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President's Message

Thoughts on the Paulist vocation

At the death of Paulist Father Larry Boadt, a diocesan priest told the following:

"[Struggling with discerning a call to the priesthood], I prayed and gave God an ultimatum. I told God 'You have to give me a sign and it has to be big and clear — and You have 24 hours, God.' So I went to Mass as usual [at Good Shepherd Parish]... Father Boadt delivered the homily and somewhere in the course of his reflections said, 'I bet there are some of you out there right now waiting for a sign (he stretched out both his arms) HERE IT IS...' I sunk down in the pew and in complete denial thought to myself 'that's not my sign.' Yet, by the end of the day the Spirit had convinced me that it was my sign and so the process began."



And so the process began.

We Paulists believe that the process is beginning in the hearts of many qualified men across our country. The Holy Spirit, to continue the church's mission expressed uniquely in the vision of Servant of God Isaac Hecker, must be calling talented men to leadership and service.

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Final Promise 2010

*Rev. Mr. Dat Tran pledges
life of service with Paulists*

By Stefani Manowski

Becoming a priest was always a consideration for Dat Q. Tran, CSP, but he resisted at first.

"I always jokingly told my friends that I'd join the seminary when I was 30 if I didn't like my job and wasn't in a relationship," said Mr. Tran. "Thirty then was old to me."

It may seem ironic, then, that just weeks after his 30th birthday, Mr. Tran took the final steps before priestly ordination Sept. 3-4 as he professed his final promise with the Paulist Fathers and was ordained a transitional deacon.

Mr. Tran's Paulist brothers and family gathered in the chapel of St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C., Sept. 3 for a Mass during which Mr. Tran was called forth to make his lifetime pledge as a member of the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle.

"Final promise is an extremely special event because it marks my commitment to the Paulists for life,"



PT/Stefani Manowski

Dat Q. Tran, CSP, holds up the penny that is his payment for a lifetime of service after he makes his final promises with the Paulist Fathers.

he said. "These men have challenged me, supported me, and inspired me to be greater. I am excited to live the rest of my life as a Paulist to further the mission of the community."

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PAULIST FATHERS
Office for Media Relations
North American Paulist Center
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Dialogue changes hearts in Michigan

By Stefani Manowski

Bob Christie admits he was "very bigoted against Muslims," and therefore reluctant to attend a dialogue dealing with anti-Muslim sentiment. Encouraged by his wife, Denise, Mr. Christie "decided to go and open my mind."

"That is exactly what happened," said Mr. Christie, a parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Grandville, Mich. "[Imam Sharif Sahibzada] was at my table, and although I didn't agree with everything he said, I understood where he was coming from. I came away with different thoughts and feelings about Muslims."

The change of heart Mr. Christie experienced was precisely the goal of "Fear and Trembling: An Interfaith Dialogue," held Oct. 6 at the Paulist-run Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, Mich., attended by 160 people.

The event allowed participants to see



Courtesy Mary Vaccaro

Dan Christie (left), Denise Christie, Richard Fuller and Imam Sharif Sahibzada participate in a round table discussion at the Fear and Trembling dialogue held Oct. 6 at the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, Mich.

the "other" in a new way by viewing excerpts of the PBS documentary "Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet" and engaging in roundtable discussions. Those discussions focused on questions people had about Islam, what people of Islam wish others knew about their faith, and what can be done to make the community at large more welcoming.

"One of the things that was most

amazing to me and very humbling was how grateful and overwhelmed the Muslim participants were at the welcome they received from the Christian community," said Father John Geaney, CSP, director of the Catholic Information Center and rector of the Cathedral of St. Andrew. "That so many people came to one event tells me there is a need for this kind of dialogue."

Ask: Would someone you know make a good Paulist?

Continued from Page 1

It seems that everywhere one goes today, as one brings up the issue of fewer numbers in the priesthood, people begin to wonder, what will we do with fewer men, how will we cope? We Paulists are certainly thinking these thoughts. During the last 20 years, sadly we have had to withdraw from beloved communities where we had served for decades. (And, frankly, similar withdrawals are a possibility in the next four years.) But here, now, I wish to reflect with you about Paulist vocations.

When I was director of formation 20 years ago, I used to talk about this with then-Paulist President Joseph Gallagher. I told him that our Paulist policy must be that we want the best men that our church can offer, and men who can present themselves for Paulist formation. The Catholic people deserve the best. We have painfully seen the tragedy that happens when standards are lowered, and incompetent and unworthy men are ordained. To be sure, the program for priestly formation is not perfect ... and our candidates, like all of us, are sinful and in need of God's grace. But it was Hecker's vision, which we strive to continue, to search for the best because the Paulist mission, then and now, is demanding.

But for a variety of reasons, we find ourselves wondering where Paulist ordained leadership will be coming from in the years ahead. And so we must work together with those we serve

and those we collaborate with for new, excellent candidates for the Paulist priesthood. We recognize, of course, that the call to celibate, Paulist ministry among Catholic men is a gift from God. But we also recognize that the Lord's ministers come from the believing church and we are all responsible for cultivating and nourishing those who may be called by the Holy Spirit. As sincerely and desperately as we ask for money for our Paulist ministries, we ask you to survey those around you and ask yourself: Which of the young men that you know have the gifts that would make a good Paulist priest? Ask him forthrightly, "You know, we in the church are looking for the best men to be priests of the future and I think that you have some of the gifts that would make a great priest. Please consider the Paulists!"

Finally, on this question, I sought the wisdom of our senior fathers. Currently oldest Paulist Father Jim Lloyd replied, "We've got to tell the guys that the Paulist life is a joyful, meaningful, and satisfying life." Indeed. The Lord promises much to those who say "yes" to his call.

Very Rev. Michael B. McGarry, CSP
President of the Paulist Fathers



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Courtesy Karen Stein

Environmental advocates and award-winning documentarians Curt Ellis (left) and Ian Cheney delivered the keynote presentation at the 2010 Muddy Boot Organic Festival, a ministry of St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore.

Faith and fertilizer

Organic festival is natural outreach in Portland

By Stefani Manowski

The fifth annual Muddy Boot Organic Festival wasn't just an opportunity for people to listen to great music and eat fantastic food. The festival, billed as "a soulful celebration of sustainable living," was an opportunity for evangelization.

Approximately 4,000 people turned out for the festival, held Sept. 10-12 right on the campus of St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore. This year's theme, "Nourishing Spirit: City to Farm," was carried out by the event's 73 vendors who provided sustainably-produced food, information booths and green goods as well as the festival's workshops, discussion panels and family-friendly activities.

"Many people are surprised that a Catholic Church would offer this kind of festival," said Father Charles J. Brunick, CSP, pastor of St. Philip Neri. "It shows people who are concerned about creation that the Catholic Church is committed to the environment and that caring for our world is an important part of Catholic social teaching."

Muddy Boot's mission is to promote sustainable living practices within Portland-area communities, thereby

enhancing the environment and the health of the communities and individuals who live within them.

"Muddy Boot works in Portland because people are hungry for more information about how to make a difference by taking action in their own lives," said festival director Karen Stein. "We offered workshops on urban homesteading this year – things like how to collect and reuse rainwater that runs off the roof."

In addition to the accustomed parish booth at the festival, Portland's Paulist Associates offered tours of the church and information on the frescoes and mosaics created by local artists.

"The festival brings people onto the campus," Father Brunick said. "Many who live in Portland and the Northwest describe themselves as spiritual but not religious. People can experience the faith connection to environmental awareness. It sews the seeds of evangelization."

Ms. Stein said the festival is a definite reflection of the Catholic faith the parish.

"We are charged with caring for the earth, which God created," she said. "And we are encouraged to reach out to others to share God's love. This event is a perfect combination of those two missions."

PNCEA has big agenda

A lot is happening in the Paulist National Catholic Evangelization Association, our office for faith outreach, according to Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, president of PNCEA.

Agenda includes the following:

- An extensive survey of the 9,000 parish leaders who have been involved with our ministry
- An upcoming change of name to something simpler and more-recognizable
- Development of a three-year parish renewal program that connections the Eucharist with mission (Living the Eucharist)
- A new resource to help get seekers to check out the Catholic Church (Seeking Christ)
- A new resource to explain the Catholic faith to non-Catholics (Why Not Consider Becoming a Catholic?)
- Development of a Parish Outreach Invitation Kit for parishes to reach people who do not have a church family.

In addition, PNCEA has expanded its attempts to help parishes reach inactive Catholics through the very successful Awakening Faith program. Now in over a thousand parishes, it has begun to bring thousands of people back to the practice of their Catholic faith.

Visit pncea.org to find out more!

Paulists in your will

After providing for your family and loved ones, you may want to put THE PAULIST FATHERS in your will, thus helping to assure the long-term future of their ministries. Bequests are free of estate tax and can substantially reduce the amount of your assets claimed by the government.

A bequest can be a specific dollar amount, a specific piece of property, a percentage of an estate, or all or part of the residue of an estate. You can also name the Paulist Fathers as a contingency beneficiary in the event someone named in your will is no longer living.

It is recommended that a lawyer help in drafting or amending a will. Please call the Paulist Office for Financial Development at 800-472-8547 with any questions.

Making easy landings

Paulist reconciliation ministry experiencing a renaissance

By Stefani Manowski

Catholics interested in returning to the church after years away often begin the process with questions as well as a real fear of not being accepted or welcomed. Helping to ease those fears is Landings International, a Paulist ministry of reconciliation that has aided parishes in welcoming returnees back to the church for more than 20 years.

Landings will experience a renaissance in fall 2012, with a new website that be a resource for the returning Catholic as well as the parishes/dioceses interested in starting a Landings ministry. It will contain testimonies from returnees helped by Landings and point the user to links to nearby parishes that offer Landings. Online ordering of the new coordinator and participant guides will soon be available. Landings has already established a headquarters at the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C., and hired Jennifer Barbera as the web and communications assistant.

Landings welcomes returning Catholics home through a small group process of listening, prayer and sharing of their spiritual stories in a 8-10 week faith journey that becomes as important to the active Catholics as to those returning.

"There is much renewed interest in this type of outreach," said Anna LaNave, who served as Landings coordinator at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Arlington, Va., for eight years before becoming the ministry's national director.

"After 20 years, Landings is still a known and trusted commodity," according to Mrs. LaNave. "We need to build now on the renewed interest in reaching inactive Catholics. We would

start trainings in fall 2011 with new materials and possible online training. We would issue press releases and send marketing brochures to all dioceses, re-introducing Landings, and continue conversations with dioceses doing Catholic Come Home media campaigns to offer Landings to parishes looking for a proven, simple layperson-led way to effectively welcome home inactive Catholics."

Recently retired Landings coordinator Joan Horn has been with the ministry since its founding by Father Jac Campbell, CSP, more than 20 years ago. Mrs. Horn knew the Paulists well as a parishioner at St. Austin in Austin, Tex., and pastoral associate at the Paulist-run University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

"After working with college students for more than six years ... I realized how many were away from the church, and not because they were angry," said Mrs. Horn. "Therefore there was a great potential for developing an outreach to inactive or returning Catholics in the future."

Mrs. Horn began helping Father Campbell organize the ministry and plan the related workshops, not realizing how this ministry would change her and the lives of thousands in 85 dioceses in the U.S., Canada, Scotland and Singapore.

As for the future, Mrs. Horn hopes Landings, "will become part of the fabric of every parish like the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is today."

"People are led from reconciliation to evangelization, and that is the very best of the Paulist Fathers," she said. "A gift of hope is what Landings gives to the church."



Landings International

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Assistant: Jennifer Barbera

Reconciliation workshop set

Paulist Reconciliation Ministries will host a series of events in Boston this spring. The Paulist Center will host a dinner and program for Paulist priests and reconciliation ministry lay collaborators on March 31.

A day-long reconciliation ministry workshop at the Paulist Center will be held April 1 from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. A day-long national reconciliation symposium themed "Healing God's People" is planned for April 2 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Boston College.

More information will be available on paulist.org/reconciliation.

Ministry for young adults by young adults

Apostolist ministry engages young adults in NYC

By Stefani Manowski

Rebecca Thompson was searching for a parish after moving from Oklahoma to New York City three years ago. She quickly discovered St. Paul the Apostle near her residence and started attending the weekend young adult Mass, where she found out about Apostolist, St. Paul's young adult ministry.

"Before I knew it, I was going to every event," said Ms. Thompson, 26, who works in advertising and serves on the Apostolist leadership team.

Apostolist began in 2006 with St. Paul Pastor Father Gilbert Martinez, CSP, identifying four men and four women young adults who could minister to their peers in the parish.

"Apostolist is not a group, but a process by which we invite young adults to grow deeper in their faith," Father Martinez said. "As a team they organize events (social, service, and faith formation) to engage the young adult community."

Apostolist participants meet for fellowship and refreshments after the young adult choir and band lead the music during the 5:15 Sunday evening Mass. The group events calendar is divided among social, service and spiritual activities that include everything from a Halloween party, serving meals to the homeless at the parish center and gathering to pray the rosary every other Saturday. The group also offers ongoing



Photo courtesy of Ernie Garrido

In what is becoming an annual tradition, Apostolist gathered a team of volunteers to help revitalize New York City parks as part of New York Cares' Hands on New York Day.

Bible study and holds two retreats each year. There are currently more than 200 people on the Apostolist e-mail list.

"This ministry engages a large part of the population of the parish – young adults," said Father Martinez. "They bring their faith, energy and zeal about their faith to the parish. Their service projects involve the whole parish, while retreats and socials reach out to young adults who seek to appreciate their faith as adults, and their participation in various ministries bring a good energy to liturgy and worship."

Like Ms. Thompson, Eric Mayhaus and his wife, Christine, were

also searching for a new parish after moving to New York City from the Midwest. They found a spiritual home at St. Paul and are Apostolist team leaders as well.

"To find a community in the city that is close knit, that accepts you as you are and encourages you to grow is exciting," said Mr. Mayhaus, a 25-year-old environmental engineer.

"We have a lot of diverse events each season, and no event is repeated. We have something for everyone," Mr. Mayhaus said. "You can be just learning about your faith or wanting to deepen your faith. Wherever you are on your faith walk is OK."

Ms. Thompson considers it a blessing that St. Paul offers a ministry dedicated to and organized by young adults.

"It has given me a place to open up and share my faith more than I ever did before," she said. "You develop a base of friends with similar beliefs, and that allows you to connect with them on a much deeper level."

To learn more, log on to apostolist.com.



Courtesy Father Steve Bossi, CSP

Pastor Father Richard Colgan, CSP (left), Father Steve Bossi, CSP, and Father Paul Lannan, CSP, enjoy the Fall Festival at St. Peter Church in Toronto, held the weekend of Oct. 1. The event reflected the cultural diversity of the parish, featuring Italian, Portuguese and Filipino food, "and lots of it!" according to Father Bossi.

Tran pledges life to church

Continued from Page 1

During the Mass, Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry presented Mr. Tran with a Paulist mission cross, a replica of the cross used by Paulist Founder and Servant of God Father Isaac T. Hecker. After the Mass, the congregation gathered around a beaming Mr. Tran as he signed his official contract with the Paulists and received a penny as payment for a lifetime of service.

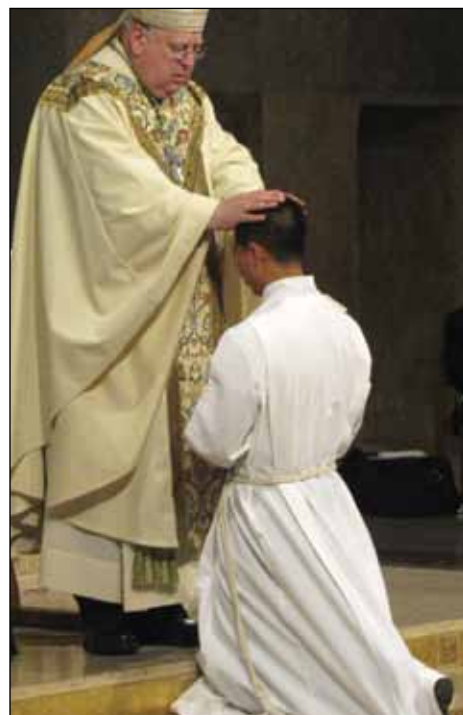
The next morning, Sept. 4, Mr. Tran joined three other ordinandi to be ordained transitional deacons for their respective religious orders. Mr. Tran's family and Paulist brothers supported Mr. Tran with their presence at the liturgy in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

"The diaconate ordination is a great moment in my formation process because it is one step closer to the priesthood," said Rev. Mr. Tran. "It is also one step closer to going out to do full-time ministry."



PT/Stefani Manowski

Father John J. Behnke, CSP, invests Dat Q. Tran, CSP, with the stole and dalmatic after Rev. Mr. Tran's ordination as a transitional deacon.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Auxiliary Bishop Francisco Gonzalez Valer, SF, of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., lays hands on Dat Q. Tran, CSP, as Rev. Mr. Tran is ordained a transitional deacon.

Rev. Mr. Tran has come a long way from the boy who was too shy to become an altar server. He remembers praying with his mother as a child, and joining his five siblings in praying the rosary at bedtime. Rev. Mr. Tran was 7 years old when he emigrated from Vietnam to the United States

with his family. The Trans attended Mass at both Vietnamese- and English-speaking parishes.

It was his involvement in campus ministry at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley that led Rev. Mr. Tran to enter the Paulist novitiate in August 2004 after graduating in May 2004 with bachelor's degrees in political science and American studies.

"I thought the Paulists at Berkeley were intelligent men who were good preachers," recalled Mr. Tran. "Getting to know them more, I was attracted to the mission of evangelization – making America Catholic. And in order for us to be effective evangelizers to America, we also have to do reconciliation work which is an aspect of the Paulist mission that is very essential to the Catholic Church in the United States today."

With a life of ministry and the constant support of his Paulist brothers to look forward to, Rev. Mr. Tran said best part of being a Paulist is "knowing that I have other men who hold the same vision as I do – to spread the Gospel and give it a voice in America."

Meet the 2010 novices!

Two men became Paulist novices during an Aug. 28 Mass at Paul's College in Washington, D.C. The novitiate is the first year of formation as a Paulist priest.

Chris Braley, 40, was a professor of psychology at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich., before entering the Paulists. Mr. Braley, a native of Limington, Maine, got to know the Paulists by attending Mass at the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids. His hobbies include piano and cycling.

"The Spirit of God, working through the Word of God, accomplishes remarkable things, and I hope to dedicate the rest of my life to proclaiming it [well]," said Mr. Braley.

James Olague, 27, earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy and religious studies from Mount Angel Abbey in Oregon, then went on to the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, where he reconnected with his friend, Father Larry Rice, CSP. Hailing from Chino Valley, Ariz., his hobbies include hunting and shooting.

"When I discovered the life of Isaac Hecker, I felt a strong closeness with his life and a much needed sense of direction with the mission of the Paulists," said Mr. Olague.



Chris Braley



James Olague

Q&A: What do the Paulists look for in a novice?

Interested in becoming a Paulist? Know someone that might make a good priest? Paulist Vocations Director Father Dave Farnum answers 10 questions about what the Paulists are looking for in a novice and about the application process.

• **What is the first thing you consider when presented with a new candidate for the Paulist novitiate?** Is this person a fit? The job of a vocation director is one of match-maker! I want to see if this candidate resonates with the Paulist mission and ministry. Does he respect Paulist priests and like our work? Does he relate well to our novices and students? With so many religious orders and dioceses in the United States, there is something for everyone. I want to get to know this candidate – what are his gifts, what is his passion, what does he want to do with his life? I will try to help him discern God's call.

• **What is the age range you are looking for?** 20-40 (more or less).

• **What academic requirements must a candidate have fulfilled for consideration?** Ideally we are looking for men with a college degree. In order to be accepted for graduate studies in theology, one must have an undergraduate degree (in any major), in addition to a solid foundation in philosophy. However a candidate can always pick up the necessary credits in philosophy once he completes his novitiate year. We are always willing to consider an application from a candidate without a bachelor's degree, but that is decided on a case-by-case basis.

• **What personal characteristics do you look for in a candidate?** An ideal candidate would have a personal relationship with God, integrated through prayer; have the ability and willingness to talk about his faith; have some involvement in his local parish or faith community; have a desire to serve others and make a difference in people's lives; be motivated by the mission of Jesus and have the ability to articulate it; be willing to sacrifice personally for the service of the Gospel and the church; be approachable; have the ability to collaborate with others; have healthy relationships with men, women and children; possess a keen sense of empathy; have leadership skills; be open to and respectful of all people; be a person of integrity.

• **How big a role does the support of friends and family play in a man's decision to pursue the priesthood?** Big. Each man called to priesthood is attentive to the Holy Spirit present in

the Body of Christ. Have others mentioned to this man that he would make a good priest? Do the people who know him best see him as a man of prayer, compassion and wisdom? Now that doesn't mean that every candidate has the support and encouragement of all the members of his circle of family and friends. But it sure is helpful when he does.

• **What is involved in the application process? How long does it take?** We want to be confident the applicant is prepared to embark on a lengthy period of discernment free from significant hindrance. Can he handle the rigors of graduate studies? Is he free from personal debt? Is he physically

and psychologically healthy? Does he have a criminal record? Is he active in his faith? These are all questions I seek to answer so that I can present a complete application to the president of the Paulist Fathers for his decision. Collecting the paperwork can be time-consuming, but an application can be processed in a few months.

• **Is there a deadline for applications?** July 1 is the application deadline for entrance into the novitiate in late August.

• **Are there common traits, activities or interests that point to a priestly candidate?** I look for young men who attend Mass on Sunday and daily Mass, men who are active in their parishes as lectors, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, ushers, choir members, social outreach ministries, religious education and youth ministries.

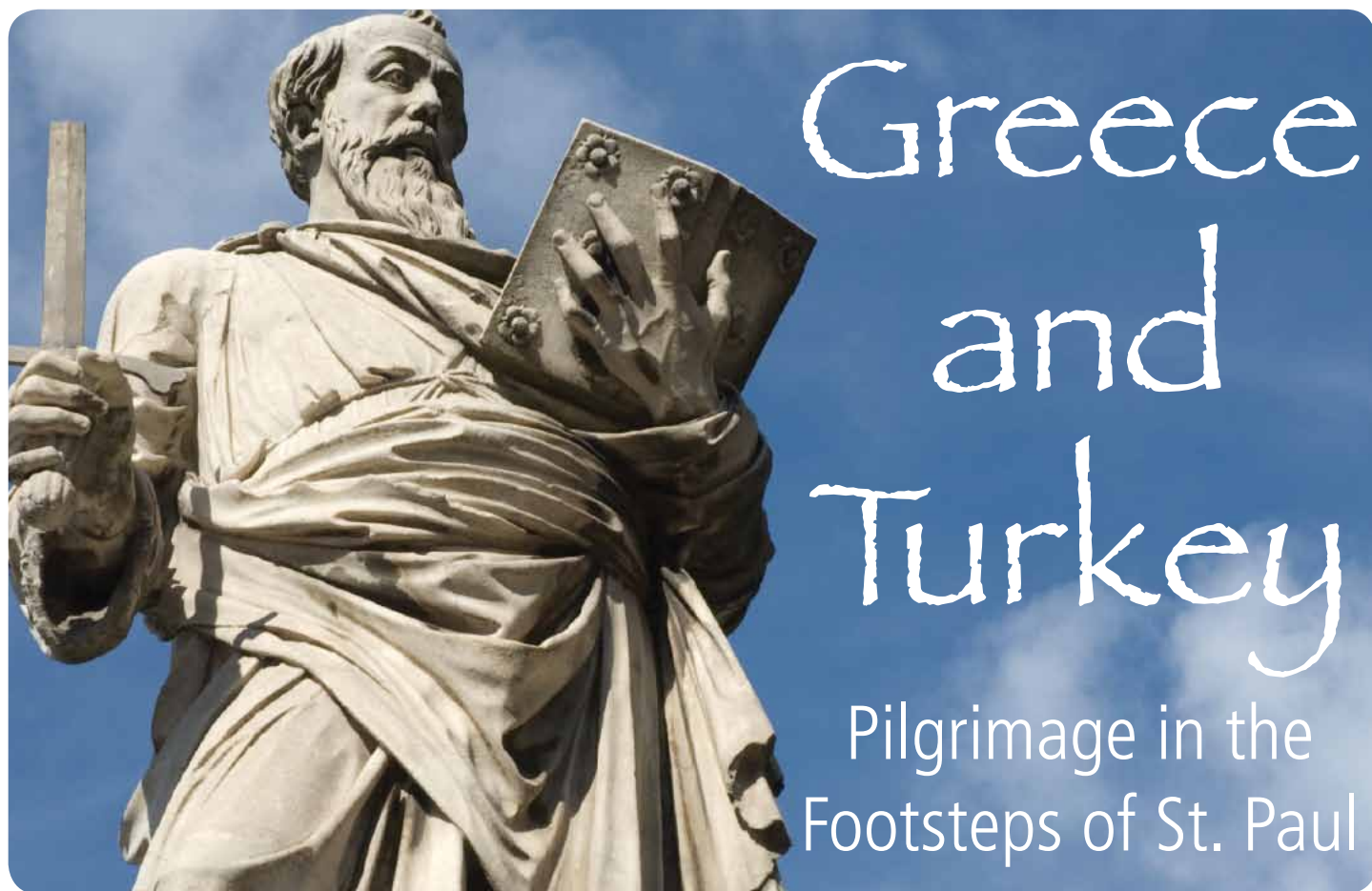
• **What are some ways people can talk to a young man they think would make a good priest?** Everyone likes to receive a compliment! If one knows a young man is prayerful, trustworthy, intelligent, curious, hard-working, honest ... tell him. Let him know you see these qualities in him. Tell him he would make a good priest. The church needs good priests now more than ever – he may be the next good priest!

• **What makes a good candidate for the Paulist priesthood?** The Paulist founder, Servant of God Isaac Hecker, had a great love of the Catholic faith, and a great love of America and its people. We are looking for men with that same positive attitude. A good Paulist candidate is a great communicator – one who likes to talk to people about Jesus Christ and his Good News of salvation for sinners. A good candidate is energized by America's diversity; he wants to be engaged in the dialog between faith and culture. He is a reconciler; he is a bridge-builder.



PT/file

The Paulists are looking for men who are involved in and take leadership roles in their parishes – such as coordinating young adult ministry – according to Father Dave Farnum, Paulist vocations director.



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