

PAULIST TODAY

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Paulist Fathers: Giving the Gospel a Voice Today

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President's Message

For whom do you give thanks?

Linus, one of the Peanuts cartoon characters, famously said: "I love mankind; it's people I can't stand."

I am thinking this, only in reverse: "I love the Paulists, only more so in thinking of those individuals I have known."

One of the blessings of being president of the Paulist Fathers is visiting our houses on a somewhat regular basis. Wherever I go, wonderful people who worship and/or work at our parishes, campus ministries, and centers eagerly tell me what a wonderful group of people the Paulists are.

But then I press them: "Tell me more." And their narrative of the "Paulist in general" becomes a story of a "Paulist in particular."

"Father So-and-So, when no one else would had the time or interest, visited my friend who was dying of AIDS."

"Father So-and-So witnessed my marriage; he made all the guests feel so included and his homily – well, I'll always remember it."

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PT/Bruce Byers

Richard R. Andre, CSP, (left), Rene I. Constanza, CSP, and Thomas C. Gibbons, CSP, pose together after making their final promise with the Paulist Fathers Sept. 2.

Promise for a lifetime

Three Paulists make final promise, ordained deacons

By Stefani Manowski

Three Paulists took the final two steps before reaching their ultimate goal of priestly ordination in the community. Richard R. Andre, CSP, Rene I. Constanza, CSP, and Thomas C. Gibbons, CSP, made their final promise – pledging a lifetime of service with the Paulist Fathers – before their Paulist brothers, family and friends Sept. 2

at St. Vincent Chapel at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. The next morning, they joined two members of the Order of Friars Minor as they were ordained to the diaconate by Most Rev. Martin D. Holley, auxiliary bishop of Washington D.C., in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

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New school opens at OSM, Chicago

A much anticipated new school building opened at Old St. Mary's in Chicago this September. The first day of school finds Stacia Konow (left, photo below) and Lucy Callahan discussing their homework by the lockers while Phoenix Savage (photo at right) pays attention in her second-grade class.



Give thanks for our relatives, friends and Paulists!

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"Father So-and-So received me into the church. If it hadn't have been for him, I don't know where I would be today."

"Father So-and-So was there for the first communion of my children and was with me when we had a really tough time when one of them later got in trouble with drugs."

And so the stories go. Indeed, just recently, a woman, cherished for her work in welcoming back Catholics who had left the church, urged me to memorialize to Landings' founder by using his name. But now the ministry has been handed over to others – Paulists and laypersons with different names – and the legacy lives on with the gifts of new eyes and new energy. But her insight was keen and right on target: individual Paulists, each with his unique name, touched people's lives. Often their memory provokes those same people to be generous in reply.

These touching, various stories show patterns, even amid their uniqueness: frequent themes include a welcoming spirit, sensitivity to particular circumstances, a "human touch," the willingness to make a special effort. These are not peculiarly – but we do hope that they are fundamental – Paulist traits.

We are coming up on November, the month of both thanksgiving and remembering those who have gone before us in death. As we gratefully pray for our loved ones who have gone before us, both within the Paulist Family and our benefactors' families, it is not abstractions that take shape

before our mind's eye.

Rather what we picture are individual names and faces, with their human quirks, mannerisms, gestures, kindnesses, and embraces. Unlike Linus our love for an abstraction comes through the expression of individuals. That one priest – Father So-and-So – he is "the Paulists" to me (I wish I could mention the Paulist names that immediately present themselves to me, but then that might be too much of a bias and most of you probably would not know them).

Who are the names that pop up in your mind? Whose names do you invoke before our gracious God when you say, "Thank you ever so much, my gracious God, for the presence of So-and-So in my life"? Some of them will be Paulists, many of them will be your relatives, still others your friends, but they all have a name whose uttering may bring a smile to your lips. How blessed we are to have known them! And thank you, our Gracious God, for making them a part of the tapestry of my life!

And let us pray for/with one another.

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



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Mission America: Evangelization

New book helps Catholics share their faith

By Stefani Manowski

Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, lives with a big frustration.

"There doesn't seem to be a big mission or importance in wanting to share our Catholic faith with people who are not Catholic or who are inactive Catholics," he explained.

Father DeSiano hopes to aid in the remedy with his tenth book, *Mission America: Challenges and Opportunities for Catholics Today*. The 110-page book is the result of a collaboration between Father DeSiano, president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries, and Paulist Press. The book's six chapters discuss conversion, conversion in American society, why Catholics need to reach out and share their faith, Catholic parishes in American culture, a look at a future church in a future world and an agenda for today's American parish.

The appendix engages readers in a New Testament spirituality for mission, according to Father DeSiano and reflection questions throughout the

book further enhance the readers' - mainly pastors' and parish leaders' - experience by encouraging personal reflection, challenge, and thinking about the concepts presented in terms of their own parish.

The book intends to "define what mission looks like today," according to Father DeSiano, "what mission means in an ecumenical context, what it means in terms of a larger secular context."

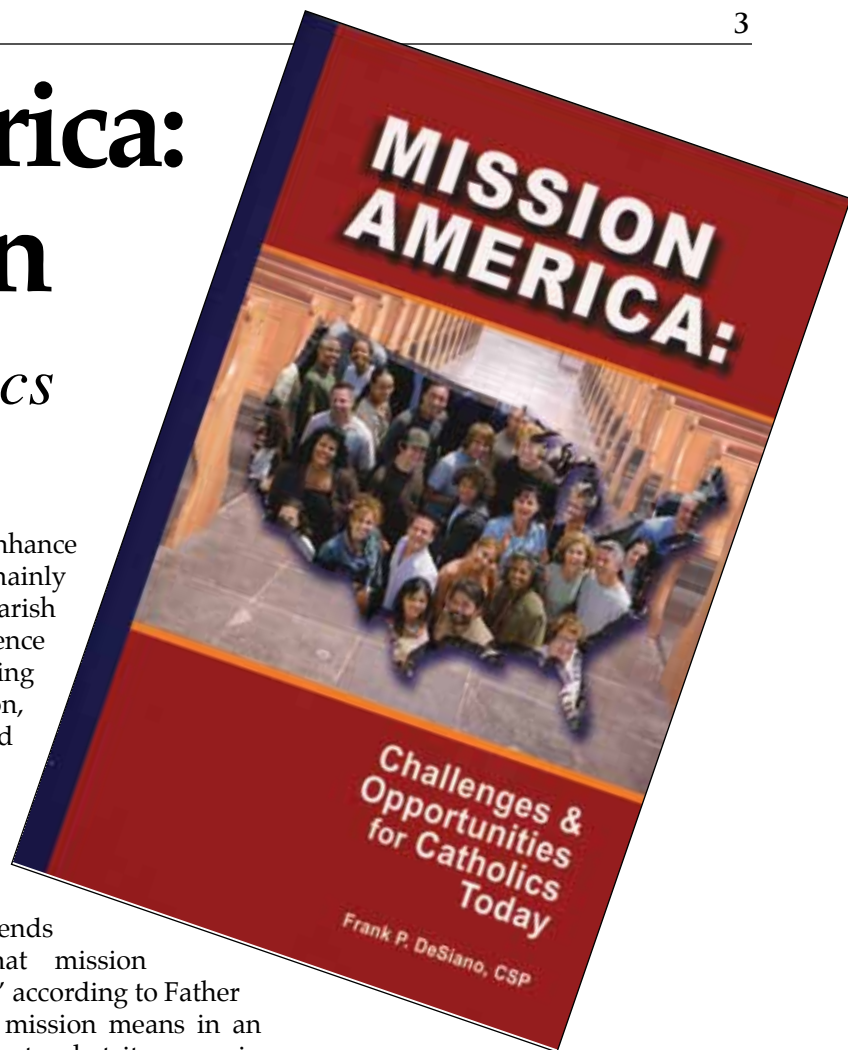
Father DeSiano is a veteran in evangelization ministry, which began after his priestly ordination in 1972. His first assignment was at St. Philip Neri Church in Portland, Ore., where he developed favorably received courses on Catholicism. His first book, *Searching for Sense* came out of this experience. During these years in Oregon he received over 60 people into the Catholic Church.

He returned to his home parish of the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan to serve as pastor and to begin welding together the ideas of "missionary" and "parish." While at the Paulist Mother church he authored *Presenting the Catholic Faith*. These notions of parish and mission further developed during an educational sabbatical at Boston University, where he wrote a D. Min. thesis on parish-based evangelization. Father DeSiano then spent six years in Washington, D.C., helping to form parish evangelization teams, developing

evangelization strategies, serving as a consultant on evangelization to the U.S. Bishops, and helping to write *Go and Make Disciples – A Plan and Strategy for Evangelization in the United States*. It was work that was "both the flowering of earlier seeds and also seedlings for future ministry," he said.

He now serves as president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries based in Washington, D.C., which seeks to "reach the unreached in faith," with a particular emphasis on those who do not have an active faith life. In this position, he developed *Seeking Christ: First Steps Toward Catholic Faith*, to help parishes welcome inquirers at any time of the year.

When it comes to reaching the unchurched or fallen-away, the bottom line, Father DeSiano said, is that Catholics need to "believe we have an important, compelling, and essential message. The Church gives people the opportunity to find community and find meaning in their lives."



'Like' the Paulists on Facebook!

The Paulist Fathers have a new Facebook community page! Just log on to [facebook.com/paulists](https://www.facebook.com/paulists) and hit "like"! Keep up to date with all the latest Paulist news, announcements and photo galleries!

Christians, Muslims 'Stand Together'

The following is an excerpt of an article that appeared in Koinonia, the monthly newsletter of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. Log on to paulist.org to read the entire article.

Since joining the staff of St. Paul the Apostle parish in Los Angeles, I've thought about finding a way that we as a Catholic community could make a connection with our Muslim neighbors. My sense of urgency about this increased when I read in the newspapers about the resistance to the building of an Islamic Center near Ground Zero in Manhattan, and the burning of the Qur'an by a Christian sect in Florida. It seemed as though so many reactions to Muslim communities in the United States were based on fear and misinformation. I was aware that there were Muslims living in Los Angeles but that neither I nor other St. Paul's parishioners had much opportunity to talk with or get to know any of them.

My thoughts about this remained on the back burner until I became aware of a Los Angeles association called the Christian-Muslim Consultative Group. The Rev. Dr. Gwynne Guibord of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles and Imam Jihad Turk, the director of religious affairs for the Islamic Center of Southern California, have developed a project called "Standing Together" to foster Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Founded in 2008, the purposes of "Standing Together" are:

- To bring Muslim and Christian neighbors together to come to know one another as people.
- To create opportunities for faithful Muslims and Christians to engage with one another about beliefs and practices.
- To lay the foundation for possible future projects that could be done cooperatively with Christian and

Muslim communities.

I also learned we would be the first Catholic community to be involved.

Since this was a first-time experience for St. Paul's, I invited parishioners who I thought would have the ability to talk about their Catholic faith and would be open to the possibility of learning from the Muslim participants. We ended up with a full complement of 12 from each community.

The most valuable part of the sessions, in my judgment, was the opportunity the participants had to talk with one

another. There was a genuine eagerness to share and learn about one another.

When we discussed the women's wearing of the hijab (head covering), we were able to get a flavor for the way this custom is

interpreted differently by Muslims of different cultures. In turn our Muslim participants were interested in our use of sacred music during worship, since this is not a part of their own practice.

Since our meetings took place after sundown, we paused each evening so that the Muslims could pray Salah, their formal prayers. For the Catholic participants, our experience of this was a high point. Not only did we have an opportunity to learn how Muslims pray, but the sincerity and wholeheartedness with which our new friends entered into their prayer caused us to reflect on the importance of our own traditions of prayer.

Our participation in "Standing Together" was a good first step. We need to find ways to foster a continued relationship. The enthusiasm with which all participated in this dialogue has confirmed my belief that the Catholic-Muslim dialogue is a venture whose time has come.

Father Joe Scott, CSP, serves as associate pastor at St. Paul the Apostle parish in Los Angeles.

**Catholic-Muslim
dialogue is a
venture whose
time has come.**



One World Trade Center rises in New York City 10 years after the completion in 2013 and will be 104 floors high. The controversy and other events inspired Paulist Father Joe Scott to bring Muslim-C

gether' in LA



the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The project is scheduled for
y of building an Islamic Center near Ground Zero in New York and
Christian dialogue to the St. Paul the Apostle Church in Los Angeles.

PT/file



Courtesy of Cathedral of St. Andrew

An interfaith service was held on Cathedral Square in Grand Rapids, Mich., to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks.

9/11 in Grand Rapids

A huge American flag framed by two fire trucks on Cathedral Square in Grand Rapids, Mich., made the gathering unmistakable as representatives of different ethnic and religious groups gathered with public servants in the square for an interfaith remembrance of 9/11.

The Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths were represented, Native Americans put on a song and drum performance, and there were readings in Spanish punctuated with music from an interfaith choir. The Boy Scouts of Grand Rapids, Salvation Army and representatives from the President Gerald R. Ford Museum were among the 400 people gathered in the square. Also present was Grand Rapids Mayor and minister George Heartwell.

"The Jewish prayers included a blowing of the Shofar, some Hebrew, and a large amount of English," said Father John Geaney, CSP, rector of the Cathedral of St. Andrew, which is under the pastoral care of the Paulist Fathers. "Our Muslim brother prayed from the Koran in Arabic and was praying beyond that in English. We prayed for the first responders, for those who had died, and for those who grieve."

The readings, prayers and music were followed by first-responder vehicles being blessed by each member of the clergy gathered on the curb of Cathedral Square as the vehicles drove by with lights flashing.

"The Hindus threw rice and flowers, the natives "smudged", several ministers stood with hands outstretched, some just bowed quietly, and I was sprinkling a whole lot of holy water as the vehicles passed by," said Father Geaney.

Following the vehicles was a small honor guard of US Marines in dress uniform who lead those gathered in the square in a walk to the President Ford Museum. The distance between the two points is equivalent to the distance it took to get away from the effluvia that came from the collapsing towers in New York in 2001, according to Father Geaney.

"It was a great day for the Public Square and the Paulist mission of evangelization, reconciliation, ecumenism and inter-faith dialogue," Father Geaney concluded.



PT/Bruce Byers

Rev. Mr. Thomas C. Gibbons, CSP (left), Rev. Mr. Richard R. Andre, CSP, Bishop Martin Holley of Washington, D.C., and Rev. Mr. Rene I. Constanza pose after the bishop ordained the three Paulists deacons on Sept. 3.

Next stop: Priesthood

Continued from Page 1

Paulist President Father Michael B. McGarry called each man by name to stand before the congregation and pronounce his final promise to the Paulist Fathers. There were smiles, tears of joy and thundering applause from those gathered as they watched the next generation of Paulists begin their final journey to ordination.

"Things change," said Father McGarry during the homily. "This is not the same community I joined years ago. You will change us. You will make us a better community. You will advance our mission. Whether you are renewing your vow for one year today or making a vow for a lifetime, it is about loving people and carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ through our church."

Handshakes, hugs and words of support and congratulations were abundant following the Mass, after which the celebration continued with a dinner at St. Paul's College, the Paulist house of formation in Washington, D.C.

Excitement and expectation lingered in the air the next morning like the wafts of incense that led the procession

for Mass the next morning.

Father McGarry presented the ordinandi to Bishop Holley as suitable candidates for the diaconate. After the homily, the ordinandi made a commitment to celibacy and then answered "I am" to five questions posed by Bishop Holley as their examination. Each ordinand then presented himself to the bishop, placing their hands in his as they recited a promise of respect and obedience to the diocesan bishop wherever they serve.

The Litany of Saints was then prayed as the ordinandi lay prostrate before the altar. Bishop Holley then laid hands on each kneeling candidate's head, and then recited the Prayer of Consecration.

Each ordinand was then invested with the stole and dalmatic, the symbols of the office of deacon. Each new deacon was then presented with the Book of Gospels to remind them that the office of deacon is closely associated with proclaiming and preaching the Good News. Bishop Holley then greeted each ordinand with a Kiss of Peace before the Liturgy of the Eucharist commenced.

Meet the novices!

The members of the 2011-2012 Paulist novice class are:



Mark Alblinger

Age: 43

Hometown:

Titusville, Fla.

Education:

California State Univ. at Fullerton

Michael Bayer

Age: 27

Hometown: Ann Arbor, Mich.

Education:

Georgetown, Jesuit School of Theology



Matthew Berrios

Age: 22

Hometown: Grand Rapids, Mich.

Education: Grand Valley State Univ.

Ryan Casey

Age: 33

Hometown:

Rockford, Ill.

Education:

Augustana College



Steve Petroff

Age: 47

Hometown: Los Angeles

Education:

Oakland Univ., Georgetown

Stuart Wilson-Smith

Age: 27

Hometown:

Fredericton, New Brunswick

Education: Univ. of Toronto



Faces and Places

State of Tennessee honors Father Nieli

Father D. Bruce Nieli, CSP, was expecting to have something waiting for him in the back of the Paulist-served St. Patrick Church in Memphis, Tenn., on Good Friday – he just didn't know what.

The item was House Resolution 73 of the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee recognizing and commending Father Nieli's mission and ministry.

Father Nieli was amazed by the award, saying, "I didn't think it would be anything like this!"

The commendation was brought to the Tennessee House of Representatives by State Rep. Barbara Cooper, a parishioner at St. Augustine in Memphis, also served by the Paulists.

"Because the two parishes [St. Patrick and St. Augustine] serve one continuous neighborhood, we have worked on many projects together," said Father Nieli about his camaraderie with Rep. Cooper.

Cited in the commendation are Father Nieli's missionary works; inner-city neighborhood outreach; outreach to the African American and Latino communities; work for social justice in the areas of immigration, health care, anti-poverty initiatives; ministry to St. Jude's Research Hospital; and ministry to prisoners on Tennessee's Death Row in Nashville.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Paulist President Father Michael McGarry watches as James Olague signs the document committing him for one more year in formation with the Paulist Fathers after making his first promise in August.



PT/Stefani Manowski

Artist Christina Batch-Lee (right) speaks with Heather Burkman (left) and Emily Tidwell in front of her artwork titled "Beating of Wings," oil and metal leaf on canvas, 4x8 feet.

Artists' exhibit rumbles to success

There was a rumble in the clouds over Manhattan Sept. 29, but it had nothing to do with storms in the sky.

Instead it was the rumbling of voices as some 800 people took in the works of "Rumble Above the Clouds," during the reception for the fifth annual exhibit of Openings, a Paulist ministry to artists in New York City. The work of more than 20 artists – including painting, sculpture, mixed media, metalwork and video – can be seen at the Church of St. Paul the Apostle in Manhattan through Oct. 27.

The show had a much coveted preview in *The Village Voice* as "something not to miss this week," 10,000-plus hits of artist interviews on YouTube's pop!talk channel,

"I strongly believe artists have something to teach us, whether they themselves know it or not," said Father Frank Sabatte, CSP, himself an artist and the founder of Openings. "We need to see how artists today are teaching us something new about spirituality, what about the transcendent they are trying to tell us."

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