

In lieu of my usual reflection on the Gospel, I want to share with you a portion of a homily by a great father of the Church, St. John Chrysostom, on the life of St. Paul. We recently celebrated the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. St. Paul happens to be my patron Saint, so I am always inspired by this great man. Hopefully, you will be blessed by reflecting a bit on the heroic life of St. Paul, enjoy:

For love of Christ, Paul bore every burden

Paul, more than anyone else, has shown us what man really is, and in what our nobility consists, and of what virtue this particular animal is capable. Each day he aimed ever higher; each day he rose up with greater ardor and faced with new eagerness the dangers that threatened him. He summed up his attitude in the words: I forget what is behind me and push on to what lies ahead. When he saw death imminent, he bade others share his joy: Rejoice and be glad with me! And when danger, injustice and abuse threatened, he said: I am content with weakness, mistreatment, and persecution. These he called the weapons of righteousness, thus telling us that he derived immense profit from them.

Thus, amid the traps set for him by his enemies, with exultant heart he turned their every attack into a victory for himself; constantly beaten, abused and cursed, he boasted of it as though he were celebrating a triumphal procession and taking trophies home, and offered thanks to God for it all: Thanks be to God who is always victorious in us! This is why he was far more eager for the shameful abuse that his zeal in preaching brought upon him than we are for the most pleasing honors, more eager for death than we are for life, for poverty than we are for wealth; he yearned for toil far more than others yearn for rest after toil. The one thing he feared, indeed dreaded, was to offend God; nothing else could sway him. Therefore, the only thing he really wanted was always to please God.

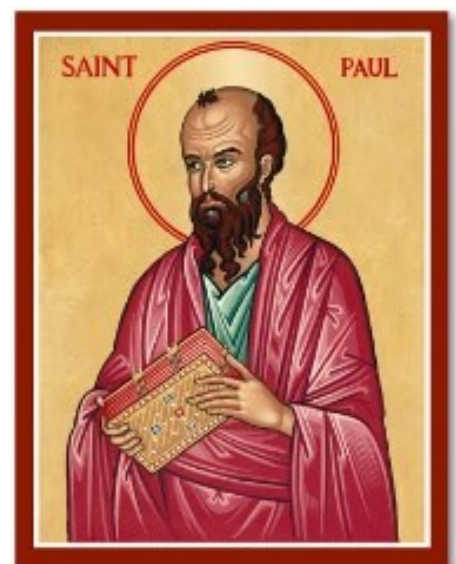
The most important thing of all to him, however, was that he knew himself to be loved by Christ. Enjoying this love, he considered himself happier than anyone else; were he without it, it would be no satisfaction to be the friend of principalities and powers. He preferred to be thus loved and be the least of all, or even to be among the damned, than to be without that love and be among the great and honored.

To be separated from that love was, in his eyes, the greatest and most extraordinary of torments; the pain of that loss would alone have been hell, and endless, unbearable torture.

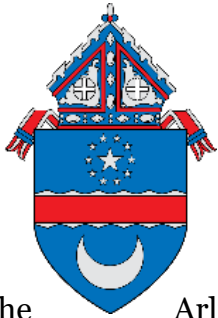
So too, in being loved by Christ he thought of himself as possessing life, the world, the angels, present and future, the kingdom, the promise and countless blessings. Apart from that love nothing saddened or delighted him; for nothing earthly did he regard as bitter or sweet.

Paul set no store by the things that fill our visible world, any more than a man sets value on the withered grass of the field. As for tyrannical rulers or the people enraged against him, he paid them no more heed than gnats. Death itself and pain and whatever torments might come were but child's play to him, provided that thereby he might bear some burden for the sake of Christ.

Saint Paul, PRAY FOR US!!
Grace and Peace be with you all,
Fr. Terry Staples



Jubilee Year 3 **“Behold, I make all things new.”** ~ Rev 24:5
Renewing and strengthening our faith for the future.



Arlington Diocese

May 28, 1974 Diocese created
August 13, 1974 Bishop installed



The Arlington Diocese is a suffragan diocese, meaning that it belongs to an ecclesiastical province. There are 32 ecclesiastical provinces in the United States plus a Military Archdiocese which does not belong to a province. Arlington belongs to the ecclesiastical province of the Archdiocese of Baltimore. Currently, the ecclesiastical province of the Archdiocese of Baltimore has four suffragan dioceses: Wheeling-Charleston, Wilmington, Richmond and Arlington.

Oldest in the country, the Archdiocese of Baltimore was established officially in 1789 by Pope Pius VI. It became an ecclesiastical province in 1808 and was the only one in the United States until 1847 with the creation of the St. Louis ecclesiastical province. Virginia belonged to the Archdiocese of Baltimore for thirty-one years. In 1820, Pope Pius VII established the new Diocese of Richmond which encompassed all of Virginia and much of what is now West Virginia. Virginia was under the Diocese of Richmond for 154 years.

In 1970, Monsignor Justin McClunn, pastor of St. Louis parish in Alexandria urged the apostolic nuncio (ambassador of the Holy See) to ask the pope to create a new diocese for Northern Virginia. At the same time, priests of the Alexandria and Arlington Deaneries appealed to the 10th bishop of the Richmond Diocese, Bishop John Russell to help the northern deaneries to establish their own diocese.

On May 28, 1974, Pope Paul VI announced the creation of the new Diocese of Arlington. The new diocese included 21 counties and seven cities. There were 50 parishes served by 66 diocesan priests. On August 13, 1974, the auxiliary bishop of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Most Rev. Thomas J. Welsh was installed as Bishop of the Arlington Diocese. The parish church of St. Thomas More in Arlington was elevated to cathedral, seat of the bishop.

St. Thomas More and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton are the patron saints of the Arlington Diocese.

The Diocese of Arlington operates two mission churches: Bánica Mission Parish and Pedro Santana Mission Parish in the Dominican Republic. Our diocese has provided priests, volunteers and material support.

On August 13, 2024, the Arlington Diocese will celebrate their 50th Anniversary!

Year 3 we focus on sharing our Catholic Faith with others in word and deed through evangelization and mercy. For more on preparation, visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/goldenjubiliecelebration/ - Office of Religious Education