



May 14, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our diocesan priests dedicate their lives to serving and guiding us on our life-long journey of faith. They have administered the sacraments, preached the Gospel, encouraged and prayed for us and our families. When their full-time service ends, they look forward to peace in their retirement years, while continuing to pray for our diocese and God's holy people. Many priests even continue to minister and offer their priestly services in retirement.

Currently there are 189 diocesan priests serving Jesus Christ and you, the people who form our diocesan Church. Of these, 31 priests are retired; and over the next ten years 15 additional priests will reach retirement age.

Next weekend, May 21 and 22, at all Masses, the annual second collection for retired priests will take place in the parishes of our diocese.

The funds from this annual collection assist several specific needs including the ongoing operational expenses of the *Saint Rose of Lima Priests Retirement Villa*, a residence that includes common areas and private suites for up to 15 priests. This special collection also will provide funds for clergy post-retirement health care, nursing home care and the priests' pension fund.

I ask you to be as generous as possible so that our priests, who have faithfully served the People of God in our diocese, may be cared for in their retirement years.

May Our Risen Lord Jesus bless you with the gift of His peace and watch over you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington