



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2026



Letter from Bishop Burbidge to the Faithful:

Since the release of the diocesan Strategic Plan, the feedback from our clergy, religious and lay faithful has been supportive and enthusiastic. Many have asked for regular updates.

Following the announcement of the strategic pillars and the goals, we established working groups to offer consultation and expertise, each dedicated to a specific pillar. In total, 90 clergy, religious and lay faithful participated. As a result of their hard work, which went on for more than a year, 23 initiatives were developed to support the strategic pillars and accomplish the goals. The 23 initiatives that follow span all the pillars, and many of them address multiple pillars. For each initiative, I will select at least one leader from the clergy or the laity to lead and execute the initiative, along with those asked to support the leader's work.

These initiatives are only some of what we hope to accomplish for Our Lord with the Strategic Plan through 2026. I have maintained

from the beginning of this effort that I see this as a diocesan Strategic Plan that is implemented throughout our diocese and at all parishes, schools and communities.

I thank you in advance for your support, your encouragement and your continued prayers. Through the intercession of Mary Our Mother and Saint Joseph, and with the grace of God, may this Strategic Plan be a blessing to the Diocese of Arlington.

Sincerely in Christ,



Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

STRATEGIC PILLARS

REVITALIZE
EVANGELIZATION
AND
FAITH FORMATION



We will empower parishes to foster a culture of encounter that joyfully attracts people to the Life of Christ and the beauty of his Church.

CULTIVATE
AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
IN CHRIST



We will inspire and form parishioners to follow Jesus and the teachings of his Church so they actively engage in her apostolic mission.

INVIGORATE
CATHOLIC
EDUCATION
FOR ALL



We will nurture students spiritually, intellectually and humanly so they can go out into the culture and positively transform it for the glory of God.

STRENGTHEN
PARISH
AND
FAMILY LIFE



We will build vibrant parish communities where people are welcomed and moved to engage in the sacramental and communal life of the Church.

FOSTER ONE
COMMUNION
OF MANY
CULTURES



We will foster understanding, respect and appreciation for the different cultural expressions of Catholicism so as to live as the one Body of Christ.

DEEPEN OUR
COMMITMENT TO
CHARITABLE
WORKS



We will proclaim the Lord's call to serve the poor so all are inspired to participate in the Works of Mercy.



Research and evaluate Catholic-based care for seniors in the Diocese

1. Promote best practices among priests for evangelization and discipleship

To leverage effective approaches deliberately among priests to strengthen evangelization and discipleship in all parishes.



2. Sponsor the expansion of successful evangelical programs in every parish

To promote and support specific evangelical programs that have proven effective in attracting persons to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.



3. Strengthen greeters and welcoming programs at every parish

To promote welcoming programs at every parish and to share best practices so that every person's experience at a parish is joyful and encouraging.



4. Encourage parishes to promote sacramentals, virtues and saints routinely

To promote and share in every parish the treasure of devotions that are available in our Church to deepen one's love of Christ.



5. Initiate a feasibility study at San Damiano to expand its facilities and increase retreat opportunities for all

To make San Damiano Spiritual Life Center better known and more accessible to parishioners so that their spiritual lives may be deepened.



6. Develop a multimedia teaching series on discipleship, created and delivered by our diocesan priests

To explain and encourage discipleship through the voice and support of our diocesan priests.



7. Hold an annual diocesan service day to unify the faithful in service to others

To promote the importance of Christian service through a unifying event that focuses on the needy and the vulnerable in our diocese.



8. Initiate a feasibility study to create a diocesan Vocational/Technical School

To broaden access to Catholic education by including career and technical programs in our school system.



9. Reshape parish youth groups around various interests, smaller gatherings and more mentorship

To reshape youth programs to be more diverse in their activities and teaching approaches, and to provide smaller gatherings that enable greater discipleship.



10. Increase access to diocesan youth groups and religious education for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities

To adapt our religious education and youth programs to make them more accessible to our brothers and sisters in Christ with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



11. Encourage and equip pastors to develop staffs spiritually and in evangelization approaches

To help parish and school staffs deepen their prayer lives and understanding of evangelization so they are effective in their service to the Church.



12. Substantially increase diocesan tuition assistance

To grow our diocesan tuition assistance program in order to make Catholic education in our diocese more affordable and accessible to all the faithful.



**REVITALIZE
EVANGELIZATION
AND FAITH FORMATION**



**CULTIVATE AUTHENTIC
DISCIPLESHIP
IN CHRIST**



**INVIGORATE
CATHOLIC EDUCATION
FOR ALL**

13. Deploy special education trainers in our Catholic schools to build effective Options Programs in every school

To provide training in approaches and techniques that make it possible for teachers to include students with intellectual and learning disabilities in their classrooms.



14. Identify promising approaches for attracting and retaining teachers in our schools

To engage priests, faculty, teachers and parents from across the Diocese to develop approaches that attract and retain qualified and faith-filled teachers.



15. Identify, promote and support effective small-group discipleship programs in every parish

To promote small groups as a critical component of helping parishioners grow in love of Christ and others.



16. Provide resources and support regarding gender dysphoria to parishioners

To provide educational materials, counseling and support groups that respond to today's concerns about gender dysphoria.



17. Promote diocesan-wide engagements to identify opportunities to connect parish and school communities

To strengthen the engagement between the families in parishes and schools that results in greater mutual support.



18. Establish an advisory group for those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide perspectives on life in our Church

To create a regular forum for family members of children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to share their ideas and concerns with diocesan leaders.



19. Execute a unified and coordinated diocesan campaign to promote sacramental marriage

To unify the priests and the faithful of the Diocese in a campaign of prayer, communication and commitment to sacramental marriage as a beautiful witness in today's culture.



20. Identify and increase resources for Catholic-based mental health counseling

To support and promote resources in the Diocese, in our parishes and within Catholic Charities that assist those dealing with mental health challenges.



21. Research and evaluate Catholic-based care for seniors in the Diocese

To identify and support solutions for seniors in our diocese who need daily care and graduated living arrangements such as independent-living, assisted-living and nursing care.



22. Develop partnerships for Catholic-based palliative and hospice care in the Diocese

To identify partners that are faithful to the teachings of the Catholic Church and to connect them with our parishes as a resource.



23. Implement sustainability projects at the diocesan-level, at parishes and at schools for care of creation

To advance conservation and sustainability in our diocese, parishes and schools to demonstrate stewardship of God's creation.



Strengthen greeters and welcoming programs at every parish



**STRENGTHEN
PARISH
AND FAMILY LIFE**



**FOSTER ONE
COMMUNION
OF MANY CULTURES**



**DEEPEN OUR
COMMITMENT TO
CHARITABLE WORKS**



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON STRATEGIC PLAN

2022-2026



VISION

The Catholic Diocese of Arlington will glorify God by living the Gospel of Jesus Christ through reverent worship, loving evangelization and committed charity to all.

MISSION

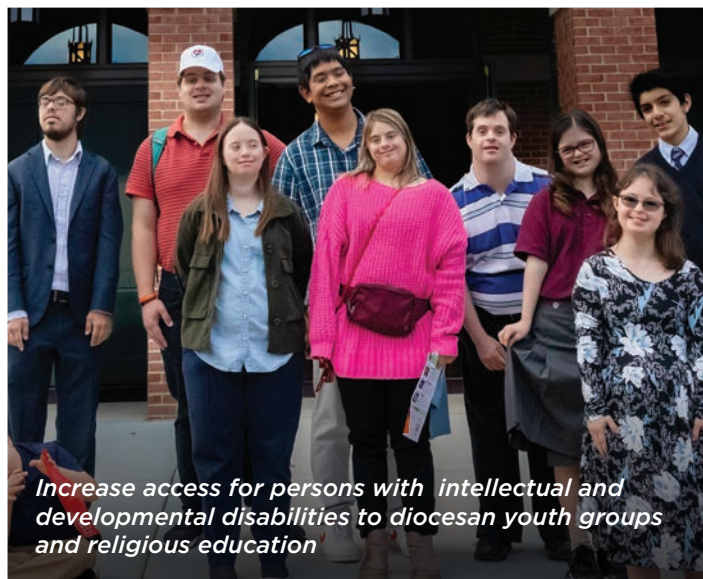
In communion with the universal Church, we strive to be disciples of Jesus Christ by proclaiming the Kingdom of God in both Word and Sacrament throughout our diocese, and by working together in the service of charity and mercy so that all may know the joy of the Gospel.



Promote diocesan-wide engagements to identify opportunities to connect parish and school communities



Promote best practices among priests for evangelization and discipleship



Increase access for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities to diocesan youth groups and religious education



Develop a multimedia teaching series on discipleship, created and delivered by our diocesan priests



Substantially increase diocesan tuition assistance



Execute a unified and coordinated diocesan campaign to promote sacramental marriage

To find out more about the diocese's Strategic Plan, scan the QR code or visit our website:
www.arlingtondiocese.org/strategic-plan

