

PAULIST TODAY



Summer 2009

Paulist Fathers: Giving the Gospel a Voice Today

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WHAT'S HAPPENING: LAITY: Associates explore Paulist charism 3
BIG QUESTION: Fr. Desiderio begins new ministry ...6
GOOD NEWS: Proclaiming Christ 2009 is on 4
SERVICE: Paulist serves God and country in Navy 7

President's Message

Celebrating the Paulist mission

The Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan has been the site of many celebrations during its 151-year history, but not many could rank as high as the liturgy on the Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul on June 28, which officially closed the Holy Year of St. Paul the Apostle. During the homily, Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal representative to the United Nations, spoke of the rich legacy of faith given to us by our patron and the example provided by our founder, Servant of God Father Isaac Hecker, CSP.



In this issue of Paulist Today, we see examples of the Paulist community in action, continuing St. Paul's legacy and living out the mission given to us by Father Hecker more than a century and a half ago.

The Paulist Associates, laymen and women committed to enfleshing the Paulist charism in their daily lives, gathered in June for a retreat in Columbus, Ohio. It was a time of prayer, faith sharing and delving deeper into the work and meaning of the three-pronged Paulist

Continued on Page 2



Paulist Today/Stefani Manowski

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, papal nuncio to the United Nations (center) is joined on the altar by Paulist priests during a Mass commemorating the conclusion of the Holy Year of St. Paul June 28 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York.

Holy Year of St. Paul ends

Church of St. Paul hosts celebration weekend in New York

By Stefani Manowski

The Holy Year of St. Paul the Apostle came to a prayerful and joyous completion as papal nuncio to the United Nations Archbishop Celestino Migliore celebrated Mass commemorating the feast of Ss. Peter and Paul June 28 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan. The holy year declared

by Pope Benedict XVI officially ran from June 28, 2008 to June 29, 2009 to commemorate the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of the apostle to the gentiles.

"What have we learned about St. Paul from this holy year?" the archbishop asked during the homily. "The event [in Damascus gave Paul] a totally new vision of life, of his life. ... Looking at

Continued on page 2

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NY festivities end holy year

Continued from page 1

life with the eyes and mind of Jesus meant everything and everybody looked new to him.

"Jesus trusted Paul with the highest task: to witness to him," Archbishop Migliore continued. "What can we learn from St. Paul today? Like St. Paul, we can not ignore the forces of culture that challenge us. It is our culture; we need to engage it. ... There is no greater gift of love that exists than sharing the truth with others."

About a dozen Paulist priests were on hand to concelebrate the Mass, including Paulist president Father John F. Duffy. The church of St. Paul the Apostle was founded by Servant of God Father Isaac T. Hecker, CSP, and has continued under the pastoral care of the Paulists for 151 years.

A second Mass to end the Holy Year was celebrated that evening at St. Paul, celebrated by Father Jerome Murphy O'Connor, OP, who followed Mass with a talk titled, "The Story of St. Paul."

In the spirit of ecumenism that



Paulist Today/Stefani Manowski

Father Gilbert Martinez, pastor of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York, welcomes the hundreds of people gathered June 26 for an evening of music, dance, Scripture and reflection to begin the weekend of festivities marking the end of the Holy Year of St. Paul.

defines the Paulist charism, Father Duffy was joined in the chanted vespers of the solemnity of Ss. Peter and Paul by the Episcopal Monks of Holy Cross Monastery on the evening of June 29.

The Masses and vespers were the highlights of an entire weekend of celebrations to end the holy year.

The Church of St. Paul the Apostle concluded its series of readings of the letters of St. Paul June 26. The evening included Bach's "Fugue in E flat" performed by Cleveland Kersh, interim

director of music at St. Paul; "The Color of Rain" sung by Broadway performer Kevin Greene; dance performed to Vivaldi's "Concerto D minor" by Shayne Staley and Brandon Mason; Dorsey's famous "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" sung by Broadway performer Terry Burrell; a reading of St. Paul's letter to the Colossians by actress Florencia Lozano; a reflection by St. Paul pastor Father Gilbert Martinez, CSP; with "Comments by Father Isaac Hecker, CSP" performed by actor Adam Kyle Harper.

New, historic Paulist ministries keep charism shining brightly

Continued from Page 1

mission: evangelization, reconciliation and interfaith and ecumenical dialogue. By the end of the weekend, the 66 associates attending were even more inspired to help "build a future brighter than any past."

This edition of Paulist Today also includes stories about a ministry in which various Paulists have engaged over the years as we meet Navy chaplain Father Tom Hall, CSP; and a new initiative as Father Frank Desiderio leaves Paulist Productions to begin a reconciliation ministry based on the film "The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness."

The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association is again

reading the signs of the times by preparing an online conference titled, "Proclaiming Christ 2009: Sharing the Gift of Our Catholic Faith." Coming this fall and on the heels of the first online conference in 2008, this apostolic initiative aims to give people on the diocesan and parish levels the skills to evangelize effectively.

The Paulists are being enriched as three men – Craig Campbell, Yao "Jimmy" Hsu and Anthony Rosado – complete their novitiate year by making their First Promises as a Paulist Aug. 1; they will now continue their process of discernment of a possible call to the priesthood as they begin academic

studies at the Catholic University of America and reside at St. Paul's College, both in Washington, D.C.

I ask your prayers for these men, and for the new novice class assembling at St. Paul's at the end of the summer. And may we thank the Lord not just for the Paulists but for all the women and men who in various ways carry on the vision of Father Hecker throughout North America and beyond.

Very Rev. John F. Duffy, CSP
President of the Paulist Fathers



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Associates explore Paulist charism

By Stefani Manowski

They came from the four corners of North America because they were called. They were called to be, called to reach out, called to bring peace and called to unity.

This common call is what drew 66 Paulist Associates for a weekend retreat June 12-14 to the St. Therese Retreat Center in Columbus, where the Paulist Fathers staff the St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University.

"This is our time," said Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, director of the Paulist Associates. "This is our time to connect with (Paulist founder) Father Isaac Hecker, to find out how his spirituality resonates within our own hearts, and how we can be a gift to the Paulist community as Paulist Associates."

The Paulist Associates were formed in 1998 in order to allow lay people, including non-Catholic Christian men and women, to have a more intimate connection with Paulist spirituality and charism by making a commitment to embody the ideals of the Paulists in their daily living. There are now approximately 225 Paulist Associates in more than 10 cities across North America.

Molly Sutkaitis, a three-year Paulist Associate from St. Peter Parish in Toronto, Canada, saw the best in human nature in how the associates interacted with one another.

"I am in the right place," she said. "I am right where I am supposed to be."

Called to be

The first retreat session focused on the individual Paulist Associates, encouraging them to focus on what brought them to become an associate and provided spiritual sustenance by reenacting St. Paul's conversion to Christianity, some of Father Hecker's writings on being called, a guided meditation and time for silence.

"We come here with a spiritual thirst because we are called," session leader Katherine Murphy-Mertzluff, a Columbus associate of nine years, shared with the group.

Called to reach out

The sessions that followed focused on the three main parts of the Paulist charism, the first being evangelization.

Focusing on the writings of St. Paul and Father Hecker, the retreatants pondered in large and small groups about reaching out in faith.

Session team member Karl Brown shared with the group, "We all have gifts we can share, gifts that can be an extension of ourselves. ... We find our mission and hope I being with others. We are all called to evangelizers, to openly engage in discussion with others what is truly important to me and my faith."

Called to bring peace

"St. Paul is considered the apostle of reconciliation," said session leader Bob Cannon. "So as Paulist Associates, we are called to proclaim the Good News with our daily lives, within our own communities."

The associates discussed the ways in which they bring peace to the world, as individuals and as part of their larger communities.

"We gather around the Lord's table to be nourished, and then we are sent as missionaries to live a life of intentionality toward love, peace, justice, forgiveness and healing," Mr. Cannon said.

Called to bring unity

Can you reach out and bring peace with a fist or a knife or a gun? This is one of the first questions asked by session leader and event co-chair Leroy Hushak. The retreatants were challenged to look at their personal barriers to unity, be it fear of the unknown, prejudice or whatever prevents unity.

"God's love calls us to overcome our fears, our prejudices, our hurts," Mr. Hushak said. "God calls us to unity."



Paulist Today/Stefani Manowski

Terry and Ralph Modica, Paulist Associates from Florida, participate in a reflection ritual during the Paulist Associates retreat held June 12-14 in Columbus, OH.

Proclaiming Christ 2009 set

By Father Frank DeSiano, CSP

The Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association will again present an online conference Oct. 19-23 titled, "Proclaiming Christ 2009: Sharing the Gift of Our Catholic Faith." The conference is funded in part by a grant from the USCCB Catholic Communication Campaign. The inaugural 2008 conference drew more than 500 people from around the country. We hope for more to attend Proclaiming Christ 2009.

Speakers will include Bishop John M. Smith of Trenton, who will talk about "Awakening Missionary Consciousness, Building Communities of Faith." Many Catholics do not understand the missionary mandate built right into parish life; Bishop Smith will help us.

Ken Johnson-Mondragón, director of Research and Resource Center for Hispanic Youth and Young Adult Ministry, will address a key issue today: "The Gift of God's Love Reaching Every People and Culture." As the Paulists have been reflecting on our outreach to Hispanics and other cultures in the United States in preparation for our upcoming Assembly (May 2010), so we all need to reflect on the growing diversity of American/Canadian culture and how we respond to that as believers and citizens.

The third major presentation will be given by Dr. Catherine Vincie, RHSM, from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis, MO, who will talk about "Sacraments, Powerful Signs of God's Love," exploring the important roles of participants and the assembly in giving witness to God's love to those who are present and beyond.

In addition to these major presentations, a whole range of guest presenters will offer 15 additional online presentations on a wide range



Paulist Today file

Participants can attend "Proclaiming Christ 2009: Sharing the Gift of their Catholic Faith" in the comfort of their own homes or offices, and access the conference sessions at their convenience. The conference is presented by the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association.

of topics, touching on evangelization in parish and church life today.

The beauty of online conferences is that participants not have to buy a plane ticket and pay for a hotel room, thereby making the online conference very cost-effective for dioceses and parishes. People can also listen to the talks, write questions and responses, and share insights with others any time during the week while the session is running. This makes it possible for very busy people to get involved in the conference on their own time line.

Estimates were that the conference we had last year saved over \$500,000, given what it would have cost to have all its participants present in one location physically.

PNCEA is also upgrading its web site, given us greater capacity to communicate and dispense a range of resources, using various kinds

of media, to further the work of evangelization.

Here at the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, we use the Web in a variety of ways, in collaboration with other groups that partner with us. For example, Our Sunday Visitor has given us resources so that we can periodically offer "On-Line Speakers," experts in various fields who can reach hundreds of church professionals at one shot.

This past June, PNCEA was happy to bring Father Martin Pable, OFM Cap, a widely noted speaker and writer, who gave a stirring presentation on a topic that continues to gnaw at us Catholics, "How to Help Catholics Share their Faith (Unobnoxiously)." Catholics are notoriously shy about their faith, so Father Pable's online talk was a great contribution.

Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, serves as president of PNCEA.

*Paulist Today file*

The first Paulist Open Golf Tournament will take place Nov. 6-7 in Horseshoe Bay, Tex.

Don't miss Paulist Open golf tourney

By Stefani Manowski

The first annual Paulist Open Golf Tournament will be held Nov. 6-7, 2009, at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. The tournament will be held at Ram Rock Golf Course, which is one of the most challenging courses in Texas.

"This golf tournament is a good stop," said Father Robert Scott, C.S.P., who is retiring as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel in Horseshoe Bay. Father Ruben Patiño, C.S.P., is taking over as shepherd of the parish.

"We are excited to be a Paulist foundation hosting a national effort," said Father Patiño. It is an opportunity for us as a community to venture in to other areas and make new friends, to have people get to know the Paulists."

The festive weekend will begin on Friday, Nov. 6 with a barbecue and cocktail party in the evening. Participants arriving earlier may test out the driving range, putting green, miniature golf or other activities available throughout the evening. On-site registration is available this evening only.

Saturday, November 7 begins a full day of golf, starting with a putting contest in the early morning. The scramble-style golf tournament officially gets under way with a 9 a.m. shotgun start after shuttle service from the hotel to Ram Rock Golf Course. Ram Rock is a par 71 course rated 4.5

stars by Golf Digest and named one of the best courses in Texas by GolfWeek. Participants can form their own teams of four upon registration or be placed with a team. Prizes and awards will be given, and there will be a hole-in-one competition.

Non-golfers may enjoy the many amenities of the Marriott Horseshoe Bay Resort, including tennis, full-service spa and fitness facilities, pools, nine restaurants, water sports on beautiful Lake Lyndon B. Johnson, the Texas Hill Country Wine Trail, and nearby shopping.

The event will conclude with a banquet and awards dinner at the Horseshoe Bay Yacht Club. Participants may check out of the Marriott at Horseshoe Bay Resort on Sunday, November 8.

"We hope to establish a fun, annual fund raiser that increases awareness of how the

Paulists have affected the lives of so many, not only in Texas, but around the world" said Adam Dawkins, executive director of financial development for the Paulist Fathers.

The Paulist Fathers founded St. Paul the Apostle Parish in Horseshoe Bay more than 30 years ago, and continue to serve the community today. Participants are invited to Mass at St. Paul's in Horseshoe Bay on Sunday following the tournament. For more information, or to register, please visit our tournament web site at www.paulist.org/golf.



Q & A: Forgiveness

Film leads Father Desiderio to new ministry

By Stefani Manowski

Father Frank Desiderio, CSP, is now offering workshops, retreats and parish missions based on the Paulist Productions' film *The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness*.

Father Desiderio executive produced more than 25 hours of television documentaries and movies as director of Paulist Productions. Father Desiderio's credits include the ABC/Paramount movie *Judas*, which aired on ABC Television. His latest film, *The Big Question: A Film About Forgiveness* launched him into a new ministry of forgiveness and reconciliation in which he offers days of recollection, weekend retreats and parish missions based on the film and its themes. Father Desiderio recently answered a few questions about his new ministry.

Why is forgiveness so needed in today's culture?

The Big Question is a great motivator to get people to look at forgiveness in their lives.

Forgiveness is good for our physical health. Studies show that chronic anger increases the stress level on the body and puts a burden on the cardiovascular and immune systems. Forgiveness is good for our mental health. When our mind focuses on resentments we cut ourselves from creativity and other positive emotions. Forgiveness is good for our spiritual health. Chronic anger is another way to talk about "wrath" which is one of the seven deadly sins. Ordinary anger is a physical response to some threat. Chronic anger is when the threat goes away but the reaction to it doesn't. Wrath drives out love and when love leaves the soul there is no longer a place for God to dwell in us.

Forgiveness is good for society because forgiveness can put the brakes on cycles of vengeance. Forgiveness can help people move beyond conflicts and learn to live together. Whether the injustice is made right or not people need to have some sort of emotional healing after a hurt and forgiveness is what provides the healing.

Why use this film to start a forgiveness ministry?

I saw a strong emotional reaction to the film from the



audiences at screenings. People were quiet the way people get quiet when they are in the presence of a profound truth. People wept. People gave spontaneous testimonials about how the film affected them. I knew I had more than a movie. I had a tool for ministry.

What are the special aspects of the forgiveness events?

What makes *The Big Question* seminars, weekend retreats or parish missions different is that they start with the movie about forgiveness which opens people up to the subject and but then they are able to follow up by learning about forgiveness in depth and doing some forgiveness work.

At each event I show the film. After the film we talk about what forgiveness is and what it is not. We look at the benefits of forgiveness. Participants learn the five step process and how to apply it to specific situations in their lives. On the weekend retreat we have the time to not only learn the process but to do exercises. One the one day seminar and the parish retreat people get a lot of good and useful information. On the retreat there is time to do exercises to put the information to use immediately. The shorter events are informational. The retreat is transformational.

What is your goal in this ministry?

I hope that this ministry extends the healing work of Jesus Christ. While he was on earth Jesus preached forgiveness and reconciliation. He forgave people their sins and healed people of their illnesses. He relieved the burden of guilt that people carried and set them free. His work was to reconcile humankind to our Creator; to bridge the gap that separated us from God. The Paulists engage in this ministry of reconciliation that Christ started but prior to reconciliation is forgiveness. First we have to learn to accept forgiveness and forgive others and forgive ourselves before we can engage in reconciliation.

Berkeley helps Uganda heal

Parishioners at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley was recently visited by Sister Frances Walshe, who was at the parish June 14 to appeal for funds to aid students in Uganda. The money went to help students with transportation, educational supplies and even food.

Berkeley pastor Father Bernard J. Campbell, CSP, thanked parishioners for their support, noting there is still opportunity to "help in this important work of healing and reconciliation in a pretty tough part of the world."

Some 84 percent of Ugandans are Christian, with 41.9 percent of Christians being Roman Catholics, according to a 2002 census.

Pray for Father Hecker's intercession

Paulist founder Father Isaac Hecker was proclaimed a servant of God in 2008, which put him on the path to sainthood. The Paulist community invites you to pray for Father Hecker's intercession. Your prayers can lead to the miracles needed for Father Hecker's beatification.

The text of the prayer for Father Hecker's cause follows:

Heavenly Father, you called your servant Isaac Thomas Hecker to preach the Gospel to the people of North America and through his teaching, to know the peace and the power of your indwelling Spirit. He walked in the footsteps of Saint Paul the Apostle, and like Paul spoke your Word with a zeal for souls and a burning love for all who came to him in need. Look upon us this day, with compassion and hope. Hear our prayer. We ask that through the intercession of Father Hecker your servant, you might grant us (state the request). We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit. One God, forever and ever. Amen.

Please report any favors granted to: Office of the Cause of Father Hecker, North American Paulist Center, 3015 Fourth Street N.E., Washington D.C. 20017-1102



Father Isaac Hecker, CSP



Paulist Today/Stefani Manowski

Craig Campbell (left), Anthony Rosado and Yao "Jimmy" Hsu stand in front of the statue of St. Paul in front of St. Paul's College in Washington, DC. The three men have completed their novitiate year and will make first promises in the Paulist community in August.

Novices reflect on year

By Stefani Manowski

Three men are moving from the Paulist novitiate to their second major step towards the Paulist priesthood: making first promises in the Paulist community during a Mass and ceremony at St. Paul's College in August. Each man is enthusiastic about taking this next step in formation, and has a different take on what the novitiate experience was like.

Craig Campbell, a 37-year-old Pittsburgh native, feels it important to keep it all in perspective.

"We have years to go, and then even ordination isn't the end of the journey," he said. "This is something you build up your whole life."

Mr. Campbell spent his Lenten pastoral assignment at Old St. Mary's in Chicago, a time where he saw "where the rubber meets the road."

"I was learning to work with people and experiencing their faith," said Mr. Campbell. "It's why I became a Paulist - I want to work with people."

For Yao "Jimmy" Hsu, the novitiate year was a chance to experience St. Paul, the legacy of faith left by Paulist founder Servant of God Father Isaac T.

Hecker and being part of a community.

"[Making first promises] is the first formal step to being part of the Paulist community, but is another small step in the road ahead," he said.

Now 20, Mr. Hsu first contemplated the priesthood as a youth group member at Sacred Heart Chinese Parish in his hometown of Plano, Tex., and was inspired by the example of the Paulists who run the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

For Mr. Hsu making first promises is "a continuation of discernment that started 11 months ago at the start of the novitiate year. It gives you a sense of meaning and direction."

Anthony Rosado hails from Queens, NY, and was pursuing a doctoral degree in sacred music at Catholic University when he could no longer postpone his priestly calling.

The novitiate year has been "very reflective and adjusting to community life," Mr. Rosado said. "It was discernment to find out if I could see myself doing the variety of Paulist ministries happily and effectively. You want to figure out that you can do whatever assignment you are given and be at peace doing it."



Courtesy Father Hall

Paulist Father Thomas P. Hall has served as a Navy chaplain for almost 20 years.

Serving God and country

Father Thomas P. Hall, C.S.P., serves the men and women defending the U.S.

By Stefani Manowski

Whether it is consoling the families of fallen Marines or talking to those defending our shores in the Coast Guard after a difficult day at sea, Father Thomas P. Hall believes the naval chaplaincy allows him to be "the best Paulist I can be."

"My ministry on a daily basis goes far beyond serving people of my own Catholic Church," he said. "Most of the people I serve are non-Catholics. In some cases, I am the first priest people have ever met."

Father Hall, 60, explained that Navy chaplains are assigned to the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Marine Corps.

The chaplain formation program requires graduation from the Navy Chaplain School in Newport, R.I., with the same military training all officers receive: rules and regulations; customs and history; and physical training.

"Chaplains receive special emphasis on the pluralism of the U.S. military, since it is the chaplain's unique responsibility to ensure that each individual follow the dictates of his or her conscience," Father Hall said. "My work mates in the Navy are chaplains of every imaginable denomination and faith group. On a daily basis, we are forced to cooperate for limited worship space and resources. And, our ministry always calls us to facilitate the free exercise of religion for all. Ecumenism in the military

goes far beyond a prayer service and covered dish dinner with people of the neighboring church."

In his 18th year as a Navy chaplain, Father Hall has the same duties as a parish priest, but his parish may be the people living and working on board a ship; stationed in a foreign country or encamped on a desert.

"My pastoral care, as a chaplain, extends to those outside the Catholic Church," he explained. "When service members want to talk with a chaplain, they generally don't care what church the chaplain represents. So, the Paulist priest who serves as a military chaplain really does 'serve God by serving those outside his church.'"

Before entering the Navy chaplaincy, Father Hall served as chaplain at West Virginia University and Florida International University; associate at Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco; and four years as Paulist vocations director. While serving as vocations director, Father Hall received a commission in the Chaplain Corps of the US Navy Reserves and was called to active duty during Operation Desert Storm in 1990-91. He has now been on active duty for 18 years, including more than four years in the Persian Gulf, Puerto Rico for three years; and Sicily for two years.

Father Hall is currently on his last tour as a Navy chaplain, stationed as

the Command Chaplain at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. Founded as the graduate school of the Naval Academy, it enrolls 2,000 mid-grade military officers from the U.S. military and the armed forces of forty other nations with students earning master and doctoral degrees in engineering, science, business and international relations.

The chaplaincy has led Father Hall to walk with the people he serves through the most profound moments of their lives, such as when he served at the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Center on the Mojave Desert.

"There were 127 Marines from the base who were killed in military action in the Middle East," he said. "I was honored to have been a part of the mourning and healing process that gripped the small community of Twentynine Palms, Calif., during that period. It was the macabre reality of a war that most Americans viewed from the sidelines. What I learned from those heroic young Marines is that each one of them acted in a holiness known to few. They did not die for the American flag. They did not die for the American way of life. Each of them died for the Marine on his left, the Marine on his right. Each of them laid down his life for his brothers. No greater love is there than that."