



Diocese of Arlington · Diocese of Richmond

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## **Statement by Virginia Catholic Conference Executive Director Jeff Caruso on Appointment of Bishop Michael Burbidge to lead Diocese of Arlington**

It is with great joy we learned this morning that Pope Francis has named [Bishop Michael Burbidge of Raleigh to become the fourth bishop](#) of the Diocese of Arlington. He succeeds Bishop Paul S. Loverde, who has served the diocese since 1999, and co-founded our state Catholic conference in 2004.

As he was introduced today on the feast of Saint Francis, Bishop Burbidge, 59, pledged to serve with humility the needs of the poor, the vulnerable and the unborn, to accompany those in life's difficulties, and to work towards building a more peaceful world – starting in our communities -- and restoring civility to public life. We welcome Bishop Burbidge and look forward to working with him on these shared concerns.

The Conference expresses its deep gratitude to Bishop Loverde for the countless ways he has led, guided, encouraged and inspired us right from the very beginning - when he and Richmond Bishop Francis DiLorenzo collaborated to form our office. We also look forward to continuing to benefit from his deep wisdom as the Conference's work continues.

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[The Virginia Catholic Conference](#) is the public policy agency representing Virginia's Catholic bishops and their two dioceses.