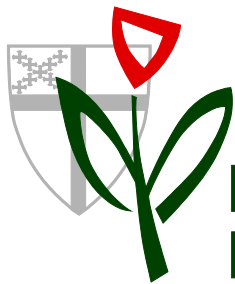


# Appendix 4



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National Episcopal  
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## Appendix 4

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## Outline of Children's Day – Diocese of Washington, D.C.

To: Diocesan Clergy and their Children (up to Grade 12)

From: The Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane and Mrs. Karen Albright Chane

Re: A picnic and Program on the Water for Clergy Families with Children

We write today to invite your clergy family, with children from infant to Grade 12, to join us on the water at Trinity Church, in St. Mary's City, Maryland. The Rev. John Ball, Trinity's rector, welcomes us to this stunningly beautiful setting to picnic, play and share a program at this parish one, one of the oldest (1638) and most scenic in the Diocese of Washington.

Our date is Saturday, June 26, 2004 from noon to approximately 5 p.m. Directions are enclosed.

Our schedule for the day will look something like this:

12:00 p.m. Gather and check in at Trinity's parish hall

12:30 p.m. Lunch on the lawn overlooking the water

1:30 p.m. Ice breakers for all ages

2:15 p.m. Games on the lawn for all ages

3:15 p.m. Program for children will break into age appropriate groupings for discussion and Q and A. *What does it feel like to be a son/daughter of a clergy person?*

4:45 p.m. Regroup for Evening Prayer and departure.

Our youth leaders will be Ms Patty Ames, Director of Children's Ministry at St. Columba's Parish and Mr. Paul Canady, Diocesan Deputy for Youth Ministry. Our purpose is to begin the formation of a supportive network for the children of diocesan clergy. And while the children talk there will be a parenting program for adults with Dr. Jennifer A. Crumlish of the Washington Psychological Center.

So, bring your blankets to throw down on the lawn, your lawn chairs and chaises, equipment for any outdoor games you especially enjoy playing, and yes, your children and join us for a beautiful afternoon in St. Mary's City. Should it turn out to be a rainy day, we will move our event indoors. Please RSVP by Friday, June 18th to our receptionist. Please give her the names and ages of the children you will be bringing and the number of adults who will accompany them.

## **Pilot Program for Clergy Children in the Diocese of Ohio**

Report to the Office for Ministry Development April 3, 2001

### **Background:**

Susan McDonald and Mary Carson, both clergy children, began discussing our experiences of growing up in clergy families several years ago. They dreamed about doing something to bring the clergy children (PKs) in the Diocese of Ohio together so that they could share the unique experiences clergy children have in the fishbowl called the Church. In September 1999 when Mary joined the staff of the Bishop of Ohio where Susan already served as Assistant to the Bishop for Children and Youth Ministry, it became much easier and therefore more realistic that we could do something.

Rather than reinventing the wheel unnecessarily, Mary sent an e-mail in February 2000 to deployment officers throughout the country asking about other programs with clergy children. From that unscientific inquiry, it appeared that nothing else substantive was happening in any other diocese in the country. A few dioceses have scholarships for clergy children and a few have tried unsuccessfully to bring PKs together in the past. Based on this information, Bud Holland from the Office for Ministry Development offered a grant of \$1000 for initial programming for PKs in the Diocese of Ohio.

### **Planning**

Susan, her husband Sam who is also a youth minister and Mary had an initial brainstorming meeting in May with two PKs currently in high school. They were very enthusiastic about the idea of something just for them. An overnight with very little agenda seemed to be the way to go based on that meeting. It was also important to those involved in the planning that there not be any charge for anything since the church so often expects so much from PKs already. This would be a gift from the church to them. There was another planning meeting later in the fall with the same two youths. (Two others were invited to that meeting but were unable to attend.)

Twenty-one youth between seventh and twelfth grades were invited to attend an overnight retreat on February 24-25, 2001. They received a personal letter from Mary as well as the "Top Ten Reasons to come to the Clergy Kid Retreat." The top ten reasons were taken for the most part from a list created at the last planning meeting.

### **The Overnight**

Shortly before the overnight, seven of the twenty-one invited planned on attending plus one young adult PK. By the day of the overnight, four were able to come plus the young adult. Sam and Susan McDonald and Mary Carson were the adults in charge.

The overnight was at the Lodge at Sawmill Creek in Huron, Ohio, a resort-type hotel with important amenities for young people such as a game room and a swimming pool. Thanks to the generosity of the management, two hospitality rooms and two Jacuzzi rooms for the same price as the regular rooms were made available for the overnight. The hospitality rooms had plenty of space for everyone to spread out as well as refrigerators and a VCR. The group gathered at Sawmill Creek between 12 and 1 p.m. on Saturday and left around 3 p.m. on Sunday. The departure time was chosen to give sufficient time for parents to go to church and still pick up their children.

Because the group was small and Sam and Susan knew all the young people already, it was not necessary to provide a lot of structure for the overnight. Time was devoted to swimming, watching videos, going to the game room, playing cards, and eating. The chief goal of the overnight was to let the attendees “hang out”, be themselves, and get to know each other.

The attendees bought pizza for lunch on Saturday as well as lots of snacks. Dinner was in the hotel restaurant. Everyone ordered off the menu, which was expensive but worth it because, due to constraints on clergy family budgets, they do not often get to do extravagant things. A high school senior, amazed that he was allowed to order an appetizer, said to the server, “I would like the \$10 shrimp cocktail.” Bagels were served in the rooms Sunday morning for breakfast, then to the restaurant’s buffet for lunch at noontime.

Everyone got to sleep in on Sunday morning, a rarity for PKs. Later in the morning the attendees gathered for a very informal Eucharist in one of the rooms. Because it was the last Sunday after the Epiphany, Mary read the story of the Transfiguration as the gospel and invited everyone to share the transforming moments or “high points” of their lives as PKs. Several young people spoke about the significance of taking communion to shut-ins with his or her father. Diocesan youth events also were identified as the place where several were finally able to discover their own faith apart from their parents. Naturally, some of the less pleasant sides of life as a PK were mentioned, including having vacations shortened due to deaths, parents being away frequently, and having meals interrupted by parishioners.

Another significant challenge the PKs discussed was the difficulty of parental transitions. The young adult who was present spoke about having to adapt in recent months to life in a new parish a half an hour away from her father’s previous parish, where there are virtually no young adults. Because she is an adult, she was told that she did not necessarily have to leave the previous parish, yet she knew that it would be uncomfortable for her to remain after her father left. Another PK’s father began commuting five hours to seminary when she was six; she spoke of how confusing and stressful that was for her.

While only had about 25% of the PKs in the diocese were present, the overnight was a tremendous success. All of those who attended wanted to do a similar overnight again including some of whom wanted it on the monthly basis. They were genuinely surprised that the diocese thought enough of them to do something like this. The parents were also grateful for the event because they are well aware of the stresses placed on their children because of the parent's vocations.

It is the intention to have other events in the future that can begin to address some of the needs of the PKs which were articulated at the overnight. A day at the zoo or something to which younger PKs could be invited, as well as another overnight for junior high and senior high PKs next year, were proposed as possible events. Coordinating efforts with the two Lutheran synods in northern Ohio were also discussed.

The organizers were grateful for the encouragement and financial support from the Office for Ministry Development and would be delighted to share the experience with others throughout the Episcopal Church.

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