



Announcement by Bishop Burbidge: Cathedral Renovations

February 13, 2022

Dear Parishioners:

It is a privilege to share with you some exciting news about plans for St. Thomas More Cathedral. As you know, it is the “Mother Church,” which all the faithful in the Diocese of Arlington can call “home.” I am so grateful to Fr. Posey, all the priests assigned here, and the entire Cathedral community for your graciousness in welcoming so many individuals from throughout our diocese to the Cathedral for significant diocesan celebrations each year, including Ordinations to the Priesthood and Diaconate, the Chrism Mass, the annual Wedding Anniversary Mass, and so many more.

As you know, we are preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Arlington in 2024. In anticipation of that special occasion, and as I announced to your Pastoral and Finance Councils on Wednesday evening, I plan to renovate the interior and exterior of our cathedral, *without any financial cost to the parish community*. I will assume the responsibility for raising the necessary funds, and the extent of the renovations will remain commensurate with the donations given.

A major change in the interior will be the moving of the tabernacle to the center of the sanctuary, reflecting the Eucharist is at the heart of all that we do as a diocese and parish. Exterior changes will make the Cathedral more visible and help those who drive by to recognize a sacred and holy structure.

Fr. Posey and some other priests from our diocese are serving on a committee to assist me with the designs and renovations. At this time, we are awaiting studies that will convey the cost, scope, and timeline and you will be kept posted on a frequent basis. Along with Fr. Posey, members of my diocesan team will serve as my delegates to your parish councils.

I understand that you have been through previous renovations and this newest one will also require your patience, flexibility, and endurance, which I respectfully ask of all of you. Most especially, I request your prayers for the success of this endeavor, which we will carry out for the glory of God and entrust to his divine assistance and the intercession of Mary our Mother and Saint Thomas More.

Again, Fr. Posey and members of my staff will keep you updated and posted as more specific details surface and will continue to do so throughout this process. May we embark on this journey united as a parish and diocesan family, and in the spirit of joyful hope and anticipation as we prepare for the Golden Jubilee of the Diocese of Arlington. Thank you and God bless you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington