

The Very Reverend John David Byrnes, is the son of David and Theresa Byrnes of Cresson.

Fr. Byrnes is an alumnus of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, Ebensburg, graduating as valedictorian in 1985. Father Byrnes completed his undergraduate degree in English Literature and philosophy at the Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio in 1989. He was named to the ranks of Pinter Scholars in 1987. While at the Josephinum, he completed summer studies at the Cemanahuac Institute, Cuernavaca, Mexico and served in community building and missionary work in the villages of Chihuahua.

Fr. Byrnes was assigned to studies in Rome, Italy in 1989. He completed his graduate studies in systematic theology at the Gregorian University in 1992. At the same university, he completed his licentiate in 1994, specializing in canon law. Father Byrnes received his priestly formation at the Pontifical North American College, Vatican City. While in Europe, he served in inner-city /interfaith ministry with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, among the Punjabi community, at St. Anselm Parish in Southall, London, England.

He was ordained to the transitional diaconate by Cardinal James Hickey at Saint Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph Adamec at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, Altoona, in 1994. He has served in high school, hospital and parish ministry in Johnstown, Altoona, Cresson and Loretto. Fr. Byrnes was Diocesan Vocation Director and curator of the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House from 2002 to 2006. Father has served on the Administrative Board of the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference. He served as pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Cresson, from 2006 -2015.

Father Byrnes is a member of the Eastern Regional Conference of Canonists and the Canon Law Society of America. He serves as Judicial Vicar for the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, judge and Director of the Tribunal, as well as a lecturer in canon law for the office of Diaconal Formation. He serves as an ex officio member of the Presbyteral Council of the diocese, as well as a member of the College of Consultors to Bishop Mark L. Bartchak. He serves as Bishop Bartchak's Delegate for the Cause of Canonization of the Servant of God, Demetrius Gallitzin. He is the administrator of the Prince Gallitzin Chapel House and Shrine of Our Lady of the Alleghenies.

A fourth -degree Knight of Columbus, Father serves as chaplain of the Loretto Council. His hobbies include music and travel.

Fr. Byrnes was appointed the third rector of the Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel, Loretto, on August 19, 2015.