

Meet Your Cluster Leadership

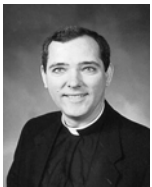
As a way to get to know the four leaders of our five parishes, the Coordinating Council for the Catholic Community of Northern Anne Arundel County has prepared this insert. The Council asked each leader to give their views on these four questions, What do you envision for the parish cluster in the next five years, What do you see as our cluster's greatest opportunities, What motivated you in choosing your ministry, and What gives you the greatest satisfaction each day?



**Crucifixion and Good Shepherd
Associate Pastor
Fr. Michael DeAscanis**

Five year vision - It is difficult to foresee the future. Our parishes will continue to share activities and our parishioners will become familiar with the different churches and acquainted with one another. Because of priest retirements, transfers, and deaths, many parishes throughout the Archdiocese find themselves in a state of flux. We must increase our efforts to foster openness among our young men to the Catholic priesthood. If we do so, then those who are called by God to be priests will recognize the call and respond with a "yes".

Greatest opportunities - We can share resources such as facilities, liturgical objects, et cetera. We can also develop ministries in common, such as the joint RCIA between Good Shepherd and Crucifixion and the Confirmation preparation between Crucifixion and Holy Trinity. (Cont'd Pg 2 - Fr. DeAscanis)



**Holy Trinity
Pastor
Fr. Bruce Jarboe**

Five year vision - The continued development and evolution of our efforts to work even more effectively as partners in providing high quality pastoral care for the Catholic community of "north county".

Greatest opportunities - Each of the parishes of our cluster is really blessed with many talented and gifted parishioners - and the opportunities to mobilize and empower them for even more ministry has really great potential. (Cont'd Pg 2 - Fr. Jarboe)



**St. Bernadette
Pastoral Life Director
Mrs. Ann McDonald**

Five year vision - I think the ten strategic goals that we set out should be examined and implemented where feasible and necessary. Many of these goals are complicated and have multiple possibilities for us. I think the next five years will see these goals become a reality in some form. I also envision the parishes growing in relationship with one another - appreciating one another's giftedness, and learning about and serving one another. (Cont'd Pg 2 - Mrs. McDonald)



**St. Philip Neri
Pastor
Fr. Dale Picarella**

Five year vision - I would envision our mass schedule for weekdays and Sundays changing so that there is more of a consolidation of mass times. With that I would see sharing of the priests in the area by presiding at liturgies in the different cluster churches. In addition to this, I would envision more dialogue with the various ministries in the area and where possible a sharing of some of those ministries as well as staff ministers being shared between parishes.

Greatest opportunities - I would see our greatest opportunities is to share the gifts and successes of our various areas of ministry and combine "wisdom" in providing pastoral care. (Cont'd Pg 2 - Fr. Picarella)

Fr. DeAscanis

Deciding on ministry - Growing up in Catholic elementary and high school, I realized that young people were rarely taught the logic behind Church teaching. We were told what to do but not why. There is a long history and rationale to all Church teaching. I desired to learn this history and to share it with others. I also wished to pursue a type of work that was noble, not focusing on self but rather on God and others. The Catholic priesthood enables one to do both. It is a great adventure.

Greatest satisfaction each day - My greatest satisfaction is offering God my life each day in the prayer of the Mass. In the Mass I commune with Jesus, I give meaning to my daily work, and I find strength and sustenance. In the Mass I draw in the intentions of all of my parishioners, uniting with them spiritually.

Fr. Jarboe

Deciding on ministry - From my youngest days my family had always been involved in our parish in many different ways, so I was introduced to the satisfaction of participating in ministry and helping others "from early on". As I witnessed the positive impact that several priests I knew had in the lives of others it led me to consider that I could possibly offer my own gifts and abilities in service to Church in priestly ministry.

Greatest satisfaction each day - Interacting with wonderful men, women and young people who are so dedicated and generous in their ministry and service in support of the mission and ministries of the Church.

Mrs. McDonald

Greatest opportunities - I am excited that in sharing our gifts and resources, we can provide ministry in areas where no single parish has been able to offer care. Examples: a ministry with those recently separated or divorced, or a bereavement care group. The possibilities are endless. I also think that there is strength in our diversity. Unity of mission and ministry does not mean uniformity but rather a sharing of those gifts and chrisms that enrich us all. I have great hope in the laity of the church and think we have an opportunity to see the vision of Vatican II alive in our midst.

Deciding on ministry - I am not sure I ever chose my ministry. I often say that my ministry found me. It has been a gradual unfolding of my Baptismal call of service. I started in ministry as a part-time staff person at St. John's in Columbia in 1981. At that time the pastor asked me to fill in some gaps. In 1993 my gifts lined up with the needs of St. Bernadette Parish and I became the Pastoral Associate. In 2007 Bishop Rozanski asked me to keep our parish together as we faced transitions. Most recently, in July 2008, I was appointed Pastoral Life Director of St. Bernadette Parish. In every step/phase of my ministry, there was a call from the community and I accepted the call with both doubts and excitement. As with all lay ministries, there has been a desire to discern what God is calling me to do and to try to respond to that call. Often my role has been to just stay open and willing and only in hind sight do I realize that I am doing exactly what God wants of me.

Greatest satisfaction each day - This question is hard for me to answer because there are so many things. Certainly I receive great satisfaction in the opportunity to represent the church (both the parish and the Catholic Church) in people's lives. It is a great honor and humbling to be welcomed into people's lives in both happiness and in pain. I also receive great satisfaction in enabling others to discover their gifts and thus live out their baptismal calls. I love being in a position of helping the parishioners to see themselves as the Body of Christ - this brings me great joy!

Fr. Picarella

Deciding on ministry - The ministerial priesthood in my life is a call from the Lord Jesus to serve Him and His body the Church. Through His grace and mercy I am able to respond to Him. For me, it is a growing into that call day by day both in experience and deeper responsiveness to His friendship and purposes.

Greatest satisfaction each day - Each day, time spent with the Lord in personal prayer is the greatest satisfaction for me. In this place, I am able to grow in my relationship to Him as son and priest. Through this relationship, I am able to grow in serving His purposes for His people.