

Westminster Pastor Named New Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, Archbishop of Baltimore, announced today that he has named Msgr. Arthur F. Valenzano Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Msgr. Valenzano, a native of Frostburg, has, since 1993, served as Pastor of St. John Church in Westminster and had previously served at several Baltimore City parishes and the Retreat House in Sparks.

After studying for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Roland Park, Msgr. Valenzano was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop William D. Borders in 1975. Msgr. Valenzano is a member of the Presbyteral Council and in 1996 became the youngest priest in the Archdiocese to receive the title of Monsignor when Pope John Paul II bestowed the honor on him at the age of 47.

Monsignor Valenzano will begin his service to the faithful of this historic parish and co-Cathedral on September 1. I join my prayers to those of the faithful of the Basilica for Monsignor Valenzano and for the parish.

I would also like to extend my gratitude to Father Graham, OFM Cap. for his capable service as Temporary Administrator and for his future presence in service to the parishioners and visitors of our beloved Basilica.