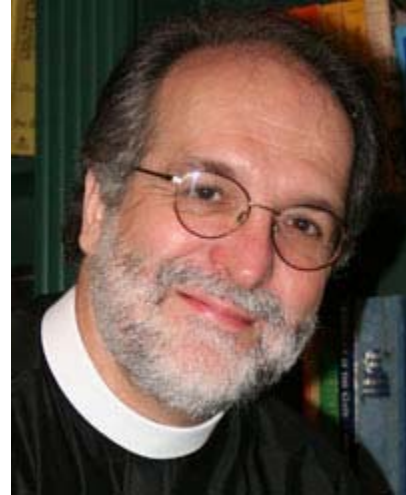


The Reverend Dr. John A. Cerrato

John Cerrato has served as the parish priest of Saint Bernard's Church, Bernardsville, NJ since August 2005. He came from Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church, Alexandria, in Hunterdon County, to become the Rebuild Rector of Saint Bernard's and to fulfill a three-year appointment in transitional ministry.

His primary tasks are to oversee the rebuild effort, to reach out to and rally parishioners for mission and ministry, and to restructure the resources of the parish with an eye toward future growth.

John believes strongly in the empowerment of the people of God to share in collaborative ministry with the clergy and one another, and to engage in congregational development from a broad inter-generational perspective. His sense of the mission of the Church includes nurturing excellence in worship, outreach, pastoral care, stewardship, education, and ministries for children and families.



Fr. Cerrato has been a priest of the Church since his ordination to the priesthood in Keble College Chapel, University of Oxford, in 1993, where he served as Assistant Chaplain for two years and completed research leading to the doctoral degree.

Since the early 1980s he has worked as a congregational leader, youth minister and Christian educator in Massachusetts, Delaware, Pittsburgh and New Jersey. He chaired the Youth Committee of the Diocese of Delaware from 1990-91 and was co-founder and director of the Newark Youth Coalition and the Newark Ecumenical Youth Ministry in Newark, Delaware.

He has most recently served on the Board of Missions in the Diocese of New Jersey (2003-2006) as a representative of the Watchung Convocation and is currently a Religion/Faith Columnist for the Courier News of Somerset County. From 1996 to 2002, he taught classical languages and was Head of Classics in The Pennington School, while serving parishes and missions in the Diocese of New Jersey.

Dr. Cerrato holds degrees from West Chester University (B.A. 1978), Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (M.Div. 1983), Harvard Divinity School (Th.M. 1985) and Oxford University (D.Phil. 1997). He is the author of a number of scholarly studies on early Christianity, including the recent monograph *Hippolytus Between East and West* (OUP 2002).

John is a native of West Chester, Pennsylvania. His hobbies include cycling, reading and writing, poetry, drawing, and music. He lives in Bernardsville, New Jersey.

When asked to name some of his favorites, he ruminated as follows: "best book ever read (other than The Prayer Book, of course)" *One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez; currently a favorite film: *Iron Jawed Angels* (an impressionistic take on the work of Alice Paul by HBO Films); some favorite music: Allegri-*Miserere*, and a favorite quote (from a recent sermon on sainthood): "I think he'll make it to heaven, if he doesn't overshoot it."