



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

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November 8, 2018

Reverend Matthew J. Hillyard, O.S.F.S.  
Our Lady of Good Counsel Church  
8601 Wolftrap Road  
Vienna, VA 22182

Dear Father Hillyard,

I have received your letter dated October 30, 2018, and the petition from parishioners of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. It is my hope that you have been faithfully sharing with your parishioners the many ways I have personally addressed the issues raised in the petition via letters, statements, podcasts and other forms of social media as documented at: [www.arlingtondiocese.org/ChildProtection](http://www.arlingtondiocese.org/ChildProtection). I believe that communications provided by the USCCB and our Diocese (including the answers to Frequently Asked Questions found on our website) address well the concerns raised in the petition.

By now, the OLGC parishioners who attended the listening session for lay parish leaders on October 24 have conveyed to you my awareness of parishioners' concerns and my commitment to continue to address them in a timely and transparent manner. I am aware that Father Thomas Ferguson has expressed his willingness to be present at a future meeting in your parish. I hope that his presence will be one more sign to you and your parishioners of my personal commitment and the commitment of our Diocese to be leaders in addressing what have surely been painful and troubling failings that have been a source of sorrow and scandal within and outside of our Church.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you and your parishioners.

Fraternally in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge  
Bishop of Arlington