

Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc: Clergy Appointment

Friends, as we are approaching July, this is normally a time for many transitions. I hope you are all aware by now that we have been working over the past several months gradually on the formation of the Pastorate between St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc with the parish leadership teams, staff and clergy from both parishes and the Archdiocesan Emmaus Team.

I am pleased to announce to you all that the Archbishop appointed clergy for the Pastorate that we are forming. Fr. Francis Ouma has been appointed as the Pastor and Deacon Franz Belleza soon to be Fr. Franz Belleza appointed as Associate Pastor for the Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc effective July 1 of 2024. The Archbishop also appointed Deacon Ray Van Pelt and Deacon Kenneth Goedeke to the Pastorate of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc also effective July 1st 2024. While Deacon Dan Kopczyk is retired he will for sure be helping with the pastorate.

We continue to thank Fr. Willie for his gracious leadership of St. Joan of Arc as he goes into a well deserve retirement. Please keep all our clergy and the parishioners of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc in your prayers during this time of Transition and Pastorate Formation. I ask you to warmly welcome our soon to be New Associate Pastor into our community.

Friends as the task ahead is so immense, I know that with your prayers and support we will form and make this pastorate into to a vibrant community of faith helping all to find Christ the way to eternal salvation. Please continue to pray for me, for Deacon Franz Belleza and for both the parish communities of St. Patrick and St. Joan of Arc.

Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Fr. Francis Ouma

Getting to know our Pastorate Clergy

Fr. Francis Ouma



Fr. Francis Michael Ouma was born and raised in Gulu, Uganda. In 1999 he joined the Seminary (Sacred Heart Seminary Lacor) in Gulu in Uganda. Between the years 2005 and 2008, he attended College Education from Katigondo National Major Seminary in Masaka an affiliate to Makerere University in Kampala and obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Social and Philosophical Studies with Education.

He later pursued a Master of Arts Degree in Education and Development from Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi. He then came to Baltimore on a scholarship to continue with his priestly formation and study Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University. He completed his priestly formation from St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore in May 2015. He graduated with Master of Arts Degree in Divinity and Master of Arts Degree in Theology.

During his seminary formation, he had his Pastoral assignments at Sacred Heart Parish in Glyndon, Mercy Medical Center, Immaculate Conception Parish in Towson, St. Ursula Parish, and St. Ambrose Parish. He was ordained a transitional deacon on the 10th of May of 2014, and then ordained a priest on 20th of June 2015. July 1st of 2015 he was assigned Associate Pastor at the Immaculate Conception Church in Towson. July 1st of 2018 he was assigned Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Church Fullerton. July 1st of 2021 he was assigned Administrator at St. Patrick Church in Havre de Grace. July 1st 2022 he was appointed Pastor of St. Patrick Church in Havre de Grace.

Deacon Franz Belleza



Our New Associate Pastor, Dcn Franz Belleza originally hails from Cebu City, Philippines. While in Baltimore his Home or Sponsoring Parish is Our Lady of Victory, Arbutus. will be ordained on Saturday June 22nd at the Cathedral of Mary our Queen, for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. His Education background included, Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción, Cebu; University of San Carlos, Cebu; Baltimore City Community College; Mater Redemptoris College, Laguna, Philippines; St. Peter's College Seminary, Laguna; St. Monica Institute of Religious Studies, Cebu; Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg. He Graduated with Masters of Arts Degree in Divinity and Master of Arts Degree in Theology.

While in seminary formation, his Pastoral Assignments has included St. Mary of the Assumption, Govans, and St. Pius X, Rodgers Forge; St. John the Evangelist, Frederick, and St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor, Buckeystown; St. Martin's Home for the Aged, Catonsville; Mount St. Mary's University Campus Ministry, Emmitsburg. Belleza was a member of the Oblate Apostles of the Two Hearts for several years before studying for the Archdiocese of Baltimore. He has a special devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Deacon Ray Van Pelt

Deacon Ray was born and raised on Staten Island, New York. He is married 45 years to his wife Dianne. They have three daughters, and six grandchildren.

Dcn Ray is a retired US Army Colonel spending 30 years active service and is also retired as an Army Civilian from Aberdeen Proving Ground.

Ray was ordained in the Archdiocese of Baltimore as a Deacon on May 16th, 2015, and since then has been assigned to St. Joan of Arc. Dcn Ray works at St. Joan of Arc focusing on a variety of parish and school programs. Ray is a fourth degree Knight of Columbus. Dcn Ray has received a Master of Theology from St. Mary's Seminary and University in Roland Park, Baltimore.



Deacon Kenneth Goedeke

Deacon Ken was ordained a deacon on September 30th 2023 as a permanent deacon. Dcn Ken's Home parish is St. Ignatius, Hickory. He is Married to Bridgit Cupp Goedeke. They have two wonderful children.

During his formation, he had diaconal internships at St. Stephen, Bradshaw; Church of the Holy Spirit, Joppa town; University of Maryland Medical Center Upper Chesapeake Hospital (Chaplain's Office).

Currently he is the Director of mission and Campus ministry at John Carroll School, Bel Air. He is a religion teacher at John Carroll as well. He is a former religion teacher at Calvert Hall College High School, Towson, and former coordinator of youth ministry at St. Isaac Jogues, Carney. His first assignment as Deacon was to St. Patrick Church in Havre de Grace and to John Carroll High School as Campus Minister.



Deacon Dan Kopczyk

Deacon Dan graduated from Patterson Park High School in 1957. He was employed at Maryland National Bank from 1957 until 1961. Dan served in the Army from 1961 until 1964. After his tour in the Army, Dan worked at General Motors from 1965 until 2004. In 2004, Dan retired. Dan became a lector and later, Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in the mid-1970s. He was an Assistant to the Chaplain at the old City Hospital in 1978 and at Franklin Square Hospital from 1979 until 1996. Dan entered the Diaconate Program in 1979. He was ordained on September 17, 1983. He served as Permanent Deacon from 1983 until 1996 at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. He transferred to St. Joan of Arc Church in 1996.

