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[00:00:00] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** This amendment is just horrific, and we have to defeat it. We have to vote no, and we have to do so with a sense of urgency. And tied to that also is the attempt to redefine the sanctity of marriage as a union of one man and one woman. Certainly as Jesus taught, a permanent union, a sacred union. It is just so unsettling.

These are being, forced upon us. We have to be strong here. There is a sense of urgency. Here, are we voting on September 18th.

[00:00:27] **Lauren Chen:** This is Walk Humbly. We're glad you're here.

[00:00:32] **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, so good to be with you.

[00:00:39] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Great to be here.

Great to be with our listeners, Tom, nearing the end of July here, and it's amazing. It's hard to believe. Isn't it? The time goes so quickly, but still time for, hopefully, our listeners and all of us, a little rest and renewal.

Hopefully, we can be granted that time. We all need to be refreshed. so wishing everyone continued blessings throughout the summer.

[00:00:57] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, I know it's kind of an exciting, refreshing time in some respects for a number of our parishes and pastors. You're going around and you're, a part of new pastor installations, right?

[00:01:06] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, that's really a beautiful ceremony, that the church gives us, the rite of installation for a new pastor. usually when I, do these, installations, as you mentioned I'm doing this summer, people often say, "That's the first time I saw that ceremony"- which is natural because many times you go to a parish, the pastor's been there or, you don't get to see it.

But it's a beautiful ceremony. it conveys, what the church expects of her pastors, to be a gentle father, a loving shepherd. and the instructions, the words given by

the church, Holy Mother Church, to the pastors are very beautiful for them, to hear and for, all pastors, myself included, to renew those promises often.

But it also shows the bond, that the pastor has, with the bishop. Because every pastor, his ministry is an extension of the bishop's ministry. so every pastor reflects in his local parish my, pastoral concern and affection for all the people of God. And so when we're both there together, it really becomes a clear revelation.

Gives me a chance to express, my affection, my concern for all those entrusted to our care. So I really find great, great joy, in doing the installations and, I even get to give little mandates here and there too- ... and say, "Here's what I expect." But of course, I always mention we can have all the great intentions and zeal and, desires and, hard work, but ultimately, it's all dependent upon God's grace.

and every pastor is where he is because that was God's plan for him. And it's the God who sends us is the God who strengthens us. So the most important gift, I often say, a pastor can give to his parishioners is that time he spends each day with the Lord before the Blessed Sacrament, 'cause there he'll find all the grace he needs to carry out-

his pastoral and administrative responsibilities.

[00:02:49] **Tom Shakely:** And I mean, we should be doing this- All the time, I suppose. But, you know, especially, as a new pastor comes into a parish, or as new priests come into a parish, there's a special opportunity for all the laity, all the people of faith to join in prayer, right- Right, yeah

for that person's vocation.

[00:03:00] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** And, and that's part of the ceremony, the church asking the people of God to pray for the new pastor.

[00:03:05] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah, beautiful. Beautiful. Well, Bishop, you were also, recently, a part of the Battle of the Altar Servers, right?

[00:03:11] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Oh, what a great event that is. Father Noah and the vocations team do, really do a great job.

Father Bresnahan at St. Leo's were our hosts, and we had over 700 altar servers all in one place. And it really is great, cause I recognize so many of them, being

out in the parishes, and it's a full day. And of course, if you have that many young people together, you better keep them busy. Yeah.

and so there's all kinds of, events, soccer, different athletic events. And, of course, the altar servers are extremely competitive- ... all wanting to give out, first place and second place and third place at the end of the day. So they're, very, very, fun, and competitive, and it's great to see all that energy.

The Knights of Columbus provided them with a great lunch. They did not run out of food. That's a miracle. that's pretty surprising. And we conclude with a beautiful prayer service, and it gives me an opportunity to thank our altar servers. because whenever I go to our parishes, I'm so inspired, by our altar servers and thus the priests who train them.

just their reverence, their reverence at the altar, their attention, their, they, they know, what they're doing. and that, if you do that correctly, then as an altar server, you're helping people to pray, and that's what the purpose of the altar server is. and so we're blessed with great altar servers.

and this is a small way of saying thanks to them. and it was a really a great day.

[00:04:31] **Tom Shakely:** You gotta imagine, too, it's encouraging, you know, 700 you say. You know, most of them have not met each other, right? Oh, yeah. They're different parishes all over. Yeah. But it's gotta be pretty spiritually- Yeah

encouraging for them, right? To really see, look, look, look at how we're all coming together to serve the church.

[00:04:43] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, no, that's a great point. Because, you know, sometimes we're, we're so, you know, we think only locally, you know. But they say, "Well, I'm part of something bigger. Look at, I'm part of the diocese.

Look at all these parishes. Look at all these other- Yeah ... peers who do what I do." And part of, part of the universal church, in a sense. So it's, it, it reminds them they're part of something bigger.

[00:05:02] **Tom Shakely:** Well, we spoke, in our last conversation here on Walk Humbly about, about FIAT and Quo Vadis, which were coming up and, and now as you're saying, summer's flying by, they're already in the rear view mirror.

[00:05:11] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, Father Noah and, and the vocations team, summer's busy for them. I mean, 'cause they run these events, you know? and, again, we did speak about these, Quo Vadis and FIAT and, I celebrate the opening Mass, so part of that joy is I get to see all the holy families in our diocese because the parents drop them off, and then they stay for Mass and lunch so I get to see all these holy marriages and holy families.

This is where, these vocations are fostered and helping to discern God's will. but just to see, the young people, they have so many choices of how they could spend a week in the summer. and yet they choose to spend it on the, holy mountain, Mount St. Mary's, seminary there and university- It's beautiful

on the mount. and it's a discernment camp in a sense, you know, lots of fun and activities for the kids who get to know each other. mostly all of our seminarians are with the young men at FIAT and, Quo Vadis and so many.

We had eight religious, women, consecrated- women religious communities are there this week, Incredible ... as we speak with FIAT. And so they get to meet these sisters with different charisms. They travel from around the country to be with these young women. it's really beautiful. I met one of the young men who was, dropping, he and his family were dropping his sister off at FIAT, but he was at Quo Vadis-

[00:06:23] **Tom Shakely:** Okay, yeah

[00:06:23] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** the following week. So he was with a couple of his friends who all were at Quo Vadis, the week before. I said, "So what was your favorite part of Quo Vadis?" And he said, "Ah, the daily Holy Hour we had, which is, oh, it was so quiet and so rare, and just so beautiful to hear that." and the other young men agreed, 'cause they don't have their phones with them or the technology, but they're really, seeing how beautiful it is just to be, quiet and alone with the Lord, a gift that all of us probably need to enhance in our own lives.

[00:06:53] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah. no, it's amazing. Even, right, it's like 5, 10 minutes a day in really intentional prayer, if you're just starting out, is life-changing.

Right? Absolutely. And as you work up to that Holy Hour or whatever else, even better.

[00:07:03] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** we give the Lord that space, He's gonna enter.

Right?

[00:07:07] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, you know, we're already about, only, what, 60 days or so away from the start of early voting on September 18th. so, on the minds of many, I know, across our diocese are the upcoming elections in the Commonwealth of Virginia this fall.

[00:07:21] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah, we continue to, put, our resources on our websites.

we continue to send, resources to our parishes, making sure everyone's aware of the sense of urgency that we need, with the ballot, initiatives that are coming up that, will horrifically expand, abortion No protection at all at any stage for the unborn, taking parents' rights and responsibilities out of it, even really careless and reckless

on women's health.

[00:07:47] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah,

[00:07:47] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** it's true. this amendment is just horrific, and we have to defeat it. We have to vote no, and we have to do so with a sense of urgency. And tied to that also is the attempt to, redefine, the sanctity of marriage as a union of one man and one woman.

certainly as Jesus taught, a permanent union, a sacred union. And so these are... it is just so unsettling, that this, these are being, forced upon us. But we have to be strong here. and again, thanks for reminding everyone. There is a sense of urgency. early voting is September 18th.

[00:08:20] **Tom Shakely:** so we, we have to defeat, it. And saying, we, we, the Catholics vote no- Catholics vote no to say yes, to the gospel of life- to the sanctity of marriage. and you know, the Church never tells the faithful which political party they must support or which politicians to vote for, but when it comes to issues, and especially when those issues pertain to the matter of intrinsic right and wrong, the Church speaks very clearly.

[00:08:42] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** as we know, as Catholics, faithful citizenship requires that we pledge to vote in this fall's elections, and, to do what

is right and just. So this is a crucial, direct, tangible way for each and every one of us, as voters in Virginia to make our voices heard and to protect the goods of human life, goods by which God blesses humanity, our state, our communities, and our families.

[00:09:03] **Tom Shakely:** It's a momentous, time certainly in our commonwealth, and as you're pointing out, Bishop, it's also a really great- Great ... great opportunity for us to practice faithful citizenship. you can learn more about, these amendments that Bishop mentioned on abortion and on marriage by visiting catholicsvoteno.com.

We'll link to it in the show notes. You can learn about those amendments, the threats, what they would do, and you can critically, you know, the action you can take right now today, even as you're listening to the rest of this conversation, pull up that Catholics Vote No website and pledge to vote.

Right. And by pledging to vote, we'll be able to stay in contact with you, and, especially as early voting begins, send you some reminders, send you some encouraging resources, and make sure that, all those you know, will get out and participate in this process.

[00:09:48] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** That's right, Tom. Thank you for those reminders.

[00:09:52] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, the, Diocesan Week of Service, which, longtime listeners will remember us talking about last year, that took place last year for the first time in November, it's gonna be returning for a second year, isn't

[00:10:02] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** it? Yes, and it was very, very, very, inspiring, to see this week carried out and, it was, it really brought the diocese together. We know that, you know, our diocese and all of our parishes and school communities, we know every day, we're devoted to service, and we carry out good works and charitable works. But it, it's important to, to emphasize, to highlight, the mandate, the Gospel mandate to serve and to love one another, and then to do it together- Yeah as a diocese. And, of course, we leave it up to, the pastors and its parishioners to decide what will that week of service look like in your local thing. But we ask everyone to report, and your team did a good job at, showing all the different projects that went on. So I am really, really thrilled, that we're doing this, again, last year.

and as Christians, of course, we're... that's our call, right? to help and to serve those, in need, especially our brothers and sisters, calling out for, assistance. So we're asking parishes to consider a few things. Are there no needs... are there no needs in your local community?

What project or projects might strengthen the bonds of parish life? Where is there already existing momentum, curiosity, or talent within your parish or school? What will draw your parishioners or school students closer to the heart of Christ and His Church? And what will you be doing this week, to join the rest of the diocese in a week of service?

It could be clothing drives, food collections, homebound visits, prison ministry-pro-life advocacy, and whatever. There's a lot of options. What are you... Yeah, so, and that's what we like. We like lots- of options and then make it local.

[00:11:32] **Tom Shakely:** Yeah. It's, it's hard to, it's hard to say no, right? You look at that list as a layperson in the parish, and you think, "There's something I could do."

[00:11:38] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** I can do something. Yeah. I can join one of my brothers or sisters. I can do something. So yeah, thank you to, Monsignor Bob Solinski and his team for overseeing this, this project, this initiative.

[00:11:47] **Tom Shakely:** Well, this, yes, the second Week of Service will begin, this November, Monday, November 9th, and it will conclude Sunday, November 15th. So you can visit arlingtondiocese.org, check out our Diocesan Events Calendar for more information about this, or you can speak with your pastor.

[00:12:01] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Right. Yeah. I think we're asking pastors by the end of August to let us know, what that week will look like, so-

[00:12:06] **Tom Shakely:** That's right.

[00:12:06] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** It's not too early for us to be talking about it.

[00:12:08] **Tom Shakely:** That's right. So if you've, heard this conversation and you're excited to do something in particular in your parish, it's a great time actually to go and speak to your pastor- That's right ... or speak to your priests and, and tell them, "Hey, you know, I wanna help with this or that," and that can

help them, in their own discernment process about what, what projects are undertaken.

[00:12:24] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Correct.

[00:12:25] **Tom Shakely:** Well, named after Saint John Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, as we're talking about, the Vianney Dinner here in the Diocese of Arlington will take place, very soon, this Friday, July 24th. now of course, all throughout the year, anyone can support, the cause of seminarian education here in our diocese.

Bishop, I know you're excited in particular about the Vianney

[00:12:44] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Dinner. Oh, yeah. This is our first one, so I'm really, really excited about it, and it's sold out. It sold out very quickly, which shows a great testament, to the enthusiasm in our diocese for supporting our seminarians.

And I'm very, very grateful, to all who do that. And, it'll be a joy to be, present with, our director of vocations, our seminarians, and I even hear there's gonna be a little performance by our seminarians as well. they're practicing hard. the Seminarian Education Endowment, provides funds for the education and formation of men studying, to become priests serving the people and parishes of the Diocese of Arlington.

So this endowment, ensures that no worthy vocation is hindered by the financial costs of their seminary education. So that's a great thing for me to be able to say, that finances will never get in the way of pursuing your call, if that's where the Lord is leading you, and I can only say that, because of the generosity of our parishioners.

And this, dinner, will, increase the funds that we're able, to be provided to the endowment. everyone knows that growth of this endowment, is so critical. We have to keep growing it. and I think the dinner provides a great opportunity also to connect, some of our parishioners who'll be at the dinner with our seminarians because when you see them together, and they're wonderful individual men, but when you see them together, it is so inspiring.

It gives us such hope, for the future, of our church and for our diocese. so that's gonna be, I think, one of the great gifts, just connecting. I think there's gonna be a seminarian at every table and just get to know each other on that personal

level. And I think, so many parents out there are well aware that, we want Our sons and daughters to have great education and formation, but it's expensive.

Yeah ... I know our parents know that well. they're preparing for their future of their children's education, and I'm sure the diocese has to do the same, for our seminarians. So thank you everyone, for any support you give, not only to this dinner, but to the Seminary Education Endowment.

[00:14:43] **Tom Shakely:** Thank you, Bishop. Yeah, it's such a great opportunity, and I think, you know, the cause of vocations, we talk often about, as you do, Bishop, all across our diocese and here on this program, about the importance of holy families and encouraging, a thoughtfulness, awareness of the possibility of a religious vocation.

But I think that in particular, the vocations that happen all the time of a young man or woman maybe just graduated college, and they've got some student loan debt or something, \$20,000 or something. And often that small amount of debt, like a car payment, for some people can hinder, right?

Mm-hmm. and they're not always in a place where there are these kinds of vehicles to help make possible an education.

[00:15:18] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** That's very true,

[00:15:19] **Tom Shakely:** John. And it's such a tangible way to help anybody-to chip in, and to be a part of that, even if you don't have a vocation in your own family.

[00:15:25] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Right. No, exactly.

Exactly.

[00:15:27] **Tom Shakely:** So visit arlingtondiocese.org for ways to support, specifically the Seminarian Education Endowment, or just search, Catholic Diocese of Arlington Seminarian Endowment. You can find all the resources, the things Bishop's talked about here, and ways to support it throughout the year.

Or you can bookmark, if you're disappointed you're not at the Vianney Dinner this year, you can bookmark, that opportunity for next

[00:15:45] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** year. Yeah, I think we're gonna go into a place that will hold, even more people, 'cause we were very, very, surprised but also thrilled that, it filled up so quickly.

[00:15:53] **Tom Shakely:** Yes.

[00:15:54] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Yeah.

[00:15:55] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, as you know, we invite anyone to connect with the show. you can text WALKHUMBLY, all one phrase, no space, to 84576 for periodic updates and alerts. Walk Humbly of course also welcomes listener questions for you, Bishop. those can be made by calling or texting the show anytime, day or night, 703-778-9100.

The phone's muted. It's on silent. So you can text or call even at midnight if you're listening to this with a question for Bishop Burbidge, and we'll see it the next day. we may feature your question on the show. so today's question, Bishop, is from, Mark at the Basilica of St. Mary, and he writes We heard Jesus's parable of the sower recently in mass.

I'm wondering if Bishop Burbidge would share his perspective as a spiritual father. Whenever I hear this passage, I wonder whether I am like rich or rocky soil.

[00:16:45] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Oh, that's a good question, right? And we're probably both, right? Uh, we're probably both. Uh, we just, uh- Depending on the time of day ... sometimes we're on that rocky soil and, you know, not on that path we should be on.

Sometimes we're, in our spiritual life, we're that rich soil, says the gospel we just heard. this past Sunday, Jesus teaching us that the wheat and the weeds coexist, and not only, in the ground but also in our own lives, right? We're a mixture of both. we know the wheat, we know our goodness, our virtues, our sacrifices, but we also know the weeds in our lives that, need to be uprooted, because they're not of God.

I, I think we're probably a combination of both, in answer to Mark's question, but the sower is the Lord, right? The sower is the Lord. and all he asks that we try our best to do every day is just to plant those seeds. You know, go to where that rich soil is, where those seeds can grow, and we know what that rich soil would involve.

It involves, you know, a prayer life. It involves frequent celebration of the Eucharist and the sacrament of penance, quiet time with the Lord, faithfulness to his commands. And whenever we're there, we're the rich soil where God- will continue, to produce within us a very, very fruitful harvest.

I think the parables that, we've heard the last couple weeks also teach us the importance in our spiritual lives even to pray for these gifts, to pray for patience, to pray for perseverance. because sometimes- we don't see the immediate results, that we want to see.

Like, I plant these seeds, goes, "Grow," Right. well, we wanna see in our own spiritual lives that way. And in other words, say, "Be patient," right? It, they'll grow, but in my time, in ways you don't expect or imagine. So even when we don't see the immediate results, saying, "Lord, I'm on rich soil.

How come this not growing?" It will grow. he's the sower, and he will produce abundantly and just keep kinda nurturing the wheat and planting, the seeds on rich soil. don't get frustrated when you find out you're a combination of both. we are, but the Lord provides the growth that we desire.

[00:18:46] **Tom Shakely:** Well, Bishop, we're gonna be talking soon about back to school season and so forth, but we've still got a few, few good weeks of summer left

[00:18:51] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** and- Oh, Tom- And while we do- You, you just did what I always hated- We're gonna need your final blessing. You just did what I always hated as a kid. You know, you're in the summer and you see that first back to school commercial and- Oh, I'm sure they've already seen them

You just mentioned- I'm sure they've already- You just brought them out. Oh. You just mentioned that phrase. I went, " Oh."

[00:19:09] **Tom Shakely:** Maybe, maybe the parents are excited, though.

[00:19:11] **Bishop Michael Burbidge:** Who knows? Maybe the parents. No, thank you, everyone. maybe, praying that, that God in, in the days of, of summer that we have left that, g- God will give you that opportunity just to be refreshed and renewed, and, a- --and to renew your promises to, walk with Him and to walk humbly with your God.

[00:19:27] **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. Walk Humbly welcomes listener questions for Bishop Burbidge.

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