



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY

**Altar Girls Banned from Over Half of Catholic Parishes Surveyed in Arlington Diocese
Catholic Families to Hold Vigil for their Daughters Outside Diocesan Offices and Cathedral**

WHAT: Catholic families will vigil with signs and prayers outside the Arlington Diocesan Offices and Cathedral. While even the Pope permits altar girls, more than half of Catholic parishes surveyed in the diocese do not allow girls to serve alongside boys as altar servers. Recently, Corpus Christi, a mission parish, reversed its inclusion of altar girls and now only permits boys. Girls who were formerly trained as altar servers are being “grandfathered” into the altar server program but in a strange new “separate but equal” policy, the boys are given liturgical clothing that separates them from the girls. Supporters of altar girls were refused a meeting with the bishop and felt they had no choice but to take their concerns public to request a meeting and ask that their daughters be included alongside their sons as altar servers.

WHEN: Sunday, November 20th, 2-3pm

WHERE: Arlington Catholic Diocesan Office
200 North Glebe Road
Arlington, VA

WHO: Catholic families and supporters from the Arlington Diocese and surrounding area.

WHY: In 2004, the Diocese of Arlington joined the global church in permitting girls to serve at the altar. At the time, however, Bishop Loverde placed the final decision of whether to admit girls to serve with altar boys in the hands of the local parish priest. Since then, many priests have continued to ban girls from serving their parishes. The Arlington Catholic Diocese is only one of only a handful of dioceses around the country that has parishes that continue to discriminate against girls.

MEDIA VISUALS: Vigil signs held by families in support of their children.

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Call To Action seeks justice in the Catholic Church. A movement of 25,000 supporters and 53 local chapters, Call To Action is the largest Catholic church justice organization in the country.

For more information, see www.cta-usa.org