

January 2023

Mr. and Mrs. John Donor
12345 Main Street
Apt. 789
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Donor,

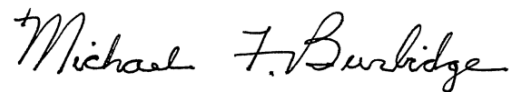
As we are now into the second year of preparation leading to the celebration of our diocesan 50-year Jubilee, we are filled with joyful anticipation! So, too, was the Blessed Virgin Mary when the Angel Gabriel appeared to her bringing the news that she was to be the mother of Jesus. She humbly acknowledged the great things that God had done for her and expressed deep joy with her whole being! Our 2023 Bishop's Lenten Appeal (BLA) theme honors Mary's "yes" and is shared with the theme of the diocesan Jubilee's second preparatory year, *My Soul Rejoices in the Lord*.

Joy comes from God actively working in our lives. We seek to imitate the perfect example of our Blessed Mother by proclaiming the greatness of the Lord each day as we live our faith and share our blessings. The Blessed Mother is our model of joy, trust, and service. When we support the BLA, we give the glorious gift of Christ Jesus to thousands of people in need of spiritual, charitable, and educational assistance across our diocese.

I ask you to consider prayerfully a sacrificial pledge to this year's BLA. The enclosed brochure explains the ways your gift will be used to enrich and improve the lives of others and to be an instrument of the joy and peace that only Christ can give.

Through the intercession of Mary Our Mother, may Our Lord Jesus bless you with His peace and joy.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael F. Burbidge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning of the first name.

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington

Enclosures