



Dear Friends,

As we transition into the heart of autumn, we know many of you are navigating the busy routines of a new academic year. Here at Porto Charities, our focus has been on preparing for one of our most significant fundraising events, the 17th annual "Be a Hero" golf tournament, which takes place this Friday. This event is crucial for supporting our mission, and we are incredibly grateful to all our sponsors, volunteers, and participants whose generous support helps us continue fostering true belonging throughout the Diocese of Arlington.

We have also been planning four wonderful events for our community. We invite you to join us for our annual **Mass for Respect Life Month and Persons with Disabilities** on October 12th, followed by a reception. Additionally, we will be hosting our 2nd monthly **Parent Coffee** (this time in Arlington), a fun **Trunk or Treat** for the children, and a special **bowling** event for our teens and young adults. These events are designed with all family members in mind, because we deeply believe in providing opportunities where every member feels welcome and experiences true belonging.

We also recognize the importance of fostering inclusion within our parishes. To support this goal, we are thrilled to feature an inspiring book. Mark Bradford from Word on Fire has written ***Indispensable***, an excellent book about the importance of including people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Church, and our very own Bishop Michael Burbidge writes the foreword. We invite you to purchase one for your pastor! And speaking of book recommendations, our beloved Board Member, Bill Dalgetty, has also authored a powerful book about faith, titled ***A Friendship that Transcends: Experiencing a Personal Relationship with Jesus***. Check out these books below.

We are still glowing from Sunday's beautiful ceremony, held by the Diocese of Arlington, to confer Papal honors on 50 members of our diocese, including our President, Leo Alonso, and Board Member, Art Bennett. Below, we share with you the recording and photos from the event. Finally, we ask you to join us in prayer for our country and all people suffering physically, mentally, and emotionally. May they find comfort in our merciful God, and love in a family and a community that sees them, knows them, and values them.

Sincerely,
Porto Charities

Annual Mass FOR RESPECT LIFE MONTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES



CELEBRATED BY
MOST REV.
MICHAEL BURBIDGE

Holy Spirit Catholic Church
8800 Braddock Road, Annandale, VA

12 OCTOBER | 10:30 AM

Light reception & fellowship to follow



Monthly Parent Coffee



Coffee Meet-Up for Parents

- Wednesday, October 15
- 9:30 AM
- Godfreys, Arlington, VA

All parents of children/young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Diocese of Arlington are invited!

Questions?
events@portocharities.org



Trunk or Treat

TRUNK OR TREAT

SAINT THEMED



Join us!



Sunday, October 26
6:30 - 7:30 PM

Bishop Ireton HS Parking Lot, Alexandria, VA

All abilities friendly. Come dressed as your favorite saint!



Sponsored by



& the Junior Catholic Daughters of America, Basilica of St. Mary

Bowling

**Join us for
bowling, pizza, &
great company!**

**16
NOV**

Bowl America Fairfax

**2:00
PM**

\$20/Bowler (Age 13+)

*Shoe rental, two hrs. of bowling, \$10
arcade card, and all-you-can-eat
pizza, chicken tenders, & soft drinks!*

\$10/Non-bowler

*All-you-can-eat pizza, chicken tenders,
& soft drinks! Great for caregivers,
siblings and coaches.*



**Register at
portocharities.org/events**

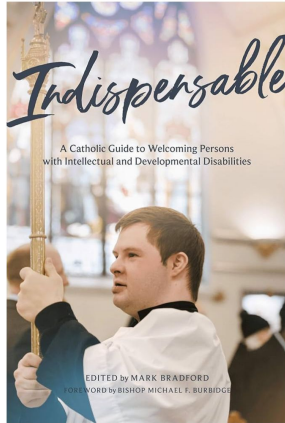


This event is for teens and young adults with disabilities, their families, and friends.



Register for Bowling!

***Indispensable* by Mark Bradford**



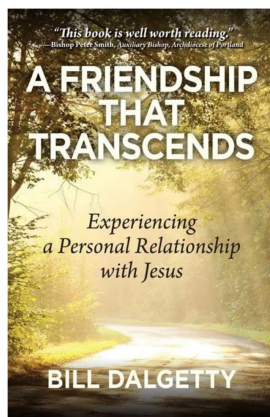
There are approximately two million Catholics with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDDs) living in America today. For every hundred individuals on a parish registry, there should be at least two or three with IDD in the pews. Yet they are noticeably absent from our churches. Do these members of the Church and their families feel like they belong in our parish communities? Do they even feel welcome at all?

Indispensable, edited by Mark Bradford, is a groundbreaking exploration of how Catholic parishes can prepare to spiritually form and serve people with IDD and

their families. This inspiring collection features essays from a variety of disability experts and advocates, who offer insights from Church guidance, academic research, and their own extensive experience. It also examines a wide range of issues related to the intersection of parish life and IDD, including chapters on prenatal diagnosis, perinatal loss, the sacraments, the liturgy, education, relationships, and more.

[Purchase Here](#)

***A Friendship that Transcends* by Bill Dalgetty**



A Friendship that Transcends, Experiencing a Personal Relationship with Jesus, contains sixty-five stories that illustrate passages from scripture and various experiences encountering God's presence in all kinds of circumstances. Some of the stories touch on experiencing God's voice after a child is born with Down syndrome, declining a career-advancing promotion for family considerations, and experiencing physical healing of a child's heart after the prayer of friends.

This book has received a Nihil Obstat from Bishop Michael Burbidge, as well as endorsement from Bishop Peter Smith of the Oregon Diocese, and words of encouragement from Father Raniero Cardinal Cantalamessa of the Vatican. Father Jack Peterson, former Director of Youth Apostles of the Arlington Diocese, said, "While this book speaks from a Catholic perspective, it will appeal to all Christians because of Bill's passion for inviting everyone to know and love Jesus with all their hearts." All net proceeds from this book will benefit St. Mark Catholic Church.

[Purchase Here](#)

Leo Alonso awarded the Benemerenti Medal



[Watch Recording Here](#)

**PORTO
CHARITIES**

EMBRACING BELONGING ALL YEAR LONG



2025

OCT 3
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

OCT 12
RESPECT LIFE &
DISABILITY MASS

OCT 15
PARENT
COFFEE

NOV 16
BOWLING
SOCIAL

DEC 6
CHRISTMAS
PARTY

www.portocharities.org/events

Events