

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([00:00](#)):

This is Bishop Michael Burbidge, and you are listening to the Walk Humbly podcast.

Billy Atwell ([00:08](#)):

All right. Welcome to the Walk Humbly podcast. We are on location at the Turner Farm in Great Falls, Virginia. I'm Billy Atwell, Chief Communications Officer for the diocese and your co-host for this live edition of the podcast. If you haven't already, please rate this podcast. Write a review on it wherever you're listening. And we are also now on Spotify, so heads up on that. You can sign up for our e-newsletter at arlingtondiocese.org/email. You can follow Bishop Burbidge on Twitter @bishopburbidge, where every morning you can get a gospel reflection of that day. You can also follow the diocese on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Send your questions for the Bishop that are answered on this podcast at email us: info@arlingtondiocese.org.

Billy Atwell ([00:49](#)):

So ladies and gentlemen, again, we are live here at WorkCamp 2020. I welcome your host, Bishop Burbidge. Bishop, how are you doing?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([00:54](#)):

I'm doing well, Billy. Thank you so much. It's great to be with our listeners and viewers, but also great to be with Kevin Bohli from our Youth and Young Adult Office, and also with these wonderful young people who are joining the podcast today and part of the WorkCamp this week. So a little bit more exciting than being in the studio.

Billy Atwell ([01:13](#)):

It's a little bit, yeah, the studio is fun, but this is better I've got to say. So you started out your day a little differently, you started out with a couple of parish visits to visit some of the sites that are outside of here at Turner Farm. Talk about what you witnessed and what you saw.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([01:25](#)):

Well, of course we know like one of the highlights of the WorkCamp experience is that these young people who have so many choices on how they might spend their time, have dedicated a week to help others, to improve the conditions where people are living or even beautiful places that need to be improved upon to reflect God's creation. And so the sites that I visited this morning, being here at the farm and seeing young people from around our diocese working, I mean, this is not just a camp where you don't work hard. They work hard and to see their work and they see the joy that they find in helping others and to see the fact that they're doing it together. And of course with WorkCamp it's always the spiritual component that's so important also.

Billy Atwell ([02:17](#)):

That's right. And speaking of that, last night you had adoration at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. What was that like, and what was your message for those that were there?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([02:24](#)):

Well it's very powerful because our young people are working all day and at the end of the day to have a night like we did last night to give them the time of just being quiet and being still with the Lord, which is

not common in all of our lives, they had the opportunity just to rest in the Lord. And so I encourage them during the Holy Hour to entrust their work to the Lord, to trust any of the concerns of these past couple of months that may have been weighing them down, knowing that he is so near and wants to hear from them.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([03:03](#)):

And then I basically encouraged our students during the Holy Hour last night to say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." Because whenever we give ourselves to the Lord, he has a specific and a unique message he wants to share with each one of us into our hearts. And so I encouraged the students above all else just to be still in the Lord's presence and come away with the message that he wanted you to hear.

Billy Atwell ([03:31](#)):

I think if you were to ask the average person would adoration be one of the highlights for a young person's camp, they would say probably not. But when you visited those parish sites you asked each group that you saw, what did you think? And they brightened up. And it wasn't just because you were there, they would truly respond and said that was special. There was something about that they really enjoyed.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([03:50](#)):

Yeah. And they listened to the speaker, they were able to, one of the speakers we had gave a very beautiful message about God's mercy and God's love. And some of the young people today were quoting. So obviously he was used to touch their hearts and yeah.

Billy Atwell ([04:07](#)):

Absolutely. So we've got our first guest for the podcast is Kevin Bohli. Kevin, welcome to the podcast.

Kevin Bohli ([04:13](#)):

Thank you. Thanks for the invitation. Thank you Bishop for inviting me and for coming out live to WorkCamp.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([04:17](#)):

Well it's great to have you here, Kevin, you know how proud I am of you and every one of your team for making WorkCamp for all these years an experience for our young people, including this year with this unique circumstances. There may be some listeners who are not familiar with WorkCamp and it's history. So maybe you could just give us just a little background on that.

Kevin Bohli ([04:37](#)):

Sure. So WorkCamp has been happening in the diocese since roughly 1992, '93, and every year we pick a location in the diocese to go out and repair homes. And so parishes from all over the diocese come together and typically we're at a big public school and we call that home base and we live there and then we'd go out from there to serve. But because this year with all the COVID concerns, obviously we weren't able to do that. So we rebooted WorkCamp, so actually this is called WorkCamp Reboot with the idea that it's parish based this year. And one of the great things is that WorkCamp is always supposed to be about young people serving at home. That's why we do it in our own diocese, but these

young people are truly serving out of their own parishes and serving right here in their own communities.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([05:16](#)):

Yeah we don't have to look far, do we to see where the need is, right in our own backyard. So what were the challenges of this year's WorkCamp for you and your team, there must have been many?

Kevin Bohli ([05:27](#)):

Yeah. So just figuring out how to make it still feel like a diocesan event. So we did a lot of programming and each evening in addition to them serving during the day, we all get together online, live streaming plus Zooming. So all the young people have the opportunity to participate in a common message, we gave out resources so that they all started the week with the same puzzle, the same challenge that they all had to do together. We're doing inner parish challenges and they're all performing different activities during the week to earn points to have bragging rights at the end of the week. But certainly the technology is part of the challenge.

Kevin Bohli ([06:02](#)):

Really a lot of the challenge falls on the parishes this year, because typically they just show up to WorkCamp and we've done a lot of the work for them. This year the workload transferred to them. So here we are at a farm where they brought in the tent, they brought in all the resources, the food, the Mass. And so a lot of it goes to folks like Kevin Flores for putting this whole thing together here.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([06:20](#)):

And you have visited some of the sites too so far this week. What are you learning? What are you hearing?

Kevin Bohli ([06:27](#)):

Oh, it's amazing how much, if you look at the pictures, it still looks like WorkCamp. It still feels like WorkCamp. I mean, the last site we were on we got to meet with the resident and hear some of her story. So for a lot of people the only difference is they're sleeping at home. They're not sleeping at a school. So much of this has been a good experience for them. So we're really excited that the parish has all jumped on board. We have 38 parishes with 1200 people all participating for this week.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([06:55](#)):

That's incredible. It really is. I know you've devoted most of your life in helping young people and young adults. If I could ask you in a personal way, what does WorkCamp mean to you?

Kevin Bohli ([07:08](#)):

Yeah, so for me personally, the whole reason I'm doing this is because I was invited to WorkCamp in 1995 as a contractor. And that moment, that week, changed my life and really got me listening to what God was calling me to. I was an engineer before that and suddenly I felt like, hey, I can be a mechanical engineer and work on something like WorkCamp and projects, and also share my love of sharing Christ with young people. So it kind of melded my two worlds. So I ended up leaving my engineering job and coming to do this office to this for the diocese.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([07:37](#)):

I usually leave the young people at WorkCamp with a message. You get a chance to speak to them. What's your message to them this year?

Kevin Bohli ([07:44](#)):

Certainly the message this year would be, this was a great experience to discover service right here in your community. You didn't go gather with thousands of other people. It was just here in your community. Actually some of these young people aren't even here gathering. Some people can't even leave their homes and they're still working from home. Some of the parishes the young people are just participating at home. So the message would be, as you can see, "Jesus is alive at home. And there's many ways we can serve in our own houses, serving our parents, serving our neighbors or here in our local community. So stick with it and keep running that race." That's our theme this year, "Keep running the race," of being an active member of this church.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([08:18](#)):

Right. Thank you. This is the last question, Kevin. How have you kept the spiritual component? We talked about the Holy Hour last night, confessions last night. Have there been any other ways the spiritual component has been maintained?

Kevin Bohli ([08:31](#)):

Yeah, so every young person gets a devotional guide and all the adult leaders were trained on what the devotions are for the week. So we started with Sunday with the whole idea that there is a God. And then on Monday, the message is that God loves you. And then Tuesday is sometimes we break that relationship. And so that's why Tuesday night is when we offer confessions. And it builds up towards Thursday, that final message is more of a sending forth of go be a member of this church. And so at lunchtime they gather and they spend an hour, not only eating, but discussing scripture, discussing the theme for the day. Tonight after the evening program, they get into their small groups again. And so they're participating in small groups. Some of them actually go home and participate over Zoom in a small group. So yeah, we're trying to help them to internalize this experience throughout the entire week.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([09:14](#)):

Well, thank you, Kevin. Thanks to everyone in your office, every one of your team for everything you're doing to make, even in a challenging, unique situation, a wonderful experience for all of our young people. I'm really grateful to you, Kevin. Thank you very much.

Kevin Bohli ([09:27](#)):

Thank you. I appreciate it.

Billy Atwell ([09:30](#)):

All right. So thank you, Kevin. It's really an interesting experience and I get to see behind the scenes, all the work that Kevin and his team do and it's quite a monumental effort in a normal year and then with all this great, great work. So Bishop next we've got some of our guests, some of the new folks that are working hard and really making all of this happen, doing all the construction and the gravel and all that.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([09:50](#)):

Sure. Yeah. And again, as I have said to you last night and to the young people, I am inspired by you and I'm edified. And I just want to thank you for your great example and witness. We're kind of spread out here. We're respecting social distancing so we could talk without masks, but I think it might be helpful if we could at first, if we maybe could just ask you all to introduce yourself, what parish you're from, and these are all seniors. Maybe you could tell us where you will be heading in the fall for college. Tripp, you want to begin?

Tripp Spano ([10:26](#)):

Yes, Bishop thank you. So I'm Tripp Spano, I'm from St. Luke and I'll be attending Virginia Tech in the fall.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([10:33](#)):

Okay. Thanks.

Kieran Gowda ([10:36](#)):

I'm Kieran [Gowda 00:00:26:09]. I'm from St. Mark. And I'll be attending Virginia Tech as well in the fall.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([10:40](#)):

Okay, great.

Hannah Burn ([10:43](#)):

Hi, I'm Hannah Burn. I'm from St. Luke's and I'll be attending JMU in the fall.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([10:47](#)):

All right. Great.

Megan Rourke ([10:51](#)):

I'm Megan Rourke. Hi, I am from St. Mark and I'll be attending Fairfield University.

Becca Shudi ([10:58](#)):

I'm Becca [Shudi 00:11:01]. I'm from St. Luke, and I'm going to be at Virginia Tech next year.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([11:02](#)):

All right. So why don't you hold onto the microphone Becca, we'll ask you the first question and anyone else can feel free to join in. Okay? So Becca, what inspired you, especially during some unusual circumstances this year, what motivated you still to come and participate in WorkCamp this year?

Becca Shudi ([11:19](#)):

So this is actually my first time ever coming to WorkCamp.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([11:21](#)):

Oh it's your first time?

Becca Shudi ([11:21](#)):

Yeah. It's something that I've always wanted to do, but I've always been super busy in the summer. So I'd say this whole quarantine thing for me has actually been kind of a blessing because I've been able to participate and do some things that I wouldn't have been able to do otherwise.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([11:34](#)):

Great. Great. Anyone else want to tell me why are you here?

Hannah Burn ([11:38](#)):

Yeah, sure. So this is actually my fourth summer at where camp. So I definitely wanted to finish out all my years at WorkCamp even if the circumstances aren't ideal because WorkCamp has been a really, really great experience for me. And I know that being an experienced WorkCamper, I can definitely hope to make that same experience for the people around me just as good as it was for me.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([11:56](#)):

That is great. That's great. Let's hear from all of you, because I'm very interested in ...

Tripp Spano ([12:02](#)):

So this is my second WorkCamp. And last year WorkCamp changed my life. It was one of the best experiences I've ever had. So obviously I wanted to do it again this year and working out here, not going to a home base with everybody obviously was unfortunate and I was kind of hesitant coming in, but I figured that we're still going to be able to do this. God's still going to have a message. I should come out here and give it all I got.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([12:27](#)):

Oh, that's good Tripp. Thank you so much.

Kieran Gowda ([12:30](#)):

This is also my fourth and each year is a different experience. This one's very different, but the main reason I wanted to come this year is my brother. And I wanted to make sure that he comes all four years hopefully as well.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([12:44](#)):

Set a great example and you could talk from your own experience. That's great. Yeah.

Megan Rourke ([12:51](#)):

This is my third year. I came back because I just love the community here and I still keep in touch with a couple of the people that I've met in the past just in crews. And it's crazy how close you get with people after just four or five days of knowing them. So yeah.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([13:10](#)):

That's great. Thank you so much for sharing that. So we're midweek, right? This is third day three.

Tripp Spano ([13:16](#)):

Yep.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([13:16](#)):

Day three. Has there been any impact or experience that has already influenced you? Like something that has been somewhat of a learning experience or something that has touched you that has happened already throughout this course?

Hannah Burn ([13:37](#)):

Yeah, definitely. Just despite the odd circumstances and only being here for a couple of days, we had adoration last night actually. And one of my favorite parts of WorkCamp is adoration. Just that gym full of people, just in the presence of God being so moved. And I was a little bit hesitant about doing it out here in a tent, on the grass outside with a significantly less amount of people but I was pleasantly surprised that it still moved me in the same way that it has in years past. So yeah, that's definitely something that it was a big pleasant surprise for me that I'm definitely going to take a big note of.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:09](#)):

That is beautiful. Thank you for sharing that. Anyone else?

Tripp Spano ([14:14](#)):

So for me last night, when Steve was talking about the prodigal son and how more of it was a story of a father running to the son instead of a son returning, I've always known that God would always come to me, but it was more of a realization that he's not just walking to me, he's running to me. And it was very comforting to know, especially in these troubling times that even though sometimes my faith might be challenged and it could be on a downward slope that all I have to do is turn back to God and he'll run right back to me and it's very comforting.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([14:52](#)):

That really was a powerful message. It was the first time I heard that kind of imagery used to explain that very familiar gospel story. So I was really, like you Tripp, I was very touched by that story. And that's who God is right. He runs through us to embrace us in love and mercy. Thanks for sharing that.

Tripp Spano ([15:10](#)):

Yes sir. Thank you.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:11](#)):

Anyone else?

Kieran Gowda ([15:15](#)):

Could you repeat the question?

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:16](#)):

Yeah. Was there anything that has happened so far this week that has had an impact on you?

Kieran Gowda ([15:19](#)):

Yeah. I really like using the tools and I feel like being a carpenter, we get to build chairs and stuff like that. And it brings us closer to Jesus because that's some of the skills that he had. We may not be using

the same tools but it's still really meaningful to end up with a finished product that I feel like Jesus could have also done.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([15:40](#)):

That's great. That's a great answer. Yeah. I love that. Yeah. He gives us the tools we need to do his work, right? In many ways, in many ways. Anyone else?

Megan Rourke ([15:54](#)):

Yeah. I like how everyone here has the common, we have it in common that we're all here for God and we're here to do work for our community but also we're trying to strengthen our own relationships with God. So I think that's why we get so close because we have something in common. I didn't know a lot of these people, even from my parish, I knew some of them, but after this ... I think it's nice that this year it's a smaller group. I do really like "normal" WorkCamp, but it is nice that we're getting close with St. Luke's as well.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([16:30](#)):

Right. There's advantage both ways in being part of a larger group or a smaller group, but both remind us of the same reality is that we are all part of something bigger aren't we? We're more than just a parish. We're part of a diocese. We're more than just a diocese. We're part of a universal church. And that's celebrated here in beautiful ways. And thanks for highlighting the spiritual component because this is more than just volunteering hours to work, which is so important, but it's about growing closer to Christ with the help of others and through service. So that's great.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([17:09](#)):

How about your families? Did they have any advice for you as you embarked on WorkCamp in 2020? Because it's certainly different for them. Were they supportive of your idea or did they give you any encouragement that was helpful? I guess they were, you wouldn't be here if they weren't supportive. Right?

Becca Shudi ([17:31](#)):

My mom was really excited for me and actually two of my siblings are here as well, for us to do WorkCamp just because it has been something that our families always kind of bummed that we haven't been able to do. But I'd say just because it's like the way it's set up this year, it was definitely easy for us to get us all signed up and here. And it's kind of nice, because even though I have some of my siblings here, I've been able to meet people from my parish that I didn't know. And from St. Mark's. So it's been kind of awesome.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([17:56](#)):

Yeah. That's great. Thank you everyone. Yes?

Hannah Burn ([18:02](#)):

I'm always very encouraged to go to WorkCamp by my family because I'm number five of six kids in my family and the majority of my older siblings have gone to WorkCamp and actually both my parents and my younger sister are here at WorkCamp. And they've always encouraged me, but I definitely got a

special type of encouragement this year for my dad. Just he's he's been a contractor at WorkCamp, and this is obviously the first time that I got to have him as my contractor for one of the days.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:26](#)):

Oh wow.

Hannah Burn ([18:26](#)):

So just being able to, I don't want to say at WorkCamp with all of them, but it's just a special experience to be able to be on the site and working with him just definitely helped grow our relationship in a special way. And also let him give me some sort of encouragement, just in a different way than what it normally is.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:42](#)):

That's great. I bet you always will remember this too.

Hannah Burn ([18:45](#)):

Oh, for sure. Absolutely.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([18:47](#)):

Yeah. That's great. Well, I have one more question, but I ask the easy question. Billy asks the hard question so I have one more, but maybe we'll let you ask a question also Billy.

Billy Atwell ([19:01](#)):

For someone who didn't come this year, either because of the changes, the disruption, whatever it might be, what would be your encouragement for them next year? Let's say we're in the same circumstances and they're still not sure that they're going to get involved and they're going to do it. What would be your selling point? The elevator speech, as they say, like you only got a couple of minutes. What would be like your way of communicating to them the importance of coming that it's still a special event, it's still some that they're going to get a lot out of. What would you say to them?

Kieran Gowda ([19:33](#)):

I actually had to try and convince my cousin last year to come. And I would still say the same thing. It's even though you have to give up a week, even though you have to come out of your comfort zone, like Kevin Bohli always says, "Lean into it." And I think it's the spiritual experience is so worth it. Especially with adoration and confession I think it gives us an opportunity to see other people our age doing those things. And I think it's really meaningful.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:03](#)):

Thank you. Thanks for sharing that.

Hannah Burn ([20:08](#)):

I'd say like there's no harm in trying it because personally I've never met a person who's come to WorkCamp and not liked it. I'm sure there's one person out there, but I would say that there's really no harm in trying it because if so many people have had life changing experiences, like Tripp said, it changed my life the first time I went. Every single time it's a different experience too. Because you're

with a different crew, different contractors, different adult leaders. And your parish, some people graduate, new people come. So yeah.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([20:45](#)):

That's great. That's great.

Billy Atwell ([20:47](#)):

You make a great point about it being different each year. I've talked to so many people that have done this for many years or contractors that have done it for a decade. I mean, Kevin, you've been doing this for a long time now. There's a reason. There is something unique about each year, it doesn't have to be COVID, it can be something else that makes that year so special and they come back the next year to do it all over again.

Kevin Bohli ([21:05](#)):

It's absolutely right. I mean, as you mentioned, some of these contracts have been coming 10, 15 years and the moment WorkCamp ends, they email us and say "What's the dates for next year?" Because they want to be a part of it. And yeah every year we have a different theme, different speaker, different community, different project, every year it's going to be a different experience.

Billy Atwell ([21:19](#)):

That's very cool. That's great.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([21:23](#)):

Do you have any, now that you have Kevin Bohli sitting right here, do you have any suggestions about from your experience this year or in the years past that we should continue or maybe some new ideas that you would want us to consider?

Kieran Gowda ([21:47](#)):

I always wish WorkCamp was longer. I wish it was a full week, but I understand the challenges in that and I understand.

Kevin Bohli ([21:59](#)):

Yeah, absolutely. And really our challenge is how do we make WorkCamp more than just one week so that when you go home and that's what I'm so excited about this year is some of these projects can carry on next week. And some of these relationships can carry on and the same people can be going to serve. Because some of these projects aren't going to be done over this week. And so the parish can continue to make that happen and you guys can continue to be going to daily mass and praying with one another with the relationships you've built. So that's one of the great things about this year is I do think it will help it to extend to beyond that one week.

Tripp Spano ([22:29](#)):

So for me this year with coronavirus there was a lot of maybe doubt that WorkCamp would be able to happen. And for me, I was also kind of on the fence because I was like, "Oh, I'm not sure if I should go to WorkCamp if it's not going to be the same." But luckily you guys have pulled it off. And now that I'm here, I'm just so thankful that you have. So I would just say that even if next year is the same with

coronavirus, just to do your absolute best to make this happen because this is still an amazing week so far. And I'm so grateful that I was able to come. And so I thank you for you and your team for being able to make this happen.

Billy Atwell ([23:06](#)):

Yeah. Thank you Tripp. And thank you Bishop. Because it was, it was a risk when we started planning this a couple of weeks ago, we knew, well, we might still be completely closed up at that point and thank God we're in phase two and we're able to make these kinds of things happen. So thank you very much.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([23:18](#)):

I think that's a great note to end on. Thank you to end on such a positive message. And some of our leaders out here who are participating as youth ministers, construction leaders, things like that, we can't do it without our volunteers. I want to say a word of thanks to all of you who are here and via live stream for giving of your time to help our young people have this wonderful experience that as you've heard have helped to change and transform their lives. So thanks are owed to so many people throughout our diocese.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([23:54](#)):

And thank you once again. Thanks for being part of the podcast. If Hollywood calls you tomorrow or something like that, you know that you got your start on the Walk Humbly podcast. Thank you everyone.

Billy Atwell ([24:07](#)):

And just a reminder for everybody. So this is coordinated by the Office of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry. If you want to learn more about them, you can check them out on our website: arlingtondiocese.org/youth-ministry. They're also on Facebook at, it's: facebook.com/arlingtonyouthministry. And their Twitter handle is: [arlingtonyouth](https://twitter.com/arlingtonyouth). You can find out about where camp for next year, the other things that they do. Also, if you want to help the poor, you're watching this and you're like, "Wow, I would love to do something for those who are in need." Catholic Charities is always looking for help, go to: ccda.net, to learn more about them.

Billy Atwell ([24:39](#)):

And this office, the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry WorkCamp, it's largely funded by the Bishop's Lenten Appeal. So for all those who have contributed to the BLA know that you've made possible what's happening here. These supplies, these tents, all this work is not free, but you've made that happen. And we're so grateful that you facilitated the stories that we have with these young people because of your generosity. So thank you so much for that.

Billy Atwell ([25:02](#)):

Bishop, any final thoughts and if you'd end us with your blessing.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([25:04](#)):

Yeah, sure. I would just like to maybe just pray. "For our young people and all those participating in WorkCamp, that as they continue this week, God will watch over them and keep them safe and healthy. Take good care of them, bless their work and initiatives. Because everything they're doing is being

carried out for the glory of God and service to others. So dear Lord, I ask you to bless all of our young people and give us the grace that together we may walk humbly with our God."

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([25:34](#)):

Thank you everyone.

Bishop Michael Burbidge ([25:36](#)):

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