

PAULIST TODAY

Spring 2010

Paulist Fathers: Giving the Gospel a Voice Today

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President's Message

It's a great time to be a Paulist!

As one theologian put it, all stories are true, some of them happened ...

Jesus was walking one day, only recently, along a Galilee path. He happened upon a man sitting along the road. Seeing the man weeping, Jesus said, "What is wrong, my son? What can I do to help?" "O Lord, my legs are lame; I cannot walk." "Weep not, my son. I will make you well." And touching him, the man stood up and walked.

Proceeding along the path, Jesus met another man, this one also weeping. "What is wrong, my son? What can I do to help?" "O Lord, my eyes are blind from birth, I cannot see." "Weep not, my son. I will make you well." Jesus touched him, and the man stood up and beheld with his eyes, for the first time, the beauty of the land.

Walking a bit farther, Jesus met another man, this one, too, weeping. "What is wrong, my son? What can I do to help?" "O Lord, I have just been elected president of the Paulist Fathers." And Jesus sat down next to him and wept.



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PT/Stefani Manowski

The 2010 General Assembly gathers on the front steps of the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C. The 30-member assembly met May 18-28, and the new leadership team of vice president Father John J. Foley, CSP (first row left); president Father Michael B. McGarry, CSP (first row center); and first consultor Father Larry Rice, CSP (first row right).

Planning for the future

2010 General Assembly convenes in Washington, D.C.

By Stefani Manowski

Vocations, finances and the allocation of priestly resources were among the agenda items at the 2010 Paulist General Assembly, held May 18-28 at the North American Paulist Center in Washington, D.C. The General Assembly is the highest-ranking body in the Paulist Fathers whose elected delegates meet every four years to determine the priorities and future

direction of the community.

One of the first pieces of assembly business was to formally install Father Michael B. McGarry, CSP, as the 18th president of the Paulist Fathers.

"The best decision I ever made is to become a Paulist Father," Father McGarry told the 30-member assembly. "I made the decision to say 'yes' to the call to the priesthood with the Paulist Fathers, and now I say 'yes' to the

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Assembly 'sets the course' for the future

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opportunity and call to minister to the Paulists as president."

Father McGarry, who served as rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem for 11 years, said he is "excited to be working with the community and delighted to be serving" the Paulists.

The job of president, he said, is not only to minister to the community, but to be the voice of the Paulists to the church of North America and the unchurched

because the vision of Paulist founder Servant of God Father Isaac T. Hecker is "more relevant today than it ever was."

Immediate past president Father John F. Duffy, CSP, said the assembly is "an instrument of discernment of our pastoral priorities in light of the Paulist mission."

Father John Ardis, CSP, a veteran delegate of three assemblies and pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles, said the assembly brings direction to the Paulist community "for

the next four years and beyond."

"It really sets the course," he said.

For Father John Geaney, CSP, pastor of St. Augustine Church in Memphis, Tenn., who is attending his second assembly, the meeting allows the Paulist community to get back to basics.

"What the assembly can do is help refocus our mission and help us become more aware of the needs of the church and the needs of the people, who we are really here to serve," he said.

Future holds challenges, opportunities and grace

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As some of you know, I have just completed eleven very happy and, I hope by the grace of God, fruitful years as rector of the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem. More than 30 years of Paulist formation and ministry prepared me for a challenging and very satisfying ministry in the Holy Land. My experience and training in Jewish-Catholic relations, together with my commitment to working for the unity of Christ's church, helped me contribute to the life and mission of Tantur. Now a new ministry – "from the Holy Land to the Promised Land," as I joke with my Jerusalem friends – begins for me, following the very able work of Fathers John Duffy, Jim Moran and Frank DeSiano.

But in the United States, present-day church leadership faces almost insurmountable challenge. Some of our leaders have committed grave sins, while others have covered up these crimes. We are learning – I hope – to be better, more Christlike priests, as humbly we express our regrets over what some of our brothers have perpetrated. At the same time, various political and ideological forces seem to shout at and past one another in an effort to be more prophetic than the other, more orthodox than the other, more righteous than the other. The culture wars express themselves both in the church and at the church. One can grow weary and not a little discouraged from such back and forth.

To be clear, however, I am not weeping at the side of some Galilean road (as much as I love the land called "holy"). But I do believe that Christ does pause by me, does ask, "What can I do to help?" And he will be with me, with the Paulists, with the church, as chastened, bold, and humble, we refocus our eyes on the mission of Jesus Christ. Followers of Him, in the spirit of Isaac Hecker, we commit ourselves, again, to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with those who seek the Good News; to welcoming back to our Catholic family those who, for many reasons, have left our home; and to working both for the unity of Christ's church and for warm, productive



PT/Father Tom Ryan, CSP

New Paulist president Father Michael McGarry (center) stands with officials from the University of Notre Dame during a tree planting ceremony at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute. Notre Dame, who owns the institute, honored Father McGarry with the tree for his 11 years as rector of Tantur. Those pictured are Father Edward "Monk" Molloy, CSC, former president of Notre Dame (left); Father McGarry; Father James McDonald, CSC, counselor to the president of Notre Dame; and Tom Dowd, director of executive education at Notre Dame.

relations with our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters. It's a great time to be a Paulist, it's a gifted moment to advance, only with God's grace, the vision of Isaac Hecker.

Father Michael B. McGarry, CSP
President of the Paulist Fathers



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Contact Us
Phone: 202-269-2521
Web: www.paulist.org
E-mail: paulisttoday@paulist.org
Editor and Production
Stefani Manowski



PT/File

Landings, a Paulist ministry, has helped returning and inactive Catholics re-enter the church in a comfortable, small group setting for two decades.

Landings turns 20

Paulist ministry celebrates two decades of welcoming Catholics back to the church

By Anna LaNave
Landings coordinator

A Catholic returning to active participation in the church is truly an event to be celebrated, especially since he or she might have been away for years. Many returning Catholics, however, come home with some fear and a lot of questions. One returning Catholic carried the Landings flyer around in her purse for three months before she got up the nerve to call. Others come to Landings after seeing a notice on the parish Web site or hearing of Landings from a friend or relative even before they have been back to Mass or confession. The Holy Spirit has brought them back to the church's door. How will we welcome our brothers and sisters home?

Landings International is a Paulist ministry for returning and inactive Catholics celebrating 20 years of giving

parishes a way of reaching out to Catholics wishing to re-enter the church. Landings provides a safe place for re-entering Catholics to discuss their faith and be welcomed by active Catholics who are ready to listen and embrace them. The ministry has been introduced in 85 dioceses around the world, and has active programs in Singapore and Great Britain. With 40 million inactive Catholics in the United States alone, Landings has proven itself an effective and sometimes inspiring tool for evangelization as well as reconciliation.

Landings is primarily a parish ministry of the heart which seeks to reintroduce the returnees to the love of Christ through the companionship of others like themselves and a team of welcomers who are trained, active parishioners. Landings gives returnees the opportunity to share their spiritual stories – their early experiences of Catholicism, why they stopped

practicing the faith and why God seems to be calling them back – with others who are also making the same journey. This ministry leaves judgment, pressure and insensitivity at the door.

Landings is one of the church's best kept secrets, in the view of Father Jim Moran, CSP, who heads the ministry along with longtime national coordinator Joan Horn.

"Too many priests and parishes are still too cool or afraid of dealing with potential returnees," said Father Moran. "But, in fact, returning Catholics may not only become Landings welcomers themselves, but they will enhance any lay ministry they take part in. They also contribute significant support to their parishes and faith communities."

To bring Landings to your parish, e-mail landingsdc@yahoo.com or call 202-269-2550. Log on to www.paulist.org/landings for information on where is there a Landings ministry in your area.



Milestones in ministry

*Paulist Today
honors
the five men
celebrating
significant
anniversaries
in their
Paulist priesthood
in 2010*

50 years



Father Al Moser, CSP

Father Moser worked in the insurance industry before serving in World War II as a medic in the infantry division of Gen. George Patton's army in Europe. After his military service, Father Moser used funds from the G.I. Bill to earn a bachelor's degree in English from Xavier University in 1951.

Father Moser was ordained in 1960 by Cardinal Francis Spellman at the Paulist mother church, the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan. He then pursued graduate studies in Toronto and involved himself in a myriad of ministries, including parish ministry at the Paulist-run St. Peter's Church, the Paulist Centre for Catholic Evangelization, the Ontario Alcohol and Addiction Foundation, research, radio and television.

Father Moser then returned to St. Paul's College as a professor of English, art, and communication, serving from 1961-68, before becoming the director of formation based at St. Paul's from 1968-71.

"I loved teaching," he said. "Those were very difficult years for the church. Everything was changing, especially in the seminary, but I enjoyed it."

Father Moser was associate director of the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, Mich., from 1971-72 before serving as director of the University Catholic Center at the University of Texas at Austin from 1972-78. He then served as pastor of St. Cyril Church in Tucson from 1978-1982.

Father Moser then entered campus ministry as associate pastor at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley. It was the place where he would spend more than half his priesthood.

50 years



Father Ted Vierra, CSP

It was during his senior year studying geology at the University of California at Los Angeles that a young Ted Vierra was asked by Paulist Father Earl Jarrett if he had considered the priesthood. The future Paulist entered the yearlong Paulist novitiate in the fall of 1953.

Father Vierra then studied at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C., and was ordained in 1960 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan.

Father Vierra's first priestly assignment was at St. Paul the Apostle in Los Angeles, where he served the summer after his ordination. He then headed east for a pastoral year at the Paulist Center in Boston from 1960-61 before serving as associate pastor at Old St. Mary's Church in Chicago from 1960-66.

Father Vierra then became served as director of the Catholic Center in Vancouver, Canada, from 1966-70 before becoming superior of Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley from 1970-76.

Canada again beckoned, and Father Vierra served as superior-pastor at St. Peter Church in Toronto from 1976-80. He then became associate pastor at St. Cyril's Church in Tucson from 1980-83.

Father Vierra's next stop was serving as superior-pastor at St. Nicholas in North Pole, Ala., from 1983-87. He then served six years as associate pastor at St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore. He then took a sabbatical until returning to campus ministry at the University of California at Los Angeles in 1994. He retired in 1998, and resides at St. Paul in Los Angeles.

"I am grateful for all my assignments," he said. "They enabled me to experience the richness of God's presence in humanity."

25 years



Father Peter Abdella, CSP

The year was 1977, and Father Peter Abdella was beginning a post-doctoral fellowship at the Ohio State University. It was at the university's St. Thomas More Newman Center where Father Abdella would first encounter the men who would become his brothers.

"The Paulists there were an impressive bunch," he said. "They were very down-to-earth, human and approachable."

Father Abdella entered the Paulist novitiate at Mount Paul in Oak Ridge, N.J., in 1979. Father Abdella's priestly formation and education was completed in Washington, D.C., where he earned a master's degree in theology from Catholic University. He was ordained in 1985 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan.

After ordination, Father Abdella spent 13 years as a campus minister at the University of California at San Diego.

In 2000, Father Abdella became associate pastor and the director of campus ministry at Newman Hall-Holy Spirit Parish at the University of California at Berkeley before moving to his current post as director of campus ministry at the University of California at Los Angeles in 2005.

Father Abdella's passion for campus ministry comes directly from his "own faith being an elusive thing" as a young man and being in the new and non-Catholic environment of a university.

"There is excitement in academic enterprise, of bringing learning into focus with one's faith," Father Abdella continued. "It is a special time for the students as they put together the pieces of their lives and seek answers to the God question."

25 years



Father Tom Clerkin, CSP

Tom Clerkin first met the Paulist Fathers as a student at West Virginia University in Morgantown and the seeds of a priestly vocation were planted.

"I started thinking about it, and then thought I'd give it a try," he said. "I knew I liked helping people, and figured the Paulists would be a natural fit for me."

The Long Island, NY, native entered the Paulist novitiate at Mount Paul in Oak Ridge, NJ, in August 1979. Father Clerkin then headed to Washington Theological Union in Washington, D.C.

As a seminarian, Father Clerkin was assigned to work with Father Pat Traynor, CSP, at the UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles. The unit in which they ministered was assigned to men with AIDS.

"There were so many questions about it and how you get it," Father Clerkin recalled. "There was a lot of fear."

Father Clerkin was ordained in 1985 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan. He spent the summer after his ordination serving as associate pastor at St. Paul before heading to St. Patrick Church in Memphis from 1985-87. He served as associate pastor at Old St. Mary's in Chicago from 1987-88, and then took a six-year leave of absence from the Paulists to minister in hospitals and parishes in his native Long Island.

Returning to Paulist ministry in 1994, Father Clerkin served as associate pastor at St. Austin in Austin, Tex., before returning to hospital chaplaincy, serving for three years in New York City. He ministered to injured firefighters in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

Father Clerkin left New York to return to UCLA Medical Center in 2005, where serves the large Catholic community as well as those of other faith traditions.

25 years



Father Tim Sullivan, CSP

Father Sullivan joined a dozen other men entering the community's novitiate at Mount Paul in Oak Ridge, N.J., in the summer of 1979. Father Sullivan then moved to Washington, D.C., to pursue his master of divinity degree at Washington Theological Union.

Most influential to Father Sullivan was his involvement in a church-based community organization center in Anacostia, Va., right outside of Washington, D.C. Father Sullivan's ministry there would come full circle many years later.

Father Sullivan was ordained a Paulist priest on May 11, 1985 at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in New York City. His first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Leo the Great in Houston from 1985-86, until he went into campus ministry at the St. Thomas More Newman Center at the Ohio State University in Columbus from 1987-91.

In order to live a life dedicated to social justice, Father Sullivan took a sabbatical from the priesthood for about seven years working in programs for the poor in Ohio and Texas. He rejoined the community, and became associate pastor at St. Paul in New York City from 1998-2005. He left the Big Apple for the Home of the Blues, becoming pastor of St. Patrick Church in Memphis in 2005.

Father Sullivan's passion for social justice was put in full force when Bishop J. Terry Steib of Memphis named Father Sullivan the diocesan vicar for social ministry, including the oversight of Memphis's Catholic Charities. He still serves as St. Patrick's pastor, living out the Paulist charism of evangelization and reconciliation through his two jobs.

Places and Faces



Courtesy St. Andrew Cathedral
Father Joachim Lally, CSP, receives ashes from Paulist seminarian Rene Constanza, CSP, at St. Andrew's Cathedral in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Courtesy St. Thomas More Newman Center
Father Larry Rice, CSP, leads the Easter vigil procession into the St. Thomas More Newman Center at The Ohio State University in Columbus.



Courtesy St. Paul the Apostle Church
Hundreds of the faithful gather for the Easter vigil outside St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles.



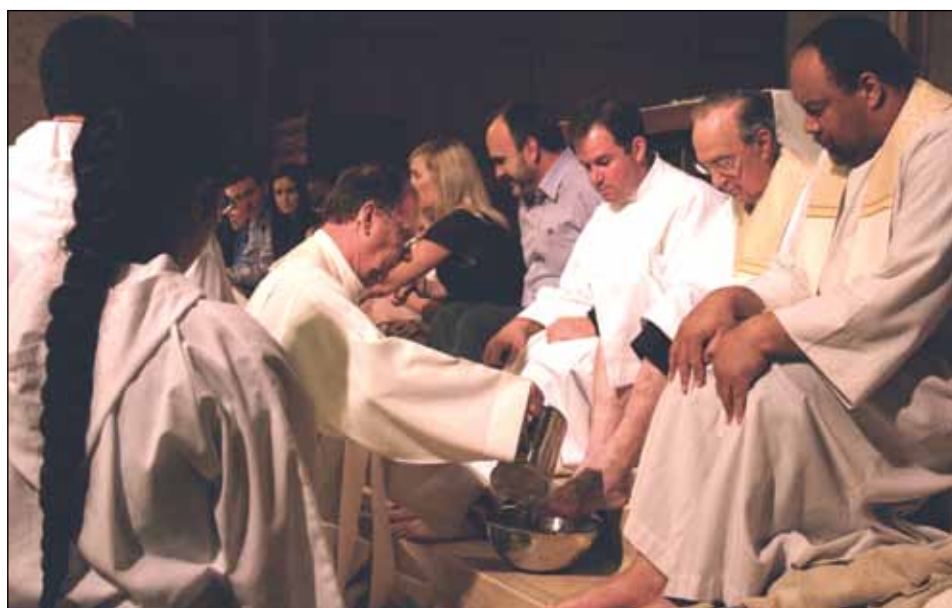
Courtesy Immaculate Conception
Frank Murphy (left), Paul Schmidt and Ted Newsom lead the Stations of the Cross at Immaculate Conception Church in Knoxville.



Courtesy St. Luke University Parish
A simple Lenten meal is enjoyed at St. Luke University Parish in Allendale, Mich.



Courtesy St. Augustine
Father John Geaney, CSP, baptizes Jaquita Jackson, at St. Augustine Church in Memphis, Tenn.



Courtesy St. Austin
Father John Hurley, CSP, performs the washing of feet on Holy Thursday at St. Austin Church in Austin, Tex.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Randy Hagman takes his shot at the 2009 Paulist Open Golf Weekend in Horseshoe Bay Tex.

2010 Paulist Open to tee off in Texas

Second annual golf weekend is about fellowship and fun

Second Annual Paulist Open Golf Weekend will be held Nov. 12-13, 2010, at the Horseshoe Bay Resort in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. The golf event will be held at Apple Rock Golf Course, one of the most scenic courses in Texas. Shelton Thibodeaux and James G. Rowe III, owners of RE/MAX Horseshoe Bay Resort Sales, are sponsoring the event for the second straight year.

"We are proud to be hosting a national Paulist event once again in Horseshoe Bay," said Father Ruben Patiño, CSP, pastor of St. Paul the Apostle Chapel in Horseshoe Bay. "Last year's event was so successful, we couldn't wait to do it again. The golf weekend is an opportunity to have people get to know the Paulists."

The festive weekend will begin on Friday, Nov. 12 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. On-site registration is available this evening only.

Saturday, November 13 begins a full day of golf beginning with a putting contest in the early morning. The scramble-style golf event officially gets under way with a 10 a.m. shotgun start after shuttle service from the hotel to Apple Rock Golf Course. Apple Rock is a par 72 course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Though not overly tight, this course demands well-placed drives and accurate club selection. Apple Rock is situated in high, rocky terrain, offering stunning views of

the Lake Lyndon B. Johnson. The Tif-Eagle Bermuda elevated greens are surrounded by 56 sand traps

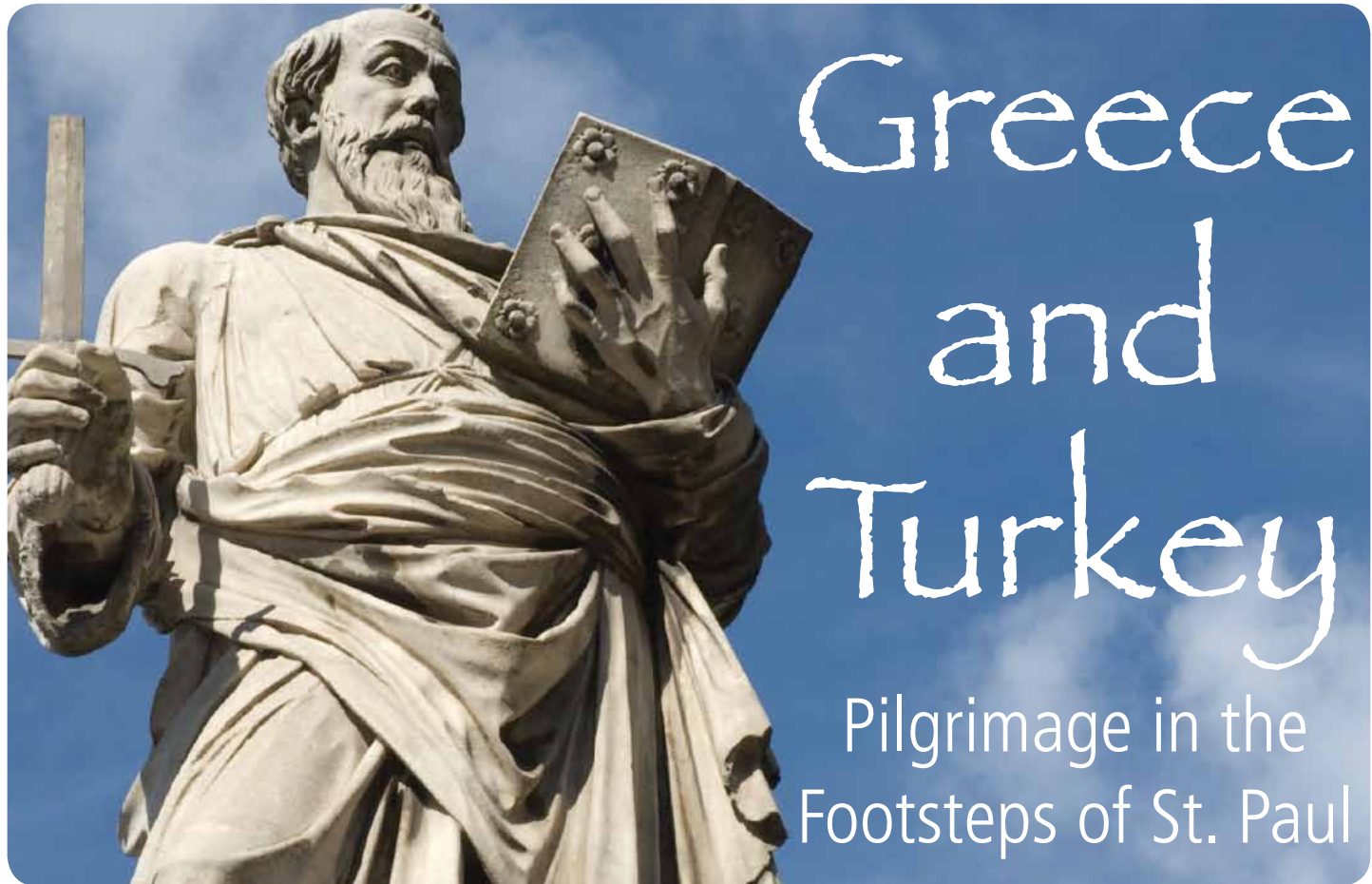
Non-golfers may take a tour of Texas Hill Wine Country or enjoy the many amenities of the Marriott Horseshoe Bay Resort, including tennis, full-service spa and fitness facilities, pools, nine restaurants, water sports on beautiful Lake Lyndon B. Johnson and nearby shopping.

The event will conclude with a banquet and awards dinner at the resort. Participants may check out of the Marriott at Horseshoe Bay Resort on Sunday, November 14.

"We hope the Paulist Open will increase 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. "We hope people from across the country will join us in beautiful Horseshoe Bay for a wonderful weekend of golf and fellowship, all to benefit the Paulists' mission of evangelization, reconciliation, ecumenism, and inter-religious dialogue."

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 any of the weekend Masses at St. Paul's in Horseshoe Bay.

To register, log on to www.paulist.org/golf or call 1-800-472-8547.



2011 Paulist Fathers Pilgrimage

March 16-27, 2011

\$2,299 per person*

† Follow St. Paul's footsteps in Ephesus, Corinth and Athens

† Visit Hagia Sophia and Grand Bazaar in Istanbul

† Tour ancient cities of Troy and Smyrna

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For itinerary or to register, log on to www.paulist.org/pilgrimage,
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* Double from New York JFK. Does not include any applicable taxes, fuel surcharge, passport fees, visa fees or port surcharges