



Father Bill Petro, M.A., was born in West Winfield, PA (Butler County) and was raised in Bellevue, a suburb of Pittsburgh. Father Bill attended Saint Fidelis Seminary, Herman, PA, and Capuchin College, Washington, DC. He was ordained in 1968 for the Capuchin Franciscan Order. His hope was to be a missionary in Papua New Guinea; however, after pastoring in parishes in Kansas , Ohio and Maryland Father Bill joined the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, WV in 1984. During his time pastoring in Belle, Coalburg and Bluefield WV and as campus chaplain at Marshall University, he experienced the people's need for spirituality and catechesis. He began his training in the ministry of spiritual direction at Mercy Center, Burlingame, Ca. He continued that training with a sabbatical at the Institute for Spiritual leadership (ISL), Loyola University, and Chicago. Father Bill completed certification in the ministry of spiritual direction at WVIS. He also holds certification in the Ignatian Spiritual exercises and in the Supervision of spiritual directors. He is the director of the Charleston Chapter of the Thomas Merton Institute. He has been on WVIS staff since 1993. Although retired from official pastoral ministry Fr. Bill is often available for weekend coverage.

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