



DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON

Office of the Bishop

200 North Glebe Road, Suite 914 • Arlington, Virginia 22203 • Office (703) 841-2511 • Fax (703) 524-5028

May 25, 2018

Ms. Roberta Hyland, President
National Catholic Forensic League
2338C Cypress Cove Circle
Herndon, VA 20171

Dear Members of the National Catholic Forensic League,

It is with great joy that I welcome you to the Diocese of Arlington as you gather from across the nation for the NCFL Grand National Tournament! I regret that I shall be unable to be present, but I shall be with you in spirit.

It is my hope that you can encourage and learn from each other as you engage in forensic and debate events and learn leadership skills through speech. May this time be one of mutual support in all your educational endeavors. Please be assured of my prayerful support.

May Our Lord Jesus bless you with his peace and watch over you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Arlington



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

5001 EASTERN AVENUE
POST OFFICE BOX 29260
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20017

May 25, 2018

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure for me personally and on behalf of the Archdiocese of Washington to greet all of you who have gathered in our nation's capital for the Grand National Tournament of the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL). In a joyful spirit of solidarity, I offer you my pledge of prayers. May this be a time of grace for each of you.

“Communication is part of God’s plan for us and an essential way to experience fellowship,” says Pope Francis in his Message for World Communications Day 2018. “When we are faithful to God’s plan, communication becomes an effective expression of our responsible search for truth and our pursuit of goodness.” Quoting Jesus, the Holy Father then affirms, “The truth will set you free” (John 8:32). In fact, he adds, “Truth involves our whole life [and] it carries with it the sense of support, solidity, and trust.”

For more than six decades, the NCFL has promoted truth spoken in charity in imitation of the example of Jesus. By training young people for leadership through speech in the programs and events of its local chapters, in this way truth may be more widely spread and become a positive influence in our communities and nation. This is greatly needed in our times.

As you now face the challenges of this national tournament in the various events of public speaking and debate, may you compete well in the Spirit of Truth. May this also be for you an occasion for fellowship and celebration of each person’s gifts in building up all that is true, good and loving.

Asking God’s blessings on you as you shine as beacons of truth in our society, with every good wish, I am

Faithfully in Christ,

Archbishop of Washington

National Catholic Forensic League
2018 Grand National Tournament

MARK R. WARNER
VIRGINIA



UNITED STATES SENATOR
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 25, 2018

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all who are gathered for the National Catholic Forensic League's 2018 Grand National Tournament.

The opportunity to participate in this national competition is a testament to your hard work and outstanding public speaking, logic, and research skills. Speech and debate are at the core of America's rich history. We must engage together rather than talk past each other when discussing significant issues just as we must think critically and innovatively in order to address today's challenges. I commend you for your efforts to improve your skills in these areas. Ensuring that the next generation of leaders are effective communicators and listeners is vitally important to our Nation's future.

On this important occasion, I am very pleased to join with your teachers, classmates, families, and friends in saluting your accomplishments and wishing you the very best in the competition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

MARK R. WARNER
United States Senator



Welcome

National Catholic Forensic League and Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League NCFL Grand National Tournament



May 26, 2018

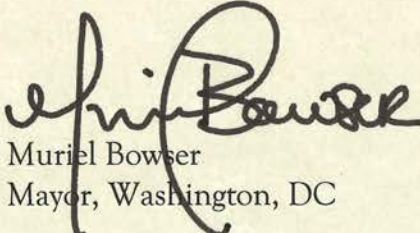
As Mayor of Washington, DC, it is my pleasure to welcome the participants of the National Catholic Forensic League (NCFL) to the Nation's Capital, on the occasion of your NCFL Grand National Tournament.

Founded in 1956, NCFL consists of public, private, and religious affiliated high schools, as well as home school students, from around the United States and believes that public speaking and debate serve as a conduit to train students for future leadership in society.

As a sponsor, NCFL hosts the annual Grand National Tournament with approximately 3,000 high school student participants from across the nation and this year's event has been organized by the Washington Arlington Catholic Forensic League.

As you celebrate your success and form new friendships with other students, I certainly hope that you will enjoy the monuments, museums, restaurants and diverse neighborhoods that make our Nation's Capital so special.

On behalf of the residents of Washington, DC, I wish you a successful event.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor, Washington, DC

