

- Bishop Burbidge: This is Bishop Michael Burbidge and you are listening to the Walk Humbly Podcast.
- Billy Atwell: Welcome to the Walk Humbly Podcast. I'm Billy Atwell, chief communications officer for the diocese and your cohost. If you haven't yet, please rate this podcast or write a review wherever you're listening, iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, et cetera. You can also sign up for our e-newsletter at arlingtondiocese.org/email. We've made it easier for you, you don't have to go to the footer, it's arlingtondiocese.org/email to sign [00:00:30] up for that e-newsletter.
- Billy Atwell: You can also follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter, more than 18,500 of you already do, @BishopBurbidge where every day you can read a short reflection on the gospel of that day. You can also follow the diocese on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. If you want to send in a question for Bishop Burbidge to be answered on the podcast, email us at info@arlingtondiocese.org. Again, that's info@arlingtondiocese.org. I now welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?
- Bishop Burbidge: I am doing well, Billy, it's great to be with you, and our listeners, [00:01:00] and to assure everyone that you all remain in my daily prayers, especially the masses that I celebrate each day, that God is giving you and your family, the strength and peace, and most likely the perseverance and patience that we need at this time. Prayers are with you, everyone, and thanks for listening to the podcast.
- Billy Atwell: Just a reminder for everybody, Bishop Burbidge has been celebrating a live stream mass every Sunday. If you want to get an email reminder of that, go to arlingtondiocese.org/email and sign up. [00:01:30] Bishop, last week we had a little sense as to when exactly we would begin reintegrating society and our economy. Since then a lot has happened, and Governor Northam has talked about what phase one will look like, and how those restrictions are beginning to loosen a little bit especially for churches. What should people expect with from the diocese as we go through these phases?
- Bishop Burbidge: Sure. Billy, I'm sure that many of our listeners and our parishioners are very happy to hear as I am today, that the governor announced that phase one [00:02:00] will start on May 15th of reopening. Phase one, how this applies directly to us, allows houses of worship or churches to operate at a 50% maximum capacity that allows for social distance... requires social distancing, so the maximum 50% of the capacity of the church. That's what the governor said, unless a local [00:02:30] jurisdiction determines otherwise, so we have to continue to monitor that situation.
- Billy Atwell: We'll see how that goes.
- Bishop Burbidge: As I mentioned, the change requires social distancing. This may not be able to be apply universally across the diocese as some parishes may not be able to safely accommodate public celebrations of the mass at the 50% capacity. We do

not yet have details of what phase two will look like. But when phase one, beginning May 15th, [00:03:00] so that weekend then.

Billy Atwell: That's next weekend, yeah.

Bishop Burbidge: Where churches and parishes are able to have the public celebration of masses with all the requirements that will be necessary for the health and safety of our parishioners, we will begin to initiate that phase. It's not a mandate, it's a permission to do that where we are able to do that.

Billy Atwell: Right. You formed a reintegration working group that you've mentioned before. How are they helping you?

Bishop Burbidge: They've already been [00:03:30] at work, because we've been anticipating this day. Quite surprisingly, it's sooner than I anticipated especially at this capacity.

Billy Atwell: That's great.

Bishop Burbidge: We welcome it. I've participated with other faith leaders in talking with the governor and his directors, his executive directors speaking about the necessity of when it's safe and possible [00:04:00] to begin to open our churches. Our people need this, so we were really trying to give all the encouragement for that to occur. I'm pleased to receive this news today. Again, there was other faith leaders involved in this conversation also.

Bishop Burbidge: We haven't delayed, our reintegration working group has been at work. It's composed of pastors which represent the parishes from all the regions [00:04:30] of our diocese, public health professionals, medical experts, and others who can help advise me make recommendations about how to return to normal. We're going to rely as we have done from the very beginning on the experts that helped to keep us safe. That's important.

Bishop Burbidge: On the same day as we record this podcast, I will be releasing a video message that will include some of the principles that we will be using to reopen our churches. But again, this [00:05:00] news just happened so we'll be working hard all weekend, and no later than Tuesday, have some more specific guidelines and directives to our parishes and to our pastors. Okay?

Billy Atwell: Very good.

Bishop Burbidge: Here's a few key points. First of all, and this is important I think for our listeners to hear. Currently, our parishioners are dispensed from attending mass on Sundays and Holy days of obligation. That dispensation stays [00:05:30] in effect, all right. That's across the board for everyone, because some people may not feel this is the right time for them to come back to church, may not feel safe, and I don't want anyone to have any anxiety about that, so that

dispensation continues. The process as we know is gradual, we're only have 50% max with social distancing.

Bishop Burbidge: Church is going to look different when you come back. It's going to be heightened disinfection practices, hand hygiene [00:06:00] will be necessary. Certain things like the sign of peace, we can't continue the sign of peace at a time like this. The [inaudible 00:06:10], the distribution of precious blood, people bringing up offertory gifts. Some of those things will look a little bit different.

Bishop Burbidge: I'm asking our pastors where it's possible, because people are... well, not everyone will be returning or be able to return to mass, to continue live stream masses as we have been doing throughout [00:06:30] the diocese, that would be a great spiritual help to our people. We'll keep working with those who are guiding us and those ensuring us that we are also cooperating fully with the health requirements and safety requirements that are necessary.

Bishop Burbidge: I do want to encourage all of our listeners. Yes, I very much want to help you in your spiritual wellbeing, but your physical wellbeing is important [00:07:00] also, so please be safe. If you have underlying conditions and you fall into those high risk categories, please be at peace piece of staying home and making your spiritual communion in live stream mass. Be safe also.

Billy Atwell: Very good. Bishop, before we go to our guests for this podcast, Pope Francis has called from May 14th to be the World Day Of Prayer, Fasting and Works of Charity. What should people know about that day and intention?

Bishop Burbidge: This is kind of breaking news. [00:07:30] We found out about it just yesterday or the day before. Pope Francis has accepted the proposal of a committee that advises him so that believers of all religions could unite spiritually on May 14th. That's a great sign, that we're in this together in a day of prayer and fasting and works of charity. The intention of the day is specific to help you humanity, our world, our nation, overcome the stopping [00:08:00] the spread of the virus.

Bishop Burbidge: They're powerful tools, prayer, fasting, charity for a specific intention with people of all faiths and denominations, so it's not just for Catholics. If Holy Father is encouraging people of all faith and beliefs to join in prayer, showing that solidarity against confronting this pandemic that has as crushed us in so many ways. The [00:08:30] encouragement will be more to practice those works of prayer fest and charity in a private way, it's not going to be like a single ceremony we're all going to have, but the encouragement to individuals. We'll give some guidelines maybe for people to consider.

Billy Atwell: Absolutely. Again, stay tuned for that, that's May 14th. Today we have a couple of guests on the phone. Bishop, why don't you do this and welcome our guests for the show.

Bishop Burbidge: Sure. One of the things we decided to do during this pandemic was to have guests who are just sharing with us and our listeners how [00:09:00] are they making their way through this pandemic, what are some of the things that have been blessings to them or challenges. We had that beautiful guest, Sherry, talking to us about works of charity, and then just last week Father Stefan, how the works of healing in hospital minister as a chaplain continue.

Billy Atwell: It's so powerful.

Bishop Burbidge: I thought it'd be helpful too to talk to one of our young people. Certainly a senior in high school is definitely impacted by this [00:09:30] pandemic and things that would be occurring at this time of year. The events and even graduation, our seniors are so impacted. His mom is with us also to talk about family life in the midst of this pandemic. I'm really very happy to have as our guest this week, Frank Paquette, an Eagle Scout and as senior at Paul VI High School, St. Paul VI High School, as well as his mother, [00:10:00] Teresa. Frank and Teresa, welcome to the Walk Humbly Podcast.

Frank Paquette: Thank you so much Bishop Burbidge, how are you?

Bishop Burbidge: I'm doing well, Frank. I certainly miss being with you and your friends at school. It's always a highlight of my ministry, but I'm glad we can be together today. Maybe I could just ask your mom a quick question first, Frank, if that's okay.

Frank Paquette: Yeah.

Bishop Burbidge: Teresa, please, would you just tell our listeners about your family, how many children you have, and just a little bit about your family?

Teresa Paquette: Yes. [00:10:30] Good morning, Bishop Burbidge, thank you for having us on today. My name is Teresa Paquette and I am married to Ed Paquette. We've been married for... we're coming up on our 25th wedding anniversary this June. I have five children, they range in age from 20 down to nine. I have three boys first and then my two daughters. We live in Vienna, Virginia and go to Our Lady of Good Counsel Church and school. [00:11:00] I have an eighth grader in Our Lady of Good Counsel. Just a quick thing to thank you for that mass this week that you said for the school children, and especially pointed out the eighth grader. She was thrilled.

Bishop Burbidge: That's great to hear. I was so honored to do that. Congratulations to you and your husband in your anniversary. Thanks for your faithful witness to married love, and for the gift of family life, and your support of Catholic [00:11:30] education, we're so grateful to you. How's your family holding up during the coronavirus? Any best practices that you might want to share with our listeners?

Teresa Paquette: There are a couple of things that really have stood out for our family. We are all in different directions in the past five years. We have college, two different high

schools, and then a grade school. My husband works a lot, and I'm home and helping Our Lady of Good Counsel or Paul VI whenever I can.

Teresa Paquette: [00:12:00] I think that prayer has entered our family in a way that it hasn't in a few years in terms of us being actually physically together to pray. We've always kind of tried to emphasize that, but now we spend actually time because we have time, all seven of us together outside in the backyard saying the rosary, and sometimes the neighbor will even join in over the fence.

Bishop Burbidge: Wow, that's beautiful.

Teresa Paquette: I mean that certainly is not something we have [00:12:30] had time to do. I will say the rosary in the car usually while I'm driving someone on our way to a practice.

Bishop Burbidge: Right.

Teresa Paquette: For me to have had the opportunity to slow down with my children and visit with them in both a spiritual way and a social way, and just have them living in this house altogether and not really able to escape, for better word, has been really a blessing for me. I'm very, very sorry that it comes under the circumstances that it does, but I don't think [00:13:00] families in our country who get this opportunity very often to be together.

Teresa Paquette: For those of us who are able to be together, we're very grateful to the people who are out there working and keeping us safe so that we can do this, because this is a luxury to be able to be home together. My husband does go to work during the day, and he works at Inova Hospital at Fairfax, but even though he goes off during the day, we are all together for dinners, and that hasn't happened in years either [00:13:30] since they were little. It had many blessings to our family in that sense.

Bishop Burbidge: That's wonderful. Like you said, we owe so much thanks to your husband and other people working in hospitals and healthcare facilities, especially at a time like this. It's beautiful that you and your family... We know that God is always in our midst, and even in these trying times, there's blessings to behold. It's so wonderful to hear how you are as a family experiencing this quality time [00:14:00] together, this prayerful time together.

Bishop Burbidge: Like you said, probably certainly under such sad and unfortunate situations, but time does not come, this kind of quality time together, it just has not been part of a family life in our busy, demanding, hectic world. To embrace that as a blessing is just a great example. Thanks so much for that.

Teresa Paquette: Thank you. Also, I have to thank you, and Our Lady of Good Counsel, and [00:14:30] the high school St. Paul VI and [inaudible 00:14:34], my other son

goes for giving us the tools to pray and to watch mass and do all those things together.

Bishop Burbidge: Right. It really reminds us of the partnership. It's like the parents are the first teachers, we know that, of their children in ways of faith especially. We're partners, we help and support each other in the education formation of God's [00:15:00] children. It reminds us of that partnership we're so blessed to have. Thanks so much, Teresa.

Bishop Burbidge: Frank, it's your senior year. As your mom mentioned, I spoke to our eighth graders the other day at mass. If it's your graduation year, this impacts our graduates in a significant way. How has this impacted you, the pandemic, especially your senior year in high school?

Frank Paquette: [00:15:30] Both. It's definitely not going to look the same as we expected it, that's for sure. The biggest thing that I've seen is it's so crazy how quickly things that we can't even imagine happening become a reality. Like if you had said to me two months ago like, "Due to this coronavirus, we wouldn't be graduating, or having senior prom, or doing any of the normal traditional things that seniors in high school do," [00:16:00] I wouldn't have believed you.

Frank Paquette: Now that it's a reality, the only thing that we can really do from our standpoint is work with what we have in this end. What I've seen is there are a lot of people that are really bummed out about it and a lot of people that have kind of lost hope as seniors, like upset at all these expectations that they had and things like that. I consider myself very blessed and very lucky because [00:16:30] I'm right now trusting my school a lot and they've been really hard at work trying to make it so that this isn't just some forgettable experience.

Frank Paquette: Our school in particular I think has been trying to see what they can do to make it a special experience for us as seniors. This is something that we won't be trying to forget, it'll be a memory that we want to hold on to. Just from the other day when we went to go pick up our caps and gowns that we had ordered from the school, [00:17:00] all the teachers were lined up and there were balloons out, it was like a little celebration there.

Frank Paquette: Everything that they're doing, they know that they have this kind of responsibility, not necessarily to make us happier to do anything like that but... the care that they have for us, they don't want to see us miss out on something like this, and they're trying their best to make it a special experience.

Bishop Burbidge: That is so [00:17:30] wonderful, it says so much about our Catholic educators. Thanks for sharing that. Like you said, Frank, that even in this critical time, very different than what you thought your senior year will be, God is giving you memories, memories that you'll embrace and keep. We are grateful for all those who are making that possible. What do you think you will miss the most about? I love all of our going to all of our Catholic schools [00:18:00] and always have a

great visit going to Paul VI, what do you think you're going to miss most about it?

Frank Paquette: That's a good question, Bishop Burbidge. I would have to say just the people, and like you said, this is the way that our Catholic schools are in this diocese, the teachers and staff is something that I've seen as an irreplaceable benefit to, at least Paul VI, and I'm sure all Catholic [00:18:30] schools here. Just the teachers and the staff that they're so loving and caring, and they really want what's best for us.

Frank Paquette: I'm sure you saw it when you were just walking around that everyone is so... They're such a tight community and everyone is happy to be there, because the people running the school want us to be there and they are excited every day to be able to teach us. Just the teachers and the relationships that I've been able to form with them.

Frank Paquette: Also my [00:19:00] friends and my peers in class and stuff like that. It's something that I'm definitely going to miss having those relationships, and people that I can go to for advice and I'll look up to and things like that.

Bishop Burbidge: Yeah. As you said, Frank, it is so evident from the moment you walk in the building to see that kind of rapport, and care, and love, and concern for each other. As you mentioned too, and it kind of leads me to my next question is, to see that the Catholic educators, the joy they have [00:19:30] in their vocation, in being called to participate daily in the faith formation and education of students. That's what God calls us to do, to be happy and living out our vocation using our gifts and talents for His purposes and for His glory. You are a very gifted and talented young man. What's your future hold? Where will you be this time next year? What do you hope to study?

Frank Paquette: That is [00:20:00] the question right now, Bishop Burbidge. As you know, I was looking for your advice too about pursuing the university of Notre Dame for next year. Believe it or not, I got off the waiting list a couple of days ago which I'm very excited about. We're trying to make that decision right now based on visiting and things that, which is hard thing to do now for I'm sure many seniors have witnessed. The college [00:20:30] decision-making process has been kind of flipped on its head.

Bishop Burbidge: Yeah, that's true.

Frank Paquette: As far as visiting schools, you can't really do anymore unless you want to visit an empty campus. Things like taking a gap year whether or not we're going to be back in class next year. There's definitely a lot of uncertainty surrounding it because of that. Right now I'm just kind of trusting that there's a plan for me. It's hard sometimes to see where that [00:21:00] plan is going to be leading me, but I'm just keeping an open mind and seeing how things progress because we don't really know with the COVID situation how things are going day to day.

- Bishop Burbidge: Right? That a great approach. No doubt, Frank, the Lord will lead you where He needs you to be. That's a great trust and a great way to approach that. You recently completed a very interesting Eagle Scout project. Can you tell [00:21:30] me a little bit about that?
- Frank Paquette: Yes, I'd love to. The October of 2018 was when I started it, and it ended up being an eight-month long project. The goal of that was to construct these outdoor stations of the cross behind my parish, behind Our Lady of Good Counsel in Vienna. It was just like each one was just a little post with a shrine on it. It's in the back, [00:22:00] more secluded area.
- Frank Paquette: At the time I was a 16-year-old and trying to figure out also my way through high school and things that. It was just such a journey for me to complete it because... it was like construction, it was people management, it was budget management, everything like that. That's another Testament to the organization of Boy Scouts. [00:22:30] It was just like the journey I knew from the beginning would be a hard one, but I knew that I wanted to make it worthwhile.
- Frank Paquette: The reason I chose decisions across is because I actually just wanted to give to that parish, because I had gone to school there from kindergarten to eighth grade, I'm an altar server there. That parish and that school is like my second home basically. I knew that I wanted to give back to that, so I just [00:23:00] reached out to the liturgy director and asked him like what projects he need and he suggested that.
- Frank Paquette: The amazing thing is, that I never could have guessed what good will come out of it later through this virus, because the virus struck at such an interesting time in our liturgical year through Lent and through the Easter season. Just because it's such a time in the year where normally everyone [00:23:30] is coming together around these like the Holy Week and these amazing liturgies and things that we have. It's such an interesting thing that the Easter Vigil mass was a live stream this year.
- Bishop Burbidge: Right.
- Frank Paquette: Little things like that that changed because of the coronavirus made a big difference, and things like how much our community is thirsting for the Eucharist and things like that.
- Frank Paquette: Normally, every Friday our parish has a stations of the cross thing [00:24:00] like in the church, like a ceremony. It's different every year, sometimes every week, and sometimes we have silhouette, sometimes we have different bands come and play. Since we couldn't do those anymore, I noticed a lot of people were turning to those outdoor stations of the cross that I built, because throughout Lent, everyone's going through their own struggles especially at this time.

Frank Paquette: It just gave them a safe way where they can observe social distancing [00:24:30] outside in a secluded area and just really reflect on the cross, and the passion, and things like that that were important during Lent that otherwise... That experience was kind of have been left out in a way.

Bishop Burbidge: It must be such a blessing for you to see how God use your gifts, your talents and your project to help His people during this time. I can't [00:25:00] imagine what that made you feel like to see people having that opportunity to make the stations of the cross which is such a powerful devotion as you said, but they were able to do it outside because of your project. It's amazing how God uses what we offer Him, isn't it, to help his people, and I'm sure your project has been a great inspiration and helped so many, Frank. Thanks so much for sharing that, I really appreciate it.

Frank Paquette: Thank you.

Bishop Burbidge: Teresa, [00:25:30] can I just ask you one more question? Again, wishing you and your husband many blessings for your anniversary. As you know, some of our engaged couples had had to postpone their weddings through to the coronavirus shut down and they're rescheduling it at a later time. Any advice you have for them as they had to adjust and await the day of their marriage?

Teresa Paquette: What a difficult thing for them. It's hard enough [00:26:00] waiting to be together and to be married during your engagement, and it can be very exciting and very full of anticipation. But to have that wait and delayed even more because you've chosen to... I don't know if some parishes are allowing people to marry just the priests, and the couple and a witness.

Bishop Burbidge: We are, yes.

Teresa Paquette: Yeah. I think that that waiting could be, if you choose that you really want your community with you or your family with you, [00:26:30] and you do decide to put it off, that waiting would be probably relatively excruciating. I've been thinking about that question and about what young people or people who are engaged have to deal with, I think the only thing I can think of is actually quoting you more so, and that is through prayer, and sacrifice, and fasting, and doing for others is the only way to pass the time until you can be together.

Teresa Paquette: It's a pretty good opportunity under bad circumstances [00:27:00] to build up your own [inaudible 00:27:02] and to try and really focus on what your [inaudible 00:27:05] life together is going to be like, because you're not going to really get this kind of time again in your life probably until you're older to really reflect and slow down and think about that.

Teresa Paquette: By doing good works in your community, and I know you can't go out and do them, but whether it's giving money to an organization, [00:27:30] or trying to do meal packs for the land center, OLGC parish has so many opportunities that

they've given us to do. I think if you were single and you were waiting to get married, if you could do some of those things, that'll pass the time and it'll make you feel good about yourself and allow you to give more to your future spouse.

Bishop Burbidge: That's great, that really is. Thank you for sharing that. I'm sure our married couples who are listening or preparing for marriage would really appreciate that advice.

Bishop Burbidge: [00:28:00] Just for our listeners, our churches have remained open throughout this. Our churches are, we are celebrating confessions with the social distancing. There have been baptisms with the restrictions of no more 10 people. Same with weddings, some couples have said, "Well, we still want to have it on the same day" and there's no more than 10 people there. Many are rescheduling, so I think your advice is very, very helpful there.

Bishop Burbidge: Teresa, thanks so much for sharing that. Frank, [00:28:30] thanks for being a part of this podcast. I wish you, Frank, and all your classmates in all of our high schools, I congratulate you. Graduating from our high school is a significant accomplishment. Our high schools are strong in education, and if you successfully complete those requirements that means you've worked hard. It means you've persevered, you've been dedicated. So congratulations to all our graduates [00:29:00] and I wish you much happiness.

Bishop Burbidge: I'm going to be doing a, participating in your virtual graduations with a message to share with graduates. If I could just say to all of you, please be proud of your school, please be proud of your Catholic faith and take all those things that you've learned at Paul VI or whatever high school, Catholic high school and grade school you've been to, all those lessons you've learned.

Bishop Burbidge: It's been for a purpose, is that you will take them and that faith conviction [00:29:30] to the next stage in your life. At that next stage, those faith, those morals, those convictions may be challenged, so you're going to have to stay strong and stay close to the Lord in your prayer so you could be that witness that he so desperately needs in whatever campuses or whatever places the Lord will send you next. Congratulations, Frank, to you and your classmates.

Frank Paquette: [00:30:00] Thank you so much Bishop Burbidge, that means a lot especially from you. It's been an honor to just be a part of this podcast, also just to have these resources that you've been giving out and just being able to kind of get to know you over the years.

Bishop Burbidge: Well, see, I really appreciate that. Frank, Theresa, thank you so much and I ask God's blessing upon your family. Thanks for being such a great witness to us. God bless.

Teresa Paquette: Thank you.

- Bishop Burbidge: All right.
- Billy Atwell: [00:30:30] That was something special.
- Bishop Burbidge: Really, very, very special.
- Billy Atwell: What a beautiful witness and what a great family.
- Bishop Burbidge: Frank is such a fine young man, and so many of our young men and women that I've meet in our high schools reflect those same beautiful qualities. We're so blessed with the young people in our schools, in our church, and no doubt they are fruits of good Holy families and great parents who share so much with their children. [00:31:00] Frank and Teresa is reflective of so many of our young people and families here in our wonderful diocese.
- Billy Atwell: Absolutely. We have time for a couple of questions. The first is, in all the confirmations you have done in Arlington, what is the most unique saints name that you've seen used and what's the most popular?
- Bishop Burbidge: The most popular ones are easy. That's an easy question. It's Cecilia for the girls usually, and Sebastian for the boys.
- Billy Atwell: Really?
- Bishop Burbidge: Yeah. I always say to them afterwards, "So, your confirmation name is Cecilia, [00:31:30] I guess you're a musician, or actress or singer," of course Cecilia is the patron of music and all. Sebastian is the patron of athletes, so a lot of our athletes. Cecilia and Sebastian make their way to the confirmation.
- Bishop Burbidge: Yeah, I mean sometimes I do hear a Saint's name, I can't think right off the top of my head. There are some times after a confirmation I have [00:32:00] to honestly go up to the newly confirmed and say, "I don't know about your saint, can you tell me something about him or her?" I've heard of the name, but I didn't know much about St. Genesius of Rome that someone took, St. Genesius of Rome. I found out he was an actor or comedian, a playwright, and most importantly a martyr.
- Billy Atwell: Oh wow.
- Bishop Burbidge: Died for the faith in the year 300. Apollonia was a name that [00:32:30] I did not hear before. St. Apollonia who would actually was... the student was telling me was, as a young was, I think tested in faith and actually jumped in a fire rather than to renounce her faith. The young person was encouraged by that example. I really do love learning about the reasons why our young people choose [00:33:00] a saint for their confirmation name and the qualities that they hope to imitate in living out their own lives.

- Billy Atwell: I remember when I was getting confirmed my dad gave me a book of saint names, there's like short biographies on them, and he said, "Why don't you figure it out." I was going to just use St. William because my name is William, and I wasn't a very creative teenager. At first I saw this as kind of a tour, but as I dug into these biography, I was stunned by some of these witnesses, so I ended up going with St. Ignatius of Antioch.
- Billy Atwell: [00:33:30] I would have never thought that that would have been a powerful exercise, but what a great exercise it was, it showed me, one, how good I have it that I'm not in a position to have to be martyred. Like you're saying, some of them threw themselves into a fire. [inaudible 00:33:43] how blessed I am, but do I have that character and conviction in my faith to do it? It was a great question as a young person to ask yourself.
- Bishop Burbidge: Exactly. Exactly.
- Billy Atwell: Very good. All right. The next question is, while we are all attuned to the plight of lay people during this crisis, we are curious how our priests are fairing. They're normally so busy managing churches and schools. [00:34:00] Are they finding themselves as less or more busy these days?
- Bishop Burbidge: It's funny. I talk weekly with the bishops of our province and region, in fact, we do every Friday at 9:30. We see how we are all handling this and what are some of the best practices so it's been very helpful. I've been talking to our priests also and they're saying the same thing the bishops have been saying.
- Bishop Burbidge: We feel in many ways, especially during the day is as busy [00:34:30] as ever because there's so many ways to stay, continue to stay connected spiritually and passively with our people. It's involving some time, and same at nights, having virtual meetings with couples getting married, and even youth groups and faith formation. The physical presence is not there, but most of our priests are saying the same as on the experiencing. It feels equally as busy, but obviously there's, with some events taken off your calendar, [00:35:00] there is a little bit more time.
- Bishop Burbidge: One of the things that is really, really beautiful to know, that our priests are saying the same thing, almost Teresa was saying about her family, that they're spending... the priests are spending more time together praying, spending more time together eating together. They're using a time to kind of build up that priestly fraternity, to have quality time that sometimes in normal state of life we do not have. They were approaching it as many [00:35:30] of our families who are... as a family blessing.
- Bishop Burbidge: I have to be very careful. I live next door to the cathedral rectory here where there's four priests, and a couple of them are a tremendous cooks both for dinner and dessert. I say, "If we don't get back to normal soon, I'm going to be

like 25 pounds heavier, people aren't going to recognize me." It's great for me also to have that priestly fraternity with some brother priests.

Billy Atwell: It seems like a lot of obligations [00:36:00] are just been replaced with something else.

Bishop Burbidge: Yeah.

Billy Atwell: Bishop, any final thoughts, and if you would send us off with your blessing.

Bishop Burbidge: Just that this weekend we will be celebrating Mother's Day, and I would like to extend my prayerful best wishes to all of our mothers. Thank you for the beautiful witness and example you give to your families and to your children. Thank you for your sacrifices and for the way you live out your vocation, what a great gift you are to those who love you.

Bishop Burbidge: I know [00:36:30] that many of us, myself included, our mothers are with the Lord in heaven, and we certainly miss them especially on a day like this, but we know that they are dear to us, and in our hearts, and close to us, and we certainly pray for their eternal happiness and peace being forever grateful for all that they have taught us. Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers who are listening. Together, let's keep praying for each other, everyone. Let's stay strong in faith and joyful in hope so that together we [00:37:00] may walk humbly with our God.

Bishop Burbidge: Thank you for listening to the Walk Humbly Podcast. Make sure you check out more episodes on iTunes, Google Play, Stitcher, and Spotify. You can follow me on Twitter @BishopBurbidge where I offer gospel reflections each morning and share photos and updates of what is going on in the Diocese of Arlington. Stay up to date with news, event information and inspirational content by subscribing to our e-newsletter at arlingtondiocese.org.