



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Joseph P. Gill, Secretary
Frank W. Dawson III, Deputy Secretary

March 13, 2014

Reverend Thomas F. Crowley
St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
21370 Newtowne Neck Rd
Leonardtown, Maryland 20650

Dear Father Crowley,

First, congratulations on your assignment as the pastor of one of Maryland's most historic parishes. I sincerely wish you success in carrying St. Francis Xavier's long spiritual legacy forward.

I would also like to express the Department of Natural Resources' enthusiasm for working with you in devising a lasting vision for Newtown Neck State Park. As you know, over the next several years, we will engage the long and important process of creating a facility that will allow generations of park visitors to enjoy the natural beauty and unique history the peninsula. We of course welcome you and your community in assisting with this effort.

Unfortunately, the creation of the park's Master Plan has been delayed far longer than we would have preferred. However, we are now ready to begin the planning process and hope that you and your parishioners remain willing to share your insights for the outlook of Newtown Neck. In the next few weeks, staff from the Maryland Park Service will schedule our initial stakeholder's meeting, so that we can solicit detailed public input regarding the park's future. I personally want you to know that we welcome the St. Francis Xavier parish to this initiative and that you will soon receive an official invitation to participate.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Gill
Secretary

cc: Jack Russell, President, St. Mary's County Commissioners
Kristin Saunders, Assistant Secretary, Land Resources
Nita Settina, Superintendent, Maryland Park Service