

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 IMPORANT 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.
- Third Visioning Workshop for parish, December 1999. Decided to build church first and Family Life Center second.

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.