**Joe Slovick – Bio**

**Co-Director – Baltimore Appalachia Workcamp** (Multiple Catholic Parishes and Schools)

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**Treasurer – Monsignor O’Dwyer Retreat House** (Archdiocese of Baltimore)

(https://msgrodwyer.org/)

**Board Chair, PHM** (Bel Air, MD)

**Chief Lending Officer – Eastern Savings Bank, fsb** (Hunt Valley, MD)

(www.easternsavingsbank.com)

Born in Chicago, IL and educated in Catholic Schools through High School (St. Stephen Protomartyr, Des Plaines, IL; St. Margaret and the John Carroll School, Bel Air, MD), I was raised in a strong Catholic household and active in youth ministry activities through high school. In 1989, I joined a multi parish workcamp trip to Preston County, WV as a young adult because of my involvement with St. Margaret youth group. Because of that faith-filled event, this annual trip has become the single most important element of my outward practice of my Catholic faith.

Born out of the great election day flood of 1985, which is the most devastating flood in West Virginia history, and only growing from then, the Catholic Church of Preston County runs a summer home repair program each summer, hosting a dozen or more groups from all over the mid-Atlantic that do simple and complex home improvement projects in one of the poorest counties in Appalachia.

After two years of serving as a young adult, I spent twelve years on worksites, overseeing one of the multiple groups of adults and young adults from Baltimore area working throughout Preston County. In 2004, I became one of the trip Co-Directors. Through the years, we expanded from one just a trip in West Virginia to include a similar immersion trip to serve in and around Baltimore City. Prior to COVID, we had approximately 150 participants per year between the two trips with an annual budget around $50,000. Our program pulls high school students from nearly every Catholic school and many parishes in the Archdiocese. Since COVID, we are slowly working our numbers back to what will hopefully be around 90 participants in West Virginia and 60 in Baltimore some day soon.

Over the course of our week, we work in the homes of our families. Frequently, we find ourselves (i) helping young families with children make their first home, often a trailer, safe and secure, replacing windows, roofs, floors, walls, bathrooms, etc. or (ii) helping older adults outfit their home to help them age in place, replacing bathtubs with showers or removing entry steps and building a ramp. Living near a big city, we all have a strong understanding of the issues related to urban poverty; however, the level of poverty in rural areas and issues faced in places like Appalachia are similar if not worse. Because of the rural setting, access to services, food, healthcare, running water and other basic necessities is much more challenging. Our group and the others in Preston County help around 200 families each year, most who are not Catholic, see Catholic faith in action. We make small and large differences in the lives of real people, and through the trip, try to provide the youth of the Archdiocese of Baltimore a new perspective into a world very different than their normal life. Through the experience, we also hope to give young Catholics an avenue to put their faith to work, understand charity and meet other Catholic youth and young adults that proudly demonstrate Catholic values. In many ways, the trip is a strong Evangelization of the Catholic Faith and if nothing else shows the “rest of the world” some “good things” that our Catholic youth can and want to do.

In addition to my lifelong dedication to the Baltimore Appalachia workcamp, I am in my second six- year stint on the Monsignor O’Dwyer Retreat House Board, having served as Board Chair for much of my first terms on the Board and now as Treasurer. Similar to my Appalachia project, the Archdiocesan retreat house, among one of the last in the US, provides youth a place to find and strengthen their Catholic faith.

As Chairman of PHM (formerly Presbyterian Home of Maryland) and because of a strong Board and management team, I have been part of the transformation of one of the oldest “nursing homes” in the area into a multifaceted organization seeking to provide Christian-based care to serve the entirety of the needs of seniors as they age.

My wife, Jennifer and I, were married at Immaculate Conception Church in Towson and have been parishioners of Immaculate Heart of Mary, having put our children, Joey and Abby through school there. Joey went on to graduate from Calvert Hall and UMBC and is now a software engineer (or some computer thing like that). Abby graduated from Notre Dame Prep and Salisbury and is now a first year Kindergarten teacher in Owings Mills (God bless her and all our teachers).

After graduating from the University of Maryland, I spent 8 years at the United States Department of the Treasury and have been at Eastern Savings Bank since 2000 in various roles. Eastern is one of the last true “community banks” in the Baltimore area. Down from 100’s when I started in the industry, there are only a couple dozen of us left. We are the companies that sponsor youth sports league jerseys, finance your first home purchase and help you start your dream businesses. Even if it is not Eastern, support your local financial institutions. It is true when we say that you are a name, not a number; and even your “small account” is big to us.