

PAULIST TODAY



Spring 2009

Paulist Fathers: Giving the Gospel a Voice Today

Vol. 14 No. 2

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President's Message

Celebrating the Paulist mission

Three hundred and thirty-five years! That is the number of years of service given to the church by this year's Paulist jubilarians. Our founder, Servant of God, Isaac Hecker stressed the fact that we should utilize the gifts and talents of each Paulist. This is very evident as we reflect upon the varied works in which these men have been engaged.

Some of them have been gifted with the ability to relate with students and faculties in university settings and so their involvement in campus ministry. Others are blessed with the ability to bring the Word of God and the Catholic faith alive from the pulpit and so have served on mission bands. Working for justice is constitutive to the preaching of the Gospel and for that reason one of our jubilarians ministered to and with the United Farm Workers. The ability to console the infirmed led some to be involved in hospital chaplaincy. The capacity to lead a community of faith has been present and so some have been pastors in our various foundations.



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PT/Stefani Manowski

Peter Denio, director of the Catholic Common Ground Initiative (left), and Father Thomas A. Kane, director of Paulist Reconciliation Ministries, have formed a partnership between the two organizations.

Paulist Reconciliation Ministries forms partnership with CCGI

In recent months The Catholic Common Ground Initiative has begun a partnership with the Paulist Reconciliation Ministries.

"CatholicCommonGround has worked for many years to build bridges and work on healing rifts within our own church," said Father Thomas A. Kane, director of Paulist Reconciliation Ministries. "Paulist Reconciliation Ministries is honored to be part of their network and to work together

to build up the church."

CCGI director Peter Denio said the two ministries "have common interests. He also noted the CCGI is participating in the Paulist Reconciliation Ministries' first symposium April 16-17 at Boston College.

"We are looking for opportunities for collaboration in the future," Mr. Denio said.

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Father John E. Hurley, C.S.P., director of the National Pastoral Life Center, welcomes the more than 350 participants of the NPLC's 25th Anniversary Symposium and Gala March 25 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. The symposium theme was based on St. Paul in honor of the holy year declared by the pope.

Reconciliation reaches out

Continued from Page 1

The Catholic Common Ground Initiative was inaugurated by the late Cardinal Joseph Bernardin with the release of a statement, *Called to Be Catholic: Church in a Time of Peril*, in 1996. It originated in a concern that unnecessarily polarizing differences among church leaders and members hinder efforts to build the church community and to carry out its mission. The world, and thus the context in which the initiative serves continue to change, Mr. Denio said. In the 10th anniversary statement the sexual abuse scandal and the death and installation of a new pope were acknowledged. Vast numbers of people immigrate to the United States bringing their gifts and a diversity of cultures that continue to change the landscape in which pastoral leaders minister. In some regions of the United States the church struggles to adapt to the new and growing communities of Catholics, while in other regions dioceses wrestle

with the reorganization of parishes and the declining availability of the sacraments.

"The Catholic Common Ground Initiative, attentive to this changing context, seeks to update its methods in a way that is fruitful to the communion of the Catholic Church while acknowledging 'our ultimate contribution to the life of the church in the United States will be in the form of an invitation to a way of ecclesial life, rather than in offering programs or methods,'" said Mr. Denio.

Those participating in the strategic planning for The Catholic Common Ground Initiative are very excited about this moment in its history, according to Mr. Denio.

"Many creative and hopeful opportunities lie ahead," he said. "One of which includes our collaborative efforts with the Paulist Reconciliation Ministries. Through our coordinated efforts we hope to continue to work towards unity in our church with continued vibrancy and enthusiasm."

Jubilarians are jewels of the Paulist community

Continued from Page 1

Yes, these different Paulists have enfolded the Paulist mission in varied ways and have done so ever so well. For this we are grateful.

The Paulist mission continues today in varied ways as you can see in this issue of Paulist Today. Father Frank DeSiano, C.S.P. is now the new president of PNCEA; he is committed to reaching out

to those with no church family and also to reenergizing the faith of marginal Catholics. He is exploring modern ways to do that with the utilization of videos and podcasts. Father Tom Ryan, director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, challenges us to find ways to relate to Christians of other churches to move toward the unity that the Lord seeks for us all, "that they all may be one." The National Pastoral Life Center, headed by Paulist Father John Hurley, is partnering with Father Tom Kane, C.S.P., and our Office for Reconciliation to foster initiatives in that area. The Paulist Mission carried on by our jubilarins for a combined 335 years continues today.

As we move towards a "future brighter than any past," we need new Paulists. As part of our strategic planning initiative the past couple of years, a priority is promoting vocations to the community. There is interest in joining with us. Recently at St. Paul's College, six men reflecting upon a possible call to the

priesthood participated in a discernment weekend. These normally take place in October and February. Because their popularity has increased these past few years, Father Dave Farnum, our vocation director, has added a third weekend which will take place in May at our Mother Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City.

I would repeat what Father Dave Farnum, our vocation director at the end of the article, "I invite you to join me in praying for many more men to follow the Lord Jesus with the fervor of St. Paul and Father Hecker in the Paulist way of life." And may we also pray in gratitude for the generous response to the Lord's call on the part of our Paulist jubilarians.

Father John F. Duffy, C.S.P.
President of the Paulist Fathers

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Father DeSiano to lead PNCEA

Father Frank DeSiano, C.S.P., will now lead the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association in Washington, D.C.

Father DeSiano said this position would allow him to further a long-time interest in evangelization, a field in which he has been a national leader for more than 20 years. For the next year, Father DeSiano will remain as the first consultant of the Paulists while he begins his service at PNCEA.

Father DeSiano's interests lie in developing programs that reach out to those who have no church family, and also to those who have stopped practicing their Catholic faith. He recently developed a program called *Awakening Faith: Reconnecting to Your Catholic Faith* – a six-week process-based approach to involving marginal Catholics in the Church – with Father Kenneth Boyack, C.S.P., current vice president of PNCEA and its former president.

Awakening Faith was launched nationally in January 2009 to great interest and anticipation because of the pressing need to reach out to Catholics who, while maintaining an identity with the Catholic Church, nevertheless do not practice it very much. In July, Paulist Press will publish Father DeSiano's latest book, *Reactivating Our Catholic Faith*, which is a collection of eight essays and discussion questions to help people reconnect with their Catholic faith.

Father DeSiano is also interested in those who are searching for faith. Given the modern use of the Internet, he hopes to develop Web sites which will make the Catholic faith accessible to those who are searching for faith in modern, approachable ways, including podcasts and videos.

"The Paulists have an approach to sharing faith. It is friendly and contemporary. This approach is needed now more than ever because



Paulist Today file

Father Frank DeSiano has been named president of the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association.

Catholicism can seem so obscure or unattractive to people today," he said.

PNCEA has long been a leader in resources to equip Catholics to share faith. *Disciples in Mission*, a three-year program to help Catholics grasp Catholic evangelization, has been used in hundreds of parishes. Invite provides material to help parishes reach out to seekers. Uniquely in the American church, PNCEA produces newsletters for prisoners and provides Bibles and other resources for the incarcerated. It also provides material for parishes to reach out to inactive Catholics.

Father DeSiano's involvement in evangelization goes back to his time as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in New York.

"How can we be missionaries in the middle of the busiest city in the world?" he would ask himself. Completing a doctor of ministry program at Boston University, he helped parishes in Washington, D.C., develop evangelization teams for six years. At that point he also began writing extensively about evangelization and spirituality and served as a consultant to the U.S. Catholics Committee on Evangelization.

2009 Jubilarians: Paulist c

By Stefani Manowski

Seven Paulist preists are celebrating milestone anniversaries of ministry in 2009. In total, they have a combined 335 years of service to the church and the Paulist community. In this issue of Paulist Today, we highlight and celebrate the men celebrating 60, 50 and 25 years as Paulists.

60 Years: May 3, 1949



Father Robert Scott, C.S.P.

It was while attending Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., that Father Scott decided he wanted to become a priest. He first learned of the Paulist Fathers through the famed Father Walter Elliott, who was once engaged to one of Father Scott's cousins.

"I thought I'd like to work with Protestants, and the Paulist Fathers were established for that purpose," said Father Scott, known for his "Good Stop" homilies. "The ability of the to adapt to the climate of the times and focus our work in that direction is key to Paulist ministry."

Father Scott's first assignment was at the Paulist Center in Boston in 1949. He then served at St. Lawrence's in Monett from 1949-50 before heading back to Boston to serve at St. Ann parish until 1952. St. Paul the Apostle in New York was Father Scott's next stop, where he served from 1952-53 before joining the mission band based at Old St. Mary's in San Francisco from 1953-56. He then entered campus ministry at West Virginia University in Morgantown, where he served from 1957-60 before becoming the Paulist vocation director based in Boston from 1960-62.

Father Scott returned to campus ministry in Morgantown from 1962-68 before again serving as Paulist vocation director

based in New York from 1968-69. Campus ministry again called, and Father Scott served at the Newman Center at the Ohio State University in Columbus from 1969-70 before heading to Marshall University in Huntington, W.V., from 1970-73. Father Scott then served at the University Catholic Center at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1973-74 before becoming superior at St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, N.C. He returned to San Francisco and Old St. Mary's as associate pastor in 1979, then headed to John XXIII University Catholic Center at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville until 1980. He was on special assignment at Holy Family Church in Clemmons until 1981, when he became associate pastor of St. Austin Church in Austin from 1981-86.

Father Scott entered senior ministry status in February 1986, but returned to campus ministry at John XXIII University Parish in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1994. He then became pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Horseshoe Bay, Tex., in 1999 and then returned to senior ministry status at St. Austin in Austin, Tex., that same year. Father Scott is currently pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Horseshoe Bay as the oldest pastor appointed by the Diocese of Austin, and also continues to minister to the students at the University of Texas.

50 Years: May 1, 1959



Father Lionel DeSilva, C.S.P.

Father DeSilva was 19 when he met the Paulists in New York.

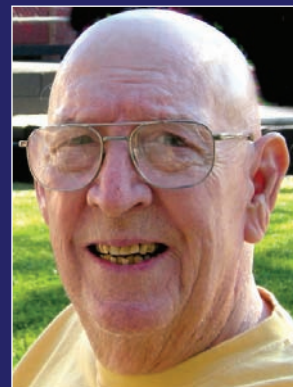
"The Paulists had a different way of seeing things than any other group of priests I had ever met," he said.

Father DeSilva served his pastoral year at the Paulist Center in Boston from 1959-60 before entering campus ministry

at Clemson University from 1960-62. Father DeSilva then headed to the Paulist missions in Africa, based out of Holy Trinity Church in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 1962-66 and Holy Trinity in Johannesburg from 1966-69.

He returned to the U.S. the last Paulist to come home from the African missions to St. Paul the Apostle in New York, where he continued his mission work from 1969-78. Father DeSilva then served as associate at St. Leo the Great in Houston from 1978-81 before engaging in the preaching apostolate out of St. Austin in Austin until 1991. He then returned to New York as associate at Good Shepherd parish, and began serving as a hospital chaplain in 2006. He continues to serve as a chaplain at St. Luke-Roosevelt Hospital in New York.

"I've never believed in priests retiring," he said. "I'm still going."



Father Edward Donovan, C.S.P.

"I liked the work they were doing," Father Donovan said, "being involved in the instruction of potential Catholics. [The Paulists] had an openness, and I liked their whole attitude toward the church and the faith."

After his ordination, Father Donovan served a pastoral year at the Paulist Center in Boston, from 1959-60. He then entered campus ministry at West Virginia University in Morgantown from 1960-62 before going to the University Catholic Center at the University of California at Los Angeles from 1962-65. Father Sullivan was called to the mission band out of St. Paul the Apostle in New York from 1956-67 before returning to Boston, still serving in the mission apostolate from 1967-68. He returned to campus ministry at the University of

diamonds, gold and silver

California at San Diego from 1968-75, serving as coordinator from 1970-75.

Father Donovan was on special assignment from 1975-78; he then went to Los Angeles with the United Farm Workers of America from 1978-83, where he ministered to many Hispanic Catholics.

Father Donovan then moved to San Bernardino, Calif., where he served in the diocesan office of Hispanic affairs from 1983-85 before becoming the archdiocesan regional director of Hispanic affairs based out of Carpinteria, Calif., from 1985-88. Father Donovan served at St. Joseph parish in Carpinteria until 1998, when he entered senior ministry status. He moved to St. Paul the Apostle in Los Angeles in senior ministry status in 2000, where he still resides.



Father Ernest Mort, C.S.P.

"I was intrigued by the goals and mission of the Paulists, especially the idea of being involved in dialogue with non-Catholics," said Father Mort, 77, who found the Paulists in a brochure he read during a retreat at St. Mary's High School in Albuquerque, NM.

After his ordination, Father Mort served at the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, Mich., until September 1959, when he went to New York as the associate pastor of Good Shepherd parish and pursued graduate studies at Fordham University. From 1960-64, he served as assistant director and from 1964-66 as acting director of the St. Thomas More Newman Center at the Ohio State University.

Father Mort then served as director of the Newman Center at the University of California at San Diego from 1966-69 before becoming dean of the university's Revelle College from 1969-93. He retired to senior ministry status in 1994.

Father Mort continues to serve on a few university committees, including the Eugene Burke, C.S.P., Lectureship on Religion and Society.



Father Jeremiah D. Sullivan, C.S.P.

Father Sullivan first met the Paulists at Power Memorial Academy, a high school once located near St. Paul the Apostle in New York.

"Working with the other men in the community and especially working with the lay people in the ministries has sustained me in my priesthood," said Father Sullivan.

Upon ordination, Father Sullivan entered campus ministry at Clemson University in 1959 before heading to the Paulist Center in Boston, where he spent his pastoral year. In 1960, he left Boston to serve as associate pastor at St. Vincent's in Mobile, Ala., until 1962, when he went to Good Shepherd parish in New York as associate from 1962-65. Father Sullivan then joined the mission band based out of the Paulist Center in Boston from 1965-1967 before returning to campus ministry at the University of California at Santa Barbara from 1970-74 and the University of Connecticut in Storrs from 1974-92.

Father Sullivan then served as associate pastor at St. Cyril's in Tucson from 1983-86 before becoming superior at St. Paul the Apostle in Greensboro, N.C. in 1986. Father Sullivan entered hospital ministry in Charlotte, N.C., in 1991, in Derby, Conn., in 1992 and at the UCLA Medical Center in 1994. He entered senior ministry status at St. Paul the Apostle in New York in 2002.

"I have been given the opportunity to flourish," Father Sullivan said. "I receive great encouragement from my peers and a sense of solidarity."

25 Years: May 19, 1984



Father Robert M. Cary, C.S.P.

Father Cary first encountered the Paulists as a teenager through lectures he attended at Wayne State University in Detroit, where the Paulists staffed the Newman Center at the time.

After his ordination, Father Cary served as associate pastor and director of the Catholic Education Center at St. Lawrence Church and Newman Center in Minneapolis, Minn., from 1984-88 before heading to the University Catholic Center at University of California at Los Angeles from 1988-90. Father Cary then served at the St. Thomas More Newman Center at the Ohio State University from 1992-94 and the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin from 1994-96.

Father Cary became the legal counsel and general treasurer of the Paulist Fathers from 1996-99 before returning to Grand Rapids as the director of the Catholic Information Center from 1999-2003. He returned to campus ministry at the St. John XXIII University Parish at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville from 2003-06. Father Cary currently serves as chaplain at Northwestern University's schools of law, medicine and continuing studies and as associate pastor of Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago.

"It has been the great joy of my ministry to assist people on their faith journeys and to work with some very gifted and zealous lay ministers," he said.

Editor's Note: Father Thomas Marshall, C.S.P., will also celebrate his 50th jubilee in 2009. He currently lives in a senior care facility in Toronto, and was unavailable for comment. No photo was available.

Seasoning ministry with unity

Can Christian denominations spice up faith by reaching out together?

By Father Tom Ryan, C.S.P.

Pope John XXIII's two-fold intention in calling the Second Vatican Council was to let some fresh air into the church and renew it, and to strive for Christian unity. Most of us would have to admit that the latter has tended to slip far down on our working list of pastoral preoccupations and priorities.

The tendency is to relate to ecumenism – the

work for Christian unity – as the asparagus on the parish plate amidst the meat, bread, and potatoes: Okay if you like veggies, but as long as someone's been appointed to look after it, the rest of us don't have to be concerned about it. Then you read words like these from

Pope John Paul II:

"Today this task of restoring full communion between divided Christians is a priority for all who believe in Christ. It is our duty to Christ, whose seamless robe is rent by division. It is our duty to those who have not yet heard the Gospel, for only with one voice can we effectively proclaim one faith in the good news of salvation. ... And it is our duty to each other, for we are brothers and sisters and must express it. No one is dispensed from this effort."

Convictions such as that from authoritative leadership makes the church's mission for unity appear less like asparagus and more like the salt and pepper which is to be sprinkled over everything on the plate.

In our Sunday assemblies, for example, do we ever pray by name for the neighboring Christian communities, thereby witnessing to a sense of real albeit imperfect communion in faith with them?

When we play as a parish community, could we extend an invitation to the congregation down the street to join in the picnic so we can get to know one another?

When we respond to the Gospel mandate to care for the elderly, the homeless, the young, the infirm, could we pool our resources with our Christian neighbors and do it together?

In our faith formation programs relating to baptisms, marriages, liturgical seasons, Bible study, could we work together?

The World Council of Churches, meeting in Lund, Sweden, established a principle for the normal operating procedure of each church community: "Do everything together as far as conscience permits." If you stop to think about it, there are very few things conscience obliges us to do separately.

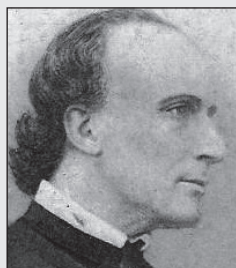
In the various models of unity being worked with among

different denominations of Christians, there is a common understanding that real unity in Christ must mean a unity that is visible and tangible. That's why it's important for us to be continually asking ourselves: Could we do this together? Unity interpreted as invisible relationship, leaving the outward forms and programs of separated Christians unchanged, is definitely not the goal. A united, visible witness before our society is itself a powerful program of evangelization. "Father," Jesus prayed, "may they all be one so that the world may believe."

Anything that brings members of different churches together will serve the process of mutual discovery and enrichment. Whatever your area of involvement in the life of your parish is, it has its ecumenical dimension. Remember: salt and pepper, sprinkled over everything.

Could we be doing it together?

Father Tom Ryan, C.S.P., directs the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations.



Father Francis A. Baker, C.S.P.

Letter of Paulist co-founder found on e-Bay auction

A letter by Paulist co-founder Father Francis A. Baker was recently gifted to the Paulist archives after being purchased on e-Bay.

"Though the Paulist archives has a number of Baker's published sermons, this letter, to the best of my knowledge, is his only piece of correspondence in our possession," said Paulist

archivist Father John Lynch.

The letter is dated April 7, 1853, just two days after Father Baker's conversion to Catholicism after years as an Episcopal priest.

"He could no longer defend the position of the Episcopal Church to a dying parishioner who wanted to become Catholic," said Father Lynch.



Courtesy Paulist Office for Vocations

Paulist vocations director Father Dave Farnum (left), Mike Sterling from New York, Clark Sample from Texas, Matt Berrios from Michigan, Shawn Martin from Pennsylvania, Alex Wohlgemuth from Ohio and Paolo Puccini from Texas.

Come spend a weekend with us!

A special invitation from Paulist vocation director Father Dave Farnum

How do you know you want to be a Paulist? Spend a weekend with Paulists.

This is the guiding principle behind the Vocation Discernment Retreats hosted by the Paulist Fathers Vocation Office. For some years now the Paulists have invited men to spend a weekend getting to know Paulists at the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C.

What happens on these weekends? The experience is designed to bring together men who are considering a call to the priesthood with Paulist priests, theology students and novices. Together they pray, ask questions, break bread, recreate and talk late into the night.

Men travel from all over the country by plane, car, train and bus to our nation's capital. The novices arrange to greet the retreatants at local area train stations, bus stations or airports, drive them back to St. Paul's College, and show them to their guest rooms. Friday evening's schedule includes Mass in the house chapel, dinner with the Paulist community, evening prayer, and a night tour of the Washington monuments.

Saturday begins early with morning prayer and breakfast, followed by a series of presentations by Paulist priests. The topics of these talks include: What brought you here? Hopes and expectations; What is the Paulist mission? What does the formation process entail? Discernment and prayer; The life of Hecker; The life of St. Paul; and a theology student's story.

Reflecting on these presentations, one young man said, "It really helps me learn more about the [Paulist] community and understand what it might be like to be a Paulist. It also helps me understand the work the Paulists do and the potential variety of ministries in which I might serve."

The retreatants also enjoy plenty of free time, taking the opportunity to visit the Newman Catholic Bookstore, National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Franciscan

Monastery of the Holy Land.

A real benefit of weekends like this is the opportunity for these men to meet like-minded seekers.

One recent retreatant said, "The best part of my experience was talking with other men going through the discernment process (which I don't get to do) and speaking with the students and novices."

The retreat ends on Sunday afternoon with a tour of the Paulist Archives and a closing prayer service. The men are then free to return home for work or school on Monday, or if they wish, then can stay longer as a house guest.

Looking back over one recent retreat, a young man reflected, "I was surprised how different each Paulist was, in personality, but more surprising was the diversity of mission."

Another commented, "It was a very relaxing weekend. The down-to-earth demeanor of many of the retreatants, students, novices and Paulists helped me to better reflect on the retreat's meaning."

In recent years discernment retreats have been held each year in February and October. The past few retreats have been so well received that I decided to add a third vocation discernment retreat. Next month the priests at the Paulist Motherhouse on 59th Street in New York City will host the next group of vocation prospects. With 25 Paulists in residence at 59th Street, a wealth of ministry is represented. In addition, the presence of Servant of God Isaac Hecker's tomb and the crypt chapel containing the remains of many founding Paulists give voice to 150 years of history and tradition in service to the Archdiocese of New York and North America.

I invite you to join me in praying for many more men to follow the Lord Jesus with the fervor of St. Paul and Father Hecker in the Paulist way of life.



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