



March 19, 2014
The Solemnity of Saint Joseph

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My father entered eternity many years ago, but not a day goes by when I do not remember him. He loved Christ and was a faithful son of the Church. He and my mother knew few comforts, both working long hours in the textile mills to send me to the best schools. He sang in his native Italian around the home, tended the best garden in our neighborhood, and showed me in word and deed how to be a man.

On this Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Patron of Fathers, I give thanks for the loving witness of my father even as I turn to a matter of utmost urgency for every son and father today. To a degree that my father could never have imagined, today's father must protect himself and his children from the relentless assault of an increasingly pornographic culture; moreover, mothers share this sacred task. Every home now stands in the pathway of this attack on our children's innocence and purity. If we are not vigilant, our sons and daughters will pay a steep and heartrending price.

How I wish that this new edition of my pastoral letter, *Bought with a Price*, was unnecessary. How I wish that stories of porn addiction like Matt Fradd's—found in a new Foreword—never had to happen. And yet, since I first issued this letter nearly eight years ago, the porn epidemic engulfing our families, marriages and communities, has reached a pandemic scale. In light of this, I pray that Matt's powerful witness, the addition of practical takeaways, a study guide for individuals, groups, and families, and a plan of life, will be a timely and encouraging tool for purity and holiness of life.

"If you are really open to the deepest aspirations of your hearts," I echo the words of Pope Francis, "you will realize that you possess an unquenchable thirst for happiness, and this will allow you to expose and reject the 'low cost' offers and approaches all around you.... Have the courage to be truly happy! Say no to an ephemeral, superficial and throwaway culture, a culture that assumes that you are incapable of taking on responsibility and facing the great challenges of life!" (World Youth Day, 2013)

On this Solemnity of Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and foster father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, I call on every man in the Diocese of Arlington to search his heart and renew his commitment to purity. I call on every husband and father to renew his sacred commitment to his wife and children. As you do, be assured of my prayerful support for each of you, and may God grant you His priceless gift of purity and peace.

Faithfully in the Heart of Christ,



Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington