

# WH 177 Transcript

[00:00:00] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** So that ordination to which you just referred, SSPX, was without that bull, without that mandate from the Holy Father. And so that's a lack of unity. Our Holy Father and the Holy See, they have done everything possible making that path forward, offering, inviting. Let's do this united. We'll continue to do so. We don't let this be the final word, pray God.

[00:00:23] **Lauren Chen:** This is Walk Humbly. We're glad you're here.

[00:00:27] **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, good to be with you.

[00:00:35] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Tom, it's great to be with you and our listeners coming off the Fourth of July, Independence Day weekend, and a beautiful celebration in our nation's capital and throughout the country, and giving thanks to God for all the blessings He has bestowed upon us, throughout our rich history and blessings He continues to give us, and most especially the gift of our freedom, and certainly remembering all those who have sacrificed to protect that gift.

[00:01:00] **Tom Shakely:** That's beautiful. Thank you, Bishop. I know you celebrated the Independence Day Mass at the Cathedral of St. Thomas More, so we'll link to that in the show notes, for those who may not have been there. But I appreciate it, especially that was a beautiful way to mark it. Bishop, I gotta ask, you know, there's a few things going on in the world right now.

One of them is the World Cup. Are you following this?

[00:01:16] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Well, I'm not a huge soccer fan, even though all your team here is trying to get me to, become a soccer fan, but I chose to... I did watch the game the other night. First time I watched a full game, the United States game, and that, that did not turn out the way we wanted. But I still gotta learn. I'm a little bit more familiar with the NFL football than I am the rules of soccer. So I'm still trying to learn that. but it's a... It... Isn't it wonderful? It's just bringing so many people together. There's a sense of excitement, and that's what sports, that's what leisure is supposed to do.

It's supposed to bring us joy and relaxation and unite people and, you see that, throughout this World Cup and even seeing so many people, coming and appreciating all the gifts of our country that sometimes, they're reminding us sometimes we take for granted. Even air conditioning.

[00:02:01] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah. That's right. Yeah. I've been seeing these posts on social media from people, you know, international visitors from, all over, and they're all over the country. Yeah. And, and it's just wonderful to see.

[00:02:09] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** That's great.

[00:02:10] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, I know recently there was a really tremendous earthquake in Venezuela, and there have been some repercussions.

I know the diocese is responding to that, I think, with a second collection at our parishes this weekend.

[00:02:20] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Right. We've asked all the pastors to consider taking up a second collection. The funds go directly to assist, to support all those impacted by the earthquake. And so sadly, we pray for those, who have died and those, who have lost so much, and we continue to keep them in our prayers, especially at our Masses. Financial support will go a long way. So as we take up that second collection, just ask everyone to prayerfully consider being as generous as possible to help our brothers and sisters in need.

[00:02:50] **Tom Shakely:** It's a wonderful opportunity to practice Christian charity, certainly. Well, Bishop, on July 1st, as many will have seen, the Priestly Fraternity of St. Pius X, more commonly known as SSPX, consecrated four bishops without papal approval. The SSPX had been repeatedly cautioned by the Holy See about the possibility of doing this, and finally was implored directly by Pope Leo XIV not to proceed with these consecrations, but they did so. And as a result, the Holy See issued a decree clarifying that the bishops of the SSPX, the six bishops now, incurred, excommunication.

And so I wonder, Bishop, if you can walk through, you know, what this means for us, for the Church, but also for us here locally.

[00:03:36] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, and just yesterday I was in the, Archdiocese of Washington, where, two new auxiliary bishops, were ordained. And part of that ceremony is the Apostolic Nuncio, the representative of the Holy Father to the United States, reads a papal bull, a declaration signed by our Holy Father, authorizing and choosing these men to be ordained bishops.

And it, it's a beautiful, powerful moment, showing our unity with our Holy Father, the successor of St. Peter. So that ordination to which you just referred, in SSPX, was without that bull, without that mandate from the Holy Father. And so, that's a lack of unity. And it's important to make clear that our Holy Father and the Holy See, they have done everything possible, making that path forward, offering, inviting, "Let's, let's do this united," and will continue to do so. We don't let this be the final word, pray God, because we know what Jesus prayed for was unity, that we may all be one and that nothing may fracture us, nothing may fracture our Church. But there are consequences, as you mentioned, and that the Holy See has definitively outlined for us.

So the decree of the Holy See makes clear, that as a result of the SSPX's formal schism, any celebration of the sacraments of confession and matrimony by the SSPX are invalid, and the administration of other sacraments is illicit. So as a bishop, motivated of course, for the care of souls, I respectfully instruct the faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington to avoid participating in the activities of the SSPX. I encourage any persons locally who have been attached to the SSPX and who desire the spiritual nourishment of the church in the extraordinary form of the Mass, to become active in any one of the eight locations, in our diocese where this is currently possible.

[00:05:35] **Tom Shakely:** We'll link to those in the show notes too, Bishop, yeah.

[00:05:37] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Right. Three churches and then five other locations. And the Holy See, as we talked about on, on other podcasts, has been, extremely generous in giving us this permission, which was required to ask for. but I was able to assure the Holy See that, here in our diocese, there is unity, and those who are attached and have a great devotion and love for the extraordinary form, continue to be united with our church and to build up our local church as well.

Soon, we will be asking, we'll have to ask for those renewals, which I will do with great confidence, assuring the Holy See, that this is for the spiritual care and nourishment of the people. So thank you for making that link available, Tom. And the Holy See in the spirit of conciliation, right?

We don't want division, so in the spirit of conciliation, has outlined, the procedure for SSPX priests and lay faithful to return to Catholic communion. So that path, that branch, in a sense, is always there. Although lay faithful who formally adhere to the SSPX are considered schismatic and excommunicated,

adhere meaning you continue to attend, you continue to attend and participate in the SSPX's sacramental and pastoral activities.

It does not apply, this excommunication does not apply to lay faithful who do not reject the magisterium of the authority of the Roman Pontiff and have engaged with the SSPX for solely liturgical and spiritual reasons. So such persons must simply resolve not to continue to participate in future SSPX sacramental worship or pastoral ministries.

And to my brother priests in the SSPX, please know my prayers for you and my heartfelt desire for your return to full communion with the Church, and I invite all the faithful throughout our diocese to join me in prayer for the end of all division, and for the unity of the Church, so that she may be better fulfill the divine commission, to make disciples to all nations.

I'm sorry if it's sounding a little bit technical or formal, but it's a very sensitive issue and the vocabulary is important.

[00:07:43] **Tom Shakely:** It is, yeah. Thank you, Bishop, for walking us through that. And I think, you know, I guess if I'm a lay person, the takeaway is if I've been going to these SSPX Masses, now I know. I know the situation. I've seen the news. I've heard it from the lips of our bishop, and now I gotta change.

[00:07:56] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Right. Thank you, Tom.

[00:07:58] **Tom Shakely:** Well, the Catholic Media Association, this is something that's pretty big in our world, Bishop, here in the Diocesan Office of Communications, and of course, with our wonderful Arlington Catholic Herald.

The Catholic Media Association is just what it sounds like. It's a national association of Catholic media, diocesan media apostolates and other organizations. And they get together and this year, we were really honored. It was an extraordinary year. 33 awards from the Catholic Media Association for our Arlington Catholic Herald, including first place for Best Newspaper Website.

And in fact, Bishop, actually, Walk Humbly came in second for Best Diocesan Podcast. Isn't that amazing?

[00:08:35] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Wow, that's great. Thank you. Congratulations to my co-hosts here. But my competitive spirit wants to know who's number one?

[00:08:43] **Tom Shakely:** We'll have to look that up.

[00:08:44] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, go ahead for that one.

[00:08:46] **Tom Shakely:** We'll put them up on the wall. Good aspiration.

[00:08:48] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** No, but on a serious note, it's like the Oscars, right, for the Media Association, and for our diocesan newspaper, the Arlington Catholic Herald, to be recognized, in such a tremendous way by their peers, right, by their colleagues, what a credit it is to them.

And certainly the faithful throughout our diocese concur, because so often when I'm on our parish visits, I hear many compliments about our diocesan newspaper. And that people ... in a day and age where people say they don't read newspapers, all of our surveys, and even what I hear on the streets, verbally, say, "No, no, we get that diocesan newspaper, we put it on the coffee table, it stays there, but we get through it." And people are very grateful to us. So congratulations, to our colleagues, and renewed appreciation for their professionalism, creativity, and dedicated service.

[00:09:38] **Tom Shakely:** And kudos to you, Bishop, really. I know there's only a handful of bishops, who do podcasts or are willing to do podcasts and speak, to the faithful and priests in the diocese in the way that you do.

So, good for you.

[00:09:48] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Well, thank you. Your team makes it very easy, Tom. Thanks.

[00:09:51] **Tom Shakely:** Uh, all right. Well, we've got some fun summer stuff to discuss. It is summer and so as we're moving through the season, we have two great diocesan events that come up every time this year. One is Quo Vadis for high school boys, July 12th to 16th, coming up soon, and the other is FIAT, for high school girls, July 19th to the 23rd.

These are, you know, real blessings for the young people participating, and Bishop, I know these have a special place in your heart.

[00:10:15] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Oh, they do. I always look forward. these are wonderful, wonderful events. In fact, I had our seminarians together over my place, last night and just to see our seminarians, including nine new seminarians coming in this year, just to see their joyful, their fraternal spirit.

And I remember, seeing some of them at Quo Vadis, the camp that young men, in high school age spend a week there in Emmitsburg at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, with all the activities of helping them to grow. The major point is to help them grow in their vocation, as a disciple, right?

Before you can discern if you're being called a priest or being called to be a consecrated religious, you have to be a disciple, nourishing that intimate relationship with the Lord, especially in your prayer life. So the camp really helps them to do that by wonderful speakers, hearing from the seminarians, having quiet time with the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament, confession, Mass every day, of course.

And then of course, if you're having young people together for a week, you better have a lot of activities to get that energy out. And it's the same thing with FIAT, with the young women in our diocese. And it's really beautiful to see. It's wonderful that, I'm usually there the first day, when their parents drop their son or daughter off at the camp and we begin with the family Mass.

I look out and I see so many holy families and holy marriages. I'm like, "This is where vocations come from, holy families and holy marriages." And, and there's always a waiting list. This fills up right away and so I ask everyone, in the diocese, these young men and women who are giving a week to the Lord in a sense, that it's a time where they really hear His voice, speaking to their hearts, reassuring them of His love for them, that He has a special plan for them, and He simply asks them to listen, knowing that when we say yes to His will, whatever that may be, that's the source of our holiness.

That's the path of the joy, for the joy we all seek. So grateful to Father Noah and his team and everyone who make Quo Vadis and FIAT such special occasions for our young people.

[00:12:22] **Tom Shakely:** And you can certainly look forward to seeing coverage of those things in our Arlington Catholic Herald and Diocesan Media.

Yeah, they really are an amazing thing. So as Bishop mentioned, maybe you're not participating this year, maybe you're learning about it for the first time as parents or something. But go to our diocesan website, [arlingtondiocese.org](http://arlingtondiocese.org), and bookmark the page, the calendar page and the event page, and you can stay up to date with all of our great diocesan events throughout the year.

Well, as school lets out for the summer, you know, many families are focused on the things that summer brings: vacations, camps, time together. But for

Catholic Charities, summer also means increased need. many children lose access to meals that they receive during the school year, for instance, that makes the work of a ministry like St. Lucy Food Project even more important. Thankfully, our diocesan schools continue to step up through food drives and service projects, that help keep those pantry shelves stocked. I know this is just such an important part of Catholic Charities' mission.

[00:13:12] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Well, sure. It's such a beautiful, witness to our faith in action, right? Our faith in action. Caring for those in need isn't something we do only at certain times of the year. It's part of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ. And as you mentioned, while many of us, Tom, enjoy the blessings of summers, we also remember our neighbors right in our own midst, who may be struggling to put food on the table, including for their own children, as you mentioned.

And so I'm deeply, deeply grateful to our diocesan high schools, for making service a priority as well, for all the great work of Catholic Charities, whether it's campers bringing a bag of food, students organizing parish food drives, or entire school or parish communities, collecting tens and thousands of pounds of food.

These acts of generosity make a tremendous difference. We see it in all of our parishes, our schools, our communities. And they not only provide meals for families today but also teach our young people that this is a way of life, always, always thinking of those in need and knowing that we can make a difference, and just to do our part.

Please, consider, everyone who's listening, how you may help, whether through a donation of food, volunteering your time, or supporting Catholic Charities in another way. Your generosity helps to ensure families throughout our diocese are cared for with dignity and compassion and hope, thanks to the great work of Catholic Charities and to our parishes, for all that you're doing, to help those in need.

[00:14:37] **Tom Shakely:** Thank you very much, Bishop. Well, as you know, you can always connect with Bishop Burbidge and 'Walk Humbly' by texting WALKHUMBLY, all one phrase, no space, to 84576 for periodic alerts and updates. And we've got our question from the faithful today, Bishop, if you're ready. Maria from Front Royal asks, "What is one small habit that has helped you grow closer to God over the years?"

[00:15:01] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** I would say learning and making it a commitment to be still and to be silent. I think a big part of my spiritual life has always been trying my best to be rooted in prayer, and be faithful to it, to the best of my ability. But in, you know, in, in recent, stages of my life, just making a commitment to be still and to be silent, especially before the Blessed Sacrament. And that has made such a difference. You know, I never want to start a day, never want to end a day without doing so.

[00:15:36] **Tom Shakely:** Mm.

[00:15:36] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** And I just think that's an important way of growing closer to God, you know, making that room. Because whenever we make that room, whenever we make that space available, God enters.

God enters. And when God enters, of course, you're united. You're closer to Him. So just, maybe just think, and we all can do this, just making a commitment, to begin and end a day, at least being still for a little part, just a few moments even, and just say, "Lord, speak. your servant is listening. I'm not gonna say anything. I'm just gonna sit here and just be still in your presence." So that's one thing that has helped.

[00:16:10] **Tom Shakely:** Thank you, Bishop. You brought some stillness to me right there as I was soaking that in. Well, Bishop, we covered a good amount of ground. Can you, can you offer us a final blessing?

[00:16:19] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yes. Yeah. It's, we're recording this, still early July, I guess we can call it. That's true. but I do hope, 'cause time goes so quickly, it's unbelievable. but I do hope, for our listeners that, these days of summer can also, be a time, of renewal and refreshment. We all need that. We all need that, and especially quality time with loved ones. And so just wishing you some of that renewal, refreshment, everyone, and just that enjoyment that the Lord wants us to have, 'cause that enjoyment strengthens us in body and in soul and spirit, and thus makes us stronger, as persons and as His beloved.

So asking all of you, to continue to pray, for one another and for that grace, for all of us to walk humbly with our God.

[00:17:02] **Lauren Chen:** 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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