

A Poem for The Most Rev. Lawrence A. Burke S. J.  
Archbishop of  
Kingston and Former Archbishop of Nassau  
Entitled,  
"A Familiar Walk" Written By Mr. Mario A. Newry Jr.  
September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

I took a Familiar Walk Today, a walk that allowed me to reflect upon the life and times of Archbishop Lawrence A. Burke S. J. During this walk, my Catholic journey was strengthened as I was able to unite myself in faith with men and women not only throughout the Bahamas or the world, but throughout the centuries.

I took a Familiar Walk Today, a walk that allowed me to reflect upon the faithful departed, in particular my darling mother Mrs. Ruth Mae Newry, my grandparents, Mr. George & Mary Turnquest, and great-grandmother Mrs. Loretta Dean, who always encouraged me to walk in the footsteps of Archbishop Burke. This reflection connects with Family Life and Morality; two causes that Archbishop Burke championed, both fearlessly and continuously. As a Roman Catholic, I feel I witness God's compassion for my family and others; and this sustenance came about through the years knowing Archbishop Burke.

I took a Familiar Walk Today, a walk that brought me to a crossroad...Here I am reminded of St. Thomas More, (English Statesman and Author: Canonized in 1935), most importantly, the quote of St. Thomas More, where he echoed, "I am the king's faithful servant, but God's first". Archbishop Burke always encouraged me to embrace the good, the true, the beautiful wherever they may be found.

I took a Familiar Walk Today, a walk that arrived at Goodwill Valley. At this intersection I say thank you Archbishop Burke; thank you for the new bridges between love and faith in our community. Thank you for always being eager to bless and for always being a blessing. Archbishop Burke, I view your Ministry as a noble cause that uplifted the minds, bodies and souls of God's children in the Bahamas and all those who were entrusted to your care.

I took a Familiar Walk Today, a walk that allowed me to thank God for the life, witness and the road of Ministry of our beloved Archbishop Burke.

As we celebrate the silver jubilee of the Episcopal Ordination of the Most Reverend Lawrence A. Burke S. J., We pray God bless him with good health, a good day today, a better day tomorrow and his blessings always.

*To God Be The Glory*