St. John Vianney Church
A Vatican II Parish

The Second Twenty-five Years
1990 – 2015
Thanks to those who contributed to produce this book.
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ISBN-10: 1548690112

First Edition, July 2017
This book is dedicated to
Fr. Peter J. Daly, Pastor
1994 - 2017
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Foreword

It is a great pleasure to see this history of our parish brought to completion. My thanks go to Robert Boeri our editor and to all those who contributed essays to this history of our community of faith.

We thought we would try a different approach to our history. Rather than a linear history written by one person, we collected a series of essays by people who were knowledgeable about different aspects of our parish history from 1990 to 2017. We also thought it would be more approachable if we had a large number of photographs. Thanks to Donna Wallmark, Sharon Seckens and Jack McFadden and others for making the photographs available.

Our parish has grown and changed over the years. We have evolved from a sleepy country church to a busy suburban parish.

Through all the growth we have maintained a sense of intimacy and neighborliness. We know each other well and we truly love each other.

St. John Vianney is also a significant part of our larger community. We have become a center of activities for many local organizations. We have also given life to many significant organizations that serve our community. These include Project ECHO for the Homeless, Birthright for the unborn, the Calvert Interfaith Council, Safe Nights, Inc., Community Ministries, and the SJV Interfaith Food Pantry.

Prayer is the center of our parish life. The Eucharist has been celebrated every day for more than 50 years. We have also extended our prayer to Eucharistic adoration four days per week.

Our parish is also known for its generosity to the poor of our community and the world. We have built 400 houses in Nicaragua. We have restored a parish in Mississippi after hurricane Katrina. We have built chapels in Mexico. We have fed starving babies in Africa through Project Peanut Butter.

We can be proud of our accomplishments, but we know they are not ours alone. We have been blessed by God’s grace. As you read this history and look at the photos, say a prayer for people remembered here, many of whom have now gone to the Lord.

Thank you for being part of this story of a small but significant part of the Body of Christ. May we continue to grow in wisdom, love, service and prayer until the day of our own entry into the next life. God bless us all.

Fr. Peter J. Daly
Pastor, 1994 - 2017
Our First Twenty-five Years
1965 – 1990

St. John Vianney came into existence in the 1920s, as a mission of Our Lady Star of the Sea parish on Solomon's Island. The priest would come up from Solomons and stay overnight. Mass was held in the Weisman house on Plum Point Road and then later at the office of Delegate Thomas Parran in Prince Frederick. Eventually it was held in the room over Louis Goldstein’s store.

In 1937 a little English Gothic church was built on our current site on Main Street. Fr. Maurice Alexander, the pastor of Solomons, bought the one acre of land in Prince Frederick with his own money through a strawman purchase, since people did not want to sell to Catholics at the time. The church was intended as a “chapel of ease”, not a regular parish church. It was to be used for Sunday masses, but it had no offices or baptismal font or organ. Construction of the church was partly financed by Fr. Alexander and by the Catholic Extension Society, a Chicago based missionary organization that helped build missionary churches across the United States. Calvert County was considered mission territory in the 1930s.

St. John Vianney became an independent parish in 1965, when Patrick Cardinal O’Boyle separated it from Our Lady Star of the Sea. Our parish territory covered most of northern Calvert County from Port Republic to just outside of North Beach. All of our territory was very rural in 1965. There were fewer than 100 Catholic families in all that area.

The first pastor was Fr. Joseph Naughton. When he came there was no rectory. Within a year or so the parish bought 18 acres of land where the current rectory and parish center are located. The rectory is the oldest house in Prince Frederick, built in 1884. Initially it served as the rectory for St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. It also served briefly as the courthouse following a major fire in Prince Frederick in 1884. In the 1920s, St. Paul’s built a new rectory on Main Street and sold the house to the Episcopal rector’s two spinster sisters, the two Duke sisters, after whom Duke Street is named. They lived there until their deaths in the 1960s, when St. John Vianney bought the rectory and partially restored it.

From 1965 to 1990, Calvert County remained rural. With the coming of the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in the 1970s and the expansion of the Patuxent River Naval Air Station in the 1990s, the County grew enormously. So did our parish. In 1965, there were fewer than 100 Catholic families in our parish territory. Today there are more than 1200. By 2015 Catholics had become the largest denomination in Calvert County, comprising over 20% of the total population.

Our parish was founded the year the Second Vatican Council closed in Rome. We have always been very much a Vatican II parish. That means that since the beginning we have had a “collaborative” ministry style which involves everyone. We were an early adopter of things like RCIA in the 1980s. We
included women fully in our ministries. We were an early parish to have female altar servers. Our parish has always held hands at the Our Father and had communion in both forms of bread and wine, the Body and Blood of the Lord.

As a Vatican II parish, everyone has a role to play in setting the goals and direction of our parish life. That is still true in the second half of our parish’s existence.
Our Second Twenty-five Years
1991-2015

The second twenty-five years of the life of St. John Vianney parish have been marked by two aspects of our era. First we were influenced by the rapid growth in our Calvert County community. Second, we were profoundly affected by the changes in our Catholic Church brought about by the Second Vatican Council.

Growth in Calvert County

The Nuclear Power Plant

Beginning in the 1970s Calvert County began to experience substantial growth. Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant opened in 1975. A second reactor came on line in 1977. It very quickly became the largest private employer in the County for more than 20 years. The “plant” brought many people to Calvert County, especially from the Baltimore area. In 2015 the plant was operated by Exelon and employed about 900 people. We even instituted a 7 PM Sunday evening mass to accommodate the permanent shift workers and the temporary workers who were in the area for “outages”, i.e., when the plant shut down for maintenance.

In the early 1990s Calvert County was still largely rural. The population was only about 35,000 people. It was largely African American, as it had been since the Civil War. But life in Calvert was changing rapidly.

Route 2/4 was widened to four lanes in the late 1970s and early 1980s and brought a rapid growth in suburban expansion. Commuter buses began to run into Washington, DC.

Expansion of Patuxent River NAS

The Base Realignment and Closure Committee (BRACC) of the U.S. Congress made a decision in 1990 to centralize Naval Aviation at the Patuxent River NAS. That decision added more than 5,000 federal employees on the base in St. Mary’s County. It also meant many thousands more jobs in private industry as contractors moved to be nearby the headquarters of Navy Aviation.

The growth in Lexington Park spilled over to Calvert County and affected us in Prince Frederick. Many new people moved to our area from closed naval facilities in Pennsylvania, Northern Virginia and elsewhere.

Parish Growth

Like the larger Calvert County Community, our parish began to grow significantly in the 1990s. We had no building for our growing religious education program for children until 1993 when Cardinal Hickey dedicated the classrooms and offices built by Msgr. John Brady. At the time it was a huge project for a small parish, but our religious education program was growing. At that time the Calvert County School system was opening a new school every year.

In the early 1990s, besides our pastor, Msgr. Brady, who was here from 1985 to 1994, we had only two parish employees: Mrs. Michael Lewnes, the parish secretary, who was hired as a part-time employee in 1983 and Mrs. Jan Pedone, hired as a part-time Director of Religious Education in 1987. Our parish maintenance was done by the pastor, Fr. Brady, and volunteers.

Our parish reflected the growth of the community. In the 1990s our parish secretary recorded a new registration on an average of one family per week. Sunday mass attendance grew from 400 people per Sunday in 1994 to about 1200 per Sunday in 2014. Our students in religious education (CCD) fluctuated from 200 children in the early 1990s to a high water mark of 500 by 2010. Since that time there has been a slow decline to fewer than 400 students in 2017.
Change and Continuity

In 1994 Msgr. John Brady was transferred from St. John Vianney to Holy Angels parish in Avenue, Maryland. Fr. Peter Daly was assigned by James Cardinal Hickey to be the new pastor.

Fr. Daly was 44 years old at the time. It was his first pastorate. He had only been ordained for 8 years, having served as assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier in Southeast, Washington, and at St. Gabriel's in Northwest Washington, DC. He had also worked in Campus Ministry at Catholic University where he also taught in the Catholic University Law School as an adjunct professor. Fr. Daly had been a lawyer prior to his ordination, working in Washington DC. He had also built low-income housing in Central Virginia after his graduation from the University of Virginia in 1972.

Fr. Daly began his pastorate by building on the great things accomplished by Msgr. Brady. SJV had a vibrant RCIA program and an active Renew program with small groups.

Among the first things that Fr. Daly did was to clean up and re-carpet our little church. He also improved the rectory with drywall and paint.

The rectory was in very poor condition. Fr. Daly brought a large group of Catholic University students from the campus chapter of Habitat for Humanity, which he had started, to volunteer to remove the old carpet in the church and to dry wall the rectory.

By early 1995 it was apparent that our church was too small to accommodate the crowds that were coming to Sunday masses. We took stop gap measures.

In 1996 a porch was built on the rear of the church. It allowed us to have hospitality outside on pleasant Sundays. We brought picnic tables and umbrellas from the parish pavilion and put them on the rear lawn so people would have a place to sit.

Doug Sparrow led the construction crew for a new church porch. We also used the porch during masses. People would take folding chairs outside onto the porch where they could hear the mass on a loud speaker mounted in the window of the church. Patrick Stockton, the leader of our youth group at the time, helped us to choose a new sound system for the church and the porch. Up until that time we had never had a permanent sound system.

Sitting on the porch was uncomfortable for those outside, but it was a sign of our parish growth and devotion.

In 1997 we installed an electronic carillon (bells) in the bell tower of the church. Bob Sladek purchased the bells in memory of his late wife Dottie. They also played hymns twice per day. The bells made St. John Vianney an audible presence in the community and was maintained by Franz Lengenfelder for more than 20 years.
By 1995 it was clear that we needed a larger church. People were standing outside looking in the windows. There was no baptismal font. We had no nursery. We had no kitchen or meeting rooms or space to gather in the church before and after mass. There was no piano and only a living room organ. There was no place for the musicians to stand during the liturgy.

In May of 1995 we held the first of our visioning workshops to discuss the direction of our parish. Building a new church was a high priority. We made other decisions to form choirs, start a cemetery, open a pre-school and build a place for our youth to recreate and meet. It was an ambitious agenda. But the church was the top priority.

The first thing we did was purchase one acre of land next door to the church where the church parking lot is now located. This was necessary because the County authorities would not approve any expansion of the church without some provision for more parking. This one acre was the most expensive acre we ever bought on Main Street, but it was the most necessary.

Fr. Daly talked with Msgr. Paul Dudziak, then pastor at Jesus the Good Shepherd in Dunkirk. At the time the Dunkirk parish had just finished building their new church. Fr. Dudziak recommended that we hire Tom Reinecker as our architect. Fr. Daly immediately agreed because of the beautiful design of the church in Dunkirk and because of the need to move quickly. A final decision to build the new church was made in the visioning workshop held in May, 1998.

Three committees were formed to build the church: Finance, Art and Architecture, and Engineering. Ralph Dwan chaired the Finance Committee. Peter Abresch chaired the Art and Architecture Committee. Jack McFadden chaired the Engineering Committee. These committees met frequently in 1999 through 2001. After a major gift from Ralph Dwan, the financial picture became clearer and we got permission to build from the Archdiocese.

The Art and Architecture Committee visited half a dozen churches in the Washington area to get some design ideas, then gave recommendations to the architect. Fr. Daly established the rule that the church should be attached to the old church and incorporate the elements of the old church as much as possible, including the red brick and the slate roof. The Art committee said that we should use as much of the old art as possible.

It would take more than three years in planning and construction to build the church. It eventually cost more than $4 million. It involved nearly everyone in the parish. Mr. Reinecker’s theory on church design was that long aisles with many rows of pews created too great a distance between the priest and the people. He recommended that the church have no more than 12 rows of pews and semi-circular seating arrangement so that everyone would have a good view of the altar. We decided on a sloping floor so that everyone would have an unobstructed view.

Maury Mattingly, who was doing construction near Catholic University for his company in Washington, DC, arranged a major gift of art and furnishings for us. The Oblates of Mary Immaculate at Catholic University, a men’s religious order of priests, was closing their old novitiate chapel at Catholic University. They gave us all their interior chapel furnishings, including all of the marble, the mosaics on the front of the altars in the main church and chapel, and much of the furniture we now use in our sanctuary. From the marble we constructed the main altar, tabernacle platform, the Ambo (pulpit) and the altar in the chapel. We also received the bronze tabernacle in the church and the cross that is over the tabernacle. These pieces of artwork and furnishings would have been many thousands of dollars and could not even
be made today. The Oblates gift was an enormous contribution to our parish community. It was made possible through the work of Maury Mattingly, who was on our Finance Council.

We moved all these enormous gifts in a single day of volunteer labor. The marble was all loaded onto Jack Yatsko’s large box truck. The weight was so great that it snapped the axel of the truck. The truck had to be towed to Prince Frederick.

Mr. Jack McFadden took charge of the construction of the church. His diligence saved us an enormous problem when it was discovered that the roof system would not sustain the weight of the slate roof. Construction was halted while the roof design could be re-engineered. It cost us about eight months of construction and nearly $100,000 in redesign and construction, but it was a much safer design.

Construction and Dedication of the Church 2001 to 2002

When we began construction on the new church it was nostalgic and sad to say good bye to our intimate little church. We held a final mass on Saturday, April 21, 2001. Then everyone in the church picked up something from the old church, a chair, a book, a cross, or a candle, and carried it down to the Vianney Room. Finally Fr. Daly came down Vianney Lane with the Eucharist under the humeral veil, preceded by the servers with incense and the deacons. It was sad to say good bye to our old home. Fr. Daly sang the refrain from "Fiddler on the Roof" which says, “Where else could Sabbath be so sweet.” We missed our little church.

While the church was under construction, we had mass in the old Vianney Room for 18 months.

We began to pour the concrete for the church floor on September 11, 2001. The pouring stopped while the construction crew listened to the radio accounts of the terrible attack on our nation.

It was another full year before we moved into the new church in September of 2002. Meanwhile we were holding all masses and classes and meeting in the old and small Vianney Room. We had to set up chairs and an altar every Sunday for mass and then take down everything immediately after the 7 PM mass so we would set up for CCD classes on Monday. It was exhausting, but our volunteers never faltered. We held weekday masses in the Vianney Room which was also set up for classes.
Finally, in September of 2002 we were able to move into the new Church. In early September we held a reverse procession similar to our move out. We carried everything back into the yet unconsecrated church. Charles Smallwood got us all singing “Alleluias” as we walked into the new church for the first time.

On September 29, 2002, we dedicated the new church. We had two Cardinals in attendance, James Hickey, our retired archbishop and Theodore McCarrick the current archbishop. We had more than 20 priests and many deacons who participated in the dedication. The night before the dedication, there was a solemn Evening Prayer by several Protestant clergy from the area. At the evening prayer we placed a time capsule in the sanctuary floor to be opened in September of 2052.
At the mass, the altar and church walls were anointed with sacred chrism (olive oil) by Cardinal McCarrick. Relics were placed in the altar stone (a bit off center due to an error by the stone mason). We had relics from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Vianney and St. Pius X.

We also had a guest from Ireland, Fr. Eugene O'Hagan, the famous singing priest. He sang for us at the picnic that followed the dedication. Fr. O'Hagan had been a classmate of Fr. Daly's in Rome.

More than 700 people attended the dedication and all were invited to the picnic on the athletic field that followed. Fr. O'Hagan sang “Danny Boy” and an aria from Verdi. The dedication events were coordinated by Janeen Brock.
McFadden Conference Center - Church Basement

Five years after dedicating the church, we opened the McFadden Conference Center in 2007. The unfinished basement of the church was transformed by a volunteer crew of men of the parish into a 5,000 sq. ft. conference center, named after Jack McFadden who organized, designed and coordinated the huge project. The McFadden Center includes a nursery room, the Knights of Columbus meeting room, a carpeted conference room, and several restrooms and a kitchen. All work on the center was done by volunteers who worked over 3,000 hours. The Center, which cost more than $130,000, was also paid for on the day it opened. Because of the volunteer labor, it cost less than half of what a similar place would have cost if built by a contractor. During the five years the basement was unfinished we used it for storage including storing truckloads of relief supplies for victims of hurricane Katrina in 2005.
Burning of the Church Mortgage

In 2010, the parish became “debt free”. We celebrated by burning the $1.3 million, 15 year “mortgage” on the church, which we had paid back in only 7 ½ years. By paying faster than required at the rate of $14,000 per month, we saved many thousands of dollars in interest. We held a ceremony for the burning of the mortgage at the Parish Picnic on the feast of St. John Vianney in August of 2010. We did not actually burn the real mortgage. We burned a copy of our line of credit agreement, but the symbolism was the same. Being debt free allowed us to sponsor many new programs.

Purchase of the Old Project ECHO House

That same year we bought the old Project ECHO homeless shelter property located at 310 Main Street, along with its two cottages. We sold nearly three acres of ground near the County Services building to the County government for $415,000. With that money we bought the old ECHO house, repaved Vianney Lane and installed curb and gutter everywhere on our property.

How did the Stained Glass Windows Come About?

By Fr. Peter Daly

The most significant art in our church is the collection of stained glass windows. They are unique in the entire world and a true master piece.

When we set out to build a new church in 1999, we realized that we were approaching the second millennium of our family history, Christian history. We wanted to pay homage to many of those who had “gone before us marked with the sign of faith,” as we say in the liturgy. From 2002 through 2005 we designed and installed the church’s stained glass windows.

Fr. Daly met the artist, Brenda Belfield at the 50th anniversary celebration for Marge and Jack Wooten. She is an internationally known stained glass artist who was living in Port Republic at the time. After meeting with the Art and Architecture Committee we made the decision to hire her to do the windows. The subject matter was chosen by Fr. Daly. He wrote a long memo to the artist describing each scene and saint in the windows.
When you look at the stained glass windows in St. John Vianney Church, you should think of a family portrait gallery. The large vertical windows on either side of the church contain a sketch of Catholic Church history from the first witnesses, to the resurrection, to the 20th century.

The scenes are in approximate chronological order, starting on the north side (left hand side as you face the altar) with witnesses to the resurrection, the church of Pentecost, the Patristic church, the medieval church, and the church of the Renaissance and reformation period.

On the south side (right side as you face the altar) is the church of the Americas, beginning in the rear with the Spanish settlement, then North American Men, North American Women, the Catholic Church in Maryland, and finally ending near the organ with 20th century figures such as Mother Theresa and Popes John XXIII and John Paul II.

The front wall of the church, as you face the altar contains three windows. The rose (round) window depicts the light of the gospels, with the four symbols of the evangelists, Matthew (Angel) Mark (Lion) Luke (Bull), John (Eagle). The window to the right, behind the choir area, depicts the Holy Family with Jesus learning to read, being taught by Joseph, with Mary holding the lamp of wisdom. To the left, by the ramp, you see our patron St. John Vianney, along with people of his parish in Ars France and our parish in Prince Frederick. Some people say the priest with the glasses in the window is Fr. Daly, but this legend is purely apocryphal. The rear wall of the church depicts the seven sacraments in glass with all the sacraments flowing from the waters of baptism. The altars are depictions of the Eucharist.

When the rose window was delivered, it was late evening. Many volunteers were in the church cleaning it and getting it ready for the dedication. As darkness fell the final panels of the windows were lifted into place by a large crane. The lights were on full inside the church so we all stood in the parking lot to see the final sections installed. When the rose window was finally in the people in the parking lot broke into spontaneous applause and cheering.

The “Light of the Gospels” had been brought to our church.
Our Prayer Life at St. John Vianney

The heart of any Christian Church is its prayer life. At St. John Vianney our liturgical (public) prayer is marked by four things: reverence, challenge, fidelity and welcome.

We seek to be a reverent parish that prays with an awareness of the presence of God. We seek to be a challenging parish that in its preaching and example moves us to sacrifice ourselves for God and for others as Christ has taught us, to love God and our neighbor.

We seek to be a faithful parish that reflects the teaching of Christ as taught and understood in the Roman Catholic tradition. This means fidelity to the magisterium but an openness to growth and change.

We seek to be a welcoming parish that receives each person who comes to us with love and opens our life and hearts to them. This can, at times, challenge us to move beyond our comfort zone to a new place of challenge.

Our Liturgy --- A Vatican II Liturgy

Our parish liturgy is decidedly influenced by Vatican II. We want the full and active participation of every person in the congregation. Mass is not just presented by the priest, it is celebrated by the whole community. This means that we say the responses out loud, we sing the hymns, we make the appropriate gestures, like the sign of peace and kneeling, and we receive the Eucharist.

All of our liturgies (even weekdays) include the following:

- A homily
- Communion in both forms of bread and wine.
- Music
- Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors.
- Servers, including women and girls.

On weekdays we say Psalm 130 to remember the dead and we recall the names of all the deceased of our parish on the anniversary of their death.

All of our Sunday liturgies begin with the ministers of the liturgy, priest, deacons, Eucharistic ministers, lectors, and servers, saying a prayer in a circle before mass. This sets a tone and reminds us that it is prayer, not a show.

The announcements are made by Fr. Daly to give them special emphasis.
Spiritual Ministries

Priests of the Parish

Over the last 25 years, we have been served by two pastors and many other priests as needed. Each of them has brought his own gifts to our parish. Fr. Peter Daly believes that his primary job is as preacher and proclaimer of the word of God. He also thinks that funerals are an important teaching moment in the life of the church and that a great deal of attention should be paid to funerals. St. John Vianney has gained a reputation as a good parish to celebrate the life of the deceased and to offer them to God in prayer.

Diaconate

The origin of the diaconate is described in Acts 6:1-6. Here we see the choosing of the first seven men to serve the first Christian community. Among the first men chosen to serve as deacons was St. Stephen, the first martyr.

While the permanent diaconate existed in the early church, it fell into decline and was subsumed into the role of the priest by the middle ages. Every priest and every bishop is first ordained a deacon.

Vatican II restored the permanent diaconate and the U.S. Conference of Bishops received permission from the Vatican in 1968 to begin using permanent deacons. The first permanent deacons were ordained in the Archdiocese of Washington in 1970. By 2015 there were 17,000 permanent deacons in the United States.

There are two types of deacons: Transitional Deacons (seminarians) and Permanent Deacons. At this time St. John Vianney has three active, ordained permanent deacons: Deacon Edmund Chrzanowski, Deacon Joseph Mills, and Deacon James Caldwell. We are also blessed to have our retired permanent deacons, Deacon Eugene Mastrangelo and Deacon Christopher Wallmark to assist us on occasion as well.

As ordained ministers of the Church, permanent Deacons have three tasks of service: teaching, sanctifying, and leading the faithful in prayer. Deacons may baptize, witness marriages, and conduct wake and funeral services.

Over the last 25 years St. John Vianney has had several permanent deacons serve at the church including Deacon Len Stauffer and Deacon Tom Bataglia both now deceased. We also had Deacon Christopher Wallmark who served the parish for more than a decade and was unable to continue when he married Donna, after the death of his first wife.

The permanent deacons have a role at mass assisting the priests. Each deacon also has a role in our community in his ministry.

Deacon Ed Chrzanowski currently serves to organize and lead our parish’s ministries to various institutions such as nursing homes, treatment centers, the detention center, and the hospital. He visits all these institutions on a regular basis with his wife Marie.

Deacon Joe Mills is working hard to get the Church’s ministry providing spiritual support to families dealing with issues of mental illness off the ground, as well as bringing the Eucharist to people unable to come to church on a regular basis.
Deacon Gene Mastrangelo is a spiritual presence and guide, though he is not regularly involved with ministries at Saint John Vianney any longer since his move to Florida. His humor and wit provides a light touch in ministry.

Deacon Jim Caldwell works with the RCIA, the Food Pantry, and is involved with training Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, performing services at the treatment center, working with the Spiritual Growth Group, marriage preparation, and performing hospital visits.

Deacon Christopher Wallmark, even after he stopped functioning as a deacon, has continued to bring the Eucharist to the Calvert Nursing Center each week with his wife, Donna.

Mr. Russ Spaulding is in training to be a deacon as we go to press with this history. We look forward to his service to our parish.

Lay Liturgical Ministries

Music

Saint Augustine of Hippo is quoted as saying “He who sings, prays twice.” Saint John Vianney has always been a prayerful congregation, and this prayer has been enriched by music and song. When the mission church was dedicated in 1939, a group of local seminarians sang. In 1978 when the SJV parish hall was being dedicated, historical notes from then said that the opening hymn was “Praise to the Lord.”

For the past 25 years at SJV the music and liturgy ministry has been overseen by Peggy Braham (formerly Blackburn, before her marriage to Eduardo). Peggy is a self-taught musician and singer. She plays the guitar and has directed choirs for adults and children. The planning of all the major liturgies, funerals, weddings, retreats, Sundays, Holy Days and special celebrations has been in her hands. She designs and generates the worship aides when necessary. Ralph Garner and his printing company have donated many of our handouts over the years.

Peggy has been assisted in the music ministry by many wonderful musicians. These have included Carrie Doyle, Patricia Pulju, Dylan Sullins, Jolene Sullins, Tony Abresch, John Miller, Diane Wood, Lynda and Matt Strain, and Mila Arness. There have also been many others.

We were particularly blessed to have the help of Patti Pulju for more than a decade in forming choirs and putting on musical programs for holy days and holidays.

Mila Arness has been helping at our parish for ten years and has organized two choirs.
Peggy has also done the music for the Spanish language mass, which required her to learn some Spanish so she could sing it. She was assisted at the Spanish language mass for several years by Johanny, Jason and Josh Colindres and by Lilian Lopez.

It is a huge undertaking to provide music for five liturgies per week.

**Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors**

Liturgical ministries also include the Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Servers, Ushers and Church cleaners, each of whom contribute to the reverence, dignity and instruction of the liturgy.

As with Vatican II churches, our servers include both girls and boys. Our ushers are volunteers, mostly men and youth, who help with the collection and make people feel welcome and assist them in finding a seat. They also open and close the church and make it ready.

Eucharistic Ministers are trained and commissioned to serve our parish in the liturgy with the distribution of Holy Communion, but also to take communion to the sick and shut-ins. At the end of each mass they are called up to take communion out into the world to those who cannot be with us because of illness or advanced age.

Lectors are called to proclaim the word of God, not just read it. They are expected to practice their readings and to be familiar with their meaning. They also help to read the prayers of the faithful which are written each week by Fr. Daly. These include prayers for victims of disaster, the sick, and the deceased.

**Church Cleaners**

Church cleaners are an important part of our prayer life. Each week at least half a dozen people clean the parish church, wash and iron the linen and prepare the altar. Mrs. Lynn Williams has washed and ironed the linens for more than 25 years.
How did Eucharistic Adoration Start?

By Missy Haskins

Eucharistic Adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament began at Saint John Vianney Catholic Church in November, 1997. Soon after joining the parish, parishioners Linda Vaulina, Missy Haskins and Suzanne Brewster, each felt the Holy Spirit nudging them to ask for Parish Eucharistic Adoration. They took to heart the inscription over the arch to the altar -- “St. John Vianney, Faithful Adorer of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Pray for Us” and approached Fr. Daly and the parish council about having scheduled adoration here.

We began with All-Night Adoration. The response was very positive and led to adoration three days a week – Tuesday, Wednesday Evening and Friday morning in a small temporary chapel set up in the Parish Center. With the completion of our new church and chapel, adoration was expanded to include Thursdays and First-Fridays All-Night Adoration. Linda Vaulina was the first Coordinator with Missy Haskins and Suzanne Brewster as Assistant Coordinators. Adorers signed up for a one-year commitment to weekly adoration and those parishioners who could not make a weekly commitment signed up as Substitutes. In 2001 Suzanne Brewster moved away and Linda and Missy continued to lead the Adoration Ministry. In 2007 Linda asked Ella Ennis to take over as Coordinator and Missy continued as Assistant Coordinator until 2012 when Linda Pixton became Assistant Coordinator.

Missy wanted to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration with the purchase of a new monstrance. All the Adorers donated as they were able for this new monstrance and stand in gratitude for the many blessings received personally and for the parish. Many of the original Adorers continue their faithful commitment to “Spend an Hour” with the Lord each week. New adorers are added every November on Sign-up Sunday and all parishioners are asked to search their hearts, as the Holy Spirit leads them, to become a part of Eucharistic adoration at St. John Vianney.

“By means of the boundless love which he communicates to human hearts, Christ in the Eucharist urges the faithful to foster warm and constructive relationships with everyone, and work untiringly for the spread of peace throughout the world. The love which the Eucharist nourishes in human hearts impels Christians to work for peace in society. Whoever lives by this love is convinced that conflicts can be resolved and that social justice can prevail.” (St. John Paul II)

These words by our beloved Pope John Paul II encourage us to include adoration in our daily schedules. Our ultimate goal of Perpetual Adoration lies somewhere in the future.
How did the Spanish Mass Get Started?
By Fr. Peter Daly

Back in 1994, Denton’s Crab House on Broome’s Island began importing seasonal workers from Mexico to pick the crab meat out of crabs caught in the bay and Patuxent River. Each year about 70 to 80 people arrived for six months from Central Mexico, Hidalgo State.

Fr. Frank Walsh initially began meeting with them. Although he did not speak any Spanish at the time, Fr. Daly also went down to meet the migrant workers. Their conditions were very poor and they were lonely. A decision was made in 1995 to have a Spanish Language mass celebrated by Fr. Frank Walsh. When Fr. Walsh was transferred in 1996 Fr. Daly realized that he would need to learn Spanish.

A Spanish speaking parishioner, Flor de Liz Arias Snyder, recommended that he go to Costa Rica to study Spanish in her home town of La Guacima. He went for the month of July in 1996. After that Fr. Daly began doing the Spanish Mass. Eventually Fr. Jaime Hernandez came as a seminarian for a summer in 2001. He is a priest of Washington, but is a native of El Salvador. He began a liturgy of the word and once he was ordained, he returned many weeks to help Fr. Daly with the Spanish Language mass at 7 PM. Later the mass was moved to 5 PM and now 1 PM because of desire to reach more people.

The Spanish community is now much smaller than it was 20 years ago. Denton’s Crab house closed in 2001. There are no migrants, but now fairly permanent residents, legal and illegal (undocumented). We have ministered to them all without distinction.
The Family Life Center
By Joann Scanlan, Sandy Sullivan, and Fr. Peter Daly

The idea for the Family Life Center began in the visioning workshop of 1995. But it did not really take shape until Mr. John Doran decided to sell his business and retire. John Doran was the owner of Rental Tool, Inc., which had 37 locations in 5 states, renting major equipment and tools. After he sold his business he established a charitable foundation, the Doran Family Foundation, with the purpose of assisting Catholic youth projects in Southern Maryland.

The idea came about on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, led by Fr. Daly, in 1997. Mr. Doran and Fr. Daly had a conversation in the airport waiting lounge in Newark, NJ, about what John Doran might do in his retirement. Fr. Daly suggested to him that he should do something with youth, since he had raised 10 children.

The Doran Family Foundation funded not only our Family Life Center, but the new Catholic Church in Huntingtown, Jesus the Divine Word and the new gym at Jesus the Good Shepherd in Owings. It also funded many other projects in southern Maryland.

For several months Fr. Daly and Mr. Doran discussed what sort of center might be constructed at the parish. Several listening sessions were held with teens, young adults and older adults to hear what they would like to see. Fr. Daly and John Doran also visited many facilities in Washington, DC, Anne Arundel County and around Southern Maryland. They developed an idea for a center that would include athletics, arts, community activities, education and maybe even a radio station.

Original Concept and Construction
The original concept of the FLC that was presented to our parish by John Doran was a building with square footage the size of the local Walmart but two stories high. The second story was to include a proposed gymnasium with a running track. Fr. Daly didn’t think that the parish could afford to maintain such a large building. The parish asked John Doran to consider something smaller. Eventually the current 24,000 sq. ft. design was agreed upon with a theater and gymnasium, meeting rooms, a kitchen, and offices.

The Doran Family Foundation was to pay 80% of the cost of the building. However, after the construction of the church Fr. Daly was concerned that the parish could not afford to pay its 20% share of the building and the nearly $500,000 in site development costs not covered by the Doran family. Fr. Daly, Eugene Karol, the president of the Pastoral Council, and John Doran went to dinner at Ruby Tuesday to discuss the matter. Fr. Daly asked Mr. Doran if he could pay the full cost of the construction of the building. John said without hesitation, “Sure.”

Then the waitress came to take orders. John said to Fr. Daly, “Do you want to split the baked potato? They are large here and I don’t think we want to buy two.” John had just agreed to spend another $800,000 on the building but did not want to buy an extra baked potato.
Mr. Doran and his daughter Cathy took charge of the design of the Family Life Center. The title “Family Life Center” was consciously chosen to emphasize that it was for the whole family and to support family life. It is NOT just a youth center. It is for everyone.

Eventually the Doran foundation developed four prototype plans for the FLC. Since St. John Vianney parish was in the midst of the construction of the new church, it was decided to postpone the building of the FLC until the church was finished. This took much longer than expected so that construction on the FLC could not begin until October of 2002.

The Doran Foundation paid the entire cost of the construction of the building, including the theater seating and lighting, gym bleachers and equipment and the kitchen equipment.

The parish had to pay the cost of the site work and other furnishings for the building, such as tables and chairs and office furniture. The Doran foundation donated about $5 million for the building, including a state of the art audio and lighting system in the theater.

The parish paid about $500,000 for site work and another $50,000 for furnishings. The building was built on land we already owned, but the additional land from the Parran-Wilson estate behind the FLC, provided a natural buffer of about 20 acres of woodland.

Dedication and Programs
The Family Life Center was dedicated on September 5, 2004, just two years after the new church. A huge festival was held for the dedication. Bishop Francisco Gonzalez, the auxiliary bishop of Washington came for the dedication and blessing which included a mass in the gym attended by 700 people. The O’Hagan Brothers, Eugene and Martin, came from Ireland and sang a concert in the theater. The Choir, directed by Patty Pulju gave a patriotic concert. There was another picnic on the field and 700 people were invited to lunch. Joe and Cassie Garcia chaired the dedication committee.

Some significant programs which started in the FLC include the Catholic Youth Basketball League which has more than 400 children ages 5 through 10 enrolled in winter basketball. It also includes the drama ministry. This ministry presents plays two times each year. In 2014 it presented an original drama by Fr. Daly, entitled “Last Rites” which is about two historical characters: Roger Brooke Tawney, the first Catholic chief justice of the Supreme Court, who was from Calvert County, and James Healy, the first African American priest ordained for the USA.

The parish has also hosted the Catholic Heart Work Camp for five years. All 250 guests slept on the floor of the FLC or in the church basement. The original concept of the Family Life Center was a place where the youth could come and hang out in a safe environment.
We soon realized that unlike inner city gathering places, the youth could not walk to our center. They had to be driven by car. Most of our parents had to commute a long distance to and from work every day, so they could not bring their children for after school activities. We soon realized that summers and weekends would be our busy time.

Sandy and George Sullivan opened the Family Life Center in May of 2004 and served as the volunteer managers. They immediately started considering summer camps for children, plays for the theater, and rentals for the building. Renting space turned out not to be initially feasible, so an advisory board was formed to explore better uses for the center. These members were Sandy & George Sullivan, Sam Schiattareggi, Gisela Victoria, and Cindy Brown. They agreed that it was too late in the year for any well-known camps to use the center.

The committee soon realized that even though the building was complete we needed a few things to make the building function. The Doran Family Foundation generously gave the microphones, floor cleaning machine and other equipment necessary to make the programs possible.

Right away things began to happen. We held volleyball camps and basketball programs. Cheer leaders met in our gym. Soon after we opened, Larry Donnelly started first Saturday breakfast after the 8:00 am mass. The original turnout was about 20 to 25 parishioners. Food was served in the foyer, and was priced by what you ate. We replaced “First Saturday” breakfast with “First Sunday” breakfast. This turned out to be very popular. We even had to move the tables and food to the gym so we could accommodate more people. Price was by donation, which continues today.

The first use of the theater was a one-person performance of “Women of the Bible.” A one-woman play written and performed by Anita Gutschick. The theater was about half full. This was followed by Kevin Daly from Children’s Theater in Baltimore arranging several performance plays for the children. Cindy & David Brown spent many hours learning how to operate the lights and sound board. Cindy was then put in charge of all theater operations. The first FLC theater drama camp was in July 2005 run by Lori Willis from “Follow Spot Productions”. The drama camp was a huge success. Two sisters, Rita LeClerc and Gisela Victoria, ran the Drama Ministry which produced productions, both religious and secular, twice a year for ten years.
From Family Night to Open Gym night, the FLC quickly became part of our community. Everyone in the area used the building as a center or activity. Parishioners were free, with guests and non-parishioners being charged a small fee.

We then got a more regular schedule for using the center. Monday was for adult volleyball, started by Jack McFadden. There was a very good turnout. Even with two nets in use, some had to wait to play. Tuesday was “open gym” for basketball, and there was a very good turnout. Wednesday was reserved for religious education, and it filled the building. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday were set aside for rentals. Since the building was in use almost every night, we realized we needed building monitors. Russell Robertson was the primary paid monitor. Richard Hayes and Conrad White were the volunteer monitors for Tuesday nights. They have continued as volunteers for 13 years.

With a lot of activities and rentals, Larry Donnelly opened a snack bar, which turned out to be a huge money maker. Larry provided lunch for the summer camps and SMJ’s volleyball tournaments. All kitchen help were and continue to be volunteers.

Jack McFadden and David Brown designed a check-in system and computer database system for the FLC. Since 2004, there have been many rentals and free events in the Family Life Center. Examples of these events include participants from many different religious denominations, county and state governments, and fund raisers for nonprofits in the county, birthday and retirement parties, and many local school activities in the gym. These rentals do not include the many activities that the parish has in the building.

In 2007, Mrs. Joann Scanlan was hired as the first full-time manager of the FLC. Many of the former activities continued, and many new activities have been added. Sports are continuing favorites, such as Monday Adult Volleyball, Tuesday basketball and the Catholic Youth Basketball League. Linda Greffen was the first CYBL Director and in 2015 there were 360 children enrolled. Other events included the Ladies Club Christmas Craft Show, theater productions by the Patuxent Players and the Calvert County Mercy Fest.
How did Catholic Heart Work Camp get started?
By Fr. Peter Daly and Jan Pedone

In 1995 Fr. Daly received a brochure in the mail advertising a new program for teens called “Catholic Heart Work Camp.” It had just started in Pittsburgh and was only two weeks that summer. The program involved four days of service and one day of recreation. In the evenings were sessions of prayer and witness talks and confession and mass. Jan Pedone and Charlie Coradetti took our new school bus to Pittsburgh. It was hot and difficult. The youth slept on the floor of a junior high school. The work was difficult, but the youth loved it.

The next year we went to Nashville, Tennessee in a chartered bus. We had nearly 40 participants. It was the best trip ever. The week went by instantly and the youth said they wanted to go again. We have now gone for more than 22 years. Our parish has gone every year but one. Several of our students have become camp counselors with Catholic Heart Work Camp. We have been to camps in Orlando, FL, Boston, MA, Charlotte, NC (two times), Greensville, NC, (two times), Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Catholic Heart Work Camp has become part of the tradition and joy of our parish. Our youth really look forward to it. Danielle Rogers, Wayne Gross and Kayla Gross have all traveled with CHWC on the teams that put on the high energy camps. Catholic Heart is now in 50 cities across the USA and in Canada and the Virgin Islands. More than 20,000 youth participate every summer in service, prayer and celebration.

For five years we sponsored a CHWC here at St. John Vianney in our Family Life Center. We hosted 240 teens and their adult leaders. Not only did we house them in our church facilities, we provided meals and mass and confession and work projects. Some years we did more than 80 separate work projects from repairing a porch to cleaning out the garage of an elderly person.

Eventually it was decided that our facilities were too small. CHWC would prefer to have at least 300 youth at a single site. But the five years we did the celebration were some of the happiest weeks we have ever had. The Men’s Club especially like cooking breakfast and dinner one day at each camp and meeting teens who came to us from everywhere in the USA from Texas to Minnesota to New England.

When the campers would leave every year, we were always depressed. It was a true joy to have so many youthful and good people here on our campus.
Social Service Programs Founded at St. John Vianney

Project ECHO Homeless Shelter

In 1993 it was apparent that Calvert County had a homeless population. Msgr. John Brady asked two parishioners, Tom Morgan and Rob Sullivan, to attend a meeting regarding homelessness. They both came back very enthused. Tom, in particular, devoted all his time in retirement to the founding of a homeless shelter to be sponsored by the faith communities of Calvert County. The decision was made to call it Project ECHO for Ecumenical Coalition for the Homeless.

Eventually a loan was obtained from the County Housing Authority and the old rectory of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church at 430 Main Street, next door to St. John Vianney, was purchased by the ECHO board. ECHO, Inc. has always been an independent corporation, not owned by any church.

ECHO opened in 1993, eventually housing about 25 people in the shelter with 8 beds for men and the rest for women and children. It had only one employee and was entirely staffed by volunteers. Meals were provided by area churches, including St. John Vianney.

Tom Morgan died in 2000, having lived to see the shelter operate for 6 years.

In 2007 it was apparent that the shelter was too small. Some meetings were held to discuss the expansion of the existing building. Fr. Daly was involved in a meeting to discuss the shelter along with Bill Stanton of our parish, who had become the new president of Project ECHO.

Eventually a decision was made to build an entirely new building. Tom Reinecker was commissioned to design a shelter that would hold about 45 people, including 20 beds for men.

Bill Stanton guided the fund raising and design. Jack McFadden supervised the details of the construction. The Housing Authority lent more than $1 million in HUD funds. St. John Vianney parish purchased the old ECHO house and grounds, paying off their mortgage and giving them more than $100,000 in start-up funds.

Fr. Daly and Bill Stanton appeared before the Maryland State Senate to ask for funds in a bond bill. They were cut off before they could testify, but they got the maximum allowable under law, $250,000. Which was probably the most effective 30 seconds of lobbying ever done for a group from Calvert County.

As of 2015 St. John Vianney still provided one meal per week (Fridays) for ECHO. It has been cooked by volunteers for many years. We also sponsor the annual “Empty Bowl Supper” in the FLC, which is the principal fund raiser for Project ECHO each year.
Birthright of Prince Frederick

The problem of abortion and troubled pregnancy has always existed. In 1995 the prolife committee of the parish, consisting of Fr. Daly, Bill Goodman, Patricia Kelly, Patricia Yatsko and others, met and decided that the most effective pro-life witness we could give was to found a chapter of Birthright, Inc., to provide assistance to girls and women in difficult pregnancies. Dr. Joseph Tiralla was an early supporter and provided all the OB-Gyn services to the center for more than 20 years.

At first the office was hosted in the medical office building where Calvert OB-Gyn was housed. Then it moved to a house rented to Birthright on the corner of Dares Beach Road and Armory Road. This was a great location since every school bus bound for Calvert High passed the office. Eventually it was moved to larger offices in the Fox Run Professional Center.

The initial volunteers and staff were heavily Catholic. Fr. Daly preached several homilies on “practical pro-life witness” which meant saving lives more than changing laws. Although we always had a contingent going to the Pro-life March in January, our emphasis was more on volunteering for Birthright.

Patricia Kelly, of our parish and Jesus the Divine Word, became the president and director of Birthright. She guided the formation and training of volunteers. She died in 2015 and is buried in the SJV cemetery.

Patricia Yakso of St. John Vianney was on the board for more than 20 years until her death in 2014.

Both Patricias were essential founders of Birthright and made it survive. It has saved many lives from abortion with an average of more than 100 requests for pregnancy tests each month.

Calvert Interfaith Council

When Rev. Jack McClendon retired from the job of chaplain at Calvert Memorial Hospital in 2005 there was a void left in the interfaith relations in the county. The old Calvert Christian Clergy Council had died out. Nothing had taken its place.

At the party held at the FLC to welcome the new hospital chaplain, Rev. Alice Thompson, a decision was made to form a new organization for the churches of Calvert County. It was to be called the Calvert Interfaith Council. Fr. Daly volunteered to write the first by-laws and get the organization going.

Eventually the Interfaith Council would include most houses of worship in the county and many social service groups. Out of the Interfaith Council came Community Ministries of Calvert County, which is housed in the Social Services House (Casa Juan Diego) in space donated by St. John Vianney.

Community Ministries serves everyone who comes to the office asking for help with donations from all participating churches in the community.

Parish Partners

This program was founded by Catholic Charities in response to the outcry from the closure of the Catholic Charities office in our area. It includes a social worker, Evette Howard, who helps screen and evaluate people who come to our parish in need. St. John Vianney is the second most active parish in Parish Partners in the Archdiocese of Washington, following Assumption parish in SE Washington.

Each year our parish provides $20,000 to $30,000 in assistance to local families for housing, medicine, gas, utilities, and other necessaries. We are assisted by major gifts to our parish by the Hill Foundation, started by Mr. Jack Hill of our parish, which assists people with urgent needs.
How did Safe Nights of Calvert County Get Started?
By Mary Ann and Joseph Zaversnik

Safe Nights became an active ministry in 2008. It was to serve as a supplement to Project Echo and house the overflow of homeless in the winter months. The goal was to give the homeless of the county a warm place to sleep, somewhere to shower if possible and three meals. To accomplish this goal, it was incorporated as a non-profit corporation. The shelters move weekly from church-to-church and are staffed entirely with volunteers. St. John Vianney was the first of 22 churches to host Safe Nights guests, and served as a model for other churches.

Father Daly, in announcing the program at Christmas Eve Mass 2007 stated he would probably be “damned” (in a literal sense) if he allowed an individual to freeze to death in our community on his watch. He recruited Mary Ann and Joseph Zaversnik to develop the rules and guidelines, and coordinate the ministry. They visited all the churches in Calvert County.

The first year we started with only five or six churches. Eventually it expanded to the 22 churches now hosting today. Each church hosts homeless guests for one or two weeks each winter season, providing them with shelter, meals, showers, and other services.

The rules and regulations were developed by tapping into a massive database they put together of shelters from both the United States and abroad. Because the temperament, mental, and criminal backgrounds of the homeless were quite variable and, many volunteers had no experience overseeing the homeless, it was necessary to establish rules and guidelines to insure the safety of both the sheltered and those giving shelter.

Mary Ann and Joe served as host coordinators for SJV, trained the volunteers, and managed the program for six shelter seasons. Subsequently, Flo and Skip Ford and Sue Bilek served as host coordinators at SJV. Safe Nights still has its offices at St. John Vianney and stores its supplies in the church basement during the off-season. It is financially supported by churches in our community and has some “helper” churches that provide only meals and volunteers. It has been a phenomenal success.

With the sweet came the bitter. It was heartwarming seeing what could be done for the less fortunate if everyone pulled together. However, it was very stressful having to turn down an individual who posed a threat to the safety of all.
How did the St. John Vianney Interfaith Food Pantry Start?

By Larry Donnelly and Rocky Ragano

In 2010 the Parish Council discussed the possible need for another food pantry in the central part of Calvert County. There were food pantries in the south (SMILE) and in the north (St. Anthony’s and Chesapeake Church), but nothing near Prince Frederick. A committee was formed, headed by Larry Donnelly, Gordon Norwood, and Miranda Jarnot.

By November of 2011, Larry Donnelly and others, including the Men’s Club, started SJV’s Food Pantry. The Men’s Club set up shelves and lighting. Others donated a van and helped get a box truck. Pantry volunteers started out serving 35 families per week. By 2014 the number had grown to 135 families each week. More than half a million pounds of food was distributed in the first five years of operation, 2011 to 2016. This exceeds all expectations. In 2014 there were 80 volunteers working in the Food Pantry, sometimes whole families with up to eight members worked as volunteers. Volunteers work on Monday and Wednesday mornings packing food into bags. Office staff check clients in; volunteers bring food to client cars; others pick up food and produce each week; Larry and his wife stock and clean shelves Wednesday evenings, to get ready for clients on the coming Monday.

In just the first 3 months of the 2014 fiscal year, Pantry staff processed 86,000 pounds of food and spent $26,000. Purchases at the Maryland Food Bank lets the pantry stretch its funds even further. Our parish is probably the only food pantry that distributes fresh fish in season, caught by members of the Men’s Club. We also distribute produce donated from local farms, especially Serenity Farm in Benedict, owned by Bernie Fowler, Jr.

By 2015 it was apparent that the Food Pantry housed in the Casa Juan Diego was too small. For nearly a year the parish had tried to purchase Suburban Propane, next door to the Church, to build a new building. Fr. Daly made the decision to build on our property and build a 3,000 sq. ft. building. The estimated cost of the building is $400,000. We raised the money in less than two months as a farewell project for Fr. Daly.

We are praying for approval of the new facility by the Archdiocese and the County Authorities and have the ribbon cutting in early 2018.

Jesus said that we will be judged by our response to the least among us, including feeding the hungry. (Matthew 25).
Parish Social Service Ministries

Mental Health Ministry

About one in five adults in this country suffer from mental illness, depression, or PTSD. Our community is no different. The Paul Helm Jr. Mental Health Spiritual Support Ministry (or simply “Mental Health Ministry”) is designed to provide a place for people to gather who either live with these afflictions or have loved ones who do. The ministry provides both spiritual support and practical help in what can be at times very trying circumstances. Our goal is to help each other to find God in our particular circumstances and to live life in His joy and peace. The group will also strive to raise awareness of mental illness within the parish by providing information on the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) and hosting NAMI events.

Addictions Ministry

The addictions ministry grew out of a growing problem in our community and started in March 2015. We currently hold two Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, one Nar Anon (Narcotics Anonymous) meeting, and one Family Support and Spiritual Growth group meeting on Thursday evenings. We hold a Praise and Worship service from 7 pm until 7:30 before these meetings begin. This ministry is in its infancy and led by the Spirit we hope to assist those who are hurting and in need of healing. Our goal is to lead them to recovery and a lasting relationship with the Divine Healer – Our God.

Jail Ministry

Helping Inmates Transition to Society (HITTS)

By Deacon Ed Chrzanowski

Helping Inmates Transition to Society (HITTS) is a faith based interdenominational Christian ministry that meets on the Second Thursday of the month at the Family Life Center. Our mission is to provide moral, spiritual and practical support to recently released inmates from the Calvert County Detention Center. This is primarily a mentoring program that provides practical advice in locating food, clothing, housing, job skills and jobs.

Kairos Prison Ministry

By Don Mueller

Since 2010, St. John Vianney parishioners have been actively involved in the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Greensville Correctional Center in Jarratt, VA. The International Kairos Prison Ministry, is an interdenominational Christian ministry, which was founded based on the Catholic Church's Cursillo movement. Think of it as Cursillo behind bars. Twice a year St. John Vianney parishioners join other Christian church volunteers by hosting a four-day Kairos weekend at the Greensville Correctional Center. Each weekend brings the love of Christ to 42 inmates. The volunteers bring with them upwards of 2,500 dozen home baked cookies, many of which are baked and prayed over by dozens of St. John Vianney parishioners. The St. John Vianney Men's Club bakes and prays over upwards of 300 dozen cookies for each weekend. The cookies help to interest the prisoners in attending the weekend and then the Holy Spirit takes over. Many of the inmates have never before been exposed to the love and forgiveness of Christ - it truly changes their lives as they begin to understand how much Christ loves them and forgives them. An Outside Team, usually made up of female Kairos volunteers, provides logistical and prayer support for the men who volunteer to go into the prison each day. The weekend culminates in a Sunday afternoon closing ceremony, in which outside guests, both male and female participate.
Educational Ministries
Christian Beginnings Pre-School

In early 1995 the SJV parish Council wanted to try to help our parents with young children. A survey was taken to ask if they wanted a day care or a preschool. The results showed most parents wanted a preschool to help prepare their children for success in kindergarten. A committee was formed including Cathy Miller, Joan Thorp, Shannon Garner and Marie Chrzanowski to look into opening a preschool. The state had many rules and regulations to be followed in order to open a preschool. After a year of research and planning, the Christian Beginnings Preschool of SJV was opened in September 1996. We decided to open our school to all children in the area. There was one class of three year olds and one class of four year olds.

We based our preschool on the best parts of the preschools in the area. We taught age-appropriate subjects of reading readiness, math, social studies, science, and the love of God. Lori Shymanski taught the three year olds and Ralph Garner taught the four year olds. The school was monitored and inspected by the Child Care Administration of Maryland. The first year was so successful we needed to add an afternoon class to both age groups.

The Maryland State Department of Education offered a program where we could get state approval of our program. We decided to do that and received state approval in 1998. Ralph Garner left us after the first year and Karen Van Duzer was hired to teach the fours. Lori moved out of state in 1998 and we hired Cathy Bodenhorn to teach the 3 year olds and Dot Stein to be the aide. In 2004 Karen moved on. Cathy moved to teacher of the fours, and Dot Stein became the teacher of the threes. Cathy and Dot have remained with our preschool for 18 and 17 years respectively. They retired at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. We began our 20th year as a Catholic preschool in September 2015 with Rose Thompson teaching both the threes and the fours and with new aides. We have served the parents of SJV and the Prince Frederick community for over 21 years.

Religious Education - CCD

Religious Education is a ministry that was instituted here at St. John Vianney from its inception. It has developed over the years and the number of children attending steadily grew with the development of the County.

The goals of this ministry remain constant: To equip our children with the knowledge of God and an understanding of stewardship, service and evangelization as well as their own spiritual growth.

The challenge is to instill the importance of making your faith and the practice of your faith a priority. So many other distractions such as sports, dance etc. have become the priority. To reach our young people in our current environment we have to present our faith in an attractive, accepting way that will encourage them to want to know more and to live according to what they believe.

Our confirmation program is one of our successes. The advocate program encourages young people who have been confirmed to return and work with the Confirmation class. They are assigned one or two students and it is their responsibility to see that their student/students are welcomed each week, to check on their assignments and to pray with them. We currently have 35 students, 29 advocates, 6 young adults and 15 adults to participate every week. The adult and young adult leaders lead small group discussions every week and are mentors for our students.

Our confirmation retreat is the highlight of the year. Over the years it has evolved into a production. There is a team of adults who each have specific jobs such as: technical support, audio visual, art, drama, graphics for tee shirts, music and the physical labor to set up for the retreat. Other adult leaders coordinate some of our outreach for service such as Catholic Heart Work Camp and support for other outreach programs. To attend the retreat you must be a student in the confirmation program, an advocate, a young adult or adult who is participating in the confirmation program during the
year. The retreat is the incentive for many of the advocates to return every year through High School and for our young adults during and after their college years.
RCIA --- How it started
by Peter Abresch

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, RCIA program began at St. John Vianney in 1983-1984 with Peter Abresch as coordinator and Father James Finan as pastor. They attended a five day session at Georgetown University which was based on the process of sharing faith rather than classes of instruction. At the time there were only six Cursillistas and very little in active organizations within the Parish, and the concept of lay people conducting an evangelization program was alien within the church. Consequently, it was a difficult, three-month effort to get the first team together to lead what would be called the “Journey in Faith.” Father Ray Kemp, who was the archdiocese's RCIA guru, came to give the leaders encouragement and stated RCIA would change the Parish. But what really solidified the team were four people from the St. Nicolas RCIA program who came and put on a demonstration of how a session was conducted. This inspired the St. John Vianney team in the belief that with the help of the Holy Spirit they could do it as well.

And indeed the Holy Spirit had already been at work for not only were there ten or fifteen team members, but also a like amount willing to walk along to be sponsors. What this meant, although unrealized at the time, some thirty people would be converted even before the first candidate walked through the door. And in addition, parish members were recruited to make gowns for the candidates which increased the scope of those touched by the process.

Still, that first year was a learn-in-place where each candidate was treated like a precious embryo inside a fragile eggshell. Since everything was so new, there was the constant fear that a misplaced word would lose a candidate, and perhaps gain the wrath of a Catholic spouse. A further difficulty lay in explaining to the Parish during some of the Rites why, if these people wanted to convert, we were escorting them out of Mass after the homily.

Finally, what Father Ray Kemp had predicted about RCIA changing the parish has proven true. Many members of that first year are still around while others have gone home to the Lord, but most of the Parish leaders have been touched in some way, either as candidate, a team member, or a sponsor, by the RCIA program. And it is still ongoing. We have had a class of RCIA every year since 1984. Classes have ranged in size from three to 25 new members.

Saint John Vianney RCIA Process
By Joseph Mihalcik

The RCIA Process was instituted at Vatican II. It was brought to St John Vianney in 1982 and the first class began in the fall of 1983 under the direction of Peter Abresch. Peter went through a year of preparation including a week of diocesan training and observation of other programs.

Thursday evening meeting times were established with the sessions lasting 9 months following the Church’s liturgical calendar. The process was emphasized as a Journey in Faith and the term RCIA was introduced over time. It was open to three distinct backgrounds: first, unbaptized and baptized candidates who desired to learn more about the Catholic Church with the goal of becoming Catholics; second, baptized Catholics who haven’t received all their sacraments including Confirmation; and third, those Catholics’ seeking to renew their knowledge of the Church’s teachings.

Under the direction of the pastor, the lay coordinator/director established a team of around 8 Catholics knowledgeable in the faith. They would take turns at preparing and giving presentations, being table leaders and taking on supporting roles (coordinate refreshments, room set up, table assignments). The director also recruited another group of volunteers to be sponsors. In addition to
attending every meeting with their candidate, each sponsor advises, prays and encourages their candidate.

At the first meeting of the year, a loving, welcoming environment is established. There is no distinguishing between team members, sponsors or candidates. In any one year depending on the number of candidates, the meeting size can vary from 20 to 40.

The one and a half hour sessions consists of an opening song, prayer, then one or two religion subjects presented by a team member or a guest speaker. This is followed by short questions and answer period and a 15 minute coffee break with refreshments. A song ends the break and small groups are formed to discuss the presentations. Questions are provided to aid the discussion. The session ends with a large group sharing of the highlights of the small group discussions and a closing prayer. More recent addition is a reading and review of the upcoming Sunday Gospel after the break.

The nine months Journey is divided into four phases with each phase celebrated in a Church liturgy:
1. Period of Inquiry concludes with the Rite of Catechumens/Rite of Welcoming
2. Period of Catechumenate ends with the Rite of Sending at SJV and Rite of Elect and Rite of Continuing Conversion at the Basilica
3. Period of Purification and Enlightenment coincides with lent and leads to the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil and full communion.
4. Period of Mystagogy concludes with Pentecost

In addition to these liturgy’s there are three Sundays in Lent called Scrutinies where the group attends Mass together. During all these liturgies that take place during the Mass, the Unbaptized candidates leave the church before the Rite of the Eucharist as was done in the early church. This is to emphasize to the congregation the privilege they have by participating in the Eucharistic Rite.

Initially Holy Saturday morning, there was a half day of reflection that tied the entire preparation together. It concluded with a rehearsal and opportunity for confessions. In 2000 Deacon Gene Mastrangelo introduced a weekend retreat centered on the Paschal Mystery. This retreat was scheduled for the third or fourth weekend in Lent. The weekend retreat has proved to be an invaluable addition to the Journey in Faith. The loving, open, intimate and warm atmosphere established through personal life journey sharing and team work creates a faith memory and relationships that last a lifetime.

The RCIA program at St John Vianney has had much success and a large number of today’s most active parishioners have come through the RCIA process.

For the first five years, Peter Abresch was the only coordinator. In the succeeding years a team of two coordinated the journey. Since 2000 it has been mostly one individual coordinating the Journey. There have been over 19 different coordinators over the 34 years our program has been established. In the early days of the program, personal invitation letters were sent to those who had shown some interest in the Catholic Church; spouses and non-Catholic relatives of Church members and others. As the program matured the recruiting of candidates was through personal relationships, notes in the church bulletin, and encouragements from the pulpit.

We have had numerous RCIA directors over the years including Peter, Stephan and Mark Abresch, Joe and Trudy Mihaleik, Ralph Dwan, Marijka Ulanowicz, George and Sandy Sullivan, Patrick Duffy, Deacon Eugene and Marj Mastangelo, and our current director, Gwen Haigwood.
Parish Organizations

Arimatheans

This group of 80 volunteers provides support to families in time of grief by offering meals to the mourners who attend funerals at the parish. We have about 30 to 35 funerals per year and nearly every one of them has a meal afterwards.

All of the food is donated and all the workers are volunteers. We have had many directors of the program including Agnes Grayson, Ginny Romero, Amy Chaffee, Linda Dolecki, Mary de Right, Gwen Haigwood, and Ruth Mora. Mary DeRight elevated our service to a higher level with table cloths. The meals are exceptional and the service is a great sign of love and hospitality.

Cursillo/Ultreya

Cursillo is a spiritual renewal movement that began in Spain just after WW II. It spread to Latin American and eventually came to the USA, crossing our southern border. It seeks to renew the spiritual life of its participants by reintroducing them to the heart of faith and the teaching of Christ. It does this through a four day retreat called a “Cursillo”, which means “little course” in Spanish. After the retreat participants continue to fellowship in small groups, usually three to five people who meet once every two weeks for prayer and reflection. In the small groups they review their “piety”, “study” of the faith, and “action” for the faith. Once each month there is a large group meeting called “Ultreya” or “beyond” in Spanish. The Ultreya keeps the movement alive. St. John Vianney has the largest Ultreya group in the Archdiocese of Washington. SJV has at least a dozen small groups of men and women who meet for prayer and reflection. Cursillo builds up the parish in faith and friendship. We participate in two Cursillo retreats every year, one for men and one for women. Many of our Cursillistas are among our most active parishioners.
Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus (or the Order) has a rich and long history in the United States. Its founder was the Rev. Michael J. McGivney who was pastor of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in New Haven, CT. The Connecticut State Assembly chartered the Order on March 29, 1882.

The Order’s membership now extends to nearly two thirds of the world, approaching 2 million members. Members are Catholic men 18 years of age or older, who are in Union with the Holy See. The Knights of Columbus at St. John Vianney Parish was chartered on February 17, 1994, as “Our Lady Seat of Wisdom Council No. 11259 (OLSOW).” OLSOW serves St. Francis De Sales Parish in Benedict Maryland as well as St. John Vianney Parish. Our officers and members helped form two news Councils in Calvert County: Jesus, Good Shepherd No. 14572 (Owings) in 2008 and Jesus, Divine Word 14775 (Huntingtown) 2009.

Ladies Club
by Barbara Fallin

The Ladies Club, originally called the “Altar Society and Ladies Guild,” was started in 1955 with Elizabeth Schoppert as president. Since then there have been two dozen presidents, and starting in 2005 has been led by Barbara Fallin. The mission of the Ladies’ Club at St. John Vianney is to support the parish community, as a dedicated group of women. We provide spiritual and social functions that result in both personal and community growth. Throughout the year, the Ladies’ Club hosts both Christian Fellowship and community programs, such as guest speakers, mini retreats, the annual angel tree drive, dinner & movie events, the craft and home show, and many others. Each event is designed to achieve spiritual, educational, social, or financial goals. 100% of funds raised from any events are applied to the needs of the parish.
The Men’s Club began meeting in 1980 to promote a social environment for the men of the parish. This was an expansion of the already active service ministry the men provided the parish. Over the years, the activities have expanded to include the Men’s Retreat, golf outing, fishing trip, sunset boat cruise, crab dinner and seafood dinner. Service projects include setup, cooking and cleanup for the annual parish picnic, helping parishioners with home maintenance and moving, and many times providing the “heavy lifting” for parish activities. Many members of the Men’s Club worked on the church basement construction and numerous trips to Pass Christian, MS after hurricane Katrina to help rebuild Our Mother of Mercy Parish.
Sister Parishes
By Fr. Peter Daly
San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua

Initially through an ecumenical church program in Baltimore, in 2006 we began assisting the people of San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua to build basic houses for people living in unbelievable conditions. During the first few years, we provided funds to build 12 houses. In 2008, we decided to work directly with our sister parish, San Juan de Bautiste, and its pastor in San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua. Father Daly and several interested parishioners visited Limay, Nicaragua in July of 2008 and established the current Nicaragua housing program.

Our initial goal was to fund the building of 100 houses. We have long since surpassed that goal. As of January, 2015, we have built over 200 houses and our new goal is 500 houses which will impact approximately 10 percent of the families in this desperately poor region of Nicaragua. Weather permitting; approximately 20 houses are built each year. A committee of dedicated volunteers from our sister parish interviews and determines the “poorest of the poor” families that will receive each new house free of cost. Each eligible family must have title to their land and volunteer help in building their house. The houses themselves are approximately 20 X 20 feet in size. They are made of locally produced clay bricks and floor tiles with a metal roof. The cost of a house is $2,600. We provide the funds for the houses, not the labor to build them. All funds donated for a house go toward building a house and they are tax deductible.

Every six months, a delegation of missioners from St. John Vianney visits Limay to review progress and, most importantly, maintain a close bond with members of our sister parish and the families who receive houses. All administrative and travel costs are paid for by the missioners or by generous parishioners.
In addition to the nearly 400 houses for the poorest of the poor, we are funding the building of a modest subdivision for salaried professionals in the Limay area such as nurses, teachers, police officers and municipal workers whose salaries of $150 - $200 a month keep them from building their own homes and remaining in the area. There are now almost 20 houses in this 50 lot subdivision.

In 2014, we dedicated an 8 bedroom, 3 bathroom home for the elderly in Limay that was funded by generous parishioners of St. John Vianney. This year, the Limay parish began using this home as an adult day care center. It will eventually become an outpatient clinic sponsored by the Diocese of Estelí.

In 2017 the Limay housing project came to an end at the request of Bishop Juan Mata, the bishop of Estelí. He felt that we had largely accomplished our work there and that another parish in the diocese of Estelí could use help. A great fiesta was held to celebrate more than 10 years of work in Limay, to which everyone in the town was invited and the committee of parish of San Juan was honored.

Chapulhuacan and Santa Ana, Hidalgo, Mexico

For the past several years we have been assisting a sister parish in Hidalgo, Mexico. Actually our assistance has spread to three parishes, all in the same area, in the Diocese of Huejutla. The three parishes are Santa Ana, in Santa Ana, San Pedro in Chapulhuacan, and Sagrado Corazon (Sacred Heart) in Pisa Flores. All are near one another in the mountains north of Mexico City. Initially our contact with these parishes came from workers at Denton’s Crab House, who came to Calvert County on season workers’ visas to pick the crabs. Many of these workers attended our church.

Each of our sister parishes in Mexico has more than 20 chapels in each of several small towns which are part of the parish territory.

Our contact for all of these places is a catechist, Justino (“Tino”) Perez Moreno. Tino is a catechist in the parish of San Pedro. He has care of 14 communities (pueblos), each with their own church. When we met Tino he was homeless, sleeping in the churches he cared for. Tino also works in the fields. Over several years we have assisted in building two chapels. We have also built retaining walls, paid for doors and windows for churches and purchased several bells, chairs for churches, and Bibles, catechisms, prayer books and hymn books. We have also distributed clothing and other goods. We have also purchased material for a house for Tino (about $3,000). We have also bought school supplies for about 225 children in Santa Ana. Our CCD children, under the leadership of Jeanette Gionfriddo, collected money for books (in Spanish) for the children at Santa Ana.

Father Daly and parishioners from St. John Vianney have made three visits to that area in the last 10 years.
Our Mother of Mercy, Pass Christian, Mississippi

Following the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, August 31, 2005, St. John Vianney parish mobilized along with many other churches and volunteer groups to help the people of the Gulf Coast.

A meeting was held in the theater of the Family Life Center to discuss what we could do. More than 240 people attended and the theater was standing room only.

At first we were going to try to bring displaced persons from the New Orleans area to our parish campus and provide them with temporary housing. But that plan fell through when transportation could not be found and the people refused to leave their home area.

Fr. Daly heard a radio report on NPR in which a priest from Lafayette, LA, Fr. Richard Wagner, SSJ, was interviewed about his assistance to 1500 persons living on his parish property after the hurricane. Fr. Daly called Fr. Wagner and we began to send aid to Louisiana in the form of gift cards and a truckload of clothing and supplies which was driven down by Wayne Gross. A second truckload was taken down by Larry Donnelly and Chuck Knapper.

Eventually Fr. Daly asked Fr. Wagner if there was not some way that we could find a single parish and assist them with recovery. Fr. Wagner suggested the parish of Our Mother of Mercy in Pass Christian, Mississippi. That entire town had been wiped out and the rectory had floated off its foundation onto the nearby railroad tracks and was totally destroyed.

From 2005 to 2009, St. John Vianney Parish assisted Our Mother of Mercy Parish to rebuild their parish buildings and their parish community after Hurricane Katrina.

SJV volunteers made a total of 8 mission trips to Mississippi beginning with simple reconnaissance in December of 2005 to construction trips. The rectory and a former convent were totally destroyed by the hurricane. We paid to have what remained of the buildings demolished. The church and parish center suffered extensive damage, but could be rebuilt. Our parish replaced the roof, windows, and electrical wiring in the parish center. Eventually we designed and built an entirely new brick rectory, which is in use there to this day. We raised more than $100,000 for hurricane relief in a period of four years.
A group of parishioners went to Pass Christian in January 2006 to install a new roof and replace the windows on the former school of Our Mother of Mercy parish. About 50 people from our parish eventually went to Mississippi to help in the restoration of Our Mother of Mercy parish. At first, there were no buildings to stay in. We stayed with the other relief workers in tents set up by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It was rough living. We ate in a mess tent, which fed several hundred people every day, including prisoners from Mississippi prisons who were assisting in the hurricane relief.

Our parishioners eventually became good friends with many of the parishioners in Pass Christian. We made several more trips back there in the years that followed for the 100th anniversary of their parish and for the 60th anniversary of ordination for Fr. Bartholomew Endslow, the pastor of Our Mother of Mercy. At the time, Fr. Endslow was the oldest active Catholic pastor in the United States, still going strong until the age of 93. We gave Fr. Endslow a rocking chair for his anniversary and Fr. Daly preached at the mass. In the middle of the homily, Fr. Daly looked around to see Fr. Endslow sound asleep in the rocking chair.
# St. John Vianney Clergy

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<th>Pastors</th>
<th>Associates And In Residence</th>
<th>Deacons</th>
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<td><strong>1965 - 1970</strong></td>
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<td>Fr. Joseph J. Naughton</td>
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<td>Fr. Aloysius T. Newman</td>
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<td>Fr. Louis G. Troch</td>
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<td><strong>1971 – 1974</strong></td>
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<td>Msgr. Lawrence P. Gatti</td>
<td>Fr. Louis G. Troch</td>
<td>Fr. Louis G. Troch</td>
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<td>1973 – 1974</td>
<td>Fr. Donald F. Kelly</td>
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<td>Administrator Pro Tem.</td>
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<td><strong>1974 – 1975</strong></td>
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<td>Fr. Gerald J. Horgan</td>
<td>Fr. Louis G. Troch</td>
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<td><strong>1975 – 1981</strong></td>
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<td>Fr. W. Paul Hill</td>
<td>Fr. Thomas Kenefek</td>
<td>Leonard Stauffer</td>
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<td><strong>1981 – 1985</strong></td>
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<td>Fr. James A. Finan</td>
<td>Fr. Paul M. Dudziak</td>
<td>Christopher Wallmark</td>
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<td><strong>1985 – 1994</strong></td>
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<td>Msgr. John B. Brady</td>
<td>Fr. Matthew E. Thompson</td>
<td>Thomas Battaglia</td>
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<td><strong>1994 – 2017</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr. Peter Daly</td>
<td>Fr. Frank Walsh</td>
<td>Eugene Mastrangelo</td>
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<td>Fr. William Hines</td>
<td>Edmund Chrzanowski</td>
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<td>2017 - present</td>
<td>Retired Priests</td>
<td>Joseph Mills</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fr. Daniel Carson</td>
<td>Fr. Peter Alliata</td>
<td>James Caldwell</td>
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<td>Fr. Julio Alvarez Garcia</td>
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Milestones at St. John Vianney Parish
Prince Frederick, MD
1990-2017

- The parish has tripled in size from just under 400 families to nearly 1200 families.
- We have done over $12 million dollars’ worth of new construction.
- We are entirely debt free.
- We have formed several choirs and youth ministry groups.
- Started adoration 4 days per week.
- Began an outreach to the Latino community which has operated since 1995.
- Our religious education program has grown from 200 to 500 children at its peak.
- We have started more than seven summer camps for youth.
- Started programs for the homeless and opened a homeless shelter next door.

SOME IMPORTANT DATES IN OUR COMMON LIFE

1993
- Parish Center expanded to include three classrooms, offices and lobby.
- ECHO Homeless Shelter opens. Started by Tom Morgan.
- Kids of the Kingdom children’s choir started.

1994
- Msgr. John Brady is transferred to Holy Angels in Avenue, MD. and Fr. Peter Daly arrives as Pastor
- Jesus the Divine Word parish started in Huntingtown out of territory carved from SJV territory. Many parishioners transferred to the new parish meeting at Plum Point Elementary School.

1995
- Started Birthright, crisis pregnancy center as pro-life witness at our parish. Still operating after 20 years. Now an independent corporation.
- Christian Beginnings Pre-School opened for three and four year olds, which has been operating for 20 years and has always been solvent.
- Spanish Language mass started at 2 PM on Sundays by Fr. Walsh.
- Outreach to Mexican migrant community on Broomes Island Road.
- In May, First Visioning Workshop for the parish is held and many goals established.
- Birthright started by Patricia Kelly and Patricia Yatsko with help from Fr. Daly.
- First Catholic Heart Work Camp in Pittsburgh attended by youth of our parish.

1996
- Hospitality began after all masses on Sundays.
- Pathways discussion groups began for newly baptized converts.
- Renew discussion groups revived in a second version of Renew.
- Fr. Daly went to study Spanish in Costa Rica so he could preach at the Spanish mass.
Milestones continued

1997
- Parish Cemetery opened and blessed by James Cardinal Hickey.
- Began planning process for the construction of new church.
- Patricia Pulju becomes choir director for more than 10 years.
- Peggy Blackburn Braham takes over as liturgy coordinator.
- In October, parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Italy for 42 persons.

1998
- Eucharistic Adoration started on Friday mornings.
- Built a columbarium shrine to Blessed Mother at the bottom of the cemetery hill.
- Built outdoor Stations of the Cross in the cemetery and installed Stations from Poland.
- In May, the second Visioning Workshop for parish. Selected church site and design guidelines for the new church.

1999
- Purchased one acre of ground next to church (at 440 Main Street) to allow the construction of new church parking lot. Most expensive acre ever sold on Main Street at $750,000. Purchase was a gift from John Doran. It included five buildings and three outbuildings. Two of the small houses and all the outbuildings were demolished. Parking lot was graded. Five underground oil tanks were removed. Two houses moved to the ECHO property and remodeled by Men’s Club for homeless families in transition.
- In December dedicated both transitional homes for families. One house dedicated in the memory of Tom Morgan, SJV parishioner and founder of ECHO. The other dedicated in memory of Lt. Thomas Hill, brother of Jack Hill who started the “Hill Fund” in our parish that same year.
- John Doran purchased more than 100 acres for the church from the Parran-Wilson estate. The woodlands surrounded our parish property and adjoined County property.
- Started our parish WEB site on the internet.
- Vacation Bible School started for 30 children. Grew to as many as 80 children over the years and still operating after more than 20 years.

2000
- Started fund raising for the new church. Fr. Daly and Fr. Hines danced the “tutti-tat-tat” at a fundraiser held at Calvert High School.
- Planning on new Church started with visits to churches in Maryland, DC and Virginia.
- Stained glass window design discussions were begun with Brenda Belfield.
- Fr. Daly wrote long memo for Mrs. Belfield on the subject matter and design of windows including the selection of persons depicted in windows. Many non-canonized saints selected for the windows, 10 of whom were canonized or beatified since the windows were installed in the church. We gave God a check list.
Milestones continued

2001

- Construction began on new church by the Schiebel Construction Company with Jack McFadden overseeing the project for the parish.
- Construction delayed six months while roof was redesigned.
- Church services held in Vianney Room.
- Church furnishings donated by Oblates of Mary Immaculate through Maury Mattingly.
- Sister parish relationship began in Mexico.
- First visit to Mexico sister parishes by an SJV parish delegation, consisting of Fr. Daly and Eduardo Noriega.
- Fourth Visioning Workshop for the Parish. Decided on FLC design and time table for construction of FLC after the church.

2002

- September dedication of new church by Theodore Cardinal McCarrick. Increased seating in church from 185 to 450 and a chapel, which seats 30 people. Janeen Brock coordinated the dedication events.
- Eucharistic adoration goes four days per week.
- Started Arimathean Ministry to provide meals after funerals. Peggy Braham also organized a funeral choir to help with over 25 funerals per year.

2003

- Fifth Visioning Workshop for the Parish, in March of 2003. Decided on programs, rules and governing of Family Life Center.
- Construction began on the Family Life Center by Bailey Construction Co.

2004

- Opened the Family Life Center, 24,000 sq. ft., which has a gym, theater, meeting rooms and offices. It was debt free the day it opened. The Doran Foundation paid for the building. Parish paid for the site work and professional costs.
- Dedication of the FLC was by Bishop Francisco Gonzalez. Concerts were held in the theater by the singing priests from Ireland, Frs. Eugene and Martin O’Hagan and a patriotic concert by our choirs. Joe and Cassie Garcia led the dedication committee.

2005

- Drama ministry started in the Family Life Center.
- December 2005, we began our outreach to Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. Eventually we would tear down the old convent and rectory, remodel the school and parish center, and build a new rectory for our sister parish.
- Centralized computer system with backup server started by Jack McFadden for the parish computers. We now had 11 computers on campus.
- Started many classes in FLC including aerobics, Latin dancing, volleyball and basketball camps, and open microphone nights.
Milestones continued

2006

- Started Safe Nights, Inc., for the homeless, which organizes 24 Calvert County Churches to house the overflow homeless from the shelter for one week per year.
- Opened a new athletic field with full soccer, football field, lights and irrigation. Paid for the day it opened thanks to a generous donation from Mr. & Mrs. Charles Russell.
- First Sunday breakfast started in Family Life Center, grew to 400 participants.

2007

- McFadden Conference Center (5,000 sq. ft.) opened in basement of the church with a nursery, Knights of Columbus room, and conference room/library. All work done by volunteers and paid for when it opened.
- Finished stained glass windows with Brenda Belfield. Huge project, took 6 years. Fr. Daly drew up subject matter and reviewed the plans by artist. A real artistic contribution to our parish and to the patrimony of the church.
- Parish pilgrimage to Turkey and Greece in the footsteps of St. Paul and St. John.

2008

- Outreach to Nicaragua began with our first mission trip to San Juan de Limay, Nicaragua. Built first house for $1800. Later 10 houses. Eventually we set a goal of 100 houses. In ten years we would build 400 houses at the cost of $2500 to $2600 each. Employed as many as 10 people in Nicaragua.
- Stained glass windows calendar for 2009 published.

2009

- Sixth Visioning Workshop for the parish. Decided to sell 2.9 acres to the County for $415,000. Money used to purchase the old ECHO shelter next door and demolish it. Also purchased back the two cottages and began remodeling to house retired priests.
- Planning was begun for the new ECHO building to house 45 homeless persons with many new facilities to be located on the County Housing Authority property. Bill Stanton, Jack McFadden, and Michael Thomas very much involved in the construction of the nearly $2 million dollar shelter.
- Fr. Daly and Bill Stanton appeared before the Maryland State Senate to ask for funds to build the new ECHO homeless shelter.

2010

- Parish became debt free. We burned the "mortgage" at the Parish Picnic having paid off more than $1.3 million after only 7 1/2 years, twice as fast as required.
- Demolished the old ECHO house after the new ECHO shelter opened.
- Repaved Vianney Lane from Main Street to the Parish Center.
- Installed curbing and guttering along Vianney Lane and all parking lots.
- Completely remodeled two cottages on the property for use by retired priests.
- Bruce Brooks headed these projects.
- Opened new ECHO shelter for the homeless next door to SJV on the Calvert County Housing Authority property. Shelter doubled the number of beds and provided housing for women with children as well as single women and men.
Milestones continued

2011
- Remodeled Parish Center for over $1 million, including building an extension on the Vianney Room to nearly double the size of the room, replace all HVAC, and provide new lighting. The project was paid for the day it opened. Provides reception room for weddings and funerals and seating for up to 250 people at banquets. Mark Drager oversaw the construction for the parish.
- SJV opened the St. John Vianney Interfaith Food Pantry. At first, it served 40 to 50 families per week. As of 2017 it was serving 100 to 150 families each week. SJV received donations through our poor box, grants, special gifts and support from area food stores and restaurants.
- God’s Gifts Gift Shop started with religious items for sale. First located in house on Main Street, and then moved to a cottage, and eventually to church.
- Sold 16 acres to Calvert Soccer Association for 3 new soccer fields.

2012
- Sale of 18 Acres on Tobacco Ridge Road to the American Chestnut Land Trust (ACLT) and the granting of an easement to open a trail from SJV property to the Chesapeake Bay.

2013
- Opened Prince Frederick to Bay (PF2B) trail together with the American Chestnut Land Trust over our property and many others brings hikers on seven mile hike to the Bay.
- Parish pilgrimage to France visiting Paris and shrine to St. Vincent de Paul, Miraculous Medal Shrine of St. Louise de Marillac and St. Catherine Laboure, and the childhood home of St. Bernadette Soubirous, also Ars, the home of St. John Vianney and the Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes.

2014
- Expanded the cemetery to the empty lot on Main Street and built a second columbarium. This added 60 niches and 300 more in ground graves, extending the usefulness of our cemetery by at least 30 more years.
- Started planning to take the parish off the electric grid and go “solar”.
- Began discussions for construction for housing for the elderly on parish property. Eventually these discussions were abandoned.

2015
- In September sponsored a conference on addictions that attracted more than 300 persons to the Family Life Center. Started a new ministry for addicts --- Conversion in Recovery. Attracts up to 70 people each Thursday in response to the pain killer and heroin crisis in our community. Started Narcotics Anonymous and Nar Anon groups.
- Parish now sponsored four AA and one NA group of 12 step programs for addicts each week.
Milestones continued

2016

- Converted the FLC, Parish Center and Church to LED lighting at the cost of $30,000 to cut our lighting bill over time by 50%.
- Constructed table and chair room at FLC at cost of $100,000. Completes FLC.
- Pergola added to Church side porch and the porch floor was rebuilt.
- Fr. Daly went on sabbatical to walk 400 miles of the Camino Frances (French Way) in Spain to the Shrine of St. James at Santiago, Spain. More than 400 people followed him on Facebook and about $15,000 was raised for the SJV Food Pantry.
- Sale of an additional 20 acres to the ACLT to preserve a green belt around our property.
- Brings to a total of nearly 40 acres in preservation of land in its natural state.

2017

- February, Finance Council decided to drop efforts to purchase Suburban Propane property next door after more than 25 years of trying.
- Fr. Daly made the decision to build a new Food Pantry building on our existing property and to raise $400,000 before his departure in July. Tom Reinecker commissioned to design a 3,000 sq. ft. building.
- Fr. Daly began negotiations to sell 9 more acres to the ACLT, off of Fair Ground Road. This brings to nearly 50 acres the land which our parish has sold to ACLT, which will be set aside for preservation in its natural state.
- Solar energy project at Rectory and Parish Center completed and paid for. These two buildings are now virtually self-sufficient in electrical production. Saves thousand each year. Solar panels went live at Parish Center in May of 2017.
- Fr. Daly retires in July of 2017 and Fr. Daniel Carson becomes our 10th pastor.
Collaborative Ministry and Visioning Workshops

Fr. Daly’s pastoral theory is that decisions should be made collaboratively so that everyone feels like their voice was heard in setting the direction and tone of the parish.

Over the 23 years of his pastorate, the parish held six Visioning Workshops to set the objectives and programs for the next few years.

About every three or four years we held new workshops to discuss where we were going and what we should be doing.

These workshops were all held on Saturdays and everyone in the parish was invited to participate. They lasted six or seven hours and were usually conducted by an outside leader, who could be objective in leading the discussion and who understood parish life.

These workshops usually involved 100 to 200 people. They were phenomenally successful in getting the whole parish to “buy in” to the goals they set. The workshops and their topics and decisions are listed below.

**Workshop One**       **May 16, 1995**
- Decided to build a new church.
- Decided to open a Catholic Cemetery on our grounds.
- Decided to open a Pre-school in our parish center.
- Decided to expand playground equipment on our athletic field.
- Decided to sponsor hospitality after all the Sunday masses.
- Decided to form an adult choir.
- Decided to do something to support women in troubled pregnancies. Eventually this became Birthright of Prince Frederick.

**Workshop Two**       **May 23, 1998**
- Decided to build a center for athletics and arts on our campus, especially for youth.
- Decided to develop new programs for religious education, especially for teens & youth.
- Settled on the location of the new Church (attached to the old church on Main Street).
- Decided to have retreats for youth for confirmation preparation.
- Established three committees to pursue the construction of a new church
  - Fundraising
  - Arts and Architecture
  - Engineering

**Workshop Three**       **December 7, 1999**
This workshop focused exclusively on construction of two major new buildings. The new church and the Family Life Center.

Decisions had to be made about whether we would proceed with both enormous projects. It was decided that we should do the church first and the family life center should follow once the church was completed. We were afraid that if we did the Family Life Center first we would never build a real church and would end up having mass in the gym.

We also decided where to locate the Church and Family Life Center and started on site planning and final design work in earnest.
Workshop Four       July 21, 2001

As work on the new church was well underway we turned our attention to the Family Life Center. The design was finalized with the Doran Foundation and we focused on what programs and activities we would like to have in the new center, which we decided to call the “Family Life Center.” We did not just want a “youth” center, as the architects had called it.

Decision was made that we should have athletic, artistic, dramatic and social programs in the new center, for youth and adults. We identified some programs which have since become part of our parish including:

- Drama Ministry
- Open gym for area youth
- After school programs
- Summer camps in athletics, religion, and drama.
- Social programs for seniors, like aerobics and communal meals (eventually Sunday breakfasts).

Workshop Five       March 1, 2003

We focused on the operation of the Family Life Center. We created an Advisory Board which has since fallen into disuse. It was to decide things like hours of operation, eligible users, fees, staffing, training, and standards for entertainment and all the policies for operation of the FLC which was scheduled to open in 2004.

Lists were made of sports to use the facility.
We also made lists of activities such as film nights, ethnic dinners, religious retreats and diocesan events.

Workshop Six       March 30, 2009

With the church and FLC projects finished we turned our attention to other needs.

- Decided to sell 2.87 acres near the County Services Plaza to the County for $429,000.
- Decided to Purchase the old ECHO Homeless Shelter for $313,000 along with the two cottages that were located in the back yard. The homeless shelter was to be demolished once the new shelter was completed.
- Decided to remodel the two cottages to serve as homes for retired priests. In 2017 they were occupied by Fr. Peter Alliata and Fr. Julio Alvarez-Garcia.
- Decided to renovate and expand the Vianney Room outward toward the parking lot to allow banquets and dinners for 250 people and to provide five larger classrooms.
- Decided to remodel the house at 440 Main Street (Casa Juan Diego) which had been occupied by Catholic Charities until that year. We set it aside for social service programs and deacons training.
- Decided to expand the cemetery with a new columbarium on Main Street since the cemetery was rapidly filling up.
- Decided to repave Vianney Lane and provide a walk way for pedestrians from the Parish Center to the Church.
Workshop Seven  June 11, 2016
This workshop was focused less on buildings and more on programs. We made a number of important decisions that had grown out of ministries we were already involved in.
This workshop focused on the following questions.

- **Services for the elderly.**
  Should we build housing for the elderly? We decided that was very complicated and should be done by another agency with support from us.

- **Sister parish relationships**
  We decided to continue our relationship in Nicaragua.
  Decided to terminate our relationship in Mexico.
  Opened the question of sponsoring a refugee family.

- **Environmental Concerns.**
  Decided that we should go “solar” as much as possible.
  Reaffirmed our support for the American Chestnut Land Trust.

- **Social Service Program.**
  Reaffirmed our support for ministries to Addicts, Mentally Ill, and Spiritual Direction.
  Decided to start a ministry to help people getting out of Calvert County Jail to transition to life outside the jail. Eventually called HITTS (Helping Inmates Transition to Society).

The message of all these visioning workshops was simple. We can do any reasonable thing we decide to do as a parish so long as we work together and so long as we are doing the will of God. We are all part of the decisions of the parish and all of us are expected to shoulder some part of the burden according to our abilities.