

The Reverend David Forster Sellery

Fr. Sellery has a distinguished career beginning as Curate at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York from 1994 to 1999. During that time he also served as Chaplain to St. Thomas Choir School, the world-renowned choir of boy choristers. From there he served as Priest-in Charge at Saint Bartholomew's in White Plains, New York and recently as Rector at St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church on Long Island.

In parish work he has developed curricula for child and adult religious education and has used film and television media to expand his audience. Fr. Sellery is the recipient of the *Cine Golden Eagle Award*, the *Communicator Award of Excellence*, and the *Bronze Telly Award* for his role as Executive Producer for *Gate of Heaven* and *The Chance of a Lifetime*, which aired on PBS.

Fr. Sellery has also excelled in using new media to increase outreach beyond church doors. His electronic media ministry reaches tens of thousands of readers weekly. He currently runs a website, davidsellery.org, through which he runs a blog, posts podcasts (Fr. Sellery Presents This Week's Focus) and refers readers to his Twitter (@FrSellery) and Facebook accounts.

One of his core ministry programs while at St. Peters By-The-Sea was the establishment of an area *Faith and Light* ministry (an International interfaith ministry) to serve the spiritual, social and recreational needs of people and their families coping with developmental disabilities. Fr. Sellery was instrumental in coordinating local resources to help: young families fractured by the strain of constant care giving; a challenged young man deal with the loss of a parent; siblings trying to understand and cope with disability in the family.

In addition to his significant parish work, Fr. Sellery served as the Director of Institutional Advancement for two of New York's premier not-for-profit organizations, focusing in the areas of community development and healthcare. While working in the areas of portfolio and investment management, Fr. Sellery continued his active ministry while serving as visiting clergy to parishes in Connecticut and Long Island. He later returned to full-time parish work where he brought enhanced administrative, communications and stewardship skills to his work.

Born in Norwood, MA, he was educated in public schools in Darien, CT, Malvern, PA, and Woodland Hills, CA. He majored in English Literature and received his B.A. from the University of Connecticut (1989); Masters of Divinity from The General Theological Seminary in New York (1992); Certificate in Appreciative Transitional Ministry and Certificate in Appreciative Coaching via The Clergy Leadership Institute (2014).

