

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme for this year's Bishop's Lenten Appeal is shared with the theme for this preparatory year of the diocesan Golden Jubilee: *Do this in remembrance of me*. These words of Our Lord focus us on the Eucharist. In this most Holy Sacrament, Christ is present among us, offering us His very Body and Blood. Nourished by these redeeming gifts, we are then sent forth to bear fruit for the salvation of the world.

As the effects of the pandemic continue to linger, the need to assist and support others remains constant. I respectfully ask that, if your circumstances allow, you prayerfully consider a sacrificial pledge to this important appeal. With your support of the BLA, we will continue to make visible the sacrificial love of Our Lord Jesus to those throughout our diocese and beyond.

I am grateful to all of you who have given in the past to this appeal. In a few moments, your pastor will guide you through the pledging process.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. Through the intercession of Mary our Mother, may Our Lord Jesus bless you abundantly now and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge

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Bishop of Arlington