro fertilization, IVF, are incredibly sensitive and deserve, which I hope we did in the letter, to be treated with a spirit of accompaniment compassion and understanding. Many, not all of us, as I mentioned, are aware of people we love who are dealing with this issue. And as a priest and bishop, I've heard consistently of the heartache experienced by so many relating to the desiring for family. And my pastors tell me the same. And I've observed with pastoral concern the growing acceptance of IVF as an apparent solution to the heartache of infertility.

[\(23:06\)](#):

So as practiced, IVF both creates life and destroys life. Every successful IVF procedure results in a living child with many missing siblings. The injustices associated with IVF are numerous. Perfectly healthy human persons are created during the procedure, but many are deemed undesirable and are often frozen indefinitely, left to exist in a state of abandonment or fatally discarded by clinics that promise life. The procedure reduces the marital and procreative act to a technical process resulting in harm, however subtle, to the sacred love of husband and wife. The natural bond between the child and his or her parents is breached in situations involving anonymous donors and the practice of surrogacy.

[\(24:09\)](#):

And Tom in America, the IVF industry has been as described as a wild west because of its lack of basic health and safety regulations, including basic informed consent for prospective parents concerning the true nature of the process. This is a reality, this is true. Every human person, no matter how he or she was conceived, has infinite dignity. And that applies, and this is the point I want to stress, absolutely to all children created through IVF, the majority of whom have not been and may never be born.

[\(24:49\)](#):

The good news, the Church endorses all life-affirming fertility care, treatments that restore fertility and restore hope. And we offer those resources in the letter. Also, the Church teaches that the government has a responsibility to uphold the good of the family. So we call, or maybe could even say, challenge our elected officials to consider concrete ways to encourage, for example, earlier marriage and family formation, establish programs to address direct pregnancy and childbirth-related expenses, expand coverage for life-affirming and restorative fertility care.

[\(25:32\)](#):

I invite listeners to reflect deeply on these matters, offering compassionate guidance and a call to live as witnesses to the truth in a culture that often presents conflicting messages. I've heard many people in my pastoral visits will say, "Bishop, I know I always want to uphold the Church's teaching. I trust mother

Church as we mentioned earlier, to lead and guide and to protect. But when this topic comes up with family members or colleagues or friends, I feel like I'm not in a position to explain clearly."

[\(26:12\)](#):

And these are the people in the front line. I need you. Not every people in the workplace and communities are going to read my letter. They're going to turn to you and ask you, "Well, so what does your Church say? What does your Church think?" I am hoping, dear friends, that this puts you in a position to be able to respectfully, compassionately, and accurately convey to others the Church's teaching on this issue.

Tom Shakely [\(26:40\)](#):

Thank you so much, Bishop. Yeah, and as mentioned, we'll link in the show notes to the pastoral letter in all of its available places as well as in paperback form. People can get hard copies if they'd like to do so.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(26:53\)](#):

Yes, we've made that available to pastors.

Tom Shakely [\(26:55\)](#):

But you're right, you're right. It's such a practical and personal tool. I think what you've written because even for someone like me who's been interested in these issues and studied them to some degree, it can be so challenging, so overwhelming. First to understand them and then as you said, to figure out, "Well how do I communicate this charitably and in love?" And as you mentioned too, most especially point people in the direction of all the good things, right? All those good things like NAPRO technology and restorative fertility care. And there are so many positive and hopeful and life-affirming approaches we can take.

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

Right, right. Thank you Tom.

Tom Shakely [\(27:36\)](#):

All right, Bishop. Well, last Wednesday marked an important occasion as we celebrated the week of prayer for Christian unity. This is a meaningful time for Christians really around the whole world to come together in prayer and to focus on the unity our Lord, that Christ so deeply desires for us. Can you share some of your thoughts on the significance of this week? I know you participated the significance both as individuals and as communities for what our Lord is asking for us.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(28:01\)](#):

During the prayer for Christian unity, we are reminded of the prayer of Jesus himself that all may be one. And sadly, we have not realized that prayer of Jesus in our day and age. We've been trying for many, many, many years, but it doesn't mean we give up. And that's why it was so important. We gathered at St. Bernadette, I gathered with other leaders, leaders of Church, other bishops, leader of the Church of Latter-day Saints, and we prayed together.

[\(28:37\)](#):

So that's a beginning, right? That we can gather in the sacred space together and give glory to God and call upon the Lord's help and intercession. And many, many people were there with us. So that's the first thing we do.

[\(28:52\)](#):

But in all reality, I think this is just my thought, but I think the ecumenical movement, this working together for Christian unity, I think we've stalled a little bit and Pope Francis speaks of this issue as well. I think we stalled a little bit because it seems that we have been content that the only thing we can do together is prayer and charitable works, which are both extremely important. I think we should find as many opportunities in the course of any given year to come together with people of other denominations and other faiths to pray together and to see what we can do together to serve God and the community.

[\(29:39\)](#):

But I think where we've stalled is that we're afraid to discuss the theological issues and the moral issues that are separating us. And maybe that's a part of the society we're living in where it's hard just to have dialogue, respectful dialogue to sit down at the same table and saying, "Listen, we have a major, major disagreement here or a major-"

Tom Shakely [\(30:04\)](#):

The elephant in the room.

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

And in my opinion, we're not doing that. And I humbly acknowledge that as a bishop, I haven't done that. I pray together with other leaders and we are gracious to each other, but if we are really going to take seriously the prayer of Jesus, we have to do a better job in coming together, not just bishops or pastors, but all of us. And again, to listen. "Okay, what is it that you believe here?"

[\(30:38\)](#):

The Church does it in a universal way. And in fact, I chaired for five years the international dialogue between Pentecostals and Catholics, and it was an international dialogue, five years. So the Church takes that very seriously, but I think we have to bring that down. And that's true for the Church has that for just about every denomination. But we got to do that a little bit more on a local level because our disagreements sadly are getting a little wider, especially when it comes to the moral issues of our day. So I challenge myself as I share my comments on that issue.

Tom Shakely [\(31:21\)](#):

That's beautiful. Thank you, Bishop. That's a good reminder. Well, we also are marking very soon the World Day for Consecrated Life on February 2nd. This is also the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. And this highlights our sisters, our priests, our brothers in religious and consecrated life who founded parishes, schools. And so many of the institutions that we think of when we think of Catholic schools over the years and decades across our diocese, that's a wonderful time.

Bishop Michael Burbidge [\(31:47\)](#):

It really is. I'm sure like many of our listeners, we just have so much gratitude for the men and women religious who have been part of our lives, whether it be education or parish ministries or hospital care or nursing facilities, whatever. I'm sure with all of our listeners, there's just so much gratitude and we could all speak of a consecrated religious who has touched our lives.

[\(32:23\)](#):

I always tease a little bit that there was six years of my life, seven years of my life as a priest where I actually lived with 90 women. I was a chaplain for the wonderful Sisters of Mercy.

Tom Shakely ([32:41](#)):

Oh, that's beautiful.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([32:44](#)):

In my home archdiocese. And I would look out every morning, I would celebrate the 6:30 Mass for them every morning. And I would look out and I don't think there was a day I was not inspired, even though I was there seven years. When you look out and you saw first of all the number of years, the number of years represented in service to the Lord and his Church and with the various ministries, education, medical care, counseling, chaplain, brilliant women, generous, faithful servants.

([33:16](#)):

I think of the Sister Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who taught me from kindergarten to college and their great commitment to education. I think of the Sisters of St. Joseph who beautifully invited laypeople in time of care for assisted living to join their sisters. They opened their facility to laypeople. And my mother was a great recipient of that gift and spent the last year and a half of her life in that beautiful, loving, caring environment.

([33:53](#)):

And I could go on and on. I'm so grateful now to the religious, both men and women serving in our diocese. We are truly, truly blessed and I am thrilled looking forward to celebrating with our women religious, their jubilees and their faithful service. I love gathering with them every day. They are such an incredible witness and gift to me and to our diocese. So thank you for highlighting this special event in the life of the Church.

Tom Shakely ([34:22](#)):

You've inspired me, Bishop, it reminds me I should mention that we talked about in our last conversation, but we're going to continue to promote during this Holy Year of Hope. We're inviting listeners throughout the year to share their messages of hope with us. And we'll spotlight some of those conversations in some of our episodes here on the Walk Humbly podcast. So listeners can call (703) 778-9100, and we'll have that number in the show notes and you can share just some inspiring words or stories or experiences that you've had that you think would uplift and equip your brothers and sisters throughout this Holy Year. And of course, we typically do a question from the faithful, Bishop, but we've covered a lot in this episode, so I'm going to let you off easy.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([35:05](#)):

All right, I'll take that. I'll take that. Thank you.

Tom Shakely ([35:07](#)):

But we always welcome with questions. So if you have a question for Bishop for our next conversation, just email us at [info@arlingtondiocese.org](mailto:info@arlingtondiocese.org) or reach out over social. Bishop, any final thoughts for us today?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([35:16](#)):

Thank you, Tom. Thank you so much. We continue this jubilee year by walking together as pilgrims, by walking together in joyful hope, the hope that is rooted in Jesus Christ. And thus, it is the hope that doesn't disappoint. It's the hope that doesn't fade. May we be recipients of that precious gift, but above all, as you just mentioned, may be the witnesses of hope as well. And as we continue to walk humbly with our God.

[\(35:44\)](#):

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