



May 25, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We have been living in difficult and trying circumstances these past several months. Please know that you have been in my prayers as you seek to grow in your faith in this time of uncertainty. Even in the midst of a pandemic, I have the responsibility to address the pastoral and clergy personnel needs throughout the Diocese of Arlington. As such, I am writing now to inform you of clergy personnel changes at Queen of Apostles Parish.

Upon consideration of the pastoral and administrative needs of the Diocese of Arlington, and after consultation with my Clergy Personnel Board and the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, I have decided to transfer administration of Queen of Apostles Parish from the community of the Disciples back to the Diocese of Arlington.

Please know that I do not make this decision lightly and would not do so if the needs of parishes and the diocese did not require it. Further, I have great confidence in the two priests that will now serve as Pastor and Parochial Vicar of Queen of Apostles: Father Alex Diaz and Father Joseph Rampino. These two faithful priests will continue and build on the good pastoral work of their predecessors.

The Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary will in turn assume administrative and pastoral responsibility for Our Lady of Angels Parish in Woodbridge. This new assignment to a larger parish enables the Disciples to increase their service in the Diocese of Arlington and at the same time to enhance their community life with a greater number of priests in their house.

I am deeply grateful for the ministry of the Disciples at Queen of Apostles these past seven years. Their dedication to teaching, to Catholic education, and to marriage and family life, have benefitted the parish greatly. Please join me in thanking God for their ministry and in praying for His continued blessings upon them.

Likewise, I ask that you warmly welcome Father Diaz and Father Rampino to Queen of Apostles. Please pray that the Lord bless their ministry abundantly so that your parish continue to grow in Christ.

Dear friends, I know that change of clergy is always difficult for a parish. It is made all the more difficult in our current circumstances. Please know of my gratitude for your understanding, fidelity, and sacrifice.

Through the intercession of Mary, Queen of Apostles, may the Lord bless you in these sacred days and always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington