



PAULISTS RENEWING THE MISSION

NEW MINISTRY MODEL BECAUSE THE SPIRIT'S CALL IS STRONG

by Father John Duffy, CSP
Paulist President

Since our founding as the first Catholic order of priests in the United States in 1858, the Paulist Fathers have been guided by Father Isaac Thomas Hecker's charge to present the "... old truths in new forms, [with a] fresh new tone and air and spirit." As we approach our 150th Anniversary, that direction has more relevance than ever.

Over three years ago, the Paulists began a process of evaluating how best to follow our mission in the coming years. We recognized that we no longer had a sufficient number of priests to serve in nine North American ministry offices, as well as 33 ministries across 21 cities in North America, the American Church in Rome and the Ecumenical Institute in Israel.

Our personnel resources were limited, but our calling was strong—as was our determination to continue to serve the church throughout our entire North American mission area. We trusted that the Holy Spirit would guide us to creative alternatives, and we set forth on a strategic planning process that was genuinely open.

A year ago, in November 2004, 141 Paulists gathered in Albuquerque, New Mexico, for a Summit that charted a new ministry model. It was an extraordinary gathering—the first time in our history when we had summoned the entire community to a strategic planning effort. And it produced extraordinary results.

Through prayerful consideration and joyful consensus, we decided that we could best meet the objectives of our Mission Direction Statement—evangelization, Christian unity, reconciliation, and interreligious dialogue—by adopting a model of regional ministry. Over the coming years, we hope to transition each of our foundations to a regional approach,

where several Paulists will live together in one place and create different ministries to meet the needs of a wide area.

As we move toward this new model, we will continue to be rooted in Eucharistic communities, meeting the spiritual and sacramental needs of our home parishes. At

the same time, however, we will strive for more wide-ranging ministries that are focused specifically on the Paulist mission objectives.



Members of the Paulist General Council stand by the chapel at Mount Paul. From left, Paulist Fathers Larry Bossi, John Healey, Donald Campbell, Bruce Neal, John Duffy, Michael Kalicki, James Moran, Kevin Lynch, Steve Bossi and John Ardila.

Late in October, our General Council met in extraordinary session to consider some very hard choices. Our primary concern was how best to meet the short-term challenge of limited resources, while laying a strong foundation for long-term progress toward our new ministry model. I was pleased that the same collegiality, the same atmosphere of consensus, and the same presence of the Spirit that guided our work in Albuquerque were manifest again in the Council's deliberations at Mount Paul.

Although the sense of purpose was clear and the spirit of collegiality prevailed, it was not an easy meeting. Every decision was examined carefully and challenged from every angle, and each potential option was deliberated thoroughly. At every point of disagreement, our attention was turned back to the decisions and spirit of the Summit in Albuquerque.

Across every aspect of our North American mission, we came to new recommendations that will

guide us toward our long-term goals. To begin the process of moving toward a more regional approach to our ministries, we are going to appoint two regional coordinators, one in New York City and the other in the San Francisco Bay area. These two regions, which have held a very special place in the history of the Paulist

Fathers, will be the pilot sites for the development of regional ministry initiatives and Paulist Ministry Advisory Boards. In every Paulist community, we are going to place a new emphasis on lay collaboration. Working in concert with our lay brothers and sisters, we will be able to magnify the impact of our missions and maximize the effectiveness of our limited resources. Additional specific recommendations were developed for each of our foundations, and those directives are discussed more fully inside this special edition of *Paulist Today*.

With a sense of great regret and true loss, we also came to a consensus that we had to withdraw from four of our current foundations so that we could continue to serve the remainder of our mission with the kind of vigor that is the hallmark of the Paulist Fathers. It was with profound sorrow that I called our brothers in Boulder, Colorado; Clemson, South Carolina; Santa Barbara, California; and

Tucson, Arizona, to inform them that the Paulists would no longer be ministering in those communities, and that we intend to relinquish pastoral leadership by July 2006.

We knew when we began this undertaking that some of our choices would be painful. As we move forward to strengthen the ministry of the Paulists, we ask you to pray for our success and to hold a special place in your hearts for the communities that are in transition.

Throughout our strategic planning process, we recognized the signs of the times, and realized that our church and our society are changing. Following Father Hecker's direction at the time of our founding, the Paulist mission is adapting to the Spirit and the times. Yet even as we adapt, we remain constant and true to the mission that has been entrusted to us by our Lord.

We can be sure that Holy Spirit will be within us at every stage of the way, and that the Spirit of Jesus will use our efforts for the coming of the Kingdom. I hope you will join me in prayer for the fulfillment of Father Hecker's exhortation: "Let us make this new season one of new life; more zeal; more for God, less of ourselves in all things; fuller of trust in God, and dependent on His divine guidance."

Father Duffy has been elected to a second four-year term as president of the Paulists.

FOUNDATIONS AND SIGNIFICANT PAULIST PRESENCES



PAULIST FATHERS

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Each had made one of the most important decisions in his life here—the decision to become a Paulist. Now, the 10 members of the Paulist General Council gathered at Mount Paul in Oak Ridge, New Jersey, from October 24 to October 27, 2005, in an extraordinary meeting. Their decisions would affect the future of their brothers in community and shape the history of the Paulist mission for years to come. In this sacred place, still known as the Novitiate, there were memories of shared prayer, of learning the early history of the Paulist Fathers, of finding out what it means to live “a community life.” Here, where many of their brothers are buried and await the final coming of the Kingdom, the councilors made choices that they trusted would deepen the spirit of the community that Father Hecker asked his followers to embrace: “Great fidelity in action with a great and large freedom of action.” In these few pages, *Paulist Today* summarizes what the Paulist General Council did during those extraordinary and Spirit-filled days.

How does a community of priests reshape itself to continue the mission to which it is called and remain faithful to its founder and to the Holy Spirit? The Summit in Albuquerque, in which the broad outlines of a five-year strategic plan were shaped, reinforced many of the unique aspects of the Paulist mission. As leaders in media communications, the Paulists intend to maintain the tradition of reaching out by utilizing new forms of mass communications, especially the Internet. And they have embraced an even deeper dedication to ministering to young adults through the Internet and campus ministry.

But the Summit did not stop there. Next year, a new North American Office for Reconciliation will be formed to help establish and coordinate reconciliation ministries in all Paulist communities. Those efforts will promote healing within the church of the lost, the alienated, the hurt and the broken.

Lay collaboration received new attention at the Albuquerque Summit. The Paulists gathered in New Mexico proposed embracing the lay community in ways that would share real authority with lay people through boards, composed of lay leaders from various Paulist ministries, to advise the Paulists about their mission.

The extraordinary General Council meeting followed that guidance and has directed the establishment of Paulist Ministry Advisory Boards in several communities, and particularly as part of regional efforts in the Greater New York City area and the San Francisco Bay area. Those two regions will serve as models for the new Paulist approach to regional centers.

The General Council also made specific recommendations that will affect each Paulist Foundation.

Austin, Texas: In this community, where the Paulist commitment to university ministry is clearly evident, the local pastor at St. Austin's and the Newman Center director at the University of Texas are working with the bishop to determine how best to implement the new directions on which the Paulists are embarked.

Boston, Massachusetts: Here, the efforts to establish reconciliation ministry as a Paulist signature will be boosted by the appointment of a full-time Paulist and a Paulist in senior ministry to inaugurate a reconciliation effort in Boston that will reach out across New England.

Chicago, Illinois: Adopting a restructuring of Old St. Mary's to increase the missionary impact, the General Council endorsed the parish plan to hire one full-time pastoral associate, directed the appointment of the associate pastor for campus ministry, and proposed that one full-time Paulist would be focused on missionary outreach.

Columbus, Ohio: The Paulists in Columbus were asked to provide lay staff to help implement reconciliation initiatives in conjunction with the Paulist North American Office for Reconciliation, and to continue to explore efforts directed to ecumenical and interreligious



dialogue within the Ohio State University community and the diocese.

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Supporting a new diocesan pastoral plan, the Catholic Information Center was empowered to continue efforts aimed at actively engaging in evangelization, campus ministry and young adult ministry, and to explore hiring of lay staff to support the Paulist presence.

Knoxville, Tennessee: As part of the national Paulist effort to accommodate limited personnel availability, the two parishes in Knoxville will each reduce parish staff to a single full-time Paulist in 2007, and will consider hiring a full-time lay person as pastoral associate. A Paulist missionary will be assigned to Knoxville and the

community looks forward to the addition of a Paulist in senior ministry.

Los Angeles, California: Currently there are three Paulists on the parish staff at St. Paul the

Apostle. That number will be reduced to two. The community there is being urged to hire a pastoral associate for the parish, and will continue the campus ministry efforts at UCLA that are a noted Paulist heritage.

Memphis, Tennessee: The two Paulist-led parishes, St. Augustine and St. Patrick, will form a joint Paulist Ministry Advisory Board to launch initiatives that implement Paulist missions in both parishes and in the diocese. The missionary on the Memphis team will be

continued as will communications work with the diocese, and a fourth priest will be engaged in a reconciliation ministry in the Tri-State area of Northern Mississippi, Eastern Arkansas and West Tennessee no later than July 2007.

Minneapolis, Minnesota: In yet another reflection of the longstanding Paulist efforts in campus ministry, the foundation is exploring a formal diocesan recognition of the consolidation of St. Lawrence Parish and Newman Center into a university parish. Such a consolidation will allow for a reduction of one Paulist staff member.

New York City, New York: A regional coordinator will work with representatives from St. Paul the Apostle and Good Shepherd Churches in New York to form a Paulist Ministry Advisory Board. The board will initiate collaboration between the parishes to implement Paulist activities in each as well as deepen the Paulist commitment to the Archdiocese of New York.

Northern California: Holy Spirit Parish, Berkeley, a campus ministry, will work with the other Paulist communities in the San Francisco Bay area—Old St. Mary's Parish and the Chinese Mission—and collaborate with a new regional coordinator to implement Paulist outreach throughout the dioceses and communities of Northern California. The Northern California Paulists are being encouraged to establish Bay-wide ministry dialogues, to continue ongoing development of outreach efforts within the Chinese community of the area, and to actively pursue the incorporation of the Chinese Mission ministry into Old St. Mary's Parish by July 2008.

It is a time for bold moves in keeping with the Paulist missionary tradition, and plans and sacrifices furthering that tradition are well begun.

Portland, Oregon: At St. Philip Neri, Paulists will develop programs and plans for providing a full-time director at the Paulist Center by mid-2007, encourage senior retired Paulists to relocate to the area, and recognize and support the efforts of the Paulist-led pastorate at St. Elizabeth of Hungary parish.

Rome, Italy: The parishioners and friends of Santa Susanna were encouraged to actively pursue the existing relationships and placement efforts that support the formation of seminarians. The rector was encouraged to invite visiting Paulists to present workshops or seminars about their particular ministry plans and activities.

Toronto, Canada: The Paulists in Toronto are formalizing dialogue with the archdiocese to seek a full-time campus ministry, and the associate pastor is being assigned primary responsibility for the programs of the Catholic Centre for Evangelization.

Around North America: Paulists will continue to be welcomed at the senior priests' residence in Vero Beach, Florida, and in the summer residence and spirituality center at St. Mary of the Lake in Lake George, New York. Mount Paul in New Jersey remains a spirituality and retreat center, while Mahwah, New Jersey, continues as the site of Paulist Press and the Paulist Development Office. Washington, DC, will become the site of the North American Paulist Center, housing Paulist novices and seminarians as well as offering a home to national offices for evangelization, ecumenism and reconciliation.



SOME PLANT. OTHERS WATER. GOD MAKES IT GROW. (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6)

Tears of sorrow for what must change have been mixed with joyful memories of the blessings the Paulists have received through their years of service in Boulder, Clemson, Santa Barbara and Tucson. In each of these four communities where the Paulist Fathers will withdraw from pastoral leadership by the middle of next year, there has been a recognition that no change is without consequence: that every change offers opportunities for the Spirit to bring about good that people pained by loss cannot now imagine.

Boulder, Colorado:

Paulists accepted pastoral responsibility at St. Thomas Aquinas University Parish in Boulder, Colorado, 28 years ago. St. Tom's, as the parish is affectionately known, is home to a thriving college population attending the University of Colorado, as well as nearly 1,000 families who live in surrounding communities. Parishioners have shared their joy as new families and students were welcomed into the church at Easter Vigils. The transforming power of the Holy Spirit has been witnessed at work in ministries to students and young adults on the campus, in youth programs, in the Buffalo Awakening program and in the outreach of the Vine program.

St. Tom's has been blessed by the extraordinary dedication of the lay staff, and parishioners who are involved in over 40 ministries. It is a parish that provides unique spiritual and community leadership, both to serve the human needs of the region and in outreach to the wider community of faith. Paulists have been uplifted by the experience of

these good works, and strengthened by the depth of community commitments.

Clemson, South Carolina: In 1940, at a time when Catholics were rare in the Carolinas, the Paulists took on responsibility for campus ministry at the then Clemson College

minister dedicated to the Hispanic community, and strong youth and lay ministry programs. Throughout the area, Paulists have formed exceptional ties to the wider religious community, and have been noted for their priestly service in the region.

impovertised Hispanic community. The parish has maintained a special openness to the unique and difficult problems facing the Mexican immigrant population. The Paulists have been noted for reaching out to new communities without diminishing their commitment to

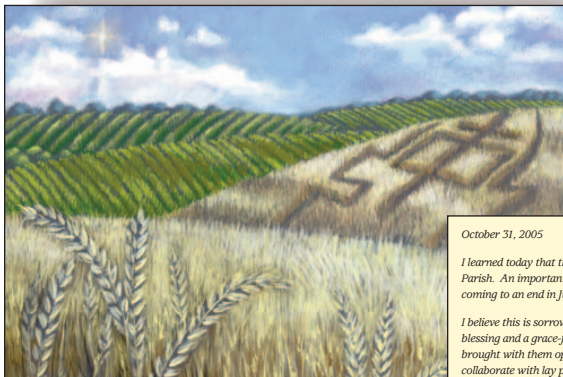
Tucson for its outreach to people coming across the border from Mexico. Originally founded in 1948, St. Cyril's came under the care of the Paulists in 1974. Since that time, the parish has become multi-cultural, striving to be a welcoming home for all who wish to hear God's Word.

The church community is an essential apostolic center for the surrounding area, with the parish school playing an especially important role. St. Cyril's is noted for its charitable work, and the Paulists have been particularly blessed by the support and care that has been extended to them and to those in need.

The pain of departure is not easily assuaged. But as the Paulists leave the foundations they have founded or ministered to over the years, they make their own for each community the words of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be firm, steadfast always, fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

(1 Corinthians 15:58)



and at the same time assumed pastoral care at St. Andrew Parish and its mission church, St. Francis in Walhalla. The parish originally served immigrants who had moved from their landing sites in the Northeast to work in the local mills. In 1995 the Church of St. Paul the Apostle was added to the mission mix. The parish and its missions have blossomed into a huge and diverse community, young and old, professional and retired, students and new Latino immigrants.

The Clemson-area churches are home to a vibrant Disciples in Mission program with over 600 participants. A two-year Mentor Program has 20 lay leaders in formation. There are over 25 ecumenical activities, a full-time

Goleta, California: St. Mark's University Parish in Goleta, California, is another Paulist community centered around a college campus, the University of California at Santa Barbara. Founded by the Paulists in 1966, St. Mark's has established an unusually supportive relationship between the community and the college, developing the pastoral leadership of the student body and establishing an endowed chair for Catholic Studies.

At the same time, St. Mark's is noted for being active in for making special efforts to promote social justice, providing regular meals for the homeless and creating special outreach to an

the campus activities central to the mission since the parish was founded.

Tucson, Arizona: St. Cyril of Alexandria Parish is well known in

October 31, 2005

I learned today that the Paulists will be leaving St. Cyril Parish. An important era in the life of our parish is coming to an end in June of next year.

I believe this is sorrowful news. The Paulists have been a blessing and a grace-filled presence among us. They brought with them openness, a willingness to collaborate with lay people, a constant support for justice, a thirst for Scripture, and always the eagerness for evangelization, ecumenism and reconciliation. They cannot be replaced...

But they can be emulated.

I hope that we, when our grieving has abated, can resolve to follow in their footsteps. I hope we can resolve, individually and as a parish, to continue the work of evangelization, ecumenism and reconciliation. The Church calls us to this mission and the Paulists have shown us the way. Let us continue the good work begun by God through the Paulists among us!

Peace,

Gil Puente

Gil Puente and his wife Emilia have been parishioners at St. Cyril for more than 30 years, participating in ministries that include liturgy and peace and justice. Puente was among the first Paulist Associates at St. Cyril, and this letter was addressed to them.



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Permit #729
Richmond, VA

Published by:
The Paulist Office of
Media Relations
2408 SE 16th Avenue
Portland, OR 97214

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www.paulist.org

Director: Michael
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Editor:
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Planning by:
TBC, Inc.

Design by:
Lisa Fiedler Jaworski
Fiedler Designhaus