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President's Message

Faith in tweets

A recent issue of *Christian Century*, published by our Protestant brothers and sisters, selected a number of authors' efforts to summarize Christianity in seven words or less. It struck me that such an exercise was cute at best and distorting at worst. It seemed like "twitterizing" the Gospel. Expanded "bumper sticker" theology.

But then I read some of the offerings: "The wall of hostility has come down." "In Christ, God's 'yes' defeats our 'no.'" "We are the Church of infinite chances." "Divinely persistent, God really loves us." "We are who God says we are." These made me think and consider how I would address the assignment.

Without "dumbing it down," we Paulists try to simplify the Gospel, to make it accessible to our brothers and sisters, whether they be children or have earned post-college degrees. We communicate the Gospel succinctly: by our preaching, our teaching and our conversation. (At one point in our history, Paulists were famous for inventing the "Five Minute Sermon"!).

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PT/Stefani Manowski

Matthew Berrios, CSP (from left); Stuart Wilson-Smith, CSP; Paulist President Father Michael McGarry; Paulist Novice Director Father Richard Colgan; Ryan Casey, CSP; Mark Alblinger, CSP; and Steven Petroff, CSP, pose for photos after the five men made their first promise in the Paulist community July 28 at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C.

Making it official

Five men make first promises with Paulists

By Stefani Manowski

Five men took another major step toward becoming Paulist priests by making their first promise with the Paulist community during a July 28 Mass at St. Paul's College in Washington, D.C. The newest official members of the Paulists are Mark Alblinger, Matthew Berrios, Ryan Casey, Steven Petroff and Stuart Wilson-Smith.

After spending one year as Paulist novices, the five men promised to live for the next 12 months according to the society's constitution as they begin academic studies and continue priestly formation with the Paulist Fathers. The promise is renewed each year, culminating with a final promise the year before ordination.

"The first promise marks a man's formal admission to membership in the Paulist Fathers," said Father Paul Huesing, director of formation for the Paulist Fathers. "After the promise is given, the novice now enters the next

phase of formation, which is to be a member in temporary profession. He studies theology and prepares himself for the final promise and diaconal ordination four years later and then ordination to the priesthood the year following. ... These are very fine men and the fact that there are so many is a shot in the arm for the Paulists! We are thrilled to have them join us."

The novitiate gave Mr. Wilson-Smith, 28, a greater appreciation for the movement of the Holy Spirit in his life.

"It is amazing how all of this comes to be simply by the structures of novitiate itself: communal prayer, shared meals, conferences and discussions, etc.," said Mr. Wilson-Smith, a professional musician who hails from Fredericton, New Brunswick. "I'm happy to now have a greater sense of motivation in what I am doing, and to be studying things that I am genuinely curious about. I am excited to explore my faith further, and to integrate what I learn into my future life as a priest and Paulist."

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Father Nieli shares the faith

Photo courtesy Father D. Bruce Nieli, CSP

Father D. Bruce Nieli, CSP (right), prays with a resident of Serabu, a remote village of 4,200 people in the West African country of Sierra Leone, while on a June 2012 mission. During his African journey as part of a mission team, Father Nieli also participated in joint Muslim-Catholic prayer services and led a three-day retreat for the approximately 25 priests of Bo, the newly created diocese in Sierra Leone's second-largest city. Father Nieli is a full-time Paulist missionary whose home base is the Paulist-served St. Patrick Church in Memphis, Tenn.

A tweet can bring us back to living the Gospel

Continued from Page 1

Like the *Christian Century* exercise of seven words, Twitter limits contributions to 140 characters. And we Paulists have "twitterized" Isaac Hecker's explanations of Christianity's message: I invite you to go to the Paulist home page, paulist.org, and there click on the Twitter symbol to receive a daily dose of the wisdom of our founder, Father Isaac Hecker.

What has amazed me in the year that I have been following Isaac Hecker on Twitter is the frequency with which he captures Christianity's wisdom, faith and challenge in less than 140 characters. And it has led me to the conclusion that, not only would Hecker be quite at home in today's modern social networking, his thought is often better expressed in aphorisms and crisp, sharp insights than in long theological treatises. And Hecker indeed wrote long books with long paragraphs. But his ability to express dimensions of the faith in pithy, evocative ways marks him truly as a thinker for our times. Here are some of my favorite "Hecker Tweets":

- We do not know what God has in store for us, not even what he has already given.
- The prospects of our holy faith were never so encouraging in the United States of America as at the present moment.
- The Holy Spirit, having taken His abode in the Christian soul, enlightens and strengthens it to run in the way of perfection.
- By the creative act, man is made a creature of God; by the

indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit man is made a Christian.

- I feel like affirming...that the Church has the life my heart is thirsting for and that my spirit is in great need of.
- Christianity does not confine itself to the reign of God in the soul; it seeks to establish the reign of God upon the earth.
- The essential aim of Christianity is to communicate to the soul a higher, nobler and more divine life than that in which it was born.
- Intelligence and liberty are the human environments most favorable to the defending of personal conviction of religious truth.
- Man has a destiny. His end is God. His destiny is divine.
- If Christ is to be to us a savior, we must find him here, now and where we are.

Christianity in seven words? Catholicism in 10 words? How would you do it? Words may be easy, but sometimes, by the Spirit's prompting, they bring us back to living the Gospel. And that is the clearest expression of the Gospel.

By the way, if you wish to feed on Hecker's wisdom in bite-size morsels, buy Father Ron Franco, CSP's, *Isaac Hecker for Every Day* (Paulist Press, of course!).

And let us pray for/with one another.

Father Michael B. McGarry
President of the Paulist Fathers



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The latest 'bust'

Father Bell joins Busted Halo® staff

By Stefani Manowski

The third time was definitely the charm for Father Steven Bell, CSP, and ministering at Busted Halo®, the Paulist outreach to spiritual seekers in their 20s and 30s.

Father Bell twice turned down the opportunity to work at Busted Halo, which includes a SiriusXM Satellite radio show, dynamic web site, podcasts, retreats and additional outreach to young adults.

"I just didn't feel I was the right person for this ministry," he said. "I didn't feel I could leave [young adults] with anything substantive."

But Father Bell, ordained a Paulist priest in 2008, was asked a third time to come to Busted Halo® and accepted. Then something amazing happened.

"The minute I said yes, young adults were coming up to me in droves telling me about my ministry to them," he said.

Since officially joining the staff on Aug. 13 as associate director, Father Bell has been writing, podcasting, leading retreats, a presentation at a young adult retreat and enhancing media outreach to the Busted Halo® audience.

"We are truly an outreach on so many levels, and not just a web site," said Father Bell, 44. "It amazes me how substantive we are. We are not afraid to tackle the issues that require attention, of seeing both sides of the story."

For someone who was unsure about entering young adult ministry, Father Bell's faith journey has certainly led the way to Busted Halo®. He served a ministry assignment with what is now Busted Halo while still a Paulist student during the summer of 2006; his first priestly assignment as associate pastor at St. Austin Church in Austin, Texas. St. Austin is located mere blocks from the University of Texas at Austin, whose University Catholic Center is also served by the Paulists.

"St. Austin has about 600 young adults on the rolls and about three or four dozen that are really involved, so I am used to life around young adults," said Father Bell. "[Busted Halo®] is using the tools of this age to reach young adults. We are meeting them where they are, and that is indeed Paulist."



Courtesy of Father Steven Bell

Father Steven Bell, CSP, is now associate director of Busted Halo® ministries.



Ensure the future of the Paulist Fathers

If you are exploring the possibility of reducing your estate's tax liability, you might consider making a charitable bequest to the Paulist Fathers through your will. Options include bequeathing a specific dollar amount, designating certain properties (real estate, stock or

bonds, etc.), giving a percentage of your total assets.

It may be as simple as adding a codicil to your will, but it is always wise to consult an attorney accountant or tax advisor for advice.

Have questions about giving to the Paulists? Call 1-800-472-8547.



Sharing the Good News

The Year of Faith declared by Pope Benedict XVI began with the Synod for the New Evangelization, being held in Rome Oct. 7-28. With evangelization at the heart of the Paulist charism, Father John Geaney, CSP, rector of the Cathedral of St. Andrew and director of the Catholic Information Center in Grand Rapids, Mich. (shown above greeting parishioners), answers questions about the Paulist take on evangelization and its importance to all Paulist ministries.

What is Catholic evangelization?

Paulists define evangelization a little differently as reaching out to people who are not Catholic but also to those who are Catholic but not engaged in their faith. [Paulist founder Father Isaac T.] Hecker always wanted us to focus on bringing together the Catholic Church and the American people. It's all about reaching out to people who don't know Jesus Christ and about how a relationship with Jesus brings them to a relationship with God.

How does the synod help spotlight evangelization?

The fact that there is a synod on evangelization

speaks of its significance and brings a new energy and focus to this aspect of the Church. But this is a synod on the new evangelization, which is also an interior evangelization. Catholics must be converted in their own hearts and understand the need for Jesus Christ in their lives. This is a chance to focus on our interior lives as well as our life as a church. As Paulists we embrace that. But we also embrace the need to reach out to those who have no faith, or have abandoned their Catholic faith, and bring to them the Good News that Jesus preached and that we continue to preach today.

What will be the measure of success for the synod?

All synods are successful in that they produce documents and awareness on a specific aspect of the Church. In this case we become more aware of the need to evangelize – as individuals and as a church. When we say “Go forth ...” at the end of the Mass, it is not merely just a, “Have a wonderful day” statement. It is to remind us to take the Word of God, to take the message of God's love and concern for us to others. If people are made aware of the need for evangelization, the synod is a success.

From welcoming inactive Catholics back to the Church to reaching those seeking a spiritual home, there are many challenges to Catholic evangelization.

“We understand, and we want to help,” said Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, the president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries, who will offer video and blog reports directly from the Synod for the New Evangelization called by Pope Benedict XVI for Oct. 7-28 in Rome.

“This is a great opportunity for a real focus on the situation we face in the church today – to engage it and not deny it,” said Father DeSiano. “We need to look at evangelization ministry in the context of our modern culture.”

Neighbors Reaching Neighbors is Paulist Evangelization Ministry’s latest effort to equip today’s parishes for evangelization. The toolkit includes the *Introduction to the Catholic People* DVD, as well as brochures, booklets and door hangers parishes can use to invite others to the Church.

“We know that parishes have a hard time reaching out to others, and one of the reasons is that there are not ready, easily-accessible tools,” Father DeSiano said. “Neighbors Reaching Neighbors is an attempt to remedy this. The toolkit will offer in one place a variety of things that Catholics do not readily have – booklets, brochures, business cards, door hangers, etc. – that will help a parish project its invitation to people nearby and help Catholics reach out to people they know.”

For parishes and dioceses that need to get evangelization ministry off the ground, Paulist Comprehensive Evangelization Training provides 12 approximately 40-minute videos and an accompanying workbook that offers parishes and dioceses effective solutions for Catholic evangelization. Topics covered include the basics of forming an evangelization team and planning an active parish evangelization ministry to approaching inactive Catholics and engaging spiritual seekers.

“People keep asking, ‘What is evangelization?’” said Father DeSiano, who has authored several books on the subject. “This program offers concrete things faith communities can do to become evangelizing parishes.”

Paulist Evangelization Ministries has also developed *The Evangelizing Liturgy*, a 40-minute video that looks at the Mass through the perspective of evangelization – how the Word of God comes to us and how we respond.

“Do you see the liturgy as a Spirit-filled celebration of conversion and re-commitment to Christ?” Father DeSiano asked. “Do you see the dynamics that are calling our Catholic people to renewal of their following of Jesus?”

Father DeSiano hopes Paulist Evangelization Ministries will be a great resource for the Church as the synod refocuses Catholics on its primary mission – evangelization.

“My hope for the synod will be a realistic appraisal of where modern people are in terms of faith; an appraisal of the Catholic faith; and some very pastoral, personal approaches from believers to help people connect more fully with faith, and the Church,” he said. “New ideas are coming about every day, and we at Paulist Evangelization Ministries are just getting started.”

For more information, see www.pemdc.org.



PT/file

Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, is president of Paulist Evangelization Ministries.

Become an evangelizing community!

Paulist Evangelization Ministries can make it happen at your parish

A perfect landing

Reconciliation can help your parish welcome Catholics back to the church

By Father Thomas A. Kane, CSP

The New Evangelization brings evangelization and reconciliation together in new ways. The New Evangelization emphasizes the renewal of the parish or base community with an emphasis on being disciples in mission – to proclaim the saving deeds of Christ by being a welcoming community.

Landings, a Paulist program for returning Catholics, is an reconciliation process that helps the local faith community welcome inactive Catholics who want to take another look at the Church. Returnees are part of our Catholic family, and it is important to celebrate their sacred moment of return by giving them a “safe place to land.”

The ministry of hospitality connects to the work of reconciliation, of bringing healing to the Body of Christ, to being open and welcoming to those who are no longer part of the Church community. Welcoming returning Catholics is the focus of *Landings*. Through storytelling, compassionate listening and a process of learning again about the Church, the local church community welcomes returning Catholics with open arms. Reconciliation and healing takes time and the *Landings* program is just the beginning of a much longer process.

The New Evangelization is a challenge for the church community to look beyond its own needs and concerns and to



PTfile

Landings, a Paulist ministry reconciliation, helps train lay people to welcome returning Catholics back to the Church.

venture into the “mission” field, as it were. *Landings* encourages trained compassionate lay people to reach out to those cut off from the Church for any number of reasons, to reach out to those alienated or lost.

Landings is both subtle and simple. Since 1989, the lay-oriented process has successfully brought returning Catholics back to active participation in the faith. Many *Landings* “graduates” go on to become some of the most active members of the community. The *Landings* process is also an enriching faith experience for active Catholics willing to help by welcoming those who are wounded, searching and wondering. *Landings* has welcomed over 1.5 million people in the last 20 years.

Father Thomas A. Kane, CSP, is director of Paulist Reconciliation Ministries, Washington, D.C. For more information, on *Landings*, see paulist.org/landings.

The New Evangelization can foster Christian unity

By Father Thomas Ryan, CSP

In the mid-19th century, Paulist founder Father Isaac Hecker's vision was to make America Catholic. But as Father Frank DeSiano, CSP, notes in his *Perspectives for the Synod on the New Evangelization*, “older patterns of conversion and identity have forever shifted during the twentieth century.”

And at the epicenter of that shift in Catholic perspectives was the Second Vatican Council, whose 50th anniversary we celebrate this October. The Council recognized the ecclesial

reality of other communities of Christian faith. That is to say, recognized that Christ and the Holy Spirit are also present and active for the salvation of those baptized into these communities where the Gospel is preached and mission is undertaken.

In the New Evangelization, the Catholic Church is taking a fresh run at a main Council objective: the renewal of its own members – both practicing and non-practicing. It reminds the former that their parish is not a nesting place, but a resting place, and that they are sent out in mission. And it encourages the latter to attend to the call of God in their own hearts and draw strength from the community of the Church and its sacraments in doing so.

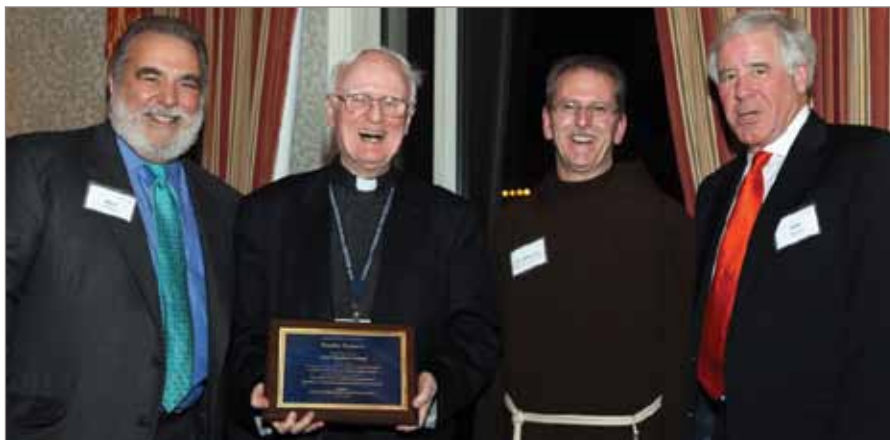
For us Catholics as well as for all other denominations of Christian faith, one of the ways to renew our own communities is to find a place within them for aspects of Church life that shine and attract people in other communities – like effective preaching, music in worship, the guidance of the Holy Spirit, knowledge of the Scriptures, mission outreach and youth programs.

In this way the New Evangelization can make a valuable contribution to Christian unity through the conversion of all Christians to the fullness of the apostolic faith. And the unity among us as followers of Jesus will make the Gospel we bring more credible and compelling to those of no or other faiths.

Father Thomas Ryan, CSP, is director of the Paulist Office for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations based in Washington, D.C.



Places and Faces



Courtesy Good Shepherd School

Paulist Father James McQuade (second from left) holds a plaque on behalf of the Paulist Fathers for the community's support of Good Shepherd School in Inwood, New York City. The Paulists founded Good Shepherd Parish in 1912 and served there until 2006. The plaque now hangs in the front hall of the school to commemorate the Paulists' selfless service and devotion to the spiritual needs of the students of the school and Good Shepherd community. Father McQuade, a 1943 Good Shepherd graduate, is joined by Richard M. Scarlata, treasurer and secretary of the Friends of Good Shepherd School, Father Robert Abbatiello, OFM Cap., pastor of Good Shepherd parish, and John J. Brennan, Friends of Good Shepherd School president and chairman.



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To get started, please call 1-800-472-8547, e-mail development@paulist.org, or use the enclosed return envelope. Be sure to let us know the month of your birthday. Thank you for your ongoing support and for joining the Circle of Faith!



PT/Stefani Manowski

Deacon Simon Tsui of Holy Family Chinese Mission relays the Sunday homily in Mandarin during the annual Unity Mass of Holy Family and Old St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco Aug. 26. The Paulists have served both communities for decades.



Photo: Denise and Owen Warfield

Mike Hennessy entered the Paulist novitiate in August.

Meet the novice

Name: Mike Hennessy

Age: 30

Home Town: Manchester, N.H.

Education: St. Anselm College, Manchester, N.H.

Favorite Saint: St. Benedict

Hobbies: Travel, reading, American history, recreational sports

What I enjoy most about being a novice: Having dedicated time every day to spend in community and individual prayer and also being part of a program that will help me to discern God's plan for my life.



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