

Milestones at St. John Vianney Parish Prince Frederick, MD

August 6, 2015

Fr. Peter Daly was appointed pastor and took up residence in October of 1994. Since that time some significant things have been accomplished in the life of the parish and the community.

In the 20 years since I became pastor, some significant changes have taken place.

- The parish has tripled in size from just under 400 families to nearly 1200 families.
- Our parish is debt free.
- We have formed several choirs.
- Started adoration 4 days per week.
- Began an outreach to the Latino community which has operated 19 years. Have a Sunday evening mass at 5 PM in Spanish which attracts about 50 to 60 persons.
- Have run a religious education program which fluctuated from 200 to 500 children.
- Started programs for the homeless and opened a homeless shelter next door.

1995 Started Birthright, crisis pregnancy center as pro-life witness at our parish. Still operating after 20 years. Now an independent corporation.

Opened Pre-School for three and four year olds which has been operating for 20 years and has always been solvent.

1997 Parish Cemetery opened. Solvent and operating now for 19 years. Built a columbarium and outdoor Stations of the Cross.
Began planning process for the construction of new church.

1999 Purchase 87 acres of land including 5 buildings and three outbuildings. That same year demolished 2 of the houses, all the out buildings and moved two houses back about 100 feet to make way for a parking lot.

2002 Opened a new church that increased seating from 185 to 450.
Opened a chapel which seats 30 people and is used for daily mass and for adoration.
Began Eucharistic adoration 4 days per week.

2004 Opened the Family Life Center, 24,000 sq. ft., which has a gym and theater and meeting rooms and offices. It was debt free the day it opened. Doran Foundation paid for the building. Parish paid for the site work and professional costs.

2006 Started Safe Nights, Inc., for the homeless, which organizes 24 Calvert County Churches to house the overflow homeless from the shelter for one night per year.
Opened a new athletic field with full soccer, football field, lights and irrigation. Paid for the day it opened.

- 2007** McFadden Conference Center (9,000 sq. ft.) opened in basement of the church with a nursery, Knights of Columbus room, conference room and library. All work done by volunteers and paid for when it opened.
- 2007** Finished stained glass windows with Brenda Belfield. Huge project, took 6 years. Fr. Daly drew up subject matter and reviews plans by artist. A real artistic contribution to our parish and to the area.
- 2009** Parish became debt free. Burned the “mortgage” on the Church. Paid off more than \$1.3 million in debt in 7 ½ years.
Bought the old ECHO homeless shelter property and two cottages.
- 2010** Demolished the old shelter.
Repaved Vianney Lane.
Remodeled two cottages on the property for use by retired priests.
Opened new ECHO shelter for the homeless.
- 2011** Remodeled Parish Center and built new wing on parish hall, the “Vianney Room”.
Paid for the day it opened. Provides reception room for weddings and funerals.
- 2012** Opened St. John Vianney Food Pantry which now serves 130 families each week.
- 2013** Trail opens with ACLT from Prince Frederick to Bay, over SJV land.
- 2014** Expanded the cemetery and built a second columbarium.
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.
- 2015** Started a new ministry for addicts --- Conversion in Recovery. Now attracts 70 people each Thursday. This is in addition to three AA groups which meet here.

In Calvert County Community

- Served 9 years on the Board of Calvert Memorial Hospital. Board Secretary 1 year.
- Serve on Advisory Board for Calvert Nursing Center, Prince Frederick.
- Helped start Daughters of Abraham at our church. An interfaith discussion group for women.
- Calvert County Interfaith Council started at our church, 2009.
- Birthright at our church 1995.
- Stated redevelopment of new ECHO at our church and did the fundraising.
- Started Safe Nights at our church.

Beyond the Community

2007 to present (continuing)

Nicaragua program started.

- Has built 250 individual homes.
- Started a subdivision on approx. 20 acres of land.
- Stated an old folk's home and adult day care program.
- Started a sewing program which teaches people to sew.
- Continue spiritual and material relationship with the Diocese of Estelí in Nicaragua, the poorest diocese in the second poorest country in the Americas.
- Thus program is entirely self-sustaining and has raised more than \$600,000.

2005 Outreach to Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina.

- Rebuilt Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, MS.
- Renovated school there.
- Built a new rectory which was entirely destroyed by the hurricane.
- Spiritual and social relationship continues to this day with all African American parish in Mississippi.
- Assisted two Josephite parishes in Louisiana to rebuild after hurricane.

2003 to 2014 Outreach to Mexico.

- Established relationship with rural parish in Hidalgo, central Mexico.
- Helped build chapels and with supplies for catechesis.
- In 2014 built a bell tower at parish church.

Other projects

Cows and Plows in Zambia --- oxen and plows for families there.
Paid for education of a young woman as a nurse in South Africa.
Helped Bishop Martin of Diocese of Machacos in Kenya.

Pilgrimages

Holy Land and Italy, 1997

Turkey and Greece, 2007

France, including Ars & Lourdes, 2013

Started "Trail of the Saints" visiting places associated with saints in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York.

Spiritually Notable:

- Largest Cursillo Ultreya group in the Archdiocese.
- Active Marriage Encounter Group.
- Kairos Ministry to Prisons in Virginia together with St. Theresa of Avila parish.
- Three AA groups, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays
- Conversion in Recovery group on Thursdays