



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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January 7, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The annual National Migration Week is from January 7 to 13, 2018. This year, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has chosen the theme “Many Journeys, One Family” to remind us of the myriad of migration stories in our nation, whether they be from recent history or from many generations ago. While our origins and histories are varied, we remain united as God’s children, sharing the dignity that flows from being created in His image.

The Diocese of Arlington has a history of welcoming the stranger among us through the Migration and Refugee Office and Hogar Immigration Office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, and through the assistance of parish ministries. I ask that you continue to support these ministries and all those that respect the dignity of the migrant, refugee and immigrant.

I also invite all Catholics to join me and my brother bishops in advocating for legislation that will allow for the protection and safety of our nation as well as for justly and charitably providing for the needs of the migrants in our communities, especially those fleeing violence, extreme poverty, and persecution.

Please be assured of my prayers for you in this New Year. May Our Lord bless you and your families with His peace and draw all people into a greater communion with Him.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington