

“That Your Joy
May Be Complete”

WITH MOST REV. WILLIAM D. BYRNE



2025 Priests' Retreat

Facilitated by the Priestly Growth
and Enrichment Commission

January 13-17, 2025
Bethany Center

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2025 Convocation for Priestly Renewal

Embracing Hope

Fr. David Garcia
Dr. John Bergsma
Curtis A. Martin

October 6-9, 2025 | Bethany Center

2026 Priests' Retreat

Fr. Vinnie Fortunato, OFM

January 19-23, 2026 | Bethany Center

Retreat Overview

This retreat is an opportunity for prayer and reflection on our vocation as Priests of Jesus Christ. It also gives us the opportunity to socialize with our brother priests.

Our Bethany Center is the perfect location to gather within our own diocese. **The Priestly Growth and Enrichment Commission** invites you to take advantage of this natural setting that inspires respite from the responsibilities of ministry at a challenging time in our history.

The private accommodations, conference center, and recreation areas offer an ideal place to relax and spend time together. The schedule of the retreat allows time for fraternal gathering while giving ample time for silence and reflection.

For reservations or more information, contact Rev. Gary Dowsey at 727.264.8968. **Please submit your registration with payment** as soon as possible to reserve your space.

Registration Deadline
Thursday, January 2, 2025

A \$200 non-refundable deposit will be deducted from your payment for cancellations made after January 2, 2025.

Name _____

Parish _____

Email Address _____

Special diet and/or needs _____

Single Accommodation **\$850**

Retired Incardinated (Paid by the DOSP)

Please make check payable to **DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG**
Please detach registration form and mail with check to:

PR 2025 - ATT: REV. GARY DOWSEY

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE PARISH FAMILY • 12747 INTERLAKEN RD, TRINITY, FL 34655

IMPORTANT DEADLINE: Registration is due by **Thursday, January 2, 2025**

REFUNDS: \$200 non-refundable deposit for cancellations after **January 2, 2025**



Most Rev. William D. Byrne

was born Sept. 26, 1964. A native of Washington, D.C., he is the youngest of eight children of Mary (Largent) Byrne and the late Dr. William Byrne, a thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon who passed away in 2011. As a youth, the bishop attended Mater Dei School in Bethesda, Maryland and went on to Georgetown Preparatory School in Rockville, Maryland. He completed his undergraduate studies at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester. He then taught for three years at Mater Dei before being accepted as a seminarian for the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. He studied at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, completing his licentiate in sacred theology from Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas (Angelicum) and was ordained on June 25, 1994 by Cardinal James A. Hickey. After ordination, the then Father Byrne was assigned to the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Maryland as parochial vicar where he served until 1995. From there he was assigned as parochial vicar at the Shrine of Saint Jude in Rockville. From 1999 until 2007, he served as the chaplain for the University of Maryland's Catholic Student Center in College Park. He was named pastor of St. Peter Parish in Washington, D.C., in 2007 where he served until 2015. From 2009 until 2015, while serving as pastor of St. Peter's, he was also secretary for pastoral ministry and social concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington. In 2015, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac. Bishop Byrne's ministry also includes service on the Archdiocese of Washington's

vocations team (1998), formation board (2002-present), priest council (2003-2006), priest personnel board (2006-2009), and archdiocesan administrative board (2009-2015). He also served on the board of directors of St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, Catholic Youth Organization, and Redemptoris Mater Seminary, as well as the advisory board of the Lay Leadership Institute. In addition to his parish and diocesan work, for nine years he taught homiletics to the seminarians of the Pontifical North American College. He has been invited to speak at numerous Priests Convocations, including in the Archdioceses of Washington, Newark, New Jersey and Seattle, as well as in the dioceses of Providence, R.I., and Bridgeport, Conn. In 2007, he gave the homily to 20,000 Catholic youth and their leaders gathered at the Verizon Center for the annual Mass and Rally for Life which each year precedes the Annual March for Life in Washington D.C. In 2016, Pope Francis named him a "Missionary of Mercy" for the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Bishop Byrne is a popular columnist and YouTube personality, with his series "Five Things" highlighting five life hacks, prayer starters, or spiritual meditations to help people to grow closer to God and appreciate the small — but vital — things in life. The series was so popular that it has been developed into a book, 'Five Things with Fr. Bill,' which was published by Loyola Press. Pope Francis named him as the 10th bishop of Springfield October 14, 2020. Bishop Byrne assumed the position left vacant when Bishop Mitchell T. Rozanski was named as the arch-bishop of St. Louis on June 10, 2020 and was installed on Aug. 25. Worcester Bishop Robert J. McManus served as the apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Springfield in the interim. Bishop Byrne was ordained and installed as the 10th Bishop of Springfield on Dec. 14 at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield by Boston Cardinal Sean O'Malley. In April 2021 he issued his first pastoral letter, "Back to Better, The Road to Emmaus" in which he highlighted the challenges and needs facing the Diocese of Springfield and the Catholic Church of western Massachusetts. The letter is a message of hope during the Easter season and an invitation for people to start returning to Mass in person. Also, early on in his episcopate, he took steps to strengthen the diocese's efforts to protect youth and vulnerable adults from abuse. He also increased outreach to youth and young adults and instituted a diocesan Year of the Eucharist, culminating with a very successful Eucharistic Congress on March 4, 2023. He chairs the Communications Committee of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.

SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JAN 13

- 4:00pm Registration opens
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Opening reflection concluding with Night Prayer

TUE & WED, JAN 14 & 15

- 7:30-8:30am Breakfast
- 8:45am Morning Prayer and Reflection
- 11:00am Mass
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 4:30pm Reflection followed by Evening Prayer
- 6:00pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Exposition, concluding with Benediction - Sacrament of Reconciliation available

THURSDAY, JAN 16

- 7:30-8:30am Breakfast
- 8:45am Morning Prayer and Reflection
- 11:00am Mass
- 12:00pm Lunch
- 4:30pm Reflection followed by Evening Prayer
- 6:00pm Dinner followed by social time and refreshments

FRIDAY, JAN 17

- 8:00am Mass with Closing Reflection
- 9:00am Breakfast
- 10:00am Checkout