

WH 175 Transcript

[00:00:00] **Bishop Burbidge:** It is probably the greatest joy of a bishop to give the church new priests. In the rite itself, I refer to them as my spiritual sons. Having to get to know them, the beautiful opportunity to know them and walk with them throughout their seminary experience. I know them well, I love them, and I'm proud of them, and they will be our priests, sent forth, for ministry in our diocese.

[00:00:26] **Lauren:** This is Walk Humbly. We're glad you're here.

[00:00:30] **Tom Shakely:** Welcome to Walk Humbly. I am Tom Shakely with the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, joined in our St. Clare studio by Bishop Michael Burbidge. Bishop, welcome.

[00:00:38] **Bishop Burbidge:** Great to be with you, Tom. Great to be with our listeners. A very, exciting time of year in the life of the Church, in the life of our diocese. Confirmations, graduations, ordinations, lots of, great joy and blessings the Lord's bringing to all of us. I know we'll be talking about some of those events today.

[00:00:56] **Tom Shakely:** It's hard to believe, yeah, we're already past Memorial Day, looking ahead to summer. It's amazing.

[00:00:59] **Bishop Burbidge:** It really is.

[00:01:00] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, I know some of the, the early summer, late spring reading that many of us have been doing are the Holy Father's new encyclicals. First encyclical, on May 25th, Pope Leo XIV released *Magnifica Humanitas*, in English, Magnificent Humanity, with the subtitle "On Safeguarding the Human Person in the Time of Artificial Intelligence."

It's a significant encyclical. We'll link to it in the show notes. Lengthy, in-depth. You can read it on the Vatican's website, and, incredibly, the Vatican media has even released it in audiobook format. So we've got no excuse not to read this encyclical.

[00:01:35] **Tom Shakely:** What did you make of this, Bishop? And maybe let's start with what is an encyclical?

[00:01:37] **Bishop Burbidge:** Encyclical is simply a letter. It comes from the Greek word which means circular, which is now an old-fashioned way to talk about a letter. So we naturally want to circulate important letters, to share them with others.

So encyclical is a special pastoral public letter of the Holy Father intended for the Christian world and all people of goodwill, to consider, and reflect upon together, in view of the gospel. And isn't it amazing that we have a Holy Father who's so attuned to the issues of our day, including technology, artificial intelligence, and the impact that it has, upon the human person?

And that's what encyclicals try to do, talk about timely issues, things that are on the minds and the hearts of the world, especially to the faithful. So it's a beautiful encyclical, as you mentioned. need to take your time reading it, and I do encourage everyone to read it in its entirety.

There's lots of summaries out there, But really to read it, and take your time reading it, yourself and read it, you know, as if, there are truths to embrace and to reflect upon. and it's not just about artificial intelligence. the Holy Father speaks to us about, the human person, the fact that we are God's magnificent creation.

We were created in the image and the likeness of God. We are his beloved children, and any technology, any tool, like any gift from God, is never meant, in any way to dehumanize the human person. And so, it's really a letter that talks about our dignity as children of God created in his own image, and likeness.

So I do ask you all to read it, and to accept the challenge, too, of, the warnings of artificial intelligence. This can be used, to do a lot of good, but also we know, it can never take the place of, what is true, what is real, companionships.

We're even warned today that, people are seeking companions for life's journey, artificially online, who will speak, in, their voice try, to make real that which is not. and there's no need for that. we have the best companions of all. we have the Lord, we have the Church, we have our Blessed Mother, and we have each other.

[00:03:49] **Tom Shakely:** Thank you very much, Bishop. Yeah, it's encouraging. it's a great thing that we have, in the life of the Church now to engage with this. And it can open us up, I think, also for, you know... certainly, I remember the point in my life when I first learned what an encyclical was, the

first time I heard that word and realized, wow, the popes have made it a tradition to write to us.

[00:04:05] **Bishop Burbidge:** Yeah.

[00:04:06] **Tom Shakely:** To, like- That's right ... to, to be pen pals almost- Yeah ... to write us letters about our good.

[00:04:09] **Bishop Burbidge:** Right. Yeah, and see it that way. See it as a letter, right? See it as a way the Holy Father's communing directly with you about, humanity and about, you know, some significant issues of our day in this, digital era and world in which we live.

[00:04:25] **Tom Shakely:** Bishop, since, since we last spoke, we continue to work, in view of the threat here in Virginia of two ballot measures that are gonna be up for a vote this fall, on Election Day, certainly November, but really starting with early voting on September 18th. and we have some more news to share now.

The first is that general informational resources are available on our diocesan website at arlingtondiocese.org/vote. We'll link to that. And the second, is a broader, really public campaign for all Catholics in, in Northern Virginia, catholicsvoteno.com. this campaign website really encourages all the faithful to pledge to vote today.

That's an action you can take right now, even though voting's still a few months off. You can pledge to vote, and you can learn in depth about what these amendments are. We've talked about it. We'll talk a little bit more about it here. but by pledging to vote now, you'll be able to stay in touch. We'll be able to stay in touch with you, and remind you as we get toward voting day, encourage you, provide more resources, about these amendments, the Virginia Right to Reproductive Freedom amendment, so-called, and the Virginia Remove Constitutional Same-Sex Marriage Ban amendment, both of which would, as you've said, Bishop, radically reshape the culture of our state.

[00:05:35] **Bishop Burbidge:** Oh, for sure, and, thank you for emphasizing, Tom, that need, to pledge to vote. I, speaking, to brother bishops throughout our country who have gone through this process, and who were not successful, There was lots of work and efforts, but, you know, when they analyze, "Well, what went wrong?"

It was the failure to get people out to vote, and people who agreed, and supported and embraced the church's teaching on the sanctity of life and marriage, but did not allow their voice to be heard. And as we know, every vote counts, and one vote can make the entire difference.

And so I'm really grateful that we're making this emphasis on that pledge to vote; the resources you mentioned are readily available. We're sharing them with our pastors and parishes and asking for their support to share with all the faithful, and I think all those listening will find them very helpful, to understand what the amendments are truly saying so that they're in a position when they're, you know, respectfully challenged perhaps, by family members or colleagues and saying, "Why are you voting no?"

And we wanna put you in a position to be able to explain why we're voting no, and saying yes to the protection of all human life and sanctity of marriage as Jesus taught. Because you, you are out in the field, and we need your help if we're going to defeat, these amendments.

And we're dealing about fundamental issues. We know that God Himself knit us together in our mother's womb, and our Lord Himself instituted the sacramental marriage. Here's what the abortion amendment would do: it would threaten women's health and safety, essentially eliminate parental rights, and allow for completely unregulated abortion on healthy babies up to birth.

That's what the amendment would do.

[00:07:14] **Tom Shakely:** It's unbelievable.

[00:07:15] **Bishop Burbidge:** Exactly. And as faithful Catholics, we know, precisely in order to protect the right to life and to protect marriage, we must vote no on these amendments. And also about the sanctity of marriage. Jesus made it very clear, that marriage is, the sacred union of one man and one woman forever, reflecting His love for His bride, the Church.

So we always, whenever we say no, are doing so in a view of offering a greater yes. Right?

[00:07:43] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah. Yeah.

[00:07:44] **Bishop Burbidge:** A no to a no is a yes.

[00:07:46] **Tom Shakely:** Right. I think that's a beautiful reminder- Yeah ... too. You know, it's like we, we, to be clear, you know, the church, people of faith, pro-life people, et cetera, we didn't get to pick the ballot position.

[00:07:55] **Bishop Burbidge:** Yeah, yeah. I know.

[00:07:56] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah. So we have to face the reality that these measures are on the ballot and recognize, just as you say, Bishop, I've heard you say, to different audiences already that, yeah, the church says no, it's because it wants to say a greater yes to the truth.

[00:08:07] **Bishop Burbidge:** Exactly right, Tom. Exactly right.

[00:08:09] **Tom Shakely:** We'll continue to talk about this and keep folks updated, but in the meantime, if you're listening right now, as you're listening to this podcast, visit on your browser catholicsvoteno.com to get that key information. Pledge to vote yourself and, share it with family and friends so they know, what's coming.

Well, Bishop, on June 11th, all of your brother bishops and you will consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration is really quite beautiful. It coincides with America's 250th anniversary. Its semi-quincentennial, and it will take place as all the bishops are gathered for the USCCB's spring plenary assembly.

You're gonna be in Orlando. and I know there's gonna be more local celebrations of this consecration, throughout the country, but Bishop, I'm wondering if you can reflect, beyond that obvious that you wanna honor the 250th of the country. Why consecrate?

[00:08:58] **Bishop Burbidge:** What a beautiful opportunity that's gonna be to be with all of my brother bishops next week and to conclude our time together, through this consecration, consecrating our nation, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. And so what we're intending to do, is to, call upon God's grace for the good of our country as we celebrate, as you mentioned, the 250th anniversary, and to remind all of the faithful, of Jesus's love and mercy and grace and desire for the salvation of all.

It is the love of Jesus, it is the mercy of Jesus. They are the gifts that will, transform our nation into what He desires for us, our unity, our peace. and so, consecrating it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, reminds us that, it is His role, it is

His authority, it is His power to which we surrender if we are going to be the people, if we are going to be the nation that God calls us to be.

I know our diocese itself, Bishop Loverde, previously consecrated our diocese, to the Sacred Heart, but we will reconsecrate as a sign of solidarity with the bishops next week our diocese to the Sacred Heart, and at the same time, all parishes are encouraged to join, in this consecration, again, recommitting ourselves to the Lord, recommitting ourselves, to His gospel.

And what a beautiful reflection. Just take time, I encourage everyone, just to take time what the Sacred Heart means. Jesus did not leave us with a metaphor or offer us an intellectual abstraction concerning God's love for us. No. The heart of Jesus is real. It's tangible. It's physical. It's beating. It's a heart that beats in this world, just as our Lord hopes our own hearts beat as one in the fullness of time when we pray, pray God, experience the bodily and resurrection in the fullness of time. So the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus is especially important in this era of artificial intelligence we just talked about.

The simulacrum. Simulated computer constructs, simulations. Jesus gives us a heart that's concrete. It's a real expression of His love for us. and so this is incredible. It is the heart of Jesus that changes our lives and will change the world in which we live.

[00:11:06] **Tom Shakely:** I think there's something beautiful there, too, Bishop.

You know, as you mentioned, you know, Bishop Loverde, your predecessor, consecrated the diocese previously. You know, the Sacred Heart devotion, is fairly new in the life of the Church, relatively speaking, the past couple hundred years. it was Pope Leo XIII who first consecrated the world, in, I think, 1899 in an encyclical.

Je announced it. and so this tradition of periodically taking time to consecrate, you know, the nation or the diocese or the world, it's just like, you know, when we wake up, right? It's like, I don't always do this. I forget, you know, I'm imperfect. but the goal is every day, you know, like, you wake up, and you wanna give yourself to God.

Like, actually say that, right? Like, "Lord, I give myself to you." That's right. Like, "Make me an instrument of your peace." Yeah. and that's what you're doing with the consecration, right?

[00:11:48] **Bishop Burbidge:** Absolutely, and then surrendering ourselves to His love, to rest in His loving embrace. you know, when we truly believe, we are loved by God, then the world looks different knowing that it is His love that will sustain us.

[00:12:02] **Tom Shakely:** Well, as we, think about that, Bishop, that unity that you're getting at, I think it's appropriate we reflect on you recently, were a part of an ecumenical prayer service, here in our diocese. You were joined by Father Rooney at St. Bernadette in Springfield, and, I think a total of 12 different faith leaders came together, including Bishop Knestout, your brother bishop from Richmond, to mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme was Light from Light for Light. Can you tell us about it?

[00:12:29] **Bishop Burbidge:** It's always a wonderful gathering to, be with, leaders from different faiths, denominations, and to be united in prayer, and in our love, for the Lord and commitment to His gospel, and that's what Pope Leo XIV is asking us to do.

Dialogue, engagement are crucial, for our evangelical mission. And, Father Rooney's done a great job for many years organizing these events. and the recent prayer service was the largest one since I've been here, in terms of representation from our region. and that's what the Church desires, all people come to know and love God and live according to His life, and let's help each other to do so.

Let's build up and encourage each other. and that's why we, make that a priority. so the prayer service, was really, a beautiful event, and one I think helped to foster unity.

[00:13:16] **Tom Shakely:** Thank you, Bishop. Well, we were talking about community as well, so it's appropriate. Let's transition to talk about what I know many of us have on our calendars or are looking forward to, which is the Diocesan Festival.

This year's theme is Celebrating Faith and Freedom. Bishop, I know you've been inviting now for a number of months, all the faithful, in the diocese to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the country, but also all the goodness of God's blessings in our diocese at the festival, which takes place June 13th, Saturday, June 13th, in Berryville at the Clark County Fairgrounds from 3:00 to 9:30 PM.

It's free, but you gotta register.

[00:13:52] **Bishop Burbidge:** Yes. You know, I love festivals. I love gatherings, I love rallies, I love anything that brings us together as God's family in a spirit of joy and being united as brothers and sisters and have fun. And, that's what this festival is about. It's a great gift from God to the diocese.

We begin with Mass, of course, but, we will have live entertainment, and bands and Scythian and, multicultural dance performances throughout the night. Lots of food, refreshments. and, through the generosity of the diocese, but also some key benefactors who so much desire us to get together as a family.

We can invite everyone and say, "You can bring your family, your children," and there is no cost. This is in a sense, a diocesan gift, to our families who strive so daily to be holy families, and this is a way, small way of us thanking all of you, and helping your children and maybe yourselves to see that we are part of something bigger.

We're part of not just our own individual parish, but part of a diocese, part of a universal church. There'll be amusements, there'll be rides, some even a beer and wine bar for our young adults and others who gather. Some great fireworks

[00:15:04] **Tom Shakely:** Okay.

[00:15:05] **Bishop Burbidge:** Yeah. The last time we had this festival, I am not kidding you, they were the best fireworks I have ever seen, and, we hope not to disappoint, again, this year.

So please come out, everyone. It will be great joy to spend this day, this festival, with all of you.

[00:15:20] **Tom Shakely:** That's beautiful, Bishop. Thank you. Yeah, so visit, arlingtondiocese.org/festival for all the information you'll need. if you haven't been to the festival in the past and you're wondering, "Okay, I hear Bishop's description, but what is it really like?"

You can go and visit, the diocesan YouTube channel, and you can see video footage from previous festivals to get a sense of just how amazing this is. And if you are going, if you've already registered or you're registering now, don't forget, as Bishop mentioned, there's gonna be food and so forth, but don't hesitate to bring some supplemental food, the things you'd want at any outdoor

event, lawn chairs or blankets, umbrellas, hats, sunscreen, water bottles, the summer essentials.

[00:15:54] **Bishop Burbidge:** Good, good reminders there, Tom.

[00:15:55] **Tom Shakely:** Thanks, Bishop. Well, Saturday, Bishop, tomorrow as we're speaking here, you're going to ordain seven men to the priesthood here in our diocese at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More. as always, all will be able to stream the Mass live on our YouTube channel and our website, or watch it afterwards. You can also get information by visiting the diocesan events calendar. But Bishop, this is incredible. It's probably the highlight of the year, right?

[00:16:20] **Bishop Burbidge:** It is probably the greatest joy of a bishop to give the church new priests, through the imposition of hands, the prayer of ordination, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and to send forth, at the end of the ordination our seven newest priests.

And, it's a joyful, moment, for the diocese and for the church. in the rite itself, I refer to them as, my spiritual sons, my dear sons, and, that's how I see, our men being ordained as my sons, my spiritual sons. And, having to get to know them, the beautiful opportunity to know them and walk with them, throughout their seminary experience. I know them well, I love them, and I'm proud of them, and they will be our priests, sent forth, for ministry in our diocese. And I always say the Lord, like He did with the first apostles, He calls us by name, calls us by name. He knows each one of us. And the name of our newest priests are James and Donghan and Sean and Eric and Alexander and Teko and Aaron.

So, please pray for them, everyone. and join me in thanking God for blessing our diocese, with such wonderful men, who will, be ordained, His priests. And I have every confidence in them that they'll be faithful, holy, and joyful priests, on fire with the Gospel and filled with priestly zeal

[00:17:46] **Tom Shakely:** We give thanks to God. Well, as always, you can connect with Bishop Burbidge on Walk Humbly. You can text WALKHUMBLY, all one phrase, no space, to 84576, for periodic alerts and updates. We always welcome questions for Bishop Burbidge, but Bishop, we covered a lot of ground today, so can you offer us, perhaps a final blessing?

[00:18:04] **Bishop Burbidge:** Yeah, we're recording the Friday before the solemnity of the most holy body and blood of Jesus, Corpus Christi. What a great reminder that is for all of us, that the Eucharist must be the center of our

lives. And encourage everyone, in this busy and chaotic world we all live in, if whenever, even for 15 minutes, if you can just go to church and just rest in the presence of the Eucharistic Lord, it brings so many graces and much serenity and peace.

Just encourage you to do that. I love Eucharistic processions. I'll be joining the National Eucharistic Procession coming through St. William of York on Sunday, as we carry Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament throughout the streets there. And always a reminder, in our lives, it is Jesus who leads, we who follow, and we do so as brothers and sisters united in Christ.

So asking God to bless all of you, to bless our soon-to-be ordained priests and help them, and to help all of us to walk humbly with our God.

[00:19:00] **Lauren:** Thank you for joining us on Walk Humbly, where Bishop Burbidge shares the joy of the Gospel through conversations on Catholic culture, faith, and family. Connect with Walk Humbly and Bishop Burbidge by texting WALKHUMBLY, all one phrase, to 84576 for occasional alerts and updates.

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