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From the desk of the President

Paulists: Living Hecker's legacy

The year 2008, our 150th anniversary year, has been designated by our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI as a time dedicated to our patron, St. Paul the Apostle. Is it by pure coincidence or perhaps the prompting of the Spirit that these two events coincide? I would dare say it is the latter.

The celebration in recent days in Rome at the Major Basilica of St. Paul's-Outside-

the Walls marked the beginning of this special time dedicated to the Apostle to the Gentiles. I very much look forward to celebrating the Eucharist with our Paulist friends there during the 150th Anniversary Pilgrimage to Rome this March.



As I read through the draft of this newly formatted Paulist Today, I would say the mission of Paul is indeed being engaged by our community in the present day. This issue highlights some clear examples.

Paul would give "the Word a Voice" in preaching to the people of his day. In our time, each weeknight Paulist Dave Dwyer does likewise with his Busted Halo show on Sirius satellite radio. He presents the Good News of Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith in ways that can resonate with present day young adults.

Paul was very much engaged in world of his times. As Catholic Christians we are called to do the same. Our faith must inform our lives in society. Under the sponsorship of PNCEA, Dr. Georgia Masters Keightley is offering the online course, "Faithful Citizenship." How timely this effort is as we are now into a presidential election year in the United States.

Continued on Page 3



150th Anniversary Convocation scheduled for June 19-21

It will be a gathering 150 years in the making. The Paulist Fathers and friends of the Paulists will gather June 19-21 for a poignant celebration in the history of the order – the 150th Anniversary Convocation in Washington, D.C.

"We invite you to discover the rich history, solid mission and many great works of the Paulist Fathers, our lay colleagues and members of our worshipping communities," said Paulist president Father John F. Duffy.

This milestone three-day event begins with a welcome barbecue dinner at St. Paul's College from 6-9 p.m. on June 19.

The convocation will get in full swing at Catholic University's Pryzbyla Center the next day with morning prayer and the first of the convocation's four top-notch speakers – David O'Brien, who will speak on "The Paulists: From the Beginning." Mr. O'Brien is the author of "Isaac Hecker: An American Catholic."

Later that morning, D. Scott Appleby of the University of Notre Dame will speak on "The Paulists: At the Crossroads of Faith and Culture." Dr. Appleby is the author of "Church and Age Unite! The Modernist Impulse in American Catholicism."

The morning of June 21 also begins with prayer, and the first keynote address of the day on "The Paulists: Spirituality in North America" by noted columnist Father Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I. Father Rolheiser's weekly spirituality-themed column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide.

Father Rolheiser's presentation will be followed by the second of the day's keynote addresses: "The Paulists: Impacting the Church of Tomorrow" by CNN and NPR Vatican analyst and noted author John Allen.

It will then be time for the pinnacle of the convocation – the 150th Anniversary Mass at 5 p.m. in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The 150th Anniversary Gala will follow in the Great Room of the Pryzbyla Center.

To register or download in-depth convocation materials, log on to www.paulist.org or call 202-269-2512.

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Paulist Fathers file photos

150 YEARS: Paulists gather at the Apostolic Mission House in Washington, D. C., in 1922 (left photo) and parishioners at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley celebrate Easter 2006.

The Paulists: 150 years of hope, faith

By Jeanne Trott

The United States was a divided nation on the brink of the Civil War in 1858 as Abraham Lincoln debated Steven A. Douglas; Minnesota was admitted as the 32nd U.S. state; President James Buchanan sent the first trans-Atlantic telegram to Queen Victoria of England; and R.H. Macy opened his first store in New York City. It was also the year Isaac Thomas Hecker

founded the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle.

As the Paulists celebrate their sesquicentennial in 2008, Paulist historian Father Paul Robichaud is gathering evidence to support the cause of Isaac Hecker for sainthood. Emerging from the records and writings of Paulists is confirmation that the history of North America and the history of the Paulist Fathers coincide.

"The Paulist story, the American story, the American Catholic story all go hand in hand together, hand in glove," Father Robichaud said. "It's an extraordinary story of generations of Paulists and the imaginative, practical and

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Editor and Production Stefani Manowski powerful ways in which they brought an adaptive type of ministry to the church across America."

Paulist history, of course, begins with Isaac Hecker, the young New York baker who emerged from his sojourn with the New England Transcendentalists at Brook Farm into the embrace of the Catholic Church in 1844.

"Hecker had a vision of a vibrant Catholic America that would transform the world," said Father Robichaud.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan will officially open the cause for canonization of Paulist founder Father Isaac T. Hecker Jan. 27 during a 10 a.m. Mass at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. Log on to www.paulist.org for more info.

The work of the Paulists was to foster that vision. Their mission was energized, then as now, by an enduring optimism.

"It was Hecker's fundamental optimism that as long as one was in touch with the promptings of the Holy Spirit, in spite of conflicts, crises and difficult choices, all would be well," he said.

Father Robichaud cites stories from Paulist history to illustrate Hecker's vision and the force of his optimism as the Paulists and the country grew together:

- Fathers Hecker, Augustine Hewit and George Deshon, all original Paulists, wading into the crowds to calm the violence during the New York City draft riots in 1863.
- Paulists on the streets in San Francisco following the earthquake and fire of 1906, ministering to people amid the rubble as they did once again in New York on Sept. 11, 2001.
- Paulists bringing the solace and strength of the Good News to troops both in peacetime and in every war the United States has fought.

Father John Lynch, C.S.P., Paulist archivist,

cares for the artifacts of Paulist history at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C. Primary among the treasures there are Father Hecker's papers, now being digitized for wide dissemination. Father Lynch also cites the papers of Monsignor John J. Burke, C.S.P., who founded what has become the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Civil War papers of Father Walter Elliott, C.S.P., whose biography of Father Hecker raised eyebrows and contentions during the Americanist

controversy at the start of the 20th century.

Father Lynch says his biggest question is how to decide what to keep, and he betrays his amusement at the items the archives was asked to lend for a museum exhibition on the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of New York City: a ticket to a lecture on photography in

1885, a flyer announcing a great mission by the Paulist Fathers in 1891, and a ticket to the 1928 Midnight Mass at St. Paul the Apostle Church.

History shows that the Paulists did some of their best work during times of crisis in society, in the church, in the Paulist community, Father Robichaud said. He finds a reason for this phenomenon in the Paulists' enduring tradition of practicality.

"The practical nature of the Paulists enables them to respond to the needs of the times with the vocabulary of the times and the tools of the times," he said. "It works for them."

Paulist president Father John F. Duffy named two other historical Paulist characteristics that will work for them during what he calls an "apt time for the Paulists, when people are seeking, are hungry for God."

The community, he said, has always been able to build on the gifts and talents of its members, to utilize those gifts in the service of the church. Further, he said, the Paulist commitment to seeking Christian unity and interfaith dialogue is critical in a broken world, a world of divisions.



Photo by Stefani Manowski

Adam Dawkins is the new executive director of the Paulist Office for Financial Development.

Welcome!

Adam Dawkins takes up post as executive director for financial development

Adam Dawkins was recently named executive director of the Office for Financial Development for the Paulist Fathers, working out of the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C. Mr. Dawkins first encountered the Paulists about seven years ago while he was a seminarian for the Diocese of Charleston, S.C.

"I was impressed by their radical hospitality and commitment to bringing all people to the table of Christ," Mr. Dawkins said, noting that he has kept in touch with the Paulists throughout the years. "When I was offered this opportunity to serve alongside the Paulist community, I could not wait to get started."

In his new role, Mr. Dawkins is responsible for gathering resources needed to sustain the ongoing ministry of the Paulist Fathers through financial development and the Paulist capital campaign, "A Future Brighter Than Any Past."

Prior to coming on board with the Paulist Fathers, Mr. Dawkins coordinated major giving and Internet fund raising in the development office at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Dawkins holds a degree in business administration from the University of South Carolina, and is pursuing an MBA with a concentration in nonprofit management at Trinity University in Washington.

Paulist mission remains strong after 150 years

President's Message continued from Page 1

I recently learned that a special ecumenical chapel has been opened at St. Paul's-outside-the Walls for this year. It's appropriate for St. Paul is considered in a sense a patron of ecumenical activity. Paulists Tom Stransky, Michael McGarry, Ron Roberson and Tom Ryan have dedicated themselves to ecumenical and interfaith efforts both nationally and internationally.

In The Acts of the Apostles, we read of the famous Council of Jerusalem. There was strong disagreement among these early Christians about how people were to be received into the community of faith. Indeed there were tensions, and we see the key role that Paul occupied in brokering healing

and reconciliation among all involved. The healing and reconciliation that continue to be needed in our church and society are very much at the heart of the contemporary Paulist mission with the recent appointment of Paulist Tom Kane to head our Paulist North American Office for Reconciliation.

2008 is a year dedicated to St. Paul and is the 150th Anniversary of the Paulists. May it be a time of renewal for our church and for the mission of the Paulists. We ask you to join with us in praying for that intention.

Father John F. Duffy, C.S.P., President

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Photo courtesy PNCEA

CYBERFAITH: Dr. Georgia Masters Keightley (center) prepares for her online course with some help from Sister Susan Wolf, S.N.D., PNCEA executive director, and Father Anthony Krisak, PNCEA director of training and online services.

The crossroads of faith and citizenship

New PNCEA online course offers unique look at political responsibility

By Father Anthony F. Krisak

As the 2008 primaries are under way, Dr. Georgia Masters Keightley is presenting and discussing the

relationship of faith and citizenship with Catholics across the country. Her online course, titled "Faithful Citizenship," is part of the Paulist Evangelization Training Institute (PETI) that was inaugurated by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association (PNCEA) in March 2006.

Each week, students view and listen to Dr. Keightley through a prerecorded Power Point presentation as she addresses how Catholics can make their own citizenship an expression of faith in the public arena. In preparation for each week, students read selected passages from "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States."

Newly revised in November 2007, the bishops first published this document in 1975 and have updated it every four years. In addition

Online courses

Dr. Keightley will offer a live one-hour presentation on faith and citizenship on April 24 from 2-3 p.m. EDT as part of PNCEA's Catholic Speakers Online (CSO) series. Attendance is free, but registration is required.

Other six-week courses that are in progress beginning Jan. 28 are "Go and Make Disciples" with Sister Susan Wolf, S.N.D., PNCEA executive director, and "The Evangelizing Catholic" with Father Frank DeSiano, C.S.P., a noted writer and speaker. In addition, Father Tony Krisak, PNCEA director of training and online services, will be conducting a 12-week course titled, "From Maintenance to Mission: The Revitalization of Catholic Parishes."

To receive more information about the online programs, please send an e-mail to online@pncea.org. Place the type of service that interests you in the subject line (for example, CSO mailing list or PETI courses) and include your first and last name in the message.

to the bishops' document, students will also be reading selections from "Catholic Social Teaching: Our Best Kept Secret" by Edward P. DeBerri and James E. Hug of the Center of Concern in Washington, D.C.

Once students complete the weekly reading and view the week's presentation by Dr. Keightley, they enter into online discussion areas where they respond to at least one of three questions posted by the instructor. Through their contributions online, students learn from each other and hear how faithful citizenship is being lived out in a variety of practical settings.

Dr. Keightley's course is especially timely because of some of the stereotypes that people harbor about the relationship between faith and politics. She proposes that faithful citizenship is an essential part of the life of disciples expressed in strategies that make concrete God's own justice in the world.

PNCEA established its online institute with the objective of giving Catholics an opportunity to communicate, collaborate and learn best practices in Catholic evangelization. Students have found that the more they participate, the greater they benefit from the diverse experience of the instructors and other classmates without the cost of travel, room and board.



Photo courtesy of Father John Hurley, C.S.P.

RECONCILIATION BY THE BAY: The reconciliation board in San Francisco includes parishioners of Old St. Mary's Cathedral and Holy Family Chinese Mission, both Paulist foundations.

Los Angeles ready with welcome

St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Community in Los Angeles has dedicated itself to reconciling Catholics to the church and the parish.

The parish hosted the Archdiocese of Los Angeles Victims Assistance Office for a workshop in trauma recovery. The process is not psychotherapy but a cognitive approach giving the participants tools they can use to recognize triggers and allow them to make different choices.

The sessions were conducted on two consecutive Saturdays, concluding with a healing service. The workshop was deemed a great success in providing the participants new ways of viewing the world.

St. Paul is also active in reconciliation with participating and non-participating Catholics. Those involved in reconciliation ministry continually explore ways to reach out to people

who, for various reasons, have stopped coming to church and are outside the community of faith while still identifying themselves as Catholic.

A reconciliation committee has formed to focus on inactive Catholics utilizing Landings, a Paulist ministry to welcome people back to the church, as a forum for listening and dialogue. Working in cooperation with the parish ministry council, it is believed that those who are engaged in community life are a great resource for folks who have been away for many years.

A project is now under way to interview parishioners about a life-giving experience they had at St. Paul's.

Focusing on what is good can lead to a positive experience for those who are returning to the church.

Boston efforts reach out in faith

The Office of Outreach and Reconciliation at the Paulist Center in Boston is working with Harvard Law School students enrolled in its Negotiation and Mediation Clinical Program to design working models for genuine dialogue, active listening and, hopefully, steps toward healing.

During the past 18 months, teams of Harvard Law School students trained in conflict management skills and supervised by Harvard Law School faculty have conducted extensive research to design "safe spaces" for dialogue.

This attempt at dialogue has enjoyed support through the participation of a cross section of Catholic constituencies. Though only a pilot program, the feedback so far has been encouraging.

Two facilitated dialogue sessions were hosted by the Paulist Center this past November.

The first was between members of Cardinal O'Malley's cabinet/leadership team and pre-selected lay Catholics who feel hurt and alienation from the church.

The second was a facilitated dialogue between active, relatively content lay Catholics and lay Catholics who are disenfranchised with the church.

A third dialogue model between pastors and laity is ready.

In addition, over the past several months the Paulist Center has hosted a number of dialogue sessions between the Vicar General and representative gay and lesbian Catholics.

Father Kane to lead N.A. reconciliation

Father Thomas A. Kane, C.S.P., was named the director of the Paulist North American Office for Reconciliation by the General Council of the Paulist Fathers. He will head the office out of the Paulist Center in Boston while continuing on the faculty at Weston Jesuit School of Theology.

Reconciliation involves healing people's wounds – whether it be caused by abuse, disagreement with the church's stand on an issue or anything that led someone to feel alienated or rejected – and welcoming people back to the church.

"Tom was a key author of the original charter of our reconciliation office," Paulist president Father John F. Duffy, C.S.P., said in announcing the appointment. "He brings a long commitment and enthusiasm to the ministry of reconciliation, a ministry needed now more than ever."

Father Kane said he is looking forward to the challenges of his new post.

"There is so much pain and division in our world," he said. "I believe the church can bring hope and healing to our society today. One of my goals is to assist the Paulist Fathers and their collaborators to reach out to various estranged and alienated groups and help them find their way home. It will take careful planning and listening to many voices who are struggling."



Photo courtesy Father Tom Kane, C.S.P.
NEW POST: Father Thomas A. Kane, C.S.P., will now lead
the Paulist North American Office for Reconciliation.



Small pebble, butbig ripple

Paulists in ecumenism and interfaith work

By Father Tom Ryan, C.S.P.

n 1986, the Paulist General Assembly, the community's highest decision-making body, placed ecumenism alongside evangelization and reconciliation as one of the Paulist Mission Direction orientations.

In doing so, the Paulists were responding not only to Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism and Declaration on Interreligious Relations, but also to their own history of reaching out to Protestants and Jews in North America.

Father Thomas F. Stransky, C.S.P., helped put the ecumenical boat in the water. In September 1960, Father Stransky was asked to come aboard this new little boat in Vatican waters as one of the two crewmen.

The secretariat was formed as one of the preparatory commissions for the Second Vatican Council. In October 1960, they handed Father Stransky the file on a proposal for the Council to address the church's

relationship with the Jewish people. He it developed through the council to become the Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian Religions (Nostra Aetate), promulgated on Oct. 28, 1965. In 1986, he began serving as rector of Tantur **Ecumenical Institute** until his retirement, continuing to serve during those years as a consultor to the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity. He continues to write and lecture internationally on ecumenical and

Michael McGarry, C.S.P., now beginning his ninth year as rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, is hopeful for new beginnings in the local and international ecumenical world. Over the last few years, political uncertainties and fear have discouraged scholars and Christian educators from venturing to Jerusalem. But now many are returning to the place where Christianity began.

In addition to welcoming scholars to Tantur, Father McGarry works with local Christian leaders for the unity of the church and with Jewish leaders to foster mutual understanding. This specifically includes assisting the leadership of the Interreligious Coordinating Council in Israel.

He also serves as the secretary to the Roman Catholic Patriarch's Commission on Relations with the Jewish People. For many in the west, this may not seem so dramatic. as one may think of local American Jewish-Christian relations. However, one needs to remember that most Holy Land Christians are Arabs, and politics is never far from the discussion even as Israeli Jews and Palestinian Christians seek to understand one another. On the national scene in the United States. Father Ron Roberson, C.S.P., is an associate

director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C.

In the office at the Bishops' Conference, he staffs the Catholic dialogues at the national level with the Oriental and Eastern Orthodox churches as well as the Polish National Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church. He also has responsibility for the USCCB's participation in Christian Churches Together in the USA, a new ecumenical forum that brings together all the major Christian faith traditions of the country. He puts out a monthly newsletter called The SEIA Newsletter on the Eastern Churches and

Before moving to Washington, Father Roberson was a member of the staff of the

Vatican's Pontifical **Council for Promoting** Christian Unity for four

In 1998, the Paulist General Assembly moved to create a Paulist North American Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations (PEIR), now located in Washington, D.C., as a way of giving clearer expression to the community's commitment in work for Christian unity and interreligious understanding and collaboration.

To initiate and develop the work of this office, the community's leadership put out a call to Father Tom Ryan, C.S.P., who

had worked nationally in Canada for 14 years, directing the Montreal-based Canadian Centre for Ecumenism.

Father Ryan's work can be summarized in four words: information, education, representation and action. Through consultative visits, a quarterly newsletter, and the sharing of information and resources via the Internet, he assists Paulist ministry centers in exercising initiative in their local context.

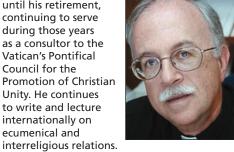
He also represents the Paulists at various regional, national and international ecumenical and interreligious conferences, assuring a Paulist presence and voice at events such as the National Workshop on Christian Unity, the North American Academy of Ecumenists, and the Parliament of World Religions, as well as by serving on various dialogues such as the Mid-Atlantic Catholic-Muslim Dialogue and as an advisor to the Monastic Interreligious Dialogue (Buddhist-Catholic).

The Paulists may be a small community, but the work of these and other Paulists is like a pebble dropped into the waters of the church's life. Small pebble, but big ripple.









Photos: file Clockwise from top left: Father Thomas F. Stransky, C.S.P.; Father Ron Roberson, C.S.P.; Father Tom Ryan, C.S.P.; and Father Michael McGarry, C.S.P.

Reaching for the stars

Satellite radio is ministry rocket for Father Dwyer



Photo courtesy Busted Hald

FAITH IS IN THE AIR: Father Dave Dwyer, C.S.P., hosts the Busted Halo Show on Sirius satellite radio Monday-Friday from 7-10 p.m. EDT.

It was a world he thought he had left behind years ago. Before he entered the Paulists, Dave Dwyer was a New York television director whose star was on the rise thanks to an impressive resume that included stints at both MTV and Comedy Central. But now, more than a decade after deciding to become a priest, Father Dave – as he is now known – is back in New York City preparing to broadcast another installment of his daily Busted Halo Show on Sirius satellite radio (Mon-Fri, 7-10 p.m. EDT).

"If you had asked me back in seminary, I would've told you I wasn't interested in doing media work again," he said.

But after spending four years in campus ministry, the Paulists asked Father Dwyer to dust off his media skills to head up the Paulist Young Adult Ministries, which oversees BustedHalo.com and the Busted Halo Retreat ministry.

In mid-2006, the podcast he developed with co-host Mike Hayes came to the attention of officials at Sirius satellite radio who were planning on launching a channel of Catholic programming.

"They were interested in doing a talk radio channel that was Catholic – not all catechesis and Masses – but talk radio that was interesting, informative, fun and Catholic," said Father Dwyer.

Now, instead of a congregation of college students, Father Dwyer's parish boundaries have extended to include all of North America. His show is an eclectic mix of listeners' phone calls and questions as well as humor and discussion of faith, pop culture and world events. The Busted Halo Show is attracting new listeners all the time from some very unlikely places. Approximately one third of those who call in are non-Catholics who are surprised to find they're enjoying a show

hosted by a Catholic priest.

- Father Dave Dwyer, C.S.P.

'Many listeners tell us it's a revelation

to hear a priest laughing and having

fun in the studio. I think they start

to see that the Catholic Church is

something they can be a part of.'

"They often ask 'I'm not Catholic, is it OK that I listen?'" he said laughing. "We get listeners who call to tell us 'I bought Sirius satellite for Howard Stern, but now that I've found you guys I just listen to the Catholic channel.'"

Father Dwyer's presence on Sirius is a 21st century manifestation of the Paulists' 150-year-old mission.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for evangelization" he said. "So

much of what we're doing on the air – whether consciously or unconsciously – is translating Catholicism for our listeners."

Sometimes that translation can take the form of explaining complex aspects of doctrine or finding common ground between popular culture and faith as Father Dwyer does on his recurring "Faith and Culture" feature. Other times the translation is much simpler.

"Many listeners tell us it's a revelation to hear a priest laughing and having fun in the studio," Father Dwyer said. "I think they start to see that the Catholic Church is something they can be a part of."

Perhaps the greatest revelation however has been for Father Dwyer himself. When he first heard the call to the

priesthood he thought it meant he was leaving the media world behind. He's been amazed lately at how unexpectedly the Holy Spirit is working to bring together his lifelong interests and his faith.

"I was thinking about the radio show and it dawned on me, 'Wow, so that's why I spent all those afternoons in first grade making radio shows on my tape recorder,'" he said with a chuckle before adding, "God has got something in mind for this ministry."

